



9-9-2020

## President's Convocation (2020 Program and video)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



September 9, 2020

11:00 AM

*Celebrating the New Academic Year*

# PROGRAM

President S. Georgia Nugent, *Presiding*

## Processional

Praeludium in G, op. 37/1 – Felix Mendelssohn . . . . . Kevin Chunko  
*organist*

Invocation . . . . . Monica Corsaro  
*Interim University Chaplain*

Welcome . . . . . S. Georgia Nugent  
*President*

Greetings from Student Senate . . . . . Freya Jennison '22  
*Student Senate President*

Address . . . . . President Nugent

## Presentation of The Kemp Foundation

Award for Teaching Excellence – 2020 . . . . . Toni Jenkins  
*Kemp Foundation*

Announcement of 2021 Kemp Honoree for Teaching Excellence . . . . Mark Brodl  
*Provost and Dean of Faculty*

Investiture of Endowed Professors . . . . . President Nugent  
*Provost Brodl*

Closing Remarks . . . . . President Nugent

Alma Wesleyana (*please stand and join in singing*) . . . . . NATIONAL HYMN  
Cameron Merker '23 *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 dream til dawn,  
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—  
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

—*Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)*

## Recessional

Allegro maestoso e vivace  
(from Organ Sonata II in C minor) – Felix Mendelssohn . . . . Kevin Chunko



**Tim Rettich**  
**Professor of Chemistry**

Recipient of The Kemp Foundation Award  
for Teaching Excellence — 2020

“A Grain of Salt”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=YvKjT1MeFnc&feature=youtu.be>

Professor of Chemistry Timothy Rettich joined Illinois Wesleyan University as an assistant professor in 1981. He was promoted to associate professor in 1987, and to professor in 2004.

Rettich's general area of interest is physical chemistry, especially thermodynamics and kinetics, with a focus on gas-liquid exchanges including gas liquid solubility, solution thermodynamics, and condensed phase photochemical kinetics. Along with teaching introductory General Chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan, Rettich also teaches upper-level Physical Chemistry I (Thermodynamics) and Physical Chemistry II (Kinetics).

Photochemical smog, greenhouse gases, and ozone depletion are common examples of environmental problems that involve Rettich's area of research, which has been widely published. According to Rettich, understanding the nature of these problems is the first step toward finding a solution. Previous collaborative work done by Rettich and students has focused on photochemical reactions of nitrous acid in the presence of radical scavengers.

Rettich earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University.

## NEW ENDOWED PROFESSORS



**Ann Eckhardt**

**Deloris Helsley Ascher Professorship of Nursing**

Eckhardt joined Illinois Wesleyan as a visiting instructor in 2011 before becoming an assistant professor in 2012. She was promoted to associate professor in 2018.

A 2003 Illinois Wesleyan alumna, Eckhardt earned a B.S.N. from IWU and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago where she served as a teaching assistant for a number of graduate and undergraduate courses. Her nursing experience includes three years in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit where she cross trained to Surgical/Trauma and Neonatal Intensive Care and 12 years as an Administrative House Officer.

Eckhardt has published qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods articles in the areas of coronary artery bypass surgery and heart disease symptomatology, and is engaged in international research. She is also the Associate Editor for *Jarvis Physical Examination and Health Assessment*.



**Robert Erlewine**

**Isaac Funk Professorship**

A member of the Illinois Wesleyan faculty since 2006, Erlewine was promoted to professor in 2018. Erlewine served as Chair of the Religion Department from 2016-19. He earned a bachelor's degree from St Mary's College of Maryland, a master's in philosophy from Boston College, and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Rice University.

Erlewine teaches such courses as Facing Evil, Religious Tolerance and Pluralism, Philosophers Read the Bible, and American Jewish Thought. His scholarship explores the complexity of religious life in the modern world, examining how religious traditions reconcile monotheist beliefs with contemporary values of tolerance and diversity and the ways that minority religious traditions like Judaism were shaped by and helped shape the understanding of religion in the larger cultures of which they lived.

Erlewine is the author of two books, *Monotheism and Tolerance: Recovering a Religion of Reason* (2010), and *Judaism and the West: From Hermann Cohen to Joseph Soloveitchik* (2016), and more than 20 articles and essays. His forthcoming book, *Thunder in the Soul: To Be Known by God*, compiles important writings of the civil rights activist Abraham Joshua Heschel and will be published in 2021. Erlewine also served as managing editor for the *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* from 2011-2015, and was visiting professor in 2019 at Dartmouth College.

