

The Kemp Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony



April 19, 2023

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Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony

Processional

The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba..... G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Invocation Prince Robertson
Dean of Students for Inclusion and Advocacy

Welcome Georgia Nugent
President

Tributes to Retiring FacultyPresident Nugent
Tian-Xiao He, *Earl and Marian A. Beling Professor of Natural Sciences*
Meg Miner, *University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor*
Chuck Springwood, *Professor of Sociology*
Nancy Sultan, *Professor of Greek and Roman Studies*

Introduction of SpeakerPresident Nugent

Presentation of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence — 2023Toni Kemp Jenkins
Kemp Foundation

AddressRam Mohan
Wendell and Loretta Hess Endowed Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry
“Life Lessons from Adventures in a Research Lab”

Announcement of 2024 Kemp Honoree for Teaching Excellence Mark Brodl
Provost and Dean of Faculty

ClosingPresident Nugent

Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing) NATIONAL HYMN
Emma Zimmerman '23
David Alexander '23, *pianist*
George William Warren
(1828-1902)

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,
Where'er we wander, over land or sea;
Through time unending, loyal we will be—
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.
When college days are fully past and gone,
While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan

Recessional

Ram Mohan
Wendell and Loretta Hess Endowed Professor of Chemistry
and Chair of Chemistry

Recipient of The Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence — 2023

“Life Lessons from Adventures in a Research Lab”



Professor Mohan earned a bachelor's (Honors) in chemistry from **Hansraj College in Delhi, India**; a master's in organic chemistry from the **University of Delhi, India**; and a doctorate in organic chemistry from the **University of Maryland Baltimore**. He did postdoctoral work at The **University of Illinois Urbana Champaign** and **started his career at IWU in 1996** where he is currently the Wendell and Loretta Hess Professor of Chemistry.

Professor Mohan has taught a variety of courses at IWU ranging from Nursing chemistry to organic chemistry, advanced organic chemistry, and a physical science issues course for non-majors titled “Better Living Through Green chemistry.” Due to his efforts, there has been a significant reduction in the waste generated in the chemistry labs at IWU, reduction in the use of toxic chemicals, and in the greening of our labs.

His research focuses on Green Organic Synthesis using bismuth compounds. His contributions in this field have led to a surge in popularity of bismuth compounds worldwide. A hallmark of his research is that he actively involves IWU students starting in their sophomore year. To date he has supervised over 130 IWU students who have gone on to successful careers in chemistry, medicine, pharmacy and several non-science careers. He has published 66 manuscripts, majority co-authored by IWU students, and many highly cited. He has received over US\$ 1 million in external funding. He has given over 130 talks in 16 different countries. He is especially committed to raising awareness about green chemistry in rural India and often travels to remote parts of the country to educate and raise awareness.

He is the recipient of several awards. A few especially noteworthy ones include:

- **International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Young Observer Award:**
(Selected as one of eight from the USA)
- **The University of Maryland, Baltimore County 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award.**
Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award
- **Pfizer Pharmaceuticals (St. Louis Green Chemistry Team) Green Chemistry Award**
- **Chemist of The Year 2011** (Illinois Heartland Section of The American Chemical Society).
- **Fulbright Teacher Scholar Award in 2012 and 2019**
- **American Chemical Society's Committee on Environmental Improvement Award**
for Incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education
- **Professor Mohan just got word that he has been awarded his third Fulbright Academic & Professional Excellence Award for Spring 2024.**

Faculty Retirements



Tian-Xiao He

***Earl and Marian A. Beling Professor of Natural Sciences
and Professor of Mathematics***

Professor Tian-Xiao He joined the IWU faculty in 1991. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Hefei University of Technology in China. He holds two Ph.D.'s in mathematics, one from Dalian Institute of Technology in China and a second one from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining IWU, he taught at Texas A&M University and at Hefei University.

Professor He was awarded the Earl and Marian Beling Professorship of Natural Science in August 2013. He co-organized the Beling Lecture Series, which brought to campus 73 guest speakers.

He published eight books and at least 157 peer-reviewed papers, in addition to 39 earlier publications in Chinese. He has given invited talks at conferences and universities in South Korea, Italy, Spain, Belgium, China, India, Hong Kong, and the US.

