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National Merit Scholars in IWU Freshman Class

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- In the Illinois Wesleyan University freshman class of 578 students, eight members of the class of 2005 are National Merit Scholars.

The students - who come from Illinois and Indiana - plan to major in biology, psychology, English, music, and pre-medicine curriculum.

The National Merit Scholars enrolled at IWU as first-year students are:

- **Alison M. Daigle** of Westmont, Ill. A graduate of Hinsdale Central High School, she is the daughter of John and Rebecca Daigle, 959 Jameson Way, Westmont. A music major at Illinois Wesleyan, she plays alto sax, oboe, piano and is a vocalist. She was in the cast of several high school theatrical productions. She was also recently named as an IWU Presidential Scholar.
- **Ame L. Datson** of Buffalo Grove, Ill. A graduate of Stevenson High School, she is the daughter of James and Caryn Datson, 3012 Sandalwood Rd., Buffalo Grove. A music education major at Illinois Wesleyan, she plays the French horn and xylophone, was a member of the high school honor band, and would like to become a high school band director.
- **Vera R. Leopold** of Homewood, Ill. A graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School, she is the daughter of Ronald and Bette Leopold, 2824 Birch Rd., Homewood. An English literature major at IWU with hopes of becoming an author, she was on the staff of her high school literary magazine. She was also recently named as an IWU Presidential Scholar.
- **Carolyn M. Marinier** of Munster, Ind. A graduate of Munster High School, she is the daughter of Thomas and Petronelle Marinier, 9154 Chestnut Lane, Munster. A biology/pre-med major at IWU, she was involved in student government and participated in basketball, softball, cross country and tennis as both a junior and senior.
- **Edward W. Neumann** of Prospect Heights, Ill. A graduate of Arlington Heights Hersey High School, he is the son of Edward A. and Mary Ann Neumann, 10 S. Maple Lane, Prospect Heights. A psychology major at IWU, he was the editor of his high school newspaper, was a Mount Prospect peer juror and a member of the debate team. He was also recently named as an IWU Presidential Scholar.
- **Stephanie K. Reynolds** of Normal, Ill. A graduate of University High School, she is the daughter of Kathryn Reynolds, 107 N. Blair, #20, Normal. Reynolds, who started at IWU in the spring of 2001, was president of her junior class, a state qualifier on the debate team and the math team, and was on her church's Youth Leadership Team for six years. She has been on six mission trips, including three out of the country.
- **Emily G. Richter** of Lombard, Ill. A graduate of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, she is the daughter of John and Susan Richter, 517 S. Finley Rd., Lombard. She is a biology major with a strong interest in genetics, and also plays the clarinet. She was also recently named as an IWU Presidential Scholar.

- **Jenna A. Simpson** of St. Charles, Ill. A graduate of Burlington Central High School, she is the daughter of John and Margaret Simpson, 43 W. 217 Hazelwood Trail, St. Charles. In high school she was a member of the Spanish club, math team, and world-wide youth for science and engineering.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. is an independent not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. It operates two annual competitions - the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship Program. High school students enter these competitions for recognition and scholarships by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, usually as juniors, and meeting certain entry/participation requirements.