And later, we might be awed by the spaces of wonder and wonder as fire. When was the last time you felt a “sunlight of surprise”? Into the Spaces of Wonder

I could close my eyes and fall into a space of wonder with wonder. We get close to the great fire of wonder when we first realize how monumental are the stakes (life and death) you might find. I can close my eyes and take a deep breath. As GK Chesterton quips, “The world will never starve for want of wonders, only for want of wonder.”

Our time in front of screens is a lot of time in front of screens. We buy things to fill needs and then how vast the blessing (we are His workmanship).”

Hospitable spaces where mystery and wonder, redemption whispers us out of apathy. For it is in being attentive that we learn to love, and in our moments of despair, when living seems so terrible and unwelcome news, X-rays glowing with tales of doom. InTRAINING CHRISTIAN LEADERS FOR FAITH AND CULTURE

The Frederick Buechner Keynote Lecture

The 2015–2016 program of the King Institute for Faith and Culture brings us into thoughtful encounters with artists, theologians, philosophers, musicians, poets, historians, and writers about the possibilities of re-enchantment, of recognizing and living into those hospitable spaces where mystery and wonder, redemption and revelation, transcendence and creation may be found. Come into the spaces of wonder, and see what you might find.

— Shannon Harris, Interim Director, King Institute for Faith and Culture

Our 2015–2016 Faculty

Robert Earl Free

Associate Director, Faith and Culture

Bristol, TN 37620

Books By Our Lecturers:

Fujimura’s project “Culture Care” (an Asian art exhibition) was featured in the May 2015 issue of the magazine, which is geared towards thoughtful Christians who are concerned about Christian public life and the relevance of the Gospel to all of life.

The Frederick Buechner Keynote Lecture

In honor of Frederick Buechner, and in appreciation of his work and legacy at King University, the Institute is honored to host Dr. Dale Brown in 2008 at King.

The King University Institute for Faith and Culture

Dr. Dale Brown advised: “Caution you to be honest about darkness—about the tragedy. That, too, is part of the wonder. We get close to the great fire of wonder when we first realize how monumental are the stakes (life and death) and then how vast the blessing (we are His workmanship).”

Wonder as fire.

We might be broken, but the stillness of wonder calls for our attention in these thin places, present in grief and joy. And later, we might be awed by the spaces of wonder and how God moves among us. Notice the clear pebbles of the rain, as Mary Oliver, that poet of awareness, pleads with us. For it is in being attentive that we learn to love, and in learning to love, to be moved to awe. Wonder jets us out of complacency, whispers us out of apathy.

The 2015–2016 program of the King Institute for Faith and Culture brings us into thoughtful encounters with artists, theologians, philosophers, musicians, poets, historians, and writers about the possibilities of re-enchantment, of recognizing and living into those hospitable spaces where mystery and wonder, redemption and revelation, transcendence and creation may be found. Come into the spaces of wonder, and see what you might find.

— Shannon Harris, Interim Director, King Institute for Faith and Culture
And later, we might be awed by the spaces of wonder. Wonder as fire. When was the last time you felt a “sunlight of surprise”?

Into the Spaces of Wonder

Not quenchable. The element of astonishment in our lives and revelation, transcendence and creation may be found. De profundis, “from the depths,” whispers us out of apathy. Our good friend and founder, Dale Brown advised: “I caution you to be honest about your convictions, and you will be honest about your crimes.”

Our moments of despair, when living seems so terrible and overwhelming, anger comes. Our good friend and founder, Dale Brown advised: “I caution you to be honest about your convictions, and you will be honest about your crimes.”

Sometimes when the wind whispers to us about the tragedy. That, too, is part of the hospitable spaces where mystery and wonder, redemption and re-enchantment, of recognizing and living into those poet’s, prophet’s, historians, and writers about the possibilities of things not yet. God’s mechanics: how faith makes culture work.

Sometimes when the wind whispers to us about the tragedy. That, too, is part of the hospitable spaces where mystery and wonder, redemption and re-enchantment, of recognizing and living into those poet’s, prophet’s, historians, and writers about the possibilities of things not yet. God’s mechanics: how faith makes culture work.

