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IWU English Department Announces Winners of Poetry Contest

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-- The Illinois Wesleyan University English Department recently announced Isaac Spear '98 as winner of The University and College Poetry Prize.

The \$100 prize, presented annually by The Academy of American Poets (AAP), was awarded to Spear for his four poem portfolio. Certificates of Honorable Mention were awarded to Hope Hoffman and Lisa Southworth, members of the class of 1998.

The awards will be officially announced at the 1998 Honors Day Convocation, April 15th at 11:00 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall.

The contest is publicised to the university each fall by the English Department. Contestants are required to submit a portfolio including two to six original works of poetry. Entries are evaluated by members of the IWU faculty; this year's faculty judges were Wes Chapman, associate professor of English, James McGowan, professor of English, and Sandra Steingraber, writer-in-residence and visiting professor of English.

The University and College Poetry Prize Program was founded in 1955 and now includes 160 prizes across the country. Each year the AAP provides a \$100 prize to each college or university in the program. This year, there were 17 contestants vying for the Illinois Wesleyan prize. The Academy of American Poets, the largest organization in the country dedicated specifically to the art of poetry, was founded in 1934. It supports American poets at all stages of their careers and fosters the appreciation of contemporary poetry.