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October 17, 2007

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Chapel Hour, New Orleans Style: All Saints Day Service to be Held

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Chapel Hour on Wednesday, Oct. 31 will be a celebration of All Saints Day, to take place in the Evelyn Chapel (1301 N. Park St., Bloomington) at 11 a.m.

Open to the public, the service will feature traditional jazz music, also known as Dixieland music, played by a student band including: Kristina Dakis ('11), clarinet; Dan George ('09), trumpet; Kyle Charles ('08), tenor saxophone; Sara Ghadiri ('11), bass; Charlie Berggren ('10), piano; and Kevin Quinn ('11), drums.

Formally observed on Nov. 1 and brought to New Orleans from France, early celebrations ranged from candlelight vigils at family graves to carnival-like festivities. Today, All Saints Day is generally recognized by visiting and decorating cemeteries with flowers and other items.

"A New Orleans tradition is to play traditional upbeat Dixieland music at funerals to celebrate and remember the good times in people's lives, which is what we will be doing at the Chapel service," said Kyle Charles, a senior political science major who organized the service.

"A special aspect of traditional jazz that sets it apart from other jazz styles is constant simultaneous improvisation by two or more musicians while another musician plays the melody. This makes the music more free and wild than many other jazz forms."

For additional information about Chapel Hour services, contact the Chaplain's office at (309) 556-3005 or visit the Chaplain's Office Web site at <http://www2.iwu.edu/chaplain/Events.shtml>.

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