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## Love of Students Is Priority One for Christian Teachers

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## Love of Students Is Priority One for Christian Teachers

Dr. Matthew Towles was the second presenter in a series of lectures in which English faculty share their research. His topic was *Spiritual Formation: A Practitioner's Approach to Passion*. This is his abstract:



In the Christian university classroom, we too often focus on what we know, and we ignore what we desire. In his book, *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*, James K.A. Smith asserts that what we desire forms our identity, often superceding what we've learned or what we know. Using examples of passion and learning in literature, I will argue that we—as Christian professors and Christian students—can integrate habits into our lives that cultivate a passion for spiritual formation that creates a lifelong and energetic love for learning.

His presentation was November 30 from 10:30-11:30 in DeMoss Hall 3028.

Dr. Brenda Ayres was the first presenter in the English Faculty Lecture Series when on October 16, she lectured on her book *The Hall of Mirrors: Multi-biographical Transfigurations of British Women Writers During the Long Nineteenth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan 2016). Upcoming speakers are Dr. Marybeth Baggett and Dr. Karen Swallow Prior.