



2017

President's Convocation (2017 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

September 6, 2017

11:00 AM

Celebrating the New Academic Year

PROGRAM

President Eric R. Jensen, *Presiding*

Please turn off phones and electronic devices

Prelude: Ascend the Mountain, A Walk with Dr. King. James Lee III
Susan Klotzbach, *organist* (b. 1975)

*Processional (*please stand as the Platform Party enters*)
March for a Joyous Occasion Conrad Susa
Susan Klotzbach, *organist* (1935-2013)

Invocation for the New Year (*remain standing*) Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Welcome Eric R. Jensen
President

Greetings from Student Senate. Will Teichman '19
President, Student Senate

Introduction of Speaker. Mark Brodl
Provost

Address "The Half-Life of Freedom:
Race and Justice in America Today" Jelani Cobb

Alma Wesleyana (*please stand and join in singing*) NATIONAL HYMN
Susan Klotzbach, *organist*; Elisabeth Williams '20, *soprano* 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)

Closing. President Jensen

*Recessional (*please stand and wait for the Platform Party to leave*)
Every Time I Feel the Spirit (2014) Richard Elliott
Susan Klotzbach, *organist*

* *Audience will please stand*



JELANI COBB

Ira A. Lipman Professor of Journalism
at the Columbia University
Graduate School of Journalism
Staff writer at *The New Yorker*

Described as one of the “brightest, most poignant writers and observers of the moment that we’re in,” Jelani Cobb writes about the complexity of race in America. He is a graduate of Howard University, where he began a continuing friendship with Ta-Nehisi Coates, author of Illinois Wesleyan’s Summer Reading Program selection, *Between the World and Me*.

“I write because a different world is possible—we must always remember that,” Cobb has said of his work.

His books include *Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress*, an insider’s exploration of hip hop titled *To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic*, and *The Devil & Dave Chappelle and Other Essays*.

As a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, Cobb has penned articles about race, culture, the police and injustice. In 2015, he received the Sidney Hillman Prize for Opinion & Analysis Journalism for his columns—praised for combining “the strengths of an on-the-scene reporter, a public intellectual, a teacher, a vivid writer, a subtle moralist, and an accomplished professional historian.”

His investigative series *Policing the Police*, which aired on PBS Frontline in 2016, won the 2017 Walter Bernstein Award from the Writer’s Guild of America. His articles and essays have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *Essence*, *Vibe*, *The Progressive*, and *TheRoot.com*.

Cobb received his doctorate in American History at Rutgers University. Before joining the Columbia Journalism School, he was an associate professor of history at the University of Connecticut, where he directed the Africana Studies Institute.

He has received Fellowships from the Fulbright and Ford Foundations. His forthcoming book is *Antidote to Revolution: African American Anticommunism and the Struggle for Civil Rights, 1931*.

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 2021 was further invited to participate in the First-Year Summer Reading Essay Contest to apply their voices and perspectives by reflecting on their reading of *Between the World and Me*.

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?” 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: *The Manufacturing of the MENA Race*
by Gabrielle Ghaderi

Honorable Mention: *Sibling Worlds*
by David Nicolas Lopez Moncayo

Honorable Mention: *The Manmade Construct of Race*
by Tatum Zsorey

