



THE *25 Years.*
MacLaurin
INSTITUTE

PO Box 141007, Minneapolis, MN 55414

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Be sure to check out the
more than 100 free MP3s
on the Institute website:
www.maclaurin.org/mp3s.php

Upcoming Events 2007-2008

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Lecture times, locations, and titles to be determined. Be sure to check out www.maclaurin.org or call 612-378-1935 for updates.

September, 2007

G. K. Chesterton / H. L. Mencken Debate with Chuck Chalberg, Normandale College (Professor of History) and Dale Ahlquist, American Chesterton Society (President); location to be determined

September 28-29, 2007

Civitas Forum on Charitable Choice, Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies, Dr. Stephen Monsma, Dr. Charles Glenn, and Jay Hein; HHH Center, University of Minnesota

October 5, 2007

Interpersonal Forgiveness: What's So Good about Loving Your Enemy?, Dr. Gayle Reed, University of Wisconsin (Professor of Psychology); location to be determined

October 17, 2007

Noon: *Living and Loving 'Decent': Religion, Gender, and Relationship Quality in Urban America*; Evening: *Wedded Bliss: What Makes for Happy Marriages*, Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox, University of Virginia (Professor of Sociology); location to be determined

October 26, 2007

The Innocence of God, Udo Middelman, MacLaurin Institute (Francis A. Schaeffer Fellow); location to be determined

November 8, 2007

Twelfth Annual Holmer Memorial Lecture, *Title to be determined*, Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School (Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics); location to be determined

November 16, 2007

Third Annual Faith and Literature Lecture, *Modern Literature and the Question of Belief*, Dr. Roger Lundin, Wheaton College (Blanchard Professor of English); location to be determined

December 6, 2007

First Annual Faith and Business Lecture, *Business Ethics: Succeeding Without Selling Your Soul*, Dr. David Miller, Yale University (Professor of Business Ethics and Executive Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture); location to be determined

February 1-2, 2008

Student Apologetics Training Conference, Dr. Francis Beckwith, Baylor University (Professor of Philosophy), Joe Boot, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, and Dr. Tim Muehlhoff, Biola University (Professor of Communication); location to be determined

February 15, 2008

Third Annual Faith and Economics Lecture, *Title to be determined*, Dr. Arthur Brooks, Syracuse University (Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Non-Profit Studies Program); location to be determined

March 28, 2008

Second Annual Faith and Human Rights Lecture, *Title to be determined*, Dr. John Witte, Emory University Law School (Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion); location to be determined

May 1, 2008

Lecture on population and demographics, Dr. Walter Benjamin, Hamline University (Emeritus Professor of Religion); location to be determined



THE MacLaurin INSTITUTE

*Bringing God into
the marketplace
of ideas*

Institute Is Life-Changing and Perspective- Changing, Says University Professor

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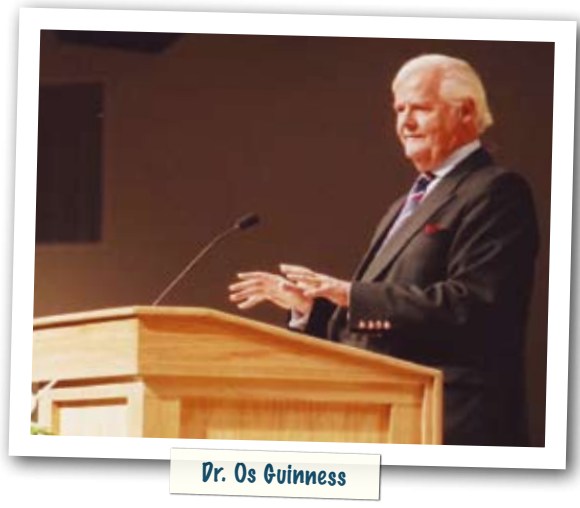
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Dr. Bryan Dowd, longtime University of Minnesota faculty member in the School of Public Health, gave one of the testimonials at the Institute's 25th anniversary celebration on April 27. Besides offering his perspective on how involvement with the Institute had profoundly changed him, Professor Dowd described the Institute as "the most important activity" at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota's "most important secular cultural institution." Eloquent testimonials were also offered by recent University of Minnesota graduate Georgia Noyan and parent and Institute associate Jon Sellers.

