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### Record Enrollment

## **Illinois Wesleyan Launches 1997-98 School Year**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Illinois Wesleyan University begins the 1997-98 academic year today (Aug. 25) with a record enrollment of about 1,995 students, two new buildings, and a growing roster of guest speakers—including a Nobel Prize-winner, a former U.S. Senator, and a retired U.S. Navy Admiral, who commanded NATO troops in war-torn Bosnia.

Full-time enrollment at the start of the 1996-97 school year was 1,907

At this point, it looks like IWU will enroll about 1,061 women and 934 men. However, enrollment figures are subject to change as students check-in.

### **Class of 2001**

The profile of this year's freshman class, which will graduate in 2001, looks like this:

- 560 freshmen domestic students from 16 states.
- Nine international students, plus one one-year exchange student, for a total of 10 international students from six nations.
- Average ACT score: 27.6 compared to 27.5 in 1996. A perfect score on the American College Test, a leading college entrance exam, is 36. The ACT national average is 21.0 compared to 20.9 in 1996.
- 37 high school valedictorians.
- Minority students: 21 African-American (4 percent of the freshman class), 23 Asian (4 percent of the freshman class), and 12 Hispanic (2 percent of the freshman class).

### **Ruoti Profiles IWU Freshman Class**

"This year's freshman class is almost identical to 1996's," said James Ruoti, IWU's veteran dean of admissions, "except the average class rank is higher.

"This year's freshmen," Ruoti added, "seems to have a larger number of students who are multitiered. They are outstanding students academically, but they have done a lot of other things in terms of extracurricular activities."

For example, Ruoti cites one IWU freshman who is an athlete, first or second in his high school class of 500, president of his senior class, and is so strong vocally that he won a non-music major scholarship.

"A student like this," Ruoti said, "has it all. He's looking at two or three possible majors."

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Ruoti said: "We will expect a lot from this class. There is strength in this class."

One sign of IWU's growing academic reputation, according to Ruoti, are comments like this from high school guidance counselors: "I can't believe the schools students are turning down to come to Illinois Wesleyan."

College consultants, Ruoti said, often tell him that IWU is "getting some of our top, top students."

### **Why Students Pick IWU**

Three factors seem to be big influences in students and their families selecting IWU, according to Ruoti.

"More guidance counselors are saying, 'Take a look at IWU,'" Ruoti said. "That's good since they're professionals in the field. Students who are looking at Washington University, Northwestern, and Vanderbilt are also looking at IWU."

Students looking at liberal arts colleges see a broader program at IWU, according to Ruoti, as well as a quality program.

"And, students interested in the liberal arts just can't believe our facilities," Ruoti added, referring to the fact that about \$61 million in new construction has taken place on the IWU campus in the 1990s.

### **Over 34 Years**

Ruoti has been in college admissions since 1963, when he graduated from IWU with a degree in business. He has been IWU's dean of admissions since 1969. Over those years, the biggest change he has seen in college admissions is increasing sophistication.

Students, Ruoti says, are more sophisticated in choosing a college or university. For example, they're using the World Wide Web and college guides--such as *U.S. News & World Report* and the *Fiske Guide*--to help them make decisions.

"More students today have parents who went to college," Ruoti points out. "These parents had a college experience 25 years ago and that gives them a basis to look at and compare campuses and programs."

Ruoti also points out that college guidance offices in the high schools are more sophisticated. "Many of these offices," he said, "use videos and computer search devices" in the college counseling process.

But a few things, according to Ruoti, haven't changed since the 1960s.

"Students are still nervous when they visit colleges," Ruoti said, "and people still respond to those who take an interest in them. Computer printouts and buildings can't replace personal attention.

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Just like 30 years ago, the important thing is people who care. That's human nature and won't change."

#### **Center for Liberal Arts**

For 30 years, the building at 301 E. Beecher St. was Sherff Hall, IWU's science building. Now, after a \$5.1 million renovation, it's the Center for Liberal Arts, a three-floor brick building housing 60 faculty offices, three classrooms, two seminar rooms, and various other faculty-student interaction facilities.

This science to liberal arts transformation became possible when IWU's \$25 million Center for Natural Sciences opened in the fall of 1995 and Sherff was vacated.

Departments occupying the 35,000 gross square foot Center for Liberal Arts are business, economics, history, political science, sociology and anthropology, education, philosophy, religion, women's studies, and international studies.

Faculty played a key role in planning the building, according to Janet McNew, provost and dean of faculty.

"Faculty were insistent," McNew explained, "that the building not just be offices. They wanted areas for student-faculty research and other types of spaces for interaction with students."

