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Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Technos International Week

## Four IWU Students Slated for Trip to Japan in June

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Four Illinois Wesleyan University students will explore Japanese culture on a two-week trip to the land of the rising sun in June as part of an international program hosted by a campus based in suburban Tokyo.

The four students and an IWU history professor will participate in Technos International Week, June 1-16, sponsored by Technos International College, a vocational campus offering primarily two-year courses in engineering, computer science, creative and technical arts, tourism, hospitality services, business, foreign languages, and Japanese. Technos has more than 30,000 graduates employed in Japan and around the world.

IWU has participated in four previous Technos International Week programs, which were devised by Japanese businessman Kenji Tanaka as part of his long-term commitment to promote international understanding among U.S. and Japanese youth. Technos is owned by the Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust. Tanaka is an honorary IWU trustee.

The IWU students selected to make the June 1-16 trip are:

- Kelly Michelle Crumrin, a sophomore majoring in international studies and English from Martinsville, Ill.
- Thomas Edward Purl, a freshman majoring in international business from St. Charles, Mo.
- Wellesley Elija Scott, III, a sophomore majoring in international studies from Belvidere, Ill.
- Qiana Justine Zupan, a sophomore majoring in international business and history from University Park, Ill.

Accompanying the students will be W. Michael Weis, associate professor of history and director of IWU's Social Science Division.

"Mr. Tanaka has come up with the simple premise," Weis said, "that the best way for U.S.-Japanese relations to be improved is for Americans and Japanese to get to know each other. I believe that is very important.

"I'm a student of U.S. foreign policy," Weis added, "and I've been all over the world. Seeing another culture—understanding its language and history—can help me become a better teacher and scholar.

The Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust pays travel, food, and lodging expenses for the

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## IWU Students' Trip to Japan/2

IWU contingent participating in Technos International Week, as well as delegations made up of four students and a faculty member from Carleton College in Minnesota, Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York state, Hope College in Michigan, and McKendree College in Illinois.

The students were selected for the trip through a competitive process. A four-member team of IWU faculty and staff reviewed essays written by 34 applicants focusing on their interest in Japanese culture and history and how a trip to Japan would benefit their academic training. The students' academic record and grade-point averages also were used as selection criteria, as well as their interest in meeting people of different cultural backgrounds and their lack of previous travel experiences to Japan.

Eight students were interviewed by the faculty-staff selection committee and four students were selected based on evaluations of their written essays and personal interviews.

Teodora Amoloza, associate professor of sociology and director of IWU's International Studies Program, attended a previous Technos International Week program with four IWU students.

"The first week of the program," she explained, "typically involves tours of Tokyo and various cultural areas. For example, we visited temples and shrines, viewed different ceremonies, hiked in the Japanese Alps, and saw places like the Tokyo stock exchange, a Kabuki theatre, an old village in the countryside, a factory, and a resort. Our students got a chance to meet Japanese students, who were studying English.

"When we returned to Tokyo," she added, "we participated in many activities on the Technos campus. Our students attended Technos classes and they had a chance to meet Japanese students when we went to a high school to watch sports like kendo and judo. They also went to Disneyland."

Amoloza sees many benefits from programs like Technos International Week.

"Students gain a better understanding of Japanese culture. They learn how to interact with people who speak little or no English—even using hand gestures. It's an enriching experience that debunks stereotypes like those about Japanese women being submissive. We saw many young Japanese women in college—it was an eye opener. We mostly think about Japan on the macro level—as a strong economic power—but on our trip the students could relate to each other on the micro, or individual, level."

Previous IWU-Technos exchanges have led to continuing relationships. For example, last summer when two Technos students visited the United States they stayed for a couple of

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### IWU Students' Trip to Japan/3

weeks at the home of an IWU student in suburban Chicago. Other IWU students visited with them and they traveled to Bloomington to see the IWU campus. When another Technos student visited IWU last February, she stayed with an IWU student in a residence hall. As a result of his trip to Japan, John Catalano, a sophomore from Chicago Ridge, Ill., decided to major in international studies, concentrating on Japanese studies and studying in Japan next year.

Technos International College began as a school for television engineers. After 30 years, seven schools have been established in central Tokyo. In 1991, six of the institutions were consolidated into the campus of Technos International College. The new Koganei campus is located in Tokyo's western suburbs. It has six departments: three focus on technology, while the others concentrate on liberal arts and service skills; engineering, information services, and art; and tourism, languages, and business studies.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 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.