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Founders' Day

Convocations

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2001

# Founders' Day Convocation (2001 Program)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Illinois Wesleyan University

# SESQUICENTENNIAL FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

Celebrating Our Academic Legacy



Westbrook Auditorium  
Presser Hall  
February 21, 2001  
11:00 A.M.



## John Wesley Powell (1834-1902)

Explorer and educator . . . soldier and scientist . . .

John Wesley Powell—a Civil War hero who lost his right arm from wounds inflicted at the bloody Battle of Shiloh—was a trailblazing professor of geology at Illinois Wesleyan University from 1865-68. IWU President William Wilder (1888-98) wrote of Powell that “he devoted all his energies toward building up the science department of the school, and imparted the true scientific spirit to a large body of men.”

Powell’s legacy runs deep in Illinois Wesleyan’s history. He set up IWU’s museum and with a colleague reorganized the university’s curriculum and faculty responsibilities. Powell designed IWU’s seal, authored its motto—*Scientia et Sapientia* (knowledge and wisdom)—and he was the guiding spirit behind a great new building that rose on campus in the early 1870s. He taught chemistry, botany, physical geography, cellular histology, natural philosophy, organic chemistry, mineralogy, geology, and other subjects to freshmen through seniors.

Joseph Fifer, who later became governor of Illinois, was one of Powell’s students at IWU. Years later, Fifer recalled that “my professor of science was Major John Wesley Powell, explorer, ethnologist, linguist, and sociologist, a very great man.”

But, history remembers Powell most vividly for his efforts to get students out of the classroom and laboratory and take them on pioneering expeditions to the largely uncharted American West. During the summer of 1867 he organized his first adventure in “fieldwork,” taking three IWU students and a faculty member across the Great Plains to the mountains of Colorado. This expedition was capped by an arduous ascent of Pike’s Peak, an exploit chronicled in dispatches from the explorers published by Bloomington’s newspaper, *Daily Pantagraph*.

Powell mounted a second expedition to the American frontier in 1868, which included five IWU students. He left an indelible stamp on U.S. higher education as the first professor to introduce fieldwork on a grand scale into the undergraduate-college curriculum.

Powell’s daring journeys across America to the little-known Rocky Mountains produced a number of firsts: the climbing of Long’s Peak, the exploration of the Continental Divide, a series of ethnological studies of Western Indian tribes, exploration of the Grand Canyon by white men, and maps of the Grand Canyon. In 1875 the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., published Powell’s expedition reports about the geology of the Grand Canyon and the Utah Mountains.

The great scientist-explorer—who attended several colleges without managing to graduate from any of them—held many interesting posts throughout his career. He was a founder of the National Geographic Society and served as the second director of the U.S. Geological Survey. Powell was the first director of the Smithsonian’s Bureau of American Ethnology and he was responsible for collecting and recording much of the language and lore of Native American tribes. In 1880 Powell became a member of the National Academy of Science and served as president of the Anthropological Society of Washington from 1879-88.

Powell’s connections to IWU continued long after he left campus in the late 1860s. Based on his scholarly work, IWU conferred on him a Ph.D. in 1877. This was not an honorary degree, but it was part of the external-degree program, which the university had launched in 1874. Powell continued to augment the university collections, and the library today displays pieces of Native American pottery, which he gave to IWU. Illinois Wesleyan continues to honor Powell with a campus monument and an annual research conference named for him, which keeps his spirit alive.

# PROGRAM

President Minor Myers, jr., *Presiding*  
Professor Barbara A. Cothren, *Mace Bearer*

Organ Prelude

J. Scott Ferguson, *Organist*  
Associate Professor of Music  
*Johann Adam Reincken (1623-1722)*

Fugue in G minor

Processional (*please stand*)

Overture from *Te Deum*

*Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704)*

Invocation (*remain standing*)

University Chaplain Dennis E. Groh

Welcome

President Minor Myers, jr.

Performance

Flute Quartet in D Major

Movement I

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)*

Jennifer Jobb '03, flute

Laurie Clark '03, violin

Deanna Herman '03, viola

April Guthrie '03, cello

Awarding of Honorary Degrees

President Myers  
Provost Janet M. McNew

Rebecca L. Sherrick '75

*President, Aurora University*

Andrew Postlewaite '65

*Professor of Economics, Finance and Public Policy and Management, The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania*

Marilyn J. Keiser '63

*Professor of Music, Indiana University*

David L. Hull '60

*Dressler Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University (retired)*

Edelbert G. Rodgers '33

*Professor, Flint Junior College, Michigan (retired)*

Donald Worster

*Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, University of Kansas*

Remarks

Professor Worster

"John Wesley Powell of Illinois: His Life and Legacy"

Alma Wesleyana (*please stand and join in singing*)

NATIONAL HYMN

*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 gleam til dawn,  
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—  
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

—*Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)*

Benediction (*remain standing*)

Sigma Alpha Iota Choir

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

*Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)*

*arr. Preston Ware Orem*

Recessional (*remain standing*)

Professor Ferguson

Overture from *Te Deum*

Postlude

Jubilation on *Lauda anima*

*Alice Jordan (1916-)*

## Donald Worster

*Author, Historian, Distinguished Professor*

Award-winning historian Donald Worster is the Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of Kansas.

