



FIRE Week

Igniting Your Passion

Wittenberg University

March 3 - 7, 2025

WITTENBERG
UNIVERSITY







Let's Explore

Welcome to FIRE Week 2025! FIRE Week experiences are designed to give you a chance to engage in-depth with faculty, staff, and other students on a wide range of topics outside of the traditional classroom. What follows are the opportunities for the coming year. The costs are listed on each page, and also in the table at the back of the brochure. Regardless of which experience you choose, we know the week will allow you to step outside the classroom and gain a whole new perspective on your education.

Applications open on Monday, September 9, 2024

Please pay attention to the application **deadlines**, as they can differ by experience. All applications can be accessed at:

www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek



Adolescent STEM and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Institute at Tremont

Do you enjoy a hike, either around a national park or between thrill rides? Have you considered mentoring the next generation of students as part of your professional and civic identity? If so, come to this FIRE experience at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Institute at Tremont where you will connect with Tremont faculty and learn how teachers from across the country implement experiential learning opportunities. Step outside and stimulate your curiosity and creativity in this biodiverse environment while learning about the endless opportunities classrooms without walls can provide. Take in the natural beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains as you reconsider how to teach STEM concepts; hike off the beaten path to the beautiful Spruce Flat Falls waterfall tucked away in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and take a moment to focus on mindfulness; learn about exposure therapy techniques and how you might incorporate thrill rides as experiential learning opportunities. The possibilities are endless! This year, we will ride the Lost Mine Mountain Coaster and implement exposure therapy methods designed to treat specific phobias. If you have participated previously, there will be some new activities in 2025, so don't hesitate to apply to join us again! Students interested in a STEM field or education, therapy, or fun are all encouraged to apply early! **Cost: \$260**



Project Directors: Mike Daiga (EDUCATION)
& Layla Besson (EDUCATION)

Applications Due: November 8





Birds, Beans, and Bananas: Exploring the Tropical Plants and Animals that Connect the Americas

You probably start each day with a taste of the tropics. The coffee beans in your cup, the banana on your cereal, and the Baltimore Oriole singing in your yard are all imports from the sunny tropical zone around the Equator. Every year, trillions of coffee beans, billions of bananas, and millions of migratory birds arrive in North America thanks to the intricacies of global trade, international treaties, and migratory bird ecology. We will spend a week in Costa Rica dissecting these connections while experiencing the sights, sounds, and flavors of the tropics! On our first night in Costa Rica, you'll fall asleep to the comforting buzz of tropical katydids and wake up to a cacophony of howler monkeys and toucans. Each day, we will dive into tropical nature and agriculture through hikes in stunning reserves and interviews with local farmers. We'll visit shade coffee operations, small organic farms, and a banana plantation. We will also spend a few nights in a remote field station on the Caribbean to conduct migratory shorebird and endangered manatee research. You will leave Costa Rica with a newfound appreciation for how your everyday life is shaped by places and people 2,000 miles away. **Cost: \$1810**



Project Director: Timothy Swartz (BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES)

Applications Due: October 7



Business in Chicago

Embark on an unforgettable educational journey through the dynamic tapestry of Chicago, a city with a rich history that serves as the Center of the Universe in the Midwest! Get ready to expand your horizons, connect with successful alumni, explore exciting career opportunities, and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of the CHI. Now imagine this: networking with the accomplished alumni who are currently managing those diverse businesses in different areas across the city and getting their firsthand knowledge related to career paths, industry trends, and job search strategies. All of those things will take place in dynamic discussions with Witt Alumni and be prepared to be inspired by their success stories! What's more, we will be exploring Chicago's vibrant culture and stunning lakeside views. We will be based near the Loop, with close proximity to the world-famous Magnificent Mile, Millennium Park, and the iconic "Bean" (aka Cloud Gate sculpture) reflecting the city skyline. We'll experience great views of the city from the top of the former tallest building in the world, the Willis Tower (still the Sears Tower to locals), and venture out onto Lake Michigan to see the Chicago skyline by boat! We'll catch a Bulls or Blackhawks game with local fans at the United Center and venture out to the iconic Navy Pier where, among other things, you can experience more remarkable views of the city. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity! Whether you're indulging in the city's world-renowned culinary scene, exploring its vibrant neighborhoods, or simply soaking in the breathtaking views along Lake Michigan, Chicago promises an unforgettable experience at every turn and memories that will last a lifetime. Open your mind, broaden your horizons, and embark on a transformative educational journey in the endless wonders of the Windy City - Chicago. Join us and create memories that will last a lifetime! Sign up now for the educational trip of a lifetime. Limited spots available! **Cost: \$1210**



