

# CONVOCATION CALENDAR

## Fall 2019

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 upon entry, be seated before the program begins, remain present throughout the full program, and scan their own ID card immediately upon exiting the event.**

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

If you have questions, please contact Alycia Tidrick at 238.5341 or email [alycia.tidrick@centre.edu](mailto:alycia.tidrick@centre.edu).

- Please note that seating may be limited for some events. Students are encouraged to arrive early to ensure that they have enough time to scan their IDs and secure a seat prior to the start of the program. Admission will not be permitted once the venue reaches capacity and/or the event is underway.
- Seating capacities:  
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

\* Events marked with an asterisk have an admission charge for the public. Students are not charged for these events.

(D & I) Events marked with a D address topics related to diversity.  
Events marked with an I address topics related to inclusion.  
The Convocation Committee seeks to have at least 1/3 of convocations during the academic year be related to issues of diversity & inclusion.

(200<sup>th</sup>) Events marked with "200<sup>th</sup>" are Bicentennial Events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the College's founding.

## Opening Convocation

**Sunday, September 1, 2019 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)**

Centre students, faculty, and staff gather to celebrate the start of a new academic year.

## First Year Book & Constitution Day Convocation<sup>(D&I)</sup>

**The Constitution and the Criminal Courts: All-white Juries, Incompetent Defense Lawyers, and Discrimination in Seeking the Death Penalty**

**Speaker: Stephen B. Bright**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

All new students joining the Centre community in Fall 2019 will read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. The book is a memoir of Stevenson's experiences working against inequalities in the justice system. In 1994, Stevenson founded the [Equal Justice Initiative](#) in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to "challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society."

The New Student Book & Constitution Day Convocation will feature speaker Stephen B. Bright. A Danville native, Bright has enjoyed a distinguished legal career focused on death penalty trials, appeals to inhumane prison conditions, and pressing concerns such as the right to legal representation for all and the issue of racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. His national acclaim as an advocate of human rights in the criminal justice and prison systems, earned through 30-plus years directing and providing counsel to the Southern Center for Human Rights, has involved trying cases, including capital cases, before juries and arguing cases before state and federal appellate courts. Bright also argued and won three cases before the US Supreme Court, a distinction few lawyers can claim. He currently teaches at Yale Law School, Georgetown, and Georgia State University College of Law.

## A Conversation with Centre College Pioneer, Nana Timothy Kusi<sup>(D&I) (200th)</sup>

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – 7:00pm (Newlin Hall)**

Join us for a thoughtful discussion with Nana Timothy Kusi '65, the first student of African descent to attend Centre College in 1962. Andrea Abrams, Associate Vice President for Diversity Affairs and Associate Professor of Anthropology will host a discussion with Nana Timothy Kusi and will focus on his personal experience at Centre College with particular attention to being a student of color and an international student. Nana Tim Kusi will also discuss his life in Ghana before and after his graduation and events leading up to his transfer from Kentucky State University to Centre College in 1962. This evening is sponsored by the Bicentennial Committee, Development Office, Diversity Office, and Grace Doherty Library.

### **An Evening of Ives**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

**Friday, September 27, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

**Saturday, September 28, 2019 – 5:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

Do you ever wonder what monkeys, may flies, and miniature golf have in common? Do you crave stories about love, language, and Leon Trotsky? Or most importantly, do you like to laugh? Then you should join us family weekend for a wild and weird evening of six short comedies by playwright David Ives, directed by Hannah Johnson ('20), Rachel Woellner ('20), and Olivia Wilkinson ('21)!

### **US and Russia: A Cultural Ideology<sup>(D)</sup>**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – 11:30am (Weisiger Theatre)**

Part of the newly endowed CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS program, this Common Hour talk will focus on the current perceptions Americans have on Russia and also the perceptions Russians have on the US. More importantly, this discussion will include the value of the arts and culture as a way to show that we are more alike than different.

### **The Disappearing Spoon: True Tales of Madness, Love, and History from the Periodic Table<sup>(200th)</sup>**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – 7:30pm (Young 113)**

Why did Gandhi hate iodine (I, 53)? How did radium (Ra, 88) nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why is gallium (Ga, 31) the go-to element for laboratory pranksters? Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the periodic table with an evening of stories about the elements of the table and their roles in human history. Speaker and writer Sam Kean is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Disappearing Spoon*. He uses funny, strange, and poignant stories to enliven science and science history for a broad audience. (P.S. Though solid at room temperature, gallium is a moldable metal that melts at 84 °F. A classic science prank is to mold gallium spoons, serve them with tea, and watch guests recoil as their utensils disappear.) This convocation is sponsored by the Humana Visiting Scholars Program and the chemistry program.

