



# THE MacLaurin INSTITUTE

*Bringing God into  
the marketplace  
of ideas*

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## Hundreds Attend 4th Annual Intelligent Design Symposium

Nearly 475 people gathered at the University of Minnesota for the 4th annual Intelligent Design symposium on November 15, "Darwin, Design and Democracy IV," co-sponsored by the MacLaurin Institute and the Intelligent Design network of Kansas City.

Those in attendance listened to 20 speakers—scientists, lawyers, educators, etc.—discuss the increasingly persuasive arguments for intelligent design. In addition to the plenary sessions and the breakout lectures, attendees personally interacted with the speakers during lunch.

During the breaks, people congregated around the book tables and browsed some of the latest works on the intelligent design movement.



*Jeffrey Schwartz, M.D., surrounded by inquirers after his lecture*

The evening session was well attended, with Drs. Michael Behe and Jeffrey Schwartz serving as the final two speakers of the day. Behe, in his

lecture titled "Science Stumbles on Design," demonstrated how one person's misreading of the data can have broad and long-term consequences.

Behe told the story of a prominent biochemist who took issue with one of the claims in Behe's book, *Darwin's Black Box*. In this instance, the critic misread the data from another study. His misreading of the data, and subsequent criticisms, caused many other scientists to make the same false claims, thus causing this critic's error to be perpetuated throughout the field.

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*"We believe this is a vital discussion among academics."*

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Schwartz, on the faculty at UCLA, lived up to his pre-lecture billing as an engaging and provocative speaker with his lecture on "Why the Mind and Materialism Don't Mix." A large crowd, ignited by his comments, gathered around Schwartz after his lecture.

Robert Osburn, Institute Executive Director, remarked, "We were pleased to be a co-sponsor and to help host this symposium. We believe this is a vital discussion among academics and hope this event helped others to see the

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*I.D. Symposium continued from page 1*

vibrancy and persuasiveness of the intelligent design movement.”

For those who were unable to attend, contact Sound Word Associates to order tapes and CDs of the lectures:

(phone) 219-548-0933;

(e-mail) [tapes@soundword.com](mailto:tapes@soundword.com);

(web site) [www.soundword.com](http://www.soundword.com).



*Dr. Paul Nelson speaking to a large crowd*

## Volunteer Needs

We're looking for someone skilled in database entry (particularly Access) to work on our database 1-2 hours each week. This involves inputting names into the database, changing information, running reports, etc. If interested, please call 612-378-1935 or e-mail [maclaurin@maclaurin.org](mailto:maclaurin@maclaurin.org).

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## The Great University Project

Hidden in the quiet backdrop of the Institute's active schedule of lectures, classes, and conferences is an on-going, long-term project we've labeled "The Great University."

The title accurately suggests that the effort asks the question, "What makes a university great?" Our research and discussions among an occasional group of interested friends leads us to conclude that the conditions of academic prestige are set less by size of endowment, institutional heritage, or even the relative status of academic programs. Rather, what makes a university great is its readiness to make room for Christian (or, more broadly, theistic) scholarship as a worthy academic competitor to the naturalistic and postmodern worldviews that dominate academia.

Asked why the emergence of scholarship defined by a Christian worldview is so critical to the development of genuinely great

academic institutions, Bob Osburn responded, "Christian scholarship, much more than the secular worldviews, promises to revitalize the currently stagnant intellectual life on our campuses, offers fresh new answers to age-old research questions, fosters academic freedom, and, most importantly, revives the critically-needed moral education of our students."

For a full policy-oriented discussion of the issues raised in

The Great University project, ask for a copy of Bob Osburn's essay "In Diversity's Holy Name: The Case for Faith-based Scholarship at the University of Minnesota," published in the Winter 2002-2003 edition of *The American Experiment Quarterly*, by e-mailing [maclaurin@maclaurin.org](mailto:maclaurin@maclaurin.org), or by calling 612-378-1935.

## Web Site Updates

As those of you know who visit our web site regularly ([www.maclaurin.org](http://www.maclaurin.org)), we're constantly working on updates—to make our web site an inviting resource at your fingertips. We initiated our Blog, the Gopher's Den, last September and have been adding new entries weekly. This is a good way to read what's on the minds of those associated with the Institute regarding any number of contemporary issues.

We've also just begun the Faculty Profiles in Faith page. This page allows you to read about Christian faculty at the U (and a few others from across the country). You can learn about people's educational backgrounds, as well as their walks of faith and their efforts to glorify Jesus Christ in the academy. We'll be adding more faculty as the weeks progress.

Finally, we've updated our MP3s, so you can now listen to our lectures online. We have all of this year's lectures, as well as a few from 2002, now online. We hope to continue adding lectures as they take place.

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Executive Editor: Robert Osburn



# Interview with Nancy Pearcey

Nancy Pearcey will be the Institute's featured lecturer on April 2. She is a graduate of Covenant Seminary and the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto. She is a well-known writer, serving as co-author with Chuck Colson of *How Now Shall We Live?*, and, more recently, of the new book *Set the Gospel Free: The Transforming Power of a Christian Worldview*, published by Crossway Books. Nancy's husband, Rick, is a Senior Writer with the Institute.

