



**Tennessee  
TECH**

# Annual Winchester Lecture

## "Scopes at 100: Before the Trial of the Century and a Century Later"

Charles Israel, Ph.D.



Charles Israel is a historian and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University. A Tennessee native, Israel earned his undergraduate degree from The University of the South and his doctorate from Rice University. Israel researches and teaches in areas of American southern and religious history. He is the author of *Before Scopes: Evangelicals, Education, and Evolution in Tennessee, 1870–1925* (University of Georgia Press, 2004).

**April 23, 2025  
6 p.m.**

**Stonecipher  
Lecture Hall,  
Room 113**

In 1925, the state of Tennessee tried and convicted schoolteacher John Scopes for teaching about evolution in the Rhea County schools. His July trial in the sweaty East Tennessee courtroom was an instant spectacle broadcast live by WGN radio and breathlessly covered in newspapers across the country. For more than a week, Dayton welcomed famed defense attorney Clarence Darrow sparring with three-time presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan, scientists, street preachers, throngs of curious onlookers and at least one monkey posing for pictures. How did the trial come to be and what has come of the anti-evolution movement in the following century?

**Free and open to the public.**

#CASR249-SEL-25