Commencement 2020 (Program, video and messages)

Illinois Wesleyan University
Commencement

IN OUR 170th Year

—1850–2020—

August 2, 2020

The Glenn and Rozanne P. Kemp Commencement Plaza
at State Farm Hall

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
America The Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

— Katherine Lee Bates
(1859–1929)

Alma Wesleyana

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 till dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —
Star-crowned our Alma Mater Wesleyan!

— Professor W. E. Schultz
(1887–1964)

Cover Illustration: The Glenn and Rozanne P. Kemp Commencement Plaza, which sits astride the south face of the State Farm Hall classroom building, was made possible by a gift from the Kemp Family Foundation. State Farm Hall opened for classes in the fall of 2013.
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Illinois Wesleyan was founded in 1850 by 30 civic and Methodist Church leaders. During its first year, preparatory classes were taught; collegiate studies began in 1851.

Today, the University is an independent, residential liberal arts university, and exclusively undergraduate. Illinois Wesleyan enrolls approximately 1,650 students from 34 states and 23 countries. A highly selective institution, Wesleyan offers 82 majors, minors and programs in a unique curriculum that combines the liberal arts and sciences with professional schools of art, music, theatre and nursing.

Illinois Wesleyan has long had a commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Board of Trustees opened the University’s enrollment to African Americans in 1867, and in 1880, Gus A. Hill became the institution’s first African American graduate. The University’s first female student, Hannah I. Shur, earned her degree in 1872. Illinois Wesleyan’s first international students, Y. Osawa and K. Tanaka, arrived from Japan in 1889.

Another hallmark of the Illinois Wesleyan experience is the way that its faculty engage students inside and outside of the classroom. This tradition of faculty collaboration and engagement dates back to the institution’s earliest days when Civil War veteran, geologist, and explorer John Wesley Powell engaged his students in exploration and fieldwork in the Rocky Mountain region. Powell, who designed the University seal and coined its *Knowledge and Wisdom* motto, went on to become the director of the U.S. Geological Survey and later the first director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Bureau of Ethnology.

The Eckley Quadrangle, on which Commencement takes place, honors the University’s 15th president, the late Robert S. Eckley, and his wife, Nell, who served from 1968 until 1986. Degrees are conferred on the Kemp Commencement Plaza named in honor of alumni Glenn ’22 and Rozanne P. Kemp ’27, whose family has had strong ties to the University for more than four generations.

Presiding at this year’s Commencement will be S. Georgia Nugent, who was named the University’s 20th president in 2019. Graduates of the Class of 2020 will join more than 23,000 Illinois Wesleyan alumni living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 52 countries around the world.
Academic Distinctions

Students with excellent final cumulative grade point averages are recognized as:

Summa Cum Laude—with highest honor—3.90 GPA or higher
Magna Cum Laude—with great honor—3.70 GPA or higher
Cum Laude—with honor—3.50 GPA or higher

National Honor Societies

Illinois Wesleyan students are eligible for membership in the nation’s two best-known honor societies, Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. For both societies, eligibility is limited to those students whose academic performance places them in the top 10 percent of their class during their junior or senior year.

ΦΒΚ, Phi Beta Kappa was founded at the College of William and Mary in 1776. It is the nation's oldest national academic honorary society. The society's motto, “Love of learning is the guide of life,” represents the society’s commitment to the liberal arts and sciences. Now found on 300 college and university campuses, the Illinois Wesleyan chapter was granted a charter in 2001.

ΦΚΦ, Phi Kappa Phi was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and is the oldest all-discipline academic honor society. The society’s mission is “to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.” With chapters on over 300 campuses, the Illinois Wesleyan chapter was chartered in 1922.

Commencement Honors

The Hope Ellen Pape President’s Club Award in the Fine Arts is awarded for outstanding accomplishment in Art or Music or Theatre Arts.

The Annabelle Scrogin Anderson ‘36 Award recognizes distinguished achievement in multiple fields of study.

The John L. Clark Award in Literary Studies honors outstanding academic performance, particularly in historical and theory courses, and evidenced by scholarly ability and participation in the creative activities of the School of Theatre Arts.

The Nikki Kaye Pape President’s Club Award for Excellence in Writing is presented for the best selection of writing prepared during the academic year.

The Professor David Bailey prize in Chemistry honors outstanding achievement in the field of chemistry.

