

Commencement

IN OUR *176th Year*

— 1850—2026 —



May 3, 2026

SHIRK CENTER FOR ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Knowledge and Wisdom

Illinois Wesleyan was founded in 1850 by 30 civic and Methodist Church leaders. During its first year, preparatory classes were taught; collegiate studies began in 1851.

Today, the University is an independent, residential liberal arts university, and exclusively undergraduate. Illinois Wesleyan enrolls approximately 1,683 students from 37 states and 26 countries. A highly selective institution, Wesleyan offers over 100 majors, minors and programs in a unique curriculum that combines the liberal arts and sciences with professional schools of art, music, theatre, and nursing.

Illinois Wesleyan has long had a commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Board of Trustees opened the University's enrollment to African Americans in 1867, and in 1880, Gus A. Hill became the institution's first African American graduate. The University's first female student, Hannah I. Shur, earned her degree in 1872. Illinois Wesleyan's first international students, Y. Osawa and K. Tanaka, arrived from Japan in 1889.

Another hallmark of the Illinois Wesleyan experience is the way that its faculty engage students inside and outside of the classroom. This tradition of faculty collaboration and engagement dates back to the institution's earliest days when Civil War veteran, geologist, and explorer John Wesley Powell engaged his students in exploration and fieldwork in the Rocky Mountain region. Powell, who designed the University seal and coined its *Knowledge and Wisdom* motto, went on to become the director of the U.S. Geological Survey and later the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

Presiding at this year's Commencement will be Sheahon Zenger, who was named the University's 21st president in 2024. Graduates of the Class of 2026 will join more than 20,000 Illinois Wesleyan alumni living in all 50 states and 37 countries around the world.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: The Shirk Center was inspired by the Russell and Betty Shirk Foundation of Bloomington. Opened in 1994, it has served as a vital hub for Illinois Wesleyan and the community ever since.

Commencement Speaker



Colleen L. Kannaday, FACHE

Colleen Kannaday served as the President of Carle BroMenn Medical Center, a 200 bed Acute Care Hospital in Normal, Illinois as well as Carle Eureka Hospital, a 25 bed Critical Access Hospital in Eureka, Illinois from 2010 until her retirement in February 2026. Both organizations are part of Carle Health, located in Urbana, Illinois.

Prior to joining Carle, Colleen was the President of St. Francis Hospital & Health Center in Blue Island, Illinois. She was also Vice President of Operations at St. Eugene Community Hospital in Dillon, South Carolina. Both St. Francis and St. Eugene were members of SSM Health, a

Catholic system in St. Louis, Missouri and the first healthcare recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Colleen holds a master's degree in Health Care Administration from St. Louis University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. Colleen currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Illinois Wesleyan University and is a former Board member of Illinois Hospital Association. Colleen and her husband Kim live in Bloomington and are the proud parents of two adult children.



America The Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

— Katherine Lee Bates
(1859–1929)

Alma Wesleyana

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 dream till dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —
Star-crowned our Alma Mater Wesleyan!

— Professor W. E. Schultz
(1887–1964)

Do Good

Go into the world, go into the world and do well.
But more importantly do good.
What's your passion? What's your passion?
Are you a writer, creator, dancer, or baker?
A teacher, a doctor, parent, lawmaker?
What's your passion?
Go into the world, go into the world and do well.
But more importantly do good.
Transform the world in the way you've learned to dream.
As you grow, you will know what you cannot see now.
So go into the world, go into the world and do well.
But more importantly do good.
Be the best in something, be filled with unending curiosity.
Be Titans of goodness.
Do well and do good.
Go into the world, go into the world and do well.
But more importantly do good.

— Andrew Bruhn
(b. 1985)

Program

*President Sheahon Zenger, Presiding
Edgar Lehr, Mace Bearer*

Prelude	Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble, Logan Campbell <i>Conductor & Director of Large Instrumental Ensembles</i>	Address	Colleen Kannaday “Turning Detours Into Direction: Building A Resilient Life”
	Halcyon Hearts <i>Katahj Copley (b. 1998)</i>	Conferring of Degrees	President Zenger, Dr. Karla Carney-Hall <i>Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students,</i> Dr. Leslie Betz '93 <i>Registrar</i>
Faculty Processional <i>(please stand)</i>	Procession of the Nobles <i>Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908) arr. Erik W. G. Leidzén</i>	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Dr. Amber Kujath '97 <i>Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences</i>
Graduate Processional <i>(please stand)</i>	Pomp and Circumstance Theme from March No. 1 <i>Edward Elgar (1857-1934) arr. Clare Grundman</i>	Bachelor of Fine Arts	Carmen Lozar <i>Associate Professor of Art and Design,</i> RJ Hodde <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts</i>
America, the Beautiful <i>(please remain standing and join in singing)</i>	Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir, Cody Parrott <i>Director of Choral Activities</i> <i>Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903) arr. Carmen Dragon</i>	Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education	Logan Campbell <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Invocation <i>(remain standing)</i>	Rev. Nicholas Showalter '83 <i>Directing Pastor</i> <i>Bloomington Wesley United Methodist Church</i>	Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science	Provost Miles, Dr. Rebecca A. Roesner <i>Associate Provost</i>
President's Welcome	Dr. Sheahon Zenger <i>President</i>	Alma Wesleyana	Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir <i>(please stand and join in singing)</i> George W. Warren <i>(1828-1902)</i> <i>arr. Michael Wallace</i>
Trustee Greetings	Timothy J. Szerlong '74 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>	Closing Remarks	President Zenger
Remarks of Class Representative	Chloe Shapkauski '26	Do Good	Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir <i>Andrew Bruhn (b.1985)</i>
Faculty Reflections	Dr. Tyler Schwend <i>Associate Professor of Biology Class of 2026 Professor of the Year</i>	Recessional	Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble <i>(please stand)</i> Make the Movement <i>Shawn Davern (b. 1994)</i>
Announcement of Honors	President Zenger		
Awarding of Honorary Degree	President Zenger, Mr. Szerlong, John Miles <i>Provost and Dean of Faculty</i>		

Please turn off cell phones. Remain seated until all graduates have exited.

