



Spring 4-25-1997

Editor, "Guide to America's Best College" Mel Elfin of U.S. News & World Report

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Editor, "Guide to America's Best College" Mel Elfin of U.S. News & World Report" (1997). *News and Events*. 6808.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6808>

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.

April 25, 1997

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Editor, "Guide to America's Best Colleges"

Mel Elfin of U.S. News & World Report To Address IWU's Commencement, May 4

Local
Central IL
Chicago
Education

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Veteran Washington newsman Mel Elfin, who served as *Newsweek's* bureau chief in the nation's capital for almost two decades and now is executive editor of *U.S. News and World Report's* "Guide to America's Best Colleges," will address an estimated 396 graduates and their families at Illinois Wesleyan University's 147th commencement on May 4 (Sunday).

IWU's 1 p.m. graduation ceremony will take place on the university's Quad unless inclement weather forces the event inside the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington. Commencement is open to the public, free-of-charge.

Elfin will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree for his lifetime contributions to journalism and higher education.

IWU will award bachelor's degrees to about 208 female and 188 male students at Commencement '97. It's estimated that about 30 students will graduate summa cum laude (3.90 grade-point average or higher on a 4.0 scale), 36 students will graduate magna cum laude (3.70 grade-point average or higher), and 63 students will graduate cum laude (3.50 grade-point average or higher).

The graduating class includes approximately 321 students from Illinois and students from 23 other states, as well as an estimated 12 international students from eight nations.

Graduating seniors represent about 40 fields of study, the top six of which, in terms of the number of graduates, are expected to be business, biology, English, psychology, nursing, and political science.

Elfin Profiled

Elfin, who has participated in the coverage of almost all the major news events of the past three decades, has served as editor, Special Projects, at *U.S. News & World Report*, since 1986. He also writes the magazine's popular "Washington Whisper" feature. Before joining *U.S. News*, Elfin was with *Newsweek* for 28 years.

Elfin has had private interviews with each of the seven most recent U.S. presidents. In 1972, he was among a handful of journalists who accompanied President Richard Nixon on his diplomatic groundbreaking trips to the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union.

(more)

IWU Commencement '97/2

Born and raised in New York City, Elfin graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1951. He received a master of arts degree in history from Harvard in 1952.

Elfin served as an intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command, a unit of the U.S. Air Force, during the Korean War. After discharge from the military, he completed credits toward a doctoral degree at the New School in New York City.

He began his career in journalism at the *Long Island Daily Press*, where he served as assistant city editor.

While at the *Press*, Elfin won a 1957 George Polk Award for a series of stories leading to a legislative crackdown on a racket in second mortgages.

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 \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next fall, as well as a \$6.8 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. 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. *Baron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.