Founders’ Day Convocation (2014 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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We stand in a position of incalculable responsibility to the great wave of population overspreading the valley of the Mississippi. Destiny seems to point out this valley as the depository of the great heart of the nation. From this center, mighty pulsations, for good or evil, must in the future flow, which shall not only affect the fortune of the republic, but reach in their influence other and distant nations of the earth.

Founders of Illinois Wesleyan

Peter Cartwright
C. W. Lewis
J. C. Finley
John S. Barger
James Leaton
John Van Cleve
James F. Jaquess
William J. Rutledge
C. M. Holliday
W. D. R. Trotter

W. H. Allin
W. C. Hobbs
John E. McClun
John Magoun
Thomas Magee
William Wallace
Charles P. Merriman
James Miller
William H. Holmes
Linus Graves

Thomas P. Rogers
John W. Ewing
Lewis Bunn
E. Thomas
Isaac Funk
James Allin
D. Trimmer
Kersey H. Fell
Silas Watters
Reuben Andrus

Founders Gates Inscription

From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

Founders Day Convocation

Illinois Wesleyan University

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
February 19, 2014
11:00 AM
Program

President Richard F. Wilson, Presiding
Professor Michael Seeborg, Robert S. Eckley
Distinguished Professor of Economics, Mace Bearer

Prelude
Susan Klotzbach
Organist
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Fugue in E-flat

Processional (please stand)
Grand-Choeur Dialogue
Eugène Gigout
(1844-1925)

A Founders’ Invocation (remain standing)
Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Founders Day Remarks
Richard F. Wilson
President

Special Music
Meditation from Thais
Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)

Elena Denny ’16, cello; Madeleine Negro, ’16 violin

Introduction of Speaker
Jonathan D. Green
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks
"Changing the World One Game at a Time”
Luma Mufleh

Alma Wesleyana
Ms. Klotzbach
(please stand and join in singing led by Philip Courington ’15)
National Hymn
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 gleam til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

— Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

Recessional (remain standing)
Toccata in B Minor
Eugène Gigout

Processional participants include the University’s Endowed Professors and Faculty Committee Chairs

Luma Mufleh
Humanitarian

Luma Mufleh is known for her humanitarian efforts as an inspirational soccer coach and entrepreneur. Since 2004, she has embraced the community of Clarkston, Ga. by creating the Fugee soccer team, two businesses and a non-profit organization with the intent of helping child survivors and families from war-torn countries.

Ms. Mufleh’s inspiring work as creator and head coach for the Fugees (short for refugee) was the subject of Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman’s Quest to Make a Difference, a book by Warren St. John, a reporter for The New York Times. The book was the University’s selection for the 2013 Summer Reading Program.

Born in Amman, Jordan, Ms. Mufleh graduated with a degree in anthropology from Smith College in Northampton, Mass. She later moved to Georgia, where one day she came across a group of barefoot children playing soccer in the streets in Clarkston. She learned that the children were refugees from countries across the world, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, Somalia and Sudan, who lived under unimaginable hardships and turmoil.

A refugee herself, Ms. Mufleh witnessed the struggles the children were facing while exhibiting their love for the game of soccer. This inspired her to create the soccer team to enrich the children’s lives.

In further support, Ms. Mufleh formed the non-profit organization Fugees Family, Inc. with her friend Tracy Ediger in 2006, which is dedicated to helping young refugees acquire the academic and social skills they need to succeed. The organization, which was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award in 2008, provides a space for children to grow and realize their potential.

Fugees Family, Inc. now hosts many programs, including multiple soccer teams, after-school tutoring, college and career counseling and the Fugees Academy. Current efforts of the organization are focused on creating a permanent home for the Fugees Academy, allowing it to grow to up to 300 students.

As a social entrepreneur, in 2004 Ms. Mufleh also established Fresh Start, a cleaning service, and in 2010 Queen Food Company, a food truck operation, to reach out to adult immigrants and refugees in the community as well.

Ms. Mufleh has appeared on National Public Radio, NBC’s Today Show, CBS and ESPN and has been featured in The New York Times and Sports Illustrated. Her honors include the Smith College Medal and the Common Ground Award.