Founders' Day Convocation (2011 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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**Program**

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*  
Professor Robert C. Bray, the R. Forrest Colwell  
Professor of American Literature, *Mace Bearer*

**Prelude and Processional**  
*(please stand during Processional)*  
Toccata “Dorian” BWV 538  
*Organist*  
J.S. Bach  
*(1685-1750)*

**A Founders’ Invocation** *(remain standing)*  
*Lori Harvey*  
*Interim University Chaplain*

**Founders’ Day Remarks**  
*Richard F. Wilson*  
*President*

**Special Music**  
Brass Quintet  
*Samuel Scheidt*  
*(1587-1654)*

- Canzon Bergamasque  
  Kyle Anderson ’11, *trumpet*; Kelly Lamorena ’14, *trumpet*;  
  Audra Loveland ’12, *horn*; Jamie Burchett ’11, *trombone*; Max Briggs ’12, *tuba*

**Introduction of Speaker**  
*Frank Boyd*  
*Interim Provost and Dean of the Faculty*

**Remarks**  
“The Role of Poetry in a Living Culture”  
*Jorie Graham*

**Alma Wesleyana**  
*(please stand and join in singing led by Holly Haines ’13)*  
*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)

**Recessional** *(remain standing)*  
*Ms. Hill*

**Epilogue on “St. Theodulph”**  
*Healey Willan*  
*(1880-1968)*
I watched each gathering of leafy flakes
melt around my footfall.
I looked up into it—later afternoon but bright.
Nothing true or false in itself. Just motion. Many strips of motion. Filaments of falling
marked by tiny certainties of flakes.

– From “The Dream of the Unified Field,” Jorie Graham

Internationally renowned poet Jorie Graham has been called one of the most
celebrated poets of the American post-war generation. The Dictionary of Literary
Biography declares her “at the forefront of the effort to revitalize and redefine
American poetry.”

Currently the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory in Harvard University’s
Department of English and American Literature and Language, Ms. Graham is the
first female to be named to that professorship since it was established in 1806. She has
taught at the prestigious University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and has served as a
Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets. Her many honors include a John D. and
Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from The
American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

An international force for poetry, Professor Graham was born in New York City
as the daughter of a journalist and a sculptor, raised in Rome and educated in French
schools. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris before attending New York
University as an undergraduate, where she studied filmmaking. She received an
MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa, and taught at Murray State University
in Kentucky, Humboldt State University in California, Columbia University, and the
University of Iowa before joining Harvard in 1999.

Her lauded collections of poetry include Sea Change (Ecco, 2008), Never (2002),
Swarm (2000), and The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1994, which
earned the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Ms. Graham has also edited several
anthologies, including Earth Took of Earth: 100 Great Poems of the English Language
(1996) and The Best American Poetry 1990. Her works have been translated for
publication in German, Spanish and Italian.

Professor Graham’s work is recognized for more than rich detail and artful
emotion. Selections from Sea Change have been seen as a cry for a greater awareness
by humanity toward perils of the natural world. Critic James Longenbach, when
writing for the New York Times, compared Graham’s work to W.B. Yeats, noting “for
30 years Jorie Graham has engaged the whole human contraption — intellectual,
global, domestic, apocalyptic — rather than the narrow emotional slice of it most often
reserved for poems.”
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
C. W. Lewis
J. C. Finley
John S. Barger
James Leaton
John Van Cleve
James F. Jaquess
William J. Rutledge
C. M. Holliday
W. D. R. Trotter

W. H. Allin
W. C. Hobbs
John E. McClun
John Magoun
Thomas Magee
William Wallace
Charles P. Merriman
James Miller
William H. Holmes
Linus Graves

Thomas P. Rogers
John W. Ewing
Lewis Bunn
E. Thomas
Isaac Funk
James Allin
D. Trimmer
Kersey H. Fell
Silas Watters
Reuben Andrus