Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

Founders' Day | Convocations

2003

Founders' Day Convocation (2003 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

Recommended Citation
Illinois Wesleyan University, "Founders' Day Convocation (2003 Program)" (2003). *Founders' Day.* Paper 5.
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/founders_day_docs/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Illinois Wesleyan University

FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

Honoring James Robert Lincoln Diggs Ph.D. 1906

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
February 12, 2003
11:00 A.M.

PROGRAM

President Minor Myers, jr., *Presiding*
Professor Robert Bray, *Mace Bearer*

Prelude — Lou Ann Fillingham-Cavanaugh '78, Organist
University Controller

Prelude and Fugue in A Major — *William Selby (1738-1798)*

Processional *(please stand)*

Concerto No. 6 — *P. Antonio Soler (1729-1783)*

Invocation *(remain standing)* — Dennis E. Groh '61
University Chaplain

President's Welcome — Minor Myers, jr.
President, Illinois Wesleyan University

Performance

Ebben? Ne andró lontana (from *La Wally*) — *Alfredo Catalani (1854-1893)*

Carren Moham, *soprano*
R. Kent Cook, *piano*

Awarding of Honorary Degree — President Myers

William Julius Wilson — Janet M. McNew
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks — William JuliusWilson

"The Growing Pressure for Policy Relevant Scholarship"

Alma Wesleyana *(please stand and join in singing)* — 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 Groh

Recessional *(remain standing)* — Ms. Fillingham-Cavanaugh

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor (BWV 548) — *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

William Julius Wilson

Sociologist, Author, Professor

One of the leading sociologists in the United States, William Julius Wilson has probed deeply into the problems of contemporary society. His writings, incorporating 25 years of firsthand research on Chicago's South Side, have examined the effects of racism, unemployment, substandard housing, and poor education on the residents of inner-city communities.

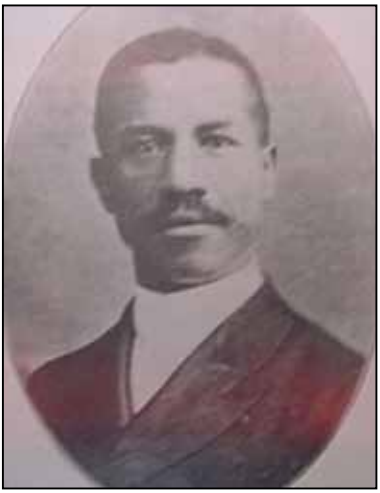
Wilson is Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor at Harvard University. Only 18 of Harvard's professors currently hold University Professorships, Harvard's highest professorial distinction. After receiving the Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1966, Wilson taught sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, before joining the University of Chicago faculty in 1972. In 1990 he was appointed the Lucy Flower University Professor and director of the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Urban Inequality. He joined the faculty at Harvard in July of 1996.

Past President of the American Sociological Association, Wilson has received 38 honorary degrees, including honorary doctorates from Princeton, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, and the University of Amsterdam in Holland. A MacArthur Prize fellow from 1987 to 1992, Wilson has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Education, the American Philosophical Society, and the Institute of Medicine. In June 1996 he was selected by *Time* magazine as one of America's 25 Most Influential People. Finally, he is a recipient of the 1998 National Medal of Science, the highest scientific honor in the United States.

He is the author of numerous publications, including *The Declining Significance of Race*, winner of the American Sociological Association's Sydney Spivack Award; *The Truly Disadvantaged*, which was selected by the editors of the *New York Times* Book Review as one of the 16 best books of 1987 and received *The Washington Monthly* Annual Book Award and the Society for the Study of Social Problems' C. Wright Mills Award; *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*, which was chosen as one of the notable books of 1996 by the editors of the New York Times Book Review and received the Sidney Hillman Foundation Award; and *The Bridge Over the Racial Divide: Rising Inequality and Coalition Politics*.

Other honors granted to Wilson include the Seidman Award in Political Economy (the first and only non-economist to receive the Award); the Golden Plate Achievement Award; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Washington State University; the American Sociological Association's Dubois, Johnson, Frazier Award (for significant scholarship in the field of inter-group relations); the American Sociological Association's Award for Public Understanding of Sociology; Burton Gordon Feldman Award ("for outstanding contributions in the field of public policy") Brandeis University; and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award (granted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Los Angeles).