Academic Distinctions

Students with excellent final cumulative grade point averages are recognized as:

Summa Cum Laude—with highest honor—3.90 GPA or higher

Magna Cum Laude—with great honor—3.70 GPA or higher

Cum Laude—with honor—3.50 GPA or higher



Commencement Honors

The Hope Ellen Pape President's Club Award in the Fine Arts is awarded for outstanding accomplishment in Art or Music or Theatre Arts.

The Annabelle Scrogin Anderson '36 Award recognizes distinguished achievement in multiple fields of study.

The John L. Clark Award in Literary Studies honors outstanding academic performance, particularly in historical and theory courses, and evidenced by scholarly ability and participation in the creative activities of the School of Theatre Arts.

The Nikki Kaye Pape President's Club Award for Excellence in Writing is presented for the best selection of writing prepared during the academic year.

The Professor David Bailey prize in Chemistry honors outstanding achievement in the field of chemistry.

The Harold C. Hodge President's Club Award in Natural Science and Mathematics salutes outstanding achievement in the natural sciences and mathematics.

The Donald R. Koehn Memorial Award is presented for outstanding achievement in the humanities.

The Robert S. Eckley President's Club Award in Social Science recognizes outstanding achievement in the social sciences.

The Caroline F. Rupert Nursing Award salutes outstanding work during four years of undergraduate study in nursing.

The Katherine Riedelbauch Baker Music Award recognizes superiority in general musicianship, including theoretical and historical fields.

The William T. Beadles Award for Exceptional Achievement in Business Administration recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments and professional promise.

The Jack C. Fields Prize for Excellence in Accounting is presented for exceptional achievement in the study of accounting.

The Larry Shue Drama Award recognizes outstanding potential as a professional artist of the theatre.

The Hester Merwin Ayers Art Achievement Award is presented for outstanding achievement in Art.

Graduation with Research Honors

Davis Aschemann, Neuroscience

Title: Varied Environmental Enrichment Schedules Differentially Affect Behavioral Performance

Project Advisor: Joe Williams

Jackson Grey Baker, Music

Title: Music and Mecha: An Analysis of *Mobile Suit Zeta Gundam*

Project Advisor: Adriana Ponce

Abraham Bishop, English-Writing

Title: Roman Fiddler: A Collection of Comedic Writing

Project Advisor: Michael Theune

Abhirup Das, Biology

Title: Development and Characterization of a Genetic Tool to Investigate the Effect of Phage Genes on Rhodobacteraceae

Project Advisor: Richard Alvey

Ysabella DeMonica, Neuroscience

Title: Ethanol's Effect on ECAPs in Closed-Loop Spinal Cord Stimulation

Project Advisor: Joe Williams

Logan Faith, Psychology

Title: Real Talk: Piloting a Brief Digital Body Image Intervention for College Students

Project Advisor: Marie Nebel-Schwalm

Joseph Freedman, Economics

Title: Monetary Policy and Equity Market Reactions: Linking Monetary Theory to Sector Level ETF Performance

Project Advisor: Bryan McCannon

Khel Gordhan, Political Science

Title: Comparing the Impact of City and County Landbanks

Project Advisor: Tari Renner

Liam-Cecilia "LC" Killian, History

Title: Panthers in a Pride: The Forgotten History of the Black Panther Party and Its Influence on the Homosexual Liberation Movement

Project Advisor: April Schultz

Vân T. Lê, International Global Studies

Title: Decentralization's Effects on Food-Insecure Households in Drought-Prone woredas in Ethiopia

Project Advisor: William Munro

Anjali Malali, Neuroscience

Title: The Effects of Hyperthyroidism on Mouse Corneal Innervation: Implications for Human Cornea Re-innervation

Project Advisor: Tyler Schwend

Kylie Power, History

Title: "We Only Care For White Germs": How Black Chicagoans Used Community Care to Overcome Medical Discrimination

Project Advisor: Alyssa Culp

Monica Salonga, Nursing

Title: Barriers to Mental Healthcare in Rural Agricultural Communities

Project Advisor: Wendy Kookan

The School of Nursing

Candidates for the degree

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Lauryn Elizabeth Albertini, *Magna Cum Laude*

Maya Basan, *Summa Cum Laude*

Julianna Renee Boyle

Kaylee Shaina Brosseau, *Magna Cum Laude*

Josephine Rae Chipp, *Cum Laude*

La'Nyla Monae Chisum

Valeria Colin

Maryuri Aracely Colindres Alvarado

Nina Gianna Conover

Debbie Ufuoma Efecie, *Summa Cum Laude*

Rebecca Marie Fajardo

Olivia Grace Galloway

Gavin Michael Gonzalez, *Magna Cum Laude*

Zachary J. Hinds, *Cum Laude*

Sofia Kate Hulne

Madison Grace Hunt

John Robert Jones

Haden James McKenzie, *Magna Cum Laude*

Gracie Lee Miller, *Summa Cum Laude*

Madison Elizabeth Provost

Kylie Lynn Rankin, *Magna Cum Laude*

Kaia Jill Robbins, *Magna Cum Laude*

Monica Therese Domingo Salonga, *Magna Cum Laude*

Joseph Song

Muhammad Husayn Totten

Katherine Elizabeth Traugott, *Cum Laude*

Kennedy S. Tunk

Christopher Michael Wilson

Rylie Jean Wohlford



College of Fine Arts

Candidates for the degree

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

ART

Alyssa Christine Germann, *Magna Cum Laude*

Hailey Rootberg

Camron C. Irvin, *Magna Cum Laude*

Georgia Abagayle Grace Sharwarko

THEATRE ARTS

Kathryn Jo Alderman, *Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude*

Jack Anthony Klein, *Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude*

Jack Declan Berleman-Paul, *Music Theatre*

Sam Morrow Landt, *Acting*

Ecaterina Cuznetova, *Acting, Magna Cum Laude*

Malea Delphine Niesen, *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Delainey Elizabeth Guiney, *Music Theatre,
Magna Cum Laude*

