



2011

Founders' Day Convocation (2011 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
February 23, 2011
11:00 AM

PROGRAM

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*
Professor Robert C. Bray, the R. Forrest Colwell
Professor of American Literature, *Mace Bearer*

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL <i>(please stand during Processional)</i> Toccatà “Dorian” BWV 538	Doris Hill <i>Organist</i> <i>J.S. Bach</i> <i>(1685-1750)</i>
A FOUNDERS’ INVOCATION <i>(remain standing)</i>	Lori Harvey <i>Interim University Chaplain</i>
FOUNDERS’ DAY REMARKS	Richard F. Wilson <i>President</i>
SPECIAL MUSIC Brass Quintet Canzon Bergamasque	<i>Samuel Scheidt</i> <i>(1587-1654)</i>
Kyle Anderson ’11, <i>trumpet</i> ; Kelly Lamorena ’14, <i>trumpet</i> ; Audra Loveland ’12, <i>horn</i> ; Jamie Burchett ’11, <i>trombone</i> ; Max Briggs ’12, <i>tuba</i>	
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Frank Boyd <i>Interim Provost and Dean of the Faculty</i>
REMARKS “The Role of Poetry in a Living Culture”	Jorie Graham
ALMA WESLEYANA <i>(please stand and join in singing led by Holly Haines ’13)</i>	Ms. Hill NATIONAL HYMN <i>George William Warren</i> <i>(1828-1902)</i>
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.	
— <i>Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)</i>	
RECESSIONAL <i>(remain standing)</i> Epilogue on “St. Theodulph”	Ms. Hill <i>Healey Willan</i> <i>(1880-1968)</i>

Jorie Graham

Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory,
Harvard University
Pulitzer-Prize Winning Poet



I watched each gathering of leafy flakes
melt around my footfall.

I looked up into it—later afternoon but bright.

Nothing true or false in itself. Just motion. Many strips of motion. Filaments of falling
marked by tiny certainties of flakes.

– From “The Dream of the Unified Field,” Jorie Graham

Internationally renowned poet Jorie Graham has been called one of the most celebrated poets of the American post-war generation. The *Dictionary of Literary Biography* declares her “at the forefront of the effort to revitalize and redefine American poetry.”

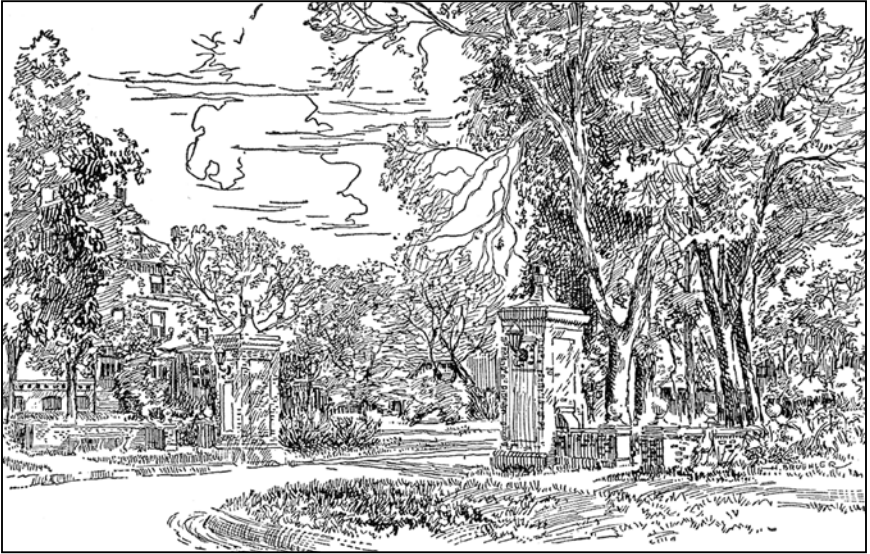
Currently the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory in Harvard University’s Department of English and American Literature and Language, Ms. Graham is the first female to be named to that professorship since it was established in 1806. She has taught at the prestigious University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and has served as a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets. Her many honors include a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from The American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

An international force for poetry, Professor Graham was born in New York City as the daughter of a journalist and a sculptor, raised in Rome and educated in French schools. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris before attending New York University as an undergraduate, where she studied filmmaking. She received an MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa, and taught at Murray State University in Kentucky, Humboldt State University in California, Columbia University, and the University of Iowa before joining Harvard in 1999.

Her lauded collections of poetry include *Sea Change* (Ecco, 2008), *Never* (2002), *Swarm* (2000), and *The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1994*, which earned the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Ms. Graham has also edited several anthologies, including *Earth Took of Earth: 100 Great Poems of the English Language* (1996) and *The Best American Poetry 1990*. Her works have been translated for publication in German, Spanish and Italian.

Professor Graham’s work is recognized for more than rich detail and artful emotion. Selections from *Sea Change* have been seen as a cry for a greater awareness by humanity toward perils of the natural world. Critic James Longenbach, when writing for the *New York Times*, compared Graham’s work to W.B. Yeats, noting “for 30 years Jorie Graham has engaged the whole human contraction — intellectual, global, domestic, apocalyptic — rather than the narrow emotional slice of it most often reserved for poems.”

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, MIGHTY 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.*

FOUNDERS OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

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