



Christ College SYMPOSIUM

Christ College Symposium gathers honors college sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and welcomes other members of the wider University and local communities to join in convivial discussion on a different thought-provoking topic each week.

Fall 2008

Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm ♦ Christ College Refectory
Mueller Hall, Valparaiso University

August 28 **Dean's Address to Christ College**

Mel Piehl '68, Dean of Christ College

• In this annual decanal address to Christ College students, faculty, and staff, Dean Mel Piehl will introduce new members of the community and preview the 2008-09 academic year at Christ College.

September 4 **Refugees and International Humanitarian Work Today**

Sarah Deardorff '04, Refugee Resettlement Case Manager, World Relief

• Christ College alumna Sarah Deardorff has worked with refugees overseas and in the United States through faith-based organizations, including the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and World Relief DuPage. In October she will begin a master's program in forced migration at Oxford University in England as one of five Americans to win a fellowship for future international development and policy leaders from the Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Deardorff will review her work with refugees from Burma, Burundi, Iraq, and elsewhere and she will address current challenges and debates concerning the protection of refugees through programs providing education, food distribution, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS campaigns, repatriation efforts, and micro-enterprise initiatives.

September 11 **Reflections in the Dark**

Fredrick Barton '70, Fiction Writer and Film Critic, University of New Orleans

• Award winning film critic, novelist, and University of New Orleans faculty member Fredrick Barton will reflect on the evolving American spirit as manifest in contemporary film. Among the films he will examine are most recent Academy Award winners *No Country for Old Men* (best picture), and *Taxi to the Dark Side*, (best documentary feature), along with this summer's popular releases, *The Dark Knight* and *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*. Professor Barton's film commentary appears weekly on WYES-TV. His "Balcony Seats" film column in the newsweekly *Gambit* has won the Press Club of New Orleans' annual criticism prize on eleven occasions. His campus appearance is co-sponsored by the Department of English *Wordfest* program.

September 18 **Einstein's "Happiest Idea": Gravity and Curved Space-Time**

Eric G. Adelberger, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Washington

Auditorium
Neils Science
Center

• Albert Einstein called his insight that gravitation is equivalent to an acceleration of the observer his "happiest idea." Einstein's idea formed the basis of the modern relativistic theory of gravity as a manifestation of curved space-time. Physicist Eric G. Adelberger's lecture will describe the experimental evidence for this profound "Equivalence Principle," which has relevance for exploring such elusive phenomena as antimatter and dark matter. The story of Einstein's "happy" theory of gravity illustrates how profound ideas develop, how incorrect experimental conclusions can stimulate new insights, and how the best experimental techniques are sometimes the least obvious. Professor Adelberger's talk is part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program.

September 25 **Meditation and Monasticism: Making the Ascetic Self in Thailand**

**Joanna Cook, George Kingsley Roth Research Fellow in Southeast Asian Studies
Christ's College, University of Cambridge, England**

Community
Room

Christopher
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• Buddhism, more overtly than other religions, is a system of self-cultivation—a set of techniques by which followers mold themselves into particular kinds of persons, with reference to ideals, relationships and practices drawn from Buddhist traditions as locally constituted. In a consideration of monastic practice and identity, Dr. Cook, who took ordination as a Thai Buddhist nun for four months during her undergraduate years and for a year while writing her doctoral dissertation, will explore the ways in which people make religious and cognitive concepts real through learned bodily and mental experiences. She will examine the ways in which the personally transformative process of becoming a Buddhist monastic is in direct dialogue with the concerns of community living and the broader issues of modernization and cultural change.

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October 2 ***Domestic Vision: A Retrospective on the Art of Joel Sheesley***

Joel C. Sheesley, Artist, Professor of Art, Wheaton College

• Valparaiso University is privileged to exhibit thirty-three paintings by internationally respected artist and Wheaton College faculty member Joel Sheesley at the Brauer Museum at the Center for the Arts through November 23, 2008. Professor Sheesley will present the personal and the artistic resources through which his own artistic vision has been shaped. He will discuss his early transition from abstract to representational painting, and the search for a means of representation that this transition required. The development of a domestic vision will be traced from a sense of Americana, to 17th Century Dutch models, and back again.

October 9 ***Faith and Work, Love and Life***

Homecoming Symposium – A Christ College Alumni Panel

• In this popular annual Homecoming event a panel of Christ College graduates will reflect upon the ways their Valparaiso and Christ College experiences shaped essential aspects of their careers, relationships, and spiritual lives. Alumni panelists will be: Kate Goodman '97, a writer currently staying home with three children and serving as lead moderator for the *Denver Post's* blog and forum "Mile High Mama" (Denver); Ben Schnakenberg '00, associate at High Road Capital Partners and student in the executive MBA program at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (New York City); Matt Provenzano '00, Resident Physician, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery; and Stephanie Loomis Pappas '03, Ph.D. candidate in rhetoric and composition at Northeastern University (Boston).

October 16 ***Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium (Session I)***

• The Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium will feature analytical, critical, creative, and research projects by current Christ College students. Authors will present their work and respond to questions.

October 30 ***Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities & the Arts: The Postdoctoral Fellows***

John Steven Paul '73, Professor of Theatre

Program Director, Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts

• Valparaiso University is home to the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts, a national postdoctoral teaching fellowship program for teacher-scholars who expect to make their careers at church-related colleges and universities. Three new Fellows have joined the Valparaiso University faculty in Christ College and in their respective departments: Susanna Childress (Ph.D. Florida State University), English and creative writing; Karin Fransen (Ph.D. Yale University), philosophy; and Samuel Graber (Ph.D. University of Iowa), American studies. They join second year Fellows Matthew Lundin, history, and Bryan Stewart, theology.

November 6 ***Holden Village: With Christ in the Wilderness for the Life of the World***

**Mark Schwehn '67, Professor of Humanities, Christ College
with Recent Holden Villagers**

• In recent years many CC students, faculty, and staff have become a part of the life of a remote, unique community by volunteering for a period of several days, weeks, sometimes months. Located in a spectacular alpine environment high in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of Washington State, Holden Village promotes ideas and ideals with many affinities for those of Christ College. Holden is known throughout the country for its pioneering environmental stewardship practices, its liturgical experiments, its theological imagination, and its many and various artistic ventures. Christ College students and alumni are especially encouraged to visit in summer 2009. Professor Schwehn, with students and faculty who have spent time at Holden Village, will talk about their experiences, and explain opportunities to become involved in the life of this very special, extraordinarily scenic Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains (www.holdenvillage.org).

November 13 ***The 2008 Christ College Freshman Production***

• In just ten weeks of intense collaboration, the 75-member Christ College first-year class writes and performs an original 90-minute play with music based on themes encountered in the Christ College Freshman program – Texts and Contexts: Traditions of Human Thought. This creative project complements the analytical and expository emphases in the coursework. Alumnus Daniel Cobbler '05 leads the Freshman Drama Workshop and directs the play for the Mueller Hall Refectory stage. Professor John Steven Paul '73 is executive producer.

Thursday, November 13, at 6:30 pm

Friday, November 14, at 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm

Saturday, November 15, at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm

November 20 ***The 2008 Christ College Freshman Production in Review***

• Members of the Christ College community will offer musings, reflections, and interpretations concerning the 2008 Freshman Production. This Christ College tradition promises spirited discussion and thoughtful critique from members of the freshman class and from their peers and instructors.