### **The Defamation Experience<sup>(D & I)</sup>**

**Thursday, October 3, 2019 – 7:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

The Defamation Experience is a three-phase interactive diversity experience that starts with the play DEFAMATION, a riveting courtroom drama that highlights our common perceptions of race, class, religion, gender, and the law with a twist; your audience is the jury. After the trial, your jury will deliberate with our judge about how they voted and why to render a final verdict. Following the verdict is a post-discussion to talk about the issues raised in the play and other social issues that are important to the audience.

### **Archives of Justice: Digital Humanities and Historical Methods<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 7:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

Harvard professor Dr. Lorgia García-Peña will give a Humana lecture about themes connected to her book, *The Borders of Dominicanidad* by Duke University Press. She will discuss the ways in which official historical narratives have impacted the construction of racial borders between the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the United States, and the ways in which alternative perspectives have been offered by contemporary Dominican artists and intellectuals. Copies of Dr. García-Peña's book will be available after the talk.

### **Dragonflies as a Bio-indicator for Indonesia's Peat Swamp Restoration: A Recent Alum's Fulbright Experience**

**Thursday, October 10, 2019 – 8:00pm (Young 113)**

Brendan Holly '18 spent the last year researching in the central Kalimantan region of Indonesian Borneo on a Fulbright Research Fellowship. His primary research question concerned whether insects--specifically dragonflies and damselflies, or odonates--could be used to assess whether peat swamps have been successfully restored, thereby preventing the fires that devastate the region's biodiversity and air quality. In this talk, Brendan will discuss the trajectory of his Centre experiences in and relating to Borneo, including language learning, studying abroad and completing a summer research experience there, and applying for and completing a Fulbright project. He will also explain the results of his work and what he learned along the way, including the dragonflies he found and forests he monitored.

### **Interfaith Dialogue<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 – 5:00pm 7:00pm (Vahlkamp Theater)**

The Interfaith Dialogue Panel returns for a third year to Centre's campus, featuring speakers from three faith traditions, including Jainism, Christianity, and Islam. CentreFaith presents a convocation of thought-provoking discussion between individuals of different backgrounds on the subject of religion. The panelists will engage in conversation with each other about their experiences, beliefs, and the intersections that exist therein. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from and interact with local community leaders about how their tradition coexists with others and how each leader experiences life in Kentucky as a person of faith. Respectful conversation and creating a compassionate environment for members of Centre's community to share their stories is vital. Predetermined questions will initially guide the panelists' conversation to introduce interfaith dialogue. However, throughout the convocation, students will be encouraged to electronically and anonymously submit relevant questions that may be asked to the panelists for further discussion.

**Marine Science - Balancing Food Production and Conservation in Thailand**  
**Tuesday, October 22, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

Dr. Sukkrit Nimitkul (Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand) will discuss marine and freshwater sciences related to balancing both conservation of biodiversity and production of food through aquaculture. Dr. Nimitkul has advised multiple Centre student internships and research experiences related to aquaculture, fisheries, and marine conservation, including four students working with him during summer 2019. In this talk, he will discuss the challenges and joys of these research projects and partnerships, and show pictures and videos of Centre students getting involved in hands-on learning and research related to fisheries and marine conservation.

**Giving Some Perspective: Contextualizing Racism and Examining Social Support Provision in Race-Related Contexts<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 – 7:00pm (Young 113)**

Racism is a system of oppression with both racial actors and racial subjects who play different roles. To understand how to combat racism, most social psychological research has focused on racial actors—the people who perpetuate racism (e.g., White Americans). Unfortunately, such a focus neglects racial subjects—the people who are victimized by racism. Dr. Christopher Marshburn is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Kentucky whose research aims to reduce this disparity by focusing on how Black Americans cope with the consequences of racism, especially in interpersonal interactions. In this talk, he will offer an understanding of racism using a historical perspective to link the past to the present. He will discuss how his attention shifted from primarily investigating racial actors to also exploring racial subjects. Finally, he will present findings from a mixed-method research project that examined how social support in response to racism affected Black Americans' emotional well-being in same- and cross-race interpersonal interactions.

**The Horror Film After Psycho**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019 – 7:15pm (Vahlkamp Theater)**

We will examine the legacy of Hitchcock's legendary 1960 film, tracking its impact on horror movies focusing on gender, sexuality, violence, ruined social bonds, racial conflict, and the woman's quest for personal freedom. Movies discussed include Halloween, Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Silence of the Lambs, Get Out, and Hereditary. Dr. Greven is Professor of English at University of South Carolina. He has published 10 books focusing on the representations of masculinity and sexuality in literature and cinema.