Terria Alicia O'Neal, *Music Theatre*

Kaitlyn Nicole Jones, *Acting, Cum Laude*

Gabriella Renee Rosen, *Acting, Summa Cum Laude*

Hannah Grace Steck, *Acting, Summa Cum Laude*

Candidates for the degree

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Jackson Grey Baker, *Instrumental Performance, Cum Laude*

Anna Maria Noga, *Vocal Performance*

Connie Kim, *Instrumental Performance*

Candidates for the degree

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Daniel Alexander Boy

Andrew Lin, *Cum Laude*

Elijah Ray Dalla

Owen Lowe, *Magna Cum Laude*

Maia Hawksworth, *Summa Cum Laude*



College of Liberal Arts

Candidates for the degree

BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Grace Marie Abrams, *Mathematics*
Alexys Alvarez, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*
Anisha Amaravadi, *Neuroscience*
Malia Mae Ames, *Communications, Cum Laude*
Gavin Albert Anderson, *Chemistry*
Elidia Stephany Apolinar, *Political Science*
Marianna Ameryka Arias, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*
Justin Rohan Arya, *Finance*
Davis Ali Aschemann, *Neuroscience, Psychology,
Magna Cum Laude*
David J. Baer, *English - Writing*
Amari Baeza, *Elementary Education*
Juney Daniel Bai, *Finance, Summa Cum Laude*
Sara Balli, *Marketing*
Erin Elizabeth Bania, *Art, Psychology*
Ava Bardic, *Marketing*
Justin Barnett, *English - Writing*
Peter Michael Basta, *Political Science*
Islam Batyrbekov, *Quantitative Finance, Summa Cum Laude*
Eliazar August Finch Becker, *Theatre Arts,
International and Global Studies, Magna Cum Laude*
Anna Christine Beckman, *Physics*
Nathan Michael Bibbey, *Entrepreneurship, Cum Laude*
Abraham Bradley Bishop, *English - Writing,
Summa Cum Laude*
Zachary Alexander Blazek, *Business*
Nathan Alexander Boldt, *Business, Cum Laude*
Stevan Borojevic, *Business*
Luiz Felipe Ferreira Bossetto, *Computer Science, Cum Laude*
Kannyn Kerry Boyd, *Elementary Education,
Magna Cum Laude*
Mitchell Robert Breza, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*
Aman L. Brown, *English - Literature*
Otis James Buras, *Physics, Art, Summa Cum Laude*
Olivia Ann Busby, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*
Molly Grace Buscher, *Political Science, Business*
Cody Douglas Buskohl, *Quantitative Finance, Cum Laude*
Emily Donn Butler, *Elementary Education, Cum Laude*
Trevion Campbell, *Elementary Education*
Kayley J. Carew, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*
Peyton Elaine Carlock, *Biology*
Alex Thomas Carollo, *Computer Science*
Christopher Joshua Edward Carter, *Business*
Cynthia Castro, *Sociology, International and Global Studies*
Gianna Grace Certa, *Psychology*
Jonathan Glenn Ciullo, *Kinesiology and Allied Health,
Cum Laude*
Karlo Rocco Colak, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*
Eileen Elizabeth Conklin, *History, Secondary Education,
Magna Cum Laude*
Alyssa Sue Conley, *Entrepreneurship, Summa Cum Laude*
Leslie Nohemi Contreras, *Political Science*
Benji W. Corbin, *Biology*
Bree Elizabeth Cordray, *Elementary Education*
Kyle A. Correll, *Computer Science, Physics, Magna Cum Laude*
Lucas W. Costello, *Finance, Cum Laude*
Dominic Edward Covington, *Marketing*
Jenna Marie Cox, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*
Adriana Rose Crabtree, *Environmental Studies, Biology,
Magna Cum Laude*
Daniel Gregory Crawford, *Entrepreneurship*

Zack Henry Daniel, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

Rem Quintin Villanueva David, *Chemistry, Summa Cum Laude*

William Chadwick Davidsmeier, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Cayla Riane Maxcean Davis, *Marketing*

Elizabeth Alice Davis, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Sarvinoz Davlatyorova, *Finance*

Margot Crist Dawson, *Biology*

Aneliz Ashanti De Jesus Hernández, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*

Ysabella Marie DeMonica, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*

Ella Grace DeYoung, *Business, Hispanic Studies, Magna Cum Laude*

Swikrut Dhanorkar, *Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude*

Janani Dharmarajan, *Biology, Summa Cum Laude*

Anelise Marie Di Giovanni, *Psychology*

Thad Phillip Dillow, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*

Emma Rose Douglas, *Biology*

Noah Miles Dretzka, *Finance*

Ariana Isabella Dunne, *Entrepreneurship*

Nicholas Michael Edelen, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*

Celina El Ghossaini, *English - Writing, Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude*

Ashtin Andrew James Elder, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Tyler Ryan Engel, *English - Literature, Secondary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Brooke Ellianna Erhard, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Cum Laude*

Logan Andrew Faith, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*

Aidan Jeffery Ferguson, *Accounting*

Francesca Hope Figueroa-Diaz, *English - Literature*

Jack Thomas Flagg, *Finance*

Maya W. Flemming, *Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude*

Jacob Flores Gomez, *Computer Science*

Jason Flores Gomez, *Computer Science*

Samuel David Fogarty, *Biology, Business, Summa Cum Laude*

Landon Richard Kendall Ford, *English - Writing*

Carleigh Emma Fountain, *Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude*

Joseph Patrick Freedman, *Business, Economics, Magna Cum Laude*

Taylor Christine French, *PK-12 Physical Education*

Marc Owen Froidcoeur, *Accounting, Summa Cum Laude*

Haley Suzanne Gabbard, *Biology, Summa Cum Laude*

Emily Katherine Galvan, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude*

Kaden Gammelgaard, *Accounting*

Caroline Shields Gatchell, *Business*

Brayden Lee Gemachlich, *Business, Cum Laude*

Xavier Luis Giron, *Physics, Magna Cum Laude*

Isabella Dee Gonzalez, *Political Science*

Khel Gordhan, *Biology, Political Science*

Matthew James Gordon, *Business*

Jenna Kelsey Gravitt, *Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude*

Jordynn Alexandria Griffin, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude*

