

# Commencement

IN OUR *175th Year*

— 1850 — 2025 —



*May 4, 2025*

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 1,582 students from 41 states and 27 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 21<sup>st</sup> president in 2024. Graduates of the Class of 2025 will join more than 20,000 Illinois Wesleyan alumni living in all 50 states and 24 countries around the world.

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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



## Marc Talluto '94

Marc Talluto is a class of '94 alumnus with a degree in Computer Science, Mathematics and Business. He was a 4-year letterman and captain of the football team, and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Marc's early career was at Accenture and Deloitte consulting in addition to smaller technology and consulting startups. He eventually founded Fruition Partners, a consulting and system integration company focused on SaaS software company ServiceNow that grew to employ over 300 people and operated on 4 continents. Fruition was awarded a place in the Inc. 500, it was Forbes Magazine #1 inner city company in

2014 and was recognized by Brill Street as a top 50 employer. Fruition was acquired by DXC, where Marc and team doubled its size by globally consolidating and integrating numerous ServiceNow regional partners.

Marc collaborated with private equity firm Sunstone Capital as a board member for Onica, an AWS cloud firm that was acquired by Rackspace in 2019. He then collaborated again to form Thirdera as Chairman of the Board in 2021, where they created the largest ServiceNow system integrator with 6 acquisitions and 1,000 people and were acquired by Cognizant in 2024.

During this same time period, Marc has been a member of the IWU Board of Trustees and a regular contributor to the Illinois Wesleyan student community as our Entrepreneur in Residence, which involves co-teaching a class in entrepreneurship and helping students run a locally owned AirBNB house. He is a major contributor to the Petrick Idea Center, he provides seed funds for student enterprises in new businesses, and grant funding for experiential education.

Marc is currently a board member and investor in numerous software and services companies ranging from aviation automation and restaurants to honey sweetened chocolate and SEC compliance.

But his greatest accomplishment by far in his view is his family, wife Noel and 4 children Lucas, Aniella, Colton and Carter.



## *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)

# Program

*President Sheahon Zenger, Presiding*  
*Zahia Drici, Mace Bearer*

<b>Prelude</b>	Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble Logan Campbell, <i>Conductor and Director of Large Instrumental Ensembles</i>	<b>Awarding of Honorary Degree</b>	President Zenger, Mr. Szerlong, Prof. David Marvin <i>Interim Provost and Dean of Faculty</i>
	<i>The Sinfonians</i> Clifton Williams (1923-1976)	<b>Address</b>	Marc Talluto '94 "The Entrepreneurial Arts"
<b>Processional</b> (please stand)		<b>Conferring of Degrees</b>	President Zenger, Dr. Karla Carney-Hall <i>Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students,</i> Dr. Leslie Betz '93 <i>Registrar</i>
	<i>Let There Be Peace On Earth</i> Sy Miller and Jill Jackson (1908-1971) and (1913-1995) arr. Ed Huckleby	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Dr. Amber Kujath '97 <i>Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences</i>
	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) arr. Clare Grundman	Bachelor of Fine Arts	Kristine Nielsen <i>Associate Professor of Art,</i> Jean Kerr <i>Associate Professor and Director of the School of Theatre Arts</i>
	<i>America, the Beautiful</i> Abby Hagan '25 (please remain standing and join in singing) Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903) arr. Carmen Dragon	Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education	Logan Campbell <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Music</i>
<b>Invocation</b>	Rev. Dr. Prince Robertson (remain standing) <i>Dean of Students for Community Standards and Advocacy</i>	Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science	Interim Provost Marvin, Dr. Rebecca A. Roesner <i>Associate Provost</i>
<b>President's Welcome</b>	Dr. Sheahon Zenger <i>President</i>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	President Zenger
<b>Trustee Greetings</b>	Timothy J. Szerlong '74 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>	<b>Alma Wesleyana</b>	Miss Hagan '25 <i>George W. Warren</i> (1828-1902) arr. Michael Wallace
<b>Alumni Association Welcome</b>	Dr. Derrick Tillman-Kelly '09 <i>President of Alumni Association Board of Directors</i>	<b>Recessional</b>	Illinois Wesleyan Wind Ensemble (remain standing) The Spirit of Orpheus Robert W. Smith (1958-2023)
<b>Remarks of Class Representative</b>	Francesca Smith '26	<b>Announcement of Honors</b>	President Zenger
<b>Faculty Reflections</b>	Dr. James Simeone <i>Sally A. Firestone Endowed Professorship in Peace and Social Justice</i> <i>Professor of Political Science</i> <i>Class of 2025 Professor of the Year</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*

Chase Beitz, Political Science

Title: The American Party Polarization Dilemma: Why Political Discourse Matters

Project Advisor: Tari Renner

Daniel Flores Gomez, Finance

Title: Drivers of Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America

Project Advisor: Bryan McCannon

Nabeel Bhimani, Neuroscience

Title: Neural and behavioral changes following negative feedback: Effects of a series of errors.

