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Fifteen Presidential Scholars Recognized at Illinois Wesleyan University

***Editor's Note:** Check the following list of IWU Presidential Scholars for a student from your area.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Fifteen Presidential Scholars from the class of 2004 were announced at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Sesquicentennial Convocation on Sept. 27. James D. Watson, co-recipient of the 1962 Nobel Prize in medicine for research into the structure of DNA, was the keynote speaker at the convocation--a campus-wide event marking the start of the 2000-2001 academic school year.

Of the 15 Presidential Scholars, seven are National Merit Scholars.

The Presidential Scholars Program which recognizes first-year students for their past accomplishments and bright futures was established in 1978 at IWU. The students have distinguished themselves as having shown excellence in and out of the classroom. Selections for this academic honor are based on personal interviews and application materials.

The Presidential Scholars averaged 1489 as a group on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a major college entrance test with a perfect score of 1600. Last year the group of scholars, who plan to major in the fields of political science, biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, English, history, mathematics and music theatre, averaged 1465 on the SAT.

A list of the Presidential Scholars follows.

Jordan Ault of Pekin, Ill., a graduate of Pekin High School, is a political science major at IWU. In high school, Ault was student council president, class president and participated in drama and speech extracurricular activities. Ault has played the piano since the age of five and has written a weekly column for the Pekin Daily Times.

Joseph Binder of Decatur, Ill., a National Merit Scholar and a chemistry major at IWU, graduated first in his class at St. Theresa High School. In high school, Binder participated in the IHSA Scholastic Bowl and ran track and cross-country. He is an Eagle Scout.

Lauren Boegen of Waukegan, Ill., is undecided about her major at IWU. However, Boegen has interests in psychology and English. A graduate of Warren Township High School, she has been involved in jazz band as well as the symphonic, marching and concert bands. She also played on the varsity basketball and soccer teams.

Matthew Childers of Byron, Ill., a mathematics major, who hopes to minor in chemistry, English or physics at IWU, graduated first in his class at Byron Community High School. He

also is a National Merit Scholar. Childers was member of his high school's Scholastic Bowl team and Math/Worldwide. He is an Eagle Scout.

Casey Clark of Bethalto, Ill., a National Merit Scholar and music theatre major at IWU, graduated from Civic Memorial High School. Clark is an actor and a vocalist who has performed in the musicals Big River, Annie Get Your Gun, The Crucible and many other productions. In high school Clark was a member of the All District Choir, All State Musical Cast, president and member of the Thespian club, president and member of the Spanish club and editor and staff member of the yearbook and school newspaper.

Matthew Guerrero of Aurora, Ill., a graduate of Waubonsie Valley High School, is undecided about his major at IWU. Guerrero graduated second in a class of 537 students and is considering the fields of psychology and history. In high school, he was a member of the Spanish Honor Society and Club, High Honor Roll and was an Indian Prairie Scholar. For three summers, Guerrero volunteered at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Ky., on work details in the Appalachian Mountains.

Jill Hochstetter of Littleton, Colo., a National Merit Scholar and a physics major will pursue the 3-2 engineering program at IWU. Hochstetter graduated from St. Mary's Academy where she was president of the Model United Nations Club, Thespian Honor Society and participated in musical theatre productions. She also built houses for Habitat for Humanity.

Matthew LaScala of Chapel Hill, N.C., a graduate of Durham Academy, is a theatre major at IWU. In high school, LaScala was an actor in the Young People's Performing Company, wrote and produced his own one act play last year, titled "For Stupid Apes," and was editor of the Durham Academy literary magazine Exurbia. He also was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Edward McCormick of Frankfort, Ill., a National Merit Scholar is a history major and plans additional study in anthropology and philosophy at IWU. McCormick is a graduate of New Lenox High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society and varsity swimming team.

Serena Orwick of Corvallis, Ore., is a graduate of Crescent Valley High School and plans to major in biology at IWU. Orwick, who was a member of the Honor Society while in high school, has studied modern dance for seven years and played flute in the Corvallis Youth Symphony and Marching Band.

Jennifer Pierce of Hobbs, New Mexico, a National Merit Scholar and recipient of the Jack Mattox Distinguished Scholarship, is a biology major at IWU. In high school, Pierce was a member of Student Council, varsity track team and studied dance and piano.

Katherine Scholten of Elk Grove Village, a mathematics major in the teacher education program at IWU, is a graduate of Elk Grove High School where she received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Youth Excellence. Scholten also was a member of the school choir, on the principal's advisory board and Student Council Advisory, a member of the Orchesis Dance Club,

Adagio Dance Troupe and volleyball team. She also was a student choreographer for her school's spring musical.

Emily Waecker of Des Plaines, Ill., a graduate of Maine West High School, is undecided on a major at IWU. In high school, Waecker was a National Merit Commended Scholar and received the Illinois High School Association Scholastic Achievement Award. She also received departmental awards for U.S. History AP and Design and Materials III. Waecker was on the High Honor Roll and has written for her school's literary magazine. She is a school record holder in swimming.

Benjamin Weber of Oak Park, Ill., a graduate of Oak Park-River Forest High School is a music major at IWU. Weber is a violinist and has participated in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Honors Orchestra of the Illinois Music Educator's Association All State Festival and the Windy City String Ensemble. Weber also has interests in history and English.

Sarah Wells of Decatur, Ill., a National Merit Scholar and a biology major at IWU, is a graduate of Meridian High School. In high school, Wells was a member of the Drama Club, Band, Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra, Art Club and the National Honor Society. She plays the trumpet and piano and has participated in theatre productions.