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Illinois Wesleyan Senior Named Lincoln Laureate

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December 10, 1996

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Kurt Galbreath of Evergreen Park

Illinois Wesleyan Senior Named Lincoln Laureate

Locals,
Central,
Chicago

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan senior, majoring in biology, has received a Student Laureate Award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, recognizing his academic and extracurricular achievements.

Kurt Galbreath of Evergreen Park and about 50 other college seniors from around the state received the award at a Nov. 23 ceremony attended by Gov. Jim Edgar and other dignitaries in the Illinois House of Representatives in Springfield.

"I am greatly honored," Galbreath said, "that I was chosen out of my entire senior class to represent Illinois Wesleyan University. I know there are many people in my class just as deserving, but to know that I was chosen is very meaningful to me.

"When I heard that I won this award," Galbreath added, "I was thankful, proud, and happy. But I have worked hard and achieved much because I want to learn and explore--not for the sake of winning an award."

Galbreath, a Pecatonica High School graduate, is a National Merit Scholar and an IWU Presidential Scholar. He is a recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Foundation scholarship, a federally funded program named for the former Arizona senator and GOP presidential candidate, which is considered the top undergraduate award for natural science, math, and engineering students.

Galbreath spent the summer of 1995 conducting research at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., as one of 23 interns nationwide under the Smithsonian's Research Training Program. Last summer, Galbreath won a research internship at the University of Delaware's College of Marine Studies in Lewes. He was one of nine interns nationally supported through a National Science Foundation program. His work focused on mitochondrial DNA studies of horseshoe crabs--research with important environmental and conservation implications.

For four years, Galbreath has worked as a news photographer in IWU's Public Relations office. His photography appears in the *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*, a quarterly publication with a circulation of 21,000, other university publications, and the news media.

Lincoln Laureates received \$150, a certificate, and a medal. They also attended a

(more)

IWU's Galbreath-Lincoln Laureate/2

luncheon at the governor's mansion in Springfield.

"The Lincoln Laureate program," Galbreath explained, "honors students who have gone above-and-beyond the call of duty in pursuing their education--just like Abraham Lincoln did."

Galbreath was accompanied to the ceremony by his father, The Rev. James Galbreath of the First United Methodist Church of Evergreen Park, and his mother, Beth, as well as his academic advisor, Forrest Frank, IWU associate professor of chemistry.

The Galbreaths reside at 9344 S. Homan Ave., Evergreen Park.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.