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Sept. 20, 1995

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Erin Gallagher of Springfield, Ill.

Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Erin Gallagher of Springfield, Ill., is among a dozen freshmen honored today (Sept. 20) as Presidential Scholars at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Gallagher, a 1995 graduate of Springfield Southeast High School, intends to major in biology at IWU. Her interests include genetics and genetic engineering.

Gallagher's goals are to earn a doctorate and pursue a career in research.

She plays the flute and was first chair in the All-State Orchestra. She also was all-conference and the leading scorer on her high school soccer team. Gallagher plans to continue her music and athletic interests at IWU.

The Presidential Scholars' Program, established in 1978, recognizes a group of entering freshmen distinguished for their past achievements and future promise. They are students who have taken on many challenges in and out of the classroom. Selections for the academic honor are based on personal interviews and application materials. Half of this year's dozen Presidential Scholars also are National Merit Scholars.

Gallagher received her Presidential Scholar honor at IWU's President's Convocation, a campus-wide gathering marking the start of the academic year. Yoshiro NakaMats, a Japanese inventor who holds the world record for patents with more than 3,000 (three times the number of patents earned by Thomas Edison), addressed the President's Convocation and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. NakaMats is a pioneer developer of the computer floppy disk, an information storage device which helped launch the computer revolution by making obsolete balky punch cards.

Erin is the daughter of Thomas and Kathryn Gallagher of 6 Tophill Lane, Springfield, Ill.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 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

(more)

Springfield
IL

Gallagher Named IWU Presidential Scholar/2

for Natural Science Learning and Research opened Aug. 28 and will be dedicated on Oct. 7. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, a 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."