

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.

Winter 2009

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

January 15

~ A Christ College "Last Lecture"

The Karamazov Sisters:

New Understandings of Humanities Education

William Olmsted, Professor of Humanities

Christ College, Valparaiso University

• William Olmsted, professor of humanities in Christ College, will retire from the faculty at the end of the academic year to devote more time to research and writing. Professor Olmsted has taught in the Christ College Freshman Program and the sophomore level humanities course *Word and Image*. His seminars on *Poe and Baudelaire*, *Dostoyevsky's World*, and *Inventing the Body* are favorite choices among students. In this talk Professor Olmsted will look back on his time in Christ College, and convey to today's students his distilled wisdom and insight. A reception in the Christ College Commons will follow the Symposium.

January 22

Four Wagonloads of Household Goods, Five Children, and a New Wife: On J. S. Bach's Transition from Cöthen to Leipzig in 1723

Stephen Crist, Department of Music, Emory University

7:30 pm
(note time)

Duesenberg
Recital Hall

Center
for the Arts

• Dr. Stephen Crist's publications on J. S. Bach have appeared in *The Cambridge Companion to Bach*, *Oxford Composer Companions: J. S. Bach*, *The World of the Bach Cantatas*, *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, and many other books and journals. He is contributing editor of *Bach in America*. As pianist and harpsichordist, he has performed with the principals of major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras, and the Cleveland Orchestra. His talk will be followed by a performance of Bach's elegant Cantata 23 *Du wahrer Gott und David's sohn* (*Thou Very God and David's Son*). Having devoted five years to examining Bach's pre-Leipzig years, the 2008-09 Bach Institute at Valparaiso University is now examining the year 1723 when Bach and his family arrived in Leipzig, where he would serve as the Cantor of the St. Thomas Church.

January 29

Ishi's Story: The Life and Legend of the Last Yahi Indian

Orin Starn, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

Ballroom

Harre Union

• Cultural anthropologist Orin Starn studies the themes of culture, history, and power, and specializes in Native North America, Latin America, and, more recently, sports and society. His influential and well received book *Ishi's Brain: In Search of America's Last "Wild" Indian* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2004) chronicles the story of the last survivor of California's Yahi tribe. A *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of 2004, *Ishi's Brain* explores questions of violence and conquest, the history of the West, and the relation between anthropology and indigenous peoples.

February 5

Prodigal Nation:

The Rhetoric of Moral Decline, from the Puritans to 9/11

Andrew Murphy, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University

• Political philosopher Andrew R. Murphy studies the intersections between religious and political thought and practice in both historical and contemporary contexts. Murphy is the author of *Conscience and Community: Revisiting Toleration and Religious Dissent in Early Modern England and America*. He has edited *The Political Writings of William Penn* and *Religion, Politics, and American Identity: New Directions, New Controversies*, with David S. Gutterman, and *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence* (forthcoming). Murphy serves as a Book Review Editor for *Politics and Religion*, and co-chair of the Religion and Politics Section of the American Academy of Religion. This talk will address the rationale and essential arguments of Murphy's provocative new book, *Prodigal Nation: Moral Decline and Divine Punishment from New England to 9-11* (Oxford, 2009).

(continued on reverse side)

Christ College

SYMPOSIUM Winter 2009 *continued*

February 12

~ *Albert G. Huegli Lecture on Church-Related Higher Education*

Christian Vocation Then and Now:

Is it Possible to Sustain a Christian Way of Life in the World?

Community Room

L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School, Duke University

Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources

• Christian ethicist L. Gregory Jones is dean of the Divinity School and professor of theology at Duke University. An ordained United Methodist minister, he is the author of several books, including the acclaimed *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis*. He has also co-edited *The Scope of Our Art: The Vocation of the Theological Teacher* with Stephanie Paulsell, and *Resurrecting Excellence* with Kevin Armstrong. Jones writes a regular column, "Faith Matters" for *The Christian Century*, and he is co-editor of the scholarly journal *Modern Theology*. The Huegli Lecture on Church-Related Higher Education honors the fifteenth president of Valparaiso University, Albert G. Huegli (1913-1998), who served from 1968 until 1978.

February 19

Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium (Session II)

• The Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium features analytical, critical, creative, and research projects by current Christ College students. Authors will present their work and respond to questions from the audience. (Session I was held in October.)

February 26

~ *The Christ College All-College Reading*

Wendell Berry's The Unsettling of America

Steven Bouma-Prediger, Director of Environmental Studies, Hope College

Curtis Gruenler, Department of English, Hope College

• Each year Christ College students, faculty, and staff read together a book chosen to engage the community in thoughtful conversation. The reading for 2008-09 is *The Unsettling of America* (Sierra Club Books, 1977) by novelist, poet, farmer, and social critic Wendell Berry. In this book, Berry provides an extended analysis of the ways in which culture and agriculture reflect and influence one another, both for good and for ill. In contemporary America, he argues, our alienation from the land both mirrors and reinforces our alienation from other human beings. True human flourishing, in contrast, involves learning to care for one another and for the earth beneath our feet. Professors Steven Bouma-Prediger, director of the environmental studies program and professor of religion at Hope College and Curtis Gruenler, Department of English, Hope College, will co-lecture on Berry's richly developed call for a Christian doctrine and practice of environmental stewardship.



Twenty-Third Annual Christ College Freshman Debates

Debate One: Tuesday, March 24
Debate Two: Thursday, March 26

Debate Three: Tuesday, March 31
Debate Four: Thursday, April 2

6:30-7:45 pm Christ College Refectory

The exciting Christ College Freshman Debates are the culmination of first-year students' research, preparation, and practice of the arts of oral argumentation. Teams of freshmen, coached by Christ College faculty and senior students, will debate four timely and significant issues to be announced. Competition is civil and high spirited. At the conclusion of each debate, audience members vote their minds by leaving the assembly through a door marked **PRO** if they favor the resolution or through a door marked **CON** if they oppose the proposition. Votes are counted and announced at the end of the evening.

*Christ College is the interdisciplinary honors college of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
For more information call the Christ College Dean's Office (219) 464-5022
Fax (219) 464-5159 www.Valpo.edu/christcollege*