

# Lecture Series

2009–2010

The More Things Change...

## Faith Engaging Culture

buechnerinstitute.org

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—Dale Brown, Director  
The Buechner Institute at King College

Please join us often. Can't wait to see you.

We've heard much of late about declining investment accounts—financial cataclysm, poverty of the purse—no denying that. But we might also want to ponder the fruits of poverty of the imagination, the power of poverty of the spirit.

We hope that we may say the same of the words we hear from this year's presenters in the Buechner Institute Lectures.

John Gardner says that the value of great writing is "not just that it entertains us or distracts us from our troubles, not just that it broadens our knowledge of people and places, but also that it helps us to know what we believe, reinforces those qualities that are noblest in us, leads us to feel uneasy about our faults and limitations."

We like to believe that we have come along at the time of a major paradigm shift. We even label our generations X, Y, and Z to distinguish them, to suggest the universality of change. But the old virtues remain the same: the confusions of our hearts, the vanities and virtues of our days, the quest for the good life.

If there really are new ones.

Our simple intention is to address central issues of our time as they relate to faith and culture. We want to come at these topics from as many directions as possible, honestly and clearly. The presenters on this year's schedule will pry into those conundrums that circulate in the air we breathe—the old ones and the new ones.

You'll be very welcome at the Buechner Institute Lectures for 2009–2010, free to everyone because of the generosity of donors to the Buechner Institute at King College.

The More Things Change...

## Buechner Lecture Series 2009–2010

**Walter Fluker** | August 24  
*Opening Convocation* | 10:30 a.m.

**Mako Fujimura** | September 21  
*Refractions: Art and Faith*  
10:30 a.m. | 7:00 p.m.

**Steven D. Martin** | November 2  
*Film, Faith, and Understanding*  
10:30 a.m. | 7:00 p.m.

**Tim Clydesdale** | November 9  
*Seven Things College Students Wished Every Professor Knew* | 10:30 a.m.  
*Understanding 20-Somethings in America: The Lengthening Runway Between Adolescence and Adulthood* | 7:00 p.m.

**Ron Hansen** | January 23, 2010  
*The Buechner Annual Lectureship* | 7:00 p.m.

**Jennifer Holberg** | February 1  
*The Abundant Life* | 10:30 a.m.

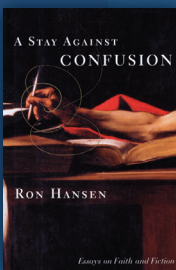
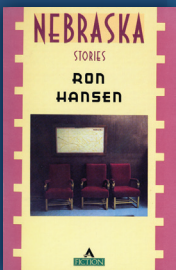
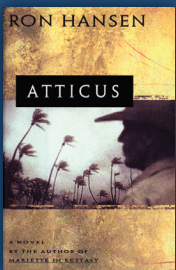
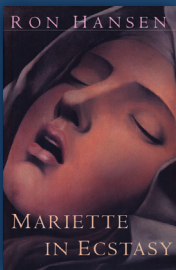
**Maggie Jackson** | February 8  
*The Gift of Attention: Cultivating Focus in a Distracted Land* | 10:30 a.m.  
*The Body at the Threshold: The Fate of the Earthly in a Virtual World* | 7:00 p.m.

**Alfred "Freddie" Traum** | February 22  
*Surviving the Holocaust* | 10:30 a.m.

**William P. Young** | March 1  
*The Shack: Is God Really This Good?*  
10:30 a.m. | 7:00 p.m.

✂ Open for speaker bios and event information

## The BUECHNER INSTITUTE Annual Lectureship



### Novelist, Essayist, and Screenwriter: Ron Hansen | January 23, 2010

Officially inaugurated by Frederick Buechner himself in January of 2008, the Buechner Institute now celebrates its birthday with an annual lectureship. Walter Brueggemann, Thomas Lynch and others joined Fred for the launch in 2008. In 2009, an all day program featured Barbara Brown Taylor who spoke of her gratitude to Fred for his call to attentiveness, his desire to "say something true that matters."

On January 23 we will welcome Ron Hansen for the 2010 Buechner Institute Annual Lectureship. Hansen, who thinks of his writing as "a form of prayer," has written award-winning novels that consider such possibilities as unconditional love, redemption, and resurrection. *Mariette in Ecstasy* (1991) was the winner of the Gold Medal for Excellence in Fiction. *Atticus* (1996), a finalist for the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award, was made into a film, *Missing Pieces*, starring James Coburn. Hansen's *The Assassination of Jesse James By the Coward Robert Ford* (1983) became a recently popular film starring Brad Pitt.

