2008

Founders' Day Convocation (2008 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Program

President Richard F. Wilson, Presiding
Professor Abigail Jahiel, Associate Professor of Environmental
and International Studies, Mace Bearer

Prelude
Doris Hill, Pianist
Adjunct Professor of Organ
Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Impromptus Opus 142, #2
Allegretto

Processional (please stand)
Quartet No. 2 in D Major
movement 1
Alexander Borodin
(1833-1887)

Janet Lyu ’11, violin
Dana Kurzka ’10, violin
Sarah Cornish ’10, viola
Rosa Kleinman ’11, cello

Invocation (please stand)
Hope Luckie
University Chaplain

Founders Day Remarks
Richard F. Wilson
President

Introduction of Speaker
Beth Cunningham
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks
“Climate Tipping Points: The Threat to the Planet”
James E. Hansen

Alma Wesleyana
Mrs. Hill
NATIONAL HYMN
George William Warren
(1828-1902)

(please stand and join in singing)
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 Luckie

Recessional & Postlude (remain standing)
Mrs. Hill
Variationen Uber Die Hymne
Franz Joseph Haydn
“GOTT ERHALTE”
(1797-1828)
Dr. James E. Hansen  
Renowned Climate Scientist  
Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Dr. James E. Hansen, one the nation’s foremost researchers on climate change, has been encouraging the debate on global warming for more than 30 years. Called upon to testify before Congress, he has been openly critical of both the Clinton and Bush administration’s stances on climate changes.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Hansen has published more than 50 articles in scientific journals and reviews on the effects of climate change, and continues to gather and analyze data. He sees the nature of today’s climate as a potential “perfect storm” — an accelerated disaster out of humanity’s control. Professor Hansen believes young people may provide a tipping point to draw needed attention to global warming.

Dr. Hansen has twice received the NASA Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. He has been awarded the John Heinz Environment Award in 2001, the Roger Revelle Medal from the American Geophysical Union in 2002, the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal from the World Wildlife Fund in 2006 and the Leo Szilard Lectureship Award from the American Physical Society in 2007.

Working with the Goddard Institute for more than 30 years, Dr. Hansen has seen his work soar to other planets, but says he discovered the most exciting planetary research involves trying to understand the climate change on earth.

Dr. Hansen began his work with NASA as a graduate trainee while still at the University of Iowa, where he earned his bachelor’s degrees in physics and mathematics in 1963, a master’s in astronomy in 1965 and a doctorate in physics in 1967. He joined the Goddard Institute as a research fellow after graduation, and became a staff member in 1972. He was named director of the institute in 1981.

During the 1970s, Dr. Hansen was an investigator for several missions, including the Pioneer Venus Cloud Orbiter and the Voyager Photopolarimeter Experiment. He was principal investigator on the Galileo orbiter to Jupiter, which earned a NASA Group Achievement Award. He then became manager of the Goddard Institute’s planetary and climate programs, working to develop research to effectively monitor and study global climate changes.

Professor Hansen also teaches at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University and was listed as one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in 2006.
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.

Founders of Illinois Wesleyan

Peter Cartwright  William Wallace
C. W. Lewis  Charles P. Merriman
J. C. Finley  James Miller
John S. Barger  William H. Holmes
James Leaton  Linus Graves
John Van Cleve  Thomas P. Rogers
James F. Jaquess  John W. Ewing
William J. Rutledge  Lewis Bunn
C. M. Holliday  E. Thomas
W. D. R. Trotter  Isaac Funk
W. H. Allin  James Allin
W. C. Hobbs  D. Trimmer
John E. McClun  Kersey H. Fell
John Magoun  Silas Watters
Thomas Magee  Reuben Andrus

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