



Celebration  
of  
*Academic Excellence*

Tenth Annual Research Colloquium

November 7, 2023

Cumberland University

Lebanon, Tennessee

## ***Schedule of Events***

**7:45 am – 8:00 am                      Dallas Floyd Phoenix Arena / Opening Session**

Welcome: Dr. Paul C. Stumb, President

Opening Remarks: Ms. Jessica Fain, Trustee Host of Colloquium

Introduction to Colloquium: Dr. Sheridan Henson

All students and presenters should plan to attend.

**8:00 am – 9:00 am                      Dallas Floyd Phoenix Arena / Poster Presentations**

**Session I:                                      9:10 am – 10:10 am**

**Session II:                                    10:25 am – 11:25 am**

**Session III:                                  11:40 am – 12:40 pm**

**Lunch (on your own):                  12:45 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Classes resume at 2:00 pm.**

Today we gather as a campus community to explore opportunities to enrich our understanding of a variety of topics both research- and interest-based through student and faculty presentations as well as research from the broader community. We invite you to join our celebration of scholarship and efforts to publicly acknowledge the academic excellence of faculty, staff, students, and community members.

Please refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices during the presentations.

**BAIRD CHAPEL**

**Taylor Swift: Why She Never Goes Out of Style**

Presenter: Dr. Andrea Davis

Let's be in our Swiftie Era! This talk will cover Taylor's albums, why she is rerecording some of them, her economic and cultural impact, and analyze some of her lyrics. Attendees are encouraged to bring friendship bracelets to trade with others!

**HEYDEL AUDITORIUM**

**History of Lebanon**

Presenter: Mayor Rick Bell

Mayor and former Cumberland University history professor Rick Bell will talk about the history of Lebanon.

**TIERED CLASSROOM LABRY HALL 130**

**Starting A Business with No Marketable Skills**

Presenter: Dr. Noa D. Stroop

Many want to start a business but think they have no skills. Well, I beg to differ. Join me to discuss skills that you already possess that can create a legitimate income as a (side or main) business.

**LIBRARY READING ROOM**

**And the Award Goes To...**

Presenter: Mr. Rusty Richardson

The presenter will give a history of the Academy Awards and the Best Pictures of the Year winners.

**LABRY HALL 117**

**Origami: A Hobby for Life**

Presenter: Mr. William Hall

The presenter will talk about the hobby of origami and give a demonstration.

**LABRY HALL 118**

**The Importance of the Microbiome to Human Health**

Presenter: Dr. Laura Bechard

The presenter will be talking about the human microbiome and the things it does for our bodies.

## **LABRY HALL 209**

### **Collecting Star Wars, an Addiction**

Presenter: Mr. Milton Sager

Collecting Star Wars memorabilia can be exciting but can also have its downfalls. How to not lose yourself in collecting is key.

### **Current Trends in LEGO Collection**

Presenter: Dr. Rory Sellgren

This session will cover general trends in LEGO collection and interests. The presenter will not only talk about his own extensive Harry Potter (TM) collection, but also the benefits of exploring a variety of themes to add value and building skills in your own collections.

## **LABRY HALL 210**

### **Curiosities, Oddities, and Variations of the Human Body**

Presenter: Dr. Roger Jackson

Do you think you know what it means to be human? This talk will explore some of the lesser-known curiosities, oddities, and variations of the human body.

## **LABRY HALL 207**

### **So You Made It to the Flop--Heuristics for Flop Play in No-Limit Holdem**

Presenter: Dr. Stuart Harris

This presentation will present a series of heuristics for how to proceed on the flop in No-Limit Holdem Poker. Participants should be familiar with the logistics of Holdem and shouldn't be afraid of math.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 307**

### **Unusual Partners: American and Soviet Joint Operations During the First and Second Iași and Chișinău Offensives in 1944**

Presenter: Dr. Luke Truxal

This presentation examines the efforts by the United States and Soviet Union to coordinate their air and ground forces to defeat the Axis forces defending Romania in 1944. The fighting in Romania demonstrated that despite Cold War tensions, American and Soviet officers found methods to successfully coordinate their operations and finally end the supply of Romanian oil to Germany.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 202**

### **Enhancing Your Self-Esteem and Keeping it Strong**

Presenter: Dr. Eddie Christian

This presentation addresses specific perspectives and behaviors people may engage in order to cultivate a healthier sense of oneself.

### **LABRY HALL 211**

#### **Brain Games, Behaviors, and Beliefs**

Presenters: Ms. Iseli Irizarry and Dr. Jenny Mason

The presenter will examine brain games performed during an experimental study conducted on campus.

#### **Preventing HIV Transmission**

Presenter: Ms. Morgan Lima

The presenter will discuss HIV as well as transmission and prevention techniques for college students.