Project Directors: Lindsay Meermans (BUSINESS) & Di Wang (ECONOMICS)

Applications Due: October 18



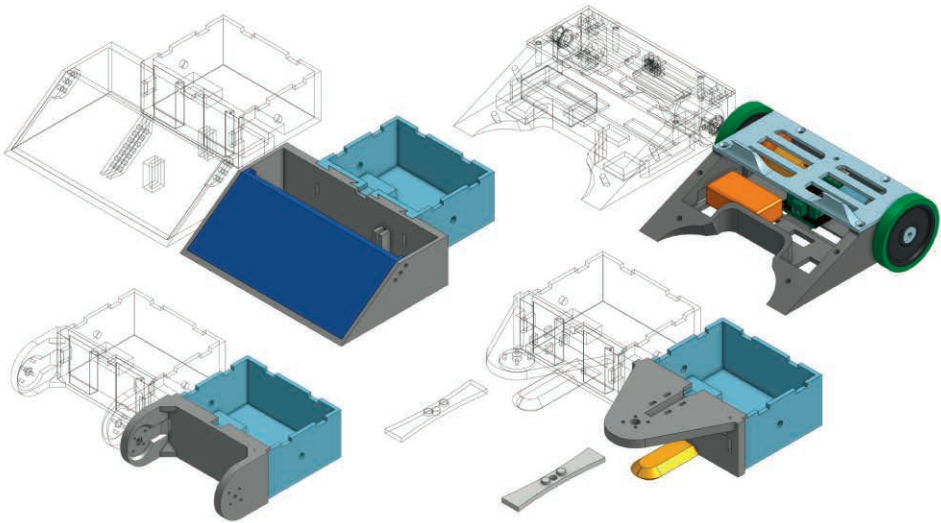
Clark County Criminal Justice Experience

Are you interested in the criminal justice field? If so, the Clark County Criminal Justice Experience is for you. Students will have the opportunity to work with a police agency, tour the municipal court, and tour the Clark County Jail, learning about various aspects of criminal justice along the way. You'll go on a ride along with a law enforcement agency of your choice and see different areas within a police department – each of whom can offer a different perspective on crime and justice. Students will also have time in the classroom to learn about crime scenes and traffic investigations. There will also be an opportunity to tour the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) building and gain an insider's view of the investigative work done there. So, if you are curious about a career in law or law enforcement, or if you're just interested in learning more about the field, sign up for the Clark County Criminal Justice Experience. **Cost: \$10**



Project Director: Katelyn Hammond (POLICE DEPARTMENT)

Applications Due: November 8



Combat Robotics, Computer-Aided Design, and 3D Printing

Experience a week full of creation and robotic destruction as we enter the world of combat robotics! You will assemble your own kit-based combat robot and test your skills in our robot combat arena – but this is just the beginning. Over the course of a few days, you will learn the basics of computer-aided design (CAD) and 3D printing and use these skills to rapidly prototype your own combat robot designs. You will be holding your 3D printed robot in your hands just a few hours after you finish designing it! Challenge yourself as we work together to solve design problems and prepare our robots for competition. No prior experience with combat robots, CAD modeling, or 3D printing is required. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Cost: \$25



Project Director: Billy Davis (PSYCHOLOGY)

Applications Due: November 8



Constructing Community in Koinonia

Taking on the challenge of building a home is one thing, but what about the challenge of building a community? This FIRE Week experience will do both—with the objective of completing service work and learning about the importance of cultivating community while doing it. Join the Hagen Center as we travel to Georgia and participate in renovation, repair, or building projects through our partnership with the housing program of the Fuller Center for Housing while we experience the intentional living community of Koinonia Farm. Students will experience simple living and learn the incredible history of partnership housing at the very locations on Koinonia Farm that inspired Millard Fuller to launch his efforts to provide housing to all, all while living out this very model during the day. The week will also include good Southern food, reflection, and an excursion to Atlanta. Why not join the community? **Cost: \$10**

This FIRE Week experience has been approved for the civic engagement requirement (for students on the Connections Curriculum) or community service requirement. Students must enroll 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 (HAGEN CENTER)

