

Varner Vitality Lecture: "Revisiting a Journey Through a Doomed Land"



Photo courtesy of David McMillan, "Sinking Boat on the Prypiat River", October 1998. A larger exhibit of his work is on display now at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

📅 February 20, 2019

SHARE THIS STORY

A few years after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, best-selling author and journalist Alan Weisman traveled to the site with Russian, Ukrainian and American scientists. They were tasked with designing safe ways for people to remain in surrounding regions.

In this year's Varner Vitality Lecture, Weisman will describe visiting the decaying reactor and the lush farms that comprised the Soviet Union's most fertile land, until Chernobyl's fallout left them lethally radioactive.

There, and in Kiev cancer wards that will continue to receive victims for decades, he learned not only that the world can't afford another Chernobyl, but also that we couldn't afford the first one, either.

The Varner Vitality Lecture Series is named in honor of Oakland's first chancellor, Durward "Woody" Varner. This series aims to energize and sustain the highest academic and scholarly aspirations of the university community.

This Lecture is sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs.

WHEN

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Doors open at 6 p.m. – Lecture at 7 p.m.

Book signing following the lecture

WHERE

Oakland University Founders Ballrooms A and B

INFO

This is a free event and no tickets are required to attend.

For more information, visit the 2019 Varner Vitality webpage or to

request special assistance, contact: (248) 370-2190.

RELATED EVENTS

Chernobyl Then and Now: A Global Perspective Symposium

Friday, March 15, 2019

Morning Session: Meadow Brook Hall Ballroom

Seating limited to first 100 registrants [Click here to register](#)

Afternoon Session: Oakland Center, Founders Ballrooms [Click here for more details](#)

Visit the Oakland University Art Gallery to learn more:

See more David McMillan photos from Chernobyl at the Oakland University Art Gallery. The [current exhibit](#) is related to this year's Varner Vitality Lecture. It is called McMillan's Chernobyl: An Imitation of the Way the World Would End. It runs through March 31, 2019 and is curated by Oakland University professor of Art History [Claude Baillargeon](#).



