



5-2-2021

Commencement 2020, ceremony in 2021 (Program and video)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Commencement

IN OUR *171st Year*

— 1850 — 2021 —

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020



May 2, 2021

SHIRK CENTER FOR ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Knowledge and Wisdom

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 18 countries. A highly selective institution, Wesleyan offers 80 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 Shirk Center, where Commencement is taking place today, was made possible by a gift from the Russell and Betty Shirk Foundation of Bloomington, and opened in 1994. The two-level, 135,344-square foot complex seats 2,680 for sporting events in its performance arena, and contains a 200-meter track, a practice gym, four multi-use courts for tennis, volleyball, basketball, and other sports, as well as a fitness center, athletic training room, team locker rooms, classrooms, and athletic department offices. Generous gifts from the Shirk Family Foundation in 2009 and 2014 have enabled expansion and continued support for a state-of-the-art facility. The Shirk Center typically hosts more than 300 community events annually and has been the site for a number of NCAA Division III national championship tournaments.

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.

Commencement Speaker



Geisha J. Williams

Geisha Jimenez Williams has more than three decades of experience in the energy industry. She is an independent board member and Chair of Osmose Utility Services, Inc., member of the supervisory board of Siemens Energy, Inc., and independent director of Artera Services, LLC. She also serves on the Bipartisan Policy Center Board of Directors, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Williams was formerly Chief Executive Officer and President of PG&E Corporation, one of the largest combined natural gas and electric energy companies in the United States. She was the first and only Latina CEO of a Fortune 200 company and has been recognized as the highest ranking Latina leader in business.

Prior to joining PG&E in 2007, Williams worked for over two decades at Florida Power and Light Company, where she was Vice President of Power Systems. She held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility in FPL's customer service, marketing, external affairs and electric operations.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Miami and a master's degree in business administration from Nova Southeastern University. She currently lives in Northern California with her husband Jay Williams, an Illinois Wesleyan University Class of 1979 alumnus.

A Letter from the Alumni Association

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 each 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, current students, and the University. As you go out into the world, whether it is into a career or to further your education, the Alumni Association is here to support you. 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 many opportunities available through the Alumni Association – connect with the Young Alumni Council, volunteer with your regional committee, attend professional and social events (virtual connections and hopefully live in-person events soon!), register for Titan Talks, among many others.

We are in an unprecedented time in our nation's history. While there is uncertainty in the world, I truly believe your future is as bright as ever. Times of great change offer opportunities to help to shape the future. I look forward to seeing the impact you will make!

Lastly, we hope you'll 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!

Sincerely,



Molly Rollings '99

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

"Go out into the world and do well, but more importantly, go out into the world and do good"

–Minor Myers jr



Look for our Commencement Snapchat Geofilters as you share your proud moments!

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.

ΦBK, 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.

ΦKΦ, 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 Donald R. Koehn Memorial Award is presented for outstanding achievement in the humanities.

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 Hester Merwin Ayers Art Achievement Award honors outstanding achievement during four years of undergraduate study in art.

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

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)

