

## **Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium**

### **Theology**

Moderator: Mark McEntire, Ph.D.

**April 11, 2019, 6:30-8:00**  
**JAAC 2080**

6:30 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.

#### **Narrating Motherhood in the Hebrew Scriptures**

Katie Rosenson

Faculty Advisor: Mark McEntire, Ph.D.

Old Testament theology, like many of its sister disciplines, is an area of study, which brings with it a problematic history. Moving through four distinct phases of methodology—(1) systematic, (2) historical or reconstructive, (3) dialogical, and now (4) narrative—Old Testament theology has often excluded voices, which have traditionally been viewed as “Other.” Thankfully, the budding narrative approach, which seeks to trace the development of the character called God in the Hebrew Scriptures, may create space for more voices to enter into the conversation. Divorced from many of the troubling consequences of the earlier phases of Old Testament theology, this approach allows for a more in-depth exploration of topics often ignored, such as Motherhood. In examining the Divine Character’s behavior toward various mothers—both literal and figurative—throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, specifically Eve, Hagar, Sarai/Sarah, and finally Esther as the figurative Mother, we are able to trace the development of the Divine Character’s relationship to Motherhood, and potentially uncover the role this character called God plays in the conception of what it means to be woman in the Hebrew Scriptures.

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

#### **The Abusive Implementation of Biblical Sexuality: The Not So Pure Purity Movement**

Paige Huggins

Dr. Andy Watts, Ph.D., Th.M., M.Div.

Words like “virginity”, “sex”, and “sexuality” hold a good deal of weight and importance in American society and in the Church, but are Christians actually approaching them the way God intended? While the purity movement arose out of good and biblical intentions, the way it has been implemented through the use of guilt and shame-driven techniques has hurt just as many people as it has helped, if not more. Even those who feel it has helped them in many ways are walking around with underlying scars that can affect their friendships, dating relationships, marriages, or even the way they raise their kids. In this presentation, I will take a look at the history of words like these along with the history of the Purity Movement itself. I will also talk about the implications of the Purity Movement for the Church, politics, media, and greater American society, exploring specific examples of how it has and can affect those who have been influenced by it. Finally, I

will examine some features of the Purity Movement using Russel Moore, Emily Timbol as well as the theology of Sarah Coakley in order to empower healing, unity, and a healthier sense of how to steward sexuality.

7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **How Moses' Intercession Changed the Trajectory of Israel (Exodus 33:12-23)**

Hannah Kerr

Faculty Advisor: Mark McEntire, Ph.D.

The book of Exodus plays a crucial role in the development of God's relationship to Israel, as the Israelites recognize the glory of YHWH and are allowed only glimpses of what they hope to see in full. Exodus 33:12-23 is wedged between the Israelites' golden calf idolatry and the renewal of God's covenant with Israel. Moses' intercession is the crucial turning point where God decides to keep His promise to be present with His people as they continue their journey through the wilderness. This promise is later realized as God's presence descends on the tabernacle at the end of Exodus. In the midst of the puzzling merging of the Pentateuch's sources in Exodus 33, Moses' intercession reveals the complications of a divine-human friendship and God's willingness to communicate with His people in spite of their sin.