The Harold C. Hodge President’s Club Award in Natural Science and Mathematics salutes outstanding achievement in the natural sciences and mathematics.

The Caroline F. Rupert Nursing Award salutes outstanding work during four years of undergraduate study in nursing.

The Katherine Riedelbauch Baker Music Award recognizes superiority in general musicianship, including theoretical and historical fields.

The William T. Beadles Award for Exceptional Achievement in Business Administration recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments and professional promise.

The Phi Kappa Phi Award recognizes an outstanding senior student member with exceptional promise for graduate or professional study.

The Jack C. Fields Prize for Excellence in Accounting is presented for exceptional achievement in the study of accounting.

The Larry Shue Drama Award recognizes outstanding potential as a professional artist of the theatre.
Graduation with Research Honors

Evan Anderson, Economics
The Out Migration From Illinois Cities and the Impact It Has on the People Left Behind
Project Advisor: Michael Seeborg

Adam Cady, English
A Tragedy in Five Acts
Project Advisor: Michael Theune

Olivia Causer, Sociology
Exploring the Efficacy of Corporate Social Responsibility
Project Advisor: Meghan Burke

Andrew Johnson, Music
Suite Médiévale: A Guide for Interpretation and Performance
Project Advisor: William Hudson

Alexa Letourneau, Music
Discovering the Compositional Voice: An Examination of Conceptions of Style, Authenticity, and Originality in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Classical Music
Project Advisor: Adriana Ponce

Nicole Lewis, Sociology
Parent Opinions and Perceptions of Others on Queering High School Education
Project Advisor: Courtney Irby

Emily Lezcano, Nursing
Improving Timing of Capillary Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration through Patient Education
Project Advisor: Lydia Bertschi

Maya McGowan, Music Theatre
Shattered Dolls: An Examination of Authorship and the Boundaries of Female Asian Stereotypes in Western Theatrical Literature and Film
Project Advisor: Scott Susong

Kayley Rettberg, Philosophy
Bisexuality and Epistemic Injustice
Project Advisor: Emily Kelahan

Sydney Rowley, Psychology
False Beliefs in Dogs
Project Advisor: Ellen Furlong

Adeline Schultz, Philosophy
Three-Pronged Defense of Hate Speech: An Objection to David Brink
Project Advisor: Emily Kelahan

Sydney Shanks, Nursing
Content Validity: A Measure of Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviors, and Experiences of Muslims from the Nurse Perspective
Project Advisor: Amanda Hopkins

Patrick Ward, Mathematics
Decompositions of complete uniform multipartite hypergraphs
Project Advisor: Dan Roberts

John Whitfield, English
which will tip the scales
Project Advisor: Michael Theune

Ted Yan Yap, Computer Science
Text Anomaly Detection with ARAE-AnoGAN
Project Advisor: Mark Liffiton
The School of Nursing

Candidates for the degree

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Courtney Barrett
Kara Noelle Bischoff
Rachel Alyssa Budd
Alexis Starr Cox
Olivia Mariah Croner
Jack Anthony Dilger
Jordan Audrey Ellerbrock
Nicholas Andrew Figus, Cum Laude
Samantha Christine Fox
Rafael A. Garcia
Shannon Elizabeth Gatehouse
Rachel Elise Gatliff
Katrina Ann Gillespie
Lianna Rose Greene, Cum Laude
Madeleine Andrée Marie Guiard
Melissa Nicole Holzer
Benigno Michael Houser
Kira Marie Jackson
Abbey Johnson
Emily Jean Kase
Jourdyn Mary Keehan
Rebecca Marie Kelly
Kaitlyn Riley LaCost
Jessica Le
Emily Lezcano, Summa Cum Laude, ФКФ

McKenzie Marie Lindquist
Alyssa Danielle Lingafelter, Magna Cum Laude
Mia Mac, Magna Cum Laude
Sabrina Lynn Matthews, Cum Laude
Sydni Devon McStravick
Lauren Patrice Miller
Elia Nava, Magna Cum Laude
Olivia Nilsson
Emily Paige Nordsiek
Anna Louise Otis, Cum Laude
Melanie Ann Pelczynski
Amy Marie Proper
Sydney Lee Shanks, Magna Cum Laude
Haley Smith, Cum Laude
Madilyn Noel Smith
Tamara Mae Snevely
Melissa Grace Spacapan
Braylen Lenora Spears
Leah McCarthy Sternberg
Haley Elizabeth Steward, Magna Cum Laude
Sara Ann Toniolo
David Ikechukwu Uwajeh
Sydnie Maryanne Wells
Emily Corrine Wiesenhofer
Magdalena Anna Wyszynski
Candidates for the degree

