

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Founders Day Convocation



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

3:00 P.M.

WVWC.EDU

WESLEYAN MOMENTS

ORANGE LINE READING

Tara Steed '87
Alumni Council President

INVOCATION

Caitlin Ware '20
UMC Liaison & Spiritual Life Coordinator

WELCOME

Caroline Rapking '79
Chair of the Board

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRUSTEES

Ms. Rapking

AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY TEACHING

James Moore
Dean of the Faculty and Chief Academic Officer

ALUMNI AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Steed

REMARKS

Joel Thierstein
President of the College

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Thierstein

ADDRESS

Challenge and Support

Jason Fiegel '00

MUSICAL SELECTION

Home Among the Hills
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Choral Ensembles

E.W. James, Hon. '73
Former Trustee of the College

ALMA MATER

Alma Mater of the Mountains
Bobcat Marching Band Leadership
and the Wesleyan Applied Instrumental Faculty

Wallace B. Fleming
Fifth President of the College

The Orange Line

Ever since 1890, students have entered West Virginia Wesleyan College, where their minds were challenged, their talents nurtured and their hearts inspired. As they completed their studies, they moved on to share their knowledge, experience and values in new settings. Former Wesleyan students have carried the spirit and substance of the College into the global community and into almost every form of human endeavor. Wesleyan's alumni have formed a constant connection between the College and the world beyond - and both College and world have been strengthened.

It is appropriate on the celebration of Wesleyan's Founders Day that the heritage of the College be symbolized as a line of former students who represent more than 14,000 alumni.

I am the orange line.
My beginning was long ago.
I have no end. I am perpetual.
My source is in the West Virginia Hills.
My reach embraces the world.
I am in America's small towns.
I am in her great cities.
I cross the seas. I grow.
I am your warm, enduring memories.
I am your shared experiences.
I am your friends, your teachers.
I am your link to the past.
I am your dreams for the futures.
Wherever you are, there too, am I.
I am you. You are me.
We are the orange line.

- Charles K. Dick

New Board of Trustee Members

Kim Bjorgo-Thorne, associate professor of biology, joined the Wesleyan faculty in 2006. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida, a Master of Science from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. from West Virginia University. Kim's professional experiences include working with the Ecological Society of America, where she was a member of the Committee on Diversity and Education and Chair of the Education Section. She was appointed to serve on the ESA Four Dimensions of Ecology Education (4DEE) subcommittee in 2019. Kim's research interests are related to spatial ecology, and she has conducted research in West Virginia, Belize, and Peru. Kim is a American Society for Microbiology Biology Scholar and a Salzburg Global Fellow. She is the Chair of the Faculty.

Nancy Wheeler has served as the head volleyball coach at Wesleyan since 2017. She is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania. Prior to arriving at Wesleyan, she had a highly successful tenure as volleyball coach at Penn State-Fayette where she led the school to over 300 wins and eight Penn State University Athletic Conference championships and eight United States Collegiate Athletic Association national tournament berths. She was named conference coach of the year eight times. She is currently the Chair of Staff Council, an advisor to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and the staff representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Alumni Awards

The Alumni Council of West Virginia Wesleyan College has a tradition of honoring individuals for professional achievement and community service. The Service Award recognizes alumni who have provided outstanding service to the College and have contributed to the greater welfare and development of West Virginia Wesleyan as an advocate or volunteer. The Achievement Award recognizes alumni who have achieved status and position in their profession or who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in altruistic, philanthropic, or service endeavors to their community, state, or nation. Young Alumni Awards are presented to graduates of the last 10 years in both the service and achievement categories.

Alumni Service Award

Working in many different roles over a span of nearly 40 years, **Alice Andrews Leigh Creasman '88** made an impact on the lives of thousands of Wesleyan students. She began her career as an office manager in the Office of Admission and held many positions of ever-increasing responsibility with the reputation for always going above and beyond for students.

She especially enjoyed her tenure as the Director of International Studies Programs from 1984-2001, along with the Director of the Advising and Career Center role. Not only did the international students benefit from having a mother/mentor away from home, the annual International Student banquets were legendary for offering a taste of the world to the campus and local community.

Creasman served as Registrar and Director of Academic Services, from 2001-2018, where she and her staff helped every Wesleyan student chart their academic path from the first day at Wesleyan to graduation. Her great joy in this role was watching so many enjoy great success after departing from WVWC. Creasman was honored throughout her career at Wesleyan. In 2002, she was named Outstanding Staff Member, and in 2017, she received the Buckhannon Ambassador Award.

She currently serves as a Student Success Coach at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD, where she and her husband, Dr. Boyd Creasman reside. She has one daughter, Cathy, and son-in-law, Vince, and two grandchildren, Eli and Mazie.

Alumni Achievement Award

Sam Feola is a retired program director with Raytheon Company and a Tier-1 Certified Program Manager. From 2006-2012 Feola was the program director of Raytheon Polar Services, supporting the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic program. Polar Services provided operations, construction, and facilities maintenance and science support at three stations, and aboard two research vessels in Antarctica. Feola managed 400 full-time staff and over 2,000 seasonal contract employees each year, coordinating offices on four continents to manage the requirements of a 12-year contract valued at over \$1.9 billion.

During his tenure, the new South Pole Station was constructed at the end of a 10,000 mile-long logistics chain, within budget, and on time in the world's coldest, harshest, and most remote environment on earth.