Project Advisor: Jason Themanson

Franchesca Smith, Political Science

Title: How Much Does America Hate Black Women?

Project Advisor: Jim Simeone

Melinda Burgin, Political Science

Title: The Impact of Access: What Structural Factors Inhibit or Support Sustainable Lifestyle Choices?

Project Advisor: Jim Simeone

MaryBeth Thommes, Hispanic Studies

Title: Autoras ensombrecidas al final del Renacimiento: Maria de Zayas y Sotomayor y Aemilia Lanyer

Project Advisor: Carolyn Nadeau

Timothy Burhouse, Theatre

Title: Commedia Dell'arte: Capturing the Ephemeral

Project Advisor: RJ Hodde

Dagan Turcotte-Cutkomp, History

Title: Behind the Mask: Unveiling Hidden Narratives of the Spanish Flu and Unearthing its Elusive Memory

Project Advisor: Alyssa Culp

Kate Christian, Sociology

Title: Transitions after College and Athletics

Project Advisor: Courtney Irby

Lukas Wenz, Nursing

Title: Evaluating Empathy and Understanding in Caregivers: Pre and Post Dementia Simulation Participation

Project Advisor: Amber Kujath

Rowan Danou, History

Title: The US Supreme Court and Shaping Politics Through the Reagan Era

Project Advisor: Jim Simeone



# The School of Nursing

*Candidates for the degree*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Alexa Lynn Anders, *Cum Laude*

Hannah Kristine Astudillo

Megan Elyssa Valencia Barrameda, *Cum Laude*

Kayla Lynne Borg

Hannah Jill Braun

Laina Paige Chavarria, *Magna Cum Laude*

Alauna Joy Ann Coggins

Morgan Madeleine Sophie Coovert

Nikolas Allen Delima Espejo

Janet Elizabeth Euwema

Mia Joy Fiandaca, *Cum Laude*

Molly Lynn Flondro

Spencer W. Fulton, *Magna Cum Laude*

Isabella Garcia, *Cum Laude*

Cierra Nicole Gardner

Karida Alicia Grant

Natalie Elise Heaton, *Magna Cum Laude*

Imani Nyjha Horton, *Magna Cum Laude*

Kylie Jo Hundman

Devyn T'Eray Kennedy

Emily Ann Kleffman

Lauren Kruper

Angel Laraine Lee

Davion Semaj Lemon

Alyssa Nicole Lowder

Demond Jeremy McDonald

Brianna Kylie McNeil

Abigail Rose Morris, *Cum Laude*

Katherine Margaret Palmer

Amelia Marie Peña

Jovan Perez, *Cum Laude*

Grace Marie Petrey

Tessa Marie Entz Preheim, *Magna Cum Laude*

Nur Aldeen Mahmoud Qatanani

Izzy Catori Sernel

Grace C. Spader, *Magna Cum Laude*

Samantha Mae Washington

Lukas Bean Wenz, *Cum Laude*

Victoria Rancee Witzig

Summer Yi, *Cum Laude*





# College of Fine Arts

*Candidates for the degree*

## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

### ART

Kasia Lynne Jankowiak, *Magna Cum Laude*

Logan Michael Shumaker, *Magna Cum Laude*

Aidan Michniewicz, *Summa Cum Laude*

### THEATRE ARTS

Asante Addae Carlo Anglade, *Music Theatre*

Tessa Elizabeth Kruczek, *Acting, Magna Cum Laude*

Timothy Ross Burhouse, *Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude*

Daniel Andrew Porea Jr., *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Olivia Jeanne Daoud, *Music Theatre, Summa Cum Laude*

Isabella Janette Rodriguez, *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Lucy Kathryn Harmon, *Music Theatre, Magna Cum Laude*

Allison Marie Santogrossi, *Music Theatre, Cum Laude*

Kailei Hinton, *Acting, Cum Laude*

*Candidates for the degree*

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Lucas Lynn Barger, *Instrumental Performance*