Applications Due: November 8



From Sassenach to Snape: Experience Scotland Through Literary and Media Series

Experience where major literary and media works were inspired, written, filmed, or set in magical Scotland! We will travel the very steps J. K. Rowling took when writing her famous Harry Potter series books, the real life Diagon Alley, the castles and kirks that inspired Hogwarts, and where Hagrid's hut might very well be. Scotland hasn't just inspired the life of the boy who lived, but also the major literary and media phenomenon of Outlander. We will step through stones like Claire and tumble back in time at Loch Ness, visit the battlefield of Culloden where Bonnie Prince Charlie lost his last stand, and explore loch after loch, glen after glen, and castle after castle where Outlander was not just inspired, but also filmed. The mystical and magical nature of Scotland will not disappoint any Potter or Outlander fan! **Cost: \$1760**



Project Director: Kelly Dillon (COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA)

Applications Due: October 7



Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi

Mississippi. Many have heard of it; few have been there. Journey into this “most southern place on earth” with two professors/native Mississippians to explore how land, water, and wildlife have coalesced into a culture of “place.” We’ll chat with environmentalists, hunters, farmers, artists, politicians, and residents to understand the controversy of what to do with rivers that flood: let them flow naturally, potentially ruining peoples’ homes and livelihoods? Or control them with levees and floodgates and risk destroying wildlife and crucial habitats? We’ll take vans from the hill country down into the Delta, staying overnight at cabins near Oxford, the Tara Wildlife Lodge near Vicksburg, the historic Hotel 27 on the levee in Greenville, and the infamous Shack Up Inn in Clarksdale. We’ll dig our fingers into the richest soil on earth, paddle canoes on the Mississippi River, visit the birthplace of Kermit the frog, tap our toes to the Blues, and indulge in catfish and BBQ. **Cost: \$260**



Project Directors: Catherine Waggoner (COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA) & Richard Phillips (BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES)

Applications Due: November 8



Insure Your Future: Success on the Horizon of America's North Coast

The insurance industry is a mainstay of our economy, and Erie Insurance is on top of the list of Great Places to Work in the Insurance Industry. This FIRE Week experience provides the opportunity to learn about many different careers and benefits within Erie Insurance, while simultaneously developing yourself professionally. During this week you'll have the chance to grow your network with a top-ranked Fortune 500 company, and you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy yourself and explore the fun activities the city of Erie has to offer: one of the best lakeside beaches in the country, rock climbing, fantastic retail stores, a booming downtown full of live music, along with a great restaurant scene. Insurance is for more than actuaries – come see how you could apply your degree at Erie. A stunning lakeview sunset isn't the only thing on the horizon for you. **Cost: \$125**



Project Director: Cheryl Cates (CAREER ENGAGEMENT)

Applications Due: November 8



Jazz, Gumbo, Ghosts, and Gilded Architecture: Cultural Exploration in La Nouvelle-Orléans

A hub of rich cultural heritage and traditions for the black community unlike anywhere else in the United States, New Orleans (NOLA) brings together a melting pot of cultural expression from the French, Spanish, African, and Indigenous communities. On this trip, you will learn about gens de couleur libres and Voodoo at Congo Square and Catholicism at St. Augustine Church; eat creole and cajun cuisine in the French Quarter; listen to jazz, blues, and bounce in Treme; learn about the Black Masking Indians at Mardi Gras; and then explore the city's resilience and history in the lower ninth ward (Hurricane Katrina), Whitney plantation, and Xavier University of Louisiana. **Cost: \$960**



Project Directors: Joi Garrett Scales (McCLAIN CENTER for DIVERSITY) & Chad Sloss (SOCIOLOGY)

Applications Due: October 18



murALL: Public Art and Community

From Neolithic cave paintings to modern murals and sculpture, art in public spaces has tremendous power to tell a story, evoke emotions, and to create a sense of shared belonging. For this FIRE week experience, we'll take tours of public art in Springfield, Cincinnati, and Yellow Springs, speak to artists, and design and create a mural in Thomas Library. We'll explore how art in public spaces is tied to community and is reflective of not just our past but our shared future. No prior painting experience required but be prepared to get your hands dirty. **Cost: \$10**



Project Directors: Amanda McLellan (THOMAS LIBRARY) & Gypsy Schindler (ART)

Applications Due: November 8



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 impactful local community service projects (e.g., children's programming, animal rescue, nature conservation, etc.) and learn about Costa Rican culture and people. You'll enjoy authentic Tico food, have plenty of time to explore area towns and beaches, and set sail on a fun sunset 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 (CCUE) or experiential learning (EXPR) requirement. The program fee includes airfare, ground transportation, room, breakfast and dinner daily, and the catamaran tour. **Cost: \$2310**

This FIRE Week experience has been approved for the civic engagement requirement (for students on the Connections Curriculum) or community service requirement. Students who wish to have this experience count for this requirement must enroll in CCUE 100-01 for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester.



