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## The Kemp Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony (2021 Program and Video)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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# The Kemp Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony



April 14, 2021

The Kemp Foundation's  
Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony

Prelude

In die ist Freude, BWV 615..... J. S. Bach  
(1685–1750)

Kevin Chunko, Organist

Welcome .....President S. Georgia Nugent

Presentation of Speaker.....President Nugent

Presentation of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence – 2021 ..... Toni Jenkins  
Kemp Foundation

Address .....Tom Lutze  
Professor of History

“Up Against the System!”: Investigating Systemic Problems;  
Inventing Systemic Solutions”

Announcement of 2022 Kemp Honoree for Teaching Excellence .....Provost Mark Brodl

Tribute to Retiring Faculty.....President Nugent

Closing.....President Nugent

Postlude

Prelude in C, “Fanfare” (BWV 531).....J. S. Bach  
(1685–1750)



*Tom Lutze*  
*Professor of History*

*Recipient of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence — 2021*

“Up Against the System!”: Investigating Systemic Problems;  
Inventing Systemic Solutions”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_t401qNOLs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_t401qNOLs)

A member of Illinois Wesleyan University’s faculty since 1996, Professor of History Tom Lutze specializes in Asian history and teaches a wide variety of courses ranging from introductory surveys of China and Japan to focused courses on 20th Century Asia, including WWII in the Pacific, the Chinese Revolution, Modern Japan, and the Vietnam Wars.

Lutze’s research and writing center on the intellectual, social, and political roles of the urban and rural middle classes in the Chinese Revolution from the 1930s onward. His first book, *China’s Inevitable Revolution: Rethinking America’s Loss to the Communists* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2007), explores the pivotal battle between the United States and the Chinese Communists for the allegiance of the urban liberal democrats during the civil war, 1946-1949.

More recently, Lutze worked on a new edited volume titled, *Radicalism, Revolution, and Reform in Modern China: Essays in Honor of Maurice Meisner* (2010). His chapter, “Post-Socialist Capitalism in Rural China,” examines the economic basis – in particular the controversies over land ownership – at the root of tens of thousands of peasant protests in China.

Lutze is Coordinator of the Asian Studies team in the International Studies Program. He served from 2005 to 2011 as co-editor of the *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for the Teaching of Asia in the Liberal Arts*. In 2013, he was honored by Beijing Union University with a special appointment as “long-term visiting professor.”

Lutze completed graduate studies at Cornell University, Peking University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he earned a Ph.D. in 1996.

## Faculty Retirements



**Melinda Baur**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Melinda joined Illinois Wesleyan in 1994 and has continually supported the growth and improvement of our department through her diligent and tireless efforts in many different capacities. An inspired teacher, Melinda has been a champion for laboratory curriculum development, a trusted mentor to students engaged in her research on the biochemistry of taste, and a driving force in our long journey to developing a Biochemistry major. Melinda is very creative – whether designing an innovative travel course to Hawaii on the biochemistry of agricultural and food, developing an interactive chemistry workbook for our nursing students, or promoting hands-on learning in the ever-popular Chemistry in the Kitchen course, she always strives to give the very best education to our students. Many of Melinda’s curricular initiatives are inspired by her expertise in the biochemistry of food. Thus, in addition to developing a deep understanding of biological molecules and the intricacies of metabolism and cell signaling, a generation of IWU students will see ceviche, meringue, rainbow papayas, and even flat chocolate chip cookies, through a biochemical lens. One of Melinda’s greatest strengths is her ability to teach a wide variety of courses – General Chemistry, Basic Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Organic Chemistry. While her formal training is in biochemistry, the organic chemists describe her as an organic chemist in disguise. Melinda has made significant contributions to revising our Organic Chemistry laboratory curriculum and pedagogy. Even when Organic Chemistry was not a formal part of her teaching assignment, she remained devoted to attending and evaluating 15 hours’ worth of laboratory oral exams each spring! While we hope student’s memories of the lab orals are mostly sweet, we know faculty and students alike have cherished Melinda’s guided adventures in making chocolate truffles and gourmet caramel apples. Melinda is also a familiar face to the young people of Bloomington/Normal, as she has hosted scores of chemical demonstration events both at IWU and in the local schools. Because Melinda is so multi-talented, we will miss her many times over.

