



Fall 9-3-2015

## "Nation(s) Divided?" Selected as Intellectual Theme

Kim Hill  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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### **Recommended Citation**

Hill, Kim, "'Nation(s) Divided?' Selected as Intellectual Theme" (2015). *News and Events*. 2904.

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## **“Nation(s) Divided?” Selected as Intellectual Theme**

Sept. 3, 2015

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — The potential for unity between nations, as well as the disparities that separate them, will be discussed throughout the 2015-2016 academic year through the lens of Illinois Wesleyan University’s intellectual theme “Nation(s) Divided?”

In an email to the campus community, Provost and Dean of the Faculty Jonathan Green and Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Karla Carney-Hall noted that 2015 marks the sesquicentennial of the conclusion of the Civil War, a period that divided the nation and led to a loss of life unrivaled in our nation’s history.

The conclusion of this conflict saw a period of Reconstruction and reunification, but historians have and continue to question the degree to which the United States has ever been truly united from its founding as an independent republic. In our changing world, subjects such as immigration, freedom of expression, economic and political instability and the human impact on the environment have the potential to unite or divide us as nations and as individuals.

“We have the opportunity, however, to achieve mutual and holistic understanding through nuanced, thoughtful exploration in the best tradition of the liberal arts,” the administrators said.

A [complete schedule](#) of this fall’s “Nation(s) Divided?” events is available online.