### **MEMORIAL HALL 208**

#### **Zine-town: Honors English Students Present Their Zines**

Presenters: Honors English Seminar students and Mr. Wyatt Keener

The students of Honors English Seminar have been working on zines (homemade magazines) that tell a story about their life. In this session, they'll present their work and talk about the process of making a zine.

### **MEMORIAL HALL 203**

#### **Beginner Hammock Camping/Hiking for the Student on the Cheap**

Presenter: Dr. Sheridan Henson

Grumpy rascals are always complaining about nothing happening on campus (a horrid falsehood), and they languish in despair, slowly rippling their one foot through the cafeteria like miserable mucous-ridden slugs. Not you, though, you're ready to explore. Still, you're on a tight budget and you want to be as free as your itinerary. Come learn the basics of hammock camping and hiking in Middle Tennessee.

### **MEMORIAL HALL 206**

#### **Economic Policy and the Prerequisites of Civil Society**

Presenter: Dr. Richard Grant

The presenter will discuss the impacts of current and recent economic policy on the civil relations and health of Americans.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 207**

### **Who the Hell is James K. Polk? The 1844 Presidential Election**

Presenter: Dr. Mark Cheatham

The first assassination of a U.S. presidential candidate is only one of the reasons that the 1844 election was one of the most consequential of the nineteenth century.

### **Seeking the Lost Seekers: Office-Hunters and the Shaping of Early American Political Development**

Presenter: Dr. Max Matherne

This presentation spotlights the Van Buren Papers' records of early-American political partisans who tried to secure federal appointments for themselves and their allies. Taken together, their stories give us cause to rethink the development of political parties and institutions in the early American republic, with consequences still echoing down to the present day.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 205**

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Presenter: Dr. Cyndy Stone Allen

This presentation will discuss how Adverse Childhood Experiences affect brain architecture and what supports can be learned to help build resilience.

### **Criminal Justice – Criminal Profiling Research Presentation**

Presenters: Criminal Justice 458 students and Ms. Suzann Lafferty

Students from the Criminal Justice 458 Criminal Profiling class will present their research project.

**BAIRD CHAPEL**

**Adventures in Herpetology**

Presenter: Mr. Michael Fulbright

Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. The presenter will share some of his research experiences studying these animals in the southeastern US.

**HEYDEL AUDITORIUM**

**Nonviolent Compassionate Communication**

Presenters: Ms. Leighanne Buchanan and Ms. Kerry Ann Moore

Learn how to communicate in a way that fosters health, compassion, and growth in your personal and professional relationships.

**TIERED CLASSROOM LABRY HALL 130**

**Researching Roots: Genealogy and Family Research**

Presenters: Dr. Rachael C. Bible and Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik

Websites like Ancestry, Find A Grave, and Newspapers.com have made finding information about your family history a little easier for many Americans. Dr. Bible and Dr. Mielnik will demonstrate some of the research methods for these sites and tell some of their personal family research stories in this session.

**LIBRARY READING ROOM**

**WWII Memorabilia and Memories**

Presenter: Mr. Peter Johnson

The presenter will discuss the events that lead to the war and U.S. involvement, the effects of the war on the U.S. home front, and mobilization.

**LABRY HALL 117**

**Facts About Fentanyl & Harm Reduction**

Presenters: Mrs. Tammy Grow and Mr. Michael Bare

Tammy Grow, Executive Director of DrugFree WilCo will share what the prevention coalition is doing to prevent and reduce substance misuse and addiction in Wilson County. Michael Bare, Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist, will follow up with a brief talk about the dangers of fentanyl poisoning in many illicit drugs in TN and how to reduce the harm done in our community due to the overdose epidemic.

## **LABRY HALL 118**

### **Suicide Prevention Training-QPR**

Presenter: Ms. Brenda Harper with TN Suicide Prevention Network

The QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) program will provide training for an individual to recognize the signs, symptoms, and ways to try and help prevent Suicide among individuals. The QPR mission is to save lives and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention training.

## **LABRY HALL 122**

### **Electric Vehicles: Past, Present, and Future Directions**

Presenter: Mr. Steve Seger

In this session, CU Business Council Member Steve Seger will discuss the transformation of the energy sector including the migration to electric vehicles and carbon-free generation.

## **LABRY HALL 209**

### **Why We Don't See I to I**

Presenters: Dr. Mike Ripski and SGA Members

It's a matter of perspective. So what's yours? This session will seek awareness of our perspective and its origins.

## **LABRY HALL 210**

### **It's Okay to Not Be Okay: Mental Health 101 for College Students**

Presenter: Dr. Chelsea Sterne

In this talk, the presenter will discuss how to talk to peers about mental health issues, how to find a counselor or therapist, how to recognize the signs of suicide, and where to get help if needed.

