2019

Founders' Day Convocation (2019 Program)

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
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
Program

President Eric R. Jensen, Presiding
Professor Carolyn Nadeau, Mace Bearer*

Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth
Susan Klotzbach, organist
Craig Phillips (b.1961)

Processional (please stand)
Grand Chœur Dialogué
Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)

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

Founders’ Day Remarks
Eric R. Jensen
President

Introduction of Speaker
Mark Brodl
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks
Why Should We Trust Science?
Naomi Oreskes

Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing)
Andrew Johnson ’20, soloist
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 dream 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)
Toccata in B Minor
Eugène Gigout

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

Dr. Naomi Oreskes

Dr. Naomi Oreskes serves as a professor of the history of science and affiliated professor of earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University. She is an internationally renowned geologist, science historian and author.

Oreskes arrived at Harvard in 2013 after spending 15 years as a professor of history and science studies at the University of California, San Diego, and as an adjunct professor of geosciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Oreskes’s research focuses on the earth and environmental sciences, with a particular interest in understanding scientific consensus and dissent.

Her 2004 essay “The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change” has been widely cited, both in the U.S. and abroad, including in the Royal Society’s publication, A Guide to Facts and Fictions about Climate Change, in the Academy-award winning film, An Inconvenient Truth, and in Ian McEwan’s novel, Solar.


In 2014, Oreskes met Pope Francis during a special meeting at the Vatican on climate change and sustainability, and in 2015, she wrote the introduction to the Melville House edition of the Papal Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality, Laudato Si’.

Oreskes’ talk is a co-curricular event which complements Illinois Wesleyan’s annual intellectual theme “Changing Climates.”

*Jensen Mace

This use of the Jensen Mace was crafted in celebration of the inauguration of President Eric R. Jensen and the Class of 2016. The mace replaces the The Eckley Mace, which was first carried at the 1969 inauguration of Dr. Robert S. Eckley, the 15th president of the University.

Made of bronze for power and endurance and of walnut for organic strength, its cupola represents the bell tower of Old North Hall, Illinois Wesleyan’s first building, which was erected in 1856 and demolished in 1967. State Farm Hall now sits on the former site of Old North. The staff of the Mace was made from the walnut of Old North Hall and was used on the Eckley mace. The names of University founders’ are engraved on a band surrounding the cupola.

The mace was cast and constructed by Kevin Strandberg, retired Professor Emeritus of Art.