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Sherry Wallace
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Contact: Sherry Wallace, 309/556-3181

Research Conference

IWU's 10th Annual John Wesley Powell

Student Research Conference Slated for April 16-17

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—The 10th annual John Wesley Powell Research Conference, co-sponsored by the Illinois Wesleyan University Provost's office and the IWU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 16-17. The conference will be held in the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

The Student Research Conference first held at IWU in 1990, will showcase approximately 57 individual and group projects by 65 students. The topics of the works span diverse fields in the sciences—biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, psychology, scientific illustration, mathematics, ecology/conservation, astronomy, astrophysics, invertebrate zoology, computer science, and environmental studies—as well as in the social sciences—history, English, economics, political science, sociology, Spanish, religion and Russian literature.

Geologist and planetary scientist Susan Werner Kieffer will keynote the event with two presentations. A MacArthur Foundation “genius” award-winner and “music” geologist, Kieffer will speak at 4 p.m., April 16 (Friday) in the Beckman Auditorium (C-102), in the Center for Natural Sciences. The title of her speech is “Scientist Sue”: Changing the Way At-Risk Adolescents View Science. On April 17 (Saturday), Kieffer will give a noon-time presentation to research conference attendees entitled, “Rock

Music: Not all Geologic Processes are Adagio; Give me the Scherzos!" She will speak in the Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington.

Kieffer's "Scientist Sue" presentation will focus on her pioneering work in developing a "science-based, world wide web-based fully integrated curriculum" which meets national standards. This is an outgrowth of her previous experience teaching science to homeless and at-risk seventh-and eighth-graders in Phoenix. Kieffer's MacArthur Fellowship, 1995-2000, was awarded to her "in recognition of your accomplishments in geology which demonstrate your originality, creativity, capacity for self-direction, and ability to make a contribution to our lives."

The conference begins with poster setups at 8:30 a.m. in the Commons area of the Center for Natural Sciences. A continental breakfast will be served in this area at 9 a.m. and poster session A will begin, where attendees are encouraged to browse the displays and talk to the students about their projects. Oral presentations will begin at 10:30 a.m. in rooms C101 and C102, the Anderson Auditorium and the Beckman Auditorium, respectively, of the Center for Natural Sciences, where IWU student researchers will describe and explain their research projects and findings.

At noon there will be a complimentary lunch served to accompany Kieffer's speech in the Main Lounge of Memorial Student Center, and poster session B will follow at 1:30 p.m. in the Science Commons. Oral presentations will begin again at 2:30 p.m. in the Beckman and Anderson Auditoriums and at 4 p.m. there will be a reception and certificate presentation in the Commons.

Phi Kappa Phi, a national scholastic honorary society for juniors and seniors which was established in 1922 at IWU, will award three research awards of \$100 each to

selected students participating in the conference. An interdisciplinary committee of faculty Phi Kappa Phi members will make the award decisions. The recipients will be recognized at the conference awards ceremony Saturday afternoon.

Examples of research projects to be presented at the conference are:

- Reinventing the West: A Cultural Map of Russian Perestroika
- Male and Female Modes of Ordering in the Canterbury Tales
- Adapting Daubechies' Wavelet Iteration Scheme to Biorthogonal Scaling Functions
- Party Control and the Taxation of the Rich
- Perceptions of Parents' Marital Conflict as a Predictor of Young Adult Attachment and Caregiving Styles in Romantic Relationships
- Progress Toward the Total Synthesis of Arenaran A, a Novel Anti-Cancer Compound
- Probing the Structure of Active Galaxies Using X-ray Spectroscopy
- Direct Regulation of the Lobster Mandibular Organ by Sinus Gland Peptides

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

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in College of Liberal Arts and its Schools of Music, Theater 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, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium.