William Storrar | August 28
Opening Convocation | 9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

William Storrar is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and director of the ministerial training and pastoral studies Center of Theological Ministry—an institution devoted to advanced theological research. Storrar is recognized for his work in fostering dialogues between the churches and other disciplines. Previously, he had trained working groups on medical ethics and founded the Global Network for Public Theology (GNPT), which pursues interdisciplinary and intercultural research on theology and public issues. He continues to advise the GNPT and holds several other academic titles. Storrar was also formerly Chair of Christian Ethics and Practical Theology at the University of Edinburgh.

Emily Satterwhite | September 5
7 p.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Emily Satterwhite is an author and educator at Appalachian State University. She is currently associate professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, where she teaches Appalachian studies and popular culture. Her books, including Habitual Strangers, Identity, and Popular Fiction (2002), received the 2011 Westerberg Award, presented by the Appalachian Studies Association and Bem College for the best work published in the previous year. She is the author of the Appalachian South. The work also won Virginia Tech's Phi Beta Kappa Storm Award for Faculty Excellence in Research (2015).

Co-Sponsored by Virginia International Campus Programs.

Ron Rash | September 11
7 p.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Ron Rash is an award-winning, internationally known author who has written 16 works, including 10 books of fiction (five novels and five books of short stories) and four volumes of poetry. Several have won major literary awards, including twice winning the O. Henry Prize, the most prestigious award for short fiction in the country. Two of his novels are being made into films—The World We Made and his New York Times bestseller, Smoky Roberts. Rash’s latest novel, Nickel Gap City, is a collection of short stories. Rash is also the Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Culture at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Barbara Bates Smith | September 18
7 p.m. | King University Fine Arts Building

Barbara Bates Smith is an accomplished actress, storyteller, and musician. Best known for her role as the feisty “Miss Jane Austen” in the PBS series Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood, she has appeared in more than 60 films and television shows. Smith also performs original monologues, conducts workshops, and has recently played roles in regional productions of Wines, Bread, and Aspartame.

Thaddeus Kosinski | September 20
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

7 p.m. | King University Student Center Complex Board Room

Thaddeus Kosinski is an author and educator who is currently associate professor of humanities, theology, and philosophy at Washington College in Maryland. Kosinski is particularly active in political philosophy, and in 2010, he presented the Peabody Lecture at the Institute of Religious Freedom (IRF’s). His work explores the three of the most influential figures of political philosophy: John Stuart Mill, Jacobins, and Albert Einstein. Kosinski has also taught undergraduate courses at the University of Calgary and the University of New Brunswick. Kosinski is an active teacher and scholar, serving as headmaster and academic dean for the Montessori Academy, a Catholic preparatory school in Denver, New York.

Led by King University Student Government Association

Timothy L. Brown | October 8
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Timothy L. Brown, an ordained pastor in the Reformed Church in America, is professor and director of the Master of Divinity Program at King University’s Center for Theological Seminary in Holmdel, New Jersey. Michigan, Brown, who taught at Western for 13 years prior to becoming its president, was also senior pastor at Christ Memorial Church from 1989 to 1999. Knowing Brown’s commitment to interpretate biblical text, Brown is a noted presenter and has preached in churches across the country and the world.

Todd Shy | October 28
7 p.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Todd Shy is a essayist, book reviewer, and educator who grew up in Britain, Virginia, and now serves as humanities curriculum specialist at Amherst. The World School in New City, N.Y. A 2009 finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Balzac Citation for Excellence in Reviewing, Shy has chosen to focus on the intersection of religion and literature in his work. After completing a degree at the University of Virginia, he spent four years working for an Anglican diocese in London, England, while also studying at St John’s College, London. He holds a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

John McCutcheon | November 18
7 p.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

John McCutcheon is a much recognized folk singer, songwriter, storyteller, artist, and multi-instrumentalist. During his career, he has produced 14 albums and received seven Grammy nominations. He has spent most of his life studying the folk music and culture of Appalachia and is regarded as a master of the genre. McCutcheon also plays numerous other instruments—including guitar, banjo, mandolin, lap steel, and dulcimer—and is a popular storyteller, sometimes compared to Kelly Carlin from Carlin’s Knee.

