



2014

## President's Convocation (2014 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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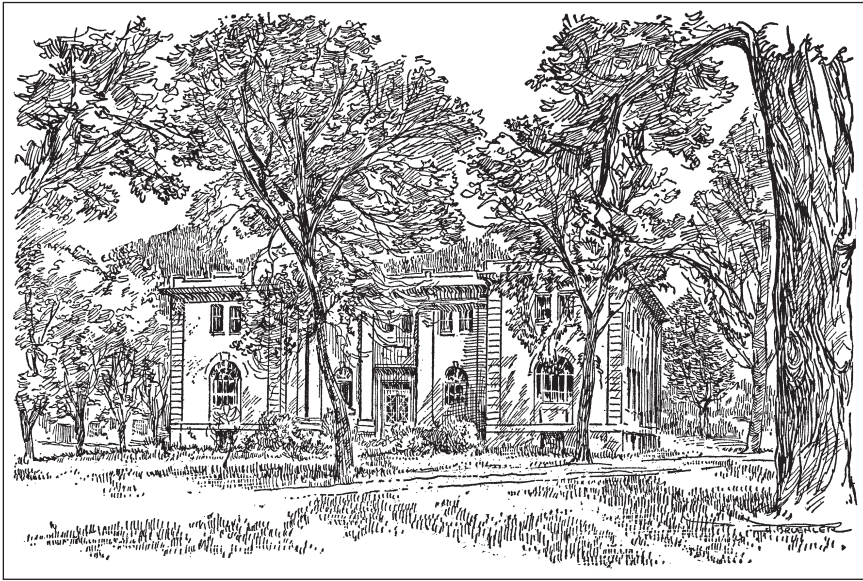
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## SCIENCE HALL



*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.*



Please turn off phones and electronic devices

Illinois Wesleyan University

# PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall  
September 3, 2014  
11:00 AM

*Celebrating the New Academic Year*

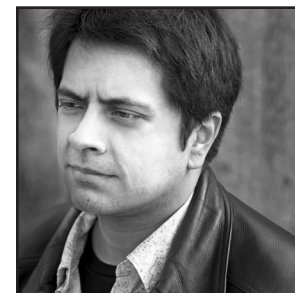
## PROGRAM

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*

Prelude	Susan Klotzbach <i>Organist</i> Noel Goemanne (1926–2010)
El Dia de Fiesta En el Silencio de la Noche Alegría	
Processional ( <i>please stand</i> ) Processional in D	David N. Johnson (1922–1987)
Invocation for the New Year ( <i>remain standing</i> )	Elyse Nelson Winger <i>University Chaplain</i>
Welcome	Richard F. Wilson <i>President</i>
Greetings from Student Senate	Austin Aldag '16 <i>President, Student Senate</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Provost Green
Address “The Madonnas of Echo Park”	Brando Skyhorse
Alma Wesleyana ( <i>please stand and join in singing led by Megan Koch '17</i> )	Ms. Klotzbach  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 ( <i>remain standing</i> ) Gloria	Ms. Klotzbach Dave Brubeck (1920–2012)

## BRANDO SKYHORSE

Author of *The Madonnas of Echo Park* and  
*Take This Man: A Memoir*



Brando Skyhorse received the 2011 PEN/  
Hemingway Award and the 2011 Sue Kaufman  
Prize for First Fiction from the American  
Academy of Arts and Letters for his debut novel,  
*The Madonnas of Echo Park*.

Selected for Illinois Wesleyan University's 2014 Summer Reading Program, *Madonnas* was the topic of small group discussions between first-year students, faculty, staff and alumni during Turning Titan: New Student Orientation.

The novel provides a multifaceted portrait of Echo Park, a Mexican-American neighborhood in Los Angeles. Constructed in a series of interwoven stories, the book follows Felicia, a housekeeper, and her daughter Aurora as they move in and out of each other's lives, struggling to find a common ground on which to relate. Each character in the book portrays a different perspective and voice as they encounter problems with gang violence, deportation, discrimination, social class, cultural identity and loss of home and land.

A review in *Publishers Weekly* said, “Skyhorse excels at building a vibrant community and presenting several perspectives on what it means to be Mexican in America, from those who wonder ‘how can you lose something that never belonged to you?’ to those who miraculously find it.”

Mr. Skyhorse was born and raised in Echo Park, Calif., and is a graduate of Stanford University and the MFA Writers' Workshop program at the University of California, Irvine. He was the 2014 Jenny McKean Moore Writer-in-Washington at The George Washington University.

This past June, the author released his second book, *Take This Man: A Memoir*. In it, Mr. Skyhorse delves into lifelong struggles relating to cultural identity, a common theme in both of his books. After being told by his mother throughout his childhood that he was Native American, Mr. Skyhorse later discovers that he is actually Mexican. In *Take This Man*, Mr. Skyhorse recounts the stories his mother fabricated about his Native-American history, the hardships of being raised without a stable father and his journey to discovering his true past and culture.

In an interview with NBC News, Mr. Skyhorse said he is still negotiating with this personal cultural transition. “I am Mexican-American but I was raised as a sort of piecemeal American Indian,” he said. “And that makes it more complicated for me because I would like to know more Spanish, I would like to have a better understanding about my heritage and my culture—both cultures.”