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August 25, 2004

Contact: Sherry Wallace, (309) 556-3181**Journalist, Author, Historian****David Halberstam to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan University's
2004 President's Convocation**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Pulitzer Prize winning American journalist, acclaimed author and historian David Halberstam, a legendary figure in the world of journalism, will be the featured speaker at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 11 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington.

The program is free and open to the public.

Halberstam, known as one of the most distinguished social and political commentators in America, will speak on "Iraq and the Shadow of Vietnam." He will also engage in a question and answer session with IWU students and faculty on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 4 p.m. which will be followed by a book signing in the Center Court of the Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher St., Bloomington.

The prolific author and scholar has written 18 books, which cover a wide range of topics from power in America (*The Best and the Brightest*) to sports (*Playing for Keeps: Michael Jordan and the World He Made*). Fourteen of his books have been *New York Times* Bestsellers.

In 1964, at the age of 30 Halberstam was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting from Vietnam for *The New York Times* and thirty-eight years later his book *War in a Time of Peace* was a runner-up for the Pulitzer. His trilogy of books on power in America, *The Best and the Brightest*, *The Powers That Be*, and *The Reckoning*, have won him critical acclaim and numerous awards.

Halberstam's most recent bestsellers are *Firehouse*, a story about 12 men who lost their lives while trying to save others during the events of Sept. 11, and *The Teammates*, a story about the 60-year friendship among four Red Sox players in the 1930s and 1940s-- Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky. In *Firehouse*, Halberstam writes about the unique atmosphere of a firehouse (Engine 40, Ladder 35) in Manhattan that lost 12 of its 13

firemen during the events of Sept. 11. It is a tribute to the bonds that formed between them and their bravery.

The Reckoning, Halberstam's foretelling account of the challenge of Japan to our core economy, was voted in a *Wall Street Journal* poll of 400 CEO's as The Most Important Book of the Year. His book, *The Children*, about the civil rights movement, is said by critics to be "exceptional history."

Halberstam also writes articles for magazines and is a noted speaker on foreign and national issues. A member of the Society of American Historians and also a sports columnist for ESPN.com's Page 2, Halberstam appears often on *Nightline*, *Charlie Rose* and *Face the Nation*. Halberstam, who is also the editor of *Defining a Nation: Our America and The Sources of its Strength*, has received numerous journalistic awards and 20 honorary degrees. He is a 1955 graduate of Harvard University where he was managing editor of the daily *Harvard Crimson*. He began his career at the *Daily Times Leader* in West Point, Miss. He later joined *The Nashville Tennessean* before going to work at *The New York Times* in 1960.