



Fall 9-6-1978

## President's Convocation (1978 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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# THE PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



celebrating the  
tenth anniversary of  
Dr. Robert S. Eckley  
as President of  
Illinois Wesleyan  
University

Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall

11:00 a.m. Wednesday  
September 6, 1978



**Dr. Robert S. Eckley**  
Fifteenth President of  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
1968 -

Dr. Robert S. Eckley has brought to the presidency of Illinois Wesleyan University a fortunate combination of credentials from the business world and academe. After earning a doctorate in economics at Harvard University, he taught at the University of Kansas, became an industrial economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City and established a regional reputation in his field as manager of the business economics department of the multinational Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Since 1968, in the decade of his leadership, the University has recorded significant achievements in the development of financial resources, faculty and curricular improvement and the expansion of the physical plant.

Current gifts, which doubled in his first four years, now approach \$500,000 and the endowment fund, which doubled in eight years, now has a market value of \$21 million. Dr. Eckley's stewardship has resulted in annual balanced budgets, increasing the record at IWU to 20 consecutive years. The \$2 million gift from Foster G. McGaw, largest in Wesleyan history from a living donor, was received in 1971 and was the prime factor in the financing of the Alice Millar Center for the Fine Arts. Enrollment has remained steady at the optimum of 1,650 students annually.

During the Eckley presidency, the University adopted a faculty constitution, the course unit system and new general education requirements. Faculty compensation now ranks in the top one-fifth for four-year institutions and the percentage of liberal arts faculty with doctoral degrees rose from 50 to 75 percent. Illinois Wesleyan's academic strengths have been recognized by grants from the National Science Foundation, The Lilly Endowment for curriculum development, the Kellogg Foundation for career education and the Exxon Foundation for academic and institutional management planning programs.

In addition to the Fine Arts Center, campus improvement includes the opening of the Mark Evans Observatory, the campus-wide landscaping and beautification program, an IBM System 7 heating and cooling system for energy conservation, renovation of Buck Memorial Library and air conditioning of Holmes and Shaw Halls.

The University proudly salutes its fifteenth president for a decade of outstanding achievement.

# PROGRAM

Prelude

Jazz Combo  
Professor Thomas W. Streeter, Director

Invocation . . . . . Bishop Leroy C. Hodapp

Introduction . . . . . Dean Wendell W. Hess

Faculty Memories . . . . . Professor Jerry Stone

Alumni Memories . . . . . Mark Sheldon '70

Student Comments . . . . . Catherine Aumack '81  
President, Student Senate

"Visual Chronicle 1968-78"

Jerry D. Bidle, Narrator

Anthem — *Te Deum* . . . . . Professor R. Bedford Watkins  
Mixed Chorus  
Professor David Nott, Director

"Through a Glass, Darkly" . . . . . President Robert S. Eckley

Special Announcement . . . . . William M. Goebel  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

## *Alma Wesleyana*

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.

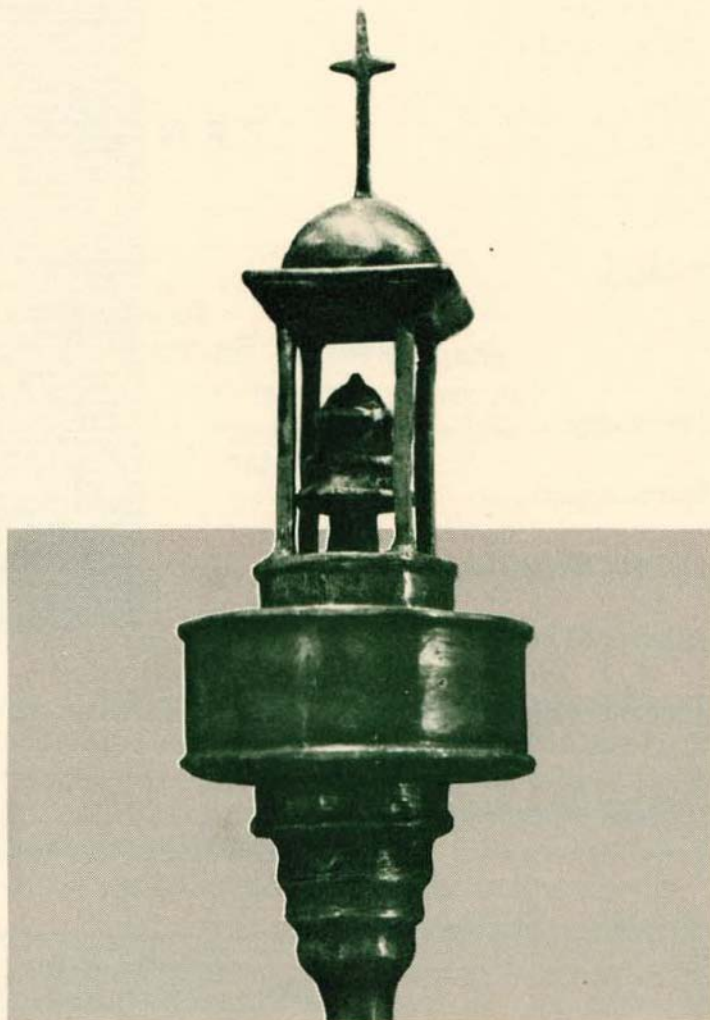
When college days are fully past and gone,  
While life endures, from twilight dream till dawn,  
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —  
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan!

Benediction . . . . . President Emeritus Lloyd M. Bertholf

Postlude

Jazz Combo  
Professor Thomas W. Streeter, Director





### **About Today's Convocation**

The President's Convocation, a traditional September event on the Illinois Wesleyan campus, is richly symbolic in this anniversary year, evoking memories of the inauguration of Dr. Robert S. Eckley on March 22, 1969, as the University's fifteenth President. Mark Sheldon, Class of 1970, appearing on today's program as representative of the alumni body, offered salutations in the Inaugural Convocation to the new President on behalf of the student body in his position as president of the Student Senate. Today Catherine Aumack, 1978 Senate president, performs that role. Dr. R. Bedford Watkins, professor of piano, who composed the choral anthem for this morning's program, also composed the Inaugural Fanfare performed in 1969 and dedicated to President Eckley.

The University Mace, ceremonial symbol of authority, shown above and on the program cover, is exhibited at all University Convocations and Commencement. First carried at the inauguration of Dr. Eckley, the Mace was designed and created by Tony Vestuto, former member of the School of Art faculty, and incorporates many visual and structural symbols of Illinois Wesleyan University. Made of bronze for power and endurance and walnut for organic strength, its top is a cupola representing the bell tower of "Old North," Wesleyan's first building. The bell inside the cupola represents the Hedding Bell, a campus landmark. Together, the cupola and bell symbolize the union of IWU and Hedding College in 1930. The names of Wesleyan's presidents are engraved in chronological order on the cylindrical base. The walnut staff is made from timber saved from "Old North" when it was razed in 1966.