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Illinois Wesleyan University

NEWS RELEASE

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IWU Student Selected for 1998 Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship in Science

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Illinois Wesleyan University sophomore Matthew T. Dearing has been awarded a 1998 Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship in Science from the Council on Undergraduate Research.

Dearing, a physics major from **Geneseo** (**Jacksonville HS**), was one of 21 candidates chosen from 60 applicants nationwide to receive the fellowship, sponsored by an anonymous foundation and administered by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) of Washington, D.C.

Each fellowship recipient has received a stipend to work with a faculty mentor full-time this summer, accomplishing established research goals. Dearing's faculty mentor is IWU physics professor Gabriel C. Spalding and their research project is "1-D Phonons in Optically Ordered Colloids."

Dearing is the son of Tom and Paula Deering, 720 Hummingbird Ct., Geneseo.

Through the program, which was established by CUR in the summer of 1990, students experience first-hand the excitement and challenges of a career in science through a variety of research opportunities. Fellowships have been awarded this year to students in the areas of biology, chemistry, geology and physics.

CUR's purpose is to serve students, faculty and administrators at primarily undergraduate institutions, by generating awareness and national support to promote research in science, math and engineering at undergraduate institutions. The organization currently serves more than 3,500 individual members that represent over 850 institutions in eight academic divisions. The Council provides a variety of programs and services for its individual and institutional members, including a newsletter, a scholarly

journal, special booklets, a series of directories, a consulting program, science policy programs, a speaker's bureau, CUR Institute workshops, and national biannual conferences.

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.