Worster, who won the famed Bancroft Prize in American History in 1980 and was twice nominated for Pulitzer Prizes, specializes in environmental history, North America and the world, 19th and 20th century U.S. history, and the American West.

He is the author of a new and acclaimed biography of John Wesley Powell, the scientist, scholar, explorer, and educator, who served on the Illinois Wesleyan University faculty in the years immediately following the Civil War. Powell, who led pioneering explorations of the Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountains, and the American frontier West, later held key scientific, leadership, and administrative posts with the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Geological Society, and the National Geographic Society. Worster's biography of Powell, "A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell," is published by Oxford University Press.

Prior to joining the University of Kansas faculty, Worster had teaching appointments at Brandeis University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Maine.

He has received many awards and honors throughout his career, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Australian National University. He won the Bancroft Prize in 1980 for his book, "The Dust Bowl." Worster was elected to the Society of American Historians in 1988 and received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Conservation Biology in 1997.

He is the author of eight books, including "Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas" and "An Unsettled Country: Changing Landscapes of the American West," as well as various articles and book chapters.

Worster has served in numerous leadership positions, including president of the American Society for Environmental History; general editor of "Studies in Environment and History," a Cambridge University Press monograph series; and he served as chairman of the American Studies Department and History of American Civilization at Brandeis University.

Worster received bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Kansas, as well as a master's degree and doctorate from Yale University.



### **Rebecca L. Sherrick '75**

Rebecca L. Sherrick '75 was elected the 13th president of Aurora University in 2000.

Sherrick, a summa cum laude IWU graduate in history, received a William Randolph Hearst Fellowship at Northwestern University, where she earned a Ph.D. in history. Among her academic interests are recent U.S. history, Latin American history, and women's history.

In 1980 she joined the faculty of Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis. A decade later, she became the first woman to hold a senior-level position at Carroll College, when she was appointed vice president for planning. Subsequently, Sherrick held other senior administration posts, including the position of provost.

As a member of the suburban Waukesha community, Sherrick was an active leader in a wide range of organizations, including the Women's Center, Waukesha County Historical Society, Y.W.C.A., and Great Blue Heron Girl Scout Council. Her strong commitment to volunteerism was recognized in 1991, when she was honored for her professional and volunteer achievements by the Y.W.C.A. with the Women of Distinction Award.

Sherrick is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Delta Sigma Nu, Egas, Kappa Delta Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, as well as the Lincoln Academy of Scholars of the state of Illinois.



### **Andrew Postlewaite '65**

Andrew Postlewaite '65 is a professor of economics, finance, public policy, and management at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Postlewaite has developed economic theories of marketing and market positioning applying game theory and social analysis.

Before joining the University of Pennsylvania, Postlewaite held professorships at the University of Illinois, Stanford Business School, Princeton University, and the University of California, San Diego.

His international reputation has taken him as a visiting scholar to institutions around the globe, including Tel Aviv University, University of Bonn, European University, Autonomous University of Barcelona, University of Toulouse, University of Tokyo, and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He has been awarded numerous grants from the National Science Foundation, as well as the Sloan Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Postlewaite has been a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis and Philadelphia, as well as a visiting research associate with Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J. He also is a fellow of the Econometric Society.

He is the author of numerous papers in scholarly journals. A recent article he co-authored for the Journal of Games and Economic Behavior, is entitled, "Specialization of Labor and the Distribution of Income."





### **Marilyn Keiser '63**

Marilyn Keiser is a professor of music at Indiana University, where she teaches courses in sacred music and applied organ.

The American Organist observed: "She represents to the organ world what the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis did to America: the epitome of taste, dignity, and elegance."

After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Keiser attended New York City's Union Theological Seminary, where she graduated summa cum laude with a master of sacred music degree, followed two years later by a doctorate.

Keiser has appeared throughout the United States and overseas as a recitalist and in connection with the American Guild of Organists. She has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and with the Detroit Symphony. Keiser also has performed in Cambridge, England, and Paris, as well as with the Singapore Symphony. She also has been heard in performance on National Public Radio and has made numerous recordings.

A virtuoso concert organist, Keiser also has given lectures and workshops in church music. She has served as president of the Association of Anglican Musicians, a contributing editor to the hymnal, Ecumenical Praise, and has served on the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Church Music.



### **David L. Hull '60**

David L. Hull '60 is an internationally acclaimed scholar, who founded the academic field of the Philosophy of Biological Science.

