All lectures begin at noon on Wednesdays and last one hour. For more information, contact Furman's Marketing and Public Relations office at 864-294-3107 or vince.moore@furman.edu.

September 30

“Memory Fitness: Strategies for Improving Memory”
Dr. Michelle Horhota, Professor of Psychology

What is memory? How does it change with age? Can anything be done to maintain one’s memory over time? Dr. Horhota will discuss normative age-related memory change and will share recent scientific research that suggests some practical strategies for minimizing memory declines.

October 7

“What a Coincidence!”
Dr. John Harris, Professor of Mathematics

What are the odds of two people in a typical High Noon audience having the same birthday? You may say not likely, but the math says it’s better than 99.9 percent. While the experience of common birthdays and shared encounters both surprise and entertain us, just how remarkable are these chance occurrences? Dr. Harris will look at phenomena that seem to be wonderfully coincidental, but will prove to be not only likely to occur but almost certain to do so. You are encouraged to bring some of your favorite coincidences to share.

October 14

“Robot Revolution?”
Dr. J. Thomas Allen
Daniel Distinguished Professor of Computer Science

According to Bill Gates, “robotic devices will become a nearly ubiquitous part of our day-to-day lives” in the near future. He paints a positive picture and compares the development of the robotics industry to that of the computer business 30 years ago. On the other hand, Stephen Hawking and more than 150 other scientists have signed a letter warning that the development of ‘true’ intelligent machines might be an imminent threat to humanity. What are the prospects for this revolution, and what sort of revolution will it be? Dr. Allen will explore some of the facts about where robotics is today and what we can reasonably expect in the near future.
October 21

“Revisiting Reconstruction: South Carolina and the Sesquicentennial”
Dr. Courtney Tollison, Professor of History

In a recent article on Reconstruction, the tumultuous period that followed the end of the Civil War, *The New York Times* noted that there is no other time in history where the gulf between how scholars and the general public understand the past is greater. Dr. Tollison will discuss how scholars have evolved in their interpretations of this period, and how South Carolina is on the forefront of national efforts to revisit Reconstruction during the 150th commemoration of the era after the Civil War.

October 28

“Translating Controversy: Theology and Politics of the Bible in English”
Dr. Bryan Bibb, Professor of Religion

In the humanities, scholars agree that “all translation is interpretation,” and this is certainly the case for modern translations of the Bible into English. Nevertheless, Bible versions continue to be marketed as "completely accurate" or “faithful to the original” or “word for word” and “unbiased.” In fact, all translations reflect the ideological perspectives of their translators, and serve the theological, social and political expectations of their intended readers. This presentation will discuss the underlying interpretive issues behind modern controversies related to the English translation of the biblical text, and will answer that common question: “What is the best Bible?”

November 4

“A Major League Legacy”
Mike Buddie, Furman Director of Athletics

Before he joined Furman’s athletic department this fall, Mike Buddie spent five seasons as a pitcher in Major League Baseball. He faced hitters like Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire and Cal Ripken, Jr., and he was a member of the 1998 New York Yankees squad that won the World Series and is considered to be among the best teams in the history of baseball. In addition to discussing his aspirations for Furman’s athletic program, Buddie will share tales about his days in the major leagues and what it’s like to stand 60 feet, six inches from the most feared hitters on the planet.

November 11

“America and the Holocaust”
Dr. Diane Vecchio, Professor of History

The role of the United States in dealing with the Jewish victims of Nazi Germany has been the subject of a long and heated debate. Dr. Vecchio, an immigration historian, will discuss the role of FDR and the State Department in the crisis, as well as the impact of U.S. immigration laws, anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant sentiment.