Paige Anne Griffin, *Environmental Studies, Data Science*

Taner Robert Grimsley, *History, Secondary Education*

Brianna Stephanie Grzesiak, *Biology*

Katharine LeAnn Gund, *Economics*

Seth Michael Hamerski, *Economics, Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*

Madison Elizabeth Hamilton, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Griffin John Hammond, *Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude*

Luke A. Hanson, *Accounting, Cum Laude*

Sara Meyer Hart, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Aidan Michael Healy, *Marketing, Cum Laude*

Joshua Alexander Heery, *Entrepreneurship*

Kiera Christine Henderson, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Vianey Hernandez Pimentel, *Sociology*

Kenneth Michael Holdman, *Biology*

Isabella Suzanne Houchin, *Psychology*

Griffin Alexander Hrabak, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*

Lily Huang, *Economics, Magna Cum Laude*

Marshall Allen Ingold, *Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude*

Evan Charles Irwin, *Neuroscience, Biology, Summa Cum Laude*

Nazar Islamov, *Computer Science*

Payton Michelle Jacob, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Amir Askarovich Janabayev, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*

Dana Marie Janiec, *English - Literature, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude*

Jay Ernest Jenkins Jr., *Accounting, Cum Laude*

Oluwatobiloba Keziah Jimi George, *Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, Cum Laude*

Maria Johnson, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*

Zachary Jones, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Mihailo Jovanovic, *Finance*

Kalabi Kamau, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*

Samuel Edward Kedzior, *Mathematics, Secondary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Cole Kennedy, *Finance*

Daniel Kent, *Economics*

Mohammad Naseem Khalil, *Elementary Education, Cum Laude*

Liam-Cecilia Patrick Killian, *History, International and Global Studies*

Ryen Benji Kirschner, *Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude*

Briana Nicole Kiser, *Elementary Education, Cum Laude*

Elijah Semilogo Kolawole, *Computer Science*

Tom Tokushi Komatsu, *Computer Science*

Brady Stefan Kornak, *Elementary Education*

Kayleigh Isabel Kuschewski, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude*

Myles Richard Lahart, *Finance, Economics, Summa Cum Laude*

Vân T. Lê, *Political Science, International and Global Studies, Cum Laude*

Matthew Daniel Lindberg, *Psychology*

Wanda Lucille Lindquist, *Physics, Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude*

Martha Lipic, *Biochemistry, Summa Cum Laude*

Grace Elizabeth Liszkiewicz, *Neuroscience, Cum Laude*

Andrew James London, *Finance*

Evan Christian Lowder, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Matthew Jacob Lunsford, *Computer Science*

Laura Jewell Mahlum, *Physics*

Daniel Brian Malone, *Environmental Studies, Public Health, Summa Cum Laude*

Zachary Edward Marquardt, *Accounting, Summa Cum Laude*

James D. Marre, *Computer Science*

James Patrick Martin, *Physics, Mathematics, Cum Laude*

Kylie A. Matas, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Thomas McCormick, *Political Science*

Nicholas Bradley McCully, *Accounting*

Maya Paige McGrew, *Interdisciplinary Educational Studies*

William James McHugh, *Economics, Cum Laude*

DeAris Amir McQuirter, *Special-Film Studies, Cum Laude*

Julia Anne Meier Gross, *Computer Science*

Benjamin Thomas Michalowski, *History, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude*

Kade Z. Miers, *Political Science, Cum Laude*

Jace Robert Milka, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Jaden Lee Miller, *Political Science, Cum Laude*

Kaylee Shay Miller, *English - Literature, Cum Laude*

Si Thu Min Myat, *Physics, Cum Laude*

Nozanin Mirzoeva, *Quantitative Finance, Summa Cum Laude*

Robert Weller Mogged, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude*

Matthew Emmet Molsen, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*

Jackson Thomas Moore, *Business, Summa Cum Laude*

Tre'Von Jamarr Moore, *Sociology*

Andres Morales-Gomez, *Finance*

Marin Liann Moss, *Entrepreneurship, Magna Cum Laude*

Christopher Michael Mueller, *Physics, Magna Cum Laude*

Claire Elizabeth Mulconrey, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*

Kaden James Mullendore, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Lily Marie Muto, *Psychology*

Kelsey I. Nava, *Political Science, Cum Laude*

Brooke Katherine Nazos, *Elementary Education*

Jack William Nevins, *Biology*

Sadie AnneMarie Newton, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Brandon Michael Niefert, *Business*

Isabel Rebeca Nieto, *Psychology*

Anna Maria Noga, *Environmental Studies*

Karsten Jens Nordlie, *Business*

James Elliott Notrica, *Biology*

Suhaas Nukanaboina, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Jessica Oliva Navarro, *Biology, International and Global Studies, Cum Laude*

Brandon Ornelas, *Physics*

John Mario Orrico, *Psychology*

Andrew Elliott Ortega, *Finance*

Nicole F. Otero, *Political Science*

Griffin Timothy Tunks Owens, *Computer Science*

Brooke Ann Pacchetti, *English - Writing, Economics, Magna Cum Laude*

Dominic Aquino Parise, *Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*

Noah Xavier Passoni, *Business*

Jahaël Grace Paul, *Political Science*

Rianna Guevara Pecson, *Biology*

Joshua Riley Pehl, *Accounting, Summa Cum Laude*

TreShanna Catherine Perry, *Psychology*

Casey John Petrosky, *Computer Science*

Michael James Pilafas, *Finance*

Leah Autumn Plath, *Psychology*

Natalie Porter, *Psychology*

Claire Sloan Post, *Art*

Makayla Olivia Jamaie Powell, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Kylie M. Power, *English - Literature, History, Cum Laude*

