



Summer 8-12-1996

Immediate Release

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Immediate Release" (1996). *News and Events*. 6651.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6651>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

August 12, 1996

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Fourteen National Merit Scholars are members of the 1996 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

They are among more than 1,900 IWU students--including about 620 freshmen--who will begin classes on Aug. 26 to start the 1996-97 school year.

As a group, the 14 freshman IWU National Merit Scholars averaged a score of 32 on the American College Test (ACT), a widely used college entrance exam with a top score of 36. They also averaged a score of 1431 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), another popular college entrance exam with a maximum score of 1600.

The IWU freshmen merit scholars are planning to major in biology, mathematics, music, computer science, education, business, psychology, pre-law, political science, and other fields.

Last year's IWU freshman class enrolled 12 National Merit Scholars.

The 14 National Merit Scholars are:

■ Michele Marie Brezinski, a biology major, from Bloomington, Minn. (Thomas Jefferson Senior H.S.). As a high school student, Brezinski was a vocalist and a member of the choir. She received honorable mention in a regional science fair, was secretary of a science club, and was secretary of the German Club. A member of the National Honor Society, Brezinski was student life editor of the yearbook, sports editor of the student newspaper, and editor of the literary magazine at her high school. She also was a member of the Drama Club, Science Club, Art Club, Math Team, and the varsity tennis team. Brezinski was assistant director of a production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Michele is the daughter of Lawrence and Mary Brezinski, 3500 West 100th St., Bloomington, Minn.

■ Carolyn Beth Damrow of Orland Park, Ill. (Carl Sandburg H.S.). As a high school student, Damrow participated in several activities, including tennis, soccer, and tutoring. She won an Advanced Placement Scholar Honor Award and was a member of the National Honor Society. Carolyn is the daughter of Dennis and Jill Damrow, 15250 Royal Foxhunt, Orland Park.

■ Anders Nikolaus Floor, a mathematics major, from Rockford, Ill. (Auburn H.S.). As a high school student, Floor won top honors in a National Latin exam and was on the Latin Honor Roll. He is an Illinois State Scholar and is listed in Who's Who Among

(more)

IWU National Merit Scholars/2

American High School Students. He was a member of the Chess Team, Math Team, and marching and other bands. Anders is the son of Philip and Deborah Floor, 3335 California Rd., Rockford.

■ Anna Catherine Gullickson, a music performance major, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa (George Washington Senior H.S.). As a high school student, Gullickson won several music awards, including Best Vocalist and Most Dedicated, as well as a Social Studies Award. She served as secretary of the Vivace Swing Choir, secretary of Momentum, and vice president of the Concert Choir. Gullickson is a member of the National Honor Society. Among high school activities that she participated in were soccer, cross country, Thespians, and French Club. Gullickson also appeared in stage productions of *The Sound of Music*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Blithe Spirit*. She headed the costume crew for a production of *Amadeus*. Anna is the daughter of Marc and Cathy Gullickson, 3604 Honeyhill Dr., S.E., Cedar Rapids.

■ Benjamin Whitlow Haines, a biology and computer science major, from Lake Zurich, Ill. (Lake Zurich H.S.). As a high school student, Haines was a member of the Academic Team, literary magazine staff, stage crew, Environmental Club, Pep Club, Student Council, Spanish Club, Drama Club, and a choral group. He won a volunteer service award and served as publicity officer for the orchestra. Benjamin is the son of Roger and Susan Haines, 22288 W. Sturm Rd., Lake Zurich.

■ Elizabeth Claire Huber, an elementary education major, from River Ridge, La. (Ursuline Academy, New Orleans). As a high school student, Huber won a Science Olympiad and vocal performance medals. She participated in choir, speech, Writing Club, International Thespians, and Happy Club, a service organization. Huber also was a member of the yearbook staff. Elizabeth is the daughter of Norman and Patricia Huber, R.R. #2, Bloomington, Ill.

■ Benjamin Richard Johnson, a music performance and business major, from Shorewood, Ill. (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Aurora). As a high school student, Johnson was a member of his school's Jazz and Pep Bands, and Symphonic Wind Ensemble. He also was a member of his school's Bridge Club, serving as president; and Table Tennis Association, serving as treasurer; and the Ultimate Frisbee Club. Johnson also has been involved in a youth symphony orchestra, Macintosh computer users group, a soccer team, a Scholastic Bowl team, and the Aurora Suzuki Violins. Among his awards and honors are an Outstanding Musician Award and the Steven Smith Memorial

(more)

IWU National Merit Scholars/3

Scholarship Award. He also won the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 1992 and 1993. Richard is the son of Richard H. and Mary Johnson, 207 Oak Dr., Shorewood.

