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April 5, 1996

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Goldwater Scholarship Awarded to Illinois Wesleyan Biology Major

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A Barry M. Goldwater Foundation scholarship--a federally endowed award valued at up to \$7,000--has been awarded to an Illinois Wesleyan University junior, majoring in biology.

Kurt Galbreath of Evergreen Park, Ill., is among 264 college sophomores and juniors nationally--out of a field of 1,200 science, math, and engineering students from 516 campuses--to win scholarships named for former U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), the Republican party's 1964 presidential nominee.

The awards were made by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, based in Springfield, Va., a Washington, D.C. suburb. Goldwater Scholars are selected based on academic merit. The scholarships are considered the premier undergraduate award of their type in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

"This scholarship," said Galbreath, who is minoring in chemistry, "will help me pay for my senior year at Illinois Wesleyan. But, its more important meaning, to me, is the knowledge that I stacked up against the best and the brightest in my age group and field."

Galbreath was nominated for the Goldwater Scholarship by Bruce Criley, George C. and Ella Beach Lewis professor and chairperson of IWU's biology department, and Given Harper, assistant professor of biology.

Galbreath Profile

Last summer, Galbreath worked for 10 weeks at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., under a Research Training Program. He was among 23 interns working at the museum under a program aimed at training undergraduate students in scientific research techniques.

He worked with Smithsonian scientist James Thomas, a leading authority on amphipods, small crustaceans that live in reefs. Crustaceans are animals with external skeletons and segmented legs. Shrimp and lobsters are examples of crustaceans. Thomas is a taxonomist, a scientist who focuses on organizing animals into various biological categories. His work also involves finding new species, studying their features, and pinpointing subspecies.

Galbreath's work at the Smithsonian involved studies of evolution using amphipods. He performed laboratory work, examining specimens, and attended lectures and discussions by

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Smithsonian scientists and others.

Galbreath met Thomas in January, 1995, when the scientist led a group of IWU students--including Galbreath--on a month-long marine biology course to Australia to study the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef.

Environmental conservation is among Galbreath's key career interests--an interest spurred as a youngster through the Boy Scouts and family activities.

Galbreath, a National Merit Scholar who tied for valedictorian in his Pecatonica (Ill.) High School graduating class, is an IWU Presidential Scholar. His group of Presidential Scholars, selected in the fall of 1993, included seven National Merit Scholars and a half-dozen valedictorians and salutatorians of their high school graduation classes. The IWU Presidential Scholars' program, launched in 1978, honors a group of entering freshmen, recognizing their achievements in high school, personal qualities, leadership capabilities, and intellectual curiosity--all of which are indicators of potential college success. Presidential Scholars are selected based on personal interviews and application materials. Presidential Scholars typically rank in the top 5 percent of their high school class. While no specific test score is required to qualify as a Presidential Scholar, when Galbreath was selected, the group averaged 1,374 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), compared to the national average of 902, a composite score for math and verbal skills. About one million students took the SAT exam in 1993.

Galbreath is a musician, who plays the tuba and sousaphone. He also works as a photographer in IWU's Public Relations office. His photography frequently appears in *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*, a 20,000-circulation quarterly, as well as other university publications.

Goldwater Scholarship Program

One hundred and forty-nine Goldwater Scholars for the 1996-97 academic year are men, 115 are women, and virtually all of the awardees intend to seek doctorates.

"I'm definitely going into a Ph.D. program, probably on the East coast," Galbreath said. "I want to study biology with an emphasis on conservation ecology on land or marine areas."

Twenty-three Goldwater Scholars are math majors, 166 are science majors, 27 are majoring in engineering, and 48 are double majors in various math, science, and engineering fields.

The one and two-year scholarships are applied to the cost of tuition, fees, room, board, and books, up to a maximum of \$7,000. The specific amount of Galbreath's scholarship, which is for one year, remains to be determined.

The Goldwater Foundation, a federally endowed agency, is designed to spur outstanding

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students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

Over the last eight years, the foundation has awarded 1,809 scholarships, valued at \$19 million.

The Goldwater Foundation is chaired by Hans Mark, an aerospace educator and physicist, who served as U.S. Air Force secretary under President Jimmy Carter.

Barry Goldwater

Goldwater, born in 1909, served in the U.S. Senate from 1953-65 and 1969-87. He achieved prominence as a conservative political leader and served as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A Phoenix native, Goldwater is the grandson of an immigrant peddler in Western mining camps. From those humble beginnings, a prosperous department store business was launched. Goldwater became president of that business in 1937.

During World War II, Goldwater was a U.S. Army Air Force pilot.

Illinois Wesleyan University

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.