2017

Convocation for New Students (2017 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University
New Student Convocation

On the Tuesday that new students arrive on campus, the New Student Convocation is held at Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. The incoming class is expected to attend to be matriculated into this community of artists and scholars.

President’s Convocation

The President’s Convocation opens the academic year with a prominent speaker invited to address the community. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. This year’s convocation will be on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 featuring Jelani Cobb, The Ira A. Lipman Professor of Journalism at Columbia University and staff writer at The New Yorker. The title of his talk will be “The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today.”

Founders Convocation

Founders Day commemorates the founding of the University in 1850 and honors its academic history. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend this year’s convocation on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. Previous speakers include U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Frances Berry, Pulitzer Prize recipient John Updike, and film director Ismail Merchant.

Honors Convocation

Graduating seniors are featured at the Honors Day Convocation, set for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 in Westbrook Auditorium. Presentations by the Senior Class President, the President, the Provost, and other faculty members, including the Kemp Foundation Awardee for Teaching Excellence, make up this program. All students, faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.
Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

*Processional (please stand as the Platform Party enters)
  - Trumpet Tune, Jeremiah Clarke
    - Collin Halihan ’20, Trumpet; Andrew Johnson ’20, Organ (1674–1707)

*Invocation (remain standing) ................. Elyse Nelson Winger
  - University Chaplain

Engage the Opportunities.............................. Eric R. Jensen
  - President

Transitions ............................................ Will Teichman ’19
  - President, Student Senate

Musical Performance
  - From the "Finale" of violin concerto in E minor F. Mendelssohn
    - Daria Dodonova ’21, Violin; Eva Ferguson, Piano (1809–1847)
  - Andrew Johnson ’20, Organ
  - George William Warren (1828–1902)

Evolution of Revolution .............................. Mark Brodl
  - Provost & Dean of the Faculty

Address— "Adulting: More Verbs than Nouns" ............... Victoria N. Folse
  - Director and Professor, School of Nursing

Caroline T. Rupert Endowed Chair of Nursing, Recipient of the 2018 Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence

The Class of 2021 ................................. Karla Carney-Hall
  - Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

*Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing) ........ National Hymn
  - Spencer Burbach ’21, Tenor; Andrew Johnson ’20, Organ
  - George William Warren (1828–1902)

   From hearts atame, 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

Closing ................................................. President Jensen

*Recessional (please stand and wait for the Platform Party to leave)
  - Nun Danket, Sigfrid Karg-Elert
    - Andrew Johnson ’20, Organ (1877–1933)

* Audience will please stand

Victoria N. Folse, PhD, APN

Dr. Victoria N. Folse received a B.S.N. from Illinois Wesleyan University, an M.S. in psychiatric nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Ph.D. in nursing with a concentration in research from Saint Louis University. She joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) in 2002, and assumed the role of Director of the School of Nursing (SON) in 2009. Dr. Folse has obtained the rank of Professor and holds the Caroline T. Rupert Endowed Chair of Nursing. Dr. Folse is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric Nursing, an Advanced Practice Nurse with prescriptive authority in the state of Illinois, and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. Prior to joining the faculty at IWU, Dr. Folse provided 15 years of full-time eating disorders treatment with 10 years of nursing management at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center as well as taught at Bradley University in the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. She has an extensive publication record, an ongoing program of research on topics such as eating disorders and suicide risk, and lectures nationally and internationally on topics including leadership development, student engagement, innovative pedagogy, and nursing theory. Dr. Folse was recognized by American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in 2013 with the Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Small Schools Award for implementing a semester-long study abroad program for nursing majors at an exclusively undergraduate liberal arts university. Folse completed an AACN/The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Wharton Executive Leadership Fellowship in 2016.

Academic Colors and Regalia

Like judicial robes, the garments worn on academic occasions such as today's Convocation derive from the ecclesiastical garb of medieval England. The scholar in the Middle Ages, it must be remembered, was a cleric, and therefore required to wear the clerical gown and tonsure. 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. Hoods were worn by all and probably had no academic significance at the beginning. By 1350–40, 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. Over the years, distinctions were created to identify various ranks and faculties.

Caps evolved in a similar manner. The round velvet cap is still worn 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. The "who" and "how" of the wearing of caps has produced numerous rulings, restrictions, and change. 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 lost. In 1893, however, 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 awarded, and the institution that 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.

The current Illinois Wesleyan University 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 11th 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.

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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 lost. In 1893, however, 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.

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