Project Directors: Stefne Broz (COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA) & Kristen Collier (HAGEN CENTER)

Applications Due: October 1



Traveling Tiger Tree Hugger

Feeling frazzled, frantic, or fried!? Disconnect from the everyday and join Dr. Porter and Dr. Davis on a wonderful walk in the woods! Become an eco-warrior for the week, while learning how to leverage nature to reconnect and recenter yourself in times of stress. We will spend time during this FIRE Week experience learning how spending time in nature can help us experience mindfulness and practices we can use to help us make those connections. We will also gain mindfulness experience through partnership with Glen Helen Nature Preserve, we will valiantly combat invasive species and learn about Wittenberg's preservation efforts at cb's place, we will uncover the systemic barriers preventing access to greenspace in Springfield, and we will reestablish our love for and connection to nature and one another in Hocking Hills. "Soul and soil are not separate. Neither are wind and spirit, nor water and tears." - Terry Tempest Williams.

Cost: \$175



Project Directors: Stacy Porter (BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES) & Gwynne Davis (PSYCHOLOGY)

Applications Due: November 8

FIRE WEEK 2025



USITT

Columbus 2025

POWERING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ■ MARCH 5-8

USITT Conference and Stage Expo

Are you drawn to the stage lights? Do you shudder if you hear the name of that Scottish play? Do you wonder what it might be like to work in a business that tells stories, and how they do it? If so, why not come to one of the major professional gatherings for such people? Immerse yourself in the latest technology and innovations at the United States Institute for Theatrical Technology (USITT) Conference and Stage Expo. Vendors, representatives and educators from around the world will be in Columbus to showcase the latest products, methods, and practices in entertainment technology (theatre, film, television, digital media). Hands-on experience, job networking, and educational sessions are all available. **Cost: \$10**



Project Director: Darin Keesing (THEATRE & DANCE)

Applications Due: November 8

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Experience	Application Deadline	Cost
Adolescent STEM and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Institute at Tremont	November 8	\$260
Birds, Beans, and Bananas: Exploring the Tropical Plants and Animals that Connect the Americas	October 7	\$1810
Business in Chicago	October 18	\$1210
Clark County Criminal Justice Experience	November 8	\$10
Combat Robotics, Computer-Aided Design, and 3D Printing	November 8	\$25
Constructing Community in Koinonia	November 8	\$10
From Sassenach to Snape: Experience Scotland Through Literary and Media Series	October 7	\$1760
Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi	November 8	\$260
Insure Your Future: Success on the Horizon of America's North Coast	November 8	\$125
Jazz, Gumbo, Ghosts, and Gilded Architecture: Cultural Exploration in La Nouvelle-Orléans	October 18	\$960
murALL: Public Art and Community	November 8	\$10
Service in Sunny Costa Rica	October 1	\$2310
Traveling Tiger Tree Hugger	November 8	\$175
USITT Conference and Stage Expo	November 8	\$10

Payment plans will be available

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To apply for FIRE Week, please visit
www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek

Applications will open Monday, September 9, 2024

FIRE Week Experiences are Open to All Wittenberg Students.

Some experiences have limited capacity, so do take your time and answer all application questions as completely as possible—all applications are carefully reviewed by the leaders.

Each of these experiences can count as LO1 credit for those students on the Connections Curriculum. Those experiences that count for community service/ civic engagement are noted in the brochure.



Reflections from FIRE Week 2024

Absolutely incredible experience. I feel very blessed that I had the opportunity to attend this trip with the amazing faculty mentors, and I think I made a lot of friends that I would not have made otherwise. One of the highlights of my Wittenberg experience.

Thank you for this fantastic opportunity. I made friends, I tried new things and I learned about how I can make a difference in a community that helps others and myself. I really hope to go again.