Melinda will remain an important part of our IWU and Chemistry/Biochemistry communities. We wish her a joyous retirement and all the best in her new adventures.



**Chris Callahan**  
*Professor*  
*French and Francophone Studies*

Chris arrived at IWU in 1989 and is one of our most esteemed long-term colleagues not only in the department but across campus. Chris graduated from Notre Dame, received his MA from Middlebury in Paris and his doctorate in French Linguistics from Indiana University. He has held teaching positions at U Louisville, Notre Dame, U Nebraska and at the Université Internationale d’Eté en Narbonne.

Chris is both an accomplished scholar and musician and as such in his professional life has merged his expertise in linguistics with his passion for music in his scholarship. He has published over two dozen articles, two books and two translations, about French Medieval lyric.

Chris is internationally recognized as the expert on Thibaut de Champagne, a thirteenth-century political and military leader as well as a *trouvère*, that is a poet-composer roughly contemporary with and influenced by the troubadours but who composed their works in the northern dialects of France. The first known *trouvère* was Chrétien de Troyes (fl.

1160s–1180s) and the *trouvères* continued to flourish until about 1300. Some 2130 *trouvère* poems have survived; of these, at least two-thirds have melodies.

And it is on this figure that Chris co-authored, *Thibaut de Champagne. Les Chansons, textes et mélodies* (Paris: Honoré Champion [Champion Classiques], 2018). Critics state that “Thibaut is simply the most important and most highly skilled French poet of the 13th century.... The appearance of this exquisite musical and text edition marks an important moment for trouvère song in print. This is the first reader-friendly edition to show the whole wealth of musical diversity that we have for Thibaut’s songs.”

Chris has also produced three recordings of Motets and other musical French verse and together with Bill Hudson, organized a 2018 NEH seminar here at IWU for College and University Teachers entitled “Courtly Lyric in the Medieval French tradition: Poetry as Performance.”

In the classroom he regularly delivered courses on French culture and civilization and for several years, a popular travel courses to England and France. Most recently he designed the course: French for Social Justice and Human Rights. Chris has served as faculty advisor to French Ciné Club, faculty advisor to Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society, and has been both French Section Coordinator, and co-chair of the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Department.

Beyond all of his professional accomplishments, Chris has been a wonderful colleague and friend. His soft-spoken approach, his supportive attitude, and his thoughtfulness about how to best serve our students will be missed by so many of us across the university. We wish Chris all the best in his retirement!



## **Irv Epstein**

***Ben and Susan Rhodes Endowed Professor in Peace and Justice  
Chair of Educational Studies, Professor of Educational Studies***

If the old adage is true that a messy desk is the sign of a brilliant mind, then Irv truly is brilliant. He once quipped that his middle school students from years ago, dismayed by his haphazard organizational style, bought him a file organizer, which he subsequently lost.

Irv indeed has a keen intellect, and so it is fitting that he has been a lifelong educator, launching his career by teaching high school in Australia. Upon returning to the States,

Irv taught in Los Angeles inspiring students and regaling them with tales of protests and worthwhile shenanigans. After teaching in Hong Kong and Taiwan for a time, Irv returned once again to the States, this time entering higher education, a natural move for an individual exceptionally adept at grappling with complexities and poised to become a lifelong advocate for social justice.

Irv eventually settled here at IWU in 1996 and has been a mainstay on campus lo’ these past 25 years. Fueled by his passion for social justice, Irv has served as department chair of Educational Studies and as director and founding member of the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice. While serving as Associate Dean of the Faculty for three years, Irv brought such innovative programs as Teaching Circles to campus, a program that helped many of us hone our pedagogical craft.

A well-recognized and highly respected scholar, Irv has written well over fifty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has penned or edited six books. It is hard to imagine how one could accomplish even more than this, yet Irv also managed to serve on the Scholars at Risk advisory board, unceasingly advocating for academic freedom. Seeming to never sleep, in his spare time, Irv was a board member and parliamentarian to the board of the Comparative and International Education Society and, as if that weren’t enough, is the co-editor or associate editor of three scholarly publications. As a testament to his vast achievements, Irv was named the Ben and Susan Rhodes Endowed Professor in Peace and Justice in 2014, a true and fitting honor.

