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Cases of Campus Clues IWU Library Hosts Mystery Exhibit

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Case of the Campus Clues **IWU Library Hosts Mystery Exhibit**

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A shadow of the man he once was, a figure lies limp on the floor of Illinois Wesleyan University's Sheean Library. Sherlock Holmes, standing above the figure, is transfixed. The library staff has a clue about how he got there; in fact, they have plenty of clues, but still the man remains on the floor, his case unsolved. Can you solve it?

Welcome to the IWU library Mystery Exhibit, where clues are preferred, but even the clueless are welcome. The exhibit, on display through Dec. 15, features a collection of first edition mystery books and story props.

"One of the things we like to do in our exhibits is highlight our special collections," said university librarian Sue Stroyan. "I thought this exhibit would be an entertaining way to present our first edition mystery collection."

The books, however, are not alone at the scene. The taped outline of a corpse lies on the library floor, designed to imitate police chalk outlines of dead bodies. A Sherlock Holmes cape, hat, and trademark pipe also highlight the exhibit, with potential murder weapons strewn about a "Clue" game set.

The books are supplemented by a choice of six bookmarks, each with its own mystery case to solve written on the back. According to Stroyan, these mysteries appeal to universal ages because of their uncertainty.

"I'm a mystery reader myself, it's the only kind of fiction I read," Stroyan said. "I think the appeal is that you have to keep reading to the end since you never know the answer. I also like the concept of finding a lot of parts and making them into a complete whole to find out what's happened."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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 \$5.1 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--opened in August, 1997, as well as a new \$6.8 million residence hall. The Carnegie Commission for the

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Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 159 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.