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On Aug. 30, 1999, Illinois Wesleyan Begins the 1999-2000 School Year

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—On Monday, Aug. 30, Illinois Wesleyan University will welcome to campus for the 1999-2000 academic year, approximately 2,075 full-time students of which 545 are first-year students. Full-time enrollment at the start of the 1998-99 school year was 2,000.

Enrollment figures are subject to change as students check-in, however, it appears that in the first-year class, which will graduate in 2003, there are 323 women and 222 men, 13 African Americans, 8 Hispanic and 22 Asian students.

Of the 561 new students to the university this year, 48 are music majors, 25 nursing majors, 21 theatre arts majors, 12 art majors and 455 liberal arts majors. The largest number of majors in the college of liberal arts is biology.

The average ACT score for the total entering class is approximately 27.5. A perfect score on the American College Test, a leading college entrance exam, is 36. The average composite ACT score for 1999 was 21 for the 1 million high school students who took the exam.

There are 561 new domestic students attending the university this year from 17 states. Also, enrolled are 12 international students from 11 nations, representing such far away places as Israel, Ghana, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Russia and India. Ten of the international students are freshmen and two are transfer students. Nations that international students come from in some cases, represent the country where the student is a citizen and is not necessarily the nation the student is from or currently lives. Of the international students, 11 are liberal arts majors studying economics, international business, international studies, computer science and physics and one international student is a nursing major.

According to James Ruoti, IWU's dean of admissions, enrollment figures for the class of 2003 show there are more students than ever in this first-year class who have auditioned for music scholarships as non majors. "It is a very multitalented group of students."

Why Students Select IWU

Ruoti, who is entering his 36th year at IWU, has welcomed many students to the IWU community over the years and has witnessed many changes in how students and their families decide on a college to attend. "It is a major decision," said Ruoti, "a very difficult one. There was a time maybe 25 years ago when families visited the campus and many 15, 16, and 17 year-old students had never been on a college campus. Now more and more people are going to college and we are getting more second and third generation college students. Second generation college students look differently at schools when their parents are college graduates than first generation (college) families do, and I think this is going to have more of an impact on selective schools like Illinois Wesleyan. This gives families a basis to look at and compare campuses and programs. "Today families are taking time to shop around for the right college or university to

send their sons and daughters," Ruoti added. "I think the word that Illinois Wesleyan is an exceptional school and an affordable one, is getting out not only in the Midwest, but all over the United States.

"For one thing," said Ruoti, "word is out about IWU due to the national recognition that IWU receives in a lot of the college guides." The U.S. News and World Report ranks IWU 48th among the 162 most selective national liberal-arts colleges, and the recognition IWU has received in the Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine. In the September 1999, edition of the magazine under the headline, "Private Colleges Worth the Price: When is a prestigious school a great value? When it's affordable, too," IWU is ranked 12th among the nation's top 100 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. "The group of schools we are being compared to," said Ruoti, "schools like the University of Chicago, Washington University and Notre Dame, are some of the finest schools in the country."

Illinois Wesleyan also has received praise from other college guides and magazines such as 101 of the BEST VALUES in America's Colleges and Universities, The Fiske Guide to Colleges, and Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education and IWU was listed in The Princeton Review's Best 331 Colleges.

"To me," said Ruoti, "the Kiplinger Guide is probably one of the strongest recommendations we have received because it combines quality with value. To indicate that out of the 1,600 private schools in the country, Illinois Wesleyan comes in 12th with quality and value, is an extremely strong statement."

Ruoti also adds that students and their families are impressed with the quality of IWU's facilities. "Other schools that families are looking at, particularly when they are looking at other schools in similar size," said Ruoti, "families can't believe the number of outstanding facilities we have on campus for approximately 2,000 students."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls 2,075 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.