Certainly Irv has earned his retirement. Yet we have no doubt he will continue to make meaningful and important contributions to education both locally and globally, and while he may get some well-deserved physical rest, we all know his mind will never be at rest. Please join us in congratulating Irv on his retirement. You will be missed, Hurricane Irv.



**Kathleen O’Gorman**

***Professor  
English***

Dr. Kathleen O’Gorman is the professor who coordinates her earrings with the literary text that she is teaching at any given moment. Her dog-eared copy of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* is the stuff of legend in the English Department. And let’s not even talk about the Jell-O trout that she created for her students when they read and discussed Richard Brautigan’s *Trout Fishing in America*. Dr. O’Gorman is that singular professor who knows exactly how to bring literary texts to life for her students.

Her scholarly career has been one of voracious appetites. When she earned her PhD from Notre Dame in 1981, her research interests included modernism and postmodernism, and over the years, she has continually expanded the breadth and depth of her intellectual curiosities. Over the years, she has offered courses that focus on the avant-garde, Latinx literature, and David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*.

Not only has she engaged in scholarship, but she is a creative writer as well. She has traveled the world to conduct research for her work that has been published in *The Silent History*, an avant-garde fiction project that was conceived as an iPhone app and continues to be collaboratively written by authors all over the planet. Multiple times, her love of travel was what inspired her to lead dozens of students to London and Barcelona so that they could appreciate the provocations and pleasures of study abroad.

Anyone who knows Dr. O’Gorman knows that she is an impassioned advocate for the basic human rights of children who have been detained at the U.S./Mexico border. She has traveled to Texas multiple times to volunteer as a translator for those who are the most vulnerable, and her work made national news when she was featured in a cover story in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

In her thirty-five years at IWU, she has mentored doctors, lawyers, business leaders, professors, authors, and activists, all of whom admire and adore her for the ways in which she continually challenges and inspires them – to be more imaginative, more empathetic, more daring. We congratulate Dr. O’Gorman on a magnificent career. We will miss you so much.



**Mike Weis**

***Professor  
History***

Professor Michael Weis has been a valued teacher and colleague at Illinois Wesleyan University for more than three decades. During that time, he has been awarded and has earned recognition by students and faculty for his teaching excellence. This is most apparent in the fact that he has received the “Dupont Award for Teaching Excellence” (awarded by faculty), and the Student Senate’s “Teacher of the Year Award” (awarded by students).

Professor Weis has mentored many students over the years who are now teaching at schools throughout Illinois and elsewhere. Moreover, his mentoring of IWU students is evident in the many students he has taught and advised who have gone on to graduate school and have developed successful careers in higher education, government, diplomacy, business, and international relations. His emphasis on international relations is evident

throughout his course offerings on Latin America, the United States and even in his course on “The Beatles and Their World”. This international focus is arguably his most important impact on Illinois Wesleyan. He was instrumental in developing and sustaining the International Studies Program. In this area Professor Weis has impacted his students, his colleagues, and the Bloomington-Normal community, the latter through his multiple interviews over the years on local radio stations and via his various personal talks with business leaders. I’m sure I speak for everyone who has had the pleasure to work closely with Professor Weis when I say he has been an important and congenial colleague and campus leader, one who will be dearly missed. And many of us also have the pleasure of calling him “friend”.

## *Adjunct Faculty Recognition*



**Emily Barr**  
*Adjunct Instructor*  
*Sociology*

Emily Barr joined IWU in 2014 as an Adjunct Instructor in Sociology. She has inspired her students both inside and outside the classroom through the kind of experiential learning necessary to truly understand the field of social work. Emily’s Profession of Social Work class partnered with the Midwest Food Bank during the pandemic, the first time a class had ever engaged with them for an entire semester, and it was a win-win for all. Students learned about the foundational principles in social work, but then were able to apply those principles while giving back to a local non-profit organization. Her May Term Social Work in Action course also has coordinated workshops to help low-income residents expunge or seal criminal records for minor, non-violent crimes. Through many other experiences like this during her time at IWU, Emily has instilled in her students the importance of community and a commitment to social causes. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Sociology Program, thank you for your years of service to the IWU and Bloomington-Normal community.



