

# **FIRE** Week

Igniting Your Passion

Wittenberg University

February 27-March 3, 2023





## **Let's Start Exploring**

Welcome to FIRE Week 2023! FIRE Week experiences are designed to give students a chance to engage in-depth with faculty and staff on a wide range of topics. What follows are the various opportunities available in the coming year. Most of them require a \$100 deposit, which will be refunded after completion of the experience (making the experience free!). Others do have a cost associated with them, and the cost is listed on each experience page. Payment plans will be available.

**Applications open on Monday, September 19, 2022**

Please pay attention to the application deadlines, as they can differ.

All applications can be accessed in the same place:

**[www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek](http://www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek)**



## Adulting 101

The Wittenberg Mission Statement promises that we strive for our graduates to “become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.” However, we don’t promise you’ll know how to calculate your taxes, how to understand health insurance, or how to move to a new city. This FIRE Week experience will attempt to remedy this and teach the basics of “adulting.” There will be plenty of hands-on activities and guest speakers to highlight all of the “little things” that come with being an adult: Personal Wellbeing, Basic Finances, Legal Documents, House/Car Maintenance, and Communication Skills and Future Plans. By the end of the week, students will be able to set up an IRA, register to vote, and find apartment insurance. The participants will also be able to help choose some of the content for the fifth day—what is most important to know? **\$100 Refundable Deposit**



Project Director: Adam Parker (MATH)

**Applications Due: November 4**





## **Building a Home: Habitat for Humanity**

Would you like to get fit while serving your community? Come bring your physical and mental strength to FIRE Week 2023 and build a home for a local family with the Nursing Department and Habitat for Humanity! Every year, Habitat for Humanity uses 215,943 gallons of paint, 9,190 privacy blinds, 63,402 electrical outlets, 100 football fields' worth of Styrofoam insulation, and 16,700 lights to build homes for people across the United States. This work will make a difference for a Springfield family as participants will spend the week helping to install vinyl siding, hang asphalt shingles, install interior walls, paint the interior, and running errands to provide support for the family and builders. The family will move into their new home shortly after the week is over. **\$100 Refundable Deposit**

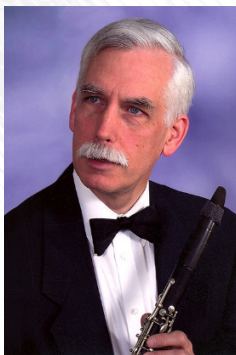
**Project Directors: Nursing Department**

**Applications Due: November 4**



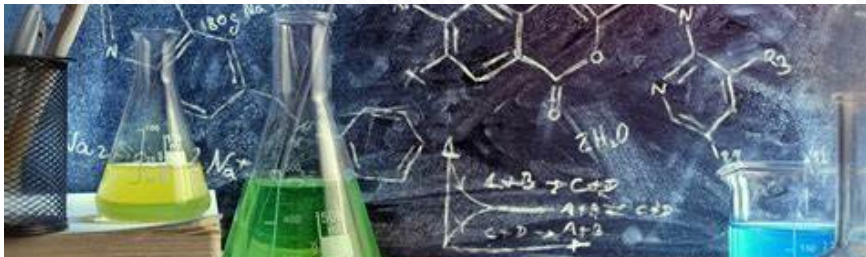
## **Chamber Music: From Practice to Performance**

Are you looking to broaden your musical horizons and performance experience? Are you interested in chamber music repertoire, but you haven't had the chance to play it? Do you want to understand what a week in the life of a professional musician looks like? If so, join other student musicians in a weeklong Chamber Music Intensive experience during FIRE Week. Over the course of the week, students will create an ensemble and take the selected repertoire from first rehearsal to final performance. In addition to ensemble rehearsals with faculty coaches and time for individual practice, there will be one-to-one mentoring, workshops, and a guest performance from a professional chamber group. **\$100 Refundable Deposit**



**Project Directors: Brandon Jones (MUSI) & Richard York (MUSI)**

**Applications Due:  
November 4**



## Changing the World! Interactive Science Shows for Middle School Students

When was it that you first loved, hated, or formed a strong impression of science? Likely, it was as early as fifth grade, as that age can be a crucial turning point for one's appreciation for science. To help promote positive associations with science, participants in this experience will develop an explosively colorful, interactive show for local Springfield middle-schoolers. We will travel to a school and inspire students with amazing chemical reactions while demonstrating how science connects to their lives. Also, we will aim to measure how high-quality science communication can impact views on science, and we will reflect on misconceptions about science and educational opportunities in our own lives. **Requirements:** Successful completion of Chem 121 and/or scheduled enrollment in Chem 162, willingness and ability to work with children in a school setting, adherence to safe chemical practices, willingness to work collaboratively, and an ability to pass a background check (if applicable). **\$100 Refundable Deposit**



