

CONVOCATION CALENDAR

Fall 2016

All full-time students enrolled at Centre for the full academic year are required to earn a total of 12 Convocation credits.

To receive Convocation credit, students must have their ID card scanned, be seated before the program begins, remain present throughout the full program, and scan their own ID card immediately following the event.

For the entire Convocation policy, refer to the **Student Handbook**. Students may access their Convocation attendance record at any time through CentreNet.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Noltemeyer at 238.5341 or email megan.noltemeyer@centre.edu

- Events that have an admission charge to the public are marked with an asterisk.* Students are not charged for these convos.
- Please note that seating may be limited for some events. It is wise to arrive early to all Convocations to ensure that your ID card is scanned and you have a seat. If all seats are taken, students will not be allowed to enter the Convocation.
- Seating capacities:
 - Chowan – approximately 200
 - Evans Lively Room of Old Carnegie – approximately 90
 - Newlin Hall – orchestra 250; grand tier 1180
 - Weisiger Theatre – 350
 - Vahlkamp Theater – 170
 - Young Hall Auditorium (Room 113) -- 188

Opening Convocation**Sunday, August 28, 2016 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)**

Centre students, faculty, and staff gather to celebrate the start of a new academic year. David Brooks is the Opening Convocation Speaker and Honorary Degree recipient.

Cultural Exchange or What It Means to Be International**Monday, September 19, 2016 – 7:30pm (Vahlkamp Theatre)**

Hower Professor of International Studies, Lori-Hartmann Mahmud, recipient of the prestigious Fulbright research grant in Ethiopia, and Centre alum Parker Lawson (Class of 2015), recipient of the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain, will join a panel discussion to share their experiences, delving into the complexities of their cultural exchange.

First year Book Convocation**Tuesday, September 20, 2016 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

Emily St. John Mandel's post-apocalyptic tale, *Station Eleven*, which is set in the near future after a flu pandemic has wiped out most of humanity. Although there are no more cities, no countries, no internet and neither Facebook nor email, the author doesn't dwell on the immediate aftermath of horror, but rather on the new world and the new culture that begins to emerge. *Station Eleven* was a finalist for a National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award and won the 2015 Arthur C. Clarke Award. Ms. Mandel is the author of three other novels. Following the Convocation, Ms. Mandel will be available for a book signing.

The Influence of Race and Poverty on Imposition of the Death Penalty and other Criminal Cases**Wednesday, September 21, 2016 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

Steve Bright, will be the featured speaker for the annual Convocation celebrating the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Proof**Wednesday September 21, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Thursday September 22, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Friday September 23, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Saturday September 24, 2016 5:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

DramaCentre presents this Tony-Award winning play which also won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Proof is a moving family drama that focuses on Catherine, daughter of a troubled mathematical genius, who is suffering her own struggles between madness and genius, between living in fear and summoning the courage to let go.

Data Visualization: Concepts, Trends, and Challenges
Thursday, September 22, 2016 – 7:30pm (Young 113)

This Convocation will be part of the visit by Dr. Jonathan Schwabish, the fall Humana Scholar. Dr. Schwabish is founder of the data visualization and presentation skills firm, PolicyViz, and a Senior Research Associate in The Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center. He's considered a leader in the data visualization field and is a leading voice for clarity and accessibility in research. He has written on various aspects of how to best visualize data including technical aspects of creation, design best practices, and how to communicate social science research in more accessible ways. Dr. Schwabish will speak about the importance of data visualization in our society, recent trends in data visualization, and the future of data visualization.

***Complete History of America (abridged): Election Edition**
Saturday, October 1, 2016 – 8:00pm (Newlin Hall)

Who will be our next President — Donald Trump? Hillary Clinton? Kim Kardashian? This performance will provide the historical context that is guaranteed to confuse any American voter. Just in time for the 2016 Presidential Election, the Reduced Shakespeare Company returns with 600 Years of History in 6000 seconds! The "bad boys of abridgment" go from Christopher Columbus to Neil Armstrong, from George Washington to Barack Obama, yea verily from the Bering Strait to Baghdad, from the New World to the New World Order. It's a ninety-minute roller coaster ride through the glorious quagmire that is American History.

