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7 New International Students Among IWU Freshman Class

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7 New International Students Among IWU Freshman Class

Local, Cen. Ill., Chicago Area, Education

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A concert pianist from Greece who is studying biology and a National Judo Gold Medalist from Trinidad majoring in international business are among eight foreign students who joined Illinois Wesleyan University when classes resumed Aug. 28. The seven freshmen bring IWU's total international population to 47 students, representing 24 countries.

The new students' academic interests are as varied as their places of origin: accounting, biology, international business, international studies, psychology, and physics. The new group of international students scored an average 1173.3 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and a 27.8 on the American College Test (ACT), the two key college entrance exams. University-wide SAT and ACT average scores are 1161 and 27.9 respectively.

Minari Anouka Fernando, 19, from Niugegoda, Sri Lanka, comes to Illinois Wesleyan after taking a year off from school. Fernando, an international studies major, graduated from the Colombo International School in July, 1994. She has studied English for 15 years and has a long list of other interests, including: painting, sewing, reading, athletics, drama, and singing. She is the daughter of Nalake Fernando and Viveka Fernando.

Elizabeth Nyambura Gachie, 17, from Kiambu, Kenya, is a biology major. Gachie is the daughter of Nancy Ng'ang'a, a school teacher. Gachie's interests include music and badminton.

Konstantinos Teo Gavardinas, 17, from Volos, Greece, is not a stranger to central Illinois. Gavardinas spent August, 1992, to July, 1993, in Glasford, Illinois. He graduated with honors from Illini Bluffs High School in the spring of 1993. While in the United States, Gavardinas, a concert pianist, performed in a concert with students from Bradley University. Gavardinas represented Illini Bluffs High School in the Illinois Globalfest, which took place in Bloomington. He is the son of Theodore and Maria Gavardinas, has one younger sister, and is a biology major at Illinois Wesleyan.

(more)

IWU Foreign Student Freshmen/2

Mujtaba Hamid, 18, from Karachi, Pakistan, is a physics major at Illinois Wesleyan. Hamid has a younger brother and is the son of Suhail and Azra Hamid.

Karen Anne Moe, 19, from Tunapuna, Trinidad, stated in her application letter that she "learned discipline from being a National Gold Medalist in judo . . . (and) gained leadership experience by being a school prefect (peer guide)." She is enrolled as an international business student. Moe's interests include swimming and debating. The daughter of Rudolf and Sylvia Moe, Karen has an older and younger sister.

Fang Qi, 21, from Wuhan, People's Republic of China (PRC), is a transfer student for the fall '95 term. Fang Qi was an accounting major at Jiang Han University and is pursuing the same major at IWU. Fang Qi's parents are university-level educators and her older brother attends the University of Rochester. She is the daughter of Fang Wuan-Qin and Gao Xin-Fu.

Phaidon Elefthrios Tsourkas, 17, from Athens, Greece, joined his brother Philip, a sophomore, at IWU. Phaidon, a psychology major, graduated from the American Community School of Athens in 1995. The two students are the sons of Demos Tsourkas and Panayota Rapakoullia Tsourkas. Phaidon has played the piano for the past 10 years and also enjoys the clarinet and the guitar.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls 1,860 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. The university's endowment is valued at more than \$100 million. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened Aug. 28. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."