James Robert Lincoln Diggs (1866-1923)



James Robert Lincoln Diggs was awarded a Ph.D. in sociology from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1906, thereby becoming the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in that discipline and the ninth to earn a doctorate in any field in the United States.

Diggs, whose Ph.D. thesis was titled "The Dynamics of Social Progress," graduated from Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C., in 1866, and went on to earn the A.B. and A.M. degrees from Bucknell University in 1898 and 1899.

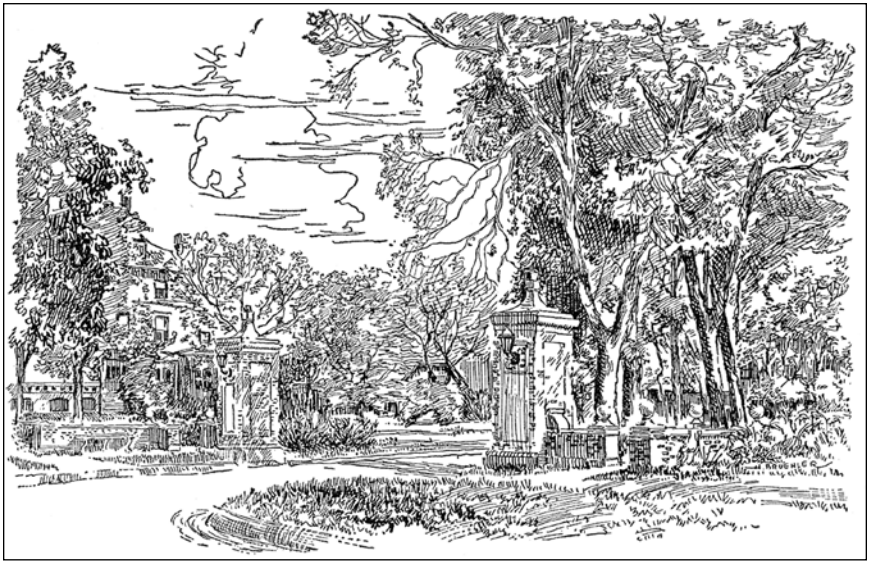
After completing his academic training, Diggs was the head of several small black Baptist colleges in the south, including State University in Louisville, Ky., Virginia Theological Seminary and College in Lynchburg, Va., and Selma University in Selma, Ala. In 1914, he was named president of Clayton-Williams University in Baltimore. A year later he was called to the pastorate of Baltimore Trinity Baptist Church, where he served until his death in 1923.

Diggs was a colleague of W.E.B. DuBois and was one of the few black educators to participate in the Niagara Movement. Diggs was among the group of 29 prominent African-Americans who met secretly in Niagara Falls, Ont., in 1905 and drew up a manifesto that called for full civil liberties, abolition of racial discrimination, and recognition of human brotherhood. The Niagara Movement was the forerunner of the NAACP.

At the Niagara Movement's Harper's Ferry Convention in 1906, the year he received the Ph.D. from Illinois Wesleyan, Diggs lectured alongside Du Bois and Reverdy D. Ransom. He was also a principal financial backer of the Niagara Movement's journal, the Horizon.

An early member of the NAACP, Diggs was president of the Baltimore division. He was also a member of the national Equal Rights League and served as its national vice president. Diggs was regarded for his scholarly sermons, including an eloquent defense of Marcus Garvey during the third International Convention of Garvey Universal Negro Improvement Association in August 1922.

Founders' Gates Inscription



From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

"WE STAND IN A POSITION OF INCALCULABLE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GREAT WAVE OF POPULATION OVERSPREADING THE VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI. DESTINY SEEMS TO POINT OUT THIS VALLEY AS THE DEPOSITORY OF THE GREAT HEART OF THE NATION. FROM THIS CENTER, MIGHT PULSATIONS, FOR GOOD OR EVIL, MUST IN THE FUTURE FLOW, WHICH SHALL NOT ONLY AFFECT THE FORTUNE OF THE REPUBLIC, BUT REACH IN THEIR INFLUENCE OTHER AND DISTANT NATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Programs distributed by members of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society.