



## 2024 P. A. Christensen Lecture: Marc Yamada

by Rylin Green (Editing and Publishing '24)

“Wouldn’t life be suffocating if everything had a purpose?” Professor Marc Yamada (Japanese and East Asian Film) asked while delivering the 2024 P. A. Christensen Lecture on February 22, 2024. His question—a quote from the film *I Wish* (2011)—formed the basis for his discussion of the work of Japanese filmmaker Kore-eda Hirokazu. Yamada’s lecture, “Life in More Abundance: Cinematic Images of Community in Organizational Life,” used Hirokazu’s films to analyze how organizations can become communities—both on and off the screen.

Organizations—such as university educations, families, workplaces, churches, and schools—give structure to people’s lives but also provide them the opportunity to connect with others through shared experiences or spaces. As Yamada pointed out, Hirokazu often plays with this concept, portraying characters who connect by sharing memories with each other or simply by living in the same space. As an

example, Hirokazu’s *Shoplifters* (2018) illustrates how members of a shoplifting organization came to see each other as family after living and creating important memories together.

Yamada explained how creating a community out of organization can occur here in the College. He argued that if students approach their humanities education with a degree of flexibility (for instance, by taking the occasional poetry class for fun or making time to go to on-campus events) rather than focusing too much on simply completing the courses in their major, they can move past the utilitarian purpose of education to enjoy their experiences and build connections with fellow students. Echoing the words of Hirokazu’s *I Wish*, he said, “Wouldn’t a humanities education be suffocating if everything had a purpose?”

*The P. A. Christensen Lectureship, established in 1977, honors College of Humanities faculty in literary and cultural studies. It parallels the following Wunderly Lecture in preserving and honoring the impactful work of previous faculty members. To watch the full lecture, visit [bit.ly/Christensen2024](https://bit.ly/Christensen2024) or scan the QR code.*



## 2023–2024 Frieda Olga Wunderly Lecture: Jacob Rawlins

by Emma Rostrom (Editing and Publishing '24)

When you think of the word “boundary,” you might imagine red tape, construction zones, or borders that physically separate people and places. Associate Professor Jacob Rawlins (Editing, The Publishing Business) shared a different take on boundaries at the inaugural Frieda Olga Wunderly Lecture (formerly known as the “Teaching Lecture”) on February 29, 2024. He introduced four ways that BYU faculty members can engage in metaphorical “boundary work” as they navigate their jobs and find opportunities to help their students.

Rawlins first addressed the ways boundaries around learning and between disciplines can assist students as they work through the courses in their major programs, but he also explained that exposure to different fields of study can help students prepare for the workforce. He said, “My approach . . . has been to learn to articulate where the boundaries lie between the programs but also to articulate the opportunities for overlapping interests, collaboration, and ultimately building unity.”

Rawlins expressed that faculty also have the responsibility to help students tackle the boundaries before careers, in part through

extending experiential learning opportunities like internships, guest speakers, and designed work simulations. Finally, he highlighted the boundaries between discipleship and scholarship at BYU. He explained that faculty should balance academic pursuits with spiritual pursuits so they can fulfill the call from BYU President C. Shane Reese to honor BYU’s “double heritage” of secular and spiritual knowledge.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Rawlins reiterated that boundaries can act as opportunities, not barriers. He emphasized the valuable role that faculty members play in the lives of students, stating, “When they walk away from BYU, no matter which direction they go, our students should be able to look back to us and see us with our hands outstretched in faith, mercy, and love.”

*The Frieda Olga Wunderly Lecture, established in 2024, honors the life and work of the late Wunderly, who taught German, French, and business writing courses at BYU from 1916 to 1924. The College of Humanities awards the Wunderly Professorship to faculty members who continue her legacy of excellence and innovation in the classroom and her passion for lifelong learning. To watch the full lecture, visit [bit.ly/Wunderly23](https://bit.ly/Wunderly23) or scan the QR code.*

