

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)

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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



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