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Chapel Service Seeks to Lessen the Load Students' Carry

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Most Illinois Wesleyan students don't leave their dormitory without a backpack. Stuffed with heavy textbooks, bulky folders, and piles of pencils, the large canvas sack is the ultimate survival kit for the academic world.

However, according to University Chaplain Dennis Groh, there is one drawback to being equipped for class: "Backpacks put a great deal of weight on a student's back and shoulders." He knows. Last year, Groh weighed a student's backpack, and at 19 pounds, the excessive weight became the inspiration for his sermon for the Class of 2008.

Groh will present the sermon, "Dressing for Success at College: What to Carry" at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Aug. 29 at Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park Street, Bloomington. It is free and open to the public.

In the sermon, Groh will address the baggage that students carry in their minds and souls in addition to what they carry physically. "I will talk about how to approach the type of heavy lifting one encounters intellectually and socially at a university. I hope to help students trust Illinois Wesleyan and trust God to get rid of the unnecessary fears and expectations they carry with them to college."