



2018

President's Convocation (2018 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



Westbrook Auditorium

Presser Hall

September 5, 2018

11:00 AM

Celebrating the New Academic Year

PROGRAM

President Eric R. Jensen, *Presiding*

Please turn off phones and electronic devices

Prelude: Passacaglia in C Minor, BWV 582. *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Susan Klotzbach, *organist* (1685–1750)

*Processional (*please stand as the Platform Party enters*)
Trumpet Voluntary, Opus 6, No. 5 *John Stanley*
(1712–1786)

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

Welcome *Eric R. Jensen*
President

Greetings from Student Senate. *Bob Ladd '19*
President, Student Senate

Introduction of Speaker. *Mark Brodli*
Provost

Address “The Transformation of the American Family” *Amy Ellis Nutt*

Alma Wesleyana (*please stand and join in singing*) NATIONAL HYMN
Madeline Hanrahan '21, soloist *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*)
Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

* *Audience will please stand*



AMY ELLIS NUTT

Pulitzer Prize winner Amy Ellis Nutt is the author of Illinois Wesleyan's Summer Reading Program selection *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of An American Family*, which tells the story of Wyatt Maines in her journey of asserting her gender identity and "becoming Nicole."

In the process, Nicole challenges those around her to reassess their previously held beliefs in light of a rapidly changing world. Similarly, the University's annual intellectual theme of Changing Climates challenges the campus community to examine and re-examine the racial, religious, political, environmental and economic climates present in our world.

Currently a neuroscience and mental health writer at The Washington Post, Nutt holds a prolific background in journalistic writing as a Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard University, a Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton, and an instructor of journalism at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Nutt was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for her feature series *The Wreck of the Lady Mary*, about the 2009 sinking of a fishing boat off the coast of New Jersey. She was also a 2009 Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing for *The Accidental Artist*, later made into a book, *Shadows Bright as Glass*. *Becoming Nicole* is Nutt's second New York Times bestseller, following her 2014 co-authored book *The Teenage Brain*.

Nutt previously worked as a journalist for the Star-Ledger in Newark, New Jersey and Sports Illustrated, for which she received several honors. Her awards have included the Distinguished Writing Award (non-deadline writing) from the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Pinnacle of Excellence Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Front Page Award from the Newswomen's Club of New York.

Nutt graduated from Smith College with a double major in English and philosophy. She holds master's degrees in philosophy from M.I.T. and journalism from Columbia University. Nutt was born in Staten Island, New York, grew up in New Jersey and lives in Washington, D.C.

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 2022 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 *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*.

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 Power of Transformation* by Jared Schneider

Honorable Mention: *Parallel Transitions of American Towns and Families* by Kathryn Vogler

Honorable Mention: *Girl in a Boy Body: The Complexity of Being Oneself* by Amanda Smith

