



THE MacLaurin INSTITUTE

Bringing God into the marketplace of ideas

Series Closer Draws Standing Room Only Crowd

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"There is an emerging acceptance of biblical ethics on a global scale," said Prabhu Guptara, with UBS Bank of Zurich, Switzerland, as he spoke to a packed crowd on April 19. The presentation, the final in the successful eight-lecture series "Faith in the Marketplace," focused on the major differences between Confucian, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist/Materialist, and Semitic worldviews, and the ways that those worldviews impact thinking about business processes.

Key to this effort was Denny Doyle, CEO of Welsh Properties, and student members of Truth in Business. To the best of our knowledge, the series marked the first time that marketplace ministries have entered the academy.

More than 400 people attended the lectures, which included speakers such as Marc Belton, Senior VP of

General Mills, and Bob Carlson of Reell Precision Manufacturing Corporation.

Together with the business lectures, the Institute presented a total of 19 lectures at the U of Minnesota during the 2003-2004 academic year, significantly deepening our strategic engagement with Minnesota's most culturally authoritative institution.

"We're here for the long haul," said Robert Osburn, the Institute's Executive Director. "And that means bringing in Christian academics whose scholarship stands up to rigorous scrutiny."

Jean Bethke Elshstain's March 9 lecture on just war theory is a case in point. A leading political scientist at the University of Chicago, Dr. Elshstain drew attention to the deeply Christian foundations of just war theory. She showed how a theologically-grounded



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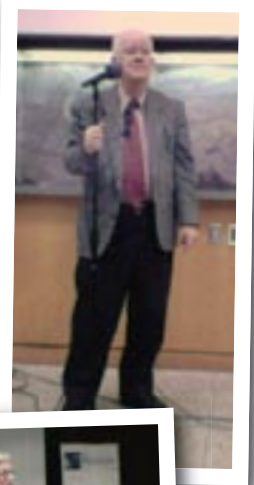
just war tradition deals with the moral and political complexities of our post-9/11 world, noting that the U.S. military is currently deeply influenced by this tradition. As tribute to the depth of Dr. Elshtain's scholarship, the University's political science department eagerly co-sponsored the event, with one of their new professors, Dr. Colin Kahl, responding to Dr. Elshtain.

Along with depth, the lectures also impacted public policy. For example, the University's current debate over embryonic stem cell research has been stoked by a joint letter (published in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*) from Professors Bryan Dowd and Chris Macosko, who built their argument around the November 2003 Holmer Lecture by Dr. Gilbert Meilaender of Valparaiso University.

The November 2003 Intelligent Design symposium, with 475 participants (above and beyond the 1,568 attendees at our 19 campus lectures), also generated public policy waves. Not only was a key state senator very active in the symposium, but also Professor Macosko (who lectured at the symposium) took his argument to the Minnesota State Legislature.

The symposium, the first of its kind in a public research university, led to a third outcome: faculty development. Thanks to a special grant, the MacLaurin Institute will begin in fall 2004

a three-years series of faculty conversations on Intelligent Design, including annual public lectures. Many Christian faculty are eager for our resources and ministry, which augment their academic leadership and impact in the classroom.



Prayer Initiative

We are regularly reminded of the importance of prayer in the work we do at the Institute. We also are reminded of how much we must rely upon the Lord for guiding us as we try to impact the University with a Christian worldview.

That is why we want to encourage you, our supporters, to join us in prayer for our efforts at the University. We want to set aside three days each year for people to join us in concentrated prayer for the Institute and its mission.

Wednesday, June 30, will mark the inauguration of this initiative. Would you join us on June 30 in prayer for the Institute? In particular, we covet your prayers for:

- The upcoming fall lecture season
- For direction in the future of our Christian studies courses
- For the young people who are currently being personally mentored by staff at MacLaurin
- For the Lord's presence and guidance on each of the staff as they carry out this mission

Thank you and God bless!

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MacLaurin Web Site

It has been almost a year since we began *The Gopher's Den*, the MacLaurin blog. We hope this blog will become a center for people who are trying to think through and live out their Christian faith in the world. We encourage you to stop by the web site: www.maclaurin.org and read through some recent postings—and we encourage you to send us your comments.

We now have a *Faculty Profiles in Faith* page where you can read about Christian faculty at the University of Minnesota. This page will expand greatly in the coming months as we prepare for the fall.

