President’s Convocation

Fall 9-27-2000

President’s Convocation (2000 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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"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, MIGHT 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."
Presidential Scholars
Class of 2004

Jordan Ault

Jordnan graduated first in a class of 398 at Finkin (Illinois) High School. He plans on a major in political science, with law school following that. A cancer in government and possibly elective office appeal to him: "President Ault has a nice ring," he says. He has played piano since the age of five and has written a weekly column for the Pekin Daily Times.

Joseph Binder

Joe is a national merit scholar from Decatur, Illinois, where he graduated first in his class at St. Theresa High School. Joe is an Eagle Scout and participated in track and cross-country. At Illinois Wesleyan he will major in chemistry.

Lauren Bogen

Lauren is a national merit scholar from Warren Township High School. Lauren has been involved in Jazz Band, Symphonic, Marching, and Concert Band. She has also played varsity basketball and soccer. Lauren enters Illinois Wesleyan as a music theatre major at Illinois Wesleyan.

Matthew Childers

Matthew is a national merit scholar who graduated first in his class at Byron (Illinois) Community High School. He will major in mathematics, with teacher certification, and also hopes to minor in chemistry, English, or physics.

Casey Clark

Casey is a national merit scholar from Belthold, Illinois. She is an actor and a vocalist who has performed in Big River, Annie Get Your Gun, The Crucible, and many other productions. She will be a music theatre major at Illinois Wesleyan.

Matthew Guerrero

Matthew graduated second in a class of 537 at Waukegan Valley High School, Aurora, Illinois. For three summers, Matt has volunteered at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, on work details in the Appalachian Mountains. Matt is undecided as to his major, but is considering psychology and history.

Jill Hochstetter

Jill is a national merit scholar from Littleton, Colorado, where she graduated from St. Mary's Academy. She has participated in productions and built houses for Habitat for Humanity. At Illinois Wesleyan Jill will be a physics major as she pursues the 3-2 engineering program.

Matthew LaScala

From Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Matt is a graduate of Durham Academy. Matt has been an actor in the Young People's Performing Company and wrote and produced his own one-act play last year, titled "For Stupid Apes." He was also editor of his school's literary magazine. At Illinois Wesleyan Matt will major in theatre. He is also interested in creative writing and psychology.

Program

President Minor Myers, Jr., President
Professor Bruce B. Criley, Mace Bearer

Prelude
Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble
Professor Steven W. Engleston, Conductor

Folk Song Suite
I. March - "Seventeen Come Sunday"

Processional (please stand)
Crown Imperial

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

Welcome
dennis e. Groh ’61
Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Greetings from the Trustees
Professor D. Dwight Drexler ’34
Board President Craig C. Hart

Greetings from the Alumni and Faculty
Professor Roger H. Schnaiter
Associate Provost

Recognition of Presidential Scholars and
The Anderson Physics Scholar
Rogor H. Schnaiter

Awards of Honorary Degrees
President Myers
Provoct Janet M. McNew

Remarks
Dr. James D. Watson
Nobel laureate

"The Human Genome"

Alma Wesleyana
"(please stand and join in singing)"

NATIONAL HYMN
George William Warren
(1826-1902)

arr. Peter Andrea Gilbert '98

From hearts affame, 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 gloam till dawn,
Gladly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

—Professor W. E. Schultze
(1887-1964)

Chaplain Groh
Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble

Nicolas Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)

Arr. Erik W. Leidzén

From Waukegan, Illinois, Lauren is a graduate of Warren Township High School. Lauren has been involved in Jazz Band, Symphonic, Marching, and Concert Band. She has also played varsity basketball and soccer. Lauren enters Illinois Wesleyan as a music theatre major at Illinois Wesleyan.

Elizabeth Watson is a Radcliffe college graduate. She received a master's of science degree from Long Island University. She is affiliated with the boards of several organizations including the American Public Health Association, the Royal Academy of Arts, and the American Russian Young Artists' Orchestra. Watson's work with DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid, was recounted in his best-seller, "The Double Helix." For this feat, Watson was awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Medicine. This prize has been referred to as "the Nobel Prize for the 20th Century." For this research, Watson was also awarded the Lomonosov Medal from the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Watson is the author of several other books, including "Recombinant DNA: A Short Course," "The Double Helix," and "Molecular Biology and the Gene." These studies have led to new understandings of oncogenes (cancer genes) and possibly elective office appeal to him: "President Ault has a nice ring," he says. He has played piano since the age of five and has written a weekly column for the Pekin Daily Times.