Alex Glenn Prairie, *Accounting*

Madeline Elizabeth Press, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*

Ava Marie Propp, *Biology*

Trevor Lawrence Propp, *Psychology*

Jake Ryan Pullam, *Finance, Economics, Summa Cum Laude*

Abigail Elizabeth Quinn, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Zoe Ann Raczykowski, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*

Anusha Mohana Rainey, *International and Global Studies, Hispanic Studies, Magna Cum Laude*

Jennifer Rangel Martinez, *Marketing, Summa Cum Laude*

Sebastian Rasquin, *Business*

Rachel Whitney Rattley, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

Eileen Rita Reilly, *Sociology*

Ellianna Mae Revell-Beck, *Political Science, Cum Laude*

Ernesto Fabian Reyes, *Economics, Summa Cum Laude*

Sarah Nicole Riepe, *Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude*

Jaxson Bryan Roberts, *Business, Cum Laude*

Michael James Rocco, *Finance, Summa Cum Laude*

Vadym Oleksliy Sadovskyy, *Economics, Cum Laude*

Alexis Celina Saizan, *Accounting*

Trevor D. Salmon, *Finance*

Ethan B. Sanders, *Computer Science*

Jishnu Satheeshreddy, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*

Claire Grace Scavone, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

Christian Ray Schloneger, *Finance, Summa Cum Laude*

Cristian Aleksandr Schmidt, *Environmental Studies*

Ashlyn M. Schnute, *Environmental Studies*

Adam Christopher Schofield, *Mathematics*

Emily Josephine Schubert, *Political Science*

Jahari Romaine Scott, *Psychology, Sociology*

Samuel Cooper Scott, *Entrepreneurship*

Brandy Alexandria Serna, *Sociology, Cum Laude*

Cole James Shamhart, *Finance, Cum Laude*

Samantha Christine Shanks, *Business*

Chloe Shapkauskis, *Business, Summa Cum Laude*

Raphael James Singh, *Psychology, Neuroscience, Cum Laude*

Jaromir Josef Smazil III, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*

Makayla Marie Smedley, *Special-Neuroanatomy*

Asa Muirhead Smith, *Philosophy, Business, Magna Cum Laude*

Halle Lynn Smith, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*

Rayion Janea Smith, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Michael Gregory Spitzer, *Entrepreneurship, Cum Laude*

Dylan Riley Steklac, *Art*

Valeria Suarez, *International and Global Studies, Political Science, Magna Cum Laude*

Kaylee Anne Swickert, *Computer Science*

Jacob Charles Tackett, *Sociology, Magna Cum Laude*

Otabek Tajiev, *Computer Science*

Hannah Marie Tellor, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Summa Cum Laude*

Jayalia Joanne Therien, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

Logan Patrick Tierney, *Computer Science*

Nicklaus Scott Tingley, *Finance, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*

Olivia Pearl Tirey, *Biochemistry, Summa Cum Laude*

Lucas Viet Tran, *Business, Cum Laude*

Autumn Treml, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*

Ian Mitchell Turnbull, *Biology*

Isidro Adrian Vargas, *Biology*

Benjamin Joseph Vigneri, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Summa Cum Laude*

Samantha Marie Voss, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Owen Mark Vukelich, *Chemistry*

Logan Andrew Wallace, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Hayden Scott Warfield, *Computer Science*

Nathan Michael Waterman, *History, Secondary Education, Cum Laude*

Raegan Noelle Watts, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Joel Michael Weber, *Supply Chain Management*

Gavin Rojas Wenzel, *Chemistry*

Isaac Edward Whitaker, *Business*

Sawyer Grace White, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Thomas Anthony Willard, *Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*

David A. Williams, *Business*

Megan Katherine Williams, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*

Jordan Russell Wininger, *Business, Cum Laude*

Maeve Beatrix Wissinger, *Hispanic Studies, Summa Cum Laude*

Casey Rae Wissmiller, *Psychology*

Gage Wesley Wolfe, *Business*

Semaj Venus Young, *Environmental Studies, Theatre Arts, Magna Cum Laude*

Dalila Zhanguzinova, *Political Science, Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude*

Weifan Zhou, *Physics, Special-Geoinformatics, Magna Cum Laude*



A Letter from the Alumni Association

To The Class of 2026:

Congratulations!

This is one of those moments you'll remember for the rest of your life—and you've earned every bit of it. Today, you officially become alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University, and I couldn't be more excited to welcome you into this community.

Like you, I once sat where you are now—on the edge of what comes next, equal parts excited and uncertain. What I've learned since then is that being a Titan doesn't end when you leave campus. In many ways, it's just beginning.

During your time at IWU, you've grown in ways that may not fully hit you yet. You've built friendships that will last, faced challenges you didn't see coming, and developed the confidence to figure things out—even when the path isn't clear. That's the real power of this place.

As you step forward, I want you to know that you're not doing it alone. The Titan network is real, and it shows up. Across the country and around the world, alumni are opening doors, offering guidance, and cheering each other on. Don't hesitate to reach out, to ask for help, or to simply introduce yourself—you'll be surprised how quickly fellow Titans respond.

Staying connected to IWU doesn't have to look one specific way. Maybe it's coming back for Homecoming, mentoring a student, joining an alumni group, or just staying in touch with the people who made this place feel like home. However you choose to engage, know that you're always part of this community.

We're sending you out into a world that can feel unpredictable at times—but you are more prepared than you think. Lead with curiosity. Stay open to growth. Take care of the people around you. And when you can, give back—because the strength of this community depends on each generation lifting up the next. And most importantly, do well and do good.

Today is a celebration of everything you've accomplished—and the start of everything ahead.

Welcome to the Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Association. We're proud of you, and we're with you.