If you ever wanted to know a bit more about each staff member at the Institute, you now can read about them in the *Staff Bios* page.

For those of you interested in research, the Institute web site has dozens of articles from Christian thinkers on a variety of topics. Take some time and peruse the articles and read about how other Christians are thinking about important issues.

Finally, if you are unable to attend some of the lectures the Institute sponsors, you can now listen to many of them online. We are expanding our list of lectures that are available online—MP3s. The software is free if you don't already have it on your computer, and we provide a link to the site where you can download it.



We Need Your Help

The Institute has recently begun a series of “listening luncheons” and Sunday afternoon teas, where we hear donor’s ideas about next steps that the Institute needs to take, in order to expand our impact for Jesus Christ as a Christian study center at the U of Minnesota. Fresh ideas have flowed, and several of those involved have become active volunteers with the Institute. We have discovered new ways to reach students, faculty, staff, and community members.

2003-2004 Achievements The MacLaurin Institute reached...

- 1,568 students, faculty, staff and community members attended 19 MacLaurin campus lectures
- 497 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended Institute-sponsored conferences
- 458 community members and students listened to Institute staff presentations on Christian worldview
- 22 students and staff who were mentored by the Institute
- 37 U of MN undergraduates and others who enrolled in Christian studies courses

With your help, we can continue to maximize our impact on Minnesota’s most vital asset – its future leaders, many of whom are being trained right here at what is considered one of the world’s leading public research universities. Next year’s list of 15 to 20 lectures by top Christian scholars, such as Harvard University’s Armand Nicoli, Dallas Willard of the University of Southern California, and Nigel Cameron of the Center for Bioethics and Culture, along with a conference on Biblical reliability in February (featuring Drs. Walter Kaiser and Craig Blomberg), are projected to cost the Institute around \$51,000, of which only about \$5,000 will be covered by ticket sales. **This means we have \$46,000 to raise, most of it from donors like you.**

Will you help us with a generous tax deductible gift? All checks mailed in the envelopes that come with this newsletter will be designated for next year’s lectures, conferences, and mentoring.



Upcoming Events

Here is a tentative and incomplete listing of next year's events (venues are not yet known):

September	Matthew Dickerson , Associate Professor of Computer Science, Middlebury College (exact date unknown)
September 24	<i>Debating Darwinism: Science as Argument and Civic Education</i> , John Angus Campbell , Professor of Rhetoric of Science and Speech, University of Memphis
October 25	<i>The Question of God: C. S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate Sex and the Meaning of Life</i> , Armand Nicholi , Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard University
November 5	Dallas Willard , Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California, Holmer Lecture
January 21	(date tentative) Nigel Cameron , Dean of the Wilberforce Forum and Chair of the Center for Bioethics and Culture
February 18-19	<i>Conference on Biblical Reliability</i> : Walter Kaiser , President and Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and Craig Blomberg , Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary (conference fee has not yet been set)

All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted

New course for students and community members

In view of the Institute's suspension of its regular course program during the 2004-2005 academic year (a redesigned course program will be launched in 2005-2006), we are offering *Survey of the Old Testament*, taught by Bruce Olson, for the fall semester. The fee for the class is \$75. The class will meet on Monday evenings for 2.5 hours at a location close to the East Bank campus. The textbook will be the Bible. The class will follow the U of M academic calendar. To register for the course, e-mail maclaurin@maclaurin.org.

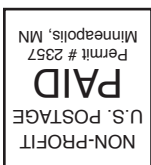
This course is an overview of the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Old Testament. The study will focus on the historical setting, content, major themes and theological significance of each book. Special attention will be given to the chronological unfolding of the revelation of God's Promise and its anticipation of and fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Bruce Olson: B.A. Crown College, MDiv. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Bruce has taught Old and New Testament survey courses at Crown College and as an adjunct professor through Oak Hills Christian College, as well as teaching more than 15 courses in Bible and theology at Crown College, Northwestern College, Oak Hills Christian College and as a visiting professor at St. James Bible Institute in Kiev, Ukraine.

Do you receive our weekly e-mail newsletter? You should, because some lectures are only announced this way. E-mail scott@maclaurin.org to start receiving a fresh copy every week on your computer.

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