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The Kemp Foundation's Teaching  
Excellence Award Ceremony Programs

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Excellence Award Ceremony

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4-19-2023

## **The Kemp Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony (2023 Program and Video)**

Illinois Wesleyan University

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# The Kemp Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony



April 19, 2023

The Kemp Foundation's  
Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony

Processional

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba..... G. F. Handel  
(1685-1759)

Invocation ..... Prince Robertson  
*Dean of Students for Inclusion and Advocacy*

Welcome ..... Georgia Nugent  
*President*

Tributes to Retiring Faculty .....President Nugent  
Tian-Xiao He, *Earl and Marian A. Beling Professor of Natural Sciences*  
Meg Miner, *University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor*  
Chuck Springwood, *Professor of Sociology*  
Nancy Sultan, *Professor of Greek and Roman Studies*

Introduction of Speaker .....President Nugent

Presentation of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence — 2023 .....Toni Kemp Jenkins  
*Kemp Foundation*

Address .....Ram Mohan  
*Wendell and Loretta Hess Endowed Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry*  
“Life Lessons from Adventures in a Research Lab”

Announcement of 2024 Kemp Honoree for Teaching Excellence ..... Mark Brodl  
*Provost and Dean of Faculty*

Closing .....President Nugent

Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing) ..... NATIONAL HYMN  
Emma Zimmerman '23 ..... George William Warren  
David Alexander '23, *pianist* ..... (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

Recessional

*Ram Mohan*  
*Wendell and Loretta Hess Endowed Professor of Chemistry*  
*and Chair of Chemistry*

*Recipient of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence — 2023*

“Life Lessons from Adventures in a Research Lab”



Professor Mohan earned a bachelor's (Honors) in chemistry from **Hansraj College in Delhi, India**; a master's in organic chemistry from the **University of Delhi, India**; and a doctorate in organic chemistry from the **University of Maryland Baltimore**. He did postdoctoral work at The **University of Illinois Urbana Champaign** and **started his career at IWU in 1996** where he is currently the Wendell and Loretta Hess Professor of Chemistry.

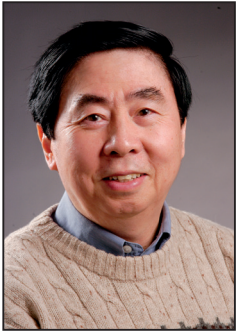
Professor Mohan has taught a variety of courses at IWU ranging from Nursing chemistry to organic chemistry, advanced organic chemistry, and a physical science issues course for non-majors titled “Better Living Through Green chemistry.” Due to his efforts, there has been a significant reduction in the waste generated in the chemistry labs at IWU, reduction in the use of toxic chemicals, and in the greening of our labs.

His research focuses on Green Organic Synthesis using bismuth compounds. His contributions in this field have led to a surge in popularity of bismuth compounds worldwide. A hallmark of his research is that he actively involves IWU students starting in their sophomore year. To date he has supervised over 130 IWU students who have gone on to successful careers in chemistry, medicine, pharmacy and several non-science careers. He has published 66 manuscripts, majority co-authored by IWU students, and many highly cited. He has received over US\$ 1 million in external funding. He has given over 130 talks in 16 different countries. He is especially committed to raising awareness about green chemistry in rural India and often travels to remote parts of the country to educate and raise awareness.

He is the recipient of several awards. A few especially noteworthy ones include:

- **International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Young Observer Award:**  
(Selected as one of eight from the USA)
- **The University of Maryland, Baltimore County 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award.**  
**Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award**
- **Pfizer Pharmaceuticals (St. Louis Green Chemistry Team) Green Chemistry Award**
- **Chemist of The Year 2011** (Illinois Heartland Section of The American Chemical Society).
- **Fulbright Teacher Scholar Award in 2012 and 2019**
- **American Chemical Society's Committee on Environmental Improvement Award**  
for Incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education
- **Professor Mohan just got word that he has been awarded his third Fulbright Academic & Professional Excellence Award for Spring 2024.**

## Faculty Retirements



### **Tian-Xiao He**

#### ***Earl and Marian A. Beling Professor of Natural Sciences and Professor of Mathematics***

Professor Tian-Xiao He joined the IWU faculty in 1991. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Hefei University of Technology in China. He holds two Ph.D.'s in mathematics, one from Dalian Institute of Technology in China and a second one from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining IWU, he taught at Texas A&M University and at Hefei University.

Professor He was awarded the Earl and Marian Beling Professorship of Natural Science in August 2013. He co-organized the Beling Lecture Series, which brought to campus 73 guest speakers.

He published eight books and at least 157 peer-reviewed papers, in addition to 39 earlier publications in Chinese. He has given invited talks at conferences and universities in South Korea, Italy, Spain, Belgium, China, India, Hong Kong, and the US.

He served as a member of scientific and organizing committees of a very impressive number of international conferences. In 2016, he co-organized and brought to campus *The Third International Symposium on Riordan Arrays and Related Topics*. One of his students received accolades from leading mathematicians for her graduate-level contribution at that conference.

