Illinois Wesleyan University

Founder's Day

February 16, 1983
Once he was known as the Bloomington Baron, but that was more than a decade ago. Steve Vogel was in the Army then, assigned as news and special events director for the American Forces Radio Network in Nuremberg, Germany, where he hosted the “Bavarian Bandstand” show. As an audience-building gimmick, he developed a format around news from his former college town and soon he had 50,000 G.I. listeners tuning in to his stories about Central Illinois.

Today Vogel, who graduated from IWU with a political science degree in 1968, is news director of radio stations WJBC-WBNQ and last week was a nominee for the prestigious Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for outstanding performance in broadcast journalism. Vogel's skills as a reporter, broadcaster and editorial writer have earned him numerous state and national awards since the Minonk native began his communications career as a Pantagraph Scholar and sportswriter during his Wesleyan student years.

Last spring he became a commentator on the Voice of America’s weekly “American Viewpoints” program. The VOA is the nation’s largest international broadcast service and is beamed to all parts of the world to an audience estimated at 100 million persons. Vogel’s voice will be used on the English language broadcasts but also translated into 38 other languages to help “convey a cross-section of American opinion and comment to the world,” according to a VOA spokesman.


After earning a master’s degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and completing his Army tour of duty in Germany, Vogel returned to Bloomington in 1971 as host of the popular “Problems and Solutions” program, believed to be the longest running call-in radio show in America. It was originated in November 1953 by another Wesleyan alumnus, Fred Muxfeld ’43, and still features an exchange of advice, opinion and ideas. Under Vogel’s leadership, “P & S” gradually shifted from its early emphasis on household problems to questions of greater social and political relevance. Guest experts are invited to join Vogel on the air and respond to listeners’ queries.

One of his favorite on-air memories is moderating an ERA debate between Betty Friedan and Phyllis Schlafly live on “P & S;” another was interviewing an Illinois athlete live from the Munich Olympics.

He was named news director of the Bloomington stations in 1975, and has been a member of the IWU Alumni Council since 1980, serving on the publications and campus events committees.

Vogel and his wife, Mary, are parents of Robert, Eric and Krista.
ORGAN PRELUDE ......................... Professor David Gehrenbeck, Organist
Prelude and Fugue in A minor (1856) ......................... Johannes Brahms
(in honor of the sesquicentennial of the composer's birth) (1833-1897)

PROCESSIONAL
Voluntary in C ............................................ Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)

INVOCATION ....................................... Chaplain William L. White

PART SONG ............................................. The Collegiate Choir
Professor David Nott, Director
Marcia Hishman, Piano

Der Abend, Op. 64, #2 ............................ Johannes Brahms
Sink, oh shining god—
meadows thirst for evening’s refreshing dew,
earth’s inhabitants languish,
your horses pull feebly—
sink, oh, shining Phoebus, your chariot.
Look at her as she
beckons from the crystal sea!
She knows your heart?
Your horses fly faster,
Thetis beckons.
And from the chariot
springs its driver.
Cupid springs into her waiting arms.
The horses pause
to drink the cooling waters.
The humours of night
arise softly,
into the heavens.
And sweet love, softly follows.
Phoebus rests.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER ........................ President Robert S. Eckley

ADDRESS ................................................... Steven J. Vogel

PART SONG ............................................. The Collegiate Choir
Nächterns, Op. 112, #2 ............................. Johannes Brahms
By night
the deranged awaken,
and spirits deceive and
confuse you.
By night the frost falls
and your quest for flowers
is in vain.
Sorrows and anxiety descend
during the night.
And morning witnesses
your tears.
Kugler—tr. Jill McDonald

ALMA WESLEYANA
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 dream till dawn
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan!

ORGAN POSTLUDE
Prelude and Fugue in G minor (1857) ........................ Johannes Brahms