## NEW ENDOWED PROFESSORS



**Will Jaeckle**

**Semour and Diana Galina Endowed Professorship**

Jaeckle began teaching at Illinois Wesleyan as an adjunct assistant professor in 1996 before becoming an assistant professor in 2001; he was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2015. Jaeckle earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Southern California.

Jaeckle's research is focused on aspects of the life history, development, physiology, and ecology of invertebrate animals, with particular emphasis on their free-living developmental stages called larvae. His primary research interests relate to understanding how and in what form aquatic invertebrates and their larvae acquire food from the environment.

The author of numerous publications, Jaeckle is currently working with IWU research students to assess the ability of aquatic animals to take up dissolved organic materials (DOM) from marine and fresh waters, the degree to which absorbed DOM is distributed throughout their bodies, and ultimately, the importance of DOM as a source of energy and nutrition.



**Michael Theune**

**Robert W. Harrington Endowed Professorship**

A member of the Illinois Wesleyan faculty since 2002, Theune was promoted to professor in 2015. Theune earned bachelor's degrees from Hope College and the University of Oxford, a master's from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston.

Theune's courses focus on creative writing, poetry, and Romantic literature. Theune writes criticism and poetry, and his scholarship has three main concerns: the poetic turn (places where poems radically change their focus); the assessment of poetry; and Romantic poet John Keats.

Theune has authored numerous essays and reviews, and he has edited, co-edited or co-authored three books: *Keats's Negative Capability: New Origins and Afterlives* (co-editor, with Brian Rejack, 2019); *We Need to Talk: A New Method for Evaluating Poetry* (co-author, with Bob Broad, 2018); *Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns* (editor, 2007).

## PAST HONOREES FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

- 1960 William T. Beadles, *Insurance*
- 1961 Wayne W. Wantland, *Biology*
- 1962 R. Dwight Drexler, *Piano*
- 1963 Elizabeth H. Oggel, *English*
- 1964 Rupert Kilgore, *Art*
- 1965 Dorothea S. Franzen, *Biology*
- 1966 Joseph H. Meyers, *English*
- 1967 Marie J. Robinson, *Speech*
- 1968 Bunyon H. Andrew, *History*
- 1969 Wendell W. Hess, *Chemistry*
- 1970 Jerry Stone, *Religion*
- 1971 Doris C. Meyers, *Philosophy*
- 1972 John Ficca, *Drama*
- 1973 Robert Burda, *English*
- 1974 Max A. Pape, *Sociology*
- 1975 Lucile Klauser, *Education*
- 1976 R. Bedford Watkins, Jr., *Music*
- 1977 Harvey F. Beutner, *English*
- 1978 Frank D. Starkey, *Chemistry*
- 1979 Fred B. Brian, *Art*
- 1980 Sammye Crawford Greer, *English*
- 1981 Jerry M. Israel, *History*
- 1982 John D. Heyl, *History*
- 1983 J. Robert Hippensteele, *Biology*
- 1984 Larry M. Colter, *Philosophy*
- 1985 Sue Ann Huseman, *French*
- 1986 Bruce B. Criley, *Biology*
- 1987 Michael B. Young, *History*
- 1988 Emily Dunn Dale, *Sociology*
- 1989 Pamela Buchanan Muirhead, *English*
- 1990 Thomas A. Griffiths, *Biology*
- 1991 Robert C. Bray, *English*
- 1992 John D. Wenum, *Political Science*
- 1993 Mona J. Gardner, *Business Administration*
- 1994 Paul E. Bushnell, *History*
- 1995 James D. Matthews, *French*
- 1996 Kathleen O'Gorman, *English*
- 1997 Jared Brown, *Theatre Arts*
- 1998 W. Michael Weis, *History*
- 1999 Michael C. Seeborg, *Economics*
- 2000 Teodora O. Amoloza, *Sociology*
- 2001 Carole A. Myscofski, *Religion*
- 2002 Tari Renner, *Political Science*
- 2003 Carolyn Nadeau, *Hispanic Studies*
- 2004 James Plath, *English*
- 2005 Christopher Prendergast, *Sociology*
- 2006 Mary Ann Bushman, *English*
- 2007 James P. Sikora, *Sociology*
- 2008 Marina Balina, *Russian Studies*
- 2009 Jonathan Dey, *Biology*
- 2010 Wes Chapman, *English*
- 2011 Dan Terkla, *English*
- 2012 William Munro, *Political Science*
- 2013 Narendra Jaggi, *Physics*
- 2014 Rebecca Roesner, *Chemistry*
- 2015 Kathleen Montgomery, *Political Science*
- 2016 Linda French, *Physics*
- 2017 Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy, *Anthropology*
- 2018 Victoria Noltkamper Folse, *Nursing*
- 2019 Carmela Ferradans, *Hispanic Studies*