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IWU Chaplain to Provide Service about Self-discovery

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IWU Chaplain to Provide Service about Self-discovery

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --On September 12 at 11:00 am, in Illinois Wesleyan University's Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington, Chaplain Dennis Groh, professor of humanities and archaeology will deliver a service entitled, "Why Get Trapped in Someone Else's Story?"

Groh will encourage listeners to test the stories they have been given about themselves, instead of internalizing them and living them out. As part of the sermon, he plans to relate the story of a head chaplain whose parents raised him to believe one explanation about his past, until he accidentally discovered his true heritage through a Saturday morning radio show.

"We're at a stage now, especially here in college, where we're always telling people our stories -- I'm from this town, I'm from this family, this is who I am," said Groh. "It's very easy to become trapped in our stories, and write ourselves a script that isn't going to work for us."

Groh, a specialist in early Christianity and the archaeology of Israel in the Roman and Byzantine Periods, has served as a chaplain and professor at IWU since 1996. He has co-authored or co-edited five books, and has published numerous articles in various works. The past president of the North American Patristics Society, and both a Fellow and Senior Fellow of the Association Theological Schools of the US and Canada; Groh has been invited to give lectures at Brown University, Princeton University, University of Chicago, and many other institutions

For the academic school year 2001 -2002, The University Chaplain's Office and the Evelyn Chapel Advisory Board has invited clergymen and religious scholars to represent the various religions and faith perspectives during chapel hour. The schedule includes speakers ranging from Christian Evangelists to Muslim Imams.