He served as a member of scientific and organizing committees of a very impressive number of international conferences. In 2016, he co-organized and brought to campus *The Third International Symposium on Riordan Arrays and Related Topics*. One of his students received accolades from leading mathematicians for her graduate-level contribution at that conference.

He is on the editorial board of 12 journals and is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Advances in Mathematics and Computer Science*, covering the USA, Europe and Asia. He also serves as a referee for 27 journals.

Professor He taught 27 different courses since he joined IWU and developed 6 new courses. He pioneered the introduction of *Wavelet Analysis* in the undergraduate curriculum. One of his most rewarding and outstanding contributions to IWU has been his work with students. He directed more than 26 undergraduate research projects, many of which were Honors Research projects that resulted in joint publications with his students in peer-reviewed journals.

Professor He has been an outstanding member of the IWU faculty. He brought international recognition to the mathematics program. He retires this summer after 32 years of service.



Meg Miner

***University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian
and Associate Professor***

Meg Miner started her IWU career as a Project Archivist in 2002 and has served as University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian since 2008. She earned a BA in English Literature from Northern Illinois University, graduating magna cum laude in 1999; a Masters of Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001, and a certificate in Special Collections Librarianship in 2012.

During her tenure at IWU, she established an oral history program to address gaps in the university's historical record, increased collaborations with faculty across the university on ways the archives could complement

their teaching goals, and built collections of materials with the goal of preserving the history of student groups, alumni, and affinity groups for future generations. Meg is an invited member of three honor societies: Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society; Phi Kappa Phi, collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines; and the Theta Iota Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classical Studies honor society. She was also a co-recipient of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance's Innovation Award, Organization category for Digital POWRR Project (Preserving Digital Objects With Restricted Resources) and a co-recipient of the Society of American Archivists' Preservation Publication Award for the article "From Theory to Action: "Good Enough" Digital Preservation Solutions for Under-Resourced Cultural Heritage Institutions." However, Meg's greatest accomplishment is her stellar record of working with all in the IWU community, from students to alumni, to help them understand and navigate IWU's history through primary sources, and to see themselves as an integral part of our collective story.



Chuck Springwood

Professor of Sociology

Anthropologist Clifford Geertz once said "I'm an inveterate fox and not a hedgehog, so I always think you should try everything." Chuck Springwood is, like Geertz, both a consummate anthropologist, and a fox. By this, of course, I mean that Chuck is the kind of intellectual who finds as much meaning in a funeral rite as he does in the ritual we call "baseball," or who sees deep cultural expression in both a traditional ceremonial mask as well as neon anime cosplay. Every time I speak with Chuck, he reminds

me of my favorite professors when I was an undergraduate, the ones who see teaching as modeling a love of knowledge, and for whom there is no such thing as a "digression" because, whether in scholarship, pedagogy, or life, the digression is the true journey. In the decades since Chuck came to IWU in 1996, it seems to me that neoliberalism, rationalization, professionalization, and any number of larger cultural forces mean fewer scholars in the academy in the mold of Chuck. More hedgehogs, fewer foxes, one might say. As such, I would ask you to get in touch with your inner fox, the part of you that wants to try everything, and perhaps name it "Chuck." Because I can think of no better way to honor our colleague, and nothing that would give me greater hope for the future of the liberal arts, than knowing that we each embraced the intellectual curiosity so thoroughly embodied by our own Chuck Springwood.



Nancy Sultan

Professor of Greek and Roman Studies

Dr. Nancy Sultan's career embodies the quintessential ideals of the liberal arts.

First, a spirit of inquiry and critical thought: Dr. Sultan is a scholar with expansive academic interests in Greek culture, comparative oral poetics, ethnomusicology, Aegean archaeology, classical reception, and gender studies. She earned her PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard in 1991, which was underpinned by her Master's

in Aegean Archaeology from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with many honors earned along the way. Her publications similarly range widely, from the pain of exile and poetics of loss to the joys of Roman comedy, from ancient music to modern icons.

Next, a global perspective and local community: Since 1993, Dr. Sultan has introduced IWU students to the smiles and tears of ancient Mediterranean life and literature both on campus and away. She has challenged

students to analyze the ethics of the antiquities trade in New York and Boston, and she has sung them epic myths among the ancient ruins in Greece. This pedagogical passion earned her the “Excellence in Teaching” award from the American Philological Association (now the Society for Classical Studies) in 2009. Her exceptional classes have enriched the curricula not only of the Greek and Roman Studies Program, which she built from scratch, but also the Languages, History, the Humanities Program, Women’s and Gender Studies, Religion, Art History, and the School of Theater Arts. Her outreach to the Bloomington-Normal community, too, has been significant, from her “Exploring Antiquity” course for Bent Elementary School to the prize-winning plays she wrote for production at the Heartland Theatre.