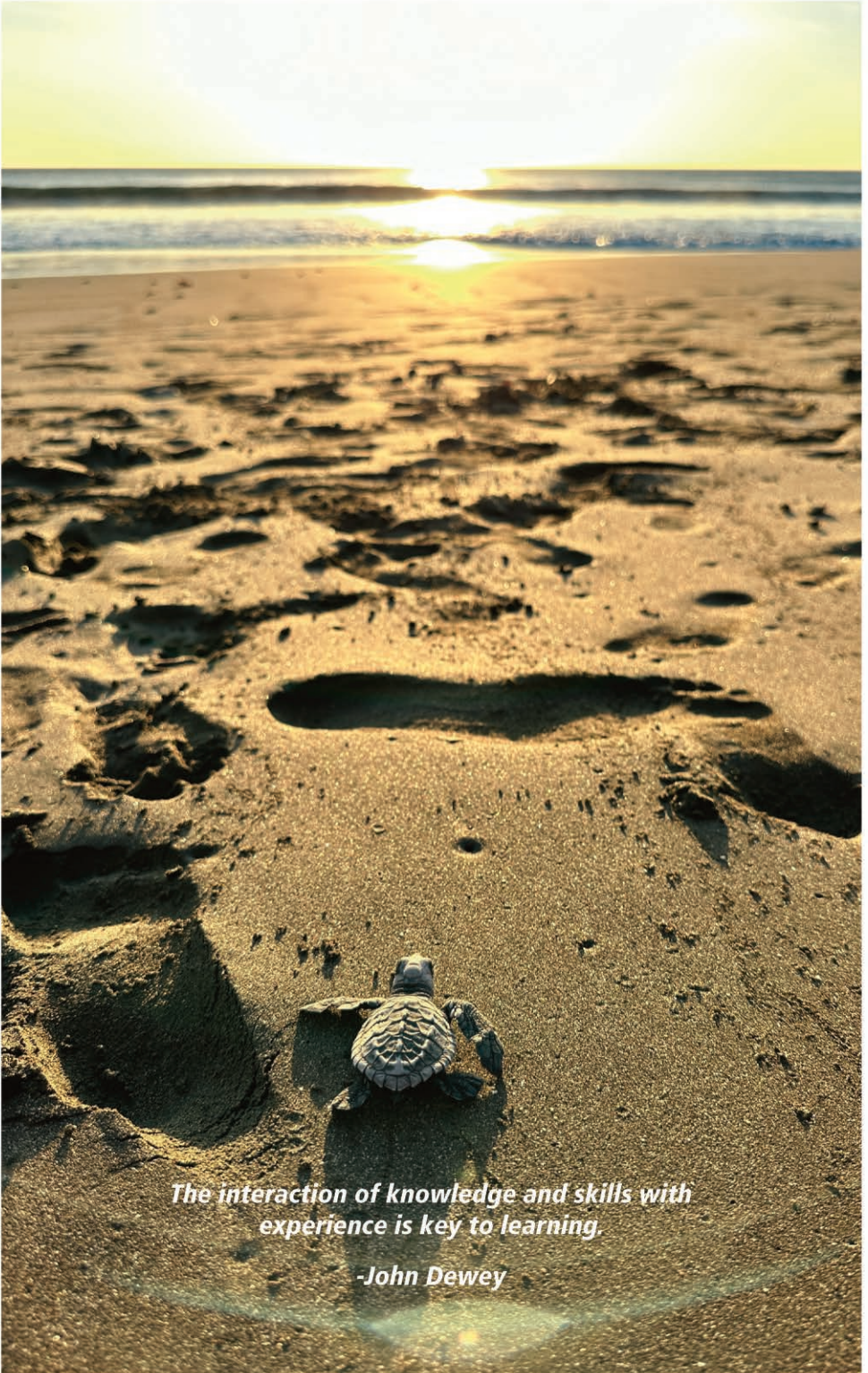
I truly thank you for what you've allowed me to experience with you. This trip is something that I'll always remember and will keep close to me, from the "de-briefs" we had to the walking around DC and the history behind its land, and to the laughs we all shared. Thank you for sharing this with me.

I learned a lot about potential future careers, including some careers that I did not even know existed. I got to meet a professor at another university that had similar interests to me. I also got a lot of writing done, which will jumpstart my writing career.

The highlights were getting to tour around the city of New York and getting to see the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Times Square, Brooklyn Bridge, Little Italy, and many other things New York had to offer. Along with that getting to sit down and hear the Alumni talk about their time at Wittenberg and how it helped them in their careers. It was so great to hear their perspectives on life after Witt.

A highlight of this trip was truly reaching beyond my comfort zones internally and externally.





*The interaction of knowledge and skills with
experience is key to learning.*

-John Dewey

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