From Waukegan, Illinois, Lauren is a graduate of Warren Township High School. Lauren has been involved in Jazz Band, Symphonic, Marching, and Concert Band. She has also played varsity basketball and soccer. Lauren enters Illinois Wesleyan as a music theatre major at Illinois Wesleyan.

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Watson is a past director of the National Center for Human Genome Research at the National Institutes of Health, a key substance in chromosomes that transfers genetic characteristics in all life. This feat has been described as "the greatest achievement of science in the twentieth century." For this work, Watson, Crick—and Maurice Wilkins—were awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

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Watson, who was born in Chicago in 1928, enrolled in the University of Chicago at age 15, graduating in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in zoology. He received a Ph.D. in zoology from Indiana University in 1950. During the 1950s, he was a researcher at the University of Copenhagen, the Cavendish Laboratory at Britain's Cambridge University, and the California Institute of Technology. Watson joined the Harvard University faculty in 1956. He remained at Harvard for many years until he became the director on a full-time basis of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. For the last half-dozen years, Watson has served as president of the Long Island, N.Y.-based facility known for its cancer research at the National Institutes of Health. His visit to Illinois Wesleyan comes just months after scientists announced the successful mapping of the human genome, a 10-year, multi-billion-dollar effort that has been dubbed biology's equivalent to the moon landing or splitting the atom.

Watson has received many honors, including the Albert Lasker Prize from the American Public Health Association, John J. Carty Gold Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, Copley Medal of the British Royal Society, and the Lomonosov Medal from the Russian Academy of Sciences. Other honors bestowed upon Watson by the U.S. government include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 1977, and the National Medal of Science, which was awarded to him in 1997. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1962.

Watson, who has received honorary degrees from about 22 universities, is also the author of several other books, including Molecular Biology of the Gene, The DNA Story, Molecular Biology of the Cell, Recombinant DNA: A Short Course, and A Passion for DNA.
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Nobel laureate

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Jill Frakes
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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.

Edward McCormick
Mac is a National Merit Scholar from Lincoln-Way High School in New Lenox, Illinois. Acknowledging Thucydides’ claim that “History is philosophy teaching by examples,” he intends to major in history with additional study in anthropology and philosophy. He has been a varsity swimmer and intends to participate in swimming at Illinois Wesleyan.

Serena Uraick
Serena is a graduate of Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis, Oregon. She has studied modern dance for seven years and participated in the Corvallis Youth Symphony, where she played flute. At Illinois Wesleyan, she will major in biology.

Jennifer Pierce
Jennifer comes from Hobbs, New Mexico. She is a National Merit Scholar and recipient of the Jack Mattos Distinguished Scholarship. She has studied dance and piano and participated in varsity track. Here she will major in biology.

Katherine Scholta
Katie is a graduate of Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, where she received the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Youth Excellence. Katie participated in dance, choir, and other vocal groups, as well as volleyball. For three years she was student choreographer for her school’s spring musical. At Illinois Wesleyan, she will major in mathematics in the teacher education program.

Emily Waeckel
Emily is a graduate of Maine West High School in Des Plaines, Illinois. She is a school record-holder in swimming and has written for her school’s literary magazine. She is undecided as to major, but is interested in architecture and chemistry.

Benjamin Weber
Benjamin is a graduate of Oak Park-River Forest High School, Oak Park, Illinois. He is a violinist and has participated in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Honors Orchestra of the Illinois Music Educator’s Association All State Festival, and the Windy City String Ensemble. In addition to violin, Benjamin also has interests in history and English.

Sarah Weiss
Sarah is a National Merit Scholar who graduated first in her class at Meridian High School, Decatur, Illinois. She plays trumpet and piano. Sarah has participated in theatre and the Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra. At Illinois Wesleyan, she will major in biology.

Ileana Rau
Ileana began working on a research project with Professor Gabe Spalding during her first year and has presented at two student research conferences. This year she is participating in a study abroad program at Karlsruhe University in Germany. A native of Sibiu, Romania, Ileana will return to Illinois Wesleyan for her final year of undergraduate study.
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