

Upcoming Events

All lectures, with the exception of our 20th anniversary event, are free and open to the public.

20th Anniversary Celebration with Ravi Zacharias

March 8. Please call 612-378-2159 to reserve tickets, or e-mail ravi@maclaurin.org. (See article on p.1.)

Holmer Lecture

February 20. Join us for our sixth annual Holmer Lecture, named in honor of Christian philosopher Paul Holmer, at 4 pm, featuring political philosopher Jean Bethke Elshtain, Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago. Her lecture is titled *Who Are We? Human Prospects in An Age of Terror*. The venue is Cowles Auditorium, in the Humphrey Center, 301 19th Av S on the West Bank of the U of Minnesota. A parking ramp is available across 19th Av. Please call 612-378-1935 for directions. A reception will follow the lecture.

The Desecularized 21st Century? Religion and the Politics of War and Welfare

April 12. Dr. James Skillen. Executive Director, Center for Public Justice, Washington, DC. *The Desecularized 21st Century? Religion and the Politics of War and Welfare*. Campus lecture at 3:30-5:00 pm. at the U of Minnesota. Watch your mail for the venue.

Institute Outreach

Bob Osburn will speak on the topic of postmodernism January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 3 at Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton (651-633-9615), and on worldviews and academic freedom of speech February 1 and 2 at the L'Abri Conference in Rochester, MN (507-282-3292).

Heart of the Matter Bookstore Lectures

All lectures begin at 7:30 pm.

St Paul (Borders Books at Hamline and 94):

- January 2. Dr. Daniel Ritchie. Professor of English, Bethel College. *Reconciling the Heart with the Head: Personal Knowledge in a Scientific Age*.
- January 31. Wade Bradshaw. L'Abri Fellowship, UK. *Beneath the Land of Beetles: The Origins of Today's Cynicism*
- March 7. Dr. Paul Nyhuis. Instructor of Physics/Astronomy (ret.), Inver Hills Community College. *Chance and Design: Is the Universe Finely Tuned?*
- April 4. Vishal Mangalwadi. Fellow, MacLaurin Institute. *Two Enlightenments and One Light*.
- May 2. Bob Osburn. Executive Director, MacLaurin Institute. *God in the Golden Gopher's Den: Enhancing Freedom of Speech in the University*.

South Metro (Borders Books, Lyndale and 494):

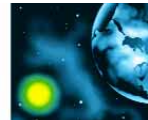
- January 17. Tom Prichard. President, Minnesota Family Council. *The Wall of Separation between Church and State: How Real and How High?*
- February 21. Dr. Walter Sundberg. Prof. of Church History, Luther Seminary. *Christianity and Democracy: The Role of Religion in the American Republic*.
- March 21. Vishal Mangalwadi. Fellow, MacLaurin Institute. *Two Enlightenments and One Light*.
- April 18. Roger Magnuson. Partner, Dorsey and Whitney. *War on Terror: Control v. Freedom*.
- May 16. Donald Bierle. President, Faith Studies Intl. *A Biologist Asks: Where's The Evidence for God?*

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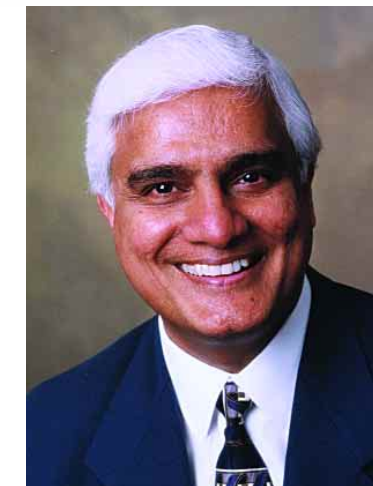
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Ravi Zacharias to Keynote Institute's 20th Anniversary Celebration on March 8



Dr. Ravi Zacharias, popular campus lecturer and author of numerous best-selling books including *Jesus Among Other Gods*, is the featured speaker at the Institute's 20th Anniversary Celebration on March 8, 2002. The program begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. in Rm. 175 Willey Hall, 225 19th Av S, in Minneapolis, on the U of Minnesota West Bank.

"Our 20th anniversary committee is very excited about this event. We've already sold over 350 tickets," reported Jill Boehrs, event registrar and Institute volunteer, in early December.

State Senator Michele Bachmann will emcee the evening.

