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Daughters of Violence A Nobel Peace Prize Winner and the Daughter of a Slain Egyptian

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Feb. 6, 1998

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Daughters of Violence:

A Nobel Peace Prize Winner and the Daughter of a Slain Egyptian President--Both to Speak on Peace at Illinois Wesleyan

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Raised in an atmosphere of political violence, they share a history of wrongful loss and subsequent leadership in world peace. Now, these two international peace advocates will bring their doctrine of appeasement to Illinois Wesleyan University.

Nobel Peace Prize winner and co-founder of The Peace People in Northern Ireland Mairead Maguire will join Camelia Sadat, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Anwar Sadat, former president of Egypt, in a public address as part of the Adlai E. Stevenson Lecture Series sponsored by Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University.

The panel and discussion format, entitled "Waging Peace in the 21st Century," will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Main Lounge, 104 E. University Avenue, Bloomington. The address is open to the public, free-of-charge.

The presentation is one of two upcoming IWU events focusing on international peace in the month of February. On Monday, Feb. 23, international peacemaker Oscar Arias, also a Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Costa Rica, arrives to speak on global reconciliation.

Maguire and Sadat became advocates of peace after losing close relatives to political violence. Maguire's nephews and niece were killed by a driver associated with a Northern Ireland terrorist group, and Sadat lost her father to a political assassination. Both now travel internationally as guest lecturers and mediators.

Mairead Corrigan Maguire

In 1976, three children were struck on a Belfast street corner by an Irish Republic Army getaway car. The accident, which killed Maguire's two nephews and one niece, sparked an effort to promote peace in Northern Ireland which led Maguire to a Nobel Peace Prize.

Until the early twentieth century, Maguire's native Ireland was

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controlled by the British. In 1922, the Irish Free State left the British Commonwealth and became a republic. However, six northern counties, known as Northern Ireland, remained under British control.

Since its creation, Northern Ireland has been plagued by violent conflict between groups supporting a united Ireland, such as the Catholic Irish Republican Army (IRA), and factions loyal to Britain.

After the death of her nephews and niece, Maguire appeared on television to condemn the violence of the IRA. Maguire later joined forces with a witness to the accident, Betty Williams, to work towards peace.

Maguire and Williams organized the largest peace rallies in the history of Northern Ireland, with some 30,000 women demonstrating in cities across the country. Working from the pacifist ideals which developed from these rallies, the two activists then founded the Peace People Organization.

For Maguire, it was a chance to give voice to her views on peace.

"We reached a point, I think, when we could no longer remain passive, when we felt that we must do something," she says.

To IRA calls for peace with justice, Maguire responds, "Where was the justice in the death of a child not yet three years old? ...All I could see was that young men and boys of my area were becoming violent, aggressive, almost murderers, and that they were rapidly becoming the heroes of the community. Was that justice?"

Maguire and Williams were internationally recognized for their efforts in 1976, when they received the Carl von Ossietzky Prize of the Federal Republic of Germany. The following year, the peace activists collected \$340,000 of donation money for their cause in Oslo, Norway and in October, 1977, Maguire and Williams were honored with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Today Maguire continues to work for appeasement through the Peace People, traveling to more than 25 countries to speak. In recent years, Maguire has appeared at the Third International Conference on Human Rights in Helsinki (Finland), the Peace Prize Forum in Rock Island (IL), and, along with other Nobel laureates, was featured in Bill Moyer's 1991 documentary, "Beyond Hate."

As a peace activist, Maguire has met privately with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth II, and President Jimmy Carter. She has

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received the Norwegian People's Prize of 1976 and the 1990 "Pacem in Terris" Peace and Freedom Award of Davenport, Iowa, and holds honorary doctorates at Yale University, the College of New Rochelle, and St. Michael's College in Vermont.

"I think one of the things the peace movement has to do is to persuade the members of the different paramilitary organizations that there is a way other than with pistols and rifles. After all, those things have been tried and obviously have not worked," Maguire says. "What we're doing is absolutely necessary to save lives... We are a very serious organization that is going to change the structures of the province."

