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Sept. 11, 1996

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hometown

Benjamin Haines of Lake Zurich, Ill.

Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Benjamin Haines of Lake Zurich, Ill., (Lake Zurich H.S.) is among a dozen freshmen honored today (Sept. 11) as Presidential Scholars at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Haines, a National Merit Scholar, is a double major in biology and English. In literature, his interests run from Shakespeare to science fiction. Haines has read most of Shakespeare's plays and now is focusing on his poetry.

Haines has studied viola for eight years with the baroque repertoire being his favorite.

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.

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.

Nine of this year's dozen Presidential Scholars also are National Merit Scholars. As a group, the Presidential Scholars averaged 1457 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a major college entrance test with a perfect score of 1600.

Haines received his Presidential Scholar honor at IWU's President's Convocation, a campus-wide gathering marking the start of the academic year.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Anita DeFrantz addressed the President's Convocation and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. DeFrantz, president of the Amateur Athletic Foundation and an attorney, won a bronze medal in rowing at the 1976 Montreal games. The Sporting News, the weekly newspaper, has called DeFrantz one of the 100 most powerful women in sports and The Australian Magazine this year ranked her among the 100 most powerful women in the world. DeFrantz played a pivotal role in Atlanta securing this year's summer Olympic games and Salt Lake City hosting the 2002 winter Olympics. The Wall Street Journal in a profile of DeFrantz last June reported she is the only woman on the 11-member IOC Executive Committee and the first black woman elected to the body.

Benjamin is the son of Roger and Susan Haines, 22288 W. Sturm Rd., Lake Zurich, Ill.

(more)

IWU Presidential Scholar/2

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 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.