## Student wins heroism award

By Edward Klopfenstein

A University student was honored last Thursday when the Kiwanis Club awarded him the Robert P. Connelly Medal for Heroism from the Kiwanis International Foundation. Only a handful of college students have ever received the award.

Brian Wilson, a sophomore majoring in math, was honored for rescuing a 29-year-old University graduate student from the Willamette River Dec. 5, 1992. The graduate student reportedly attempted suicide by diving off of the Autzen Footbridge, north of campus.

"I feel honored to receive the award, but I didn't expect it or all the publicity that has come out of this," Wilson said. "The rescue was just something that had to be done ... I know I'd do it again."

The award ceremony was attended by University President Myles Brand and Edgar "Edd" Middaugh, a past lieutenant governor of the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis District.

Middaugh and other members of the Springfield Kiwanis Club nominated Wilson for the award. More than 255 people worldwide have received the honor, but only two or three



Brian Wilson stands at the site of last winter's rescue, which won him an international heroism award from the Kiwanis Club.

recipients were college students.

The plaque presented to Wilson is engraved "To Brian Wilson, who risked his life to save the life of another, performing service above and beyond the call of duty, in the spirit of the Robert P. Connelly Medal."

The bronze medallion, mounted on a walnut board, is named for a Kiwanis member who lost his life in 1966 trying to rescue a woman who fell in the path of a Chicago-bound commuter train.

Wilson is the son of Honolulu residents Ray and Mary Wilson, who graduated in 1959 from the University. Brian Wilson graduated in 1992 from Punahou School in Honolulu, where he took a CPR course.

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