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Walter Wadiak of Roscoe, Ill.

## Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars

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

Wadiak, a June graduate of Hononegah High School in Rockton, Ill., intends to major in English and sociology at IWU. Franz Kafka, author of the classic, *The Trial*, is Wadiak's favorite author.

Wadiak has performed in many stage productions including *Hello Dolly!* and *The Foreigner*.

He ran cross country in high school and will continue that activity at IWU.

Wadiak was a member of the National Honor Society and Executive Student Council in high school.

Wadiak's career plans include earning a doctorate in English or heading to law school--preferably at Harvard.

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.

Wadiak received his 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.

Walter is the son of Ellen Serra of 11120 Hamborg Rd., Roscoe, 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

(more)

## Wadiak Named IWU Presidential Scholar/2

university's endowment is valued at more than \$100 million. A \$25 million Center 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."