



Fall 9-11-1996

## Benjamin Johnson of Shorewood, Ill. Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Benjamin Johnson of Shorewood, Ill. Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars" (1996). *News and Events*. 6669.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6669>

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](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Sept. 11, 1996

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

*hometown*

*Benjamin Johnson of Shorewood, Ill.*

## **Illinois Wesleyan Names 12 Freshmen Presidential Scholars**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Benjamin Johnson of Shorewood, Ill., (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Aurora) is among a dozen freshmen honored today (Sept. 11) as Presidential Scholars at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Johnson, a National Merit Scholar, is a double major in music and business administration. He has studied viola and violin for 13 years and trumpet for nine years.

Johnson was principal violist for the Illinois All-State Orchestra.

His other interests include bridge, golf, ping-pong, and ultimate Frisbee.

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 Scholarship Award. He also won the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 1992 and 1993.

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.

Johnson 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

(more)

## IWU Presidential Scholar/2

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 Richard H. and Mary Johnson, 207 Oak Dr., Shorewood, Ill.

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.