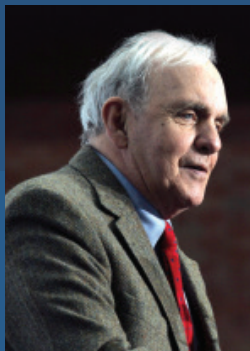
Nebraskan by birth and a longtime California resident, Hansen has produced a volume of short stories, *Nebraska* (1989), a novel for children, *The Shadowmaker* (1986), several screenplays including a 1996 adaptation of *Mariette in Ecstasy*, and a significant volume of essays, *A Stay Against Confusion: Essays on Faith and Fiction* (2001). His most recent novel, *Exiles* (2008), is the intertwined tale of the life of poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, Hopkins' famous poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland," and the lives and deaths of the nuns who are the subject of that poem.

Visit [buechnerinstitute.org](http://buechnerinstitute.org) or the Buechner Institute Facebook fan site for complete information about the day's activities.

## Frederick Buechner and the Buechner Institute

Over a lifetime of spiritual reflection and storytelling, Frederick Buechner has become a touchstone for those seeking to begin, wrestle with, or deepen a personal journey of faith.

Buechner's work has received national acclaim. He has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award as well as the recipient of honors from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he has



delivered the Nobel Lectures at Harvard and the Beecher Lectures at Yale.

Buechner is unfailingly honest about the human condition, and yet unapologetically positive. His frankness in dealing with doubt, sorrow, and sin as well as his commitment to joy, humor, artistry, and hope has gathered a grateful audience. His writing serves as a masterful guide to the ways that personal

belief, public life, and creative expression interact.

In the 2007–2008 academic year, the Buechner Institute at King College was created to examine the intersections—and collisions—between faith, art, and culture. With Buechner's works as a guide and King as receptive host, the Institute is working to create a center that welcomes authors, artists, musicians, scholars, and others to interact with a national audience. The Institute also seeks to provide a locus for all those working to elevate discussion, a place to share explorations with like-minded seekers.

You may follow the work via [buechnerinstitute.org](http://buechnerinstitute.org) and on the Buechner Institute fan page on Facebook. Your gifts to the Institute will support programming that is contributing to rich regional opportunities and to the national conversation on faith and culture.



## The More Things Change...

## Buechner Lecture Series

2009–2010

**Walter Fluker** | August 24

*Opening Convocation*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel



Walter Earl Fluker is executive director of the Leadership Center at Atlanta's Morehouse College and a professor of Philosophy and Religion. As Coca-Cola Professor of Leadership Studies, he is interim director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection. Since 1992, he has been editor of the Howard Thurman Papers Project.

Dr. Fluker is also engaged in expanding a multi-faceted international leadership project in South Africa in partnership with the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, the United States Department of State, and the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University. Known as an expert in the theory and practice of ethical leadership, he is a featured speaker, lecturer, and workshop leader at foundations, businesses, corporations, religious institutions, colleges and universities as well as consultant to both national and international organizations. In his consulting practice, he works with professionals and emerging leaders in both the public and private domains.

**Mako Fujimura** | September 21

*Refractions: Art and Faith*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | King College Boardroom



Artist and writer Makoto Fujimura graduated from Bucknell University in 1983. As a National Nihonga (Japanese painting) Scholar he earned an M.F.A. from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1989. His book, *River Grace*, traces his parallel journey mastering Nihonga technique with his own art and faith issues, described as "a transfer

of allegiance from Art to Christ." Fujimura founded the International Arts Movement, an arts advocacy organization that "wrestles with the deep questions of art, faith, and humanity." His essays have appeared in *Image Journal*, *Books and Culture*, *American Arts Quarterly*, and *WORLD* magazine. Public collections of his work include The Saint Louis Museum, Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art, and Hong Kong's Time Warner / AOL / CNN building. He is represented by Dillon Gallery in New York and Tokyo ([www.dillongallery.com](http://www.dillongallery.com)). His newest book is *Refractions*.

Thanks to the financial gifts of donors

and friends, all campus events in the Buechner

Lecture Series are free and open to the public.

We are very grateful for their support.

**Steven D. Martin** | November 2

*Film, Faith, and Understanding*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

Steven D. Martin is a documentary filmmaker and a partner in Vital Visuals, Inc. The company produces quality documentaries exploring religion, ethics, public life, and the intricate interplay between them for broadcast and public television. *Islam in America After September 11* and *Muslims in Appalachia* became part of the national discussion of terrorism after September 11 and the latter aired on PBS



network. Other films include *Theologians Under Hitler*, *Elizabeth of Berlin*, and *Hearts Divided*. One of Martin's next films will examine the 1956 integration of the high school in Clinton, Tennessee, in which religious leadership played a key role.

