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## Famous Dead Sea Scroll Scholar to Speak At IWU

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## **Famous Dead Sea Scroll Scholar To Speak At IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Renowned archaeologist and minister Dr. James F. Strange will present "Recent Interpretations of Qumran," at Illinois Wesleyan University on Tuesday, March 10, at 4 p.m. in the Center for Natural Science, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

Strange will also speak at the 11 a.m. University Chapel Hour on March 11 in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 North Park Street, on the theme: "The Great Anti-Rebellion."

Strange has led expeditions in caves near the ancient village Qumran, in what is currently Jordan, on the northwest shore of the dead Sea where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. According to IWU Chaplain Dennie Groh, Strange is "one of the most famous Biblical archeologist in the world, if not the most famous." Former Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at the University of South Florida (Tampa), Strange is now Professor of Religious Studies at USF, the 6th largest enrolled university in North America, and is Director of USF excavations at Sepphoris, Lower Galilee, and Israel. He has excavated nine other sites in Israel and co-authored or edited six books and over 300 articles.

Strange serves on the Editorial Board of The Biblical Archaeology Review, as well as on numerous academic monograph series in the fields of archaeology, Judaica, and the New Testament. A Southern Baptist minister, he holds degrees from Rice (B.A.), Yale (B.D.), and Drew (Ph.D) Universities.

Last May, Chaplain Groh, also professor of humanities and archaeology at IWU, was the Associate Director of the Sepphoris Expedition and supervised 26 IWU undergraduates digging at the site. This May, up to twelve IWU students will participate in another excavation expedition to Sepphoris.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and its Schools of Music, Theater Arts, Art, and Nursing.

Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletic center, a \$25 million science building, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million liberal arts center. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among the 159 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges. IWU won the 1997 NCAA Division III men's basketball championship.