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## UPDATED INFORMATION FOR THIS RELEASE

December 1, 2008      Contact: Kimberly Stabosz and Teresa A. Sherman '09 (309) 556-3181

### **Ellis Paul to Perform Shows for Kids and Adults at the Blue Moon Coffeehouse**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Folk singer-songwriter Ellis Paul, praised by critics for the soulful allegory of his lyrics, will perform the final Blue Moon Coffeehouse concert of the semester on Saturday, Dec. 6, along with a special afternoon performance for children and their families, in the Young Main Lounge of the Memorial Center (104 University St., Bloomington).

At 1 p.m., Paul will perform songs from his first family album, titled *The Dragon Fly Races*. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Tickets for the children's show are \$10 each or \$15 for a parent and a child; tickets are free for children under three years of age.

Judges from the Parent's Choice Awards praised Paul's *The Dragon Fly Races* for its ability to "find magic in road trips, dragonflies, 'The Star Inside the Apple' and swings and pinwheels – simple pleasures" and awarded the album its 2008 Silver Medal Honor.

According to Scott Alarik of *The Boston Globe*, "As simple as the songs are, they don't duck tough issues; a fairy tale, for instance, becomes a timely political allegory about leaders who peddle fear for their own purposes." *The Washington Post*'s Catherine P. Lewis agrees, writing, "With Paul's discreetly metaphorical songs, there's enough for listeners of all ages to ponder and appreciate ... it's tough to say who will enjoy *Races* more, children or adults."

At 8 p.m., Paul will perform music from his vast jazz-inspired folk-pop catalogue, which spans a dozen studio albums, with opening act Steppin' In It.

Paul is known for his passionate character sketches expressed throughout his many folk songs. As a well-established songwriting star, *The Boston Globe* hailed Paul as "a national folk star and to many the quintessential Boston songwriter: literate, provocative and urbanely romantic." His latest album, *Best of the Batch: Ellis Paul Essentials*, was released in September of 2007 and is still gathering critical praise.

*USA Today* tagged Paul as a “Best Bet for Stardom,” and he has won the Kerrville, Texas “Best New Folk” Award and the Acoustic Underground Competition. Between 1993 and 2004 Paul also won 13 Boston Music Awards, and his songs were heard on the hit TV shows *Ed* and *MTV's The Real World*. His songs have also appeared in the soundtracks for several Farrelly Brothers films, including *Me, Myself, & Irene*, and *Shallow Hal*.

Opening act Steppin' In It is a Michigan-based folk group with rock, jazz and bluegrass roots. Critics and fans from across the nation have responded to what *Performing Songwriter Magazine* in Nashville calls the band's “soundtrack for rural America.” Reports from the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Telluride, Col. describe Steppin' In It as ““what would happen if Hank Williams joined forces with Wayne the Train Hancock and a folk band featuring Tom Waits.”” According to *The Ann Arbor Observer* in Michigan, the band's star power has to do with their “rather palpable sexiness.” Writes *The Observer*, “Anyone's who's worried about the future of traditional roots music and its place in a society ... can rest assured: things are in very good hands.”

Doors for the Blue Moon Coffeehouse show open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the public are \$10 and currently available at the Garlic Press in Normal, through the telephone request line at (309) 556-3815 and on the night of the show at the venue. E-mail ticket requests to [bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu](mailto:bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu).

For additional information about the shows or Blue Moon Coffee House, contact Associate Dean of Student Affairs Darcy Greder at [dgreder@iwu.edu](mailto:dgreder@iwu.edu).