

Why a Buechner Institute?

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

Buechner's work has received long-standing national acclaim and won the devotion of readers from points around the globe. Among many awards he has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, as well as the focus of honors bestowed by 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.

His appeal is universal. He 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, and hope draws audiences from all realms. His writing serves as a masterful, heartfelt guide to the ways that personal belief, public life, and creative expression all interact. This is particularly relevant as these issues bear increasing influence on our world.

In 2005 a group of innovative scholars gathered on the campus of King College in Bristol, Tennessee. These innovators saw correlations between King's long-standing explorations of faith, art, and culture and Buechner's lifelong work, and realized that a combination of the two could energize widespread dialogue on these essential issues.

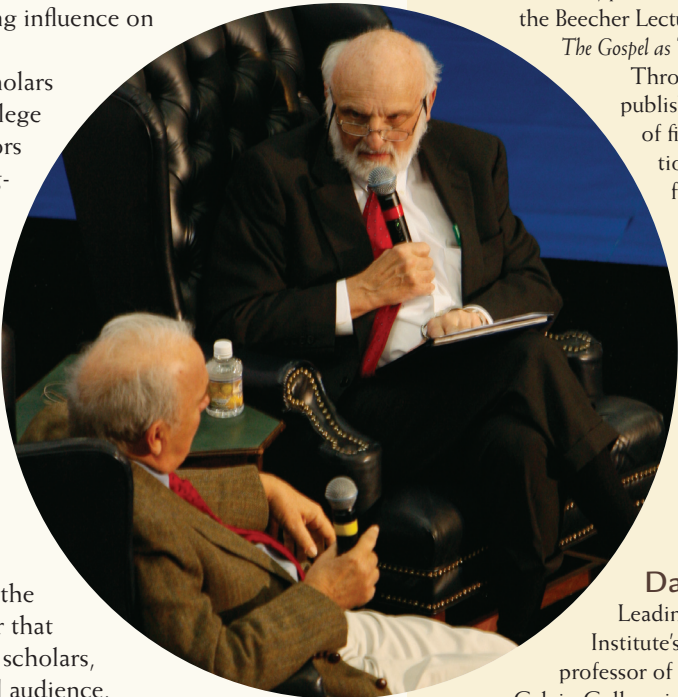
In the 2007–2008 academic year, the Buechner Institute at King College was created to examine the intersections—and collisions—between faith, art, and culture. With Buechner's works as a guide and King as receptive ground, the Institute is working to create a center that welcomes authors, artists, musicians, 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.

Work in this one-of-a-kind initiative has just begun. The Institute's official inauguration was observed January 28, 2008, and welcomed guests from every corner of the United States. In all, more than 1,000 gathered on campus to honor, and hear from, Frederick Buechner. Additional guests on that day included Walter Brueggemann, Thomas Lynch, Michael Card, Thomas Long, and others.

We've established the foundations for this essential venture. Like Buechner's works, the full vision for the Institute offers challenges and includes much room to grow.

The following includes details on our leaders and board, and ways that charitable partners can help make lasting contributions. A list of priority needs and available naming opportunities is available for your review.

It's our hope you'll join us on this journey.



LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Frederick Buechner

Frederick Buechner was born July 11, 1926 to Katherine Kuhn and Carl Frederick Buechner, Sr. Early in his youth he experienced the loss of his father, who committed suicide. The event was a pivotal influence, one that has fueled a literary search for memory, truth, joy, home, and courage that has aided and encouraged generations of others.

A 1948 graduate of Princeton, his first novel, *A Long Day's Dying*, was published in 1950. In 1953 he found himself profoundly led by the words of George Buttrick, pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Under Buttrick's encouragement, Buechner enrolled at Union Theological Seminary and studied under such scholars as James Muilenburg, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Paul Tillich.

In following years he would serve as school minister at Philips Exeter Academy and then move to Vermont in 1967 to become a full-time writer and speaker. In 1969 he offered the Nobel Lectures at Harvard, published as the *Alphabet of Grace*, and later gave the Beecher Lectures at Yale, published as *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale*.

Throughout the following decades he would publish more than 30 works including those of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and meditation. 1980's *Godric*, dedicated to Buechner's father, was widely celebrated, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and recognized as a finalist. As part of the Institute's inauguration, Buechner premiered passages from his most recent work, 2008's *Yellow Leaves: A Miscellany*.

Recipient of numerous awards, recognitions, and honorary doctorates, Buechner and wife Judith joined King College January 28, 2008 to participate in the inauguration of the Buechner Institute.

Dale Brown

Leading this new initiative is Dale Brown, the Institute's founding director. Brown served as professor of English for more than 20 years at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more than 14 years he directed Calvin's nationally recognized Festival of Faith & Writing, establishing ties with many of America's foremost authors. His extensive interviews with more than 30 writers have appeared in his books *Of Faith & Fiction*, and 2008's *Conversations with American Writers: The Faith, The Doubt, and The In-Between*.

