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## Convocation for New Students (2015 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# CONVOCATION

*for New Students*



Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall  
August 21, 2018  
6:15 PM



## CARMELA FERRADÁNS

Professor of Spanish Carmela Ferradáns is the 2019 recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, Illinois Wesleyan University's highest teaching honor.

Dr. Carmela Ferradáns teaches all levels of Spanish language, literature, and cultural history of Spain, as well as writing intensive courses for the Writing Program. In her role as inaugural chair of Illinois Wesleyan's Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, she has ventured into the fields of multimodal pedagogies and digital humanities. She is especially interested in finding connections between visual and written forms of communication.

As a scholar, Dr. Ferradáns is well known for her critical studies on the poetry of Ana Rossetti, particularly her intertextual reading of the Calvin Klein advertising campaign of the 1980s as it intertwines with forms of high art and poetry. She is the editor and translator of *Incessant Beauty: A Bilingual Anthology* (2014) which offers a wide range of Rossetti's poetry in dual language, Spanish/English. Dr. Ferradáns most recent interests focus on the legacy of the Spanish Civil War; translation theory; and migration and border studies. She is currently doing research on literary representations of the migration crisis in the Mediterranean for a dual language edition of *Por la vía de Tarifa / By Way of Tarifa*, a collection of short stories by Nieves García Benito.

Dr. Carmela Ferradáns joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1992 and earned a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of California, Irvine in 1993. As the 2019 Kemp Award winner, Dr. Ferradáns was recognized by the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee for bringing spirit, passion and scholarship to the art of teaching.



## ACADEMIC COLORS AND REGALIA

Like judicial robes, the garments worn on academic occasions such as today's Convocation derive from the ecclesiastical garb of medieval England. The scholar in the Middle Ages, it must be remembered, was a clerk, and therefore required to wear the clerical gown and tonsure. As early as the fourteenth century, scholars of certain colleges were required by statute to wear "a decent habit" befitting a clerk, and no evidence appears that there was much differentiation among undergraduates, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral robes. Hoods were worn by all and probably had no academic significance at the beginning. By 1330-40, doctors began to adopt scarlet for their hoods, and by 1500, for their robes, with black retained by the masters of arts and bachelors of divinity. Over the years, distinctions were created to identify various ranks and faculties.

Caps evolved in a similar manner. The round velvet cap is still worn in the full dress of doctors (except doctors in theology); the familiar square, or mortar-board, was copied in the early sixteenth century from the thirteenth century cap of the University of Paris. The "who" and "how" of the wearing of caps has produced numerous rulings, restrictions, and change.

The growth of higher education in the United States during the nineteenth century, when the great land grant colleges and universities were established under the Morrill Act, created a confusion of conflicting styles and colors. The easy identification of one's academic status by means of cut, fabric, and color was lost. In 1893, however, an intercollegiate commission presented a uniform code for caps, gowns, and hoods to be worn in the United States. The mortarboard caps are the same for doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees, except that doctors' caps may be of velvet and may have a gold tassel. The bachelor's gown is marked by pointed sleeves, reaching to the knee, while the master's sleeve is squared at the ends, and longer. The doctoral robe is fullest, with rounded bell shaped sleeves marked by three velvet stripes.

The greatest symbolism of the academic costume is borne by the hood, which identifies the level of the degree, the faculty (or department of learning) in which it was earned, and the institution that awarded it. The size of the hood, its shape, and the width of its velvet trim identify the level of the degree, with doctoral hoods naturally being the fullest, widest, and longest. Faculty colors tell us the department.

The current Illinois Wesleyan University Mace was crafted in celebration of the inauguration of President Eric R. Jensen and the Class of 2016. The mace replaces the The Eckley Mace, which was first carried at the 1969 inauguration of Dr. Robert S. Eckley, the 15th president of the University.

Made of bronze for power and endurance and of walnut for organic strength, its cupola represents the bell tower of Old North Hall, Illinois Wesleyan's first building, which was erected in 1856 and demolished in 1967. State Farm Hall now sits on the former site of Old North. The staff of the Mace was made from the walnut of Old North Hall and was used on the Eckley mace. The names of University founders' are engraved on a band surrounding the cupola.

The mace was cast and constructed by Kevin Strandberg, Professor of Art.

## NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

On the Tuesday that new students arrive on campus, the New Student Convocation is held at Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. The incoming class is expected to attend to be matriculated into this community of artists and scholars.

## PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

The President's Convocation opens the academic year with a prominent speaker invited to address the community. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. This year's convocation will be on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 featuring Amy Ellis Nutt, author of the summer reading program selection *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* and the title of her talk is "The Transformation of the American Family."

## FOUNDERS CONVOCATION

Founders Day commemorates the founding of the University in 1850 and honors its academic history. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend this year's convocation on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Previous speakers include U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Frances Berry, Pulitzer Prize recipient John Updike, and film director Ismail Merchant.

## HONORS CONVOCATION

Graduating seniors are featured at the Honors Day Convocation, set for Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Presentations by the Senior Class President, the President, the Provost, and other faculty members, including the Kemp Foundation Awardee for Teaching Excellence, make up this program. All students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.