1991

Founders' Day Convocation (1991 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University
Founders' Day Convocation

February 20, 1991  11:00 a.m.
Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall
Governor Jim Edgar

Jim Edgar was elected in November 1990 to serve as the 38th governor of Illinois, the first in 62 years to succeed a governor of his own party.

Before becoming the state's chief executive, Edgar built a highly-acclaimed record as an innovative and effective secretary of state. In addition to leading a drunk driving crackdown that earned national recognition, Edgar used his position as state librarian to pioneer an adult literacy program that became a model for the nation. He has been hailed by educators for his work as chairman of the Illinois Literacy Council and has received awards from the U.S. Department of Education and the American Library Trustees Association for his work on the education front.

Edgar, 44, is a native of Charleston and a 1968 graduate of Eastern Illinois University. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Judson College in Elgin. He began his government service in 1968, serving as an aide to Illinois House and Senate leaders. In 1976 he was elected to the House from the 53rd Legislative District and was re-elected in 1978. From April 1979 to December 1980 he served as director of legislative affairs for the Office of the Governor.

After being appointed secretary of state in 1981 to fill a vacancy, Edgar won election in 1982 and garnered reelection in 1986 by the largest plurality of any statewide candidate in Illinois history.

He is the first elected governor in 66 years to have served previously in the General Assembly and only the second secretary of state to be elected governor.

Professor Theodore R. Williams

Dr. Williams, 60, a member of the faculty of the College of Wooster (Ohio) since 1959, is nationally known for his work in bioanalytical chemistry with a special research interest in human eye tissue and teeth. A native of Washington, D.C., he was educated at Howard University, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Connecticut. He has held a visiting professorship at Harvard, conducted research there and at Carnegie-Mellon, Case Western Reserve and elsewhere, and lectured at Yale, Ohio State and other institutions from Delaware to Florida.

He has received numerous awards over the past 30 years, most recently, the Percy L. Julian Award bestowed by the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers last year. As a member of the American Chemical Society, Dr. Williams has held a number of executive positions, serving on the editorial board of the Journal of Chemical Education, as chair of its subcommittee on quantitative analysis and currently as a member of the ACS committee for granting awards for the teaching of analytical chemistry. He has also published 41 journal articles.

Dr. Williams has been deeply involved in student research at Wooster. Summer collaborative research has been a tradition there for more than 30 years as a result of National Science Foundation grants. More recently, through the efforts of Dr. Williams, the NSF has funded the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at the College.
ORGAN PRELUDE ................................................ Professor David Gehrenbeck, Organist
Fantasie in F minor, K. 608 .........................................Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

PROCESSIONAL
Rigaudon ........................................................................ Andrè Campra
(1660-1744)

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

WELCOME ........................................................................ President Minor Myers, jr.

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES ....................... Provost Ellen Hurwitz and
President Minor Myers, jr.

ADDRESS ................................................................. The Honorable Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois

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 til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on –
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan!

Professor W.E. Schultz
(1887-1964)

RECESSIONAL/POSTLUDE
Rondo in G. ................................................................................. John Bull
(1563-1628)