



2015

President's Convocation (2015 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

September 9, 2015

11:00 AM

Celebrating the New Academic Year

PROGRAM

President Richard F. Wilson, *Presiding*

Prelude	Susan Klotzbach <i>Organist</i> Georg Böhm (1661–1733)
Praeludium in C Major	
Processional (<i>please stand</i>)	
Grand Choeur	<i>Theodore Dubois</i> (1837–1924)
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	Jake Thaker '17 <i>President, Student Senate</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Jonathan Green <i>Provost</i>
Address	Kevin Roose
Alma Wesleyana (<i>please stand and join in singing led by Kate Masson '18</i>)	Ms. Klotzbach
	NATIONAL HYMN <i>George William Warren</i> (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. — <i>Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)</i>	
Recessional (<i>remain standing</i>)	Ms. Klotzbach
Concerto in A Minor	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i> (1685–1750)

KEVIN ROOSE

Author of *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University*

Senior Editor and Co-Executive Producer of the multi-platform media company Fusion



Kevin Roose was a self-described fairly typical Brown University student who “studied English lit, drank fair-trade coffee, attended the occasional anti-war protest, and sang in an a cappella group,” until he became fascinated with Liberty University, the Christian liberal arts college founded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Transferring to Liberty, Mr. Roose spent a semester examining and attempting to understand the often-misinterpreted lives and beliefs of many of the students attending the school. His resulting book, *The Unlikely Disciple*, was selected for students at Illinois Wesleyan to read and discuss as a part of the university’s Summer Reading Program.

In *The Providence Journal*, one reviewer writes, “*The Unlikely Disciple* is by turns appealing and appalling, laugh-out-loud funny and sobering, serious and silly — just like a semester at college.” Mr. Roose takes readers on a journey through a semester at Liberty, along the way training himself not to curse, meeting Rev. Falwell, and spending spring break at Daytona Beach trying to convert the unsaved. These and other experiences throughout the course of the book serve to both entertain and educate readers on a part of American culture that is still misunderstood.

Today, Mr. Roose continues to write. His most recent book is *Young Money: Inside the Hidden World of Wall Street's Post-Crash Recruits*. A *New York Times* best-selling book, *Young Money* details the experiences of the youngest workers of Wall Street and the reshaping of their everyday lives after the stock market crash of 2008.

As for his time at Liberty, Mr. Roose continues to learn from his experiences at the school, keeping in touch with several of his Liberty peers, many of whom have thanked him for his novel. As reviewer June Sawyers wrote in *Booklist*, “His stint at Liberty hardly changed the world but it did alter his way at looking at it. That’s a start.”

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Summer Reading Program is an opportunity for incoming students to:

- participate in a shared intellectual conversation with the IWU community;
- express ideas about a common text that many IWU students, faculty, staff, and alumni are reading;
- respond respectfully to ideas others bring to the discussion.

It is also an opportunity to model for and mentor students on faculty expectations and the engaged classroom dynamics they will encounter at IWU. The Class of 2019 was further invited to participate in the inaugural First-Year Summer Reading Essay Contest to apply their voices and perspectives by reflecting on their reading of *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* by Kevin Roose.

Students were challenged to respond to the prompt, "What did you learn from this book that might be significant as you begin this new chapter in your life?" Twenty-eight students responded with submissions, and a diverse group of first-year advisors and faculty representing disciplines across the curriculum evaluated responses and chose the three outstanding essays, which will be made available on the digital commons later this month.

This year's winners:

First Prize: "Still a Jerk" by Benjamin Alan Zentner

Honorable Mention: "Between Two Worlds" by Emma Marie Haan

Honorable Mention: "The Complexity of Balance" by
Kathryn Anne Halford



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