Finally, creativity: Nancy is looking forward to her retirement in beautiful North Carolina, where she will shift her writing talents to fictional fabrications of ancient lives and dramatic distillations of the academic life she leaves behind. Nancy Sultan is at heart a creative, a teacher and traveler, a friend and a mentor. She was a force of nature on this campus, and she will be missed.

*Thank you all for your service and dedication to Illinois Wesleyan.
Congratulations and best wishes!*

PAST HONOREES FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

1960	William T. Beadles, <i>Insurance</i>	1992	John D. Wenum, <i>Political Science</i>
1961	Wayne W. Wantland, <i>Biology</i>	1993	Mona J. Gardner, <i>Business Administration</i>
1962	R. Dwight Drexler, <i>Piano</i>	1994	Paul E. Bushnell, <i>History</i>
1963	Elizabeth H. Oggel, <i>English</i>	1995	James D. Matthews, <i>French</i>
1964	Rupert Kilgore, <i>Art</i>	1996	Kathleen O’Gorman, <i>English</i>
1965	Dorothea S. Franzen, <i>Biology</i>	1997	Jared Brown, <i>Theatre Arts</i>
1966	Joseph H. Meyers, <i>English</i>	1998	W. Michael Weis, <i>History</i>
1967	Marie J. Robinson, <i>Speech</i>	1999	Michael C. Seeborg, <i>Economics</i>
1968	Bunyon H. Andrew, <i>History</i>	2000	Teodora O. Amoloza, <i>Sociology</i>
1969	Wendell W. Hess, <i>Chemistry</i>	2001	Carole A. Myscofski, <i>Religion</i>
1970	Jerry Stone, <i>Religion</i>	2002	Tari Renner, <i>Political Science</i>
1971	Doris C. Meyers, <i>Philosophy</i>	2003	Carolyn Nadeau, <i>Hispanic Studies</i>
1972	John Ficca, <i>Drama</i>	2004	James Plath, <i>English</i>
1973	Robert Burda, <i>English</i>	2005	Christopher Prendergast, <i>Sociology</i>
1974	Max A. Pape, <i>Sociology</i>	2006	Mary Ann Bushman, <i>English</i>
1975	Lucile Klauser, <i>Education</i>	2007	James P. Sikora, <i>Sociology</i>
1976	R. Bedford Watkins, Jr., <i>Music</i>	2008	Marina Balina, <i>Russian Studies</i>
1977	Harvey F. Beutner, <i>English</i>	2009	Jonathan Dey, <i>Biology</i>
1978	Frank D. Starkey, <i>Chemistry</i>	2010	Wes Chapman, <i>English</i>
1979	Fred B. Brian, <i>Art</i>	2011	Dan Terkla, <i>English</i>
1980	Sammye Crawford Greer, <i>English</i>	2012	William Munro, <i>Political Science</i>
1981	Jerry M. Israel, <i>History</i>	2013	Narendra Jaggi, <i>Physics</i>
1982	John D. Heyl, <i>History</i>	2014	Rebecca Roesner, <i>Chemistry</i>
1983	J. Robert Hippensteele, <i>Biology</i>	2015	Kathleen Montgomery, <i>Political Science</i>
1984	Larry M. Colter, <i>Philosophy</i>	2016	Linda French, <i>Physics</i>
1985	Sue Ann Huseman, <i>French</i>	2017	Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy, <i>Anthropology</i>
1986	Bruce B. Criley, <i>Biology</i>	2018	Victoria Noltkamper Folse, <i>Nursing</i>
1987	Michael B. Young, <i>History</i>	2019	Carmela Ferradans, <i>Hispanic Studies</i>
1988	Emily Dunn Dale, <i>Sociology</i>	2020	Tim Rettich, <i>Chemistry</i>
1989	Pamela Buchanan Muirhead, <i>English</i>	2021	Tom Lutze, <i>History</i>
1990	Thomas A. Griffiths, <i>Biology</i>	2022	Joanne Diaz, <i>English</i>
1991	Robert C. Bray, <i>English</i>		