### **Cannabis/Marijuana 101: Weeding Thru Opinions**

Presenter: Ms. Stephanie Davis

This presentation will provide a broad understanding of cannabis/marijuana. This includes terminology, reasons young people do or do not use, the endocannabinoid system, short-term and long-term effects of cannabis/marijuana use, and the potential impacts on the adolescent brain.

## **LABRY HALL 207**

### **Eight Mathematicians**

Presenters: Mr. AJ Akpan, Mr. Elliot Grinder, Ms. Rachel Hale, Mr. Adrijan Hrzic, Ms. Alexandra Leisibach, Ms. Brooke Turner, Mr. Daniel Wessels, Ms. Lara Zugasti, and Dr. Laurie P. Dishman.

Dr. Dishman's MATH 451 Abstract Algebra students will each present a brief biographical sketch of a mathematician connected to the field of modern algebra.



### **MEMORIAL HALL 307**

#### **To The Virgin Lands!**

Presenter: Dr. Sean McDaniel

In 1953, shortly after the death of Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev embarked on an ambitious plan to cultivate tens of millions of acres of previously untilled land throughout areas of the Caucasus, Western Siberia, and Northern Kazakhstan. More than 300,000 volunteers relocated to the desolate regions to work the land and build their socialist future in what amounted to one of the Soviet Union's most expansive agricultural undertakings.

### **MEMORIAL HALL 202**

#### **Yes, the Square Peg DOES Fit in the Round Hole... The Brand of YOU!**

Presenter: Dr. Valerie King

The presenter will discuss understanding your place in the space and gaining insight on developing and managing your brand.

### **LABRY HALL 211**

#### **Bystander Intervention: Empowering Individuals to Act**

Presenter: Ms. Maria Michonski, Sexual Assault Center of Nashville

This presentation reviews consent, the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, the bystander effect, and the causes of the bystander effect. This training aims to equip participants with the skills necessary to see red flags of sexual violence and effectively intervene in situations of potential violence.

### **MEMORIAL HALL 208**

#### **Creative Writing Confessions: What Can You Do with a Creative (And Professional!) Writing Degree and What Does CU Have to Offer?**

Presenters: Creative Writing Students and Ms. Sandee Gertz

Most people know what Creative Writing is, but they might not know about all the careers for which a Creative Writing degree can be valuable. CU has a revised Creative and Professional Writing Major which includes all the creative genres, plus covers the professional aspects of writing: from grant writing, to marketing and PR writing, to social media, and more. Come and learn more about the program and its viable careers and hear from CPW majors about the experiential learning available in publishing a literary journal, developing a podcast, and learning the craft of literary writing via classes and active clubs!

### **MEMORIAL HALL 203**

#### **From Field to Lab: Exploring the Sphagnum Moss and Microbial Symbiosis**

Presenter: Dr. Alyssa Carrell

Dr. Carrell is a staff scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She will share her exciting interdisciplinary research identifying relationships between moss and microbes.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 206**

### **Leadership--Is it Better to be Loved**

Presenter: Dr. Paul Matthew Percy

As a means of developing business leaders for a better tomorrow, the presenter describes ten leadership characteristics using an acrostic that define leader follower relationships in the 21st century using extant empirical research. Ten leader behaviors and characteristics that define successful leader-follower relationships are discussed.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 207**

### **Are You a Good Witch or a Bad Witch?**

Presenter: Dr. Michael Rex

The presenter will discuss the realities of Neo-Paganism in the US.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 205**

### **What America Could Learn from Northern Ireland**

Presenter: Mr. Jim Shulman

For almost thirty years, Northern Ireland experienced what is known as the "Troubles." Conflicts between groups, primarily due to religious affiliations and allegiances to the United Kingdom, turned deadly with thousands of individuals killed through acts of terrorism. With the assistance of the Clinton Administration, a peace agreement (now known as the Good Friday Agreement) was reached between the parties in 1998. Although sometimes shaky, the peace agreement has held for 25 years. The presenter calls it a "sociology experiment" happening right before our eyes. And we should be watching.

### **Poster Boy Posers: Sociocultural Gentrifications and Its Effects on Modern Day Society**

Presenters: Mr. Levi Bookout and Dr. Kent Hallman

Punks, Mods, Rockers, Goths, Skinheads, and Hippies. Every subculture had its beginning and end, but how did these niches go mainstream? And what does that mean to us now?

**BAIRD CHAPEL**

**New AI Tools: Insights and Clarifications from an AI Practitioner's Perspective**

Presenter: Dr. Joshua Phillips

Dr. Phillips is an Associate Professor of computer science at MTSU. He will describe the recent history and developments in AI research and then discuss why, from the perspective of a researcher in this field, this knowledge helps us better understand how AI is impacting and continues to impact our lives.

