



Spring 5-2-2000

## Poet, Essayist Edward Hirsch to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan

Stew Salowitz  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Salowitz, Stew, "Poet, Essayist Edward Hirsch to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan" (2000). *News and Events*. 896.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/896>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

2 May 2000

**CONTACT:** Stew Salowitz, 309-556-3206

## **Poet, Essayist Edward Hirsch to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan**

"Hirsch is an intelligent reader of poems, his range is wide and his choice of poems engaging..."  
- - The New York Times Book Review, Jonathan Wilson

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Edward Hirsch, the author of five books of poems, will be a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow at Illinois Wesleyan University the week of May 15.

Hirsch, an English professor at the University of Houston, will speak on the title of his most recent book, "How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry", at 4 p.m. on Tues., May 16, in the Henning Room of the Memorial Student Center. He will also be reading from his poetry at 7 p.m. on Wed., May 17, in the Merwin Gallery of the Ames School of Art.

The book, which was released in April 1999, was praised by Alexander Theroux in the Wall Street Journal as "a solid handbook complete with a reading list and a large glossary. (Hirsch) takes us through samples of lyric writing, ballads, Greek odes and free verse, among other things." The magazine Publishers Weekly said, "Drawing on long and considered draughts of learning, Hirsch takes us forcefully through his love of verse, with welcome technical asides and biographical detours along the way."

Among his books of poetry are "Wild Gratitude" (1986), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award, and "For the Sleepwalkers" (1981), which received the Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University.

His others poetry books are "On Love" (1998), "Earthly Measures" (1994), and "The Night Parade" (1989). He is also the author of numerous essays and articles in such publications as The New Yorker, New Republic, The Nation, and American Poetry Review.

He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur foundations, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, and a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award.

Hirsch, who was born in Chicago, earned his bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, where he was an Academic All-American in football in 1971. He received his doctorate in folklore at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program brings professionals from a wide variety of fields to the campuses of private liberal arts and comprehensive universities for a week of residency. Writers are included in the program to give students and community members the opportunity to share the work of the best contemporary authors.

Other Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows are government officials, journalists, environmentalists, lawyers, doctors and business executives. Together with faculty and administrators, they help equip students for political, social and economic environment they will enter post-college.

More than 200 colleges have participated in the Visiting Fellows program since 1973.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994 and a \$25 million science center opened in fall 1995. The \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty, opened in August 1997, as did a new \$6.8 million residence hall. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 159 highly-selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings. Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive +" in its latest edition.