*Candidates for the degree*

## BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Abigail Alexandra Hagan, *Summa Cum Laude*

Jonathon James Mead

Lacey Layne Hodge

Christian Scot Spear

Jenna J. Maue



# College of Liberal Arts

*Candidates for the degree*

## BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Scott Ian Abramson, <i>Marketing, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Collin Wyatt Berg, <i>Business</i>
Similoluwa Oluwatoniloba Akingbala, <i>Political Science, Philosophy</i>	Alyssa Renee Bernier, <i>Music</i>
Omar Mohd Ali AlQammaz, <i>Biology</i>	Grace Riley Beyer, <i>Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Mia Alvarez, <i>Entrepreneurship</i>	Nabeel Bhimani Psychology, <i>Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Claire Elizabeth Sigita Ancevicus, <i>Elementary Education, Cum Laude</i>	Jacob Christopher Bickett, <i>Finance, Accounting, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Marko Anderson, <i>Business</i>	William Kristian Bivona, <i>Accounting, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Michael James Anderson, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health</i>	Treyson Thomas Jay Bixby, <i>Business</i>
Charles Allen Angel IV, <i>Psychology</i>	Eleanor Frances Blew, <i>Biology</i>
Kadin Chance Angel, <i>Finance, Cum Laude</i>	Griffin Samuel Bollinger, <i>Business</i>
Alexis Diego Aranda-Hernandez, <i>Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Karsyn Jean-Leanne Bollinger, <i>Business</i>
Nawvatin Fareeza Azhar, <i>Computer Science</i>	Abhinav Reddy Bommaveddi, <i>Finance</i>
Michael Nicholas Bailey, <i>Psychology, Cum Laude</i>	Jadyn Lynn Bothe, <i>Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Mustafa Bakirdan, <i>Mathematics, Cum Laude</i>	Justin Tyler Bruso, <i>Computer Science, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Amanda Victoria De La Peña Balaba, <i>Accounting, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Melinda Natalie Burgin, <i>Political Science, Art, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Victoria Ballesteros-Gonzalez, <i>Political Science, Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Keenan Noah Burgos, <i>Psychology, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Dalen DaJuan Banks, <i>Business</i>	Madalyn O. Buxton, <i>Biology, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Hayley Alexis Barker, <i>Interdisciplinary Educational Studies</i>	James G Capecci, <i>Biology, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Emma Catherine Basener, <i>History, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jonas A. Capek, <i>Accounting, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Trey Darin Bazzell, <i>Finance, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Cecilia Carey, <i>Computer Science</i>
De'Kyriauna Beans, <i>Interdisciplinary Educational Studies</i>	Nathaniel Jude Carlson, <i>Finance, Cum Laude</i>
Chase Allen Beitz, <i>Political Science, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Liana Rose Carr, <i>Psychology</i>
Artist Xavier Benjamin, <i>Finance</i>	Jeremiah Andrew Carrell, <i>Accounting</i>
Lauren Shauntell Benn, <i>English - Literature</i>	Dallas Armaris Carter, <i>Physics</i>
Dominic Jakob Bennett, <i>Interdisciplinary Educational Studies, Accounting, Cum Laude</i>	Karla Erendira Casas Garcia, <i>Psychology, Interdisciplinary Educational Studies, Cum Laude</i>
Jon Beqiri, <i>Computer Science</i>	Em Christine Soo Ah Chamberlain, <i>Elementary Education</i>
	Segen Chambers, <i>Entrepreneurship</i>
	Gnandeep Chintala, <i>Biology, Summa Cum Laude</i>

Kathleen Elizabeth Christian, *Sociology, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Annalese Elizabeth Chudy, *Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Eduardo Cisneros, *Business*  
 Chenille Michelle Claiborne, *Psychology*  
 Shasta Nycole Clark, *English - Writing, Secondary Education*  
 Quinn Patrick Clifford, *Finance, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Christian Alexander Cloutier, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*  
 Robert Conroy, *Economics, History*  
 Melanie Lissette Corral, *English - Literature, Secondary Education*  
 Tyler Scott Crawford, *Political Science, Sociology-Criminology*  
 Ezekiel George Dong Min Cross, *Accounting, Economics, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Aidan James Crouthamel, *Computer Science, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Abigail Grace Dahlem, *Psychology*  
 Rowan Patrick Danou, *Political Science, History, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Joshua Michael Davis, *Business*  
 Thomas Asher Day, *Psychology*  
 Samantha Marie Seffernick de Souza, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Benjamin James Deaner, *Business, Cum Laude*  
 Jordan Marie DeSilva, *Theatre Arts, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Isabella Tigerlilly Dickson, *Interdisciplinary Educational Studies, Psychology*  
 Vincent Paul Dicosola, *Business*  
 Carter Anthony Dilger, *Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Moira Fiona Doran, *Elementary Education, Art, Cum Laude*  
 Justin Frederick Doucette, *Entrepreneurship*  
 William Robert Duff, *Finance, Cum Laude*  
 Isaac Eastburn, *Psychology*  
 Sebastian Thomas Edenhofer, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Collin W. Elledge, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kayla Ellis, *Biology*  
 Chase Alexander Epperson, *Neuroscience*

