

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

7:30 p.m. | Memorial Chapel
Good Death, Good Grief, Good Funerals

Thomas Lynch | Wednesday, August 27



ALAN BETSON, IRISH TIMES

For three generations, Thomas Lynch's family business, Lynch & Sons funeral home, has served the town of Milford, Michigan. His deep connection to community and place has made him a popular and provoking poet, memoirist and commentator. Lynch's work has been widely featured in such venues as the *New York Times*, the *Times* of London, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *Newsweek*, and on the BBC and PBS. In October 2007 he was the focus of *The Undertaking*, a film from *Frontline* that observed the rituals of caring for the dead as well as the living. His many accolades include an American Book Award, the Heartland Prize, and status as a National Book Award finalist for his 1997 collection of essays *The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade*. His most recent work is *Booking Passage: We Irish and Americans*.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Something Controversial About Shakespeare

7:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel
Why Read?

Mark Edmundson | Monday, September 15



ELIZABETH DENTON

Author and scholar Mark Edmundson is a professor of English at the University of Virginia. A Guggenheim Fellow and National Endowment for the Humanities Distinguished Teaching Professor, he has authored several books including *Teacher: The One Who Made The Difference*, *The Death of Sigmund Freud: Fascism, Psycho-analysis and the Rise of Fundamentalism*, and *Why Read?* Among numerous publications, Edmundson's articles have recently appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The American Scholar*, and the *Yale Review*. His 1997 essay in *Harper's Magazine*, "On the Uses of a Liberal Education," caused "a small firestorm in academia," according to the *Washington Post*. A graduate of Yale, he is a contributing editor for *Harper's Magazine* as well as *Raritan*.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Christianity in the 21st Century—Where We Are and How We Got Here

7:30 p.m. | Board Room-Student Center Complex | *Christianity in the 21st Century—What It Is and Where It Is Going*

Phyllis Tickle | Monday, September 29



Phyllis Tickle is the founding editor of the Religion Department of *Publishers Weekly* and the author of more than two dozen books, including the *Divine Hours* series focusing on the practice of fixed-hour prayer. A frequent contributor to the national conversation on faith and culture, she has also written *God Talk in America* and *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*. She is the recipient of the book industry's Mays Award for lifetime achievements in writing and publishing, and in 2004 received an honorary doctorate from the Berkeley School of Divinity at Yale for her work in bringing mainstream attention to writings dealing with faith. She is a Senior Fellow of Cathedral College of the Washington National Cathedral, a founding member of the Canterbury Roundtable, and a lecturer in the Episcopal Church.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
The Skeptical Believer: Telling Stories to Your Inner Atheist

7:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel
I Tell Lies to My Mother: Dealing with Painful Memories in Memoir

Daniel Taylor | Monday, October 20



Daniel Taylor is professor of literature and writing at Bethel University, a contributing editor of *Books & Culture*, and co-founder of The Legacy Center, an organization that encourages individuals and organizations to identify and communicate the core values and experiences that have given their lives meaning. A popular teacher at writing conferences, Taylor is also a frequent speaker on issues related to religion and education. His books include *Tell Me a Story: The Life-Shaping Power of Our Stories*, *The Myth of Certainty: the Reflective Christian & the Risk of Commitment*, and *In Search of Sacred Places: Looking for Wisdom on Celtic Holy Islands*. He holds a doctorate from Emory University.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Christianity, Islam, and Europe's Religious Crisis

7:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel
Christianity and Islam: Mortal Enemies or Sister Faiths?

Philip Jenkins | Monday, October 27



JEFF SWENSEN

Philip Jenkins is the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Humanities at Pennsylvania State University. A major voice in the study of history and religion, Jenkins is the author of more than 20 books and 120 book chapters and articles. His works include *The Lost History of Christianity*, *God's Continent: Christianity, Islam and Europe's Religious Crisis*, and *The Next Christendom*, in which he calls attention to the fact that Christianity's center of gravity is shifting toward Africa. Published in 2002, the book was named one of the top religion books of the year by *USA Today*. The sequel, *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South* further examines this continuing trend. Jenkins holds a doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Servant Leadership

6:00 p.m. | Mezzanine-Student Center Complex | *Reception*

7:00 p.m. | Board Room-Student Center Complex | *Looking Around for God: The Oddly Reverent Observations of an Unconventional Christian*

James Autry | Monday, November 3



Entrepreneur, leader, journalist and military veteran, James Autry has led a varied and distinguished career. Prior to his early retirement in 1991, Autry was senior vice president of Meredith Corporation and president of its Magazine Group. The group hosts over 900 employees and produces more than 35 publications including *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Metropolitan Home*. Widely recognized for his attention to the world of business through a lens of faith, he is a leading consultant who has more than 25 years of experience working with disability rights groups. Among many activities he has served as chairman of the board for the Epilepsy Foundation of America and participated with the White House Conference on Families. Autry has received many awards for his work in helping shape the field of service journalism. He is the author of 10 books and was a featured speaker in Bill Moyers' *Power of the Word* series, an interview which won an Emmy. His publications include *The Servant Leader: How to Build a Creative Team, Develop Great Morale, and Improve Bottom-Line Performance* and *Looking Around for God: The Oddly Reverent Observations of an Unconventional Christian*, co-authored with Bill Moyers.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Unity and Response