He is on the editorial board of 12 journals and is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Advances in Mathematics and Computer Science*, covering the USA, Europe and Asia. He also serves as a referee for 27 journals.

Professor He taught 27 different courses since he joined IWU and developed 6 new courses. He pioneered the introduction of *Wavelet Analysis* in the undergraduate curriculum. One of his most rewarding and outstanding contributions to IWU has been his work with students. He directed more than 26 undergraduate research projects, many of which were Honors Research projects that resulted in joint publications with his students in peer-reviewed journals.

Professor He has been an outstanding member of the IWU faculty. He brought international recognition to the mathematics program. He retires this summer after 32 years of service.



### **Meg Miner**

#### ***University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor***

Meg Miner started her IWU career as a Project Archivist in 2002 and has served as University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian since 2008. She earned a BA in English Literature from Northern Illinois University, graduating magna cum laude in 1999; a Masters of Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001, and a certificate in Special Collections Librarianship in 2012.

During her tenure at IWU, she established an oral history program to address gaps in the university's historical record, increased collaborations with faculty across the university on ways the archives could complement

their teaching goals, and built collections of materials with the goal of preserving the history of student groups, alumni, and affinity groups for future generations. Meg is an invited member of three honor societies: Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society; Phi Kappa Phi, collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines; and the Theta Iota Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classical Studies honor society. She was also a co-recipient of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance's Innovation Award, Organization category for Digital POWRR Project (Preserving Digital Objects With Restricted Resources) and a co-recipient of the Society of American Archivists' Preservation Publication Award for the article "From Theory to Action: "Good Enough" Digital Preservation Solutions for Under-Resourced Cultural Heritage Institutions." However, Meg's greatest accomplishment is her stellar record of working with all in the IWU community, from students to alumni, to help them understand and navigate IWU's history through primary sources, and to see themselves as an integral part of our collective story.



## **Chuck Springwood**

### ***Professor of Sociology***

Anthropologist Clifford Geertz once said "I'm an inveterate fox and not a hedgehog, so I always think you should try everything." Chuck Springwood is, like Geertz, both a consummate anthropologist, and a fox. By this, of course, I mean that Chuck is the kind of intellectual who finds as much meaning in a funeral rite as he does in the ritual we call "baseball," or who sees deep cultural expression in both a traditional ceremonial mask as well as neon anime cosplay. Every time I speak with Chuck, he reminds

me of my favorite professors when I was an undergraduate, the ones who see teaching as modeling a love of knowledge, and for whom there is no such thing as a "digression" because, whether in scholarship, pedagogy, or life, the digression is the true journey. In the decades since Chuck came to IWU in 1996, it seems to me that neoliberalism, rationalization, professionalization, and any number of larger cultural forces mean fewer scholars in the academy in the mold of Chuck. More hedgehogs, fewer foxes, one might say. As such, I would ask you to get in touch with your inner fox, the part of you that wants to try everything, and perhaps name it "Chuck." Because I can think of no better way to honor our colleague, and nothing that would give me greater hope for the future of the liberal arts, than knowing that we each embraced the intellectual curiosity so thoroughly embodied by our own Chuck Springwood.



## **Nancy Sultan**

### ***Professor of Greek and Roman Studies***

Dr. Nancy Sultan's career embodies the quintessential ideals of the liberal arts.

First, a spirit of inquiry and critical thought: Dr. Sultan is a scholar with expansive academic interests in Greek culture, comparative oral poetics, ethnomusicology, Aegean archaeology, classical reception, and gender studies. She earned her PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard in 1991, which was underpinned by her Master's

in Aegean Archaeology from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with many honors earned along the way. Her publications similarly range widely, from the pain of exile and poetics of loss to the joys of Roman comedy, from ancient music to modern icons.

Next, a global perspective and local community: Since 1993, Dr. Sultan has introduced IWU students to the smiles and tears of ancient Mediterranean life and literature both on campus and away. She has challenged

students to analyze the ethics of the antiquities trade in New York and Boston, and she has sung them epic myths among the ancient ruins in Greece. This pedagogical passion earned her the “Excellence in Teaching” award from the American Philological Association (now the Society for Classical Studies) in 2009. Her exceptional classes have enriched the curricula not only of the Greek and Roman Studies Program, which she built from scratch, but also the Languages, History, the Humanities Program, Women’s and Gender Studies, Religion, Art History, and the School of Theater Arts. Her outreach to the Bloomington-Normal community, too, has been significant, from her “Exploring Antiquity” course for Bent Elementary School to the prize-winning plays she wrote for production at the Heartland Theatre.

Finally, creativity: Nancy is looking forward to her retirement in beautiful North Carolina, where she will shift her writing talents to fictional fabrications of ancient lives and dramatic distillations of the academic life she leaves behind. Nancy Sultan is at heart a creative, a teacher and traveler, a friend and a mentor. She was a force of nature on this campus, and she will be missed.

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



## 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. Myscowski, *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*  
 2020 Tim Rettich, *Chemistry*  
 2021 Tom Lutze, *History*  
 2022 Joanne Diaz, *English*