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Lunar Eclipse to be Viewed at IWU Observatory

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Lunar Eclipse to be Viewed at IWU Observatory

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- If the sky is clear on Thursday, September 26, those at the Mark Evans Observatory at Illinois Wesleyan University will be in for quite a sight. From 8-11 p.m., the public is invited to watch the lunar eclipse from the Observatory, located on the corner of Park and Beecher Streets in Bloomington.

During lunar eclipses, which occur approximately twice a year, the Earth comes between the sun and the moon, making the moon's light disappear from view because the sun is no longer reflecting off of it.

At 7:40 p.m., the Earth's penumbral shadow will be visible. Then, at 8:12, the partial eclipse begins, followed by the total eclipse from 9:19 to 10:29. The partial eclipse will end at 11:36 and the penumbral shading will be lost about midnight. Telescopes are not necessary and there is no charge for the event.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional school of nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.