**MacLaurin Institute (MI):** Tell us about your new book.

**Nancy Pearcey (NP):** This book will be a follow-up to a book I coauthored a few years ago, *How Now Shall We Live?*, and is designed to help take readers to the next step in Christian worldview thinking. In the past decades, America has undergone a dramatic cultural decline--abortion, family breakdown, morally decadent entertainment, incompetent schools--a host of issues. This has jolted many Christians into realizing that they have a responsibility for the public culture, and they are eager to have a redemptive impact. But most don't really know how. They have never worked out a distinctively biblical approach to politics, bioethics, education, and the rest of the public arena. A Christian worldview will equip them with the tools they need.

**MI:** What prompted you to write it?

**NP:** I was inspired by the many readers who had read *How Now?* and were now asking, "What comes next?" Only a generation ago, many believers did not sense an urgent need for a distinctively

Christian worldview. Because the culture still largely accepted biblical morality, it was easy to think it was enough just to be "respectable." But today's young people face an environment that has grown drastically more hostile to Christian truth, and they sense that if they do not apply their faith to all levels of life, they will be swept away. It is necessary for all of us to be much more intentional about our faith today.

**MI:** Why is it important that Christians have an informed worldview?

**NP:** It allows the power of the Gospel to permeate every aspect of our lives. Many Christians live divided lives, with faith tucked into a separate realm of church and prayer and Bible study, while their work and even their leisure activities are treated as neutral or faith-free zones. The broader culture reinforces this pattern through what is called the "fact/value" split, which relegates religion to the realm of private "values" having nothing to do with public truth. The result is that the Gospel is restricted to our private lives and is robbed of its power to transform entire cultures and societies.

There's a personal dimension as well. Living a bifurcated life closes us to the full power and joy that God intends for us. A worldview perspective shows how "every" aspect of life is meant to be offered up as service to God and to His great purposes in the world.

**MI:** What advice would you give to students who are encountering

*a hostile atmosphere in academia because of their faith?*

**NP:** We have to challenge the fact/value split that relegates Christianity to the realm of purely private, noncognitive experience. As it stands today, Christians have largely accepted a trade-off: As long as we are allowed to have



our Bible studies and prayer meetings and campus groups, we have conceded the "content" of the curriculum to the secularists. And then we wonder why there is no room for a Christian perspective in the university classroom or the work place or the political realm.

The answer is that we thought it was enough to have a "heart" religion without a "head" religion. Christians need to make it clear that we are making genuine truth claims, not merely expressing our personal values. We need to stake out a cognitive territory and be prepared to defend it.

**MI:** Who are some of the writers and thinkers who helped to shape your thinking?

**NP:** I became a Christian after a visit to LAbri, and so Francis Schaeffer had the most formative influence on my intellectual development. He, in turn, was heavily influenced by Hermann Dooyeweerd, who is perhaps the most significant Protestant philosopher in the modern age. In recent years, I have learned much from my collegial relationship in the Intelligent Design movement with Phillip Johnson, who has helped place the debate over Darwinism within a broader philosophical context.

# Upcoming Events

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

## MaLaurin Campus Lectures

- January 20 *Pursuing Justice and Community: Hope for the Unborn*, **Dr. John Patrick**, University of Ottawa. Venue: 2-690 Moos Tower, U of MN East Bank, 12:20 pm. to 1:20 pm.
- March 9 *Just War Against Terror: The Burden of American Power In a Violent World*, **Jean Bethke Elstain**, University of Chicago. Venue: To Be Announced, 7:00 p.m.
- April 2 Lecture by **Nancy Pearcey**. Venue: To Be Announced, 7:00 p.m.

## Faith in the Marketplace: Creating Ethical Success for the 21st Century

All lectures are at 12 noon in the Carlson School of Management (U of M West Bank)

- February 2 *Successful, Principled, and Faith-driven: The Reell Manufacturing Model*, **Bob Carlson**, Co-CEO, and **Jim Grubs**, Director of Human Resources, Room 2-213.
- February 9 *Wealth Creation, Wealth Distribution, and Religion*, **Dr. Michael Naughton**, Professor of Business Ethics, U of St. Thomas, and **Bob Wahlstad**, Founder of Reell Manufacturing, Room 1-123.

- February 16 *The Gods of Business: Five Global Views*, **Prabhu Gupta**, UBS Executive Development Centre, Wolfsberg, Switzerland, Room 1-123.
- March 8 *Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Religion and Women in the Marketplace*, **Jean Kane**, President, Welsh Companies, Room 1-123.
- March 29 *God and the Global Market*, **Marc Belton**, Senior Vice President for Yoplait, GMI Canada, and New Business Development, General Mills, Room 1-123.
- April 19 *Faith on Trial in the Marketplace: Jesus and Business Ethics*, **Jay Bennett**, Attorney and Executive Director of Wallestad Foundation, Room 1-123.

## Renewing Technology: Finding New Meaning for Technology in the Christian Worldview

Conference for U of MN Christian grad. students and faculty

- January 23-24 Venue: Riverwood Inn, St. Michael, MN (Invitation only)

## Selected Future Events

- November 5, 2004 **Dr. Dallas Willard**, Holmer Lecture
- February 19, 2005 **Drs. Walter Kaiser and Craig Blomberg**, Biblical Reliability Conference

It's not too late to enroll!  
Call 612-378-1935

Christian Studies Courses  
Start January 20th

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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