**Cecilia Sanchez**  
*Adjunct Instructor*  
*Hispanic Studies*

Cecilia Sánchez joined IWU in 1991 as a Spanish instructor in what was then the Department of Foreign Languages. She has been a strong presence in our Spanish language program, not only through teaching but also as a cultural ambassador of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Latin America, and more specifically of her native country of Chile. Through her music and dance performances, we learned about La nueva canción chilena, and through her many public poetry readings, we came to appreciate the lyric beauty of Pablo Neruda’s Odas Elementales. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Hispanic Studies Program, congratulations on your 30 years of service to the IWU community.

*Thank you all for your service and dedication to Illinois Wesleyan.  
Congratulations and best wishes!*



## PAST HONOREES FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

1960	William T. Beadles, <i>Insurance</i>	1991	Robert C. Bray, <i>English</i>
1961	Wayne W. Wantland, <i>Biology</i>	1992	John D. Wenum, <i>Political Science</i>
1962	R. Dwight Drexler, <i>Piano</i>	1993	Mona J. Gardner, <i>Business Administration</i>
1963	Elizabeth H. Oggel, <i>English</i>	1994	Paul E. Bushnell, <i>History</i>
1964	Rupert Kilgore, <i>Art</i>	1995	James D. Matthews, <i>French</i>
1965	Dorothea S. Franzen, <i>Biology</i>	1996	Kathleen O’Gorman, <i>English</i>
1966	Joseph H. Meyers, <i>English</i>	1997	Jared Brown, <i>Theatre Arts</i>
1967	Marie J. Robinson, <i>Speech</i>	1998	W. Michael Weis, <i>History</i>
1968	Bunyon H. Andrew, <i>History</i>	1999	Michael C. Seeborg, <i>Economics</i>
1969	Wendell W. Hess, <i>Chemistry</i>	2000	Teodora O. Amoloza, <i>Sociology</i>
1970	Jerry Stone, <i>Religion</i>	2001	Carole A. Myscofski, <i>Religion</i>
1971	Doris C. Meyers, <i>Philosophy</i>	2002	Tari Renner, <i>Political Science</i>
1972	John Ficca, <i>Drama</i>	2003	Carolyn Nadeau, <i>Hispanic Studies</i>
1973	Robert Burda, <i>English</i>	2004	James Plath, <i>English</i>
1974	Max A. Pape, <i>Sociology</i>	2005	Christopher Prendergast, <i>Sociology</i>
1975	Lucile Klauser, <i>Education</i>	2006	Mary Ann Bushman, <i>English</i>
1976	R. Bedford Watkins, Jr., <i>Music</i>	2007	James P. Sikora, <i>Sociology</i>
1977	Harvey F. Beutner, <i>English</i>	2008	Marina Balina, <i>Russian Studies</i>
1978	Frank D. Starkey, <i>Chemistry</i>	2009	Jonathan Dey, <i>Biology</i>
1979	Fred B. Brian, <i>Art</i>	2010	Wes Chapman, <i>English</i>
1980	Sammye Crawford Greer, <i>English</i>	2011	Dan Terkla, <i>English</i>
1981	Jerry M. Israel, <i>History</i>	2012	William Munro, <i>Political Science</i>
1982	John D. Heyl, <i>History</i>	2013	Narendra Jaggi, <i>Physics</i>
1983	J. Robert Hippensteele, <i>Biology</i>	2014	Rebecca Roesner, <i>Chemistry</i>
1984	Larry M. Colter, <i>Philosophy</i>	2015	Kathleen Montgomery, <i>Political Science</i>
1985	Sue Ann Huseman, <i>French</i>	2016	Linda French, <i>Physics</i>
1986	Bruce B. Criley, <i>Biology</i>	2017	Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy, <i>Anthropology</i>
1987	Michael B. Young, <i>History</i>	2018	Victoria Noltkamper Folse, <i>Nursing</i>
1988	Emily Dunn Dale, <i>Sociology</i>	2019	Carmela Ferradans, <i>Hispanic Studies</i>
1989	Pamela Buchanan Muirhead, <i>English</i>	2020	Tim Rettich, <i>Chemistry</i>
1990	Thomas A. Griffiths, <i>Biology</i>		