



Spring 4-18-1997

## Jeremy Katter of Springfield, Ill. Goldwater Scholarship Awarded to Illinois Wesleyan Physics

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### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Jeremy Katter of Springfield, Ill. Goldwater Scholarship Awarded to Illinois Wesleyan Physics" (1997). *News and Events*. 6801.  
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April 18, 1997

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*Jeremy Kotter of Springfield, Ill.*  
**Goldwater Scholarship Awarded to  
Illinois Wesleyan Physics Major**

**SPECIAL TO THE SPRINGFIELD STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Foundation scholarship--a federally endowed award valued at up to \$7,500--has been awarded to an Illinois Wesleyan University junior, majoring in physics.

Jeremy Kotter of Springfield, Ill., a graduate of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, is among 282 college sophomores and juniors nationally to win the award this year. The applicant pool included 1,164 science, math, and engineering students from campuses in all 50 states. The scholarship is 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. Scholarship winners were nominated by faculty members nationwide. The scholarships are considered the premier undergraduate award of their type in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

Kotter and Nathan Mueggenburg, a junior majoring in physics and math from Godfrey, Ill., were the two IWU recipients for 1997-98. Eleven students from Illinois received Goldwater scholarships this year.

Kotter's nomination was based, in part, on his research with Cynthia Hess, IWU assistant professor of physics, focusing on active galactic nuclei. Their studies are probing the structures of active galaxies--galaxies containing black holes.

"Black holes," Kotter said, "are more massive than the Sun, but have radii smaller than the Earth," and, therefore, have powerful gravitational pulls.

Kotter's research involves using data collected by Rosat, a German-U.S. satellite, and stored in the federal space agency's archives. His work is looking at galaxies in the X-ray portion of the light spectrum, especially an active galaxy dubbed NGC 4258, which has "a super massive black hole," according to Kotter.

Kotter is a member of IWHEAT, the Illinois Wesleyan High Energy Astrophysics Team.

Over spring break, Kotter accompanied Lew Detweiler, IWU associate professor of physics, to the observatory in Mt. Laguna, Calif., near San Diego, where they worked for five nights with a 40-

(more)

## **IWU Goldwater Scholar-Kotter/2**

inch telescope and other sophisticated instruments.

Kotter began gravitating toward majoring in physics as a high school senior.

"Physics," Kotter explained, "offers knowledge about things I wonder about. It offers knowledge about basic things--why they do what they do. I'm curious about basic things in nature."

After graduating from IWU in May, 1998, Kotter is eyeing the prospect of attending graduate school and working on a doctorate in physics. His career goal is to teach physics at the college or university level and author books on astrophysics, cosmology, and related subjects.

Kotter is the son of Ken and Gail Kotter of 3921 Old Mill Lane, Springfield.

The one- and two-year Goldwater scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 a year.

Among 1997-98 Goldwater scholarship winners are 160 men and 122 women, virtually all of whom intend to obtain doctorates. Seventeen scholars are math majors, 186 are science majors, 10 are majoring in engineering, and 69 have dual majors in various math, science, and engineering disciplines.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established by Public Law 99-661 on Nov. 14, 1986. The program was designed to spur outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of math, the natural sciences, and engineering.

The nine-year old Goldwater Foundation has awarded 2,091 scholarships, valued at about \$22 million. The trustees plan to award about 250 scholarships for the 1998-99 school year.

Last year, IWU biology major Kurt Galbreath of Evergreen Park, Ill., received a Goldwater scholarship. Galbreath will graduate in May.

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 fall, as well as a \$6.8 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. 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.