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Art

Macey Hannah Grant, Cum Laude
Raya Hussein, Magna Cum Laude

Theatre Arts

Taylor Lynn Coduto, Theatre Design/Technology
James Christopher Conklin, Music Theatre
Stefano Egleston, Music Theatre, Cum Laude
Kaitlin Marie Feely, Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude
Andrea LeJeanne Froehlke, Acting, Magna Cum Laude
Robert Carson Grey, Music Theatre
Catherine Olivia Groth, Music Theatre
Samuel Hulsizer, Acting
Maxwell Kleve, Theatre Design/Technology

Jenna Taylor

Morgan Carolyn McCane, Music Theatre, Cum Laude
Maya Nahree McGowan, Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Kira Elizabeth Rangel, Music Theatre
Emily Christine Strub, Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude
Braden Lee Tanner, Music Theatre
Josiah William Holmes Tennent, Music Theatre
Travis Ulrich, Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude
Christopher Edward Woodley, Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude

Candidates for the degree

Bachelor of Music

Shireen Renee Hassan, Instrumental Performance, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Juan Camilo Hernandez-Mitchum, Instrumental Performance
Andrew Tavis Johnson, Vocal Performance, Summa Cum Laude
Alexa Ann Letourneau, Music Composition, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Yilin Li, Piano Performance, Cum Laude

Mark Daniel Mathison, Instrumental Performance, Magna Cum Laude
Mina McIntire, Vocal Performance, Magna Cum Laude
Lyndsey S. Notaro, Vocal Performance
Robert Reinbrecht, String Performance and Pedagogy, Magna Cum Laude
Ari Scott, String Performance and Pedagogy, Cum Laude
Samuel Villano, Music Composition, Cum Laude
Elisabeth Williams, Vocal Performance, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ

Candidates for the degree

Bachelor of Music Education

Kristian N. Avise-Rouse, Cum Laude
Claire Celeste Challacombe
Keara Callaghan Corbett, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Daniel David Drake, Magna Cum Laude
Brittany Lynn Hill, Magna Cum Laude

Kathleen Marie Holub, Cum Laude
Megan Losch
Victoria Irene Morford, Cum Laude
Jake Michael Scheuring, Summa Cum Laude
Sabrina Marie Steck, Summa Cum Laude
Candidates for the degree

