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Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Timothy Jude Sielaff of Peoria, Ill. (Richwoods H.S.) is one of 14 National Merit Scholars in the 1996 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Sielaff is 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 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.

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 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

(more)

IWU National Merit Scholar/2

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.