Consequently, the Center for Liberal Arts features laboratories for social science research such as the second floor political science lab featuring computers, phone banks, and other facilities needed for survey research, analysis, and downloading information from electronic data banks.

"At larger universities," McNew said, "faculty are sometimes isolated from students. We explained to the architects that we didn't want a buffer between faculty and students. Faculty wanted to be accessible to students."

Therefore, student research labs and study areas are scattered throughout the building.

The building's interior was designed to avoid a "rabbit warren" appearance. "We worked hard," McNew said, "to achieve an open, flowing space in the middle of each floor," more conducive to faculty-student interaction. The use of wood on doors, bookcases, furniture trim, and elsewhere, she explained, was an attempt at spurring a collegiate, rather than corporate, look.

The Center for Liberal Arts project began with a detailed 14-month planning process, which pinpointed and analyzed faculty and other space needs. As part of this process, the decision was made to give Sherff a massive facelift rather than tear it down.

"The old building was stripped down to the steel frame and concrete floor slabs," explained Kenneth Browning, vice president for business and finance. "The building was originally built by

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Country Companies to serve as temporary quarters, while their headquarters on Towanda Avenue was constructed."

"By doing this [renovating rather than constructing a new building]," McNew said, "we saved about \$1 million."

During the building programming phase, space was allocated to the various units and located within the building.

Demolition of Sherff began last June. While the second and third floors of the building are completed, construction continues on the first floor. Construction should be completed in a few weeks.

Project architect-engineers were Shive-Hattery of Bloomington in association with DeBartolo Architects of Phoenix, Ariz. Felmley-Dickerson Co. of Bloomington constructed the building.

### **New House**

New House, a \$6.85 million residence hall at 201 E. Emerson, Bloomington, opened for the 1997-98 school year. Students began moving into New House, Aug. 23.

The four-story, 54,000 gross square foot brick and steel residence, accommodates 118 students--sophomores, juniors and seniors--in various suite arrangements.

"The suite arrangement," explained Damon Cates, director of New House and IWU's coordinator of orientation and retention, "provides several advantages to students, including the opportunity for closer interaction among smaller groups of students."

The basic living unit is for four students and has two bedrooms, a living room, private bath, and walk-in closets. Other designs include a six-student, three-bedroom arrangement, and a two-story, "townhouse" for eight students with two bedrooms on each floor. These units are located on the building's third and fourth floors and are connected by a spiral staircase. First floor rooms feature kitchenettes. Lounge and room kitchenettes primarily will be used for specialty cooking and on Sunday evenings when there is no university food service.

Among New House's features are enclosed, ground-level bicycle storage; a first floor recreation room with study tables, couches, games, television, and vending services; laundry rooms on the second, third, and fourth floors; and floor lounges equipped with gas fireplaces and kitchenettes. Rooms are networked to the Internet and wired for cable television. Each room is individually climate controlled for heating and air conditioning.

Much of New House's design and features came out of student surveys and focus groups conducted by the Dean of Students last spring. Students also helped to select New House's stackable furniture.

"Those surveys and focus groups revealed some interesting things," said Dean of Students Debra Wood. "Students wanted indoor bicycle storage--not a Jacuzzi or a whirlpool. They also wanted more

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storage space since they're bringing more clothes from home. Students are coming from farther away, so they need more storage since it's not easy to go home. We designed the suites with walk-in closets to meet these needs. They also wanted stackable furniture so they could maximize free floor space. And, they wanted access to the Internet from their rooms and more privacy."

Wood added: "Students want and need more individual opportunities for personal growth and that's a benefit of the suite design. They have privacy in the living room and bath, but they also are responsible for cleaning the living room, bath, and kitchenettes.

"The suite arrangement," Wood explained, "gives students a semi-apartment living experience, but without the complete responsibility of paying the rent and utility bills. This is part of their educational experience."

Wood points out that suite living arrangements have been around on campuses for more than a decade.

Students were assigned to New House by a lottery. Students who won the lottery were required to find the correct number of roommates to fill their suite.

"Everyone got a number," Wood said. "The lottery was open to the entire student body."

Wood points out that New House is an example of the diversity of housing available to IWU students who live in IWU's 16 residence halls. For example, IWU offers high-rise living, small intimate houses where students live in apartment-like units, and traditional residence halls with floor showers and big lounges. Dodds Hall also offers suite arrangements. More than 80 percent of IWU students, including those in the Greek system, live on campus.

The changing nature of college students has affected campus housing trends.