Headlining the ticketed event, which was attended by 700 community members, students, and faculty, was a sterling address by famed Christian author and speaker, Dr. Os Guinness. Guinness' charged address focused on the US founding fathers' central notion that a free republic demands virtuous citizens in order to survive. They all recognized that religion (which they understood broadly as Christian faith) was essential to producing the kind of virtuous citizens who could maintain the free republic without descending into anarchy, on the one hand, or re-imposing monarchy, on the other. One audience member captured the response of many to Dr. Guinness: "High intellectual content and relevance."



The event culminated another academic year that featured nearly 20 Institute lectures and conferences by some of the world's most articulate and thoughtful Christian scholars.

"This was another full and exciting year to represent Jesus Christ in terms that academics at the University of Minnesota understand," said Dr. Bob Osburn, the Institute's Executive Director. "One of the great highlights was the Symposium on Civic Engagement and Moral Education on February 19, when Christian philosopher Dr. Nick Wolterstorff called for the University to take seriously a dialogue of ideas about students' moral education and social involvement." Two hundred and fifty people, mostly faculty, students, and University administrators participated in the Symposium.

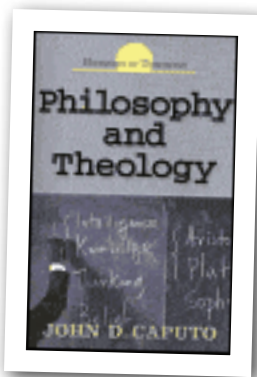
At the April 27 25th anniversary event, Osburn read a letter from the Institute's founder, Dr. William Monsma, and credited colleagues Scott Noble, Matt Kaul, and Pete Lackey, as well as former employees and board members, for their important roles in making the Institute a leader in Christian thought at the University. "The Institute's Board has also played a huge role, as has special groups like those who planned the 25th anniversary event," said Osburn. He also thanked Bethlehem Baptist Church for making available their north campus for the history-making event.

Hundreds mingled for up to two hours afterwards in the post-lecture reception, meeting University of Minnesota Christian faculty, some of whom are involved in the Academy of Christian Scholars, and students involved in Mars Hill Students (the Institute's student arm), as well as Institute Fellows and Board

members. Audio CDs of Dr. Guinness' lecture (and two other lectures he offered in the Twin Cities) are available for \$6.00 each, or they can be accessed free-of-charge as MP3 files from the Institute's website: www.maclaurin.org.



***Philosophy and Theology* by John D. Caputo, Abingdon Press, 84 pages, \$12.**



The distinction between philosophy and theology is one to which we pay close attention here at the MacLaurin Institute. We're a broadly Christian organization—our speakers have included evangelical Protestant, Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox scholars—devoted to helping all believers think through the implications of their faith for whatever discipline they study.

It might, then, appear that we're interested only in developing Christian philosophies of the disciplines, while seeking to avoid the frequently messy theological distinctions between us.

This distinction, however, becomes less feasible upon investigation. Theological concerns can in no way be separated from our ministry, for what we do requires very specific theological presuppositions. Why develop a Christian philosophy of, say, literature or biology or sociology, unless you truly believe that Christ is the Lord of all creation, including your discipline? Why do so unless you believe that all truth is God's truth, even whatever small amount of truth you discover in your research? A simple distinction between philosophy and theology cannot hold.

John D. Caputo, Professor of Religion and Humanities at Syracuse University, has written *Philosophy and Theology*, a delightful (and delightfully short!) essay on just this relationship between philosophy and theology, designed particularly to emphasize the necessary correlation between the two fields.

Caputo's book centers around the small word "and." Caputo's main thesis is that, when thinking about philosophy and theology, the most important word is the "and." Starting with Plato and Aristotle, Caputo moves quickly through pre-modern philosophers Anselm and Aquinas, then spends the final chapters on philosophy and theology in the modern and postmodern periods.

