



Fall 8-22-2006

Convocation for First-Year Students (2006 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

CONVOCATION

for First-Year Students



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

August 22, 2006

4:15 PM

PROGRAM

Prelude.....Scott Ferguson
Professor of Music—Organist

*Procession of Retired faculty

*Invocation Dennis Groh '61
University Chaplain

President's Welcome..... Richard F. Wilson
President

Welcome from the Faculty Beth A. Cunningham
Provost & Dean of the Faculty

Greetings from the Students Haley Brown '07
President, Student Senate

Remarks from the Alumni Julie Sikora Brannan '95

Performance

'Du bist die Ruh' *Franz Schubert*
Paul Cochron '10, Tenor
Maxie Scifres, piano

Introduction of the Speaker Kathy Cavins
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Address James P. Sikora
Recipient of the Pantagraph Award for Teaching Excellence, 2007

*Alma Wesleyana 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

*Benediction Chaplain Groh

Postlude Scott Ferguson
Professor of Music—Organist

* *Audience will please stand* ** *Please remain seated until dismissed*

JAMES P. SIKORA



James P. Sikora, Professor of sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University, was named as the 2007 winner of The Pantagraph Award for Teaching Excellence during the Honors Day Convocation on April 12, 2006. The teacher-scholar award is the University's top teaching honor and is sponsored by the daily newspaper based in Bloomington. The honoree is selected by Illinois Wesleyan's Promotion and Tenure Committee based on nominations received from members of the faculty.

Professor Sikora graduated from Southern Illinois University and received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Sikora joined the IWU faculty in 1979 following an active academic career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He teaches courses in sociology, criminology and he co-developed the Action Research Center, which engages students with faculty and community leaders in researching and solving community problems.

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 Sheean 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.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT CONVOCATION

On the Tuesday that first-year students arrive on campus, First-Year 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.

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 6, 2006 featuring Barbara Ehrenreich, political essayist and social critic. Dr. Ehrenreich will comment from her best-selling book in a keynote address titled "Nickel and Dimed in America: A Minimum Wage Existence."

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 21, 2007. 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 18, 2007 in Westbrook Auditorium. Seniors process in their academic regalia as part of Senior Week activities. Presentations by the Senior Class President, the President, the Provost, and other faculty members, including *The Pantagraph* Awardee for Teaching Excellence, make up this program. All students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.