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The Graduating Class

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The Graduating Class

good is the information on the Internet if you can't think about it or analyze it properly?"

In his future plans, Jesse will be returning to school next spring to pick up his Masters in Business Administration. He hopes it will set him up for a significant advancement within Tenneco. If not, he has thought about pursuing a career in operations consulting or human resources. Although he never imagined himself working in the manufacturing discipline, Jesse says, "At this point, I really couldn't be happier as far as my career is concerned."

Jesse Boyle is just another example of the success an individual can have with a degree in Economics from Illinois Wesleyan.

Interview with Bill Takahashi: Student of Many Disciplines

Steve Krull

As a double major in Economics and Political Science, Bill Takahashi found success throughout his Wesleyan years. He received honors for his research on cultural wage differentials last spring. Drawing on his past performance, Bill is determined to earn a law degree at Boston University. Furthermore, he may be able to pick up an MBA degree along the way. To do so, he would have to stay only one extra semester.

Bill states that a degree in Economics from IWU has clearly been very beneficial to his law school experience. He explains, "Economics is a fantastic background for law school. Recently there has been a movement in the law to analyze legal questions using economic tools. Many judges and schools now spend considerable time teaching and applying these economic principles." A good example of this involves whether a law will provide individuals

and institutions with incentives to behave at optimal levels. This question is largely based on economics, yet it is also one that the law grapples with on a daily basis.

Bill says that a typical day in law school is very similar to one at IWU. Although it may seem boring, Bill enjoys what he is studying and that makes all the difference in the world. As one might expect, he spends the majority of his time at classes and studying in the library. However, he does have enough time to spend evenings with his wife, whom he married shortly after graduation from IWU.

Bill believes that any Economics major who enjoys classes in economic theory will also enjoy many aspects of law school. As for plans after school, Bill plans to practice either anti-trust or securities law. Both of these disciplines involve a great deal of economics.

Bill Takahashi's experience is just another example of the wide range of post-graduate opportunities a degree from Illinois Wesleyan provides.

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Jennifer Van Dyke

Dave Antolik--Dave is currently in the interviewing process. He would like to work for an investment banking firm. He has an additional major in Risk Management. His most memorable moment at IWU was when he walked over to the Economics house to finally hand in his senior project. He is from Brighton, Illinois.

Yahya Serhan Arcan--Serhan is from Istanbul, Turkey. He will begin working for Coopers & Lybrand following graduation.

Leslie Ayers--Leslie has an additional major in Accounting. She is from Monticello, Illinois. She will have a position in information systems

with State Farm after graduation.

Michael Cornstubble--Michael is from Joliet, Illinois. He has an additional major in Business Administration and a minor in Spanish. He is currently in the interviewing process. He would like to get a job in the field of business and in a few years earn his MBA.

Dimitrios Dadakas--Dimitrios' future plans include enrolling into graduate school to obtain his masters and doctorate in environmental economics. He was inspired by Dr. Leekley's environmental economics course. He has a minor in Math, and he is from Thessaloniki, Greece.

Michael Gentile--Michael is going to work for Hilton Corporation in Los Angeles, California. He was inspired most by Dr. Chapman who told him to relax and not worry so much. He is from Orland Park, Illinois.

Jennifer Heskett--Jennifer has an additional major in International Studies and a minor in Music. She is from Gurnee, Illinois. She has been most inspired by Dr. Seeborg, who didn't see anything wrong with squeezing an Economics major into one year. She has also been inspired by Dr. Lowry, who "has economics nailed to the wall." She hopes to begin her career working for a business management or information systems consulting firm.

Garry Kachkovsky--Garry is from Mundelein, Illinois. He has an additional major in Russian. His most memorable undergraduate experience was traveling abroad twice in the four years. His plans for the future include moving to Phoenix, Arizona, and working for a brokerage house.

