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Scholar Week

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Faculty, Students, and Guests:

During Scholar Week we take inspiration from 18th century preacher-scholar John Wesley. As “a denominational university in the Wesleyan tradition,” scholarship and piety are thoroughly compatible here.

Wesley is most known for evangelism, church planting, compassionate activism, and piety. But this founder of Methodism was also a methodological thinker, calling himself an “empiricist,” analyzing theological claims with formal syllogisms, compiling his own five-volume science book of natural philosophy, and leisure reading, at age 83, Francis Bacon’s “Ten Centuries of Experiments.” While piety was his great, clamoring gong throughout history, rigorous analysis is his echo.

His theological method is also pliable to academic work. There was for Wesley a dynamic relationship between Scripture and other God-given tools and resources to discern His will and way: the “a priori” gift of reason to test evidence, sustainable patterns set by the early Church, and the great value of common spiritual experience over private and internal “spiritual enthusiasms.” William Abraham says about Wesley, Scripture is law, but these other thinking tools are jury. They too are means of grace, mediating life in God and fostering sanctity.

By the early 20th century, founders of the Church of the Nazarene expressed Wesley’s Methodism through schools, a dozen of them in its first decade. Dr. J.P. Widney—the man who named the Nazarenes—was president of the University of Southern California. And Phineas Bresee— the denomination’s first General Superintendent, president of a college for nine years, and organizer of the Chicago Central District — counseled his pastors to be in touch with the great thought of the world. Get books, he said, get them at any sacrifice, for they equip us to teach and win souls. Today, more than 50 dot the globe, serving 30,000 students. A Harvard panel in 2000 said the denomination’s churches are inconceivable apart from its schools.

So, in Scholar Week we tune our ear to the gong and echo of Wesley. It is not just history, but his story, even to this day. In our own scholarship projects we join a great cloud of Christians not educated out of their faith, but fashioning an educated faith, where the love of the Lord by heart, soul, strength, and mind is our great and worthy cause.

Dr. Gregg Chenoweth
Vice President for Academic Affairs
The work of a scholar is often seen as a solitary undertaking: sitting alone in a library or research laboratory, studying quietly—an unobtrusive figure hidden away from campus community. Yet in reality, scholarship depends on community, a dependence on predecessors and contemporaries to map a path toward brighter possibility. Through discussion and collaboration we create opportunities for innovative thoughts to surface and for the merit of the true scholar to be witnessed. Scholarship needs community, as communities need scholars.

THIS WEEK WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS

Besides the faculty presentations, Olivet’s Honors students will give public presentations of their honors projects—creative or scholarly works developed over their last two years in the Honors program in conjunction with their faculty mentors. We invite you to join us as we step out into our Second Century.

Monday, April 11 • Weber 104
4pm Welcome
4:10 A Little Scholarship: Being One on Whom Nothing is Lost
Dr. Rebecca Ditcher-Rankin
SAMUEL L. MAYHUGH AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE
4:40 Reframing Justice Through Holistic Restoration
Dr. Houston Thompson
5pm How Well Does the Typical Accounting Bachelor’s Degree Prepare Students for a Career in the Accounting Department of the United States Government?
Michael J. Tuttle
5:15 Healthcare Design: Designing Healthier and Happier Environments for Patient Care
Gailin E. Davis
5:30 Postmodern Developments in Evangelical Theology
R. Wes Sieve
5:45 Malnutrition and Socioeconomic Status in Quito, Ecuador
Amanda C. Vanderspool

Tuesday, April 12 • Weber 104
4pm Evidence and Impact of Expectancies Associated with Psychotropic Medication Reductions in Persons with Mental Retardation
Dr. Christopher S. Baglio
RALPH E. PERRY STUDENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
4:40 The Relationship between Middle School Reading Motivation and the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award Program
Dr. Roxanne Taggart
4:40 Intellectual Freedom: Patron Objections to Library Materials in Christian College Libraries
Caitlin Steppenhammers
4:50 Using the Mineral Rutile to Elucidate the Tectonic History of the Southern Appalachian Mountains
Kathryn A. Fox
5pm Patient Profile: A Comprehensive Study of the Characteristics of Patients Seen in a Kanakia General Practitioner’s Office Between the Months of May & July
Jennifer A. Frenkaw
5:30 East/West: Salman Rushdie and Hybridity
Jessica M. Brown
5:45 Effective Teacher Education in School Gardening
Anne Lowry

Wednesday, April 13 • Kresge
4pm The Synergy Between Poetry and Music in the Creative Process
Dr. Karen Ball
4:20 Art at the Kitchen Table: Woodblock Prints
Gary Thomas
4:40 Stroke Protocol and Patient Outcomes
Dr. Patricia Nelson
4:40 Intellectual Freedom: Patron Objections to Library Materials in Christian College Libraries
Caitlin Steppenhammers
4:50 Using the Mineral Rutile to Elucidate the Tectonic History of the Southern Appalachian Mountains
Kathryn A. Fox
5pm Patient Profile: A Comprehensive Study of the Characteristics of Patients Seen in a Kanakia General Practitioner’s Office Between the Months of May & July
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Jessica M. Brown
5:45 Effective Teacher Education in School Gardening
Anne Lowry

Thursday, April 14 • Weber 104
4pm Exploring Nutrition Literacy: Attention to Assessment by RDs and the Skills Clients Need
Heather Gibbs
4:20 Sir Walter and Mr. Jones: Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones, and the Rise of American Golf
Dr. Stephen Love
4:40 Tertullian, Christ, and Roman law: Tertullian’s Use of Sequestration as an Example of Christ
Dr. Mark Fishel
4:40 Teaching Christian Reader Response to Secular Young Adult Literature
Angela R. Lee
4:50 Japanese Jesus: Presenting the Character of Christ in an Eastern Context
Jessica C. Schaefer
5:30 An Investigation of Two Contemporary Influences on Ecuadorian Native Culture and Environment
Laura A. Furst