**Project Director: Stephanie Eveland-Parrott (CHEM)**

**Applications Due: November 4**





### **Connecting Generations**

Spend FIRE Week 2023 collaborating with fellow students to create meaningful, enriching experiences for the residents of a local assisted-living agency. Capture the stories of older generations to create a historical gallery walk of their lives; host a game day or a cooking challenge; design a scavenger hunt; provide technical support; or stage a talent show for everyone to participate in. Each student will also work individually with a resident during the week to build a memory book for them to share with their loved ones. **\$100 Refundable Deposit**

**Project Directors: Nursing Department**

**Applications Due: November 4**



## **Going Local: The Yellow Springs Experience**

Explore Yellow Springs and learn how to work with local resources to support community goals. On this FIRE Week experience, students will ask how local resources could interact with their field of interest in a meaningful way to support community values and goals. During the week, students will work in interdisciplinary teams, meet with community leaders, explore local resources, and create a final product that addresses a pressing, local issue. Discover the town's businesses, natural spaces, artists' studios, schools, and more. Students will be able to customize their experience and self-select a variety of activities for the week, and the week will culminate with a final presentation for community leaders and local citizens. Be prepared to spend the week immersed in the culture of Yellow Springs, all while working through the steps of the Project-Based Learning (PBL) model. **\$100 Refundable Deposit**



**Project Director: Layla Besson (EDUC)**

**Applications Due: November 4**





## **Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi**

The Mississippi River is revered for its mythical, life-affirming power as Father Water on the one hand and feared for its devastating potential to destroy lives/property on the other. Land, water, and wildlife have coalesced into a culture of “place,” as residents weave stories of the river’s paradoxical power into their lives. We will travel to northern Mississippi, engaging with environmentalists, hunters, farmers, artists, and residents seeking to understand the controversy of what to do about rivers that flood: let them flow naturally, potentially ruining people’s homes and livelihoods? Or control them with levees and floodgates and risk destroying wildlife? Journey into this “most southern place on earth” with two professors/native Mississippians, driving from the hill country down into the Delta, stopping overnight at the Shack Up Inn and the historic Hotel 27. We’ll meet with knowledgeable folks, stick our toes in the river, listen to some Blues, and of course, indulge in some good food. **Cost \$150**

**Project Directors: Richard Phillips (BIOL) & Catherine Waggoner (CMDM)**

**Applications Due: November 4**



## Head to Heart to Action: Designing a Career & Life Action Plan

Learn how to align who you are and what you value with your career aspirations! Whether it's a "C-suite," a community agency, an urban school, or a medical practice you're interested in, this tailored experience is what you need to feel prepared for your next steps during and after Witt! All career interests/goals are welcomed and can be infused into this experience! Packed with top career and life topics, this week-long set of workshops will cover subjects such as Career and Values; Professionalism: Resumes and Cover Letters; Interviews; Digital Presence; Intercultural Communication; and Personal Finance. Participants will also be able to experience "A Day in the Life..." of alumni and professionals working in relevant career fields. Site visits and shadowing opportunities with employers in Columbus, Dayton, Springfield, and/or Cincinnati will give a real-world view into what it is like to work in several industries and discover what employers are looking for! **\$100 Refundable Deposit**



Project Directors: Joi Garrett Scales, Brittany House  
Conrad, & Tim Bates (Career Services)

**Applications Due: November 4**



## **Igniting Change in Communities and Ourselves**

Did you know that the United Nations estimates that more than one billion people around the world live in substandard housing, including millions in the United States? Organizations like the Fuller Center for Housing have a faith-driven, unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need. Join us in continuing the 30+ year tradition of sending a group of Witt students to renovate, repair, or build a house—and there is an opportunity for one student to take on a leadership role (see application for details). Students will spend a week of simple living with a group of their peers who are dedicated to working together to create social change. At the end of the week, we will visit the Fuller Center headquarters as well as Plains, Georgia. Plains is the birthplace of the 39th President, Jimmy Carter, and the home of the famous peanut butter ice cream! **\$100 Refundable Deposit**

**After the application deadline, students will also be asked to attend a special meeting to learn more about the expectations and selection process.**



This FIRE Week experience has been approved for the civic engagement requirement (for students on the Connections Curriculum) or community service requirement – students must be enrolled in CCUE 100-01 for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester.

