



Spring 4-14-2004

Prendergast Named 2005 Recipient of Teaching Excellence Award

Jeff Hanna
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Hanna, Jeff, "Prendergast Named 2005 Recipient of Teaching Excellence Award" (2004).
News and Events. 5831.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5831>

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.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

April 14, 2004

CONTACT: Jeffery G. Hanna

Prendergast Named 2005 Recipient of Teaching Excellence Award

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Christopher Prendergast, professor of sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University, has been named the 2005 recipient of *The Pantagraph* Award for Teaching Excellence.

The \$1,000 teacher-scholar award is the University's top teaching honor. As is custom, the award-winner was announced at the University's annual Honors Day Convocation on Wednesday (April 14) in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

The Pantagraph Award is sponsored by the daily newspaper headquartered in Bloomington that services eight counties and more than 60 communities in Central Illinois. The honoree is selected by Illinois Wesleyan's Promotion and Tenure Committee based on nominations received from members of the faculty.

Prendergast will formally receive the 2005 award next April. During Wednesday's convocation, the 2004 winner, James Plath, professor of English, was presented with *The Pantagraph* Award which had been announced last year. Terry Greenberg, editor of *The Pantagraph*, made the presentation. Plath's Honors Day Convocation lecture was titled "Once More, With Feeling."

Prendergast joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1985. His areas of scholarly interest include both classical and contemporary sociological theory, philosophy of science, social organization, social stratification, urban sociology, and social problems and policy. He served as chair of the department of sociology and anthropology from 1995 to 2002.

A graduate of Brooklyn College, he received his master's and doctorate from Southern Illinois University — Carbondale. He taught at the University of Evansville for six years prior to joining the Illinois Wesleyan faculty.

Prendergast is past president of the Illinois Sociological Association and currently serves as president of the Midwest Sociological Society. He has published on a variety of topics in scholarly journals.

In announcing the award, Thomas Griffiths, acting dean of the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan, said that Prendergast's faculty colleagues "spoke glowingly of his willingness to go far out of his way to assist them in learning to be better teachers and scholars." In addition, Griffiths cited numerous testimonials from current and past students, many of which noted his concern for students as well as his fairness.

As part of the Honors Day Convocation, members of IWU's Class of 2003 were recognized for their honors in both academic and extracurricular activities.