His experience and background are elevating the Institute's visibility, contributing to the excellence of related convocations series, and steering the creation of a world-class National Advisory Board. A central resource on Buechner's life and career, Brown is the author of *The Book of Buechner: A Journey Through His Writings*, and is often invited to speak at venues around the country.

Brown holds degrees from the University of Houston and the University of North Wales. He completed his doctorate at the University of Missouri.

Plans for Growth

The Buechner Institute is designed to serve as a permanent resource where national audiences can gather. Anchored by a common interest in Buechner's work, participants have already begun forming ties and creating a one-of-a-kind community to share insight, outlook, and faith.

A primary goal is to provide the Institute with a dedicated physical home that recognizes and can accommodate its national audience.

The college has designated acreage to provide the Institute with a devoted facility, and worked with an architect to develop the needed plans. The building will supply offices and classrooms for staff and students, guest quarters for visiting and resident artists, a dedicated library, and a much-needed auditorium to welcome the Institute's growing audience.

Equally essential to the Institute's growth are the funds to continue the Annual Lectureship, and to provide an endowment to perpetuate programs. To fully fund the Institute's capital, endowment, and programming projects, we are seeking an overall goal of \$17 million.



About King College

Founded in 1867 and long recognized as a rich and versatile resource, King is a comprehensive college serving the Southeast and beyond. King's heritage is built on foundations of academic excellence, stewardship, and faith, pointing to a mission of building meaningful lives of achievement and cultural transformation.

Dedicated to making private higher education accessible and affordable, King holds status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The college offers more than 80 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. In addition to the main campus, programs are offered at nearly a dozen instructional locations throughout northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia. The main campus is located within a day's drive of many southeastern metropolitan areas and is conveniently accessible by interstate and by air.

We host a student body of approximately 1,500 plus thousands of alumni who are active representatives of King's mission of life-long learning. Distinguished alumni include scholars, scientists, artists, health care professionals, and entrepreneurs who each day draw on King's well-rounded academic programming to serve regional and national organizations.

The college views the Institute as part of its mission to make far-reaching academic and artistic contributions. To help impact the national conversation on faith, art, and culture, King has devoted a variety of in-kind resources to the success of the Institute. These include dedicating campus acreage for construction of the Institute's building, funding faculty and staff positions, providing financial resources for general operations, opening existing facilities to host events, and directing the support of personnel and promotional resources to the Institute's activities.

Additional information on King's history, programs, and outlook is available at www.king.edu.

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“For a novelist to speak of himself as a preacher of sermons puts everybody off. But when Trollope. . . says that the calling of a writer is to teach virtue and nobility, and when he expresses the hope that people will learn from his words that true manliness, true humanness, is to be found not in falseness and flashiness but in truth and a gentle spirit, that is something else again.”

—Frederick Buechner

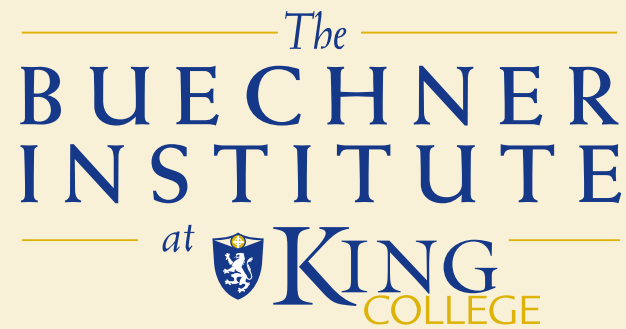
“Seekers, such as those who pursue principles of life-long learning, need points of rest, rejuvenation, and inspiration along their path. King College has drawn on our deep heritage to provide a home for the Buechner Institute, for a forward-looking community fully engaged in the exploration of faith, art, and culture.”

—Gregory D. Jordan, President, King College

The Annual Lectureship

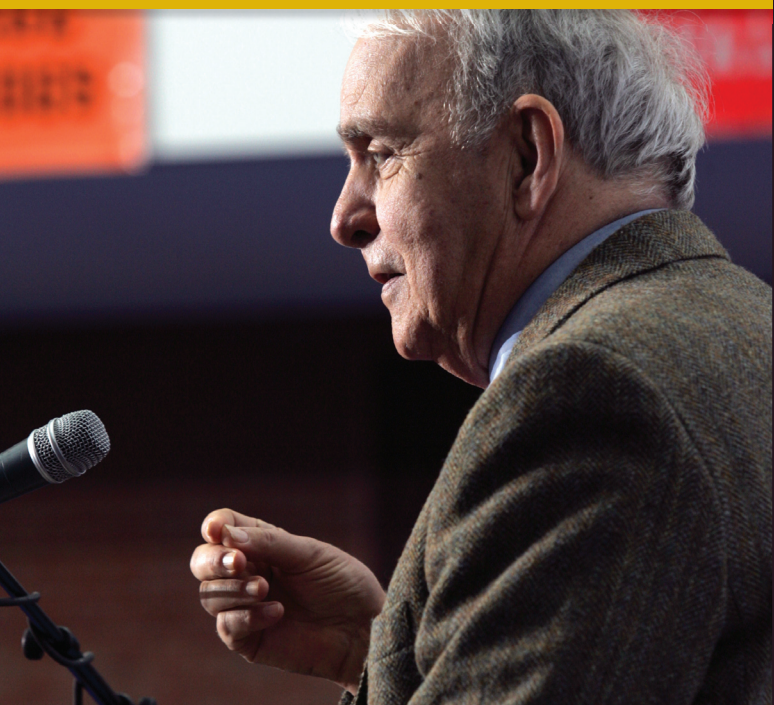
The Annual Lectureship is an important capstone of the Institute's year. The first such event was offered during the inauguration by Frederick Buechner.

