The second Wilberforce Symposium, sponsored by the Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College, will feature papers related to Wilberforce with emphases on a variety of topics. Topics to be considered will include Wilberforce’s relations with significant contemporaries, his worldview and his importance to the British abolitionist movement.

The Wilberforce Project aims to perpetuate the legacy of the British statesman and reformer William Wilberforce (1759–1833), best-known today for his leadership in the 20-year struggle to abolish the slave trade. Wilberforce is a powerful example of a statesman committed to justice and the betterment of society. His career, informed by a Christian faith perspective, was dedicated to civil engagement in the public square.

For more information contact:  
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Center for Christian Studies

The purpose of the Center for Christian Studies is to facilitate Christian scholarship that will gain a hearing in the larger academy and have an impact on the Christian Church and the broader culture.

Gordon College
255 Grapevine Road
Wenham, MA 01984  
978.867.2300  
www.gordon.edu
Friday, November 15

**Keynote Address**

Ken Wales, Film Producer and Professor, USC Film School

**Presidents Dining Room, 7:30 P.M.**

Ken Wales is a veteran Hollywood filmmaker and actor. He was executive producer of the critically acclaimed and award-winning CBS Television series *Christy* and coproducer of the Emmy-nominated and Golden Globe-winning miniseries, John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*. He also served as associate producer on many memorable films including: *The Tamarind Seed*, starring Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif; *The Great Race*, with Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Natalie Wood; and *Revenge of the Pink Panther*, starring Peter Sellers. In addition to his extensive career in film production, Mr. Wales has acted in over 35 films and television shows. His current project is a feature film on the life and legacy of William Wilberforce.

Saturday, November 16

**Friday, November 15 Continued**

10:00 A.M. Refreshment Break

10:30 A.M. Presentations 3, 4, and 5

*For the Love of God and the Love of Humanity: The Motivation behind William Wilberforce's Campaigns for Abolition and Emancipation*

—Murray Pura, Author of *Vital Christianity: The Life and Spirituality of William Wilberforce*

*The Foundations of William Wilberforce’s Thought in the Enlightenment*

—Kevin Belmonte, William Wilberforce Project

**William Wilberforce: Model of a Christian Statesman**

—Stephanie Byrd, Baylor University

12:15 P.M. Lunch

1:45 P.M. Presentations 6 and 7

*A Woman and a Sister: The Popularity of the African Slave as a Motive in Artistic Creations*

—John Willis, Princeton University

*How Vital Was Wilberforce for the Ending of Slavery?

—Jim Walvin, University of York, England

3:15 P.M. Refreshment Break

3:45 P.M. Presentation 8

*What Is the William Wilberforce Database?*

—Kevin Belmonte, William Wilberforce Project

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* All presentations will be held in the Alumni Reading Room in Jenks Learning Resource Center. All meals will be served in the Presidents Dining Room in Lane Student Center.

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**Presenters**

**John R. Willis** is professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton University. He was a founding editor of *Slavery and Abolition: A Journal of Comparative Studies* and has published widely in the fields of Islamic studies and the history of slavery.

**Jim Walvin** is professor of history at the University of York, England. His two main research interests are modern British social history and the history of Black slavery (especially in the Caribbean). He is the author or editor of numerous books in those fields and is coeditor of the journal *Slavery and Abolition*.

**Marylynn Rouse** is the founder of The John Newton Project located at The Hill Lodge, Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon, England. She has edited several seminal works related to John Newton, including an authoritative and expanded new edition of *The Life of John Newton* by Richard Cecil.

For the past four years **Kevin Belmonte** directed The Wilberforce Project at Gordon College. He edited William Wilberforce's classic apologetic work, *A Practical View of Christianity*, and his latest book is the newly released *Hero for Humanity: A Biography of William Wilberforce*.


**Murray Pura** is the author of *Vital Christianity*, a study of William Wilberforce’s spirituality and theology. The author of several scholarly articles on Wilberforce, he holds a master’s degree from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and wrote his Th.M. thesis at Regent College, Vancouver.

**Stephanie Byrd** recently received a master’s degree in church-state studies from Baylor University. Her thesis topic was “William Wilberforce: The Juxtaposition of Piety and Politics.”