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22 April 1998

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## 56 Participate in IWU Student Research Conference

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Fifty-six Illinois Wesleyan University students participated in the ninth annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference, held April 18 on campus.

The undergraduates showcased research projects, by use of oral or poster presentations, spanning psychology, economics, political science, biology, mathematics, chemistry and other fields.

The conference is named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran and founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined the IWU faculty in 1865. He was the first U.S. professor to use field work to teach science. In 1867, Powell took IWU students to Colorado's mountains, the first such expedition in the history of U.S. higher education. Later, he was the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

The IWU research conference participants for 1998 are, with majors, hometowns, high schools, and research topics:

- ▲ Diana Alame, sophomore, music major, **Woodridge (Downers Grove North HS)**, oral presentation on "The Homeric Hero: A Life of Glory and Tragedy," professor: Nancy Sultan.
  - ▲ Andrew M. Anderson, junior, chemistry major, **Milford (HS)**, poster presentation on "Isolation of Curcumin from Turmeric," professor: Ram S. Mohan.
  - ▲ Shailushi Baxi, senior, biology major, **Orland Park (Illinois Math and Science Academy)**, oral presentation on "A Feminist Analysis of Prenatal Care in the U.S.," professor: D.J. Waldman.
  - ▲ Meg Bergin, senior, political science major, **Merna (Rockford East HS)**, oral presentation on "Hey Big Spender: Testing Alternative Theories on Variance in Welfare 'National Effort'," professor: Kathleen Montgomery.
  - ▲ Mark Bobfchak, senior, biology major, **Galesburg (HS)**, poster presentation on "Investigation of Foraging Strategies of *Xiphophorus Helleri*: Group Versus Solitary Feeding," professor: Sheryl Swartz Soukup.
  - ▲ Jonathan T. Brockman, senior, chemistry major, **Westmont (Downers Grove South HS)**, poster presentation on "Synthesis of a New Family of Diamines: Components for Supramolecular Architectures," professor: Rebecca Roesner.
  - ▲ Christopher R. Butler, sophomore, chemistry major, **Rockford (Auburn HS)**, poster presentation on "Strategies for Construction of Eight-Membered Cyclic Ethers: Application Towards Synthesis of Arenaran A," professor: Ram S. Mohan.
  - ▲ Dorianne E. Cantrall, senior, psychology major, **Downers Grove (South HS)**, poster presentation on "Reinforcer Elasticity and Unit Price Theory," professor: James Dougan.
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- ▲ Esther Condos, senior, political science major, **Chesterfield, Mo. (Lafayette HS)**, oral presentation on “The Socio-Linguistics of Ancient Greek Identity: The Meaning of ‘Myth’,” professor: Nancy Sultan.
- ▲ Kelly Crumrin, senior, English major, **Martinsville (Community HS)**, oral presentation on “‘Whan That They Were Seeke’: Balance Between Physical and Spiritual in the Pilgrims of the *Canterbury Tales*,” professor: Wes Chapman.
- ▲ Thomas Davidsmeier, sophomore, physics major, **Virginia (Beardstown HS)**, poster presentation on “Anisotropic Etching of SrTiO<sub>3</sub>,” professor: William Murphy, Delara Godrej, and Gabriel Spalding.
- ▲ Jason R. Dinges, senior, biology major, **Sublette (Amboy HS)**, poster presentation on “Creation of Chlorophyll Biosynthetic Mutants of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* by Insetrional Mutagenesis,” professor: David W. Bollivar.
- ▲ Elizabeth Elsasser, senior, biology major, **Cedar Rapids, Iowa (John F. Kennedy HS)**, poster presentation on “The Role of the Comstock-Kellogg Glands in Egg Tanning in *Romalea Guttata*,” professor: Given Harper.
- ▲ Brad J. Ettl, senior, biology major, **Milwaukee, Wis. (Marquette University High)**, poster presentation on “The Study of Elimination Reactions of 2-Substituted Cyclohexyl Sulfonates,” professor: Ram S. Mohan.
- ▲ Carrie Finch, senior, psychology major, **St. Louis, Mo. (Parkway West HS)**, poster presentation on “The Relationship Between Children’s Aggression, Their Sociometric Status, and the Quality of Their Friendships,” professor: Doran French.
- ▲ Virginia L. Flanagan, senior, biology major, **Downers Grove (North HS)**, poster presentation on “The Developmental Response to Varying Growth Rates in *Romalea Guttata*, The Eastern Lubber Grasshopper,” professor: Steven A. Juliano.
- ▲ Anders Floor, junior, mathematics major, **Rockford (Auburn HS)**, oral presentation on “The Calculus on Measure Chains,” professor: Zahia Drici.
- ▲ Milan E. Folkers, senior, psychology major, **Shorewood, Minn. (Minnetonka HS)**, poster presentation on “A Comparison of Prospective Memory and Executive Process in Patients with Subcortical Illness,” professor: Johnna Shapiro.
- ▲ Jennifer L. Garner, senior, biology major, **Bloomington (Colfax Ridgeview HS)**, poster presentation on “Systematic Relationships of Rhinolophid Bats, Based on Hyoid Morphology,” professor: Thomas A. Griffiths.
- ▲ Kostas Gavardinas, junior, chemistry major, Volos, Greece, poster presentation on “Synthesis of Novel Sesquiterpene Lactones: Potential Biodegradable Pesticides,” professor: Ram S. Mohan.
- ▲ Alex L. Goldfayn, senior, psychology major, **Buffalo Grove (A.E. Stevenson HS)**, poster presentation on “HIV-1-Associated Dementia: Is Subcortical Dementia an Accurate Label?,” professor: Johnna Shapiro.

