2005

Founders' Day Convocation (2005 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University
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FOUNDERS DAY CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
February 9, 2005
11:00 A.M.
Program
President Richard F. Wilson, Presiding
Professor Melvyn Jeter, Mace Bearer

Organ Prelude
J. Scott Ferguson, Organist
Associate Professor of Music
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude: Allabreve, BWV 589

Processional (please stand)
Marche en Rondeau
Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(1634-1704)

Invocation (remain standing)
Dennis E. Groh ’61
University Chaplain

Founders Day Remarks
Richard F. Wilson
President

Special Music
String Quartet No. 17 in B flat major “Hunt” K458
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Anna Carlson ’07, violin
Bret Negro ’06, violin
Diane Wuthrich ’05, viola
Andrew Hesse ’06, cello

Introduction
Janet McNew
Provost and Dean of Faculty

Remarks
“Iraq and the Future of the Middle East”
Edward S. Walker

Alma Wesleyana
(please stand and join in singing)
George William Warren
(1828-1902)

From hearts afame, 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.

—Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

Benediction (remain standing)
Chaplain Groh

Recessional (remain standing)
O Day of Peace
Charles H. H. Parry
(1848-1918)

Organ Postlude
Praeludium in G, BWV 568
J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)
Ambassador Edward S. Walker

Ambassador Edward S. Walker, Jr. is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Middle East Institute, a highly regarded Washington-based think tank on Middle East policy. He possesses a unique depth of knowledge and experience in the region’s issues. Before assuming his current position in 2001, Walker worked with Colin Powell for five months in the first George W. Bush administration as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, a position he had previously held under Madeleine Albright during the second Clinton Administration. During that time he helped initiate and negotiate United States policy toward Iraq including a complete revision to our sanctions policy. He also engaged in recalibrating U.S. policies toward Iran during the Middle East peace process.

One of Walker’s many distinctions includes being the only U.S. official who has served as Ambassador to both Israel and Egypt and as Assistant Secretary for the region. His diplomatic career included successive years (1989-1999) as Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations (as Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States), the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Israel. In the course of his 35-year career, Walker worked with every Israeli Prime Minister since Golda Meir, with Presidents Sadat and Mubarak of Egypt, with Presidents Assad and Bashar Assad of Syria, with King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and with Kings Hussein and Abdullah of Jordan, among others. During his time as Ambassador in Israel, Walker worked closely with Prime Minister Netanyahu in preparation for the Wye negotiations and agreement. In Egypt he worked with Vice President Al Gore and President Mubarak on a major initiative to reform the Egyptian economy. He also worked with United States and Egyptian intelligence officials to counter the terrorist threat facing Egypt.

In the aftermath of September 11, Walker was invited to write what is now a bimonthly column, “Letters from Washington” in Al Hayat, one of the most widely read Arabic language newspapers in the Middle East. He also appears regularly on Arabic television news broadcasts and offers an American perspective on issues of the day and on matters critical to building better relations between the peoples of the Middle East and Americans. Walker has testified before Congress and worked with the Administration on efforts to improve public diplomacy in the Middle East.

Known for his work on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Walker offers intimate knowledge and even-handed analysis of the Middle East, its politics and its people. He has been a consistent advocate for tolerance and peace and a constant, strong opponent of terrorism as both inhumane and counterproductive.

He received a B.A. at Hamilton College in 1962 and a M.A. at Boston University in 1965. He is the recipient of various U.S. government honors, and holds an honorary degree from Hamilton College, where he served as the Linowitz Professor of Middle East Studies.
Founders Gates Inscription

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.