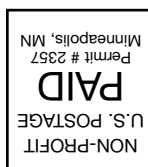
Dr. Zacharias, who is heard regularly on radio stations across the USA and who has drawn large crowds on well-known campuses such as Oxford and Harvard, has actively helped introduce the Christian voice into higher education. His organization co-sponsored a Summer 2000 conference entitled *God and the Academy*. His lecture will center on the urgent need for a Christian voice in major research universities like the U of Minnesota (recently named among the top three public research universities in the USA).

Tickets can be reserved by calling the Institute ticketline at 612-378-2159 or by e-mailing ravi@maclaurin.org. Individual tickets are \$8 each; blocks of 15 or more sell for \$4 each.

For those unable to attend the Celebration, audiotapes and CDs of Dr. Zacharias' lecture will sell for \$5; videotapes will sell for \$15.

Ticketholders are urged to save enough time for parking. Directions to the venue can be accessed on the Institute website at www.maclaurin.org/ravi. Call 612-378-1935 for further information, directions, and to place tape orders. ■

Enrollment still open for Spring 2002 Christian
studies courses. Class begins January 22.
Check p. 2 for more details



Institute Announces a Second Heart of the Matter Bookstore Series in the South Metro

After much planning and discussion, Dr. Howard Reitz, the Institute's project coordinator for the Heart of the Matter bookstore lecture series, recently announced plans to begin a new monthly lecture series in the Twin Cities South Metro at Borders Books in Richfield. Lectures begin January 17th and will continue on the third Thursday of each month until May. (See p. 4 for the list of lectures.)

"God has been gracious in giving us this opportunity to introduce Christian thinking into the Twin Cities' intellectual marketplace," remarked Dr. Reitz. "Our series at the St Paul Borders this past Fall has averaged well over 80 attendees." St Paul lectures will continue on the first Thursday of every month, except for the February lecture which will take place one week early on January 31.

The Institute's South Metro partner is Berean Baptist's Soul Institute, directed by Nick Weisensel and a dedicated team of volunteers.

For further information, call Howard at 651-631-9071 or Nick at 952-226-1157. ■

Fall Courses Completed; Spring 2002 Enrollment Still Open

"The class was the highlight of my day!" remarked Becky Larson, a Spanish major at the U of Minnesota, who enrolled in the Institute's Fall 2001 course *History of Christianity*, taught by Northwestern College Professor Charles Aling.

With 31 students enrolled this past Fall, nearly 100 students have now taken Christian studies courses through the Institute since the program began two years ago.

U of Minnesota students transfer credit earned in Institute-sponsored courses to their U of Minnesota student transcripts.

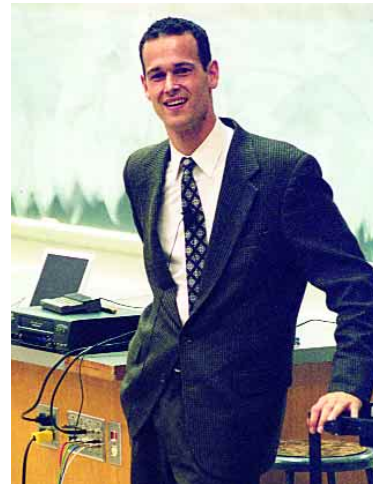
The credit for Spring 2002 courses (*World Religions*, *Christian Ethics*, and *New Testament History and Literature*), all of them still open for late enrollees, not only transfers to U of Minnesota transcripts, but each course also fulfills certain general education requirements mandated by the U Minnesota. Spring 2002 courses begin January 22 and meet twice a week during the late afternoon hours at sites next to the U's East Bank campus.

Non-students, like Becky Lorence, who enrolled in her second course at the Institute, take the courses for credit, and others audit the courses at 50% of the regular rate, which, at \$175/credit hour, is approximately equal to the U's tuition rate. Over and over, U students and non-students report that these courses wonderfully augment their studies and their faith.

For more information and a course brochure, call 612-378-1935 or visit our website at www.maclaurin.org. ■

Worldview Explorations (0 credits; \$50 for entire course)

UC-Berkeley Lecturer Offers a Molecular Argument for Intelligent Design



Dr. Jed Macosko told a near-capacity crowd of 300 people on November 9 that intelligent design makes the most sense when explaining "life's molecular machines."

Sponsored by the Institute, his lecture on the U of Minnesota East Bank drew students, faculty and community members from the region.

"This was the best of 40 or 50 such lectures that I have attended," one attendee remarked. A highlight of his lecture was an animated video

that took the audience "inside the cell" to view molecular functions that Dr. Macosko regularly studies as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of California-Berkeley.