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science

Tayyibah Ahmed, Accounting
Briana Kristian Aken, Sociology
Joseph C. Alberts, Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude
Marissa Kathleen Alcala, Psychology
Sydney Annemarie Alerly, Marketing, Cum Laude
Logan Elliot Alexander, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship, Magna Cum Laude
Paul Andre Alvarez, Biology
Evan Timothy Anderson, Economics, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Victor Hugo Arizmendi Yanez, Accounting
Carlos Leonardo Aromin, Biology, Cum Laude
Emily Jane Asselmeier, Environmental Studies
Juan Antonio Bahena, Accounting
Noah Andrew Baird, History
Jordan K. Baker, Political Science, Cum Laude
Douglas Chapin Ballard, Health Promotion and Fitness Management
Spencer Dalen Bard, Business
Jennifer Annette Barnes, Biology, Cum Laude
John Denissen Barrett, Political Science
Brandon Carter Bauer, Accounting, Cum Laude
Alecia Clare Beagles, Biology
Casey Becker, Business Administration, Cum Laude
Michael Behrensmeier, Finance
Samantha Lee Berghoff, International Studies, Hispanic Studies, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Amanda Michelle Best, Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude
Brynn Elizabeth Beveridge, Psychology, Theatre Arts, Magna Cum Laude
Brooke Thomas Blan, Biochemistry
Jalen Seth Blue, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Madeline R. Bollinger, Mathematics, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Davida Jaime Boron, Psychology
Javon Boyd, Jr., Philosophy
Nicholas Michael Brown, Psychology
Kelsey Browning, English–Writing
Ross Cameron Burandt, Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude
Adam James Cady, English–Literature, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ, ΦΒΚ
Seamus Calkins, Political Science
Luke William Cangilla, Finance
Seth Patrick Carlile, Accounting, Cum Laude
Amanda Jewel Carman, English–Literature, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Olivia Renée Causer, Sociology, Magna Cum Laude
Rebecca Rose Cauthorn, Theatre Arts, Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Jacob Chapman, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Alexa Chausse, Philosophy
Fenghe Chen, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Kaitlyn Simone Chen, Accounting, Cum Laude
Ming Chen, Business Administration
Panxi Chen, Mathematics
Mikayla Nicole Christian, Business Administration
Cole Patrick Churchill, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship, Summa Cum Laude
Karyssa Yvonne Clark, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Bernie W. Coderre, Accounting, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Lorrie LeAnn Coil, Biochemistry
Daniel Cole, Marketing
Lark Commanday, English–Literature, Summa Cum Laude
Jane Ann Elizabeth Crabtree, Biology, Summa Cum Laude
Maxwell John Crowninshield, History, Secondary Education
Anaol Gemedo Dalle, Biochemistry
Graham Thomas Bartz Dano, History
Emma Rene Darragh, Marketing, Magna Cum Laude
Madisen DeBord, Theatre Arts
John Charles DiCanio, Jr., Marketing
Paige Ellen Dold, Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Bryce Joseph Dooley, Accounting
Alexander Doorenbos, Accounting
Andrew Duffin, Economics, Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Flower Edington, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship, Summa Cum Laude
Ethan Hunter Emerson, Accounting, Cum Laude
Raina Therese Emery, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Joshua Ryan Essary, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Kyle Sutton Fahsl, *Hispanic Studies, Cum Laude*
Bryant Finkler, *Computer Science*
Rylee DeLane Fishel, *Health Promotion and Fitness Management, Cum Laude*
Janna Marie Fitzgerald, *Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude*
Dalton Robert Fletcher, *Accounting, Cum Laude*
Derrick D. Frye, *Business*
Shelby Nicole Fulk, *Business Administration*
Ceceila Ann Galvan, *Accounting*
Giovanni L. Garcia, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*
Dilyetna Tekeste Gebru, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*
Zhijia Geng, *Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude*
Jeremy Glickman, *Economics, Finance, Cum Laude*
Elisha Gordon, *Psychology*
Kalen K. Gray, *Financial Services, Magna Cum Laude*
Caleb H. Green, *Marketing*
Daisy Vanessa Guerrero, *Psychology, Mathematics*
Melesa Guneysu, *Psychology*
Moses Jonathan Gurvindapalli, *Physics*
William Thomas Gustafson, *Economics*
Gabriel Guzman, *Business Administration*
Katelyn Nicole Hailey, *English–Literature*
Rowan Cole Hanold, *Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship*
Robert Gerard Hanahan, Jr., *Economics*
Brennan James Harmon, *Marketing*
Makena Marie Harris, *Neuroscience*
Noah Haskin, *Biochemistry, Cum Laude*
Shireen Renee Hassan, *Accounting, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ*
Corey Hausen, *Business Administration*
Alivia Joy Hay, *Neuroscience*
Matthew Jack Healy, *Business Administration*