**William Wesley Peters: The Man Behind Frank Lloyd Wright<sup>(200th)</sup>**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 – 1:30pm (~~Norton Center~~, Campus Center - Ewen Room)**

William Wesley Peters, the chief architect of Center College's Norton Center for the Arts, had a unique relationship with Architect legend Frank Lloyd Wright in many ways: as a structural engineer and architect; financially; and even as a son-in-law. Architectural Historian, William Blair Scott, Jr., offers his first-hand knowledge of Peters and the role Wes played in and out of the Taliesin Fellowship.

### **Aquila Theatre in George Orwell's 1984\***

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

In the throes of unprecedented challenges to privacy, truth, and personal expression, Aquila Theatre brings 1984, George Orwell's cautionary novel, to the Newlin Hall stage. Written in 1944 near the end of World War II, 1984 depicts a society where "Big Brother" is always watching and technology is wielded as a weapon to inundate citizens with propaganda to manipulate thoughts and actions. Imagined before the existence of computers, this classic story provides the kind of evocative and innovative storytelling that suits Aquila's bold, ensemble driven, physical style.

### **Musicians Showcase**

**Sunday, October 27, 2019 – 3:00pm (Presbyterian Church of Danville)**

The Musicians Showcase is an honors recital, highlighting the exceptional student musicians at Centre. Deserving students are nominated by their teachers and the event promises a diverse representation of students' musical activities at Centre.

### **Punishment, Religion, Prison, and Death<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Monday, October 28, 2019 – 8:00pm (Young 113)**

"Banning Bibles: The Death Penalty Jury and 'We, the People'"

Professor Winnifred Sullivan will speak about the intersection of law and religion in death penalty cases, in specific, and in the criminal justice and mass incarceration system, in general.

### **It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019 – 7:30pm (Vahlkamp Theater)**

Professor Kim Cobb is an expert on the mechanisms of global climate change, both natural and anthropogenic, and how those understandings can inform projections of future climate change. The evening convocation will focus on the rates and proximate causes of natural and anthropogenic climate change, with discussions of economic, social, and infrastructure impacts.

### **An Evening with Andrea Meyerson, Director and Storyteller<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Wednesday, October 30, 2019 – 7:00pm (Combs Center Warehouse)**

Andrea Meyerson's "Letter to Anita" (2004) is a documentary about Ronni Sanlo's journey. In 1977, Anita Bryant launched an anti-gay campaign, "Save Our Children," and months later, Ronni's own children were taken away after she disclosed that she was a lesbian. The film follows Ronni's life from losing her children, to becoming a prominent LGBTQ+ activist, and the effects this campaign had on her relationships with her children. We've invited Andrea to give an introduction of her film and host a talk back after the film about her own experiences, directing this particular film as well as others, and her approach to storytelling. The runtime of "Letter to Anita" is 54 minutes.

## **The Struggle for Justice in Honduras<sup>(D & I)</sup>**

**Thursday, October 31, 2019 – 11:30am (Vahlkamp Theater)**

Honduras has been in the headlines as one of the three Northern Triangle countries of Central America from which many immigrants have been seeking entry into the United States. One root cause of asylum claims is human rights violations. This convocation presents a look into social movements in Honduras that are working for justice and human rights. Our speaker is from Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia (MADJ). MADJ a social and political movement committed to working against impunity and corruption while building alternatives rooted in transparency, dignity and respect for human rights and the environment. MADJ communities are protecting their natural resources from unlawful exploitation through resistance camps, legal battles and incredible grassroots organizing. Their legal team represents the family of activist Berta Caceres in their struggle for justice for her assassination, and they have been on the frontlines of resistance in the post-electoral crisis in Honduras. Ultimately, this convocation is a hopeful look at how Hondurans are working to solve their own social problems.

## **Building Bridges and Community Day<sup>(D & I)</sup>**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 12:00pm (Multiple Locations Across Campus)**

This campus-wide event is focused on creating intentional opportunities for all of members of the Centre community to better understand the wonderful variety of voices and perspectives represented by the nearly 2,000 people who make up our lively and energetic campus. As with last year, the class and work day will be truncated so that students, staff and faculty can participate in the workshops and events focused on inclusive community building. More information will be shared via email with the campus community as the date approaches.

## **Centre Symphony Orchestra Concert**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

The Centre Symphony Orchestra will present its fall concert featuring Bizet L'arlesienne's Suite No. 1, and a world premiere by our own student, Madison Ebel.

