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Religion, Politics Expert to Speak at Gardner-Webb

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Office of University
Communications

September 6, 2016

Life of the Scholar Lecture Series to Feature Dr. Charles Kimball on Sept. 20

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University’s Life of the Scholar (LOTS) program invites the public to “Lethal Religion: The Explosive Mix of Politics and Religion in Judaism, Christianity and Islam,” a lecture by Dr. Charles Kimball on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

His lecture at Gardner-Webb will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Blanton Auditorium inside Hamrick Hall on the GWU campus. Copies of Kimball’s book, “When Religion Becomes Lethal: The Explosive Mix of Politics and Religion in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” will be available for purchase and signing.

Kimball currently serves as presidential professor and director of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. Courses he teaches include “Introduction to Religious Studies,” “Comparative Religion,” “World Religions in America,” “Conceptions of the Afterlife,” “Religion and Politics in the Middle East,” and “Islam.”

An expert analyst on those and other related topics, he has lived in Egypt, made more than 35 visits to the Middle East and worked closely with Congress, the White House and the State Department during the past 30 years. He is also an ordained Baptist minister, the author of five books, has been interviewed by more than 700 media organizations around the world since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and is a frequent lecturer in university and church settings.

“Dr. Kimball’s perspective and his vast experience will help us as people of faith to reflect on one of the most pressing problems of our age: the religious roots of many forms of violence in the world,” shares Dr. Steven Harmon, visiting associate professor of historical theology in the GWU School of Divinity and coordinator for the LOTS lecture series.

Kimball is familiar with the Carolinas, having previously served as both director for international education at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and as chair of the Department of Religion and the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the lecture. Please call 704-406-4264 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

Gardner-Webb's scholarly lecture series is named for Dr. Joyce Compton Brown, professor emerita of English at Gardner-Webb, who retired in 2005 after almost 40 years of service as an English professor. Among her many accomplishments, Brown formed a lecture series as part of the University's Life of the Scholar Program in the early 1990s to introduce students to the challenging and dynamic world of professional scholarship. After her retirement, her family, friends and colleagues established a fund to provide continued support for the series she nurtured.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).