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## Marcos McPeck Vilatron Novelist, Nonfiction Writer, Poet Of the Life and Times of Central

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February 25, 1997

**Contact:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181**Marcos McPeck Villatoro****Novelist, Nonfiction Writer, Poet  
Of the Life and Times of Central America  
To Visit Illinois Wesleyan University, March 7***Locals,  
Cent. IL,  
Chicago,  
McLean Co.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--His books chronicle Central America's revolutions with passion and precision. Kirkus Reviews described his latest book, "Walking to La Milpa," as a "haunting memoir" and a "furious, stunning indictment" of Guatemala's civil war.

Marcos McPeck Villatoro--novelist, nonfiction writer, and poet--will visit Illinois Wesleyan University, Friday, March 7, to discuss writing and Central America.

Villatoro will discuss "Writing and Central America" at 10 a.m. in 204 Shaw Hall, 1312 N. Park St., Bloomington. He will read from "Walking to La Milpa" at 4 p.m. in the Merwin Gallery, 302 E. Graham St., Bloomington. Books will be available for purchasing and autographs.

"Walking to La Milpa" is based on the two years, 1989-91, that Villatoro and his wife spent as lay missionaries in Poptun, a small jungle town in Guatemala's Pepten region.

"A Fire in the Earth," a novel by Villatoro, was inspired by a 1932 massacre in El Salvador. Publishers Weekly, the publishing industry's trade journal, called the novel "an imaginative testimony on behalf of an entire people." A critic, commenting on the novel, said: "Villatoro writes with the ethical vision of a Voltaire and with a phenomenal embodiment worthy of Celine and Marquez."

Villatoro has written articles for numerous magazines. His short stories have been published in English and Spanish in literary magazines.

Villatoro's IWU visit is sponsored by the university's International Studies Program, the Department of English, and the Writing Club, and Clockwatch Review, a journal of the arts.