Keren Ras | November 18
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

7 p.m. | King University Fine Arts Building

Keren Ras is an archaeologist who for the last decade has worked at various excavating sites in Israel. She is currently senior staff member for two significant Israeli-German projects: the Bet Shearim Expedition Project and the Excavation of Bethsaida. In addition to her academic research, she has appeared in several television documentaries on early Levantine religion and cultural and ancient Israelite history.

Eugene Sutton | January 20
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

7 p.m. | Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church, Abingdon

The Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton is bishop of the Diocese of Maryland in the Episcopal Church and a retired professor and author who has written about the topics of reconciliation, spirituality, and social justice. Former canon pastor at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and dean of the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Care, he has served as a college chaplain, parish priest, and professor of homiletics and literature at Vanderbilt University’s Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee. Bishop Sutton has written several sermons and spiritual advice books and contributed to the book, The Divinity of Cooking Prayer. Funds by gift from the Barber Institute Ministries Board.

Frank Deford | January 28
6:30 p.m. | Distinguished discussion in King University Dining Hall

For ticket information call (423) 652-4866

The author of 18 books of both fiction and non-fiction, Frank Deford is best known as a sportswriter, especially for his work at Sport Illustrated. The recipient of numerous awards, Deford has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Sportswriters and Sportscasters. Most recently, in 2013, he was presented with the National Press Foundation’s highest honor for distinguished journalism and was a recipient of the Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Patricia Hampi | February 1
11 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Patricia Hampi is an author, poet, and blogger. A 1975 recipient of the prestigious Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, Hampi first gained recognition for her book, A Reckoning. Hampi’s most recent book, The Lies We Tell the Truth We Tell, was published in 2014. Her book, The Lies We Tell the Truth We Tell, was the recipient of the 2008 Minnesota Book Award for Memoir and Creative Nonfiction.

Rachel Held Evans | February 24
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

Rachel Held Evans is a best-selling author, blogger, and Oxford Plantation. Held Evans has written two books: Evolving in Monkey Town: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions and The Year of Biblical Womenhood: How Literalists Won Jesus’ First and Catholic Weekday.

Lizerman | March 3
9:15 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

7 p.m. | Tennessee High Education Center, Abingdon, VA

Lizerman is a noted dance choreographer, actor, teacher, writer, and blogger. Held Evans has received numerous accolades, including the MacArthur Grant Fellowship and a United States Artist Fellowship in Dance. Held Evans has received commissions from the Lincoln Center, Americas Dance Festival, BalletJett, and the Kennedy Center, among other organizations. Her third book is held Evans’s final book, which he wrote and directed, and which is available in paperback.

Jane Dawson | March 5
7 p.m. | King University Student Center Complex Board Room

Jane Dawson is the John Luing Professor of English and the poet-in-residence at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She came to Edinburgh in 1994 from the University of Sydney, Australia. Dawson’s work has been featured on university campuses in the United States since the 1990s and has been translated into several languages.

Alfred Munzer | March 7
11 a.m. | King University Memorial Chapel

7 p.m. | Hardin Valley Campus, Knoxville

A Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany and the medical staff at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, Munzer was married more than the Dutch city of The Hagi whom he knew personally. He has written a book about his mother's search for her parents' identity during World War II, and the story of his mother's family. The book, Eden (2013), was published in 2013.

Christian Wiman | March 10
6:30 p.m. | Distinguished discussion in King University Dining Hall

For ticket information call (423) 652-4866

The author of 18 books of both fiction and non-fiction, Frank Deford is best known as a sportswriter, especially for his work at Sport Illustrated. The recipient of numerous awards, Deford has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Sportswriters and Sportscasters. Most recently, in 2013, he was presented with the National Press Foundation’s highest honor for distinguished journalism and was a recipient of the Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Co-Sponsored by the Presbyterian Education Foundation.