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February 20, 2009

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Author Dickinson to Visit Campus

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Author Charles Dickinson will visit the Illinois Wesleyan University campus to read selections from and answer questions about his novel, *A Shortcut in Time*, on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 4:30 p.m. in the Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington). A group discussion of the book will take place on Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in the Underground, located in the Memorial Center (104 E. University St).

The event is free and open to the public.

Members of the University's award-winning chapter of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta selected Dickinson's novel for its book club, which is open to the entire campus. Book club participants were encouraged to read *A Shortcut in Time* during the winter break.

A Shortcut in Time takes place in Euclid, Ill., a town of many shortcuts, between houses, through orchards and across fields. Josh Winkler, a local artist and longtime resident, knows these irregular pathways well, but is thoroughly taken aback when a hasty dash down a familiar walk deposits him fifteen minutes in the past—literally. At first, Josh is more intrigued than alarmed by this accidental time travel. Then a lost young woman appears, claiming to be from 1908.

Dickinson's novels and short stories have won widespread acclaim for their deft characterization, humanity, and humor. *Newsday* described him as "a writer thoroughly in command of his art," while the *Chicago Tribune* wrote "he can surprise us at almost every turn."

Charles Dickinson is the author of the novels *A Shortcut in Time*, *The Widows' Adventures*, *Crows*, *Rumor Has It* and *Waltz in Marathon*, and the short-story collection *With or Without*. His stories have been twice included in the O. Henry Awards. His fiction and non-fiction have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Esquire*, *Grand Street*, the *Pikestaff Forum*, *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*. He is an editor at the *Chicago Tribune* and lives in Arlington Heights, Ill.

For additional information about the event, e-mail iwusigmatd@gmail.com.

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