



Endeavor Conference on Faith, Life, and Work

Texas A&M Christian Faculty Network

Feb 28, 2024, MSC 2406

The Endeavor Conference showcases research and teaching presentations by faculty who are faith-inspired to make a positive impact on students and the world at large. The purpose is to show compatibility of faith and academic scholarship, and to provide ideas and inspiration for faith, life, and work. Participants can attend all sessions or just one.

SCHEDULE - Come and Go	
Noon to 12:50	Welcome Remarks: Chancellor John Sharp Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jim Pennington - “Chemistry Road Show” Lunch provided by CFN, RSVP required: https://bit.ly/3NPHNUP
1 to 1:50*	Session 1, Moderator: Dr. Scott Waltemyer - Dr. Mark Stone: How can a Christian sing the Lord’s anthem in public higher education? - Dr. Lorien Foote: The Gentlemen and the Roughts.
2 to 2:50*	Session 2, Moderator: Dr. David Flint - Dr. Nicholas B. Suntzeff: The Influence of Western Religion on Modern Cosmology. - Dr. Curry Kennedy: How Augustine Responded to Rhetorical Depression.
3 to 3:50	Session 3, Moderator: Dr. Stephen Crouse - Dr. Murphy Smith: Religiosity and Risk: Association of Judeo-Christian Ethicality with a Sustainable Business Environment. - David D. Dockery, PhD Student: When Revival Space Meets Place: The Asbury Revival as Cosmos.
3:50-4:00	Wrap-up

*Note: Detailed descriptions of sessions are provided below.

Open to everyone, faculty, staff, and students at TAMU, RELIS, Blinn, and community.

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Detailed Descriptions of Sessions

Session 1: 1-2 pm

Moderator: Dr. Scott Waltemyer

- **Dr. Mark Stone:** How can a Christian sing the Lord's anthem in public higher education?
--Joseph's journey from son, to prisoner, to slave, to counselor, and to the administrator over all of Egypt sets forth an example of how a Christian should conduct themselves in the public sector. This presentation will suggest how a Christian should embrace stewardship, excellence, identification, and sovereignty in one's work in public higher education.
--Dr. Mark Stone serves as the System CIO for the Texas A&M University System. He is a Certified Public Accountant, the author of "The Three C's: A Career Enrichment Primer on Characterizing, Connecting, and Communicating," and a frequent keynote speaker on leadership, career enrichment, and ethics.

- **Dr. Lorien Foote:** The Gentlemen and the Roughs,
--During the Civil War, officers and soldiers in the United States army debated whether or not moral character was necessary for men to make good soldiers. This presentation will discuss the efforts of Christian officers and soldiers to mold moral regiments and the opposition they faced, including physical intimidation.
--Dr. Lorien Foote is the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History at Texas A&M. She is the author four books, editor of three volumes, and a nationally recognized expert on the Civil War. Her most recent book, Rites of Retaliation: Civilization, Soldiers, and Campaigns in the American Civil War, was awarded the 2022 Organization of American Historians Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award.

Session 2: 2-3 pm

Moderator: Dr. Dr. David Flint

- **Dr. Nicholas B. Suntzeff:** The Influence of Western Religion on Modern Cosmology.
--In teaching physical cosmology, I find explaining the connection between Greek natural science and Judeo-Christian theology through to the Reformation is essential. A significant element in this history has been the mismatch between the lunar and solar calendars. There are parallels between physical cosmology and the story of Genesis, but there are also significant differences. I don't find these differences in conflict. Instead, I find that one needs many ways of looking at the Universe. I will explore how I discuss religion's role in a science class in astrophysics.
--Dr. Nicholas b. Suntzeff is the University Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Regents Professor of the Texas A&M University System, and holder of The Mitchell/Heep/Munnerlyn Chair in Observational Astronomy in the College of

Science. His research specializes in cosmology, supernova explosions, stellar populations, astronomical instrumentation, and public policy. With Brian Schmidt, in 1994 he founded the High-z Supernova Search Team, which was honored with the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics. Based on his work in supernova cosmology, in 1998 his High-Z group discovered that the expansion of the universe is accelerating, which implies the existence of a dark energy consistent with the cosmological constant of Einstein's theory of general relativity. This science was awarded the Science Magazine "Breakthrough of the Year" award across all science disciplines, the Gruber Prize in Cosmology 2007, and the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 2015. He has been elected vice president of the American Astronomical Society and a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

- **Dr. Curry Kennedy: How Augustine Responded to Rhetorical Depression.**
-- In 403 CE, a deacon in Carthage named Deogratias sent a letter to Augustine of Hippo complaining about a problem that is often felt but not often discussed: rhetorical depression, a deep sense that real communication is impossible and that efforts to communicate are futile. In his response, Augustine drew on his evolving understanding of the Christian drama of fall and redemption to make sense of rhetorical depression and help his sad friend stammer onward rejoicing.
--Dr. Curry Kennedy is an Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M. He studies the interaction between religion and rhetorical education. His work has been published or is forthcoming in *College English*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, and *Studies in Philology*.

Session 3: 3-4 pm

Moderator: Dr. Stephen Crouse

- **Dr. Murphy Smith: Religiosity and Risk: Association of Judeo-Christian Ethicality with a Sustainable Business Environment.**
Prior research has examined the relationship of religiosity to aspects of business risks, notably, the ethical environment in which business firms operate. This study examines the relationship of religion-based ethics, specifically Judeo-Christian ethicality, in a country to economic freedom, economic activity, gender equality, social progress, and corruption. Modern business firms, in efforts to embrace diversity, accommodate cultural factors such as religiosity, particularly so in multinational operations where diverse religions will be encountered. Findings show that Judeo-Christian ethicality has a positive relationship to factors connected to a society's sustainable business culture.
--Dr. L. Murphy Smith is a Professor of Accounting at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, teaching at the RELLIS Campus. His academic record includes over 200 journal articles, 22 books and monographs, 200 academic conference presentations, 37 research grants, and 28 awards and special recognitions for teaching and research. He ranks in the top one percent of authors on Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN.com) by downloaded articles (over 87,000). He is highly referenced, with over 4,800 citations to his work shown on Google Scholar. His work has been reported in various news media, such as National Public Radio, *Fortune*, *USA Today*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

- **David D. Dockery, PhD Student:** When Revival Space Meets Place: The Asbury Revival as Cosmos.

In the spring of 2023, Asbury University witnessed a remarkable revival that attracted national attention. The revival's rhetoric imbued the university space with value, then expanded this space through media attention. Together, the rhetoric of revival and the power of media show how revivals create a world of their own.

--David D. Dockery is a Ph.D. student studying in the Communication and Journalism department at Texas A&M University. His research interests include myth, ritual, and their relationship to digital games.

More info: [CFN.tamu.edu/events](https://www.cfn.tamu.edu/events)

Endeavor Conference Co-Chairs:

Dr. Steve Crouse

Dr. Katherine Taken Smith

Dr. Murphy Smith