- ▲ Robert Graham, senior, biology major, **Naperville (North HS)**, both oral and poster presentations on “The Characterization of the TY5 Strain of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, A Chlorophyll Biosynthetic Mutant,” professor: David Bollivar.
- ▲ Gretchen K. Groh, senior, psychology major, **Lake Bluff (Lake Forest HS)**, poster presentation on “Parent-Report vs. Child-Report of Specific Anxiety in Siblings of Children with Autism: Do Parents Know What Their Children Worry About,” professor: Linda Kunce.
- ▲ Katie Hundman, senior, economics major, **Bloomington (Central Catholic HS)**, poster presentation on “Determinants of Derivative Use by Commercial Banks,” professor: Margaret Chapman.
- ▲ Anton Jerkovich, senior, chemistry major, **Waukegan (HS)**, poster presentation on “Detection of Cocaine Use: Extraction of Benzoyllecgonine by CO(SCN)<sub>4</sub>2-,” professor: David Bailey.
- ▲ Ryan Keintz, senior, international business, **Parker, Colo. (Champlin Park, Minn., HS)**, oral presentation on “The Pizza Hut Phenomenon: Cultural Contradictions of Russian Capitalism,” professor: Marina Balina.
- ▲ Jeffrey A. Klemens, senior, biology major, **Springfield (Southeast HS)**, poster presentation on “Does The Method of Preparation Alter Measurements of Organochlorine Pesticide Levels in Avian Carcasses?,” professor: J.A. Frick, R.G. Harper and A.P. Capparella.
- ▲ Jeremy T.S. Kotter, senior, physics major, **Springfield (Sacred-Heart Griffin HS)**, poster presentation on “X-Ray Spectroscopic Mapping of Three Unusual Active Galaxies,” professor: Cynthia Hess.
- ▲ Jason A. Krebs, senior, psychology major, **Rock Falls (Illinois Math and Science Academy)**, poster presentation on “Complex Scientific Testimony: Can Educational Psychology Turn Jurors Into Students and Attorneys Into Teachers?,” professor: Johnna Shapiro.
- ▲ Katie Larsen, senior, psychology major, **Waukegan (HS)**, oral presentation on “An Analysis of the Relationship Between Atherosclerosis and Alzheimer’s Disease,” professor: Wayne Dornan.
- ▲ Matthew T. Lewellen, senior, chemistry major, **Park Forest (Rich East HS)**, poster presentation on “Synthesis of a Fully Conjugated Linear Diamine as a Potential Rotaxane Component,” professor: Rebecca A. Roesner.
- ▲ Rob Mawyer, senior, English major, **Bloomington (Normal U High)**, oral presentation on “The Irish Face: Images of ‘The Hero’ in Modern Irish Drama,” professor: James McGowan.
- ▲ Bryan C. McCannon, senior, economics major, **St. Joseph (St. Joseph-Ogden HS)**, poster presentation on “Federal Taxes and Cigarette Smoking: A Micro Analysis of Youth Smoking,” professor: Robert Leekley.
- ▲ Sara C. McGrath, senior, chemistry major, **Hamilton, Ohio (Stephen T. Badin HS)**, poster presentation on “Substitution Chemistry of the Hexamolybdate Ion: The Development of Reactions for Rotaxane Preparation,” professor: Rebecca A. Roesner.

