



Fall 8-27-1999

## Convocation for New Students (1999 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# CONVOCATION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



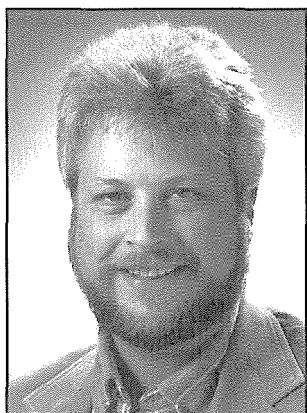
Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall  
August 27, 1999  
4:00 p.m.

# PROGRAM

President Minor Myers, jr., *Presiding*

Organ Prelude .....	J. Scott Ferguson, <i>Organist</i> <i>Associate Professor of Music</i> <i>and Director of Choral Activities</i>
Praeludium und Fughette	<i>Antonín Dvořák</i> (1801-1904)
* Invocation .....	Dennis E. Groh '61 <i>University Chaplain</i>
President's Welcome .....	President Minor Myers, jr.
Greetings from the Students .....	Harold Gauthier, '99 <i>President, Student Senate</i>
Performance.....	Annelisa Anderson '03, <i>violinist</i> Eva Ferguson, <i>pianist</i>
Symphonie espagnole	<i>Edouard Lalo</i>
Movement II: Allegro Molto	(1823-1892)
Greetings from the Faculty.....	Janet M. McNew <i>Provost and Dean of the Faculty</i>
Introduction of the Speaker .....	Janet M. McNew <i>Provost and Dean of the Faculty</i>
Address.....	James D. Matthews <i>Dean of Students and</i> <i>Associate Professor of French</i>
"Reflections of Active Learners"	Michael C. Seeborg <i>Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics</i>
*Alma Wesleyana	NATIONAL HYMN <i>George William Warren</i> (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.	— <i>Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)</i>
* Benediction .....	Dennis E. Groh '61 <i>University Chaplain</i>
Organ Postlude.....	J. Scott Ferguson, <i>Organist</i> <i>Associate Professor of Music</i> <i>and Director of Choral Activities</i>
Praeludium und Fuge	<i>Vincent Lübeck</i> (1654-1740)

\*Audience will please stand



## **JAMES D. MATTHEWS**

*Dean of Students and Associate Professor of French*

James D. Matthews, an associate professor of French and former chair of IWU's Department of Foreign Languages, was appointed acting dean of students in February 1998, and Dean of Students in April 1999.

Commenting on his appointment, Matthews said: "I've always considered myself to be a student focused faculty member. My challenge now is to define my work in student affairs as teaching on a bigger stage-I now have a classroom with 2,008 students."

Among Matthews' key goals as Dean of Students is to build closer ties with faculty and academic affairs. "At many institutions," Matthews explained, "student affairs and academics are seen as existing in separate worlds. I feel more comfortable with a holistic approach to university life."

Matthews concedes that moving from the faculty and teaching French to the Dean of Students' post is not a common career path. However, he believes that his faculty roots will be a strength as he shapes the office and program. "The future of student affairs at liberal arts colleges," Matthews said, "is becoming more closely allied with the goals of faculty and academic affairs."

While serving as Acting Dean over the last year, Matthews says he has gained tremendous respect for the student affairs staff, which he describes as "incredibly good" and "student focused." Matthews' staff has a wide range of responsibilities: counseling, Greek social organizations, health service, Memorial Student Center, multi-cultural affairs, new student orientation, residential life, alcohol education, co-curricular programming, security, and summer conferences.

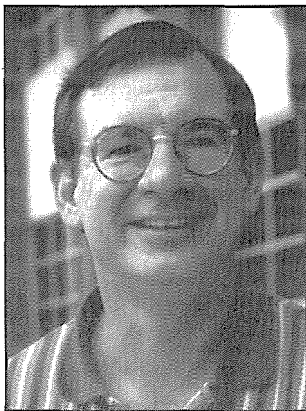
As Acting Dean, Matthews won the 1999 Professor of the Year award in a Feb. 10 student vote in a five-way contest. Matthews is the only IWU faculty member to win this honor twice. He first won it in the award's inaugural year, 1990. Matthews also is the only faculty member acting in an administrative position to win the award.

Prior to his appointment as Acting Dean of Students, Matthews chaired IWU's Greek Affairs Task Force, established in 1997 as part of several new and on-going institutional reviews of programs affecting quality of life.

In May 1995, Matthews received the DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence at IWU's annual Honors Day Convocation. The teacher-scholar award is sponsored by DuPont Agricultural Products, Inc., of El Paso, Ill., a subsidiary of the Delaware-based chemical industry leader, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. The DuPont Award is IWU's top teaching honor.

Matthews earned a bachelor's degree from Albion College in 1974 and masters and doctoral degrees in French language and literature from the University of Michigan in 1977 and 1985, respectively.

Prior to joining Illinois Wesleyan University, Matthews was an Assistant Professor of French at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.



## **MICHAEL C. SEEBORG**

*Robert S. Eckley Distinguished  
Professor of Economics*

Michael Seeborg is the Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics at Illinois Wesleyan University. He was the 1999 recipient of the DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence. Before joining the IWU faculty in 1989, he taught 13 years at Ball State University in Indiana. He has published numerous articles dealing with labor, poverty, and race and gender issues.

Reflecting on what it takes to be an outstanding teacher, Seeborg said: "It varies from individual to individual. There is no single formula. All teachers have strengths and weaknesses. However, all outstanding teachers have a passion about their discipline and a passion about learning through dialogue with students."

Seeborg says that one of his greatest pleasures is "working one-on-one with students. I really enjoy working with students on research projects. To see students' critical thinking skills improve and mature brings a lot of satisfaction."

As a strong advocate of active learning strategies, Seeborg believes that students learn best when they extend their educational efforts beyond the classroom. "Students who confront social issues directly, students who engage in original research on their own or in collaboration with faculty, and students who participate in co-curricular activities will be better prepared and motivated to make significant contributions to society than students who are not so actively engaged. Our obligation as professors is to provide the institutional frameworks and resources to make this happen. In the economics department, for example, students have learned much from participation in activities of their own Economic Society and from the publication of their own journal, *The Park Place Economist*."