Allison Claire Henry, *Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Patrick Emmett Hickey, *Business Administration*
Quinn Higginbotham, *Biology, Cum Laude*
Eric Scott Higgs, *Business, Cum Laude*
Thomas Shay Hillebrand, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*
Robert Chance Hilliard, *Health Promotion and Fitness Management*
Megan Alexandra Hippe, *Accounting, Cum Laude*
Daniel Arthur Hoekstra, *Accounting*
Steven Hogan, *Economics, Music*
Joonpyo Hong, *Accounting*
Min Ji Hong, *English–Literature*
David Wayne Horn, Jr., *Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*
Hannah Helen Horn, *Environmental Studies*
Joseph Hayden Hynes, *Business Administration*
Tulasi Jaladi, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ*
Christopher James, *Finance*
Oneil Jano, *Political Science, Magna Cum Laude*
Noah Jett, *Computer Science, Cum Laude*
Erick Wade Johnston, *Accounting*
Michael David Juarez, *Finance*
Austin Jump, *Marketing*
Paraskevi Kakares, *English–Writing, Hispanic Studies, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ, ΦΒΚ*
Jonah Kang, *Computer Science*
Jake Anthony Kapp, *Marketing*
Jessica Elaine Keen, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*
Liam Robert Keffer, *Business Administration*
Zachary M. Knobloch, *Marketing*
Trevor James Koepke, *Accounting*
Wil Laidlaw, *Economics*
Dana Susan Lasswell, *Theatre Arts*
Zoephia Victoria Anninka Judzia Laughlin, *Biology*
Skylar Le Vine, *Finance*
Samuel Ledbetter, *Accounting*
Jaeden Jaewon Lee, *Biochemistry, Cum Laude*
Winston Jung Hwan Lee, *Biology*
Nicole Jeanette Lewis, *Sociology*
Ruoqing Li, *Economics, Marketing, Cum Laude*
Yutong Li, *Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ*
Difan Liang, *International Business*
Yijian Lin, *Marketing*
Ella Lindokken, *Music*
Minzhao Liu, *Physics, Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude*
Rylie Catherine Loux, *Elementary Education*
Robert Daniel Lowe, *Finance*
Wenjia Lu, *Accounting, Cum Laude*
Yinzhe Lu, *Sociology, Cum Laude*
Matthew Lucas, *Psychology, Cum Laude*
Sarah Katherine Luce, *Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Tanner Austin Luke, *Computer Science*
Chunyu Luo, *Financial Services*
David Matthew Lux, *Business Administration*
Chrystian Maciorowski, Economics
Caroline Marchi, Biology, Secondary Education
Yesenia Guadalupe Martinez Calderon, Hispanic Studies, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Orion Matthew Marty, Marketing
Mia Isabella Massaro, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Mark Daniel Mathison, Physics, Magna Cum Laude
Martin John McAndrews, Business
Nick McDermott, Biology
Jack Thomas McKermitt, Biology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Ann Christine Meyers, Business Administration
Nicholas Miles Mileik, Physics, Hispanic Studies, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Braden Michael Miller, Accounting
Hayden Thomas Monix, Accounting
Aidan Moore, Marketing
Cecelia H. Moran, Biology, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Jack T. Moran, Accounting, Cum Laude
Richard Andrew Morrison, Biochemistry, Cum Laude
Kellie Renee Mucha, Finance, Cum Laude
Brittany Nicole Murphy, Health Promotion and Fitness Management, Cum Laude
Patrick Murphy, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Sanghyun Nam, Physics
Eva Nautiyal, Computer Science
Lauren Neitzel, Mathematics, Financial Services, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Jack Patrick Nelson, Accounting
Hunter Nesselroad, Psychology
Abbie Marie Netherton, Business Administration
Esther Patricia Niebert, International Business, Hispanic Studies, Cum Laude
Faith Rose Nix, Accounting
Jonathan David Nocke, Computer Science
Lyndsey S. Notaro, Religion
James Peter O’Brien, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Alexander Michael O’Neill, Computer Science
Colin Thomas Orchard, Business Administration, Economics, Cum Laude
Kyle Ostrowski, Marketing
Ian Wayne O’Toole, Theatre Arts, Business Administration, Cum Laude
Hadeley McCrater Overaker, Psychology
Colin Page, Biology, Cum Laude
Alexander Hagen Palacios, Neuroscience
Ryan Hunter Paslay, Marketing
Joseph Pasternak, English–Writing, Cum Laude
Pooja Patil, Political Science
Peter Thomas Picciolo, Health Promotion and Fitness Management
Ethan Pogge, Business Administration, Political Science
Tishon Alexander Pollard, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Sarah Pombal, Physics
Danielle Ponsor, English–Literature, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Michael Privett, English–Literature, Secondary Education
Isabelle Samone Pruitt, Biology
Maisha Rumelia Rahman, Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude
Wolfgang Hans Rankenburg, Computer Science
Kayla Carmen Ranta, Anthropology
Steven Michael Raybould, Physics
Jonathan Recchia, English–Writing, Cum Laude
Caroline Elizabeth Ashley Reech, Marketing
Bailey Nicole Reichert, Biology
Morgan Victoria Reish, Biology, Psychology
Skyler N. Reisig, Psychology
Alex Renner, Psychology