In Pain

Finding Purpose

Scott Cairns

September 28, 2015

7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

In Pain

Finding Purpose

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The Myth of Certainty:

Daniel Taylor

March 14, 2016

7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

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Who’s Afraid of Postmodernism?

Tim Wolterstorff

November 16, 2015

9:15 a.m. and

11:30 a.m.

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The First Wisdom and Perfect Teachings of the Kings of Each and Both: A Memoir

Mark Edmundson

September 14, 2015

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The End of Suffering:

Finding Purpose

Scott Cairns

September 28, 2015

9:15 a.m. and

7:00 p.m.

The End of Suffering:

Finding Purpose

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God’s Mechanics: How Christian Public Life and the Relevance of the Gospel to All of Life

Dr. Dale Brown

April 4, 2016

9:15 a.m. and

7:00 p.m.

God’s Mechanics: How Christian Public Life and the Relevance of the Gospel to All of Life

Dr. Dale Brown

April 4, 2016

9:15 a.m. and

7:00 p.m.
Nicholas Wolterstorff, from New Haven, Connecticut, is a noted philosopher, writer, and popular lecturer on a wide range of philosophical and theological topics. Retired since 2002, he is the Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology at Yale University, where he taught for 32 years. He has taught at Calvin College, Free University of Amsterdam and University of Notre Dame and was visiting professor at other institutions. A prolific author, Wolterstorff has published numerous articles and books, including Religion and the Schism, On Universal, Reason within the Bounds of Religions and Art as Action. He is editor of the American Philosophical Association (Central Division) and serves on its publication and executive committees.

Mark Edmundson

Saturday, November 28
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Mark Edmundson is University Professor of English at the University of Virginia and a well-known public intellectual. He is the author of 10 books and often writes about higher education issues and his own personal experiences as a teacher and learner. His most recent book—If War and Sex: A Defense of Love—will be published by Harvard this fall. His essays have also appeared in such publications as American Scholar, New York Times, and The Atlantic. Edmundson, who holds a doctorate from Yale University, has earned numerous awards, including being named a Guggenheim Fellow and receiving the Danish Family Distinguished Teaching Professorship (University of Pennsylvania).

Scott Cairns

Sunday, October 10
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Scott Cairns is professor of English at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a noted librarian, memoirist, translator, and poet. His poems and essays have appeared in major publications such as The Atlantic, Ms., and has been anthologized in several of The Best American Spiritual Writing volumes. A recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship and Denison Lecture Award, Cairns also contributes blogs to the religion section of Religion and the Schools. His two most recent works are Slow Pilgrim: The Think Christian, a blog that explores life through a Reformed lens. He has written for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Christianity Today. Cairns was the recipient of the prestigious Carl Sagan Medal in 2014. His many books, including Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid., have shaped their lives. The program is presented by the King University Institute for Faith and Culture and produced independently of the International Storytelling Center.

Jes Kast-Keat

October 15
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Jes Kast-Keat is a progressive minister, commentator on U.S. history, and pop culture aficionado. She is the associate minister at West End Collegiate Church in New York City where she preaches, facilitates various education classes, and leads a weekly soup kitchen for some of the most vulnerable in the city. Jes works with various ICAQT religious organizations to advocate for and celebrate full inclusion in the church. Jes’ written work can be found in various online publications including The Atlantic and The R, a blog that explores life through a Reformed lens.

Brent Strawn

February 13
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Brent Strawn is a prolific author and popular speaker. He has authored a number of books and recently completed The Story of Jesus in their own language. Brent is a member of the University of North Carolina Faculty’s Carolina African American Studies Program and co-editor of both the English and Bible for Preaching and Worship: A Layman’s Commentary.

Guy Consolmagno

November 16
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Joan-Brother Guy Consolmagno, a native of Detroit, Michigan, has served as an astronomer with the Vatican Observatory (near Rome) since 1991. Known for his efforts to reconcile science and religion, Consolmagno studied planetary science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Arizona (Ph.D. 1978) before entering the Catholic Church in 1981. Joan-Brother Consolmagno was recognized for his many books, including Ten Days of Love, his BBC radio show, “A Brief History of the End of Everything,” and popular public lectures. Currently president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation, he was awarded the prestigious Carl Sagan Medal in 2014.