Program

President S. Georgia Nugent, Presiding

Timothy Rettich, Mace Bearer

Processional		Address	Geisha J. Williams
Kentucky 1800	<i>Clare Grundman</i> (1913–1996)	“Who will face the challenges of tomorrow? Why not you?”	
Pomp and Circumstance	<i>Edward Elgar</i> (1857–1934)	Proclamation of Degrees	President Nugent Dr. Karla Carney-Hall
“America The Beautiful” (please remain standing and join in singing)	Claire Challacombe ’20 MATERNA <i>Samuel A. Ward</i> (1848–1903)	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Victoria N. Folsie ’86 <i>Director and Professor, School of Nursing</i> <i>Caroline F. Rupert Endowed Chair of Nursing</i>
Invocation (remain standing)	Karla Carney-Hall <i>Vice President for Student Affairs / Dean of Students</i>		Jean Kerr <i>Director and Associate Professor of Theatre Arts</i>
President’s Welcome	S. Georgia Nugent <i>President</i>	Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education	Franklin Larey <i>Director of the School of Music</i>
Trustee Greetings	Timothy J. Szerlong ’74 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>	Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science	Mark R. Brodl <i>Provost and Dean of Faculty</i> Rebecca A. Roesner <i>Associate Provost</i>
Alumni Association Welcome	Molly Rollings ’99 <i>President of Alumni Association Board of Directors</i>	Closing Remarks	President Nugent
Remarks of Class President	Ian O’Toole ’20	Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing)	Miss Challacombe NATIONAL HYMN <i>George William Warren</i> (1828–1902)
Faculty Reflections	Joseph Solberg <i>Visiting Professor of Accounting and Class of 2020 Professor of the Year</i>	Recessional (remain standing)	Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble <i>John Philip Sousa</i> (1854–1932)
Announcement of Honors	President Nugent	The Washington Post	
Awarding of Honorary Degree	President Nugent Mark Brodl <i>Provost</i> Mr. Szerlong		

Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble

Dr. Sey Ahn, *Conductor and Director of Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble*

Dr. Bradley J. Regier, *Conductor and Assistant Professor of Music Education*

The School of Nursing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Kara Noelle Bischoff, *Nursing*

Rafael A. Garcia, *Nursing*

Shannon Elizabeth Gatehouse, *Nursing*

Lianna Rose Greene, *Nursing, Cum Laude*

Madeleine Andrée Marie Guiard, *Nursing*

Melissa Nicole Holzer, *Nursing*

Abbey Johnson, *Nursing*

Emily Jean Kase, *Nursing*

Emily Lezcano, *Nursing, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ*

McKenzie Marie Lindquist, *Nursing*

Sabrina Lynn Matthews, *Nursing, Cum Laude*

Sydni Devon McStravick, *Nursing*

Melanie Ann Pelczynski, *Nursing*

Melissa Grace Spacapan, *Nursing*

David Ikechukwu Uwajeh, *Nursing*

Magdalena Anna Wyszynski, *Nursing*

College of Fine Arts

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

THEATRE ARTS

Stefano Egleston, *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Kaitlin Marie Feely, *Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude*

Robert Carson Grey, *Music Theatre*

Morgan Carolyn McCane, *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Braden Lee Tanner, *Music Theatre*

Josiah William Holmes Tennent, *Music Theatre*

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Shireen Renee Hassan, *Instrumental Performance & Bachelor
of Arts Accounting, Summa Cum Laude, ΦΚΦ*

Alexa Ann Letourneau, *Music Composition, Summa Cum
Laude, ΦΚΦ*

Ari Scott, *String Performance and Pedagogy, Cum Laude*

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Claire Celeste Challacombe, *Music Education*