Abby Erdman, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Kennady Estes, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Cole A. Faivre, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*  
 Ashley Elizabeth Fehr, *Accounting, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Peyton Allyn Feldman, *Biology, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Tristan James Figus, *Accounting*  
 Ethan Isaac Fineman, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Nicolas Alan Fisch, *Biology*  
 Audra Kay Fish, *Biochemistry*  
 Declan John Flaherty, *Political Science*  
 Daniel Flores Gomez, *Finance, Economics, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Emma C. Forman, *Psychology, English - Writing*  
 Juanise Marie Foster, *Biology*  
 Jack E. Friedewald, *Marketing*  
 Hadley Jorn Fudge, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Freddy E. Gamarra, *Accounting*  
 Joseph David Gaskill, *Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude*  
 Quinn Kirkpatrick Gifford, *Psychology, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Jacob Andrew Gisi, *Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Abigail Gjata, *Chemistry*  
 Ezekiel Glatz, *Finance, Magna Cum Laude*  
 Michael Edward Glavin, *Business, Cum Laude*  
 April Jennifer Gluting, *Business*  
 Abigail Laura Good, *Biology, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Abbie Jane Graue, *Business, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Alexandria Green, *English - Writing, Cum Laude*  
 Nikolas William Gritten, *Environmental Studies, Cum Laude*  
 Adam Lloyd Grunder, *Economics*  
 Nicholas Edward Gryl, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*  
 James Francis Gurgone III, *Accounting*  
 Marissa Fern Hagler, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*  
 Joseph Martin Hamm II, *Biology, Cum Laude*

Morgan Harrington, <i>Business, Cum Laude</i>	Hunter Allan Kennedy, <i>Philosophy</i>
Charlotte Louise Hart, <i>Biology</i>	Alison Rose Kern, <i>Marketing</i>
Justin Williams Hart, <i>Psychology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Asad Ehsan Khan, <i>Physics, Cum Laude</i>
Tyson William Hart, <i>Accounting, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Ava Isabel Khoury, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude</i>
Luke Arthur Hartke, <i>Business, Cum Laude</i>	Carlyssa Jae King, <i>Psychology</i>
Brady Christopher Hartman, <i>Finance</i>	Justin George King, <i>Economics, Finance</i>
Alexander Jordan Harvey, <i>Computer Science</i>	John Kittoe, <i>History, Secondary Education</i>
Samuel Thomas Hea, <i>Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Caitelyn Nicole Knutson, <i>Entrepreneurship</i>
Caleb Elijah Heims, <i>Physics</i>	Hannah Louise Kocar, <i>Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Quinlin Arthur Henry, <i>Business</i>	Madelyn Catherine Koppe, <i>Elementary Education</i>
Anthony Jeffery Hernandez, <i>Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jake Dimitri Kougan, <i>Computer Science</i>
Bryce Bengamin Bradford Hess, <i>Sociology</i>	Corey Dale Krueger Jr., <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health</i>
Dawson James Higginbotham, <i>Biology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Carly Rey Kuehl, <i>Business, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Joshua Matthew Hlavacek, <i>Biology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jennifer Elizabeth Kuhn, <i>Art, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Audrey Quillen Hofstetter, <i>Business, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Alexander Joseph Kula, <i>Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Kenneth Michael Holdman, <i>Biology</i>	Christian Joseph Ladewig, <i>Business, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Nicholas Albert Horrocks, <i>Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Tyler Nicolas Lagmay, <i>Psychology, Cum Laude</i>
Lauren Carol Huber, <i>Biology, Cum Laude</i>	Anthony John LaMantia, <i>Accounting</i>
Tyler Marc Irwin, <i>Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Audrey Marie Lamphier, <i>Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Jessica Sharon Isaac, <i>Biochemistry, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Nicholas Charles Larson, <i>Biology</i>
Natalie Marie Jacocks, <i>English - Literature, Secondary Education, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Addison LeeAnn Laumer, <i>English-Writing, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Matthew David Janiak, <i>Music</i>	Aiden Gilles Lavoie, <i>Economics</i>
Bennett Elijah Jennings, <i>Business</i>	Nathan Christopher Leith, <i>Business</i>
Laci Samantha Jerkatis, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health</i>	Nathaniel D. Leman, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health</i>
Xuanting Jia, <i>English - Literature, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Jay Allen Lemenager, <i>Business</i>
Brooks Jeffrey Johnson, <i>Data Science, Cum Laude</i>	Lauren Nicole Lilienthal, <i>Environmental Studies, Cum Laude</i>
Aksel Juarez Mejia, <i>Interdisciplinary Educational Studies, Sociology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Vincenzo G. Lombardo, <i>Finance, Economics, Cum Laude</i>
Carter Cruz Kameron, <i>Accounting, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Grace Elizabeth Loy, <i>Marketing, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Inga Kaminska, <i>Mathematics, Physics, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Macy Philomena Ludwig, <i>Marketing, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Myles Austin Kee, <i>Business</i>	Angel Gabriel Macias, <i>Mathematics, Secondary Education</i>
Miles Carl Keeton, <i>Environmental Studies</i>	Joel Alejandro Madrigal, <i>Computer Science</i>
Ryan William Kelly, <i>Psychology</i>	Niamh Christine Mahoney, <i>Political Science, Cum Laude</i>
	Matthew John Maloney, <i>Business</i>