**Project Director: Rachel Scherzer (HC)**

**Applications Due: November 4**





## **Kruger National Park: Conservation and Community in Post-Apartheid South Africa**

Are you interested in conservation, the environment, or working with wildlife? Or are you interested in community development work, racial and social justice, or economic challenges in Post-Apartheid South Africa? This FIRE Week experience at Kruger National Park in South Africa will allow students to spend time on a guided safari, followed by meetings with residents and administrators of neighboring Marloth Park. On safari, learn about the different species of animals and the different habitats within the park, as well as the conservation efforts and challenges of the park. Then learn how the community of Marloth Park balances the needs of the human residents with the needs of the animals and discover how residents feel about their animal neighbors. Throughout the week, there will be discussions on the issues confronting Post-Apartheid South Africa with special emphasis on the economic challenges facing the African community. **Cost: \$3,100**



**Project Director: Scott Rosenberg (HIST)**  
**Applications Due: October 3**



## **Light on the Great Lakes: Shipwrecks, Sand Dunes, and Buried Cities**

The Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water and provide drinking water for 10% of the US population (including much of northern Ohio). They serve as a major transportation route from the Atlantic Ocean to Chicago and everything in between. Cities and industries have sprung up along this highly trafficked waterway, generating unintended consequences in the process. Interestingly, this shipping route has accumulated the greatest concentration of shipwrecks in the world, despite an abundance of lighthouses warning of hidden dangers. On this week-long trip, students will see shipwreck artifacts at Toledo's National Museum of the Great Lakes; visit lighthouses along Michigan's west coast; hike sand dunes, including Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; and stand above a buried city. See first-hand the beauty and danger of the Great Lakes and take away a better understanding of society's need for caution when harnessing nature's power. **Cost: \$400**



**Project Director: Gabe Courey (ECON)**

**Applications Due: November 4**



## **Magical Museum Tour**

What makes a museum? The term “museum” can represent a multitude of institutions, each with its own purpose and goals. Some are stately and serious in subject and content, some showcase beauty and creativity, while others are quirky and house societal curiosities. Join the Magical Museum Tour and visit museums in Springfield, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus. In addition to the broad societal, intellectual, and creative experiences we will gain through the museum visits themselves, we will also consider and discuss more generally the role of museums for individuals and societies. What are the goals of the different museums? What is their value on a societal level and on an individual level? What are the ethical issues that stem from procuring and displaying museum collections? Students will produce guided reflection writings following each day’s experience, with a final, more extensive reflection at the end of the week, thus creating a reflective portfolio of their experiences.

**\$100 Refundable Deposit**



**Project Director: Beth Hallauer (Honors)**

**Applications Due: November 4**





## **The Politics of Water in the West**

The Coachella Valley desert in Southern California is a microcosm of the challenging water politics that confront the entire Western United States. With only 3.3 inches of annual rainfall, the Valley struggles to support the enormous infrastructure and development that has occurred in the last century while supplying the rest of the U.S. with fruits and vegetables. At the same time, the Valley's aquifer is under great stress due to one of the most sustained droughts in California's history. Students will travel to the Valley and learn about water usage laws, regulations, and conservation policies, and about how these interact with water rights issues and the development pressures that continue to strain the water supply. Guest speakers, walking and riding tours, and selected readings will serve as the primary course content. Each student will create a 10-minute video memoir/reflection about their experience, focusing on their own "water ethic" as a way of synthesizing what they've learned and making connections to other courses and Wittenberg experiences. Some moderately strenuous walking and hiking will be involved. The program cost includes airfare, lodging and transportation in California, some meals, and entrance fees to parks and other venues. **Cost: \$500**



**Project Directors: Rob Baker (POLI) & John Ritter (ESCI)**

**Applications Due: October 24**



## **Service in Sunny Costa Rica**

Spend FIRE Week in sunny Costa Rica, one of the most beautiful and biodiverse places in the world! While staying in a beach town on the Pacific Coast of Guanacaste province, you'll engage in local community service projects (e.g., children's programming, animal rescue, nature preserve, food bank, etc.) and learn about Costa Rican culture and people. You'll enjoy authentic Tico food, have plenty of time to explore the town and beach, and set sail on a fun catamaran excursion. Pack your shorts and sunglasses, escape the gray Ohio winter, and immerse yourself in the friendly and laid-back pura vida culture as you broaden your worldview and fulfill your civic engagement/community service requirement. The program fee includes airfare, ground transportation, room, breakfast and dinner daily, and catamaran tour. **Cost: \$1,775**



This FIRE Week experience has been approved for the civic engagement requirement (for students on the Connections Curriculum) or community service requirement – students must be enrolled in CCUE 100-01 for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester.

