

David Laird Dungan (1936–2008) was Distinguished Professor of the Humanities and Emeritus Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a leading scholar of the synoptic problem. As a member of the Research Team of the International Institute for Gospel Studies, he took the name of UTK's Department of Religious Studies out into the world with his original scholarship on New Testament sources and interpretations.

The son of Presbyterian missionaries, Dungan was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and lived in Shanghai, China (until 1940), and in Berea, Kentucky, where he graduated from high school in 1953. He earned degrees from The College of Wooster (B.A. 1957), McCormick Seminary in Chicago (B.D. 1963), and Harvard Divinity School (Th.D. 1968). During his tenure at UT (1967- 2002), he established a reputation as an inspirational and provocative teacher of courses in biblical literature, church history, images of Jesus, environmental studies, and the legacy of the Vietnam War. He frequently spoke on these issues to religious communities in the Knoxville region.

Dungan was a Distinguished Lindsay Young Professor, a founding member of the Institute for the Renewal of Gospel Studies, and was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Faculty Prize at UT in 2000. He was also invited to teach at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome in 1976-1977 and again in 2006. He died suddenly on November 30, 2008.

In terms of his publications, he was perhaps best known for his 1999 book, *A History of the Synoptic Problem: the Canon, the Text, the Composition, and the Interpretation of the Gospels* (Doubleday), as well as his co-edited work, *The International Bible Commentary* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998). His most recent book was *Constantine's Bible: Politics and the Making of the New Testament* (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2006). A full list of his publications is available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Laird_Dungan.

The David L. Dungan Memorial Lecture Fund was established in 2010 to honor Dr. Dungan's achievements, diverse interests, and positive impact on students' lives. The fund will be used to bring eminent scholars to Knoxville who specialize in early Christianity and the resources for studying early Christianity, but also on the contemporary religious issues that so concerned David Dungan such as the environment, war and peace, missions, and the future of liberal Christianity. The first memorial speaker was Professor Bart Ehrman in 2011.

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The Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville welcomes you to the Second Annual David L. Dungan Memorial Lecture



Tuesday, February 28, 2012





Jeff Sharlet has done some of the most important writing and research on US religion and politics in the past few years. He appears frequently on talk shows and in leading publications, as his insightful work bridges academic and community interests. His 2008 book *The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power*, spent six months on the New York Times bestseller list. His latest publication, *Sweet Heaven When I Die: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between*, has been called “sharp and intimate” by *Rolling Stone* and compared to the work of Joan Didion and Norman Mailer by *The Washington Post*. Sharlet is also the author of *C Street: the Fundamentalist Threat to American Democracy*, and he is a contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and *Harper’s*. He teaches creative nonfiction at Dartmouth College.

“No one explores the borderlands of belief and skepticism quite like Jeff Sharlet,” state his publishers. According to Brook Wilensky-Lanford of the *Boston Globe*, “For Sharlet, the story of American religion is not a polarized one of fundamentalists vs. secularists. It’s a vast landscape, and each essay in his remarkable new collection of literary journalism, “Sweet Heaven When I Die: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between”, explores a different crag or cranny of it... taken together, these essays begin to give shape to a multifaceted America that is so much more than east and west, left and right, religious and secular. And there’s no better guide to this ‘country in between.’”

PROGRAM

7 pm Cox Auditorium

Alumni Memorial Building, UT

- **Opening remarks**
Professor Rosalind I. J. Hackett
Head, Dept. of Religious Studies
- **Welcome**
Professor Theresa M. Lee
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Speaker introduction**
Professor Mark Hulsether
Dept. of Religious Studies
- **“The Noise of Democracy: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between”**
Jeff Sharlet
- **Question and answer session**
Moderator
Professor Mark Hulsether
- **Reception and book signing**

The Department of Religious Studies would like to thank the co-sponsors of tonight’s program:

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