Kayley Lyn Retberg, Political Science, Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Adam Joshua Rettberg, Business Administration
Morgan Riley, Health Promotion and Fitness Management, Cum Laude
Jonathan Rink, Biochemistry, Cum Laude
Vanessa Roa, Marketing
Brice Robert Robinson, Marketing
Nikki Rogers, English–Writing, Magna Cum Laude
Christian Gerhardt Rohland, Physics, Secondary Education
Haley Grace Rojek, Accounting, Hispanic Studies, Cum Laude
Marcia Keiko Rolofson, Health Promotion and Fitness Management
Angela Roman, Biology, Secondary Education, Cum Laude
Rachel Jaclyn Rosch, Business Administration, Cum Laude
Sydney Deanne Rowley, Psychology, Cum Laude
Michelle Kathleen Roy, Environmental Studies
Alexander Berg Ruckstaetter, Business
Joseph William Ruppenthal, Computer Science
Nyokia Rena Rutledge, Psychology
Guadalupe Salgado Rios, Accounting
Nickolas George Sanders, Economics
Christopher John Sawicki, Economics
Haley Rose Scheller, Neuroscience, Cum Laude
Oscar Andrew Schmidt, Biology
Rachel Lynn Schoenecker, Biology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Adeline Schultz, Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude
Morgan Renae Schwiderski, Psychology
Alanna Scoggins, Theatre Arts, Greek and Roman Studies
Autumn Diana Sec, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Joshua William Segatto, Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Garrett Benjamin Shea, Business Administration
Jessica Shanti Sheelam, Biochemistry, Cum Laude
Yubei Shen, Theatre Arts
Nickolas Showalter, Business Administration
Maxwell David Siegel, Business Administration
Lucas Joseph Sieving, Neuroscience
Aaron John Simon, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Jeran Christopher Simpson, Business
Brandon Richard Skopick, Psychology
Samuel L. Soto, History, Secondary Education
Emily Rose Steininger-Rahl, Physics, Philosophy
Amy Nicole Stich, Accounting
Halee Anne Stirrat, Accounting, Summa Cum Laude
Benjamin A. Studer, Financial Services
Ryan Daniel Swift, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Andria Cristina Talavera, Finance
Patrick Sean Tata, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Brandon Jordan Taylor, Sociology
Jack Nelson Thomas, Business Administration
Erik W. Thorson, Business Administration, Cum Laude
Isaiah Alexander Timms, Business Administration
Cristian Manuel Torres, Health Promotion and Fitness Management
Naing Lin Tun, Mathematics, Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Francis John Urbanski, Finance
Crystal Diana Valadez, English–Literature, Secondary Education
James Daniel Vallos, Financial Services
Nathan Riis Vartivarian, English–Writing, Cum Laude
Stephen Robert Vega, Biology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Constantine George Vessol, Chemistry
Jorge Luis Villanueva, Jr., Mathematics
Richard Von Helms, Business Administration
Breanna Walker, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude
Zachary Walsh, Business Administration
Luyao Wang, Business Administration
Shiqi Wang, Interdisciplinary Educational Studies, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Patrick Ward, Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude
Konrad Wasilewski, Finance
Alexa Morgan Weiss, Biology
Amanda Kate Wesche, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, Cum Laude
Evan White, Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude
Jasmine White, Computer Science
John Bowlby Whitfield, Computer Science, English–Writing
Angela Vergetter Whiting, Biology
Susan Nicole Whiting, Health Promotion and Fitness Management
Ally Catherine Wiegand, English–Literature, Cum Laude
Robin Williams, Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship
Tera Delaney Wilson, Environmental Studies, Economics, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Melanie Rose Wolf, Psychology
Xu Xu, Accounting, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ
Justin Michael Yaeger, Business Administration
Yap Tec Yan, Mathematics, Computer Science, Magna Cum Laude
Xiao Yang, Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude
Lauren Taylor Yep, Biochemistry, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΒΚ
Ryan K. Yoo, Biology
Nicholas Zanichelli, Accounting
Ruihan Zhang, Physics, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ, ΦΒΚ
Dean Alan Zigulich, Business Administration
Samantha Nicole Ziomek, Biology
Tatum Elise Zsorey, International Studies, Summa Cum Laude
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Pamela Muirhead, Ph.D.
Mauricio Parra, Ph.D.
Mario Pelusi, Ph.D.
Julie Prandi, Ph.D.
Christopher Prendergast, Ph.D.
Georganne Rundblad, Ph.D.
Allison Sainsbury, Ph.D.
Kathryn Scherck, D.N.Sc.
Karen Schmidt, Ph.D.
Roger H. Schnaitter, Ph.D.
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Richard Kent Cook, D.M.A.
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Irving Epstein, Ph.D.
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Carmela Ferrandás, Ph.D.
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Raymond G. Wilson, Ph.D.
Michael Young, Ph.D.
Nancy Zander, M.S.
To The Graduates of the Class of 2020:

