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IWU Brings In The Chinese New Year

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February 7, 2005

Contact: Leslie Boelter, (309) 556-3181

IWU Brings In The Chinese New Year

Event: Illinois Wesleyan University Chinese New Year Celebration

Date: Feb. 13 (Sunday)

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Hansen Student Center, 300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington

Admission: Free and open to the public

Background: IWU will hold its seventh annual Chinese New Year Celebration (year of the rooster), sponsored by the Asian Studies Student Programming Committee. The Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday in Chinese culture, and celebrates the end of a long winter and the beginning of a new season for planting. It is called Chinjia, which means Spring Festival. The Chinese generally celebrate by lighting fireworks and giving small red envelopes of money to children.

To celebrate the year of the rooster at IWU, Nian Hua, a well-known painter and singer, will perform with her husband Stephen Taylor, professor of music composition at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Also as part of the program there will be tables staffed by students and faculty offering information about China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam, as well as a children's activity table. People will also have the opportunity to practice calligraphy and different crafts at these tables. Asian food will be provided. Last year the event attracted more than 300 people.

Contact: For more information, contact Katie Forristall at 309/828-3182 or Aggie Valenti at 309/451-1582.