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August 11, 2009

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Illinois Wesleyan Welcomes Class of 2013 to Campus

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 18, Illinois Wesleyan University's class of 2013 will officially "turn Titan" as part of the University's annual "Turning Titan: New Student Orientation." The program is designed to acclimate incoming first-year students to academic, residential and social aspects of college life. The orientation will culminate on Sunday, Aug. 23, and University classes will begin the following Monday.

The Titan Orientation schedule will combine support services with entertainment, offering events such as "Traditions Night," where students can socialize while learning about the University's history, and "Real World 101," an onstage send-up of common student anxieties.

Other key events will include: New Student Convocation, an address to be delivered by Associate Professor of English Wes Chapman titled "The Right Kind of Confidence;" "One Stop Shop: a Campus Community Resource Fair," which introduces students to local businesses and other services; and the Summer Reading Program, which invites students, faculty and staff to critically discuss a common literary work.

This year's selection for the reading program is *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*, by New York Times No. 1 bestselling author Greg Mortenson. Co-written by journalist David Oliver Relin, Mortenson's novel chronicles his experience in Pakistan in 1993 after a failed expedition to climb K2, which inspired his efforts to establish over 75 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the years since. Mortenson will be the guest speaker at the President's Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 N. Park Street, Bloomington).

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Orientation Services Blake Bradley will coordinate this year's program. "I really feel that the 2009 Turning Titan is going to be a great program," he said. According to Bradley, the 35 Titan Orientation Leaders (TOLs) are the main component of the program's success. Comprised of juniors and seniors, the TOLs are matched with student groups and serve to facilitate community building, as well as answer questions. "This is the first year we will have second-year TOLs who will assist in the training of first-year

TOLs,” he said. “All of the leaders are hoping to not just be there during the Turning Titan week, but also in the following months as they check in with their groups.”

The University also hosts voluntary orientation programs for new international and multicultural students as well.

For additional information about Turning Titan Orientation, contact Bradley at (309) 556-3555 or visit www2.iwu.edu/orientation.

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