

# Department of History Colloquium presents

**Guest Speaker:**

**Prof. James Linville**

**Day/Date:**

**Friday, January 25, 2019**

**Location: B-650**

**Time: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Everyone is  
welcome**



## **Cuttings from the Tree of Knowledge: The Propagation of Creation Museums in North America**

The theory of evolution has elicited objections from religious quarters since its first publication. The 1960s, however, saw the rise of an organized “Young Earth Creationist” movement that argues that all significant Christian doctrine depend on Genesis being literally true with creation occurring only around 6000 years ago. Instrumental in this was Henry Morris, whose books solidified the movement and its primary arguments. In 1977, Morris’ organization, Institute for Creation Research, opened a very modest, “Creation Museum” at a Christian college near San Diego. Popular evangelist Jerry Falwell opened another on the campus of his Liberty Bible College in 1984. By the end of that decade, an Australian, Ken Ham, was working with Morris, and dreaming of bigger things. Ham eventually founded his own ministry, Answers in Genesis that raised the funds to open a 75,000 sq. ft. “Creation Museum” in Kentucky in 2007. The rest, they say, is history.

There are currently around three dozen such “museums”, dotting North America (with 5 in Canada), with a number more in the planning stages. Many are little more than rooms in church basements while others are multi-million-dollar affairs. This presentation looks at this history with an eye to the reasons for the genre’s success and its manifestations in Canada.