Camelia Sadat

Sadat was also drawn into the fight for peace through violence. The daughter of a former Egyptian president and Nobel Peace laureate, Sadat lost her father to political assassins. After winning the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for his attempts to bring peace to Israel, Anwar Sadat was killed in 1981 by Muslim militants.

Following her father's assassination, Sadat became involved in international peace efforts. In 1984, Sadat established the Sadat Peace Institute in Boston, where she works to continue the ideals of her father.

Sadat is now a doctoral candidate at Boston University in the field of peace studies, where she works under personal supervision of another Nobel Peace laureate, Elie Weisel. Sadat also fulfills professional duties at Boston, Bentley College, and Harvard University and serves as an international mediator and lecturer.

"I think we can do a lot for peace as individuals," Sadat says. "You cannot wait every 100 years for someone like (Anwar) Sadat to come along. We must make peace ourselves with ourselves... the problem is the war going on inside each of us."

The Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize began when Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel willed his \$9 million estate toward the funding of five annual prizes. The prizes, intended for citizens who have made valuable contributions to the

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"good of humanity," were first granted in 1901. Awards are given for the most important discoveries or inventions in the fields of physics, chemistry, and medicine, for the most distinguished literary work of an idealistic nature, and the most effective work in the interest of international peace. In 1969, a sixth prize for the most important contribution to economic sciences was added. Winners must be nominated and are chosen by Stockholm (Sweden) academies and the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Adlai Stevenson Profile

The lecture series was established in 1966, following Adlai Stevenson's death. Stevenson (1900-1965) was governor of Illinois (1949-53), the Democratic Party's presidential candidate (1952, 1956), and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (1961-65).

During World War II, Stevenson was a top aide to Navy Secretary Frank Knox, headed an economic mission to Italy that planned for the occupation of the country after liberation, served as an assistant to secretaries of state Edward Stettinius and James Byrnes, and was an adviser to the U.S. delegation at the San Francisco conference that led to the formation of the United Nations. He was a senior advisor to the U.S. delegation at the first session of the U.N. General Assembly in 1946 and an alternate delegate to the General Assemblies of 1946 and 1947.

As the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, he twice ran against Dwight Eisenhower, polling 89 electoral votes to Ike's 442 in 1952 and losing by 73-457 electoral votes in 1956.

Stevenson grew up and is buried in Bloomington. For a time, he was editor-publisher of the family-owned Bloomington *Daily Pantagraph*. He was the author of seven books, including "Call to Greatness," "What I Think," and "The New America."

Stevenson was the grandson of the elder Adlai E. Stevenson (1835-1914), who was U.S. vice president under Grover Cleveland (1893-97).

When he died in 1965 in London, Stevenson's obituary in the *New York Times* filled a full page under an eight-column headline, "An Urbane, Witty, Articulate Politician and Diplomat."

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The Lecture Series

The Stevenson lectures alternate between IWU and Illinois State University. The last lecture, held April 4, 1995 at ISU, featured Li Lu, former leader of the Tiananmen Square Demonstrations in China. The Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series was established from contributions by interested citizens. The first series' lecturer in 1966 was Arthur Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (Stevenson's last public post) and a former U.S. labor secretary and associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Among other lecturers have been Sir Anthony Eden, former British prime minister and foreign secretary (1967); Hubert Humphrey, a U.S. senator and former U.S. vice president (1969); John Fairbank, Harvard's noted China expert (1971); James Reston, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist from the *New York Times* (1972); J. William Fulbright, a former U.S. senator and long-time chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (1975); Barbara Jordan, a former U.S. Representative from Texas (1979); Edmund S. Muskie, a former U.S. senator and secretary of state under President Jimmy Carter (1982); and Jeane Kirkpatrick, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who served during the Reagan administration.

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 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.

Editor's Note: Maguire and Sadat will be available to the news media at a time TBA on Feb. 18. For more information about the news conference and their IWU itinerary, contact Sherry Wallace, IWU Public Relations, 309/556-3181.