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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EMPEN SEMI-FINALIST IN ACTING COMPETITION

CHARLESTON, IL--Laurie Empen, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Empen, live in Forreston, was an Eastern Illinois University semi-finalist in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition.

The Irene Ryan Acting Competition was a part of the 23rd American College Theater Festival (ACTF) recently hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Out of 215 registered competitors, 56 advanced to the semifinal round to compete for advancement into the final rounds. Two finalists were then awarded \$1,000 scholarships and the opportunity to compete nationally at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Acts in Washington, D.C.

Each competitor was required to perform a monologue and duet scene in five minutes.

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ACTING COMPETITION

Empen, a 1986 graduate of Forreston High School, is a senior Theatre/Performance major at Eastern. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary dramatic fraternity, and has acted in two Eastern performances, including the upcoming "The Real Queen of Hearts Ain't Even Pretty."

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