



Spring 4-24-1996

Guest Speakers, Live Performances Slated for May at Illinois Wesleyan

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Guest Speakers, Live Performances Slated for May at Illinois Wesleyan" (1996). *News and Events*. 6624.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6624>

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 24, 1996

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Guest Speakers, Live Performances Slated for May at Illinois Wesleyan

*CI
Chicago
locals*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A chemist whose passion is literature, a leader in the application of technology to the arts, a gay-rights activist and early childhood educator, and a renowned documentary filmmaker will be featured speakers at Illinois Wesleyan University next month.

They will highlight IWU's inaugural May Term program, running from May 8-29. Speeches and performances are open to the public, free-of-charge.

May Term is a month-long program where students study a single course intensively on campus, take a travel course, or work on an internship. With a shift in IWU's academic calendar during the 1995-96 school year, this type of learning experience for students was switched from January to May.

"It gives every student the opportunity to have a special, personal, and intense academic experience," said May Term Director Mona Gardner. "Courses are specially designed by faculty for instruction over one month. May Term is distinctive--it offers high-quality, memorable, and unusual experiences for our students, setting IWU apart from other institutions."

Gardner expects 1,100 of IWU's 1,800 students to participate in May Term, including about 850 students on campus and 200-250 who will be on travel courses.

Katherine Hayles

Katherine Hayles, professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles, will kickoff the roster of May Term speakers with a presentation on "Virtual Memory: When Books Live in Computers," May 13 at 4 p.m. in Room C-101, a first floor auditorium in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

She will visit many May Term courses, addressing issues surrounding how information technologies are affecting contemporary literature.

Hayles' work deals with the scientific theories of chaos and complexity as they apply to literature and literary criticism. She is the author of three books and numerous articles and is a former president of the Society for Literature and Science.

She has worked as a research chemist for a major corporation and has held posts on the English faculty at Dartmouth College, the California Institute of Technology,

(more)

IWU May Term Guest Speakers Roundup/2

University of Iowa, and elsewhere.

She has received Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships.

Hayles earned a graduate degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and a doctorate in English literature from the University of Rochester.

Ron Pellegrino

Composer, performer, and visual artist Ron Pellegrino will present "The Electronic Arts of Sound and Light," May 18 at 7:30 p.m., in Room C-101, a first floor auditorium in IWU's new science center.

Pellegrino's concert will involve interactive work with students and faculty who will study with him during his three-day May Term residency.

For three decades, Pellegrino has been an international leader in applying technology to the arts.

The "New York Times" has described Pellegrino's performances as "a virtuoso display of images."

He has performed or held residencies at many campuses in North and South America and Europe. He is a former faculty member at Oberlin College, Miami University (Ohio), and Ohio State University.

Pellegrino earned a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin.

Jonathan Silin

Jonathan Silin, a professor of education at Bank Street College, will present "Pervert in the Classroom," May 20, at 7 p.m., in the Main Lounge, IWU Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington.

An innovative early childhood educator, Silin is an activist promoting the rights of gays, lesbians, and the victims of HIV/AIDS-related illnesses.

Silin has lectured and consulted around the world on topics including HIV prevention, substance abuse, and public health and human-rights policies.

He is the author of a 1995 book, "Sex, Death, and the Education of Our Children," which attracted national attention by calling for the recognition of AIDS not only as a health issue, but as a social issue.

Silin advocates discussion of AIDS in schools as early as the elementary school level.

He earned a doctorate at Columbia University and is a former faculty member at

(more)

IWU May Term Guest Speakers Roundup/3

Columbia and Colgate universities.

Frederick Wiseman

Filmmaker Frederick Wiseman will speak on his once banned 1967 documentary, "Titicut Follies," after it is shown, May 23, at 7 p.m., at the Normal Theatre, 209 North Street, Normal.

The film is a shocking expose detailing conditions in Massachusetts' Bridgewater Hospital for the Criminally Insane. It is the only film in American history to be banned for reasons other than obscenity.

"The film was controversial at the time," explained Mona Gardner, May Term director. "Massachusetts ended up getting the film banned because Wiseman didn't get the permission of inmates to film them--it was an issue of invasion of privacy. However, early in the 1990s, the ban was overturned by the courts and it has been shown at several film festivals."

The "Los Angeles Times" has called Wiseman "arguably the most brilliant, brave, and innovative person working in his field." Famed film critic Pauline Kael has described Wiseman as "the most sophisticated intelligence to enter the documentary field in years."

Wiseman is a graduate of Williams College and earned a law degree from Yale University.

James Simeone, assistant professor of political science, will use "Titicut Follies" in a May Term course focusing on community action.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 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 building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 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.