■ Neva Lucetta Laurie, a biology major, from Lebanon, Ill. (Lebanon Community H.S.). As a high school student, Laurie earned Academic Achievement and Girl Scout Gold awards, as well as awards in regional physics and math competitions. She served as Ecology Club treasurer and was a member of the Marching, Concert, Pep, and Jazz Bands. She plays the flute and piccolo. Laurie also was a member of the Math Team, Community Service Club, Drama Club, Saturday Scholars, Chorus, Model United Nations, and Spanish Club. Neva is the daughter of Lynn and Constance Laurie, 720 Belleville St., Lebanon.

■ Angela Christine Parsons, a biology major, from Peru, Ill. (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Aurora). As a high school student, Parsons was a member of the Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Drama Club, Club Pseudo, Astronomy Club, Spanish Club, Key Club, Amnesty International, and Student Pugwash. Angela is the daughter of George and Linda Parsons, 2306 Thirteenth St., Peru.

■ Timothy Jude Sielaff of Peoria, Ill. (Richwoods H.S.). As a high school student, Sielaff was involved Students Against Drunk Driving, Key Club, football, rugby, wrestling, Tae Kwon Doe, hurdle crew, Amnesty International, an educational tour of Europe, and other activities. He won the Mid-State Six Conference Athletic-Academic Award. Timothy is the son of Dale and Judith Sielaff, 7229 N. Benjamin Ct., Peoria.

■ Mary Kathryn Syverson of Lake Zurich, Ill. (Lake Zurich H.S.). As a high school student, Syverson, a National Honor Society and Honor Roll student, is listed in *Who's Who in American High School Students*. Her extracurricular activities include cheerleading, volleyball, track, varsity tennis, working on the yearbook, and playing in the band. Mary is the daughter of Raymond and Ann Syverson, 586 Applegate Lane, Lake Zurich.

■ Eric Raymond Wesselkamper, a pre-law major, from Cincinnati, Ohio (Colerain Senior H.S.). As a high school student, Wesselkamper received the Spanish I Student of the Year award, as well as Certificates of Merit in Spanish and mathematics. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Wesselkamper is a three-time winner of the Award for Academic Excellence. He is listed in *Who's Who Among*

(more)

IWU National Merit Scholars/4

American High School Students. Eric is the son of Juanita Trotta, 5365 Lee's Crossing Dr. #8, Cincinnati.

■ Alison Marie Whittington, an elementary education major, from Wheeling, Ill. (Wheeling H.S.). Whittington, a member of the National Honor Society, was named an NBC Chicagoland High School Hero of the Week, Nov. 17, 1995. As a high school student, Whittington was involved in various extracurricular activities, including Academic/Scholastic Bowl, Math Team, orchestra, peer tutoring, Students Against Drunk Driving, Science Olympiad Team, and Special Olympics (volunteer). Among Whittington's honors are a Bausch & Lomb Science Award and a Close-Up award. She has been active in swimming/diving, softball, and basketball. Alison is the daughter of James and Irene Whittington, 954 Twilight Lane, Wheeling.

■ Corey Benjamin York, a political science major, of Decatur, Ill. (Eisenhower H.S.). As a high school student, York was named the 1995 soccer Player of the Year by the *Decatur Herald and Review*. The Illinois High School Association named him a scholar-athlete. York also was a member of the show choir and played baseball. Corey is the son of Ivan and Vickie York, 3224 Greenlake Drive, Decatur.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, established in 1955, honors academically talented high school students. About 9,000 scholarships, valued at approximately \$40.5 million, are awarded annually in three categories: Merit Program awards, Achievement Program awards, and a Special Program. National Merit Scholarships are funded by about 600 organizations, including 400 corporations and businesses and 200 campuses.

Sixty-five IWU students were National Merit Scholars for the 1995-96 school year, including 18 members of the class of 1996, who graduated in May.

James R. Donnelley--a director, chairman, and Executive Committee member of the National Merit Scholarship Corp.--was the Commencement speaker at IWU's graduation on May 5. He also is vice chairman of the board of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co., the Chicago-based printing and information technology company.

IWU, founded in 1850, has a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. The \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened in the fall of 1995 and the \$15.2 million Shirk Center for athletics and recreation 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 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. --30--