Daniel David Drake, *Music Education, Magna Cum Laude*

Kathleen Marie Holub, *Music Education, Cum Laude*

Jake Michael Scheuring, *Music Education, Summa Cum Laude*

College of Liberal Arts

BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

- Tayyibah Ahmed, *Accounting*
Marissa Kathleen Alcala, *Psychology*
Sydney Annemarie Alery, *Marketing, Cum Laude*
Victor Hugo Arizmendi Yanez, *Accounting*
Jordan K. Baker, *Political Science, Cum Laude*
John Denissen Barrett, *Political Science*
Samantha Lee Berghoff, *International Studies, Hispanic Studies, Magna Cum Laude, ΦBK*
Brooke Thomas Blan, *Biochemistry*
Madeline R. Bollinger, *Mathematics, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Seth Patrick Carlile, *Accounting, Cum Laude*
Amanda Jewel Carman, *English–Literature, Magna Cum Laude, ΦBK*
Khayla Aria Caruthers, *International Studies*
Cole Patrick Churchill, *Design Technology & Entrepreneurship, Summa Cum Laude*
Graham Thomas Bartz Dano, *History*
Paige Ellen Dold, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦBK*
Andrew Duffin, *Economics, Cum Laude, ΦBK*
Janna Marie Fitzgerald, *Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude*
Amber Patricia Gauthier, *Economics, Psychology, Cum Laude*
Caleb H. Green, *Marketing*
Melesa Guneyasu, *Psychology*
Patrick Emmett Hickey, *Business Administration*
Thomas Shay Hillebrand, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*
Daniel Arthur Hoekstra, *Accounting*
Joonpyo Hong, *Accounting*
Hannah Helen Horn, *Environmental Studies*
Joseph Hayden Hynes, *Business Administration*
Paraskevi Kakares, *English–Writing, Hispanic Studies, Summa Cum Laude, ΦKΦ, ΦBK*
Jonah Kang, *Computer Science*
Skylar Le Vine, *Finance*
Ella Lindokken, *Music*
Matthew Lucas, *Psychology, Cum Laude*
Caroline Marchi, *Biology, Secondary Education*
Mia Isabella Massaro, *Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*
Jack Thomas McKernitt, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude, ΦBK*
Ann Christine Meyers, *Business Administration*
Cecelia H. Moran, *Biology Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Esther Patricia Niedert, *International Business, Hispanic Studies, Cum Laude*
Faith Rose Nix, *Accounting*
James Peter O’Brien, *Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*
Ian Wayne O’Toole, *Theatre Arts, Business Administration, Cum Laude*
Alexander Hagen Palacios, *Neuroscience*
Paul Plizga, *Business Administration*
Ethan Pogge, *Business Administration, Political Science*
Sarah Pombar, *Physics*
Danielle Nicole Ponsot, *English–Literature, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Isabelle Samone Pruitt, *Biology*
Bailey Nicole Reichert, *Biology*
Morgan Victoria Reish, *Biology, Psychology*
Skyler N. Reisig, *Psychology*
Brice Robert Robinson, *Marketing*
Haley Grace Rojek, *Accounting, Hispanic Studies, Summa Cum Laude*
Marcia Keiko Rolofson, *Health Promotion & Fitness Management*
Rachel Jaclyn Rosch, *Business Administration, Cum Laude*
Sydney Deanne Rowley, *Psychology, Cum Laude*
Crystal Diana Valadez, *English–Literature, Secondary Education*
Evan White, *Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude*
Jasmine White, *Computer Science*
Robin Williams, *Design Technology & Entrepreneurship*
Tera Delaney Wilson, *Environmental Studies, Economics, Summa Cum Laude, ΦBK*

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Academic Colors and Regalia

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 academical 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 1533 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 are for the most part what we see today.

However, *the growth* of higher education in the United States during the nineteenth Century, when the great land grant colleges and universities were established under the Morrill Act, created a confusion of conflicting styles and colors. The easy identification of one's academic status by means of cut, fabric, and color was no longer true.

In 1893 an intercollegiate commission presented a uniform code for caps, gowns, and hoods to be worn in the United States. The mortarboard caps are the same for doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees, except that doctors' caps may be of velvet and may have a gold tassel. The bachelor's gown is marked by pointed sleeves, reaching to the knee, while the master's sleeve is squared at the ends, and longer. The doctoral robe is fullest, with rounded bell shaped sleeves marked by three velvet stripes.

The greatest symbolism of the academic costume is borne by the hood, which identifies the level of the degree, the faculty (or department of learning) in which it was earned, and the institution which awarded it. The size of the hood, its shape, and the width of its velvet trim identify the level of the degree, with doctoral hoods naturally being the fullest, widest, and longest. Faculty colors tell us the department.

Faculty members in the processional may be wearing light blue for education, copper for economics, drab for business and accountancy, orange for engineering, purple for law, lemon for library science, green for medicine, apricot for nursing, dark blue for philosophy, sage green for physical sciences, cream for social sciences, pink for music, golden yellow for the sciences, brown for the fine arts, and scarlet for theology, among the many available. The colors are mandatory on hoods, but may also be used on the tassels and/or the velvet on doctoral gowns.

The university or college is usually identified by the color of the hood lining. 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 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.



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