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# President's Convocation (1991 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
September 25, 1990
11:00 a.m.

# PROGRAM

President Minor Myers. jr, *Presiding*

Organ Prelude .....Professor David M. Gehrenbeck, *Organist*
Suite Brève — *Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*
I. Grand Jeu
IV. Dialogue sur les Mixtures

Invocation ..... William L. White
*University Chaplain*

Welcome .....President Minor Myers, jr

"The Undergraduate Research Mission".....Joel R. Carlson '92
*President, Student Senate*

Announcement of Presidential Scholars and .....Ellen S. Hurwitz
The Anderson Physics Scholar — *Provost and Dean of Faculty*

Special Music
Concerto in G minor .....*Antonio Vivaldi (1675-1741)*
Erik Kramer '95, Todd French '93, *cello*
Scott Schoonover '93, *piano*

"Come Sunday"
"Witness" .....*Duke Ellington (1899-1974)*
*arr. Hall Johnson*
James Martin '92, *baritone*
Professor Barrington Coleman, *piano*

Awarding of Honorary Degrees .....President Minor Myers, jr.
Provost Ellen S. Hurwitz

Mr. Davis U. Merwin
Mr. Eugene D. Funk Jr.
Dr. Arnold O. Beckman

Remarks.....Dr. Arnold O. Beckman
*Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Beckman Instruments*

Alma Wesleyana .....*William Eben Schultz*

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.

Organ Postlude .....Professor David M. Gehrenbeck, *Organist*
Prelude in F minor, BWV 534/1 — *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

## Dr. Arnold O. Beckman

**Founder and Chairman Emeritus,**
**Beckman Instruments**

Scientist, industrialist and philanthropist, this native of Cullom, Illinois, became interested in chemistry at the age of nine and in the subsequent 82 years that interest has never flagged. After earning two degrees in chemistry at the University of Illinois, where he worked with Professor Carl Marvel, a 1915 Illinois Wesleyan alumnus, Beckman went on to Cal Tech for a doctorate in 1928. By the mid-Thirties, he and his associates had founded a company in the rear of a Pasadena garage, and developed an instrument that measured acidity levels in citrus fruits, an essential component of early World War II radar systems and other breakthrough scientific instruments.

An early environmental activist in the fight against air pollution, he is also interested in the ethical issues that arise from such scientific developments as genetic engineering and artificial intelligence. For the advancement of science in such areas as medicine and biotechnology, he and his late wife, Mabel established the Arnold O. and Mabel M. Beckman Foundation. The foundation has made major gifts to The University of California at Irvine and at San Francisco, Cal Tech, Pepperdine University, Stanford University and Scripps, all in California, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

He has been recognized with the National Medal of Science, presented by President Bush; the Presidential Citizens Medal, from President Reagan, and the National Medal of Technology. He is also a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

## Eugene D. Funk, Jr.

**Chairman Emeritus,**
**Funk Seeds International, Inc.**

Descendant of a pioneer McLean County family which settled here in 1824 and of Isaac Funk, one of the founders of Illinois Wesleyan, Mr. Funk is the great-great-grandson of that patriarch. In 1969, he retired as chairman of the board after 47 years with Funk Seeds International, Inc., the firm founded by his father in 1901. A noted agriculturist, he joined the firm in 1922, assumed the presidency in 1945 and worked in all divisions of the company, with special interests in seed variety development and worldwide markets. At the time of his retirement, he was hailed as a man who "has improved the living standard of 200 million Americans, and people around the world" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1984, he was named director emeritus of Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan Association, after 28 years as a director.

Deeply interested in the genealogy of his Funk-Stubblefield heritage in Ohio and Illinois, he has also been a civic and charitable leader, an active University of Illinois alumnus of the Class of 1922, an official of several agricultural and soybean associations and a steadfast supporter of Illinois Wesleyan, the alma mater of many members of his family.

## Davis U. Merwin

**Retired Publisher,**
***The Daily Pantagraph***

Another descendant of a pioneer family is Mr. Merwin, who traces his lineage—and the family newspaper, *The Daily Pantagraph*—back to Jesse Fell, McLean County's first lawyer, founder of its first newspaper and also of the Town of Normal. Mr. Merwin became publisher in 1968 and served in that capacity until it was purchased by the Chronicle Publishing Co. of San Francisco in 1980, but retained the presidency for several years. An executive of a number of media corporations and director of a UPI advisory board, he was also active in area civic and charitable organizations, including the Adlai E. Stevenson Lecture Series, in memory of his cousin, the former Illinois governor and ambassador. He is a 1950 Harvard graduate, trustee of the Emma Willard School, and an emeritus member of the IWU Board of Trustees, which he joined in 1970. He earned the rank of captain in the Marine Corps during the Korean War years.

Now retired, he retains his home in Bloomington as well as an Arizona ranch. He travels extensively worldwide and is an active sportsman.