



Fall 9-8-1980

## **Immedaite Release : Illinois Wesleyan University Awared Grant by National Science Foundation**

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### **Recommended Citation**

Alsene, Ed, "Immedaite Release : Illinois Wesleyan University Awared Grant by National Science Foundation" (1980). *News and Events*. 7254.  
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# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY / BLOOMINGTON, ILL. 61701

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 8, 1980 ea

Illinois Wesleyan University has been awarded a grant of \$38,600 by the National Science Foundation for a project in optics to be conducted during the next 24 months, Dr. Robert S. Eckley, president of the university, said today.

The grant will provide funds and equipment for the project headed by Dr. Raymond G. Wilson, associate professor of physics. The project is entitled, "Computer Graphics Technology as a Visualization Tool for Teaching Modern Optical Theory in High School and College Physics."

The major pieces of equipment will be a desktop computer and plotter that will make it possible "to produce a somewhat definitive collection of three-dimensional diagrams illustrating all the phenomena associated with wave radiation interacting with surfaces and passing through optical systems," Wilson said.

Wilson termed the project an "educational tool to help students who are studying optics," which is the branch of physical science that deals with the properties and phenomena of light and vision.

Wilson plans to produce about 300 computer plots showing various interactions and expects some of them to find their way into textbooks. He said it is possible that his work will lead to his own book eventually. "The project results will be far superior to current practice and should receive international acceptance," he said.

Among scientists endorsing Wilson's proposal to the NSF was Dr. J.H. Kinsey, associate consultant for the Biodynamics Research Unit of the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn. Three other authors in the field--Dr. Jack Gaskill of the University of Arizona, Dr. Joseph W. Goodman of Stanford University and Dr. Eugene Hecht of Adelphi University--have shown interest in obtaining the results to Wilson's work.

Wilson, 48, joined the IWU faculty in 1962 after having been on the faculty