
Each year, Franklin College hosts a lecture series based on one of its five core values: respect, honesty, responsibility, faith and lifelong pursuit of learning. Faith, defined as believing in more than ourselves and living out those beliefs in a life of purpose and meaning, is the theme for the 2010-11 Convocation Lecture Series.

Faith provides the basis for the lives of many of our students, faculty, staff and community members. The goal of this lecture series is to address all aspects of how each of us leads purposeful lives within our belief system. Through reflection and discussion of faith, campus and community members will better understand their values and where they find purpose and meaning.

Please plan to join us for these seven lectures, all of which are free and open to the public.



The Rev. David Weatherspoon is the campus minister at Franklin College and the chair of the Convocation Lecture Series Committee. He focuses on five areas of spirituality for the campus: faith development, worship, education, outreach and service, and pastoral care. From planning chapel services to meeting one-on-one with students, he helps students understand and practice their faith.

Other organizing members of the 2010-11 Convocation Lecture Series:

Ann Barton – Assistant to the Director, Pulliam School of Journalism and Assistant to the President for Special Projects

Deidra Baumgardner - Director of Public Relations

Dr. David Chandler – Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Dr. Barbara Divins - Professor of Education

Renee Kean – College Photographer

Terri Roddie – Assistant to Campus Minister



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FRANKLIN
COLLEGE

CONVOCATION
LECTURE
SERIES

2010-11



Byron Pitts



Step Out on Nothing: An Evening with Byron Pitts

*Sunday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Branigin Room,
Napolitan Student Center*

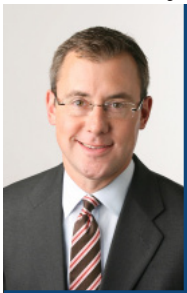
Chief National Correspondent for “CBS Evening News,” Byron Pitts is a nationally recognized, award-winning journalist. He has received two national Emmy Awards, a Black Journalist Award, four Associated Press Awards

and six regional Emmy Awards.

Pitts covered the Iraq War, the 9/11 attacks, the war in Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina, the military buildup in Kuwait and the refugee crisis in Kosovo. He is a contributing correspondent to CBS’s “60 Minutes” and an author. He is also a man who was illiterate until the age of 12.

During his lecture, he will share the story of how his faith helped him make it through the hard times and pushed him to the success he has reached today.

Jeff Zeleny



The 2010 Midterms: A Referendum on Obama?

*Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.
Branigin Room,
Napolitan Student Center*

Jeff Zeleny is the national political correspondent for *The New York Times* and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. As the lead writer for the 2010 midterm election campaign, he is covering both parties racing for House, Senate and

governor seats.

Zeleny has previously covered President Barack Obama, from his first year in Washington through his first few years as president. He also covered the 2004 presidential race and the first years of the George W. Bush administration.

He has worked his way up through his career. He started at *The Des Moines Register*, moved to *The Chicago Tribune* in 2000, followed by *The New York Times* in 2006.

Zeleny has traveled across the country and around the world for his work. He also regularly appears on numerous TV news programs.

Eboo Patel



Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Global Religious Crisis

*Thursday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.
Spurlock Center Gymnasium*

Dr. Eboo Patel was named one of America’s Best Leaders in 2009. He is an author, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core and a member of President Obama’s Advisory Council on

Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

He holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

Sheyann Webb-Christburg



Growing Up in the Selma Civil Rights Movement

*Monday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Branigin Room,
Napolitan Student Center*

Sheyann Webb-Christburg grew up in Selma, Ala., home of Bloody Sunday. She was one of the first black students in her hometown to integrate into an all-white school.

At the age of 9, Webb-Christburg got her first glimpse of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She sneaked out of her house to attend his meetings and began leading the congregation in singing freedom songs.

Marcus Borg



Telling the Story of Jesus Today

*Thursday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
Branigin Room,
Napolitan Student Center*

Dr. Marcus Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Ore. He is internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar.

He has been national chair of the Historical Jesus Section of the Society of Biblical Literature. Borg has a doctorate from Oxford University. He has written 19 books and co-authored numerous other works, many of which have been translated into 11 languages.

Sally G. Bingham



Religion and the Environment

*Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m.
Richardson Chapel*

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham is an Episcopal priest and Canon for the Environment in the Diocese of California. She has served the environmental community for more than 25 years.

As founder and president of The Regeneration Project, Bingham is highlighting the link between faith and environmental issues. Her project is focused on the Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) campaign, a religious response to global warming.

Bingham is a member of President Obama’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and is a member of the Forum on Children and Nature. She also serves on the board of directors of the Environmental Defense Fund, the Environmental Working Group and the U.S. Climate Action Network, as well as the national advisory board for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Dave Dravecky



The Worth of a Man

*Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Spurlock Center Gymnasium*

Dave Dravecky was one of Major League Baseball’s great pitchers; today he is a cancer survivor.

In 1988, he was at a peak in his pitching career. But that fall, half of his deltoid muscle was removed from his arm due to cancer.

He returned to the game in 1989. But just days after returning, he threw “the pitch that could be heard around the world.” Dravecky’s arm split in two. The cancer had returned. He eventually had his arm amputated and could not continue his childhood dream of playing baseball. After recovery, he began to minister to others battling cancer.

He relates through his own experiences and he inspires through the faith and hope he discovered along his journey. His book, “The Worth of a Man,” will be available for purchase at the event, and he will be available for signings after the lecture.