Paige Pauline Manning, <i>Biology, Cum Laude</i>	Aidan Maxwell Nicoson, <i>Sociology</i>
Avelino Marban-Ramirez, <i>Economics, Cum Laude</i>	AUG Ningombam, <i>Biology</i>
Emily Brooke Marks, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health</i>	Matthew Noguez, <i>English - Writing</i>
Markus Zachariah Marshall, <i>Business</i>	Declan Michael Nugent, <i>Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Carla Michelle Martinez-Ramos, <i>Marketing, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Samuel Cole Ocker, <i>Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Noah Nicholas Marx, <i>Accounting, Cum Laude</i>	Daniel Patrick O'Keefe, <i>Accounting, Cum Laude</i>
Samiah Lynnette Heaven Mathews, <i>Biology</i>	Samuel Ayodeji Okewole, <i>Computer Science, Art</i>
Caitlin Julia McCane, <i>Biochemistry, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jacquelyn Ruth O'Neill, <i>Business, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Ryan Feeley McCoy, <i>History</i>	Zachary Enoch Overstreet, <i>International and Global Studies, Hispanic Studies, Cum Laude</i>
Morgan Richard McFarlane, <i>Accounting</i>	Rafael Marco Palaganas, <i>Biology</i>
Emma Susan McGrath, <i>Mathematics, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Harsh Rajesh Patel, <i>Computer Science</i>
Colin James McKibben, <i>Neuroscience</i>	Yash Sandeep Patel, <i>Psychology</i>
Julia Kathryn McMahon, <i>Political Science, English - Literature</i>	Caylen Diane Pavlicek, <i>Political Science</i>
Joelle Rene McMillan, <i>Physics</i>	Samantha Perez, <i>Biology, Secondary Education, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Josh Michael McMillin, <i>Biology, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Owen Ford Phaby, <i>Finance</i>
Zachary Allen McNees, <i>Business</i>	Kyle Andrew Pish, <i>Computer Science, Magna Cum Laude</i>
William Henry McNulty, <i>Finance, Cum Laude</i>	Griffin Tarpley Pohl, <i>Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Christian Aaron Mei, <i>Psychology, Cum Laude</i>	Grace Elizabeth Poulton, <i>Computer Science, Psychology, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Austin Jordan Metz, <i>Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Avery Nichole Powell, <i>Chemistry, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Dylan Patrick Meyer, <i>Business</i>	Mallory Jane Elaine Powers, <i>Kinesiology and Allied Health, Cum Laude</i>
Christina Faith Miller, <i>Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude</i>	Cole Timothy Pradel, <i>Marketing</i>
Shane Lee Miller, <i>Business</i>	Roshan Prakash, <i>Physics</i>
Mallory Nancy Mills, <i>Marketing</i>	Froylan David Racey, <i>Computer Science</i>
Carrigan Marlene Minch, <i>Marketing</i>	Java Rajabov, <i>Finance</i>
Keeli Ann Moore, <i>Biology, Sociology</i>	Alika Rakhimova, <i>Mathematics, Quantitative Finance, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Jacqueline Moreno, <i>Neuroscience</i>	Madison Marie Reaber, <i>Psychology</i>
Kyle Brandon Morrissey, <i>Business, Cum Laude</i>	Jasmine Reyes, <i>Elementary Education, Cum Laude</i>
Rose Moss, <i>Music</i>	Leonardo Emeterio Reyes, <i>Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude</i>
Jennie Magdalene Mulholland, <i>Psychology, Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jonathan Rios, <i>Biology</i>
Ryan Scott Myers, <i>Psychology</i>	Jesus Rios-Narciso, <i>Physics</i>
Madison Rae Negele, <i>Business</i>	Matthew Evan Robertson, <i>Finance, Summa Cum Laude</i>
Xander Razael Nesby, <i>Accounting</i>	
Stephen James Nickisch, <i>Theatre Arts, Magna Cum Laude</i>	

