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Sherry Wallace
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Three IWU Professors, Chaplain Set to Retire July 10, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-Three Illinois Wesleyan University professors will retire from their positions effective July 31 and the University's chaplain will retire in December of 2006.

Retiring are Herman (Lew) Detweiler, associate professor of physics; Ruth Ann Friedberg, associate professor of accounting; Todd Tucker, professor emeritus of music theory; and University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh.

Detweiler joined the IWU faculty in September of 1968 after graduating from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1962 and a Master of Science in Teaching degree from Illinois Wesleyan in 1969. He joined the faculty as an instructor of physics at IWU and was promoted to assistant professor in 1976. In 1992, Detweiler was promoted to associate professor of physics.

During his years at the University, Detweiler worked with Narendra Jaggi, associate professor of physics at IWU, on projects for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) involving superconductivity and satellite information exploring planets at the edge of the solar system.

Granted emeritus status, Friedberg has given 20 years of service in the Department of Business Administration at IWU. Before joining the IWU faculty in 1985, Friedberg taught high school mathematics for 10 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. in 1964, her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Northwestern University in 1965, a Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University in 1978 and a Master of Science degree also from Illinois State University in 1981.

Known by colleagues for her insistence on "students first," Friedberg was influential in designing and leading the January and May Term travel course programs, and has taken classes to countries including Hungary, India, China, Australia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Fiji. In addition to her work as a teacher and professor, Friedberg served as a practicing tax accountant with McLean County Accounting and Tax Service in Normal, where she was both owner and manager.

Tucker received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion in 1968, and his Master of Music degree in 1971 and Ph.D. at Indiana University School of Music in 1986. He joined the IWU faculty in 1981 after teaching for seven years at Northern State University, where he earned tenure.

While at IWU, Tucker taught theory and related courses, including advanced analysis and counterpoint. He also taught May Term travel courses in Ireland and served as the coordinator of the First-Year Theory Program. For three consecutive years (1990-1992), Tucker was a finalist for "Professor of the Year" at IWU. He received the Lilly Foundation Faculty Development Grant in 1992, which he used to compile and author an anthology of ragtime music.

Groh, professor of humanities and archaeology at Illinois Wesleyan, will retire from the University after 10 years of service. As Illinois Wesleyan's first full-time University Chaplain, he has presided over IWU's weekly University Chapel Hour, an optional worship experience for students and the University community held each Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Evelyn Chapel.

A 1961 graduate of IWU and a member of the honors society Phi Kappa Phi, Groh earned a Bachelor of Arts in history degree in 1961 and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree with highest distinction from Garrett Theological Seminary (Evanston, Ill.) in 1965. He received a Ph.D. from Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.) in 1970, specializing in the history and archaeology of early Christianity.

Before joining the IWU faculty on Aug. 1, 1996, Groh spent 28 years as a professor of the history of Christianity at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and for most of those years he also directed graduate research as an Advisory Member of The Graduate Faculty, Northwestern University. He has served as a professional senior staff member, associate director, or co-director of several archaeological expeditions in Israel and conducted research in Cyprus, Turkey, Tunisia, and Italy.

For additional information and highlights about Groh's career at Illinois Wesleyan, please go to https://www.iwu.edu/chaplain/Groh_retirement.html



Retiring faculty include, clockwise from top left: Herman (Lew) Detweiler, Ruth Ann Friedberg, Todd Tucker and University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh.

