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Robert Nierzwicki Named Presidential Scholar at Illinois Wesleyan

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Robert Nierzwicki, the son of Robert and Diane Nierzwicki of Chicago, was one of fifteen Presidential Scholars who were named today (Sept. 9) at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Convocation, a campuswide gathering marking the start of the 1997-98 school year.

Nierzwicki, a graduate of Fenwick High School, will major in biology. He has done marine biology fieldwork in Belize and is an Eagle Scout. Nierzwicki was the captain of his soccer team and also participated in track.

Seven of this year's Presidential Scholars are National Merit Scholars. IWU's freshman class this year has ten National Merit Scholars. Last year's group of Presidential Scholars had seven National Merit Scholars.

Collectively, the Presidential Scholars averaged 1463 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a major college entrance test with a perfect score of 1600. Last year's class of Presidential Scholars averaged 1461 on the SAT.

Two of the Presidential Scholars are international students from Bulgaria, and one is a native of Romania.

The Presidential Scholars' Program, established in 1978, recognizes 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.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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.