**Project Director: Stefne Broz (CMDM)**

**Applications Due: October 3**



## **StartUp in Austin: The Entrepreneurship Experiential Learning Opportunity**

Come to Austin, Texas, to see what young entrepreneurs in Texas are focusing on, what other students are learning in their classrooms, and take part in a weeklong experience that will be sure to challenge your mind, hone your entrepreneurial skill, and push your cultural senses. **Cost: \$600**



**Project Director: Kevin Steidel (BUSI)**  
**Applications Due: October 24**



<b>Experience</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Adulting 101	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Building a Home: Habitat for Humanity	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Chamber Music: From Practice to Performance	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Changing the World: Interactive Science Shows for Middle School Students	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Connecting Generations	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Going Local: The Yellow Springs Experience	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi	November 4	<b>\$150</b>
Head to Heart to Action: Designing a Career & Life Action Plan	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Igniting Change in Communities and Ourselves	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
Kruger National Park: Conservation and Community in Post-Apartheid South Africa	<b>October 3</b>	<b>\$3100</b>
Light on the Great Lakes: Shipwrecks, Sand Dunes, and Buried Cities	November 4	<b>\$400</b>
Magical Museum Tour	November 4	\$100 (Refundable)
The Politics of Water in the West	<b>October 24</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Service in Sunny Costa Rica	<b>October 3</b>	<b>\$1,775</b>
StartUp in Austin: The Entrepreneurship Experiential Learning Opportunity	<b>October 24</b>	<b>\$600</b>

**Payment plans will be available**

# **FIRE** Week

**Igniting Your Passion**

**Wittenberg University**

**To apply for FIRE Week, please visit  
[www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek](http://www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek)**

**Applications open Monday, September 19**

Participation in some experiences will be limited, so do take your time and answer the application questions as completely as possible. All of these experiences will count as LO1 credit for those students on the Connections Curriculum, but the experiences are open to all students. Those experiences that can count for community service/civic engagement are noted.

## Reflections from FIRE Week 2022:

*"This trip was AMAZING!!!! I do not have plans to start my own business, but I learned that I can still apply my entrepreneurial spirit to whatever career I have. I also enjoyed how we met different people in different industries because the group all had differing likes and dislikes. Additionally, the trip was the perfect length of time, there was a perfect mix of having required things to do and free time to do anything we wanted, and I really enjoyed getting to know the other students and faculty that went on the trip because I would have never met some of them."*

*"I greatly enjoyed this experience as it allowed me to see what I learn in the classroom and how it is applied in real life."*

*"I found myself putting siding on a house, which is something I never thought I'd do in my lifetime. This experience really opened my eyes to the realities in my community and encouraged me to volunteer more in the future."*

*"I went into this trip knowing none of the other students but ended the trip with a whole group of new friends. I think that speaks volumes to how well organized it was and how they were able to keep us so busy that we all spent the entire trip together. It also speaks to the types of students that Witt has, because everyone had the best attitude for the entire trip and were so fun to be around. I'm glad I got the opportunity to go, so thank you Witt for this."*

*"At every step of the way, we found that things were turning out better than we expected and that we were learning things we never expected to learn as part of the experience. The entire project was an excellent demonstration of team-based problem-solving from an interested, engaged, and motivated group of students."*

*"Students and I were gathered at the property listening for owls. We had planned to call for coyotes, but they began howling without our requests. Students were transfixed as one, two, three, and more coyotes began calling in the darkness – no flashlights, no streetlights, just stars and howls that reverberated both among and within the students. The next morning, on very little sleep, as we were waiting for the sun to rise, one of the brightest shooting stars I have ever seen burnt out right in front of the entire group."*

*"We watched as our students held a full, hour-long informational interview and conversation with Wittenberg alumni currently working in their field of interest. At no point did we see a stall in conversation or awkward interactions. This is an experience that helped even the most shy of our group feel comfortable and confident meeting seasoned professionals in their industry of interest."*