



Spring 2025 Buchanan Lecture Series: THE POWER OF PLAY

This spring's lecture series delves into how humor, games, and the art of playfulness shape our understanding of the world, examining the psychological impacts of humor, the strategic intricacies of games from board games to digital platforms, and the creative freedoms expressed in artistic and literary forms through play.

In an era where every minute is measured against productivity, we question the space left for play and its intrinsic value beyond economic and functional justification—can play stand alone, or must it always serve an end?

Join us to uncover the serious implications of play in areas such as social bonding, cultural critique, and innovative problem-solving across various disciplines.



Monday, January 27

Welcome and Introduction

Rebekka King (Honors)

Monday, February 3

Reinforcing Variable Play Behavior
in Neurotypical and
Neurodivergent Preschoolers

Annie Galizio (Psychology)

Monday, February 10

Enhancing Sense of Place by
Rethinking Public Space through Play

Francis Koti (Political and Global Affairs)

Monday, February 17

From Bar to Table

Sisavanh Phouthavong-Houghton (Art and
Design)

Monday, February 24

Humor as Subversive Play

David Feltmate (Sociology, Auburn
University at Montgomery)

Monday, March 3

Writing For, About, and Around
Video Games

Eric Detweiler (English)

Monday, March 10

Spring Break – No Classes

Monday, March 17

When Playing Lacrosse Is More
Than a Game: Haudenosaunee
Sovereignty and the 2028 Olympics

Adam Brett (Religious Studies)

Monday, March 24

Laughing Matters

Annie Barger (Wilson County Schools
Family Resource Center)

Monday, March 31

Computer Playfulness, Workers'
Individual Attributes, and
Burnout at the Workplace

Sam Zaza (Information Systems
and Analytics)

Monday, April 7

Playing Pretend:
How Our Imaginations Can Lead
to Understanding

Kate Goodwin (Theatre)

Monday, April 14

MT Engage Presentation

Lexy Denton (MT Engage)

Monday, April 21

National Fellowships
and Scholarships

Laura Clippard (Honors)

Monday, April 28

Student Thesis Presentations

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

I AM *true*
BLUE