In Titan Pride,

Megan Howe '05

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

Illinois Wesleyan University

President's Cabinet

Sheahon Zenger, Ph.D., President

Julie Anderson '87, M.B.A., Chief of Staff

Ann Aubry, B.A., Director of University Marketing Communications

Karla C. Carney-Hall, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Ernest (E.K.) Franks, Ed.D., Executive Director of Organizational Engagement

Mark Gibson, M.B.A., Ph.D., Chief Marketing and Branding Officer

Kathleen Hermacinski, B.A., Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator

Rick Lindquist '99, B.A., Interim Chief Information Officer

Craig Maynard, M.S.A. Vice President for Finance and Operations

Jesse Meyer, Ph.D., Vice President for Advancement

John Miles, Ph.D., Provost and Dean of Faculty

Rebecca A. Roesner, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Standards

Gaelyn Rose, M.B.A., Vice President for Enrollment

April Schultz, Ph.D., Chairperson, Council on University Programs and Policy

Steve Seibring '81, B.A., Vice President for External Relationships

Michael D. Thompson, Ed.D., Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

Mike Wagner, M.S., Athletic Director



Emeriti Professors

Teodora Amoloza, Ph.D.	Charles Lynn DeVore, Ph.D.	Thomas Lutze, Ph.D.	Karen Schmidt, Ph.D.
Susan Anderson, Ph.D.	Lynda M. Duke, M.S.	Rebecca Mafazy, Ph.D.	Roger H. Schnaitter, Ph.D.
Miles Bair, M.A.	Norman Eash, M.S.	Robert Mangialardi, M.M.	Robert Schultz, Ph.D.
Marina Balina, Ph.D.	Steven Eggleston, M.M.	Dennis Martel, M.S.	Michael Seeborg, Ph.D.
Melinda Baur, Ph.D.	Irving Epstein, Ph.D.	David Marvin, J.D.	Scott Sheridan, Ph.D.
David Bollivar, Ph.D.	Linda Farquharson, D.M.A.	James Matthews, Ph.D.	James Sikora, Ph.D.
Shela Bondurant-Koehler, D.M.Ed.	J. Scott Ferguson, D.M.A.	Vadim Mazo, M.M.	Charles Springwood, Ph.D.
Barbara Bowman, Ph.D.	Victoria Folse, Ph.D.	Sherilyn McElroy, M.S.	Kevin Strandberg, M.F.A.
Susan J. Brandon, M.F.A.	Ruth Ann C. Friedberg, M.S.	Sharie Metcalfe, Ph.D.	Thomas Streeter, D.M.A.
Robert Bray, Ph.D.	Mona J. Gardner, Ph.D.	Meg Miner, M.L.S.	Nancy Sultan, Ph.D.
Dennie Bridges, M.S.	Roger Garrett, M.M.	Carren Moham, D.M.A.	Scott Susong, M.F.A.
Charlotte Brown, Ph.D.	Timothy Garvey, Ph.D.	William T. Morris, Ph.D.	Susan Swanlund, Ph.D.
Jared Brown, Ph.D.	David M. Gehrenbeck, S.M.D.	Robert L. Mowery, Ph.D.	Margaret D. Tennis, Ed.D.
Meghan Burke, Ph.D.	Nina Gordon, Ph.D.	Pamela Muirhead, Ph.D.	Dan Terkla, Ph.D.
Mary Ann Bushman, Ph.D.	Pennie Gray, Ph.D.	Carole Myscofski, Ph.D.	Marcia Thomas, M.L.S.
Christopher J. Callahan, Ph.D.	Shelia Jesek-Hale, Ph.D.	Kathleen O’Gorman, Ph.D.	Hans-Joerg Tiede, Ph.D.
Wes Chapman, Ph.D.	R. Given Harper, Ph.D.	Mauricio Parra, Ph.D.	Curtis Trout, M.F.A.
Mary Coleman, Ph.D.	Donna L. Hartweg, Ph.D.	Mario Pelusi, Ph.D.	Todd M. Tucker, Ph.D.
Richard Kent Cook, D.M.A.	Tian-Xiao He, Ph.D.	Adriana Ponce, Ph.D.	David Vayo, D.M.A.
Barbara Cothren, M.S.	J. Robert Hippensteele, Ph.D.	Julie Prandi, Ph.D.	William Walsh, Ph.D.
Bruce B. Criley, Ph.D.	Gordon Horwitz, Ph.D.	Christopher Prendergast, Ph.D.	W. Michael Weis, Ph.D.
Bruno deHarak, Ph.D.	Fred Hoyt, Ph.D.	Timothy R. Rettich, Ph.D.	William West, M.M.
Robert Delvin, M.L.S.	Abigail Jahiel, Ph.D.	Georganne Rundblad, Ph.D.	David Willis, Ph.D.
Connie Dennis, Ph.D.	Robin Leavitt, Ph.D.	Allison Sainsbury, Ph.D.	Raymond G. Wilson, Ph.D.
Herman L. Detweiler, M.S.T.	Nancy Loitz, M.F.A.	Kathryn Scherck, D.N.Sc.	Michael Young, Ph.D.
			Nancy Zander, M.S.

Professors

Stephanie Davis-Kahl, M.L.S.	Edgar Lehr, Ph.D.	Thomas Quinn, M.F.A.	Greg Shaw, Ph.D.
Joanne Diaz, Ph.D.	Bryan McCannon, Ph.D.	Ilia Radoslavov, D.M.A.	Brad Sheese, Ph.D.
Zahia Drici, Ph.D.	Ram Mohan, Ph.D.	Brandi Reissenweber, M.F.A.	James Simeone, Ph.D.
Carmela Ferradans, Ph.D.	William Munro, Ph.D.	Tari Renner, Ph.D.	Gabriel Spalding, Ph.D.
William Jaeckle, Ph.D.	Carolyn Nadeau, Ph.D.	Daniel Roberts, Ph.D.	Kevin Sullivan, Ph.D.
Narendra Jaggi, Ph.D.	Kimberly Nelson-Brown, M.S.	Rebecca A. Roesner, Ph.D.	Christopher Sweet, M.L.S.
Robert Kearney, Ph.D.	Gerald Olson, Ph.D.	Ronald Rose, M.A.T.	Michael Theune, Ph.D.
Amber Kujath, Ph.D.	James Plath, Ph.D.	April Schultz, Ph.D.	Michael Wagner, M.S.
Seung-Hwan Lee, Ph.D.	Adriana Ponce, Ph.D.	Andrew Shallue, Ph.D.	Joseph Williams, Ph.D.

