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Blue Moon Coffeehouse Presents Friends of Daniel Pearl

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Friends of Daniel Pearl, a not-for-profit musical organization, will perform at Illinois Wesleyan's Blue Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m., as a part of a 32 day national tour. The performance will take place in the Young Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Center (104 E. University St., Bloomington). Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and coffee, tea, and light pastries will be available for purchase.

Admission for students, faculty and staff is free with a valid ID. General admission is by donation to the Daniel Pearl Foundation.

Friends of Daniel Pearl, or FODfest as they are known internationally, works towards promoting and strengthening community through the universal language of music by giving live music performances and producing multimedia projects. Organized by Todd Mack, a former band mate and close friend of Pearl's, the group was created in memory of the Wall Street Journal reporter who was abducted and murdered in 2002 by Pakistani terrorists. Pearl was also a talented musician who played a variety of instruments and is said to firmly believe in the power of music as a means of bringing people together. Always looking for an opportunity to play, Pearl was active in local music groups and even sought out local jam sessions when traveling. FODfest celebrates Pearl's passion for music and works to pass on and share the convictions Pearl held so strongly.

What started out as an informal backyard jam five years ago has now expanded into a nation-wide tour with global participation. FODfest has toured in 20 cities and has had over 350 musicians participate in their tours. A typical FODfest performance includes song swapping, jam sessions, and a concert. And unlike most musical tours, most of the participating musicians on stage are meeting for the first time. Participants range from friends of Pearl who played with him when he was alive, to people who simply share his belief in music as a universal language.

Local musicians Bruce Bergethon, Nick Africano, Jr. and the Zachary Brothers will join the national touring artists in the Blue Moon Coffeehouse show.

For additional information on the concert, visit the Blue Moon Coffeehouse Web site at <http://titan.iwu.edu/~bluemoon/>. For more information regarding FODfest, visit their site at <http://www.fodfest.org>.

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