Laura Lutz--Laura is currently undergoing the interview process. She has an additional

major in Business Administration and finds the positions of a business or financial analyst the most appealing. In the future she would like to get involved in international work and continue her education. She is from Tinley Park, Illinois.

Sharad Malhotra--Sharad will be working in Houston for Enron, an energy company, after graduation. There he will be working in their merchant banking division as a financial analyst. He has an additional major in Business Administration. He is from New Delhi, India.

Matthew Mikulcik--Matt is from Bolingbrook, Illinois. He has an additional major in Risk Management and a minor in Math. His future plans include getting married, finding an enjoyable job, and "living happily ever after."

Ronald Lee Poehlman, Jr.--Lee is from Washington, Illinois and has an additional major in Music. Having graduated in December, he works as a systems administrator for GTE.

Brett Roush--Brett is going to be working as an actuarial student with Trustmark Insurance Company in Lake Forest, Illinois. He will be working towards his fellowship designation. He has minors in Math and Risk Management. His most memorable moment at IWU was organizing the jump to save the planet.

Guerric Russell--Guerric is from Beijing, China. His future plans include going to law school, where he would like to get a JD with a concentration in international law. He has minors in Japanese and French. His most memorable moment at IWU occurred his freshman year when he participated in a snowball fight on the quad.

Ashish Vohra--Ashish has an additional major

in Business Administration and a minor in Math. His most memorable moment was during his freshman year when he participated in that snowball fight on the quad. His future plans include "succeeding at the rat race." He is from New Dehli, India.

Interview with Dr. Seeborg

Missy Arms

Many members of the economics community at Wesleyan were aware of an absence in the instructing staff during the spring of 1996. During this time, Dr. Michael Seeborg placed his classroom duties on hold and went on sabbatical. Although for some people the word "sabbatical" might conjure up images of professors traipsing through remote jungles, this is far from its true intent. Dr. Seeborg believes that the purpose of the sabbatical is to "take a step back . . . receive some more training, . . . and do the things that recharge your battery." Although he admits he did do some traveling during a previous sabbatical he took while teaching at Ball State, Dr. Seeborg used the time this fall to work here at IWU on several research papers he has in progress.

Citing labor economics as his main research interest--more specifically, human resource economics--Dr. Seeborg says he has "always been interested in the problems of the economically disadvantaged." He clearly presents this interest in his current research.

Studying what he calls "the economics of growing up," a majority of Dr. Seeborg's research uses data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). This study was first conducted in 1979 on 12,800 youth whom the study has re-interviewed every year since. An "incredibly rich data base," the study tracks the youth as they make

the transition into adulthood and considers a wide range of factors including lifestyle choices, educational and career decisions, and family background.

One such study was recently published and co-written with Wesleyan alumna Risa Kumazawa ('94). It assesses the effect of teenage parenthood on educational attainment. Using the NLSY, Seeborg and Kumazawa could follow a large sample of teenage mothers to see how parenthood at such a young age affected their educational attainment compared with their peers who were not young mothers. According to Seeborg, "often the argument is that having a baby as a teenager is disabling and restricts educational and career choices." However, Seeborg and Kumazawa found that the effect actually depended on the socioeconomic background of the young mother. The young mothers from disadvantaged backgrounds have educational attainment similar to that of their peers, who often drop out regardless of their motherhood status. Therefore the effect of the pregnancy itself is not large. On the other hand, "the effect of motherhood on young women from more advantaged backgrounds was greater, often costing them one to two years of schooling."

Seeborg has completed a second paper, also co-written with an IWU graduate. This paper, with Mark Israel ('91), evaluates data from a sample of poor children living at home in 1979 to determine what factors would draw them out of poverty and into a higher standard of living. The foundation argument is that background and early decisions (such as young motherhood) matter, playing a significant role in determining the young person's future standard of living. One of the most interesting aspects of this study is that it integrates the research methods of both economics and sociology. Specifically, Seeborg not only considers the direct effect that certain variables have on the future standard of living but also the indirect effects