Irrepressible: A Jazz Age Life Revealed
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 – 8:00pm (Vahlkamp Theatre)

Author Emily Bingham will read from and discuss *Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham*. Henrietta, Bingham's great-aunt, was "A muse to the Bloomsbury Group, the daughter of the ambassador to the United Kingdom during the rise of Nazism . . . and a pre-Stonewall figure who never buckled to convention." Henrietta was also a lesbian who "caught the wave of a rare moment of tolerance for homosexuality and unconventional desires in the 1920s. When that wave receded, she was stranded and exposed . . . within the family, her name almost stopped being mentioned." (The New York Times) Emily will be talking about making the discovery of her never-talked-about aunt (first, literally, in a trunk in the attic full of letters and locked diaries, which began Emily's journey of involved and wide-ranging research). She will also be reading from the book about Henrietta, this daughter of wealth and privilege whose lesbianism was a source of shame for some members of her family. Finally, she will discuss the process of moving her research "beyond hearsay." Emily received her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Explaining the (Unexplainable?) 2016 Presidential Election

Thursday, October 6, 2016 - 7:30pm (Weisiger Theater)

In early 2015 it was widely anticipated that the 2016 election would be a contest between former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, or perhaps Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker or Florida Senator Marco Rubio. Instead the 2016 primaries surprised everyone by nominating businessman Donald Trump as the Republican Party's candidate for president. This Convocation features a conversation with political scientist Dr. Julia Azari, Associate Professor of Political Science at Marquette University and Dara Lind, political reporter for Vox.com, moderated by Centre College's Dr. Benjamin Knoll. They will share their expertise on the 2016 presidential primaries, the general election campaign, and the growing field of "data journalism" which has quickly become an indispensable part of political analysis over the past few years.

Like Four Pillars of the Earth: The Emergence and Function of the Four Canonical Gospels in Early Christianity

Monday, October 10, 2016 – 7:30pm (Young 113)

The Bible is arguably the most influential and widely distributed book in history. The goal of this Convocation is to foster a dialogue around the various academic viewpoints concerning the origins and purposes of the New Testament Gospels. Dr. Brandon Crowe, associate professor of New Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary, will discuss the emergence of the Fourfold Gospel in the context of early Christianity, and consider the reasons why these four were considered to be canonical. He will also suggest some implications that the emergence of the Fourfold Gospel in the early church has for the twenty-first century.

Peace in Colombia

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – 11:30 am (Vahlkamp Theatre)

After four years of difficult negotiations, the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace accord in Havana this August, ending a 50-year conflict that took over 200,000 lives. The Peace Agreement, up for a nationwide vote on October 2, calls for disarmament, land reform, justice for victims of the conflict, and FARC's transformation into a political party. Colombia's conflict was particularly difficult for Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations. Our speaker will discuss the implications of the peace accord for these groups. Marcia Mejia is an indigenous Nonam leader from the community of Santa Rosa de Guayacan, located along the San Juan River. Mejia is also a spokeswoman for the network CONPAZ (Communities Building Peace in the Territories), which had delegations in Havana about the issues of victims' rights and reparations. She is also a representative for ACIVA, the larger departmental indigenous network of Valle del Cauca and has been working on a proposal for training indigenous women to safeguard ancestral knowledge. This Convocation will be in Spanish, with translation.

Giving Voice to the Voiceless: The Cultural Landscape of Afro-Puerto Ricans in *Daughters of the Stone*

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 7:30pm (Weisiger Theatre)

Author Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa will present and read a selection of her book *Daughters of the Stone*. We will end with a question and answer session. Llanos-Figueroa was born

in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. She taught in the New York City school system before becoming a young-adult librarian. Her first novel, *Daughters of the Stone*, was a finalist for the PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship for Writers. She has won the Bronx Council on the Arts ACE and BRIO awards, as well as a Literary Arts Fellowship.

The Business of Art & Design

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – 8:00pm (Jones Visual Arts Center 108)

Durham, NC based designer, artist and maker, Elijah Leed started his namesake furniture studio after graduating from Centre College in 2008. Mr. Leed will speak about the building of the business, the marketing of his work at venues such as New York City's International Contemporary Furniture Fair as well as the creation of his designs and his design aesthetic, which is in the vein of contemporary modernism. His work has been featured in national publications such as *Dwell* and *Apartment Therapy*. Attendees will also have the chance to view Mr. Leed's work which will be on exhibit in the Aegon Gallery in the Jones Visual Arts Center.

