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Japanese Trip Slated for Four IWU Students in June

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Four Illinois Wesleyan University students will have their passports stamped for Japan next month, when they head to the Land of the Rising Sun for a two-week international exchange program hosted by Technos International College, a campus based in suburban Tokyo.

The three sophomores and lone freshman will be accompanied by an IWU associate professor of business administration on the June 2-17 trip. They will immerse themselves in Japanese language and culture, and build friendships with Japanese college students.

The IWU students selected to make the Technos trip are:

o Jacqueline Byrn, a sophomore majoring in public accounting with a double minor in Japanese and political science from Hamilton, Ill. She is a 1998 graduate of Hamilton High School.

o Dale Hauser, a sophomore double majoring in economics and international studies with a minor in psychology from Cissna Park, Ill. He is a 1998 graduate of Cissna Park High School.

o Katrina L. Roloff, a freshman majoring in history with a minor in secondary education from Northbrook, Ill. She is a 1999 graduate of Glenbrook North High School.

o Jennifer Ruhl, a sophomore majoring in history with minors in education and Asian studies from New Lenox, Ill. She is a 1998 graduate of Lincoln-Way High School.

The students will be accompanied by Fred Hoyt, associate professor of business administration, who is a veteran Asia hand.

The students were selected to make the trip by IWU's Asian Studies Team, based on essays and interviews. The team is a 10-member faculty group chaired by Charles Springwood, assistant professor of anthropology.

Byrn, who is carrying a Japanese-language minor, is looking forward to the trip because it will give her the opportunity to "hear the language spoken by native speakers and practice my skills." Bryn believes that this type of cultural experience is important to properly use language.

Roloff is a history major with a focus on Asia. "I think it's really important," she explained, "to experience various cultures." She already has traveled to England.

Hauser confessed that he is "obsessed with Japan," adding: "I consider everything in the culture beautiful." He will attend Tokyo's Kandai University this coming fall semester.

As Ruhl chartered her college career, she decided to take advantage of as many travel opportunities as possible. Consequently, with her Asian studies concentration, she visited China last May.

IWU has participated in about 10 previous Technos International Week programs, which were devised by Japanese businessman Kenji Tanaka as part of his long-term commitment to promote international understanding among U.S. and Japanese youth. Tanaka is an honorary IWU trustee. Technos is owned by the Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust, which funds the trips by IWU students and contingents from other campuses.

The primary goal of the two-week program is to provide participants with a first-hand glimpse into Japanese culture through travel, seminars, and other activities.

Hoyt explained that the students' itinerary will have two parts.

In general, they will spend a week sightseeing, exploring Japanese culture, history, and traditions. The students will visit a Technos facility in Nagano, a mountain venue where the Olympics were held in 1998, meeting Technos students.

They will spend another week mingling with Japanese students and attending classes and workshops at the main Technos campus near Tokyo. Classes they are likely to attend may focus on economics, hotel management, architecture, and other subjects.

"Technos is a vocationally oriented school," Hoyt said. It offers courses in engineering, computer science, creative and technical arts, tourism, hospitality services, business, foreign languages, and Japanese.

IWU has other linkages with Technos and the Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust. For the past eight years, the Technos International Prize has been awarded to a graduating IWU senior. Monica Toporkiewicz, an international-studies major from Burbank, Ill., received the award this year at IWU's May 7 commencement ceremony. The award is given to students in recognition of their outstanding academic performance and commitment to the cause of international understanding.

Toporkiewicz studied in Austria and Spain as part of the Institute for International Education of Students (IES), where she had opportunities to intern with the Vice-Rectorate for International Relations at the University of Madrid (spring of 1999) and the Gymnasium Real Program in Vienna (fall of 1999). During the summer of 1999, she was a foreign advisor's assistant at the Polish Bank Association in Warsaw.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a

\$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. A \$26 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's top 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.