Associate Professors

Richard Alvey, Ph.D.	Peggy Jacobs, D.N.P.	Mignon Montpetit, Ph.D.	Mia Smith, M.S.
Amanda Coles, Ph.D.	Billie Jarvis-Freeman, Ph.D	Marie Nebel-Schwalm, Ph.D.	Armella Thompson, M.F.A.
Loralyn Cozy, Ph.D.	William Kauth, Ed.D.	Lisa Nelson, D.M.A.	César Valverde, Ph.D.
Jessie Dixon, Ph.D.	Lindsey Kellar, Ph.D.	Kristine Nielsen, Ph.D.	Amanda Vicary, Ph.D.
Andy Engen, Ph.D.	Jean MacFarland Kerr, M.A.	Nirjhar Nigam, Ph.D.	Loni Walker, Ph.D.
Constance Estep, M.F.A.	Noël Kerr, Ph.D.	Leah Nillas, Ph.D.	David Wallace, Ph.D.
Maggie Evans, Ph.D.	Brenda Knoll, Ph.D.	Tiffany Prager, M.S.	Brian Walter, Ph.D.
Todd Fuist, Ph.D.	Wendy Kookan, Ph.D.	Charles Rice, Ph.D.	W. Aaron Wilson, Ph.D.
Amanda Hopkins, Ph.D.	Linda Kunce, Ph.D.	Edward Risinger, M.M.	
Courtney Irby, Ph.D.	Mark Liffiton, Ph.D.	Kyle Schauls, M.A.	
Robert Irons, Ph.D.	Carmen Lozar, M.F.A.	Tyler Schwend, Ph.D.	

Assistant Professors

Cassandra Adkins, D.N.P.	Tara Gerstner, Ph.D.	Reginald Lewis, D.M.A.	Jennifer Rushlow, Ph.D.
Courtney Amaro, M.F.A.	Jiahao Gu, Ph.D.	Todd Lowder, M.A.	Zandra Siple, M.F.A.
Keller Andrews, Ph.D.	Pablo Guerra-Monje, M.F.A	Abigail Mann, M.S.L.S.	Seulki Seo, M.F.A.
Mariana Ribeiro Porto Araujo, Ph.D.	Elizabeth Haywood, Ph.D.	Amelia Marino, M.S.	Peter Steadman, M.S.
Liz Bloodworth, M.L.I.S.	Lisa Hensey, Ph.D.	Ryan Mellske, J.D., LL.M.	Sabiha Sultana, Ph.D.
Justin Brill, M.F.A.	RJ Hodde, M.F.A.	Leigh Moon, CFE, CIA, CPA	Yun Tang, Ph.D.
Jessica Brownfield, M.S.N.	Abdel Isakovic, Ph.D.	Terry Mullin, M.B.A; M.S.A, M.S	José Torres, Ph.D.
Kriti Budhiraja, Ph.D.	Trevor Jack, Ph.D.	Kate Neally, Ph.D.	Melissa Valenzuela, M.S.
Melissa Calvillo, Ph.D.	Ingrid Kammin, D.M.A.	Cody Parrott, D.M.A.	Jason Van Heuklon, M.S.
Logan Campbell, M.M.	Joy Kanengiser, Ph.D.	Tamara Paul-Reeff, J.D.	Wathsala Waduge, Ph.D.
Anna Corvera, M.F.A.	Michael Kellar, M.S.	Bryanna Petentler, Ph.D.	Jared Williamson, M.S.
Alyssa Culp, Ph.D.	Anastasia Klimchynskaya, Ph.D.	Angela Peverly, Ph.D.	Amy Wilson, M.F.A.
Clark Dennis III, Ph.D.	Chisato Kojima, Ph.D.	David Remmert, Ph.D.	Luke Wilson, Ph.D.
Daniel Dodd, Ph.D.	Abigail Kushina, M.A.	Jeremy Roberts, D.M.	Ryan Yokota, Ph.D.
Aubrey Elson, M.F.A.	Brian Law, Ph.D.	Juan Rodriguez Barrera, Ph.D.	Bira Zhahadai, Ph.D.

Instructors

Cristina Alméida Velez, M.A.	Marion Brooks, B.S.	Gregory Huffaker, B.A.	Brandon Mueller, B.A.
Oz Bakirdan, B.A.	Noah Haskin, M.S.	Zachary Iannucci, B.S.	Adam Richards, B.A.
Charles Berggren, B.A.	Cameron Horn, M.B.A.	Dan Lloyd, B.F.A	Scott Whitman, M.M.E.

Endowed Professorships

There is a long tradition in higher education of appointing faculty members to endowed professorships. At Illinois Wesleyan this honor is reserved for members of the faculty who have distinguished themselves through exemplary teaching and active engagement of students, outstanding scholarship and/or artistic achievement, and service at the very highest levels of the University. The guiding principle in awarding an endowed professorship is that the individual represents our highest aspirations for faculty members on this campus.

These distinguished endowed professorships are named in honor of the generous donors who made them possible. Listed by year established:

Joanne Diaz, Ph.D.

Isaac Funk Endowed Professorship, *established 1866*

James W. Plath, Ph.D.

R. Forrest Colwell Endowed Professorship, *established 1972*

Kevin Sullivan, Ph.D.

McFee Endowed Professorship, *established 1984*

Bryan McCannon '98, Ph.D.

Robert S. Eckley Endowed Professorship, *established 1986*

Robert A. Kearney, J.D., M.B.A.

Edward R. Telling Endowed Professorship, *established 1987*

Will Jaeckle, Ph.D.

Semour and Diana Galina Endowed Professorship, *established 2007*

Amber Kujath '97, Ph.D.

Deloris Helsley Ascher Endowed Professorship, *established 2007*

Carolyn A. Nadeau, Ph.D.

Byron S. Tucci Endowed Professorship, *established 2010*

Edgar Lehr, Ph.D.

Robert W. Harrington Endowed Professorship, *established 2010*

Michael Theune, Ph.D.

Robert W. Harrington Endowed Professorship, *established 2010*

Ram S. Mohan, Ph.D.