- ▲ Dustin Mergott, senior, chemistry major, **Barrington (HS)**, poster presentation on “The Total Synthesis of a Conformationally Constrained Organophosphorus Analog of Acetylcholine,” professor: Jeff Frick.
- ▲ Natalia K. Migal, junior, sociology major, **Springfield (Sacred-Heart Griffin HS)**, poster presentation on “Synthesis of 1,7-Diphenyl-3-5-Heptanedione: A New Diarylheptanoid,” professor: Ram S. Mohan.
- ▲ Joseph A. Mikels, senior, psychology major, **Springfield (Sacred Heart-Griffin HS)**, poster presentation on “Prospective Memory: The Relation of Executive Function To Aging,” professor: Johnna Shapiro.
- ▲ Keith A. Monk, junior, chemistry major, **Gilman (Iroquois West HS)**, poster presentation on “The Hofmann Rearrangement of Nitro Substituted Benzamides Using Household Bleach,” professor: Ram S. Mohan.
- ▲ Nathan Mueggenburg, senior, mathematics major, **Godfrey (Alton HS)** and Matthew T. Dearing, sophomore, physics major, **Geneseo (HS)**, poster presentation on “Prospective Memory: The Relation of Executive Function To Aging,” professor: Gabriel Spalding.
- ▲ William Murphy, senior, physics major, **Evergreen Park (St. Ignatius HS)**, poster presentation on “Scanning Probe Microscopy Applications of Ferroelectric Materials,” professor: G.C. Spalding.
- ▲ Brian Nowicki, junior, religion major, **Collinsville (HS)**, oral presentation on “Wandering on His Way: An Examination of Kerouac’s Spiritual Progress Through *The Subterraneans* and *The Dharma Bums*,” professor: Dan Terkla.
- ▲ Heidi B. Richardson, senior, biology major, **Westchester (Illinois Math and Science Academy)**, poster presentation on “Patterns of Organochlorine Pesticides Contamination in Neotropical Migrant Passerines,” professor: J.A. Klemens, R.G. Harper, J.A. Frick, and A.P. Capparella.
- ▲ Jean Schoening, senior, biology major, **Lincolnshire (A.E. Stevenson HS)**, oral presentation on “Effects of the *fa* Mutation of the Leptin Receptor,” professors: Yanping Wang, and Heinz Baumann.
- ▲ Erik A. Sgariglia, senior, biology major, **New Lenox (Providence Catholic HS)**, poster presentation on “The Discovery Approach to Organic Chemistry Rearrangement of *cis*- and *trans*-Stilbene Oxides with Boron Trifluoride Etherate,” professor: Regina J. Schopp, Kostas Gavardinas and Ram S. Mohan.
- ▲ Valerie M. Stachour, senior, psychology major, **Bloomington, Minn. (John F. Kennedy HS)**, poster presentation on “The Role of Social Support in Mediating Stress and Illness,” professor: Johnna Shapiro.
- ▲ Sarah Suhr, junior, psychology major, **Homewood (Homewood-Flossmoor HS)**, poster presentation on “Case Study of a Male with Polydipsia and Schizophrenia,” professor: Linda Kunce.
- ▲ Christopher Tartaglia, junior, mathematics major, **Loves Park (Harlem HS)**, oral presentation on “Bernstein-Bezier Polynomials and Vertex Splines,” professor: Tian-Xiao He.

- ▲ Jim Toomey, junior, history major, **Crete (Marian Catholic HS)**, oral presentation on “The Poetics of Old Age in Greco-Roman Epic,” professor: Nancy Sultan.
- ▲ Denise Ukleja, senior, psychology major, **Tinley Park (Victor Andrew HS)**, poster presentation on “Prediction of Recidivism from Batterer Characteristics and Prior Arrest Records,” professor: Linda Kunce.
- ▲ James Ulrich, senior, chemistry major, **Elmhurst (York HS)**, poster presentation on “Extraction of Cocaine Metabolite Using Reinecke’s Salt,” professor: David Bailey.
- ▲ Sara VanSickle, senior, business administration major, **Lincolnwood (Niles Township HS)**, oral presentation on “Trade and Commerce at Sepphoris, Israel,” professor: Dennis Groh.
- ▲ Ovette Villavicencio, senior, chemistry major, **Glendale Heights (Glenbard North HS)**, poster presentation on “Photochemical Reactions of Molecular Nitrous Acid in Benzen,” professor: Tim Rittich.
- ▲ Laura D. Warren, senior, psychology major, **Mahomet (Mahomet-Seymour HS)**, poster presentation on “Sociometric Status and Aggression as Predictive Factors of Childhood Conflict,” professor: Doran French.
- ▲ Susanna Widicus, sophomore, chemistry major, **Mt. Vernon (HS)**, poster presentation on “Is The Soot Layer at the KT Boundary Really Global?,” professor: Sarah Miecker, Wendy S. Wolbach, and Frank T. Kyte.
- ▲ Nicole Williams, senior, English major, **Princeville (HS)**, oral presentation on “Who Is’t Can Read a Woman?: *Cymbeline* and the Renaissance Woman,” professor: Mary Ann Bushman.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

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 center opened in fall 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 did 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.