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2009

President's Convocation (2009 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
September 9, 2009
11:00 AM

Program

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*

Prelude — Doris Hill, *Organist*

Nun Danket alle Gott — *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Invocation *(please stand)* — Hope Luckie, *University Chaplain*

Welcome — Richard F. Wilson, *President*

Greetings from the Student Senate — Babawande Afolabi ’10, *President, Student Senate*

Special Music — String Quartet

String Quartet Op. 20 no. 4 in D Major, Finale — *Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)*

Sarah Struebing ’12, *violin;* Jordan Pettis ’12, *violin;*
David Getz ’12, *viola;* Mike Grittani ’12, *cello*

Introduction of Speaker — Beth Cunningham, *Provost and Dean of the Faculty*

Address — Greg Mortenson

“Promoting Peace through Education”

Alma Wesleyana — Ms. Hill

(please stand and join in singing led by Shelby Jones ’13)

NATIONAL HYMN

George William Warren (1828-1902)

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,
Where’er we wander, over land or sea;
Through time unending, loyal we will be—
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.
When college days are fully past and gone,
While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.
—*Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)*

Benediction *(remain standing)* — Chaplain Luckie

Postlude *(remain standing)* — Ms. Hill

Postlude I — *Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

Greg Mortenson

Greg Mortenson is known throughout the globe as a humanitarian and advocate for education, in part from his *New York Times* bestseller *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time.*

He is co-founder and executive director of the grass-roots Central Asia Institute (CAI), which promotes community-based education and literacy programs in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and founder of the Pennies for Peace international service-learning program.

Simply and eloquently stated by former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw, Mr. Mortenson is "one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, who is really changing the world."

Mr. Mortenson's path was not planned. An avid climber, it was a failed attempt to scale the world's second highest peak in 1993 that led him to a village in the Korphe region of Pakistan. Recovering there, in the shadow of the K2 mountain, Mr. Mortenson met a group of children trying to learn multiplication tables by writing with sticks in the dirt. Before leaving, he made a promise to help build a school in Korphe. From that impulsive but heartfelt promise grew a remarkable journey in which Mr. Mortenson has dedicated his life to promote education, especially for girls, and leave a legacy of peace.

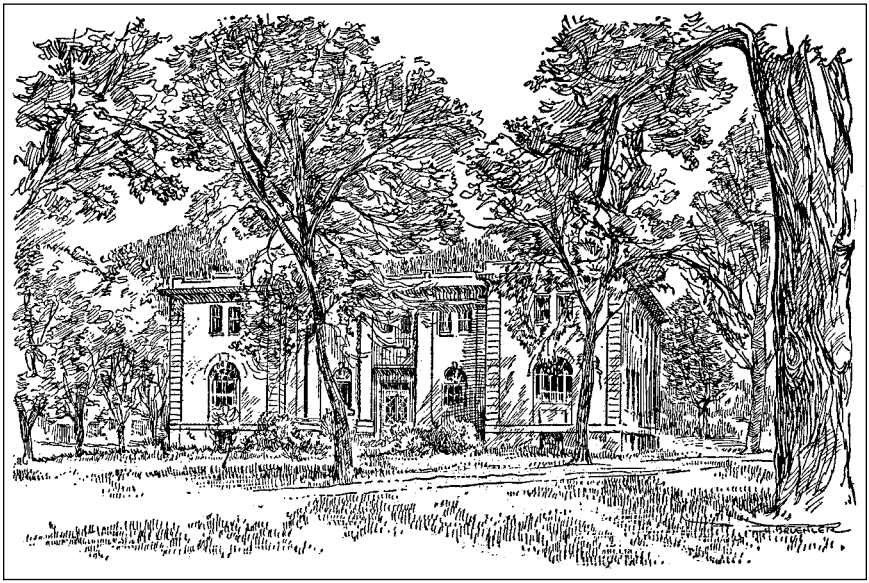
Since 1996 the CAI has supported 130 schools and educated more than 51,000 students. Mr. Mortenson's work has not been without difficulty. He survived an eight-day armed kidnapping by the Taliban in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province in 1996 and escaped a 2003 firefight with feuding Afghan warlords. He has overcome demands for his death by enraged Islamic mullahs, endured CIA investigations, and received threats from fellow Americans for helping Muslim children in the wake of September 11.

His efforts are chronicled in the book *Three Cups of Tea*, which has sold 3 million copies and been published in 34 countries. Co-authored by Mortenson and journalist David Oliver Relin, the book was named a *Time Magazine* Asia Book of The Year, won the Kiriyama Prize Nonfiction Award, and has spent 120 weeks on the bestseller list since its release in 2007.

For all his work since that fateful climb, Mr. Mortenson has been the recipient of many awards and honors. In March 2009, he received Pakistan's *Sitara-e-Pakistan* ("Star of Pakistan"), the highest honor the country bestows on a civilian. Several U.S. Congressional representatives nominated Mr. Mortenson for the Nobel Peace Prize this year. The award recipient is chosen by a secret process and announced in October.

Mr. Mortenson is also the recipient of the Rotary International Paul Harris Award for Promoting Friendly Relations Among People, a Golden Fleur-de-lis Award from Commune Firenze in Italy, a Freedom Forum Free Spirit Award from the National Press Club, and the Vincent Lombardi Champion Award for humanitarian service.

SCIENCE HALL



From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches:

"THIS BUILDING WAS MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BY A GIFT OF ANDREW CARNEGIE IN 1910 AND HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN KEPT MODERN IN EVERY RESPECT DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY, AND PHYSICS DEPARTMENTS ARE QUARTERED IN THIS ATTRACTIVE BUILDING."

The Edgar M. Stevenson Hall of Nursing, formerly known as Science Hall, was dedicated on October 9, 1965.

Please turn off phones and electronic devices

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Program distribution provided by the University Speakers Committee.