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October 18, 2006

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IWU Art Exhibition Showcases Cordero, Souto

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Ames School of Art will exhibit *In the Shadow of the Andes: The Photographs of Julio Cordero, 1900-1940* in the Merwin Gallery, and Francisco Souto's *New Work* in the Wakeley Gallery from Oct. 24 to Dec. 7. Both galleries are located in the Joyce G. Eichhorn Ames School of Art Building, 6 Ames Plaza West, in Bloomington.

Peter Yenne, director of the Photographic Archive Project and curator of the Cordero exhibition, will give a lecture on Oct. 24 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 218 of the art building, immediately followed by a reception in the galleries from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The events are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 12:00-4:00 p.m., Tuesday evening 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. The galleries will be closed for Thanksgiving break from Nov. 22 to Nov. 26 and for *Day Without Art* on Dec. 1.

Cordero (1879-1961) was a noted photographer active in La Paz, Bolivia from 1898 to 1940. According to art critics, his work captures the changing face of La Paz, creating an unparalleled record of early 20th century Paceño life and culture. Cordero worked for the police and served as an official photographer to two of Bolivia's Liberal party presidents, documenting military parades, civic ceremonies and political events. The Cordero archive houses a wealth of historical documents, photographic equipment and more than ten thousand negatives.

Peter Yenne is a 1972 graduate of Rice University. In 1976, he received a grant to travel and photograph in South America, and in 1981, began work as a freelance photographer. Yenne founded the Photographic Archive Project in 1991, and from 1999 to 2001, he and his colleagues directed the Portrait of the Andes Project, creating digital catalogs of a dozen historic photo archives in Peru and Bolivia. In 2002, Yenne was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to continue his study of Peruvian photo history. He is currently preparing a series of books, articles, exhibits and digital archiving projects in Cuba, Guatemala and Nepal.

Souto is a native of Venezuela and a graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program at Ohio State University. He is currently assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and has exhibited at both the national and international level. His work features old drafting tools, time-pieces and glass observation devices juxtaposed with images of galaxies and stars, which art critics say pays homage to the old art masters while still expressing the contemporary experience. Souto is known for his use of the distinctive and very time-consuming mezzotint process to create his prints, a technique in which the surface of a metal plate is roughened evenly and the image is brought out by smoothing the surface, working from dark to light. He also paints and creates hand-made books.

For more information, contact Gallery Director Jennifer Lapham at (309) 556-3391.

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