Wendell and Loretta Hess Endowed Professorship, *established 2012*

William Munro, Ph.D.

Betty Ritchie-Birrer '47 and Ivan Birrer Endowed Professorship, *established 2013*

Gabriel C. Spalding, Ph.D.

B. Charles and Joyce Eichhorn Ames Endowed Professorship, *established 2014*

James Simeone, Ph.D.

Sally A. Firestone Endowed Professorship, *established 2022*

The President's Office will sponsor light refreshments at the ceremony in the Activity Center. The concession stand, located upstairs, will also be open from 11AM - 1PM. The University Bookstore located in the Hansen Student Center will be open on Saturday from 12-3 PM and on Sunday from 10AM - 1PM.

Faculty look forward to greeting the graduates and their families after the ceremony in the upstairs hallway. Look for the department signs located in alphabetical order.

Senior marshals for the Commencement ceremony are Professors Carmela Ferradáns and Carolyn Nadeau. Student marshals are Cayden Webster '27 and Imani Ogunribido '27 representing the Junior Class.



Academic Colors and Regalia

Like judicial robes, the garments worn on academic occasions such as today's Commencement derive from the ecclesiastical garb of medieval England. The scholar in the Middle Ages, it must be remembered, was a clerk, and therefore required to wear the clerical gown and tonsure. Certainly, at Oxford and Cambridge, at least in the earliest times, the robes were monastic in origin, although the hood was adapted from a lay garment common to both sexes and all classes.

As early as the fourteenth Century, scholars of certain colleges were required by statute to wear "a decent habit" befitting a clerk and no evidence appears that there was much differentiation among undergraduates, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral robes. All were black, commonly of lamb's wool; most were fur-lined for warmth or at least fur trimmed; and the only mark of difference was in the fuller cut and ankle length of the master's gown. The cope, or closed cape, was also black and followed the style of the everyday mantle of the clergy.

Hoods were worn by all and probably had no academical significance at the beginning. By 1330–40 doctors began to adopt scarlet for their hoods, and by 1500, for their robes, with black retained by the masters of arts and bachelors of divinity. An act of Henry VIII in 1533 ratified the wearing of robes of other colors. Hoods were lined with silk and miniver fur, a custom surviving until the late seventeenth Century, but over the years distinctions were created to identify the various ranks and faculties.

Caps evolved in similar manner. The round velvet cap is still worn today in the full dress of doctors (except doctors in theology); the familiar square, or mortar-board, was copied in the early sixteenth Century from the thirteenth Century cap of the University of Paris. A third style also derives from Paris: a squared cap made by sewing four pieces of cloth with seams producing ridged edges, seen in modern times in the biretta of the clergy and the squared velvet cap of doctors of theology. The "who" and "how" of the wearing of caps produced numerous rulings, restrictions, and change.

The Reformation repressed the brilliant silks, gold lace, costly furs, and extravagant cut of academic robes, and the sober and more uniform styles are for the most part what we see today.

However, *the growth* of higher education in the United States during the nineteenth Century, when the great land grant colleges and universities were established under the Morrill Act, created a confusion of conflicting styles and colors. The easy identification of one's academic status by means of cut, fabric, and color was no longer true.

In 1893 an intercollegiate commission presented a uniform code for caps, gowns, and hoods to be worn in the United States. The mortarboard caps are the same for doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degrees, except that doctors' caps may be of velvet and may have a gold tassel. The bachelor's gown is marked by pointed sleeves, reaching to the knee, while the master's sleeve is squared at the ends, and longer. The doctoral robe is fullest, with rounded bell shaped sleeves marked by three velvet stripes.

The greatest symbolism of the academic costume is borne by the hood, which identifies the level of the degree, the faculty (or department of learning) in which it was earned, and the institution which awarded it. The size of the hood, its shape, and the width of its velvet trim identify the level of the degree, with doctoral hoods naturally being the fullest, widest, and longest. Faculty colors tell us the department.

Faculty members in the processional may be wearing light blue for education, copper for economics, drab for business and accountancy, orange for engineering, purple for law, lemon for library science, green for medicine, apricot for nursing, dark blue for philosophy, sage green for physical sciences, cream for social sciences, pink for music, golden yellow for the sciences, brown for the fine arts, and scarlet for theology, among the many available. The colors are mandatory on hoods, but may also be used on the tassels and/or the velvet on doctoral gowns.

The university or college is usually identified by the color of the hood lining. Two colors are frequently used, since there are approximately 2,000 degree-granting institutions in the United States. A few, such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and the University of Chicago, use a single color. Illinois Wesleyan's green and white was adopted in 1888.

You will also see some faculty wearing a medallion with green and white ribbon. These are professors who hold endowed professorships, which recognize extraordinary achievement in teaching, scholarly/creative work, and service.

Graduates tassels are designated by the degree they are receiving: Bachelor of Arts (white), Bachelor of Science (gold), Bachelor of Fine Arts (brown), Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education (pink), and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (apricot)

Jensen Mace

The Jensen Mace was crafted in celebration of the inauguration of President Eric R. Jensen and the Class of 2016. The mace replaces the The Eckley Mace, which was first carried at the 1969 inauguration of Dr. Robert S. Eckley, the 15th president of the University.


Made of bronze for power and endurance and of walnut for organic strength, its cupola represents the bell tower of Old North Hall, Illinois Wesleyan's first building, which was erected in 1856 and demolished in 1967. State Farm Hall now sits on the former site of Old North. The staff of the Mace was made from the walnut of Old North Hall and was used on the Eckley mace. The names of University founders' are engraved on a band surrounding the cupola.

The mace was cast and constructed by Kevin Strandberg, Professor of Art Emeritus.

The University Pineapple

The Commencement Pineapple was first used at the 2009 Commencement Ceremony. It was a gift to the University and President Wilson, the eighteenth president of the University, from the Class of 2008. It serves to remind future classes of the friendships forged over their four-years and the enduring welcome and hospitality that they enjoy as alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University.



 *Please recycle this program in specially marked recycle containers.*



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