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Poet John Knoepfle to Speak at IWU

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Poet John Knoepfle to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan University

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Poet John Knoepfle, nationally known for his readings and lectures, will be a speaker at Illinois Wesleyan University on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the Bates and Merwin Reading Room of The Ames Library, 1 Ames Plaza East, Bloomington.

The program, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Ecology Action Center in Normal. There will also be a book signing of his works after the reading.

Knoepfle, who was a poet in residence at IWU in 1995, will present poetry from his various works, including selections from *Poems from the Sangamon*, written about the landscape of Illinois, and *The One Instant and Forever*, a book that contains poems about Illinois Wesleyan.

A professor emeritus at the University of Illinois in Springfield, Knoepfle's teaching career began at the East St. Louis Residence Center, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale as an English professor. He was an assistant professor of English at Maryville College, St. Louis, and taught at St. Louis University and the University of Illinois at Springfield, where he founded the university's annual Verbal Arts Festival.

Knoepfle has received several awards for his contributions as a writer. In 1986, he received the Mark Twain Award for Contributions to Midwestern Literature from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature at Michigan State University. The Illinois Association of Teachers of English named him Author of the Year and in 1995, he received the first Illinois Literary Heritage Award from the Illinois Center for the Book. He also was awarded the WILL Award (offered in art, education, and citizenship to those who reside in the WILL radio and television area) for Excellence in the Arts in 2002.

For more information about this program contact Anne McGowan at the Ecology Action Center, (309) 454-3169.