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### Asking the Big Questions

IWU Magazine

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**In their teaching and research, Illinois Wesleyan professors grapple with some of our most challenging concerns.**

These days, when people have a question, the solution is often as simple as typing a few key words into a computer search engine. Who won the 1946 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress? Where is the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte? The answers pop up faster than a bag of microwave popcorn.

Then there are questions whose solutions aren't found in neat little packages; the kind that can keep you up at night if you let them. At universities such as Illinois Wesleyan, pursuing such questions is an honored tradition — a quest that has fueled countless classroom discussions and been transformed into notable artistic and scholarly achievements.

The following stories (see links below) look at three of the many University professors who — through long hours of study and lightning flashes of inspiration — continue that tradition. Their work is a testament to the labor and rewards that come when one dares to tackle a really tough question.