



Fall 8-18-2009

Convocation for New Students (2009 Program and video)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

CONVOCATION

for New Students



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

August 18, 2009

4:15 PM

PROGRAM

*Processional	Nancy Pounds <i>Pianist</i>
*Invocation	Hope Luckie <i>University Chaplain</i>
President's Welcome	Richard F. Wilson <i>President</i>
Welcome from the Dean of Students	Kathy Cavins <i>Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students</i>
Greetings from the Students	Matthew Hastings '11 <i>Vice President, Student Senate</i>
Remarks from the Alumni	Justine Robinson '06 <i>Chair, Young Alumni Committee</i>
Performance	
"Revelation"	Russell Ferrante Gabriel Stillman '13, <i>Saxophone</i>
Reflections from the Faculty	Beth A. Cunningham <i>Provost & Dean of the Faculty</i>
Address—"The Right Kind of Confidence"	Wes Chapman <i>Associate Professor of English</i>
*Alma Wesleyana	Shelby Jones '13 NATIONAL HYMN <i>George William Warren (1828-1902)</i> Ms. Pounds, <i>Pianist</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

*Benediction	Chaplain Luckie
*Recessional	Ms. Pounds
*Audience will please stand	<i>Pianist</i>

*Senior Marshals for the convocation are Professors Frank Boyd,
 Zahia Drici and Jeff Frick.*

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.



WES CHAPMAN

Wes Chapman is an Associate Professor of English and recipient of the University's 2010 Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He teaches a wide range of courses in areas such as literary theory, modernism, science fiction, and poetry, and is the author of a hypertext novel and scholarly articles on William Blake and Thomas Pynchon. His most recent scholarly research is on the application of cognitive science to literature.

ACADEMIC COLORS AND REGALIA

Like judicial robes, the garments worn on academic occasions such as today's Convocation derive from the ecclesiastical garb of medieval England. The scholar in the Middle Ages, it must be remembered, was a clerk, and therefore required to wear the clerical gown and tonsure. As early as the fourteenth century, scholars of certain colleges were required by statute to wear "a decent habit" befitting a clerk, and no evidence appears that there was much differentiation among undergraduates, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral robes. Hoods were worn by all and probably had no academic significance at the beginning. By 1330-40, doctors began to adopt scarlet for their hoods, and by 1500, for their robes, with black retained by the masters of arts and bachelors of divinity. Over the years, distinctions were created to identify various ranks and faculties.

Caps evolved in a similar manner. The round velvet cap is still worn in the full dress of doctors (except doctors in theology); the familiar square, or mortar-board, was copied in the early sixteenth century from the thirteenth century cap of the University of Paris. The "who" and "how" of the wearing of caps has produced numerous rulings, restrictions, and change.

The growth of higher education in the United States during the nineteenth century, when the great land grant colleges and universities were established under the Morrill Act, created a confusion of conflicting styles and colors. The easy identification of one's academic status by means of cut, fabric, and color was lost. In 1893, however, an intercollegiate commission presented a uniform code for caps, gowns, and hoods to be worn in the United States. The mortarboard caps are the same for doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees, except that doctors' caps may be of velvet and may have a gold tassel. The bachelor's gown is marked by pointed sleeves, reaching to the knee, while the master's sleeve is squared at the ends, and longer. The doctoral robe is fullest, with rounded bell shaped sleeves marked by three velvet stripes.

The greatest symbolism of the academic costume is borne by the hood, which identifies the level of the degree, the faculty (or department of learning) in which it was earned, and the institution that awarded it. The size of the hood, its shape, and the width of its velvet trim identify the level of the degree, with doctoral hoods naturally being the fullest, widest, and longest. Faculty colors tell us the department.

The Illinois Wesleyan University Mace, first carried at the 1969 inauguration of Dr. Robert S. Eckley as fifteenth president of the University, is a striking symbol of the institution. Made of bronze for power and endurance and of walnut for organic strength, its cupola represents the bell tower of Old North Hall, Illinois Wesleyan's first building, which was erected in 1856 and demolished in 1967 to make way for Sheehan Library. The bell suggests the Hedding Bell, a campus landmark since 1931, when it was installed on the IWU campus after peeling for generations at Hedding College, now defunct. The staff of the Mace is made from the walnut of Old North Hall, and the names of Illinois Wesleyan's presidents are engraved on its bronze base.

NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

On the Tuesday that new students arrive on campus, New Student Convocation is held at Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. The incoming class is expected to attend to be matriculated into this community of artists and scholars.

Additional participants in today's Convocation Platform Party are Robert Bray, R. Forrest Colwell Professor of American Literature and recipient of the 1991 Teaching Excellence Award; Victoria Folse '86, First Year Advising Coordinator and Director of the School of Nursing; James Sikora, Professor of Sociology and recipient of the 2007 Teaching Excellence Award; Tony Bankston '91, Dean of Admissions; and Jeffrey Mavros '98, Class Gift Campaign Coordinator.

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

The President's Convocation opens the academic year with a prominent speaker invited to address the community. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. This year's convocation will be September 9, 2009 featuring Greg Mortenson, author of the summer reading selection, *Three Cups of Tea*.

FOUNDERS DAY CONVOCATION

Founders Day commemorates the founding of the University in 1850 and honors its academic history. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend this year's convocation on Wednesday, February 14, 2010. Previous speakers include U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Frances Berry, Pulitzer Prize recipient John Updike, and film director Ismail Merchant.

HONORS CONVOCATION

Graduating seniors are featured at the Honors Day Convocation, set for Wednesday, April 14, 2010 in Westbrook Auditorium. Presentations by the Senior Class President, the President, the Provost, and other faculty members, including the Kemp Foundation Awardee for Teaching Excellence, make up this program. All students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.