Trixie Luna Rodriguez, *History, Secondary Education, Cum Laude*

Andrew David Rogers, *Accounting, Cum Laude*

Asia Brenyae Rogers, *English - Writing*

Nathalie Stephanie Romero, *Environmental Studies, International and Global Studies, Cum Laude*

Nicholas David Roper, *Finance, Cum Laude*

Elizabeth Rose Rosich, *Business*

Emma Rose Roth, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Frank V. Roti, *Accounting*

Tyler Drake Ryherd, *Neuroscience, Cum Laude*

Elizabeth Lynn Rymarsuk, *Business, Sociology*

Lily Rebecca Sakalys, *Psychology, Sociology, Magna Cum Laude*

William Sean Sampson, *Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude*

Asael J. Sanchez, *Marketing*

Jessica D. Sariev, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Edward Lesley Saunders, *Marketing*

Brooke Savoie, *English - Writing*

Ryan Daniel Saxe, *Business*

John Phillip Schmidt II, *Biology, Summa Cum Laude*

Kevin Donald Schoefernacker, *Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude*

Samuel Frederick Schott, *Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude*

Nicholas James Schroeder, *Business*

Luke Anthony Schwab, *Computer Science, Summa Cum Laude*

Gabrielle Marie Schwalm, *Computer Science*

Amanda Elizabeth Schwarz, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Kaleigh Marie Schwertman, *Neuroscience, Summa Cum Laude*

Brian Robert Senn Jr., *Entrepreneurship*

Rajveer Sethi, *Physics*

Avery June Setzler, *Environmental Studies, Magna Cum Laude*

Mansi Sanjay Shah, *Psychology*

Tamer Yousef Rasmi Shawamra, *Political Science, Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude*

Lyndie Anne Shumaker, *Sociology*

Nicholas John Simester, *Business, Magna Cum Laude*

Chrishana Keyara Simon, *Environmental Studies*

Maxwell Payne Singer, *Kinesiology and Allied Health*

Samuel Skelton, *Business, Cum Laude*

Francesca Lenea Smith, *Political Science, Magna Cum Laude*

Megan Judith Soria, *English - Writing, Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude*

Dalton Cooper Spalding, *Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude*

Jadyn Reese Spinks, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Alexa Rae Starkey, *Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude*

Abe William Steffen, *Biology, Magna Cum Laude*

Elizabeth Christine Stein, *English - Writing*

Casey John Swanson, *History, Secondary Education, Cum Laude*

Tyrin Laron Sykes, *English - Writing*

Colin James Tervo, *Entrepreneurship*

Mary Elizabeth Thommes, *Hispanic Studies, English - Writing, Cum Laude*

Kenya Ray Throw, *Neuroscience*

Tegan Breanne Timerman, *Business*

Elizabeth Marie Todaro, *Biology*

Cade Bradley Tomhave, *Finance*

Alexis Nicole Torres, *Business*

Muhammad Salik Totten, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Savannah Michelle Turcotte-Cutkomp, *Music, History, Cum Laude*