**Tim Clydesdale** | November 9

*Seven Things College Students Wished Every Professor Knew*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

*Understanding 20-Somethings in America: The Lengthening Runway Between Adolescence and Adulthood*

7:00 p.m. | King College Boardroom



Tim Clydesdale is Professor of Sociology at The College of New Jersey. He helped shape the national debate on affirmative action well before the Grutter v. Bollinger case at the University of Michigan Law School ignited the world of academia with the sparks of a Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action practices in higher education. Awarded a \$512,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., for

a project Clydesdale named *The Life and Vocation of American Youth Project: A National Evaluation of PTEV's Impact on Students and their Mentors*, he will spend nearly four years studying the vocational thinking and processes of religious and nonreligious American college students. A prolific author, Clydesdale's work includes, *The First Year Out: Understanding American Teens after High School*, *Abandoned, Pursued, or Safely Stowed: The Religious Life of First Year Undergraduates*, and *Affirmative Action in American Law Schools: A Critical Response to Richard Sander's A Reply to Critics*.

**Ron Hansen** | January 23, 2010

*Annual Buechner Lecture*

7:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church, west end of the King College campus



Ron Hansen is a deacon of the Catholic Church, a member of the Buechner Institute National Advisory Board, and the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., Professor of Arts and Humanities at Santa Clara University, where he teaches writing and literature. Hansen's popular work, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, chronicled the life and death of the iconic outlaw and was adapted

for the screen in 2006. *Mariette in Ecstasy* (1991), about a cloistered Catholic nun who apparently bears the stigmata, earned him universal critical praise. The amazing range of Hansen's work includes collections of essays, a novel on the personal life of Adolf Hitler, *Hitler's Niece* (1999), a novel for children, and several screenplays. From the early westerns to his humorous novel *Isn't it Romantic* (2003), Hansen has demonstrated enormous variety and artistry. His latest novel, *Exiles* (2008), tells the story of a shipwreck that prompted poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., to write some of his best work.

King College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

**Jennifer Holberg** | February 1

*The Abundant Life*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel



Jennifer L. Holberg teaches English at Calvin College, where she also serves as Associate Director of the Honors program. She is the founding co-editor of the journal, *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition and Culture*, published by Duke University Press. *Shouts and Whispers*, her edited collection of speeches and interviews from 21 contemporary authors on the topic of faith and literature, was published in 2006. Holberg chairs the national advisory board for the Buechner Institute.

**Maggie Jackson** | February 8

*The Gift of Attention: Cultivating Focus in a Distracted Land*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

*The Body at the Threshold: The Fate of the Earthly in a Virtual World*

7:00 p.m. | King College Boardroom



Maggie Jackson graduated from Yale and the London School of Economics with highest honors. She is an award-winning author and journalist known for her penetrating coverage of U.S. social issues in her column, *Balancing Acts*, for the *Sunday Boston Globe*. Her work also appears in *The New York Times*, *Gastronomica*, and on National Public Radio. Her latest book, *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming Dark*

*Age*, details the steep costs of epidemic deficits of attention, while revealing the astonishing scientific discoveries that can help us rekindle our powers of focus in a world of speed and overload. Jackson has won numerous awards for her coverage of work-life issues, including the Media Award from the Work-Life Council of the Conference Board.

**Alfred "Freddie" Traum** | February 22

*Surviving the Holocaust*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel



Alfred "Freddie" Traum is a Holocaust survivor. He was born into a traditional Jewish family on March 22, 1929, in Vienna, Austria. Fearing the worst after Germany annexed Austria in 1938, Traum's family sent him and his sister, Ruth, to England where they lived with a Christian family for a number of years. As news about the Holocaust surfaced in 1943, Traum and his sister discovered that their

entire family had been murdered. After the war, Traum served both the British and Israeli armies. In 1963, he and his wife, Josiane, another Holocaust survivor, moved to the United States, where he worked for Boeing until his recent retirement. Together with his wife and her mother, Fanny Aizenberg, Traum volunteers at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**William P. Young** | March 1

*The Shack: Is God Really This Good?*

10:30 a.m. | King College Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church, west end of the King College campus



William Young is the author of *The Shack*. Rejected by 26 publishers, Young and some friends self-published the book in 2007. *The Shack* became number one on the *New York Times* trade paperback fiction best-seller list in June 2008 and was the top-selling fiction and audio book of 2008 in America through November 30 of that year. Until he published *The Shack*, Young drifted through life as an adult, buoyed a little by

his faith and a lot by his wife, Kim, keeping his secrets and building his shack—"the place we make to hide all our crap," he calls it. At the age of 38, he found himself at his nadir. "I had a three-month affair with one of my wife's best friends. That was it, which just blew my careful little religious world apart. I either had to get on my knees and deal with my wife's pain and anger, or kill myself."