Ken Wiley | Monday, November 10



A native of Texas and current resident of Mountain City, Tenn., Ken Wiley is a World War II veteran who enlisted with the Coast Guard at a young age and served in the Pacific theater. Wiley's duties included command of *Lucky 13*, his own Landing Craft Vehicle for Personnel (LCVP), used to shuttle troops and supplies between the attack transport *Arthur Middleton* and the shore. His assignments included campaigns in the Marshall Islands, the Marianas, the Philippines, and Okinawa, Japan. After the war, Wiley worked for Bell Helicopter as a hydraulics design engineer until his retirement in 1990. He is currently leading the Local Veterans Video Museums project, collecting on-camera interviews of regional veterans to preserve their stories. Wiley is the author of *Lucky Thirteen: D-Days in the Pacific with the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II*, and the forthcoming *Gold Star Mother*.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Holy War: Secular Humanism and Law in the Late 20th Century

Sarah Gordon | Monday, November 17



A widely recognized scholar and commentator on religion and law, Sarah Gordon is the Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships and has been a frequent guest on national news and talk shows. Her book *The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America* won the Mormon History Association's and the Utah Historical Society's Best Book awards. Most recently, she has appeared in the *Washington Post* and the *Chicago Tribune* to discuss government dealings with polygamists and to comment on former presidential candidate Mitt Romney's Mormon background. Her book *The Spirit of the Law: Religion and Litigation in the Twentieth Century* is forthcoming from Harvard University Press.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Setting Poetry to Music: The Vocal Cycles of Morten Lauridsen

Morten Lauridsen | Monday, December 1



Morten Lauridsen has been called the most frequently performed American choral composer. His numerous award-winning works have been recorded on more than 100 CDs by various ensembles, and musicologist and conductor Nick Strimple describes him as "the only American composer in history who can be called a mystic, (whose) probing, serene work contains an elusive and indefinable ingredient which leaves the impression that all the questions have been answered..." Lauridsen served as composer-in-residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1994–2001 and as professor of composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music for more than 30 years. His well-known works include *Lux Aeterna*, *Dirait-on*, and seven vocal cycles which include the best-selling motet *O Magnum Mysterium* and the oratorio *O Nata Lux*. His most recent commissions have come from Harvard University, the San Francisco Bay Brass, and the Raymond Brock Memorial Commission for the American Choral Directors Association. In 2007 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts and is one of only eight classical composers ever to receive the honor.



Barbara Brown Taylor

Saturday, January 24, 2009

*The Second Buechner Institute
Annual Lectureship*

The BUECHNER INSTITUTE *Annual Lectureship*

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 24, 2009 when the second Buechner Institute Annual Lectureship will be presented by Episcopal priest, author, and scholar Barbara Brown Taylor.

Taylor has been called one of the 12 most effective pastors in the English-speaking world by Baylor University. Her books are widely admired by those invested in a journey of faith, as well as those just beginning to explore the realm of belief. Her most recent work, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* details her personal commitment to finding the best way to serve Christ and the body of the church.

She has delivered the distinguished Beecher Lectures at Yale and was named Writer of the Year in 2006 by the Georgia Writers Association. She currently teaches religion at Piedmont College, Ga., serves as adjunct professor of Christian spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary, and is an editor-at-large and columnist for *The Christian Century*.

A schedule for the day's events will be available online at www.buechnerinstitute.org as well as at www.king.edu/convo.



ELIZABETH DENTON

Mark Edmundson

Monday, September 15

*Something Controversial
About Shakespeare*

Where *have we been?*



Ken Wiley

Monday, November 10

Unity and Response

Join us throughout the fall as we gather for times of important discussion, a celebration of thoughtfulness, and an exploration of the territory of our lives. Aware of the dangers of bumper-sticker over simplifications, our speakers will encourage examination of the issues of our days with humor, grace, and intelligence.

For a complete list of speakers and events, look inside or visit www.king.edu/convo.



Phyllis Tickle

Monday, September 29

Christianity in the 21st Century

Where *are we going?*



JEFF SWENSEN

Philip Jenkins

Monday, October 27

*Christianity and Islam: Mortal
Enemies or Sister Faiths?*

Our speakers in the Buechner Institute Lecture Series climb this semester to the podium in the shadow of a national election and at an historical moment that resounds with questions and challenges. Our guests include widely recognized scholars, memoirists, authors and musicians, and all will help us consider the connections between our times and our studies, our thinking, our faith.

For a complete list of speakers and events, look inside or visit www.king.edu/convo.



Dale Brown, Director, the Buechner Institute

423.652.4156

wdbrown@king.edu

www.king.edu

www.buechnerinstitute.org

HC2M0708

Faith
Engaging
Culture

Lecture Series

FALL 2008

The
BUECHNER
INSTITUTE
at
KING
COLLEGE

The
BUECHNER
INSTITUTE
at
KING
COLLEGE