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Meghan Burke Named Professor of the Year

April 19, 2013

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University students have voted Meghan Burke as the 2013 Professor of the Year. The annual election is coordinated by Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate.

Burke, an assistant professor of sociology, will address the Class of 2013 at the Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5.

Joining the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 2009, Burke teaches courses such as "History of Social Thought," "Race & Ethnic Relations" and "Community & Urban Sociology."

Burke's research areas include racial discourse and white racialidentity, and she is active in the teaching and learning committees for the American Sociological Association and the Midwest Sociological Association.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Burke co-directs the Engaging Diversity program at IWU. The program invites interested students from the incoming first-year class to participate in three days of meetings and activities to learn how to meaningfully engage diversity while at IWU. Burke also serves as faculty advisor to the Sociology Club and WISER (Whites Interested in Self-Exploration and Resisting Racism).

Burke recently published her first book, titled *Racial Ambivalence in Diverse Communities: Whiteness and the Power of Color-Blind Ideologies*. The book explores the ways that people who care about diversity struggle to reconcile their goals with the mandates of a color-blind society.

A native of Michigan, Burke received her undergraduate degree from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich. and earned her doctorate at Loyola University in Chicago.

For additional information, contact Sherry Wallace, director for news and media relations, at (309) 556-3181.



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