Elena Turlakova, *Political Science*

Alexandra Grace Varvitsiotis, *Accounting, Cum Laude*

Swetha Devi Veluvolu, *Biology*

Spiro Nicholas Visvardis, *Psychology, Cum Laude*

Srija Voore, *Neuroscience, Cum Laude*

Matthew Thomas Wagner, *Business, Cum Laude*

Cole Jameson Walker, *Finance, Summa Cum Laude*

Kody Charles Warpet, *Biology*

Elijah James Warren, *Business, Cum Laude*

Abby Sierra Wasowicz, *Business*

William Ernest Waterson, *Economics, Cum Laude*

Grace Noelle Watson, *Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*  
Samuel E. Weinberg, *Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*  
Tyler James Wetherell, *Finance, Cum Laude*  
Hakim Alamin Williams Jr., *Business*  
Harrison Shepherd Wilmsen, *Finance, Cum Laude*  
Andie Isabelle Wilson, *Psychology*  
Evelyn Jean Wilson, *Marketing, Summa Cum Laude*

Taylor Justina Wipf, *Interdisciplinary Educational Studies*  
Tyler Jacob Woltman, *Business*  
Melchizedek Moses Woodson, *Business*  
Amanda Michelle Yaeger, *Marketing, Magna Cum Laude*  
Demy Rose Richter Yap, *Biology*  
Ian Drake Yearsley, *Accounting, Magna Cum Laude*  
Paul Joseph Zunkel, *Mathematics, Secondary Education, Cum Laude*





# *A Letter from the Alumni Association*

To The Class of 2025:

Congratulations! Today is Commencement Sunday, and you are officially alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University! This is an occasion to celebrate, and you should be incredibly proud of your achievement. As a 2025 graduate, you have shown remarkable resilience, connection, awareness, and confidence in your ability to succeed. Your fellow alumni are cheering for you! On behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Titan alumni everywhere, let me be the first to welcome you to the Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Association.

As a new graduate, you are now part of an ever-growing network of Illinois Wesleyan alumni committed to supporting each other, our current and future students, and the university. As you embark on your journey, whether it is into a career, further education, or a service opportunity, the Alumni Association is here to support you. Titan alumni can be found across the United States and the broader world, eager to connect with you and support your continued success. As you leave campus today, know that you'll never leave our Titan Family. I encourage you to leverage the opportunities and resources available through the Alumni Association: connect with an affinity group (Alumni of Color Collective, Council for IWU Women, International Alumni Network, Pride Alumni Community, Young Alumni Committee), volunteer with a regional committee, attend professional and social networking events, come back for Homecoming, and stay connected through social media.

Despite the uncertainty of our current times, I am confident that you have a bright future ahead. Do like Titans before you: identify challenges, seek to serve, and look for opportunities to connect with others' humanity. As you go, I hope that you will stay involved with IWU, whether through your time, talent, or treasure. Such an investment allows us to ensure there's a Wesleyan education available for future Titans.

Congratulations again and welcome to the Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Association!

