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Mountains Beyond Mountains Author to Deliver Address at President's Convocation

September 14, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Soul of a New Machine*, *House*, and *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*, will deliver an address titled "One Way to Live a Meaningful Life" at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington).

The event, which is free and open to the public, will include an informal discussion with Kidder, moderated by Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of International Studies William Munro. The discussion will take place at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26 in the Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington) followed by a book signing.

Inaugurating the academic year, Kidder's address will include a full Power Point presentation. Convocation will also feature welcomes from President Richard F. Wilson, Student Senate President Kelly Petrowski, and Illinois Wesleyan Provost and Dean of the Faculty Beth Cunningham.

As the subject for Illinois Wesleyan's 2007 Summer Reading Program, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* was assigned to first-year students to read prior to arriving on campus. During the new student orientation program, "Turning Titan," the students, joined by faculty, staff, and administration members, were divided into small groups to discuss the book and its themes.

Mountains Beyond Mountains tells the story of Dr. Paul Farmer, the New England physician who established a revolutionary model of international health care through his work as founder of Partners in Health and co-director of the organization's 1987 pilot project, Clinique Bon Sauveur, a Haitian hospital.

The Soul of a New Machine, which earned both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1982, was followed by *House* in 1985. Other works by Kidder include *Home Town* and a recent Vietnam war memoir, *My Detachment*. Kidder earned the Robert F. Kennedy Award in 1989, the Ambassador Book Award in 1990, and the Sarah Josepha Hale Award in 1998. He contributes regularly to the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *The New York Times Book Review*.

For additional information about Kidder, visit the Lyceum Agency's Web site at <http://www.lyceumagency.com/tracy+kidder.aspx>.



Tracy Kidder