Congratulations, you are now official graduates of Illinois Wesleyan University! On behalf of the entire Alumni Association Board of Directors, let me be one of the first to welcome you to the Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association. We are so proud of all of you for achieving your goal of completing your degree. You have shown the ability to adjust quickly and persevere through times that are full of uncertainty. The ability to remain focused through adversity is a strong characteristic that I hope will bolster you for the next phase of your life.

You are now part of the ever growing network of IWU alumni who support one another, students, and the University. And, the Alumni Association is here to assist you in any way we can. As you go out into the world, whether it is into a career or to further your education, we are here to support you. We are in an unprecedented time in our nation’s history and there is uncertainty in the world, but your future is as bright as ever. Now is a great time of change and hope that I believe you can help to shape for the future. There are Illinois Wesleyan Alumni all over the U.S. and the world who want to see you succeed and are willing to help you do so. Please utilize the opportunities available through the Alumni Association such as, connect with the Young Alumni Council, volunteer with your regional committee, attend professional and social events (virtual connections have become our new normal), register for Titan Talks, and there are many other ways to be engaged.

We want you to stay involved with Illinois Wesleyan after you graduate – assist students, become part of this great alumni community and help keep our University the amazing educational institution it is.

Congratulations again, and I look forward to meeting all of you in the future!

Go Titans!

Sincerely,

Molly Rollings ’99
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors
Like judicial robes, the garments worn on academic occasions such as today’s Commencement derive from the ecclesiastical garb of medieval England. The scholar in the Middle Ages, it must be remembered, was a clerk, and therefore required to wear the clerical gown and tonsure. Certainly, at Oxford and Cambridge, at least in the earliest times, the robes were monastic in origin, although the hood was adapted from a lay garment common to both sexes and all classes.

As early as the fourteenth Century, scholars of certain colleges were required by statute to wear “a decent habit” befitting a clerk and no evidence appears that there was much differentiation among undergraduates, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral robes. All were black, commonly of lamb’s wool; most were fur-lined for warmth or at least fur trimmed; and the only mark of difference was in the fuller cut and ankle length of the master’s gown. The cope, or closed cape, was also black and followed the style of the everyday mantle of the clergy.

Hoods were worn by all and probably had no academic significance at the beginning. By 1330–40 doctors began to adopt scarlet for their hoods, and by 1500, for their robes, with black retained by the masters of arts and bachelors of divinity. An act of Henry VIII in 1531 ratified the wearing of robes of other colors. Hoods were lined with silk and miniver fur, a custom surviving until the late seventeenth Century, but over the years distinctions were created to identify the various ranks and faculties.

Caps evolved in similar manner. The round velvet cap is still worn today in the full dress of doctors (except doctors in theology); the familiar square, or mortar–board, was copied in the early sixteenth Century from the thirteenth Century cap of the University of Paris. A third style also derives from Paris: a squared cap made by sewing four pieces of cloth with seams producing ridged edges, seen in modern times in the biretta of the clergy and the squared velvet cap of doctors of theology. The “who” and “how” of the wearing of caps produced numerous rulings, restrictions, and change.

The Reformation repressed the brilliant silks, gold lace, costly furs, and extravagant cut of academic robes, and the sober and more uniform styles were established under the Morrill Act, created a confusion of conflicting styles and colors. Two colors are frequently used, since there are approximately 2,000 degree–granting institutions in the United States. A few, such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and the University of Chicago, use a single color. Illinois Wesleyan’s green and white was adopted in 1888.

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 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, Professor of Art.

The University Pineapple

The Commencement Pineapple was first used at the 2009 Commencement Ceremony. It was a gift to the University and President Wilson, the eighteenth president of the University, from the Class of 2008. It serves to remind future classes of the friendships forged over their four-years and the enduring welcome and hospitality that they enjoy as alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University.