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## Blue Moon Coffeehouse Takes a Hiatus

August 17, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – After 18 years of providing Illinois Wesleyan University and the Bloomington-Normal community with an intimate setting to listen to live, unplugged acoustic music, the Blue Moon Coffeehouse will turn down the microphones and shut off the lights.

“It’s time for Blue Moon to take a hiatus and recharge creatively,” said Associate Dean Darcy L. Greder, creator of the Blue Moon Coffeehouse. “We have enjoyed many rewarding years of programming for the University and community, but it’s time for us to regroup.”

Greder began the Blue Moon Coffeehouse at a time when there were few opportunities for live music in the community. “When we started Blue Moon there was not a Center for the Performing Arts, the U.S. Cellular Coliseum wasn’t built and very little live music was performed in bars and clubs,” said Greder. “We wanted to create a place where people could have an intimate connection with music.”

The singer-songwriter series brought many famous names to campus, including Carrie Newcomer and Ani DiFranco. Newcomer was the first artist to play at Blue Moon and also performed a concert the Saturday directly after Sept. 11, which Greder describes as unforgettable. DiFranco, an artist and CEO of Righteous Babe Records, drew large crowds, exceeding the space offered by IWU, forcing Greder to move DiFranco’s most recent appearance with over 5,000 concert-goers to RedBird Arena at Illinois State University.

Although the sounds of these artists will no longer resonate around the IWU campus, Greder hopes Blue Moon fans will continue to support live music in the community and attend Illinois Wesleyan events.

“We have always enjoyed strong support from the community,” said Greder. “We want everyone to know they are still invited to attend other great musical, cultural and athletic events on campus.”

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