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First-Year Convocation Speaker to Discuss "The Power of Not Knowing."

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August 20, 2007

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First-Year Convocation Speaker to Discuss “The Power of Not Knowing.”

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Marina Balina, Illinois Wesleyan University Professor of Russian Studies and recipient of the 2008 *Pantagraph* Award for Teaching Excellence, will deliver the keynote address at the 2007 New Student Convocation Ceremony, to be held on Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 4:15 p.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington).

Following welcomes from University President Richard F. Wilson, Provost and Dean of the Faculty Beth Cunningham, Student Senate President Kelly Petrowski (class of 2008), Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kathy Cavins, alumni speaker Chad Tattini (class of 1994), and new University Chaplain Rev. Hope Luckie, Balina will talk to incoming first-year and transfer students about “The Power of Not Knowing.”

Balina, a native of Russia, has taught Russian literature and Russian and German languages at IWU for nearly two decades and has published over 20 articles in three languages. Her books include *Politicizing Magic: Russian and Soviet Fairy Tales*, *Happiness Soviet Style* and *Sovetskoe Bogatstvo: Stat’I o literature, kul’ture I kino*. Recently, she received a research fellowship to continue her pioneering work with Soviet and post-Soviet children’s literature from the National Endowment for the Humanities and was appointed to the Isaac Funk Professorship, the first such appointment since 1921.

New Student Convocation is the beginning of the process of “Turning Titan,” which features numerous orientation activities throughout the week, ending with the first day of classes on Monday, Aug. 27.

For additional information, contact the Office of Orientation Services at (309) 556-3749.

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