



Commemoration of Minor Myers, jr.

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8-25-2003

President Myers: A Commemoration

Illinois Wesleyan University

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President Minor Myers, jr.

A COMMEMORATION



1:00 P.M.

AUGUST 25, 2003

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
SHIRK CENTER PERFORMANCE ARENA
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS





Minor Myers, jr.

August 13, 1942 - July 22, 2003

Minor Myers, jr., the 17th President of Illinois Wesleyan University, was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1942. He earned a bachelor's degree from Carleton College in 1964 and went on to Princeton University, where he was awarded master of arts (1967) and doctor of philosophy (1972) degrees in politics and political philosophy.

He launched his academic career in 1968 as an instructor in government at Connecticut College in New London, achieving the rank of full professor and department chair. During his 16 years at Connecticut College, he was awarded a fellowship in academic administration at Brown University, sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based American Council on Education.

From Connecticut College, President Myers moved to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, in 1984, serving as Provost, Dean of the Faculty, and Professor of Political Science for five years.

In 1989, he was named President of Illinois Wesleyan. During his 14-year tenure, the University increased its student enrollment, selectivity, and academic profile; raised \$125 million; and completed \$115 million of construction and renovation while expanding and strengthening academic programs. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution and the University was granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

President Myers' commitment to the liberal arts, the foundation of an Illinois Wesleyan education, was reflected in his eclectic interests—professional and avocational. He was a scholar and a teacher, a writer and an executive, and a political scientist and historian, who enjoyed playing the piano and harpsichord, discussing music history, collecting books and meteorites, and, only occasionally, playing tennis. His fascination with the 18th century spanned American furniture, musical instruments, books and publishing, higher education during the American colonial period, and the French revolution.

President Myers was the author of eight books, including most recently a co-authored history of Illinois Wesleyan, and wrote numerous articles on subjects ranging from the history of baseball in upper New York State, to crime and punishment in colonial Connecticut to political themes on Roman coins.

President Myers is survived by his wife, Ellen, and two sons, Minor III and Joffre.

Participants in Today's Commemoration Ceremony

Speakers

Janet McNew, Acting President, has been Provost and Dean of the Faculty since 1993. During her tenure at Illinois Wesleyan, she collaborated with President Myers on such initiatives as May Term, international study programs, construction of The Ames Library, faculty development, the granting of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to the University, and the General Education curriculum.

Michael B. Young, Professor of History, is a senior faculty member at Illinois Wesleyan. He joined the University in 1970 and won the highest award for teaching in 1987. Reflecting his passion for the humanities, President Myers was a frequent visitor to Professor Young's seminar for history majors to encourage students to use the Evans collection of early American imprints, bringing with him examples from his own rare book collection for students to examine.

Harold Gauthier '00 was president of Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate in the academic year 1999-2000 after serving as vice president during the previous year. As a member of the Student Center Steering Committee, he and President Myers consulted frequently in developing the vision for the Hansen Student Center along with other student topics.

Edward B. Rust, Jr. '72, H'94 is not only a leading citizen of the Bloomington/Normal community, but he is renowned nationally for his leadership in focusing the business community's attention on the need to improve education in the United States. He has played an important role in the life of his alma mater as well and shared with President Myers a deep belief in the importance of the relationship between the University and the community.

Minor Myers III is the elder son of President and Mrs. Myers. He received his juris doctorate degree from Yale Law School in 2003 and has joined the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton in New York.

Joffe V.A. Myers is the younger son of President and Mrs. Myers. He is a 2003 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Connecticut College, the alma mater of Mrs. Myers and where President Myers served for 16 years.

Narendra Jaggi, Professor of Physics and faculty member since 1991, is a frequent contributor to the multi-faith programs offered at Evelyn Chapel. He and

President Myers shared a great interest in spiritual diversity. Professor Jaggi was selected Student Senate Professor of the Year in 2003.

Craig C. Hart has been President of the Board of Trustees of Illinois Wesleyan University since 1994. He and President Myers consulted weekly, often more frequently, on University governance matters in order to ensure appropriate review by the Board of Trustees, including the major improvement of the campus facilities in the last decade.

University Chaplain and Professor of Archaeology Dennis Groh '61, also a former Trustee colleague of President Myers, was instrumental in the development of this Commemoration Ceremony.

Musical Selections

Bach's Sonata #2 was scheduled to be performed by President Myers and Professor Nina Gordon at the July opening concert of the Second Annual Illinois Wesleyan University Chamber Music Camp. Instructor Joy Doran, a close friend of the Myers family who joins in today's performance, proposed participation in the concert to President Myers, who was an enthusiastic support of the summer chamber music program.

The music in the Video in Celebration of Minor Myers, jr. is the Third Movement of the Symphony in A Major {"Italian"}, 1833-34 revised version, by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. The Symphony is performed by Ensemble TACTUS, with Professor Steven Eggleston conducting, and appears on the 1999 world premiere recording, "Mendelssohn Rediscovered" which was produced by NOVITAS Records, a University venture initiated and supported by President Myers. This version of the Symphony was also performed at an Illinois Wesleyan University-sponsored Mendelssohn Festival in 1997.

Frederick the Great's Sonata in E Minor was performed by Professor William West with accompaniment by President Myers at the 1997 Chicago Humanities Festival, where the president delivered a paper on multitalented "Renaissance Men and Women." Upon their arrival they learned a harpsichord was not available, so President Myers improvised on the piano. Professor Gordon and Instructor Carol Churukian join in today's performance.

The Mozart Trio was described by President Myers as a "true gem" of the chamber music literature when he shared his knowledge and interest in the piece with Professor Roger Garrett, who was scheduled to perform it with Professor West at a recital. President Myers also revealed that he was practicing the piece on his harpsichord and hoped to play it sometime. Professors West and Gordon join in today's performance.

The members of the Student String Quartet are Emily Meyer '04, *violin*; Molly Doran '07, *violin*; Johanna Wiesbrock '05, *viola*; and Andrew Hesse '06, *cello*.

Sincere appreciation goes to Mario Pelusi, Director of the School of Music, for guidance in arranging the musical selections. Additional thanks are offered to the student stage assistants.

Marshals

Faculty Marshals for the ceremony are Professors Frank Boyd, Jim Dougan, Mona Gardner, Tom Griffiths, Forrest Frank, Jeff Frick and Linda Farquharson.

We invite you to sign guest registries which are located in the lobby prior to the ceremony and the Activity Center during the reception.

First-aid assistance from University Nurse Debra Adams is available at the Control Desk in the Activity Center.