2017

Founders' Day Convocation (2017 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University
From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University

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.

The Founders of Illinois Wesleyan University

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
Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

Director, Hurley Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Residency Program
Director, Pediatric Public Health Initiative
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Human Development, Michigan State University

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha has become a national figure in the ongoing water crisis in Flint, Michigan. The program director for pediatric residency at Hurley Children’s Hospital, Dr. Hanna-Attisha led a study revealing a steep rise in children’s blood-lead levels after the City of Flint switched water sources. Because of the public health implications, Dr. Hanna-Attisha announced her findings at a press conference in September 2015, ahead of publishing the results in a refereed professional journal. This action came at considerable professional risk. State officials initially disputed the results, but confirmed them a little more than a week later.

Named by TIME Magazine as one of 2016’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, Dr. Hanna-Attisha also appeared on Crain’s Detroit Business’ list of 100 Most Influential Women and was named a Health Care Hero by the same publication. Medscape named her as one of the Best Physicians in the World for 2016. She shared the PEN America’s Freedom of Expression Courage Award in 2016 with Flint mother and advocate LeeAnne Walters. She has testified about the Flint water crisis before Congress and given hundreds of media interviews to direct the world’s attention to the ongoing situation.

Dr. Hanna-Attisha completed medical school at Michigan State University, residency and chief residency at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, and public health training in health policy from the University of Michigan. She is an assistant professor of pediatrics and human development at Michigan State’s College of Human Medicine. Dr. Hanna-Attisha also directs the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative and model public health program partnership between Hurley Medical Center and Michigan State University. This initiative’s mission is to research, monitor and mitigate the impact of the Flint water lead crisis.
Program
President Eric R. Jensen, Presiding
Professor Victoria Folse
Professor and Caroline F. Rupert Chair of Nursing, Mace Bearer

Prelude
Susan Klotzbach
Organist

Dorian Toccata, BWV 538
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Processional (please stand)
Processional in D
David N. Johnson
(1922-1988)

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
Mona Hanna-Attisha

Alma Wesleyana
Susan Klotzbach
(please stand and join in singing led by Sara Caligiuri ’18)
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)

Closing
President Jensen

Recessional (remain standing)
Susan Klotzbach
Sinfonia from Cantata 29, BWV 29
Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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Director, Pediatric Public Health Initiative
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