2016

Founders' Day Convocation (2016 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  W. H. Allin  Thomas P. Rogers
C. W. Lewis  W. C. Hobbs  John W. Ewing
J. C. Finley  John E. McClun  Lewis Bunn
John S. Barger  John Magoun  E. Thomas
James Leaton  Thomas Magee  Isaac Funk
John Van Cleve  William Wallace  James Allin
James F. Jaquess  Charles P. Merriman  D. Trimmer
William J. Rutledge  James Miller  Kersey H. Fell
C. M. Holliday  William H. Holmes  Silas Watters
W. D. R. Trotter  Linus Graves  Reuben Andrus
Eboo Patel

Prominent leader in the movement for interfaith cooperation
Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)

Eboo Patel is a leader at the forefront of the movement for cooperation among different religious faiths and backgrounds. He is the founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a national nonprofit organization that works to make interfaith cooperation a social norm. IFYC, based in Chicago, works with higher education institutions to help realize a future where religion is a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division.

Raised in Glen Ellyn, a Chicago suburb, Dr. Patel holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship. Named by U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s Best Leaders of 2009, Dr. Patel served on President Barack Obama’s Inaugural Faith Council. Dr. Patel wrote the book Acts of Faith (Beacon Press, 2010), his account of growing up as a Muslim in the United States and his process of coming to believe in religious pluralism. Acts of Faith won the Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion, which honors highly significant contributions to religious and spiritual understanding. Dr. Patel is also the author of Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America (Beacon Press, 2013) and the forthcoming publication Interfaith Leadership: A Primer.

Dr. Patel regularly contributes to the public conversation regarding religion in the United States. His work has been featured in the Washington Post, USA Today, Huffington Post, NPR, and CNN. He is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer at colleges and universities across the United States, bringing his message on the topic of religious pluralism to young adults. He has also spoken at events such as the Clinton Global Initiative, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, and as a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum.
Program

President Eric R. Jensen, Presiding
Professor Nancy Sultan
Professor and Director of Greek and Roman Studies, Mace Bearer

Prelude
Susan Klotzbach
Organist

Prelude in E-Flat Major, BWV 552
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Processional (please stand)

Processional March
Enrico Rossi

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

Founders Day Remarks
Eric R. Jensen
President

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

Remarks
“Interfaith Leadership: Engaging Faith and Philosophical Diversity in the 21st Century”
Eboo Patel

Alma Wesleyana

(please stand and join in singing led by John McHugh ’17)
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 till dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

— Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

Recessional (remain standing)
Ms. Klotzbach
Fugue in E-Flat Major, BWV 552
J. S. Bach

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