President's Convocation (2004 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT’S CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
September 8, 2004
11:00 a.m.
Program
President Richard F. Wilson, Presiding

Prelude
“The Bird” Opus 33, No. 3
Allegro molto

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

String Quartet
Mark Portolese ’05, violin
Anna Carlson ’07, violin
Diane Wuthrich ’05, viola
Andrew Hesse ’06, cello

Invocation (please stand)

Dennis E. Groh ’61
University Chaplain

Welcome

Richard F. Wilson
President

Greetings from the Student Senate

Trevor Sierra ’05
President, Student Senate

Special Music
Sarabande in D minor

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Mark Portolese ’05, violin

Remarks
“Iraq and the Shadow of Vietnam”

David Halberstam

Alma Wesleyana
(please stand and join in singing)

J. Scott Ferguson, Organist
Associate Professor of Music
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.
—Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

Benediction (remain standing)

Chaplain Groh

Postlude (remain standing)
Quartet No. 17 in Bb major, K.458
Allegro vivace assai

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
David Halberstam
Journalist, Author, Historian

One of the most distinguished social and political commentators in America, David Halberstam won a Pulitzer Prize at age 30 for his prophetic reporting in the early days of the Vietnam War. Reflecting his remarkably long tenure as a major analyst on the American scene, 38 years later his bestseller, War in a Time of Peace, was a runner-up for the Pulitzer.

His last 14 books, starting with his epic, The Best and The Brightest (on how and why we went to war in Vietnam), have all been national bestsellers. Vanity Fair has called Halberstam “The Moses of American journalism” for his style and epic treatment of events that “isn’t afraid to draw straightforward morals.”

After graduating from Harvard University, Halberstam turned down job offers at several large city newspapers and moved instead to the Deep South, where he worked on a small town one-reporter newspaper.

Halberstam’s books have included major works on the rise of modern media (The Powers That Be), the Civil Rights Movement (The Children), the challenge of Japan to our core economy (The Reckoning), and the evolution of change in a critical decade (The Fifties). Perhaps no other writer has so faithfully chronicled the profound changes in America in the second half of the 20th Century and the challenges of the Century that follows it.

Five of his bestsellers have been about sports, and it reflects the breadth of his work that both The Best and The Brightest and Summer of ’49 (on an epic pennant race between the Yankees and the Red Sox), were #1 New York Times bestsellers.

His most recent bestsellers are Firehouse (the story of his local firehouse, which lost 12 men on 9/11), and The Teammates (a moving account of the 60-year friendship among four Red Sox players: Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky).
From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches:

“THE MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM IS ONE OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN’S NEWER BUILDINGS AND COMPLETE IN EVERY DETAIL. IT WILL SEAT 2500 PEOPLE FOR BASKETBALL GAMES AND BESIDES A LARGE, MODERN PLAYING FLOOR IS EQUIPPED WITH A BIG STAGE, OFFICES, LOCKER ROOMS, STORE ROOMS, AND LARGE, MODERN SWIMMING POOL.”

The Hansen Student Center was created from historic Memorial gymnasium and opened in January, 2002.

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