In Titan Pride,

Derrick L. Tillman-Kelly, PhD '09

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

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

LeAnn Hughes, M.A., Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing

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

David Marvin, J.D., Interim Provost and Dean of Faculty

David P. Myron, B.S., C.P.A., Vice President for Business and Finance

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

Carolyn Nadeau, Ph.D., Chairperson, Council on University Programs and Policy

Dakesa Piña, Ph.D., Vice President of Inclusive Excellence

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

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

## *Professors*

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

## *Associate Professors*

Richard Alvey, Ph.D.	Peggy Jacobs, D.N.P.	David Marvin, J.D.	Mia Smith, M.S.
Amanda Coles, Ph.D.	Billie Jarvis-Freeman, Ph.D	Mignon Montpetit, Ph.D.	Armella Thompson, M.F.A.
Loralyn Cozy, Ph.D.	William Kauth, Ed.D.	Marie Nebel-Schwalm, Ph.D.	César Valverde, Ph.D.
Jessie Dixon, Ph.D.	Lindsey Kellar, Ph.D.	Lisa Nelson, D.M.A.	Amanda Vicary, Ph.D.
Andy Engen, Ph.D.	Jean MacFarland Kerr, M.A.	Kristine Nielsen, 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.	Adriana Ponce, Ph.D.	Brian Walter, Ph.D.
Todd Fuist, Ph.D.	Wendy Kookan, Ph.D.	Tiffany Prager, M.S.	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.	Abigail Kushina, M.A.	Jeremy Roberts, D.M.
Keller Andrews, Ph.D.	Mark Halx, Ph.D.	Brian Law, Ph.D.	Juan Rodriguez Barrera, Ph.D.
Rumpa Biswas, Ph.D.	Elizabeth Haywood, Ph.D.	Reginald Lewis, D.M.A.	Jennifer Rushlow, Ph.D.
Liz Bloodworth, M.L.I.S.	Lisa Hensey, Ph.D.	Todd Lowder, M.A.	Paul Shaffer, Ph.D.
Justin Brill, M.F.A.	RJ Hodde, M.F.A.	Abigail Mann, M.S.L.S.	Zandra Siple, M.F.A.
Jessica Brownfield, M.S.N.	Abdel Isakovic, Ph.D.	Amelia Marino, M.S.	Seulki Seo, M.F.A.
Kriti Budhiraja, Ph.D.	Matthew Ishee, M.F.A.	Leigh Moon, CFE, CIA, CPA	Peter Steadman, M.S.
Logan Campbell, M.M.	Trevor Jack, Ph.D.	Mikhail Munenzon, M.I.A.	Melissa Valenzuela, M.S.
Anna Corvera, M.F.A.	Ingrid Kammin, D.M.A.	Kate Neally, Ph.D.	Jason Van Heuklon, M.S.
Alyssa Culp, Ph.D.	Michael Kellar, M.S.	Cody Parrott, D.M.A.	Wathsala Waduge, Ph.D.
Clark Dennis III, Ph.D.	Julie Kennedy, Ph.D.	Tamara Paul-Reeff, J.D.	Luke Wilson, Ph.D.
Daniel Dodd, Ph.D.	Anastasia Klimchynskaya, Ph.D.	Bryanna Petentler, Ph.D.	Ryan Yokota, Ph.D.
Amy Funk, Ph.D.	Chisato Kojima, Ph.D.	Angela Peverly, Ph.D.	Bira Zhahadai, Ph.D.
Saeed Garmaroudi, Ph.D,		David Remmert, Ph.D.	

## *Instructors*

Cristina Alméida Velez, M.A.	Noah Haskin, M.S.	Zachary Iannucci, B.S.	Scott Whitman, M.M.E.
Oz Bakirdan, B.A.	Cameron Horn, M.B.A.	Joy Kanengiser, M.A.	
Charles Berggren, B.A.	Gregory Huffaker, B.A.	Brandon Mueller, B.A.	

# Endowed Professorships

There is a long tradition in higher education of appointing faculty members to endowed professorships and chairs. 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 or chair is that the individual represents our highest aspirations for faculty members on this campus.

These distinguished professorships are named in honor of the generous donors who made them possible.

Listed by year established:

Joanne Diaz, Ph.D.

The Isaac Funk Professorship, *established 1866*

James W. Plath, Ph.D.

The R. Forrest Colwell Chair of English, *established 1972*

Kevin Sullivan, Ph.D.

McFee Endowed Professorship, *established 1984*

Bryan McCannon '98, Ph.D.

Robert S. Eckley Endowed Professor of Economics, *established 1986*

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

The Edward R. Telling Professorship of Business Administration, *established 1987*

Amber Kujath '97, Ph.D.

Deloris Helsley Ascher Professorship of Nursing, *established 2007*

Carolyn A. Nadeau, Ph.D.

The Byron S. Tucci Professorship, *established 2010*

Edgar Lehr, Ph.D.

Robert W. Harrington Professorship, *established 2010*

Michael Theune, Ph.D.

Robert W. Harrington Professorship, *established 2010*

Ram S. Mohan, Ph.D.

Wendell and Loretta Hess Professorship of Chemistry, *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 Professorship, *established 2014*

James Simeone, Ph.D.

Sally A. Firestone Endowed Professorship in Peace and Social Justice, *established 2022*

Will Jaeckle, Ph.D.

Semour and Diana Galina Endowed Professorship, *established 2007*

*The President's Office will sponsor a live band and light refreshments after the ceremony in the Activity Center. Faculty look forward to greeting the graduates and their families at the department locations in the upstairs hallway.*

*Before the ceremony, light refreshments may be purchased at the Coffee Shoppe (9 AM-12PM) found in the Memorial Center. The University Bookstore located in the Hansen Student Center will also be open from 10 AM-3PM.*

*Senior marshals for the Commencement ceremony are Professors Carmela Ferradáns and Carolyn Nadeau. Student marshals are Swikrut Dhanorkar '26 and Celina El Ghossaini '26 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY