



2019

# Convocation for New Students (2019 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 4, 2019 featuring Michael Shermer. The title of his talk is "What is Truth."

## 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, January 15, 2020. This year's speaker is James Bridle. James is an artist and writer working across technologies and multiple disciplines.

## HONORS CONVOCATION

Graduating seniors are featured at the Honors Day Convocation, set for Wednesday, April 8, 2020. 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.

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# CONVOCATION

*for New Students*



Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall  
August 20, 2019  
6:15 PM

## CLAIM YOUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

*Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

\*Processional (*please stand as the Platform Party enters*)

Aria—Ostra Picta RV 642

Concerto in D for Lute, two Violins and Continuo RV 93

Antonio Vivaldi transcribed by Trevor Webb

Doris Hill, *Organ*, University Organist

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

Engage the Opportunities . . . . . S. Georgia Nugent  
*President*

Transitions . . . . . Que Jackson '21  
*President, Student Senate*

Musical Performance

Etude, Op. 10 no. 5

James Petros '23, *Piano*

Fryderyk Chopin

(1810–1849)

Fact or Fiction . . . . . Mark Brodl  
*Provost & Dean of the Faculty*

Address— “A Voyage of Discovery” . . . . . Tim Rettich  
*Professor of Chemistry*  
*Recipient of the 2020*  
*Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence*

The Class of 2023 . . . . . Karla Carney-Hall  
*Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students*

\*Alma Wesleyana (*please stand and join in singing*) . . . . . NATIONAL HYMN  
Alyssa Bernier '23  
*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

Closing. . . . . President Nugent

\*Recessional (*please stand and wait for the Platform Party to leave*)

SINFONIA From the Cantata

“Wir Danken Dir, Gott”

*J. S. Bach*  
(1685–1750)

\* *Audience will please stand*



## TIM RETTICH

Professor of Chemistry Timothy Rettich is the 47th recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, Illinois Wesleyan University's highest teaching honor.

Dr. Rettich teaches introductory General Chemistry and upper-level Physical Chemistry I (Thermodynamics) and Physical Chemistry II (Kinetics). As a researcher, Dr. Rettich studies gas-liquid exchanges, which include gas liquid

solubility, solution thermodynamics, and condensed phase photochemical kinetics.

Common examples of environmental problems involved in Dr. Rettich's research include photochemical smog, greenhouse gases and ozone depletion. Dr. Rettich believes that understanding the nature of these problems is the first step toward finding a solution. He has authored more than 20 publications and mentored dozens of student research projects during his 38-year career at Illinois Wesleyan.

Dr. Rettich joined Illinois Wesleyan as an assistant professor in 1981. He was promoted to associate professor in 1987, and to professor in 2004. Rettich earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University.

### 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 clerk, 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 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. 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 earned, 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 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.