Hull, who retired in 2000, was the Dressler Professor in the Humanities at Northwestern University from 1989-2000. Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty in 1985, Hull was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for 20 years. Over the years, he has held visiting professorships at the University of Chicago; Indiana University; University of Illinois, Chicago; and the University of California, Los Angeles.

A veteran of 16 editorial boards, Hull also has edited and written numerous books, papers, articles, and anthologies. Last year, he authored "Science and Selection: Essays on Biological Evolution and the Philosophy of Science," and co-edited "Selection Theory and Social Construction: The Evolutionary Naturalistic Epistemology of Donald T. Campbell."

His scientific investigations have been supported by the National Science Foundation and he has received a Guggenheim Fellowship. Hull also has had various leadership positions in several scholarly organizations, including the Philosophy of Science Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Science, and the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology.

Hull, a 1960 IWU graduate, received a Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1964.

### Edelbert Rodgers '33

Edelbert Rodgers '33, IWU's oldest living African-American alumnus, is a retired professor at Flint Junior College (now Mott Community College) in Michigan and a practicing psychologist.

When Rodgers was a student, he was one of four African-American students attending IWU. He was born in a rural Mississippi shack, moving to St. Louis at age 7 with his family, which included 10 youngsters.

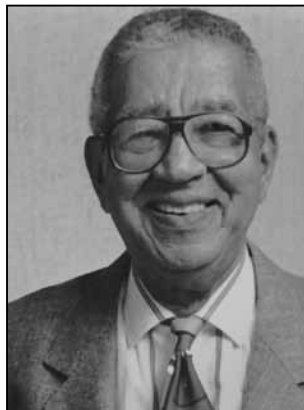
Rodgers, who told a newspaper in 1993, that he "hated poverty," at one point earned \$18 weekly—saving \$17 for college. In 1929, he entered IWU, majoring in sociology. Recalling one of his IWU professors, sociologist Samuel Ratcliffe, Rodgers said: ". . . he was kind of like a father to me."

Later, he earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from New York University.

During his career, Rodgers also taught at Lincoln University in Missouri and Virginia State University. He also worked in psychology clinics, including one owned by a former student who he mentored through a Ph.D. program.

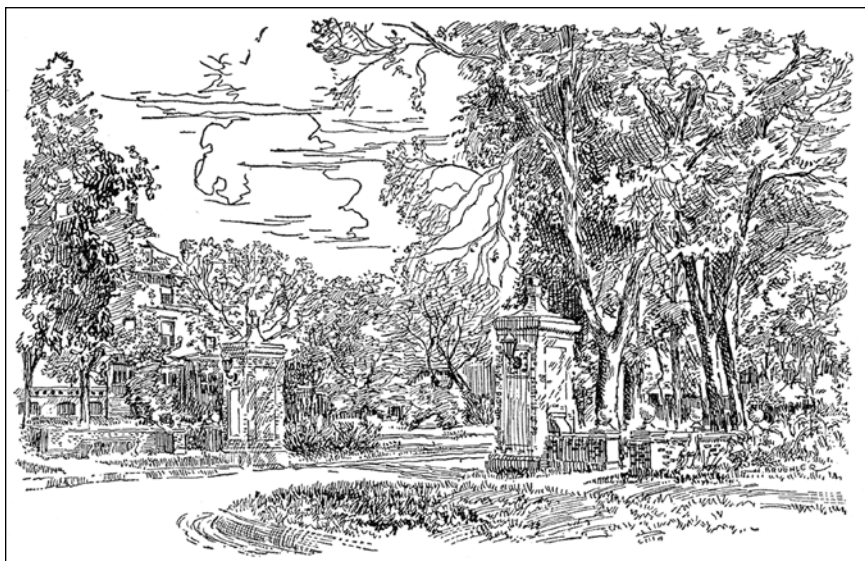
Rodgers also participated in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s civil-rights march on Washington, D.C., in 1963.

"That was the most exhilarating experience in my life," Rodgers told the Flint Journal in 1993. "It was almost a spiritual thing. I wouldn't have missed that for anything in my life."





## Founders' Gates Inscription



*From a 1931 booklet of pen sketches of Illinois Wesleyan University*

*“WE STAND IN A POSITION OF INCALCULABLE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GREAT WAVE OF POPULATION OVERSPREADING THE VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI. DESTINY SEEMS TO POINT OUT THIS VALLEY AS THE DEPOSITORY OF THE GREAT HEART OF THE NATION. FROM THIS CENTER, MIGHT PULSATIONS, FOR GOOD OR EVIL, MUST IN THE FUTURE FLOW, WHICH SHALL NOT ONLY AFFECT THE FORTUNE OF THE REPUBLIC, BUT REACH IN THEIR INFLUENCE OTHER AND DISTANT NATIONS OF THE EARTH.”*