



1995

## President's Convocation (1995 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



Evelyn Chapel  
September 20, 1995  
11:00 a.m.

# PROGRAM

President Minor Myers, jr, *Presiding*

Organ Prelude .....David M. Gehrenbeck, *Organist*  
*Professor of Music*

Pagant .....Leo Sowerby  
(1895-1968)

\*Invocation .....William L. White  
*University Chaplain*

Welcome .....President Minor Myers, jr  
Remarks.....Tricia A. Dailey '96  
*President, Student Senate*

Recognition of Presidential Scholars and  
The Anderson Physics Scholar.....Janet M. McNew  
*Provost and Dean of the Faculty*

Special Music  
Scherzo-Tarantella, Op. 16.....Henri Wieniawski  
Presto (1835-1880)  
Nicole Frey '99, violin  
Todd Tucker, piano  
*Associate Professor of Music*

Awarding of Honorary Degree.....President Minor Myers, jr.  
Provost Janet M. McNew

Yoshiro NakaMats  
Inventor

Remarks .....Yoshiro NakaMats

\*Alma Wesleyana  
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)

\*Benediction .....William L. White  
*University Chaplain*

Organ Postlude.....David M. Gehrenbeck, *Organist*  
*Professor of Music*

Trumpet Tunes .....Henry Purcell  
(1659-1695)

\*Audience will please stand



## Yoshiro NakaMats Inventor

Yoshiro NakaMats is a creative genius. Over more than 60 years, his ingenuity has earned him more than 3,000 patents—a world's record—three times the number of patents awarded to Thomas Edison, father of the light bulb and motion pictures.

Dr. NakaMats' inventiveness is reflected in his pioneering development of the floppy disk, an information storage device which helped launch the computer revolution by making balky punch cards obsolete. Dr. NakaMats' initial work on floppy disk technology, between 1947 and 1950, was tied to his love of classical music—particularly Beethoven's Fifth Symphony—when he was looking for a lightweight, unbreakable device to replace scratchy 78 rpm phonograph records. To date, Dr. NakaMats is credited with 150 inventions in connection with the floppy disk.

Dr. NakaMats' inventions span high-and low-technology devices. They range from snack foods designed to energize the mind to a golf putter designed to improve any duffer's game. In 1982, Dr. NakaMats donated his putter to the U.S. Golf Association's Museum in Far Hills, N.J.

*Asiaweek* in its April 14, 1989, issue said, "... NakaMats ... is without question the most prolific inventor in the world today—and not impossibly of all time."

The international news media often refer to Dr. NakaMats as the "Thomas Edison of Japan." Edison believed the invention process amounts to "1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." However, Dr. NakaMats reverses Edison's famous aphorism, saying contemporary inventors expend 1 percent on perspiration—because the research tools modern science has given them has eased the trial-and-error process—and 99 percent on inspiration.

Dr. NakaMats says his career as an inventor began at age 5, when he devised a stabilizer for toy airplanes. He earned his first patent, according to press reports, as an 8th grader for a portable heater. A red-handled plastic siphon pump, used by millions of Japanese to transfer soy sauce from large containers to smaller ones, is an example of NakaMats' sometimes low-tech—but useful—inventions.

Dr. NakaMats, 67, is an eclectic personality. He was honored by the Pittsburgh Pirates when he tossed out the first pitch to open the major league baseball team's 1990 season. (Dr. NakaMats, an avid baseball fan, was a pitcher on the Tokyo University team.) Upwards of 10 U.S. cities—including Los Angeles, Baltimore, St. Louis, and Tucson—have declared "Dr. NakaMats Days" to honor the prolific inventor. Dr. NakaMats has been featured on the syndicated television show, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. In 1991, Dr. NakaMats finished seventh in the race for governor of Tokyo—a post akin to mayor—on the "Inventive Politics" party ticket. The International Tesla Society, a Colorado-based inventors' group, has dubbed Dr. NakaMats one of history's most influential inventors.

Dr. NakaMats holds U.S. patents for devices involving motion picture projection and photography, a method for starting a gyrocompass, a sound recording system, a sound device for television, a recording medium employing a magnetic coating, a diskette for cleaning a floppy disk drive head, a floppy disk container, an ear piece for eyeglasses, and other devices.

Dr. NakaMats' approach to invention encompasses three concepts: a sound theory, innovation, and practical application.

A 1953 engineering graduate of Tokyo University, Dr. NakaMats began his career with Mitsui & Co., one of Japan's large trading corporations. Eventually, he left Mitsui to launch his own business.

Dr. NakaMats, who reportedly sleeps just four hours nightly, counts swimming among his hobbies.