"Over the past 20 or 30 years," Wood said, "the profile of students has changed. Students used to be born into large families of four to 10 children. Now a four-member family is considered high. Consequently, students have grown up in homes without sharing bedrooms with siblings and homes where they've had their own TVs, Internet hookups, and private phone lines.

"Students have had a very adult, non-student environment at home," Wood added, "and they want to replicate that in college. They want space for their amenities and they're not as comfortable as in the past with floor showers. Privacy has taken on heightened importance."

New House residents are charged an additional \$600 for housing. Wood said: "The general feeling is that fairness dictates that students actually living in the new residence hall pay the rent differential, rather than spreading it across the student body to students not directly benefiting from the residence. Additional loan assistance is available to students with financial need who live in New

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House. Room charges for the 1997-98 school year are \$2,640. Therefore, students living in New House are charged \$3,240.

New House was designed by BLDD Architects of Decatur, Ill. Felmley-Dickerson Co. of Bloomington constructed the building.

### **Guest Speakers**

While parts of the lineup is still on the drawing board, three guest speakers for the fall semester are confirmed:

- Nobel Prize-winning poet and playwright Derek Walcott will address the President's Convocation, Sept. 10, at 11 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington. Walcott's address is open to the public, free-of-charge.
- Retired U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) will be on campus, Oct. 10, a guest of Pi Sigma Alpha, IWU's chapter of the national political science honor society. His itinerary has yet to be worked out.
- Adm. Leighton W. Smith, Jr. (U.S. Navy, Retired) will participate in seven activities, Oct. 22-24. Smith--a former commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe and commander-in-chief of Allied Forces in Southern Europe (NATO)--led the Implementation Force (IFOR) in embattled Bosnia from Dec. 20, 1995, to July 31, 1996. Smith will conduct discussions with three IWU classes. He will speak on U.S. foreign policy toward Bosnia, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University, Bloomington. Smith will address a Homecoming '97 Back-to-School session on "Peacekeeping, Multilateralism, and the Role of the Military in the 21st Century," Oct. 24, 1 p.m., Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center. Smith's presentations are open to the public, free-of-charge.

### **Music at Illinois Wesleyan**

IWU's School of Music has more than 50 concerts and guest and faculty recitals slated for the 1997-98 school year with more in the works.

Musical programs range from recitals by pianists, violists, and violinists, to performances by IWU ensemble groups, operas, and concerts by the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra.

The IWU Camerata, a chamber music ensemble, will hold its tenth anniversary concert, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m., in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington. The Camerata also will perform, "Bach Brandenburg, Program I," Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m., in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington.

For the concert schedule and ticket information, contact: IWU School of Music, 309/556-3061.

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## **IWU Kicks Off 1997-98 School Year/7**

The Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra will perform four concerts beginning next month, for the 1997-98 season.

The orchestra--under the baton of music director Steven W. Eggleston, IWU professor of music--will perform:

- Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple. The program will include: Dukas' Sorcerer's Apprentice; Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 2; Barber's Medea's Meditation and Dance of Vengeance, and Gershwin's American in Paris.

- Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., at Braden Auditorium, Illinois State University. The concert will feature violist John Borg. The program will include Walton's Viola Concerto and Brahms' Symphony No. 4.

- Feb. 13, 1998, 7:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple. The Henry Charles Memorial Concerto Aria Concert will feature student soloists to be announced later. The program will include Hanson's Symphony No. 2.

- April 3, 1998, 7:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple. The concert will feature flutist William West and soprano Dawn Harris. The program will include Corigliano's Voyage and Mahler's Symphony No. 4.

The Scottish Rite Temple is located at 110 E. Mulberry St., Bloomington. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or up to a week in advance at IWU's School of Music Office, Presser Hall. For more information, call: 309/556-3346.

### **Theatre at Illinois Wesleyan**

Among productions slated for the McPherson Theatre stage this year are:

- "Into the Woods," a musical slated for 8 p.m., Oct. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11.
- "Arcadia," 8 p.m., Nov. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22.

For curtain times and ticket information, call the McPherson Theatre Box Office, 309/556-3232. McPherson Theatre is located at 304 E. Graham, Bloomington.

The E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick Laboratory Theatre will stage "Goldberg Street" and "Root of Chaos," Sept. 18, 19, 20 at 7 p.m.

IWU's News Services office will release information on IWU's sports teams and schedules.

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. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletic center, a \$25 million science building, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million liberal arts center. 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. IWU won the 1997 NCAA Division III men's basketball championship. --30--