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Sherry Wallace
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Workshop on the Nuclear War Legacy to be Held for College Professors

May 29, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University will host its annual one-week workshop, “Hiroshima and Nagasaki for College Teachers,” Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29 in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (201 Beecher St., Bloomington). Guided by Raymond G. Wilson, emeritus associate professor of physics, the workshop is open to all college professors interested in teaching a course on nuclear issues. The workshop is endorsed by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by friends of the workshop.

Now in its fifth year, the workshop provides detailed resources and planning tools for a course or unit on nuclear war and disarmament problems. It deals with the social, biological, and physical effects of nuclear warfare, as experienced by the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, by atomic veterans, and by other “downwinders” in America and elsewhere. The workshop will also consider “a new way of thinking about achieving and preserving peace.” The Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bomb experience was voted by journalists to be the “story of the century.”

Wilson has taught about the effects of nuclear war since 1959, and has spent eight summers of study in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The workshop is based upon a course he created in 1979, “Problems of Nuclear Disarmament.” Since his retirement in 1997, Wilson has returned every May to teach the course, which, he says, “has become a ‘popular’ course among students.” He is also associated with the AtomicBombMuseum.org Web site and is co-director of the online Hiroshima Panorama Project.

There remain a few openings for workshop participants. For more information, contact Professor Wilson by email at rwilson@iwu.edu or visit the workshop Web site at <http://sun.iwu.edu/~physics/Hiroshima.html>.

Contact: Sherry Wallace, (309) 556-3181