2011

President's Convocation (2011 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT’S CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
August 31, 2011
7:00 PM

Celebrating the New Academic Year
PROGRAM

President Richard F. Wilson, Presiding

Prelude
(Please stand as the platform party enters)
Prelude and Fugue Op. 37, No. 2
Andante con moto

Doris Hill
Organist
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Invocation for the New Year (remain standing)

Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Welcome

Richard F. Wilson
President

Greetings from the Student Senate

Stephen Lessaris ’12
President, Student Senate

Special Music
Automne, Op. 18 No. 3

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

Ashleen Davey ’14, vocalist
Eva Ferguson, pianist

Introduction of Speaker

Jonathan Green
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Address
“Cosmopolitanism: Culture and Identity in Modern America”

Kwame Anthony Appiah

Alma Wesleyana
(please stand and join in singing led by Ms. Davey)

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)

Ms. Hill

NATIONAL HYMN
George William Warren
(1828-1902)

Postlude (remain standing)
Sonata II, Op. 65
Allegro maestoso e vivace

Ms. Hill
Felix Mendelssohn
For Dr. Appiah, balancing the demands of separate cultural identities and shared humanity can be unearthed through the art of exchanging thoughts and challenging ideas in conversation.

Through his many scholarly works, Dr. Appiah argues humanity can discover the ties that bind us through pure philosophical interactions. “There’s a traditional image of the philosopher as someone locked away in her study, attending to her own mental life,” he said. “But that’s not a great way to pursue philosophy, and that’s not really how it’s been done in the past.”

Dr. Appiah’s famed 2007 work *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*, won the Arthur Ross Award of the Council on Foreign Relations. A reviewer declared the author understood that “there are more binding similarities in a united world. The prime thrust of his argument is that many people of cosmopolitan temperament are not necessarily from the elite spectrum of their societies or for that matter, of the world. He is of the view that in a world full of strangers, Cosmopolitanism is a universal trait of humankind. This is basically an ancient philosophy, but one which may still be in dire need of a contemporary validation.”

Named by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of the top 100 global thinkers in 2010 “for forging a code of ethics to fit a globalized world,” Dr. Appiah is a graduate of Cambridge University, earning his doctorate in 1982. Since graduation he has taught in Germany, France, South Africa and the United States at universities including Harvard, Duke and Cornell.

A prolific writer, Dr. Appiah has published widely about ethics, African and black cultural studies, racial identity, political theory and philosophy of the mind. The author of celebrated books, Dr. Appiah’s works include *In My Father’s House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*, which won the Annisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Herskovitz Award of the African Studies Association; *Color Conscious: The Political Morality of Race*; and *Experiments in Ethics*. His newest book, *The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen*, reveals the various dimensions of honor as it relates to notions of respect, shame and dignity.

Dr. Appiah is the general editor of the Amnesty International Global Ethics Series, published by W. W. Norton. Along with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Dr. Appiah edited the *Encarta Africana* CD-ROM encyclopedia, published by Microsoft. He has edited nearly two dozen books and contributed works to publications such as the *Journal of Social Philosophy*, the *New York Review of Books* and *Global Agenda*. 
From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches:

“THIS BUILDING WAS MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BY A GIFT OF ANDREW CARNEGIE IN 1910 AND HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN KEPT MODERN IN EVERY RESPECT DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY, AND PHYSICS DEPARTMENTS ARE QUARTERED IN THIS ATTRACTIVE BUILDING.”

The Edgar M. Stevenson Hall of Nursing, formerly known as Science Hall, was dedicated on October 9, 1965.

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