Feola's previous program management experience included President of a joint American-Canadian company based in Ottawa, Canada, providing base construction, operations, and maintenance support to the Canadian Defence Forces serving overseas in Bosnia and Afghanistan. He was also a business systems manager for DISH Network in Denver, CO, Director of Logistics for the U.S. Antarctic Support Associates in Denver, where he played a key role in transitioning the Antarctic program from predominately military support to civilian support, Proposal Manager in Orange, CA, Project Site Manager in Izmir and Istanbul, Turkey, and Special Project Manager on a Department of Energy contract in Hawaii and the Marshall Islands.

Feola received a bachelor of science in Business Administration from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1967 and graduated from the Naval Aviation Schools command as an officer receiving a designation as a naval aviator. He spent 11 years on active duty, including a one-year tour as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

For his 20 years of service in the Antarctic program, a geographic feature, Mount Feola, was designated in his honor, located in the Asgard Range, Dry Valleys, near McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Brian Allman is a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School. Last fall, he was named the Milken Education Award winner from West Virginia. Nicknamed the "Oscar of Teaching, it is one of the most prestigious awards in the field of education. It is awarded to up to 40 teachers across the United States each year and comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. There are over 20,000 teachers in the state of West Virginia and Brian was the only teacher in West Virginia to win this award.

In addition to the Milken Educator Award, Allman was recently selected by the West Virginia State Journal and WV News as one of recipients of the Generation Next: 40 Under 40 Award for 2020. This 40-member class is made up of the best and brightest young individuals that our state has to offer across all industries.

He was also chosen as one of 150 teachers in West Virginia to attend the Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teacher (ECET²) Convening in Charleston but the conference unfortunately had to be postponed due to the coronavirus crisis.

In 2013, Brian was selected as the Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School Teacher of the Year and in 2014 received an Outstanding Teacher Award sponsored by the B-U Middle School student council in partnership with the local Horace Mann Insurance Agency.

Allman received his Masters in Educational Leadership from Marshall University. In addition to his teaching certification, he also holds principal, supervisor of general instruction, and superintendent certifications in the state of West Virginia.

Extra Mile Award

Dr. Rich and Dr. Ruth Calef were the anchors of Wesleyan's Psychology Department for with more than 85 years of combined service. Rich joined the faculty in 1970 and eventually was promoted to Professor of Psychology. He served as the Department Chair for at least three decades. While he retired two years ago, he still teaches part-time today. Ruth became a full-time faculty member in 1973 and retired in 2013.

Rich and Ruth were not only distinguished teachers, they also were tremendous mentors and advocates for their students. Many Wesleyan psychology graduates have found career success in a wide variety of fields and several were admitted to prestigious graduate programs. Their graduates are authors, educators, business leaders, counselors, entrepreneurs, medical professionals and clergy members.

The Calef's exemplified Wesleyan's high challenge and high support approach to teaching. Both were actively engaged faculty members serving on a number of professional Faculty Committees and numerous search committees. In addition to teaching and mentoring students, the Calef's loved attending co-curricular events such as performing arts programs and athletic events, particularly their favorite sport—basketball. Not only did enjoy watching the Bobcats and Lady Bobcats in the Rockefeller Center, they also traveled around the state to cheer on our student-athletes.

Speaker

Jason Fiegel '00

Jason Fiegel is an entrepreneur, technologist, and business leader who founded his first company, and electronics repair service, while still in high school. At the invitation of a close friend, Fiegel visited and later enrolled in West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he studied philosophy and business administration, graduating in 2000. His drive and zeal for learning has not slowed since, nor has his technical skills development. He earned a Master of Business Administration in Executive Management at Loyola University, Maryland. Currently, he is completing his law degree through the Syracuse University, all while running a busy technology services company, raising four children with his wife, Monica, and serving as a volunteer for several organizations, including as a youth sports coach.

Fiegel is the founding partner of Buoyant Technologies, Inc. (BTI), a Technology Services firm based in Central Maryland. Over the past decade and a half, he has lead Buoyant to become an industry leader in the design and deployment of enterprise communication systems, supporting Fortune 500 businesses, government and military customers across the United States and world.

Fiegel's passion for development and innovation is reflected in how he and his firm keep up with the rapid pace of change within the communications industry. BTI continues to foster a culture of shared learning and constant improvement – daily sharing, analyzing and documenting the challenges and triumphs of the team – with a philosophy of continuous innovation where everyone is both teacher and student.

My Home Among the Hills

There's a land of rolling mountains
Where the sky is blue above;
And though I may roam,
I hurry home to friendly hills I love.
Where moonlit meadows ring
With the call of whippoorwills,
Always you will find me in my home
Among the hills.
And where the sun draws rainbows
In the mist of waterfalls and mountain rills,

My heart will always be
In the West Virginia hills.
There autumn hillsides are bright
With scarlet trees.
And in the spring the robins sing,
While apple blossoms whisper in the breeze.
And there is music in the flashing streams,
And joy in the fields of daffodils,
Laughter through the happy valleys
Of my home among the hills.

Alma Mater of the Mountains

Alma Mater of the mountains
West Virginia Wesleyan
At thy magic, mystic fountains,
Noblest dreams of life began.

We, thy children, bow before thee;
We, thy children, now adore thee;
And pledge God, who watches o'er thee,
Thou shalt fill the ample measures of His plan.