## **Statesmanship in the Era of Centre's Founding:**

**Examining the Legacy of Isaac Shelby<sup>(200th)</sup>**

**Monday, November 11, 2019 – 7:30pm (Vahlkamp Theater)**

Dr. Michael Hail '89, Professor of Government in the School of Humanities & Social Sciences at Morehead State University, Director of the Statesmanship Center, and a Centre alum, will deliver a presentation about Isaac Shelby, first and fifth governor of Kentucky, soldier during the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, and Chair of Centre College's first board of trustees. Dr. Hail will explore statesmanship and the nature of political leadership at the time of Centre's founding, offering a riveting historical and political analysis of a critical period in the history of the United States and of Centre College.

**Murder on the Orient Express****Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Friday, November 15, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)****Saturday, November 16, 2019 – 8:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

An American tycoon has been stabbed to death in his compartment. There's a train full of suspects, but everyone has an alibi. The case must be solved quickly, or the killer might strike again! Come play detective and enjoy this stage adaptation of Agatha Christie's classic novel. Adapted by Ken Ludwig, and directed by Patrick Kagan-Moore.

**AI in the Business World: Ethics of Machine Learning****Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 7:30pm (Young 113)**

The capacity for machine learning to create new commercial opportunities and streamline existing business practices has seen a boom in the study and application of new machine learning technologies both in the academic world and in the private sector. However, as the potential for this developing technology continues to increase, so do the ethical risks: many of the applications for machine learning involve personal data of individual consumers. What should we be concerned about, and how can we harness this exciting new technology responsibly? Matt Gierhart is a recognized leader in innovation methodologies in business. Holder of a degree in Philosophy from Hardin-Simmons University, he currently serves as an Innovation Officer for IBM working with researchers, technologists and inventors to turn their discoveries into applied innovations. He is credited with developing three major lines of business from his efforts at IBM.

**Mass Incarceration in Kentucky<sup>(D&I)</sup>****Monday, November 18, 2019 – 7:30pm (Newlin Hall)**

This Convocation that kicks off Centre's annual Poverty and Homelessness Week focuses on the intersections between class, race, addiction, mental illness and mass incarceration in Kentucky. Many students and faculty began the year reading Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. This year's Poverty and Homelessness Week continues that emphasis with a week-long series of events highlighting the prison system in the U.S.-- the nation with the highest incarceration rate in the world. Steve Durham, Assistant Director of Louisville Metro Department of Corrections will present us with a local perspective on how poverty, race, mental illness, and addiction influence incarceration, especially for those in pre-trial detention. Durham will prod his audience to think about how policies and practices can be changed to lessen incarceration for people experiencing the aforementioned realities without increased risks to public safety.



### **Voices of the Holocaust<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Tuesday, November 19, 2019 – 7:30pm (Young 113)**

Dr. Jelen will consider how we might listen to the voices of the past, considering the ways in which knowledge of the Holocaust and Jewish identities have been constituted through various artifacts—literature, visual art, personal memories, and photographs. Sheila E. Jelen is associate professor of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the department of Modern Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. She is the author, most recently, of *Salvage Poetics: Post-Holocaust American Jewish Folk Ethnographies* and coeditor (with Eliyana Adler, of Penn State) of *Reconstructing the Old Country: American Jewry in the Post-Holocaust Decades*. Her current work explores gender, nation and testimonies about the Holocaust.

### **The Voices Inside<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 – 7:00pm (Weisiger Theatre)**

The Voices Inside program is run by Pioneer Playhouse, bringing the theatre and inspirational art forms into Northpoint Training Center, a medium security prison outside Danville. This event will bring the words and productions of these inmates into Wieseger Hall, performed by students and community members. Enjoy, and feel free to ask questions and share commentary at the talk-back, answered by performers and the director of the Voices Inside program.

### **The Franco-Tamil Community of Pondichéry<sup>(D&I)</sup>**

**Thursday, November 21, 2019 – 7:30pm (Vahlkamp Theater)**

The Franco-Tamil community of Pondicherry is a testimony and reminder of the French colonial presence in India. This little-known francophone community, who embraced the French citizenship in 1954 after the Indian independence, remains a multicultural and multilingual community of 5000 people. It is organized by French institutions such as the French consulate of Pondicherry, the Lycée Français de Pondichéry, and prestigious research institutes such as Institut Français de Pondichéry and Institut d'Extrême-Orient. The city itself is strongly influenced by its colonial past and valorizes its urban heritage, especially since the development of Indian tourism sustained by a growing middle class in India. Documentary director and Film Studies Professor Pankaj Rishi Kumar offered to come at Centre College while he is doing a trip in the US. He will show and discuss his documentary movie "Two Flags" on the French-Tamil Community of Pondicherry.