You Eat What You Are: The Act of Eating as a Form of Self-Expression

Monday, October 24, 2016 – 5:30pm (Norton Center Foyer)

For some, eating is a culinary art form - the food is prepared and paired for taste bud perfection. For others, it is a ritualistic process stemming from family traditions or simply a source of fuel to sustain life. To many, though, eating is an emotional process: an internal struggle – a love-hate or even hate-hate relationship where we eat when we're happy, sad, celebrating or depressed. Today's society also has a renewed focus on what we consume and where the food comes from. These behaviors, and more, begin to describe how individuals use the process of eating as a form of expression. Our culture has been, and continues to be, one that revolves around the celebration, habit, ritual and necessity of one of our most basic human needs. This 60-75 minute panel will include scholars and artists to discuss this curious topic that in some way connects with every single person on this planet. This discussion will be broken into four parts: Introduction of the newly commissioned EAT: A Photography + Literature Installation, a deeper discussion into the culture of eating and how it can be self-expressive, a reading of one or two of the literary works created for this project, and finally a time for attendees to engage with panelists.

A Tour of America in Song

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)

Tenor Gregory Turay has been hailed by the *London Times* as "one of the brightest natural talents to have emerged from the US in recent years." Centre College is pleased to welcome Mr. Turay as a Visiting Artist in Residence. An alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists Development Program, Mr. Turay has built a strong relationship with the company. He made his debut there as Brighella in "Ariadne auf Naxos," conducted by James Levine. Since then, he has appeared on stage at the Metropolitan Opera for ten consecutive seasons. His more than twenty year career has taken him to opera houses throughout the world. He has been awarded the industry's highest award, being named the 2001 Richard Tucker Award recipient in addition to many other accolades. This recital will celebrate the history and breadth of American music and poetry, covering several genres including popular American songs, operetta and both classical and modern Broadway. It will feature

works by American composers ranging from Stephen Foster to Aaron Copland to Leonard Bernstein to local contemporary composer, Angela Rice, who's new song cycle is based on themes of eternity in Emily Dickinson's poetry.

Beat the Blame Game

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – 8:45pm (Newlin Hall)

Victim Blaming is a means (knowingly and often times unknowingly) that isolates and disempowers a victim of sexual assault, and in turn creates a culture that fails to hold a perpetrator accountable. What do you say when a friend or peer tells you that they have been sexually assaulted? For many of us, it is difficult to know what to say in that situation. Our natural reaction is to begin to ask questions about the assault, but what happens when our questions start to blame the victim? In this interactive program, *Beat the Blame Game*, it will engage audiences in a candid dialogue about why there is a deep seated, often self-protective need to blame victims, but dismantles the false logic behind those beliefs. This program will also empower individuals to intervene when they hear victim blaming conversations or see incidents where sexual coercion or violence may be happening by providing them with bystander intervention strategies.

NOTE: Each session is limited to 300 students.

Biodiversity loss in Malaysia and global implications

Thursday, October 27, 2016 – 7:30pm (Young 113)

In this lecture, appealing to anyone interested in environmental studies, international studies, and anthropology, Dr. Sugumaran Manickam from the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur will discuss the current trends in studies of plant community biodiversity, along with anecdotes of his research experiences in the tropical rainforests of Malaysia. Some of these experiences include coordinating the Rimba Ilmu (Forest of Knowledge) botanical gardens, performing fieldwork in remote locations of South East Asian forests, and conducting lab research on the taxonomy and conservation of rare plants. Dr. Manickam uses these experiences as an entry point for discussion of biodiversity loss, the loss of important plant communities, and implications for the global environment.

Star Power: Film Critic Nicolas Rapold on The Clouds of Sils Maria

Friday, October 28, 2016 – 7:30pm (Vahlkamp Theatre)

Editor of *Film Comment* magazine and New York Times film critic Nicolas Rapold gives us an up-close look at contemporary film culture, including thoughts on what it means to work as a film critic, the recent slate of French, German, and American films shown at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, and a particular focus on the film *The Clouds of Sils Maria* (dir. Olivier Assayas, 2014.) In addition to his work at *Film Comment* and the *Times*, Rapold's criticism and journalism have appeared extensively in *Artforum*, *The Village Voice*, *Reverse Shot*, *The L Magazine*, *Tablet*, *Stop Smiling*, *The New York Sun*, and *Sight & Sound*. He covers international festivals such as Cannes and Toronto and has been an advisor for Lincoln Center film series about Rainer Werner Fassbinder, international science fiction, old Hollywood, rare documentary, public access television, and *Tuesday Weld*. He has taught at NYU and Princeton University, guest lectured at Harvard, and is the editor of a forthcoming book on Frederick Wiseman.

Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?**Monday, October 31, 2016 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)**

Scholars of American church and state issues have continually reassessed the founders' original intent behind the First Amendment. This subject is one of the most contentious and inspires modern day popular debate, Supreme Court decisions, and congressional lawmaking. John Fea, Professor of History at Messiah College, will address whether America was founded as a "Christian Nation" and discuss why this question matters as well as why it is so hard to answer.

Musicians Showcase**Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – 7:30pm (The Presbyterian Church)**

Student musicians selected by their instructors perform vocal and instrumental pieces in this twice-yearly concert.

Values, Leadership, Action: Strategies for Building Inclusive Communities**Wednesday, November 2, 2016 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)**

We all bring our own experiences, cultures, traditions, and beliefs that helps shape the world around us. Our individual uniqueness helps create a diverse community where sharing stories and learning from one another creates a rich learning environment and breeds understanding and respect for people and traditions that are different then our own. However, what happens to our community when we unknowingly tear it down with our words and behaviors toward people and beliefs that are different then our own? How do you recognize situations that may harm an inclusive community instead of helping it? What is implicit bias? What is a microaggression? In his talk, Bruce King, the Chief Diversity Officer for St. Olaf College will be discussing how implicit bias and microaggressions act as barriers to building an inclusive environment. He will also be using real life scenarios to help individuals recognize these barriers in everyday life, and give strategies on how to have constructive conversations about these barriers.

Hecuba**Wednesday November 9, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Thursday November 10, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Friday November 11, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Saturday November 12, 2016 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

DramaCentre presents this c. 424 BC tragedy, Eurpides explores the timeless struggle for justice and revenge as Hecuba, former queen of the now-fall city of Troy, seeks retribution for the murder of her youngest son, Polydorus.

What is Sustainability?**Thursday, November 10, 2016 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

Derrick Jensen is the best-known voice of the growing deep ecology movement. Winner of numerous awards and honors including the Eric Hoffer Book Award, USA Today's Critic Choice and Press Action's Person of the Year. Jensen is the author of over twenty books, including *Endgame*, *A language Older Than Words*, and *Dreams*. Philosopher, teacher and radical activist, Jensen regularly stirs audiences with revolutionary spirit. Jensen holds degrees in creative writing and mineral engineering physics.

**The Humana/Library Speakers Series: Wendell Berry
Monday, November 14, 2016 - 7:30 pm (Newlin Hall)**

Poet, novelist, and activist Wendell Berry, 2016 recipient of The Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle, will read from his work. Wendell Berry is the author of *Nathan Coulter*, *A Place On Earth*, *Jayber Crow*, *Hannah Coulter*, *The Memory Of Old Jack*, *The Unsettling Of America*, & *Our Only World*, among many others. He returns to Centre College as part of the continuing Humana/Grace Doherty Library Speaker Series.

**CentreJazz Concert
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 – 7:30pm (Evans-Lively Room)**

The student jazz group presents an evening of fun and funky music that will have audience members on their feet and grooving to the beat.

***Sound the Trumpets!
Friday, November 18, 2016 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

Sound the Trumpets takes a light-hearted romp through the history of the trumpet, from found objects to the most fragile and intricately constructed instruments. Master performers Vince DiMartino (United States) and John Foster (Australia) take the audience on a lightning-speed and sometimes humorous journey through the musical history of one of the most vibrant and recognizable instruments: The Trumpet.

**Moving Image, Moving Sound
Centre College Orchestra and Wind Ensemble
Sunday, November 20, 2016 – 3:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

Silent movies just can't stay silent any more. Come see the Wind Ensemble and the Orchestra play soundtracks with live projection of some of the silent films that are the backbone of the cinema as we know it. Each concert will explore how image and sound interact and what it means to be "live."