**HEYDEL AUDITORIUM**

**Contact Combat: How Krav Maga Empowers People to Get Home Safe**

Presenters: Dr. Sara Hays and Mr. Eric Cook

This will be a demonstration of some of the basic techniques of the mixed martial art Krav Maga, including strikes, chokes, gun and knife disarms, and grappling on the ground. The presenters will also show how Krav is an especially useful self-defense system for all body types and genders so that anyone can use the techniques to protect themselves and get home safe!

**TIERED CLASSROOM LABRY HALL 130**

**Conspiracy Theories in Recent U.S. History**

Presenter: Dr. Mark Cheatham

Conspiracy theories have always been a part of the American experience, but in the past few years, they have reemerged in significant ways. This presentation explains the history of American conspiracy theories and how they are affecting the U.S. today.

**LIBRARY READING ROOM**

**WWII Memorabilia and Memories**

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### **LABRY HALL 122**

#### **It's All in Your Head**

Presenters: Dr. Cyndy Stone Allen, Dr. Whitney Matthews, Dr. Barbara Parker, Dr. Sandy Smith, and Dr. George Walker

The Educator Preparation Program faculty will present an interactive session modeling various activities that promote the development of critical and creative thinking skills.

### **LABRY HALL 209**

#### **Generational Perspectives**

Presenters: Dr. Mike Ripski and SGA Members

How does the current generation view the world its inheriting?

### **LABRY HALL 210**

#### **Transcultural Nursing**

Presenters: Ms. Jessica Clark, Ms. Emma Carson, Ms. Ashley Lynch, Ms. Zoie High, and Ms. Michelle Zuercher

Nursing students will be discussing their experiences in Honduras on a transcultural nursing trip.

#### **Incivility in Education**

Presenter: Ms. Carolyn Goodin

The presenter will discuss recognizing and responding to incivility in education.

### **LABRY HALL 207**

#### **Connecting with Gen Z (!) not (.)**

Presenter: Dr. Karah Sprouse

Join this interactive session to learn and discuss how Gen Z is commonly perceived and misunderstood by older generations at school and at work.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 307**

### **CU Travel - Germany, Italy, and Switzerland**

Presenters: Dr. Sean McDaniel and Ms. Summer Vertrees

Come learn about your opportunity to travel to Germany, Italy, and Switzerland with other members of the CU community in May 2024.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 202**

### **Daylight Savings Time: What Time Is It?**

Presenter: Dr. Carole Bucy

With Daylight Savings Time ending just two days before Colloquium, Distinguished University Professor Dr. Carole Bucy, will discuss her research on the history of Daylight Savings Time as well as Tennessee's interesting, and even humorous, place in the story.

## **LABRY HALL 211**

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Presenter: Ms. Maria Michonski, Sexual Assault Center of Nashville

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## **MEMORIAL HALL 208**

### **Writing Fiction: Student Reading**

Presenters: Creative Writing 255 students and Ms. Kerry Ann Moore

Students from Creative Writing 255: Writing Fiction will perform a reading from their short stories.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 203**

### **Houseplants 101**

Presenter: Dr. Andrea Davis

Let's cover the basics of keeping houseplants alive. Feel free to bring plant clippings to trade with others! No green thumb required.

### **Animal Husbandry: Expanding Enrichment**

Presenter: Ms. Mia Harris

Enrichment provides captive animals with additional stimuli and opportunities with the goal of increasing animal welfare. From cownose stingrays to African elephants, the design and implementation of animal enrichment vary across fields, species, and conspecifics.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 206**

### **BFA Senior Artist Talks**

Presenters: Ms. Chana Crouch, Ms. Sophia Roberts, and Ms. Alena Mehić

Graduating seniors will give in-depth talks about their practice, focusing on work displayed in their senior thesis exhibition and the influences, ideas, and intentions behind it.

### **Exploring Public Art Potential in Post-WPA**

Presenter: Mr. Stephen Simmerman

The presenter will discuss his current research project on the lasting influence of artists from the Works Progress Administration [WPA] and ways of parlaying public art in 21st century spaces. The work of muralists like Diego Rivera, Bernhard Zakheim, and Frederick Olmsted Jr. will be explored.

## **MEMORIAL HALL 205**

### **History Senior Seminar Talks**

Presenters: History Senior Seminar students and Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik

History Senior Seminar students will give presentations about their senior research projects.

### **A Double National Treasure: The Buried Letters of William Lyon Mackenzie**

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Wiley

In this presentation, the presenter will document how William Lyon Mackenzie stole numerous letters of Martin Van Buren, published them, and then carried them to Canada where they remained. The presenter found them in the Archives of Ontario and the Papers of Martin Van Buren has published several of them, making them more widely available.

## **LABRY HALL 115**

### **Questions and Answers with the President and Provost**

Presenters: Dr. Paul Stumb and Dr. Bill McKee

Do you have a burning question for CU's President Dr. Paul Stumb or CU's Provost Dr. Bill McKee? Come to this session to have those questions answered.