Dr. Macosko's father, Dr. Chris Macosko, is a well-known polymer scientist at the U of Minnesota who for years chaired the Institute's board.

This was the Institute's second Fall 2001 campus lecture. An earlier lecture, to a standing-room only crowd on October 19, featured Dr. Kim-Kwong Chan, who addressed China's membership in the World Trade Organization and its impact on religious freedom in China. ■

Resources for You

The Institute's Heart of the Matter Bookstore Lectures and Campus Lectures are available on tape.

Each taped lecture is \$5.00 (tax and shipping included). Call the Institute at 612-378-1935 to order a copy. VISA and MasterCard are accepted, or the Institute will invoice you. Recent taped lectures include:

- *WTO Membership and Religious Freedom in China*, Kim-Kwong Chan
- *Life's Molecular Machines: By Chance or By Design?* Jed Macosko
- *Joseph in Egypt: Fact or Fiction?* Charles Aling
- *The Danger of Sacred Politics*, Walter Sundberg
- *Rival Economic Utopias and the Global Information Economy*, Steven Keillor
- *Reconciling the Heart with the Head: Personal Knowledge in a Scientific Age*, Daniel Ritchie

An Interview with *Francis A. Schaeffer* Fellow Udo Middelmann About the Terrorism of September 11

1. From your vantage point in Europe, and as a Christian cultural analyst, how do you interpret the events of September 11?

On the surface it seems to be a statement of resentment against what is perceived as overwhelming economic and military power, which in other cultures is often misused to impose personal aims. Therefore, power must be combated with power. What is not seen is that in our culture, born from Christian and Jewish roots, such "success" is more the result of better ideas and personal freedoms than of theft or better natural conditions. Rather than military conquest or economic exploitation, America has generally used its power to disseminate these ideas elsewhere. With this in mind, Islam teaches nothing about personal freedoms, enterprise and responsibility. Its rules are imposed, deviant thought is suppressed, and the masses are told to submit blindly.

2) You've written of three flaws in Americans' cultural assumptions that have been tested by this tragedy. What are they?

a) America has to wake up to the groundless optimism it has had about human beings;

b) A good example will not only stimulate others to think and work in order to achieve something; often it will also lead to resentment and the assumption that the success of one is bought by the exploitation of the other;

and c) We will have to pay greater attention to the fact that what people think does influence their actions. We do not live primarily in a mechanistic world, but in a world in which ideas are powerful to move people for good and evil. These ideas are fundamentally rooted in religious perspectives.

3) Vishal Mangalwadi (also a Fellow of the MacLaurin Institute and a L'Abri alumnus) has written that because Islam doesn't have a doctrine of incarnation (God entering human history), many Muslims feel compelled to extend God's kingdom by their efforts, while Christianity sees the Incarnate One--Jesus--as the One who extends God's kingdom. Would you comment on this?

The ideal to be pursued in Islam is submission, obedience and power as an expression of Allah's rule on earth. In Christianity, God is not identified with all of human history, for there has been a fall, a separation of man from God, which is only overcome by the work of the Messiah in history. His kingdom comes with Him, not with the

church. He will work it in history; it will not come by human effort. We do not earn citizenship by effort, submission and power, but by discernment, wisdom and acknowledgment (faith). Until Christ comes there will be wheat and tares alike on earth.

4) Tell us briefly of your observations of Russia, where you have recently lectured on a Christian view of society.

There is a growing awareness among some that Western ideas have benefits even in an orthodox terrain. In other words, one has to open up to what works, rather than what is indigenous, traditional and tribal. I have noticed that in matters of business, Russians are more likely now to adopt ideas and practices that are associated with our Christian view of things in order not only to attract investment capital, but also in order to create a company culture that honors people rather than ideology, religion or power structures. Such things as accountability, transparency, exact accounting and human resource development are new but increasingly acceptable among those who have to do the work. Among students these ideas are still strange, new and "unrussian."

5. Tell us briefly about your mother-in-law, Edith Schaeffer, who lives near you in Switzerland.

Edith is with us almost full time, visiting family and speaking with people from time to time. She enjoys the students who come to the Schaeffer Foundation study sessions, but has stopped speaking in conferences. She is legally blind, needs assistance, but is otherwise very well

Q: Thank you, Udo. ■

Udo Middelmann has been the Francis A. Schaeffer Fellow of the MacLaurin Institute since 1999. He lives in Gryon, Switzerland with his wife, Debby, and son, Isaac, and serves as Executive Director of the Francis Schaeffer Foundation. He is currently writing a book on the American church and culture.



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www.maclaurin.org