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*Locals Central II*  
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## **IWU Announces Winners of The Academy of American Poets Annual Contest**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Illinois Wesleyan University junior Chris Pacyk, an English major from Prospect Heights, Ill., has received the annual award for poetry from The Academy of American Poets.

The winning poem, "Developing Relationships," was submitted by Pacyk along with nine other poems which competed against submissions by 19 other IWU students.

She will receive an \$100 award on Wednesday, April 14 after being lauded during IWU's Honor's Day Convocation. The convocation will be held in Westbrook Auditorium, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington at 11 a.m.

In the contest's twentieth year at IWU, James McGowan, professor of English and contest coordinator, characterized the submissions this way: "They were all of an incredibly high caliber. Over half of them made the first cut."

Three judges independently read and ranked the submissions and then met to determine the author with the highest aggregate rank. This year, "Developing Relationships" by Pacyk was a unanimous choice.

According to McGowan, Pacyk's work, which centers around relationships and human experiences, "is subtle and sensitive, touching and moving, not theatrical. If anything it is understated."

Pacyk explains, "I like to write about real things. Things people care about. I like to write about relationships and the distance between people, the tension, holding back, body language."

"The reason I write is the reason I breathe. It's in me. I do it to understand myself and people around me," Pacyk said.

(more)

## **American Academy of Poets Award/2**

Two other IWU students will receive honorable mention awards. They are senior Adam Oldaker, a theater arts major from Homewood, Ill., and freshman Jeff Stumpo, a history major from Schaumburg, Ill.

Oldaker, who is studying at Oxford University, England, was described by McGowan as, "intelligent and experimental with forms."

"Jeff [Stumpo] has energy and originality. He's a comer," according to McGowan.

In 1979, IWU alumna Louise A. Sipfle, class of '31, gave the initial five-year grant to start the Arthur William Hinnners award at IWU. After 1984, the university funded the contest.

The Academy provides contest guidelines and rules but English faculty serve as judges and hand out the awards.

Founded in 1955, the New York City-based, Academy of American Poets is a national organization and administers similar contests at more than 90 colleges and universities across the country.

In fact, McGowan won an honorable mention award at Rutgers University in 1965.

### **About IWU**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.