Caputo's particular strength lies in his ability to summarize broad philosophical movements into short paragraphs. Although he tends to over simplify (it's bound to happen in a book easily readable in a single sitting), his book is written with a warmth and clarity of style that make it well-suited for anyone seeking better to understand the fascinating relationship between philosophy and theology.

By Matt Kaul

Check out this book at the Institute library.

Institute's New Campus Minister Is Eager to Impact Students



Pete Lackey

MacLaurin Institute: Tell us about your background and how you came to be at the Institute.

Pete Lackey: I'm originally from a small town in southeastern Oklahoma (McAlester), where a lot of my family still lives. But

after high school, I moved to Dallas to pursue an undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies at Criswell College in hopes of one day serving in a rural pastorate back in Oklahoma. But I fell in love with theological scholarship and stayed at Criswell after my B.A. in order to work on a master's degree in theology/history. Then, I ended up at Yale Divinity School studying with Nicholas Wolterstorff. I made my way to Minnesota in the summer of 1996.

Shortly after arriving in Minnesota, I ran into Larry Snyder down at L'Abri in Rochester. After finding out that I now lived in the Twin Cities, he asked if I'd ever heard of the MacLaurin Institute. He encouraged me to locate Bob Osburn at the Institute and to start attending Institute-sponsored lectures. From lectures, I moved on to participating in MacLaurin-hosted Bible studies and other events. Over time, I found an ever-increasing number of individuals who shared my concerns for Christian scholarship, cultural engagement and a credible intellectual witness.

Institute: Can you describe your ministry to students at the Institute?

Lackey: The Mars Hill vision is a really unique one. In a word, it's all about assisting students with their "cognitive conversion." That is, in the fragmented world in which we live, it's really easy for students (and others) to embrace a faith that is "spiritually" robust but "intellectually" inadequate. The result is an unhealthy compartmentalization of faith, life and studies—and eventually vocation. My goal with the Mars Hill Students is to help students first to realize and then to actualize the truth that Jesus Christ exercises jurisdiction over every realm of thought and life—even the university! Together, we explore what this means as students and as future leaders in the various spheres of our culture.

Institute: What do you see as the biggest intellectual challenge for Christian students at the University of Minnesota?

Lackey: I've already met scores of students struggling with a host of intellectual questions regarding the faith they possess or the one they're thinking of abandoning. And the issues are all over the map: naturalism, materialism, relativism, skepticism, etc. But the chorus I keep hearing sung in different keys is one that might be summarized with the term constructivism. Put simply, students are encountering (as an assumption more than an assertion, it seems) the idea that knowledge is "constructed" in such a way that the possibility of locating "truth" can not be realized. Taken to an extreme, of course, such an idea might relativize all claims to "truth." Learning how the plurality and particularity of perspectives on campus can be reconciled with the veracity of the Christian worldview is a (the?) major challenge for many students.

Institute: What sorts of things can students (and parents of students) look forward to this year from Mars Hill Students?

Lackey: We're planning to launch a couple of new and exciting initiatives this year. For example, we hope to kick off the 2007/08 academic year with an intensive (perhaps week-long) orientation for students to help them think about what it means to integrate their Christian vision with their life and work as students. We'll also be helping InterVarsity's Emerging Scholars Network by serving as a pilot project for a new curriculum they're producing on the nature of Christian scholarship and vocation. And we're already making plans to co-sponsor a number of events (debates, lectures, dialogues, etc.) with other student groups on campus (like the Campus Atheists and Secular Humanists).

We also hope to take our faith off campus this year through involvement in a number of different service projects around the Twin Cities. And in February of 2008, we'll be joining a couple of other campus ministries in hosting the first ever Student Apologetics Training Conference at the U of MN. And, of course, we'll be participating in the Institute's full program of lectures and events throughout the year. There could hardly be a better time to get involved with the Mars Hill Students!