Date: February 27, 2003

To: All Faculty

From: Tom Griffiths

Subject: March Faculty Meeting Notes from the Associate Dean

Here is the latest news I have received on the developmental activities of Illinois Wesleyan University faculty -- including and especially grants, awards, and other recognition given for both curricular and scholarly development. I ask that you join Provost McNew and me in congratulating the following colleagues on their significant accomplishments.

- Professor Doran French of Psychology has been funded by the NCsoft corporation of South Korea, a leading producer of on-line computer games, to study "adolescent interaction in a cyberspace game environment." The project is a collaboration between Professor L. Whang of Yonsei University in South Korea and Professor French. The funding, which is ongoing with no specific end date, is in the amount of $40,000 for the first year with a potential for an increase in the amount in subsequent years. Doran also recently received a grant from the United States-Indonesia Society to study "parental intervention into children's conflict." The grant is for one year and provides $1,500.

- Professor Narendra Jaggi of Physics has been appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India from June through August of 2003. He will conduct research in experimental condensed matter physics and computational sociology. Apart from access to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, the offer includes a fully furnished apartment in the city and an honorarium of Rs.18000 per month (~ $400) to cover some of his expenses.

- Professor Robin Leavitt of Educational Studies, in collaboration with Mary Aplington of Bloomington Junior High School, received a State Farm Foundation award for $16,300 for their "Promise and Potential" program. The award was an extension of the original grant, which had the laudable purposes of "improving the educational achievement of Bloomington Junior High School students, enhancing the education of IWU undergraduates, and supporting the professional development of BJHS teachers."

- Professors Laura Moore and Rebecca Roesner of Chemistry and Professor Loni Walker of Biology have jointly received a Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program grant. The grant provides $60,000 over the next three years to enhance undergraduate education in the sciences by funding research opportunities for students in biology and chemistry. It is also designed to foster interdisciplinary interaction between the departments of biology and chemistry. The program is funded by the Merck Company Foundation and administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
• Professor Sammie Robinson of Business Administration recently received a grant from State Farm Insurance's Office of Public Affairs in the amount of $8,000 to bring speakers to campus to address the topic of "Work/Life Issues Facing Women Professionals." This grant will fund a series of speakers who will address the students in Sammie's class "Seminar in Management: Women in Business," but will also fund a series of evening addresses to the entire campus community. The next of the evening addresses will be held on Monday, March 10 in the Main Lounge from 7-9 p.m., and will feature Dr. Ella Bell and Dr. Stella Nkomo, who will speak on the topic of “Women’s Leadership & Career Path Strategies.” Watch for further announcements of upcoming evening talks in this series!

• Jim Simeone of Political Science and Jim Sikora of Sociology have been awarded monetary support by the W. M. Keck-PKAL Consultant Program to bring a consultant to campus to speak with a variety of faculty, students and administrators regarding the organization and implementation of a "Community Action and Research Institute."

• Finally, in what must be one of the more unusual forms of recognition that an Illinois Wesleyan professor has received recently, I (TAG) have just found out that a former student will soon be naming a new species of fish in my honor. Dominique Didier Dagit, who graduated from IWU in 1987, went on to earn a Ph.D. at UMass Amherst and is presently an Associate Curator of Ichthyology at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. Dominique tells me that the name of her newly discovered fish species will be *Hydrolagus homonycteris* which translates roughly as the "batman's water rabbit." I am very honored, but am a bit uncertain how to take the fact that the larger group of fishes to which the new species belongs is sometimes called "the ratfishes."

Please send me any news of grants, awards, or other similar recognition received by you or your colleagues. This information not only is of great interest to your friends at Illinois Wesleyan, it also forms a record of accomplishment which markedly enhances our chances of success at receiving future grants and awards. My thanks to Jo Porter for helping me to assemble this list of curricular and scholarly grant and award recipients.