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Public Health Official to Discuss Managing Bioterrorism Risk at Illinois Wesleyan

February 25, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - A discussion about "Managing the Risk of Bioterrorism" at Illinois Wesleyan University will be led by Matthew Roberts, supervisor of health services with the Springfield Department of Public Health, at 7 p.m., March 9, in Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington).

Roberts, who is a 2001 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, has been running the Department of Public Health's division of Epidemiology and Preparedness for more than a year. He is in charge of surveillance activities and all department trainings and development of procedures for local response to bioterrorism. The division is developing a volunteer base of health professionals to assist in times of public health need. It coordinates with local first responders to develop meaningful plans of action. Roberts also heads up the division's epidemiology, which entails comprehensive disease observation - using its findings to predict future disease and injury trends, and to shape programming to fit contemporary needs.

Tim Query, assistant professor of business administration and faculty advisory for IWU's Risk Management & Finance Society, said Roberts' presentation will be interdisciplinary, addressing bioterrorism from both health care and risk management perspectives.

The event is co-sponsored by the Risk Management & Finance Society, the campus chapter of the Alpha Tau Delta professional nursing fraternity, and the Student Nurses Association.