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IWU Remembers the Forgotten War

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Nov. 2, 2000

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IWU Remembers the Forgotten War

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Fifty years after the start of what President Harry Truman referred to as a "police action in Korea," Illinois Wesleyan University will spend the week of Nov. 6 remembering the Korean War. Numerous events and speakers will take place on campus as part of "Korean War: A Week of Remembrance, Critique, and Possibility."

Charles Springwood, IWU assistant professor of anthropology, said the week's events are "a time to think and reflect upon the war."

The Korean War began in 1950 and was the first war to involve the United Nations (U.N.) as a military player. The war began when troops from Communist North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations called the invasion a violation of international peace. After the North Korean army refused to retreat, the U.N. asked its member nations to give military aid to the south. The United States provided approximately 90 percent of the troops, equipment, food and other supplies.

The war came to a close in 1953 when North Korea signed an armistice. No permanent peace treaty was signed. According to Springwood, this summer the leaders of North and South Korea met for the first time to talk about permanent peace between the two countries. In addition, some of the families that were separated during the war were able to meet their loved ones from across the border for the first time in 50 years. Additionally, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright made a first-ever diplomatic mission to North Korea on Oct. 22-25, 2000.

Events will include:

- Monday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.

A documentary film introduced by Professor of History Tom Lutze, "Lifting the Blackout: Images of North Korea," will be shown at the Center for Liberal Arts, 301 E. Beecher St., Bloomington, Room 205.

- Tuesday, Nov. 7, noon

Soo Jung Lee, a doctoral student from the University of Illinois who did field research in Korea, will present, "Divided Nation, Displaced People," at the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington, Room E103.

- Wednesday, Nov. 8, 4 p.m.

Nancy Ablemann, professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois, will give a presentation entitled, "A Family Story: The Workings of Class and Education in Korea

and Korean America," at the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St.,
Bloomington, Room E103.

- Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

The 1998 Cannes Festival prize-winning film, "Spring in My Hometown," will be
presented in the AV Room at Sheean Library.

The week's events are co-sponsored by the IWU Asian Studies Program and the Asian Studies
Student Programming Committee. For additional information contact Charles Springwood at
309/556-3180.

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