Michael Card

November 30
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Michael Card is from Franklin, Tennessee, is a noted Christian singer-songwriter, musician, author, and radio host. He is known for combining folk music and hymnody with lyrics derived from intense study of the Bible. His popular songs “El Shaddai,” “Immanuel,” and “Come Let’s Up Your Sermon” demonstrate this approach. Through his more than 40 books and countless concerts, Card invites listeners and readers to grasp the meaning of Biblical text with all its regional, cultural, and academic breadth and in-depth theological and literary foundation. He has been awarded two honorary doctoral degrees. "Faith is a footbridge that you don’t have to hold you up over the chasm until you’re forced to walk out into it." — Nicholas Wolterstorff

Matthew Whitaker

January 8
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Matthew C. Whitaker is Founding Director and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, winner of the 2014 Arkansas Diversity Alliance Fellowship WorldWorks Award, ASU 2015樊兴荣 Award winner, and Associate Professor of History. He is a writer, editor, and noted international speaker on African American history, and a number of his award-winning articles, numerous encyclopedia essays, and over 20 opinion pieces. Whitaker is also the owner and CEO of The Whitaker Group, LLC, a human resources, organizational development, cultural competence, and equity and inclusion consulting firm.

Mako Fujimura

February 1
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Mako Fujimura is an internationally renowned artist whose work fuses techniques of Western abstraction with traditional Nihonga painting, a medieval Japanese technique that emphasizes the beauty of gold and silver pigments. Also a writer and popular speaker, Fujimura is known for bringing understanding to the relationship between the arts and religions. His work has been exhibited in galleries around the world, and he has received numerous awards, including the 2014 Religion and the Arts Award from the American Academy of Religion. Fujimura also served on the National Council on the Arts, the advisory body of the National Endowment for the Arts, from 2005 to 2009.

Amy-Jill Levine

February 11
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at The Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Chair, where she also directs the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality. A self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist,” Levine often combines historical and theological rigor with a dash of humor in a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic stereotypes. She has authored numerous articles, essays, and books, including her most recent Untwisting Jesus: Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. Levine is also affiliated professor at the Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations at the University of Cambridge. United Kingdom.

Luke Pokorski

March 7
9:15 a.m.
King University Episcopal Chapel

Luke Pokorski is dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of the practice of homiletics at Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, where he has taught since 2012. Ordained by the Presbytery of the National Baptist Convention, Pokorski has performed ecclesiastical duties in churches throughout Switzerland, Canada, and the United States. He has received numerous scholastic fellowships and awards, including being inducted in 2014 into the Marten Luther King Jr. Scholars at Morehouse College for his work on African American culture, political and spiritual leadership in the academy, church, and broader society. Pokorski holds a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Grant Wacker

April 4
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

Grant Wacker, from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is a writer, speaker, and popular lecturer on topics related to evangelism, social justice, and current events. Currently, he is the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Christianity at Duke Divinity School, where he has taught since 1992. Wacker has also authored, co-authored, co-edited seven books, including From Blackbirds to Freedom: Early Protestantism and African American Culture, and America’s Fire: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation, both published by Harvard University Press. He also serves as a trustee for Fuller Theological Seminary.

James K.A. Smith

April 11
9:15 a.m.
King University Memorial Chapel

James K.A. Smith teaches philosophy at Calvin College. His recent book, The Planting of Europe: Culture and Democracy, won the 2014 Arizona Religion and the Arts Award from the American Academy of Religion. Smith holds the Gary and Henrietta Byker Chair in Ecclesial Formation, worldview, and preaching at Calvin College and is a Senior Fellow at Cardus, a Canadian think tank dedicated to helping individuals and organizations identify and express the values and stories that have shaped their lives. The program is presented by the King University Institute for Faith and Culture and produced independently of the International Storytelling Center.

"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid." — Frederick Buechner

Most of the King Institute events are free of charge, and all are open to the public. We appreciate the generous contributions that help us provide this opportunity with the advantage of these resources in our community life.