**FACULTY BROWN BAG PROGRAM 2017-18**

**Fall 2017**

**Sept. 14**

Dr. Janet Dean, “Listening to Sexual Minorities at Faith-based Colleges & Universities”

What do Christian sexual minorities say about their experiences on faith-based campuses? The presentation will include a brief overview of their spiritual development, mental health, sexual identity formation, and perceptions regarding campus climate as well as implications for supporting these students as they work toward congruence between their faith and sexual identity.

**Oct. 12**

Dr. Steve Clements, “Political Polarization and Electoral Dynamics: Explaining the 2016 American National Election Results”

The American political landscape has been disrupted over the past two years, as Donald Trump first became the Republican Party’s nomination for president, then capturing the presidency via the Electoral College mechanism, over a Democratic opponent with extensive personal and political baggage. Partisan and demographic trends in the US over the last generation will be discussed, to place the results of last November’s election into broader historical context.

**Nov. 16**

Dr. Chris Bounds, “John Wesley: Theological Heir to the Reformation”

John Wesley said his theology was within a “hair’s breadth” of Calvinism. This presentation will examine the Calvinism of John Wesley and the major theological ideas bequeathed to Wesley from the 16th century Reformers. It will also explore how this theology is relevant to the experience of “Scriptural holiness” today.

**Spring 2018**

**Jan. 25**

Dr. David Swartz, "The Quiet Revival: Boston and Non-Western Immigration"

New England, known as a center of American secularism, has been the home of a major spiritual awakening. But this has been unnoticed because it is occurring primarily among non-white populations. The synergy of the Immigration Act of 1965, the Evangelical Immigration Round Table, and the southernization of global Christianity hold the potential to profoundly shape American Christianity.

**Mar. 1**

Dr. Doug Walker, “The Stories We Tell: Radio’s Role in An Alaskan Community”

While spending two months in Alaska this past spring working on-air at radio station KCAM, Doug re-discovered the power of stories to connect with listeners, both through hosting a morning show and through historical interviews with long-time residents. Using recordings from on-air work, this presentation will look at the unique challenges and opportunities for preserving history in a local community.

**Apr. 12**

Dr.Don Burgess & Claire Peterson, “Is Neuroscience the death of Free Will?”

The physicality of our minds has important implications for mental health, addiction, criminal responsibility and rehabilitation. Does the apparent determinism of synapses and neurons lead to the elimination of Free Will and responsibility? What is Machine Learning? Can Artificial Intelligence give rise to a “Soul” that a human can fall in love with? Questions like these will be explored as we attempt to reconcile the physicality of our minds with our self-conscious experience of Free Will.