

Author Daniel Gilbert to Speak at Opening Convocation Sept. 4

St. Paul, Minn. – Author Daniel Gilbert, bestselling author of *Stumbling on Happiness* and professor of psychology at Harvard University, will speak at Macalester’s opening convocation at 11:30 a.m., Thu., Sept. 4, in the Alumni Gymnasium in the Leonard Center. The topic of his talk is “Stumbling on Happiness.”

Gilbert is the Edgar Pierce Professor of Psychology at Harvard University. He has won numerous awards for his research and teaching, including the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Psychology. In 2008 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

“Dan Gilbert is one of the most important psychologists alive today,” said Macalester psychology Prof. Brooke Lea. “Along with Daniel Kahneman, Gilbert has pioneered the application of cognitive science to something that matters to everyone -- happiness. Our deep cluelessness about what does and what does not make us happy endows Gilbert’s work with the potential to change countless lives for the better.”

Gilbert received his PhD in social psychology from Princeton and his BA in psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver. He taught at the University of Texas at Austin for 11 years and has been at Harvard since 1996.

His 2007 book *Stumbling on Happiness* has been translated into more than 33 languages, and was awarded the Royal Society's General Book Prize for best science book of the year. In 2010, he co-wrote and hosted the award-winning PBS television series *This Emotional Life* which has been seen by more than 10 million people. He is a contributor to *Time*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*, and has been a guest on numerous television shows including *The Today Show*, *Charlie Rose*, *20/20*, and “*The Colbert Report*. His TED talks have been seen by more than 13 million people and are among the most popular of all time.

Macalester College, founded in 1874, is a national liberal arts college with a full-time enrollment of 2,011 students. Macalester is nationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to academic excellence, internationalism, multiculturalism, and civic engagement. Learn more at [macalester.edu](http://www.macalester.edu). (<http://www.macalester.edu/>)

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