As the Institute's heritage grows, we are seeking charitable partners to help us maintain the caliber of dialogue in this series, as well as the tradition of welcoming audiences to these events free of charge. The Annual Lectureship, as well as other pathways to help continue this tradition of excellence, is included among the list of naming opportunities and available for your review.



“Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”

—Frederick Buechner



THE BUECHNER INSTITUTE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Buechner Institute is honored to host a National Advisory Board of distinguished authors, poets, scholars, memoirists, clergy members, and others. We are deeply grateful for their affirmation of the Institute’s vision. National Board members include:

JENNIFER HOLBERG	chair of the advisory board, professor of English, Calvin College; Grand Rapids, Mich.
JILL BAUMGAERTNER	dean of Humanities and Theological Studies, Wheaton College; poet, Wheaton, Ill.
DORIS BETTS	novelist, short story writer; professor emerita, University of North Carolina, Pittsboro, N.C.
WALTER BRUEGGEMANN	writer, theologian; professor emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary; Decatur, Ga.
SCOTT CAIRNS	poet; professor of English, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
MICHAEL CARD	musician, songwriter, and essayist; Warsaw, Ind.
ELIZABETH DEWBERRY	novelist and playwright; Lamont, Fla.
WILLIAM EVERTSBERG	senior minister, First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, Conn.
DOUG FRANK	director, Oregon Extension; professor of history, Ashland, Ore.
TIM GAUTREAUX	novelist, short story writer; professor emeritus, Southeast Louisiana Univ., Hammond, La.
PHILIP H. GULLEY	novelist, essayist, Quaker minister; Danville, Ind.
RON HANSEN	novelist and short story writer; professor of English, Santa Clara University; Cupertino, Calif.
ROY HERRON	Tennessee State Senator and writer; Dresden, Tenn.
JUDITH HOOKER	community volunteer, retired teacher; Grand Rapids, Mich.
ROBERT HOOKER	community volunteer and activist, retired businessman; Grand Rapids, Mich.
SILAS HOUSE	novelist, professor of English, Lincoln Memorial University; Lily, Ky.
ROBERT HUDSON	senior editor, Zondervan Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Mich.
RICHARD HUGHES	professor of religion and Senior Boyer Fellow, Messiah College; Grantham, Pa.
THOMAS LONG	professor of preaching, Candler School of Theology at Emory University; Atlanta, Ga.
THOMAS LYNCH	undertaker, writer and poet; Milford, Mich.
DAVID MALONE	curator, the Buechner Papers, Wheaton College; Wheaton, Ill.
AMI McCONNELL	senior editor, Thomas Nelson Publishing; Nashville, Tenn.
BRIAN McLAREN	author, preacher, former pastor, board chair for <i>Sojourners</i> ; Laurel, Md.
JEFF MUNROE	minister, director of Young Life’s Western Great Lakes region, Grand Rapids, Mich.
DONALD MCKIM	senior editor, Westminster John Knox Press; Germantown, Tenn.
CARRIE NEWCOMER	songwriter and folksinger; Bloomington, Ind.
KATHLEEN NORRIS	essayist and memoirist, South Dakota/Hawaii.
KATHERINE PATERSON	(’54) children’s literature author; Barre, Vt.
DOUG PETERS	senior minister, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church; Des Moines, Iowa.
EUGENE PETERSON	author, minister; Professor Emeritus, Regent College; Lakeside, Mont.
CHIP POLLARD	president, John Brown University; Siloam Springs, Ark.
JON POTT	vice-president and editor-in-chief, Eerdmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Mich.
CALEB SEELING	senior editor, NavPress; Colorado Springs, Colo.
BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR	writer, preacher, professor of religion, Piedmont College; Clarkesville, Ga.
ABRAM VAN ENGEN	doctoral student, Northwestern University; Chicago, Ill.
WILLIAM WILLIMON	bishop, United Methodist Church; writer, preacher, theologian; Birmingham, Ala.
PAUL WILLIS	poet; professor of English, Westmont College; Santa Barbara, Calif.
JOHN WILSON	editor, <i>Books & Culture</i> ; Wheaton, Ill.
PHILIP YANCEY	author; editor-at-large, <i>Christianity Today</i> ; Carol Stream, Ill.
JANE ZWART	assistant professor of English, Calvin College; poet; Grand Rapids, Mich.



Faith *Engaging* Culture

