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**Technos International Week**

## **Four Illinois Wesleyan Students to Travel to Japan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, samurai castles, ancient country villages and.....even sushi are on the itineraries of four Illinois Wesleyan students, who will spend two weeks in and around Tokyo this month as part of a special international studies program.

The four students and an IWU professor will be in Japan, June 6-21, participating in Technos International Week, sponsored by Technos International College and Japanese businessman Kenji Tanaka.

This is the sixth year IWU has participated in the program, aimed at facilitating growth of international understanding.

The Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust funds the program, which brings college students from five American campuses and England's Pembroke College, Oxford University to Japan to learn about Japanese lifestyles and culture. There are plans to expand the program to schools in New Zealand and Australia.

The four IWU students participating in the program are:

- Gaston Cordova, a sophomore biology major from Palos Heights, Ill.
- Esther Duke, a freshman English and international studies major from Urbana, Ill.
- Dwayne Hamilton, a freshman computer science major from Chicago, Ill.
- Kristi Takagishi, a freshman from Palatine, Ill., who has yet to declare a major.

The students will be accompanied by Thomas Lutze, professor of Asian history at Illinois Wesleyan.

The primary goal of the two-week program is to provide participants with a first-hand glimpse into Japanese culture through sightseeing, seminars, and other activities. However, the main focus is on Technos International College in suburban Tokyo.

Technos' mission is to provide a diverse setting for students to learn

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## Japanese Journey/2

about themselves and other cultures, while learning vocational skills. Consequently, Tanaka developed Technos International Week to promote understanding on an international scale.

According to IWU's International Studies' Chair Teodora Amoloza, "Mr. Tanaka believes international understanding can only be achieved through working with youth on a very personal level."

Students from five U.S. schools--Carleton College in Minnesota, Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York state, Hope College in Michigan, McKendree College in Illinois and Illinois Wesleyan are participating in the program. Each contingent is escorted by two Japanese students, who serve as guides.

Each year, 30-40 IWU students apply for the program. A four-member committee of faculty and administrators review applications and essays. They choose eight to 12 finalists, who are interviewed by the committee, and four students are chosen for the program. The committee considers previous experience with other cultures, specifically Japanese, interest in Japanese culture and history, and how the program would enhance each individual's academic experience.

The Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust pays for travel, food, and lodging expenses for the Illinois Wesleyan and the other contingents.

"The first week or so we spend visiting shrines and viewing different ceremonies, hiking the Japanese Alps, and attending events like a Kabuki theatre," explains Amoloza, who went on the trip two years ago.

"The second week is spent primarily on the Technos campus. We attend seminars and sit in on classes. We also watch a judo sports club and a kendo sports club," Amoloza added.

IWU history professor Mike Weis explains the program this way: "It is the opportunity of a lifetime. The students have a chance to experience another culture, all expenses paid."

"It is a small step toward replacing fear with understanding and appreciation," Weis said. "Mr. Tanaka is building bridges between peoples one at a time," added Weis, who was the faculty representative last year.

In the past, IWU has sent groups focusing on certain areas, for example,

(more)

### Japanese Journey/3

business majors, art majors, or Japanese language majors. This year's group, however, is diverse drawing from the natural and social sciences with everything from French to computer science majors making up the contingent. The group has an international flavor, with a fourth-generation Japanese-American and a Bolivian-American. Three of the students have spent time abroad, but only two have Japanese language skills.

The Technos program has had profound effects on IWU students. For example, junior John Catalano from Chicago Ridge, Ill., participated two years ago, changed his major to international studies and spent last year studying in Japan.

This summer, sophomore Tom Purl, an international business major Japanese minor, from St. Charles Mo., will be interning in Japan after participating in the Technos program last year.

Technos, a vocational training institution established in 1959, began as a television engineers' school. It rapidly grew in 30 years to seven separate schools. In 1991, six of the schools were consolidated into Technos International College. There are six departments at Technos--three focus on technology and three on liberal arts and service skills: engineering, information sciences and art, tourism, languages and business studies.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and its Schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and 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 \$5.1 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 \$6.5 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among the 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges.