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Class of 2011 Includes Five National Merit Scholars

September 12, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Of the 544 incoming students in the [class of 2011](#) at Illinois Wesleyan University, there are five National Merit Scholars. The students are recognized for their exceptional academic ability, potential for success in their college studies and for their accomplishments.

Initiated in 1955, about 200 universities and colleges are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Program. The independent not-for-profit program recognizes approximately 8,200 high school finalists out of 1.3 million Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) entrants with an award between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study. The National Merit Scholars enrolled at IWU as first-year students are:

- **Amy Bannon** of Rochester, Minn. – A graduate of Lourdes High School, Bannon plans to major in English literature. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Lourdes Concert Choir, Liturgical Choir, Cultural Exchange Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). She has studied dancing since the age of two and has taught dancing and competed in ballroom dancing throughout the nation.
- **Eliot Boden** of Fenton, Mo. – A graduate of Rockwood Summit High School, Boden was a member of the French National Honor Society, a radio writer and broadcaster, a member of the staff and editor of the high school newspaper, a member of Student Summit, the International Club, Academic Team and participated in intramural bowling. He is undecided as to what his major will be.
- **Emily Hopkins** of Boone, N. C. – A graduate of Watauga High School, she plans to be a music major with a minor in Hispanic Studies. In high school, she was president and founder of the Helping Hands club, an organization that does volunteer projects for its local community, was vice president of the National Honor Society, received a music theory award, participated in theatre/drama and musical productions and was a member of the French and Spanish clubs.
- **Stephanie Nudelman** of Buffalo Grove, Ill. – A graduate of Adlai E. Stevenson High School, she is an English education major with a minor in music. In high school, Nudelman was a member of the honor band, a member of the jazz band and on the executive board of the marching band, and assistant director of Reality Youth Theatre. She plays the trumpet, French horn and was a member of the advanced women's choir.
- **Amy Uden** of Shorewood, Ill. – A graduate of Joliet Township High School West, Uden is a history major. In high school, Uden was a member of the National Honor Society, vice president and president of Pi Sigma Pi history honors organization, treasurer of the Key Club and co-captain of the freshman girl's soccer team. She was vice president and president of the Leo Club, a community service organization, as well as a member of the symphonic marching and jazz bands.

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