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## Interning in New York IWU Junior Lisa Hillmer To Intern with Famed Photographer Annie Leibovitz

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Interning in New York

**IWU Junior Lisa Hillmer**

**To Intern with Famed Photographer Annie Leibovitz**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Famous celebrity photographer, Annie Leibovitz, will have a new assistant this summer: Lisa Hillmer, an Illinois Wesleyan junior and art major.

Leibovitz the popular celebrity photographer, "has been called everything from prime icon maker of the late twentieth century to the world's best known photographer," according to *The Herald*.

Leibovitz has conducted some of the most famous shoots of the 80's and 90's including sessions with Rolling Stone singer Mick Jagger and former Beatles singer John Lennon on the day of his death. She started her career working for *Rolling Stone* magazine and worked throughout the 80's-90's for *Vanity Fair*.

Entering IWU as an art major, Hillmer discovered photography during an introductory course where she was exposed to Leibovitz's work and became interested in a career in photography.

Working with Ann Harding, IWU's Career Center internship coordinator, Hillmer found the internship with Leibovitz. After sending a slide portfolio and "self-promotion piece" to Leibovitz, Hillmer flew to New York for an interview in late March.

Hillmer will be in New York July 2 -Aug. 15. She said her duties will include "making life easier for the artist." The internship is tailored more toward an educational than work experience.

Hillmer is looking forward to living in New York City and meeting members of the New York "art scene." Initially, she was nervous about living in a city with New York's reputation and coping with the city's complex mass transit system and vastness. However, on Hillmer's first trip to the "Big Apple" for her interview she squelched many fears by just experiencing New York.

Hillmer is looking forward to meeting the people and learning the skills

(more)

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which will enable her to launch a photography career. She wants to be a fine arts photographer and exhibit her work.

Hillmer is from an Air Force family, which has moved frequently. In fact, when asked where her hometown is she only smiles. Her family now resides in Yorktown, Va.

What drew Hillmer to Illinois Wesleyan? "The excellence of the art department," Hillmer said, "and great memories of playing on IWU's beautiful Quad during childhood trips to the area. My mom was from Bloomington."

Hillmer will be working for a photographer whose work has ignited controversy. Leibovitz's cover shot of a pregnant and nude Demi Moore and another cover shot of Sylvester Stallone in the nude, posing as Rodin's "Thinker," have sparked debate and propelled Leibovitz into the spotlight.

Hillmer says these controversies are not the point. "Her [Leibovitz's] work is not there to shock you," Hillmer said. "It is very tongue in cheek."

*The Los Angeles Times* describes Leibovitz's work as "slick, stylish, eclectic, and witty." For example, some see a portrait of T.V.'s Roseanne Arnold spread eagle in black underwear as humorous, others have called it, "gratuitous vulgarity and extreme ugliness."

Hillmer sees more than controversy in Leibovitz's work. "She doesn't sell out. There is a real honesty to her work," Hillmer explains. "She doesn't pick the most 'beautiful' sitters; she picks the most real."

Leibovitz is an example of the success Hillmer would like to achieve in her career. She will have a good start learning photography from someone who as the *New York Times* said creates, "A celebration of the celebrated."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and its Schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and 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 \$6.5 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among the 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges. --30--