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Famed Harvard Evolution Theorist Stephen Jay Gould--Noted Scientist, Author--to Address

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March 28, 1996

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Famed Harvard Evolution Theorist

**Stephen Jay Gould--Noted Scientist, Author--to Address
Illinois Wesleyan's Student Research Conference, April 12**

Locals
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BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Stephen Jay Gould, the renowned Harvard University evolutionary biologist and best selling author, will deliver the keynote address next month at Illinois Wesleyan University's John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference.

Gould's 7 p.m. address, Friday, April 12, will be in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. There is no admission fee for Gould's speech, which is open to the public.

Gould is credited with proposing a key modification to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which was first published in 1859 in the book, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Species in the Struggle for Life." Gould is a proponent of the theory of "punctuated equilibria," which says new species occasionally appear more quickly than the slow, steady, gradual evolution process described by Darwin. In effect, Gould says, evolutionary change can take place in spurts, followed by long, stable periods. Gould's theory is based, in part, on studies he conducted of land snails in Bermuda.

The annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference will showcase 50-60 IWU undergraduate student research projects from fields ranging from biology, chemistry, and physics, to economics, political science, and history.

The conference is named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran and a founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined IWU's faculty in 1865. He was the first U.S. professor to use field work to teach science. In 1867, Powell took IWU students to Colorado's mountains--the first expedition of its kind in the history of U.S. higher education. Later, he was the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

While Gould has not pinpointed his IWU lecture topic, he frequently speaks on these subjects: The Evolutionary Perspective; Charles Darwin's Revolution in Thought; Human Equality is a Contingent Fact of History; The Basis of Creativity in Evolution; The Fact of Evolution and the Politics of Creationism; and Why Progress Does Not Rule the History of Life and Why No One Hits .400 Any More: Thoughts on the Nature of Excellence.

This year's student research conference also will honor IWU biology professor emeritus Dorothea Franzen, a faculty member from 1952-77, who discovered a new species of mollusk, a snail-like species found on the shore of Long Lake in southern Michigan in 1967.

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Harvard's Stephen J. Gould to Speak at IWU/2

Gould's Background

Gould, who won *Discover* magazine's 1982 Scientist of the Year award, was in the first group awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, sometimes popularly called "genius" grants. The MacArthur awards, underwritten by Chicago's John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, give financial support to some of the nation's most creative thinkers.

Gould, a frequent contributor to *Discover* magazine, is the author of more than 200 consecutive essays for his *Natural History* magazine column, "This View of Life." These essays tackle biology in ways that are understandable and enjoyable to the general public.

He is the author of several books, including: "Ever Since Darwin," "Dinosaur in a Haystack: Reflections in Natural History," "Bully for Brontosaurus," and "The Panda's Thumb," for which he won the 1981 American Book Award. He won the National Book Critic's Circle Award for his book, "The Mismeasure of Man."

Gould, a Harvard faculty member since 1967, is a professor of geology and curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, Museum of Comparative Zoology. He teaches courses in geology, biology, and the history of science. His interests as an evolutionary biologist surround mathematical problems of growth and form.

Among his many awards are the Silver National Medal of the Zoological Society of London and the Edinburgh Medal from the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. He won the National Magazine Award for Essays and Criticism in 1980. He was honored with the 1990 Phi Beta Kappa Award for Science in 1990 and the 1992 Paleontological Society Golden Trilobite Award.

Gould is known for his eclectic interests, ranging from Bach to baseball.

He was born in New York City in 1941. His interest in biology and evolution, according to some sources, was sparked at age 5 by a visit to New York's American Museum of Natural History, where the sight of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, a dinosaur, launched his interest in paleontology.

As an undergraduate student at Antioch College, he integrated courses in geology, history, and philosophy. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Antioch in 1963 and a doctorate from Columbia University in 1967, where his thesis topic was on the fossil land snails of Bermuda.

Research Conference

IWU's student research conference will take place April 12-13.

Gould's speech and a dinner for invited guests highlight April 12 activities.

On April 13, students will present poster and oral presentations from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in IWU's new \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research, with a luncheon slated for Noon in the

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Harvard's Stephen J. Gould to Speak at IWU/3

Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center. Presentations by IWU alumni who are researchers are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the science center. The conference will wrap up with an awards presentation at 4:30 p.m. in the science center.

Dorothea Franzen

In a November, 1976, interview with *The Argus*, IWU's weekly newspaper, Franzen said: "Teaching is my life. I've kept up research to keep myself alert as a zoologist. One has to work above one's teaching level to maintain an alert outlook and an alert mind. One must be stimulated to be able to stimulate."

Franzen, who is credited with the discovery of a new species of land snail, devoted 17 years to validating her claim. The discovery was announced in 1983 in the journal, *The Nautilus*. Her research was supported by the Washington, D.C.-based National Science Foundation.

Franzen, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held the George C. and Ella Beach Lewis Professorship in Biology at IWU and is a former national president of the American Malacological Union.

In 1964, she was named IWU's Century Club honoree, a teaching excellence award, and in 1977 was honored by IWU students when they named her Grand Marshal of the Homecoming parade.

She was named an Outstanding Member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 1985.

Bethel College, Franzen's Kansas alma mater, presented her with its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1975.

She earned a master's degree and doctorate in zoology from the University of Kansas. Franzen is the first woman from Bethel College to earn a doctorate.

Prior to joining the IWU faculty, Franzen taught at Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pa., and Washburn University, Topeka, Kan.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 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 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.