



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY

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 2006

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

January 19

Before the Big Bang: String Theory, God, and the Origin of the Universe

**Gerald B. Cleaver (1985), Assistant Professor of Physics
Baylor University**

• What happened at the very beginning of our universe, some 13.7 billion years ago? Was there something even before the “big bang?” And what are Christians to make of such events? Using the revolutionary “string-M” (for Membrane) theory of physics, including analogies drawn from violin strings, Valparaiso University and Christ College alumnus Jerry Cleaver will explain exciting new discoveries in physics and cosmology, offer reflections on the philosophical and theological implications of this knowledge of origins, and compare the “bulk universe” of modern physics with the “block universe” posited by Saint Augustine.

January 26

~ *The 2006 Christ College All-College Reading*

The Making of One Nation Under Goods: Malls and the Seductions of American Shopping

**James J. Farrell, Professor of History
Director, the American Studies Program, St. Olaf College**

• Loved and hated, visited and avoided, seemingly everywhere yet endlessly the same, malls occupy a special place in American life. What, then, is this invention that evokes such strong and contradictory emotions in Americans? In many ways malls represent the apotheosis of American consumerism, and this synthetic and wide-ranging investigation is an eye-popping tour of American culture's values and beliefs. James J. Farrell is professor of history and director of the American studies program at St. Olaf College, and the voice of “Dr. America,” a cultural analyst on National Public Radio affiliate WCAL in Minnesota.

February 2

~ *The 2006 Louis E. and Janice M. Zeile Lecture on Christian Vocation*

Ethical Conduct in Business: When Does It Begin?

**Carolyn Y. Woo, Dean, Mendoza College of Business
University of Notre Dame**

• Christ College and the College of Business Administration present the fifth Louis E. and Janice M. Zeile Lecture on Christian Vocation at Valparaiso University, an annual lecture made possible by the Zeile family. The 2006 Zeile Lecturer is Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, who has served as dean of Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame since 1997. An expert on strategic management, entrepreneurship, and organizational change, she serves on the editorial boards of numerous major business journals, including the **Journal of Management**, **Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice**, and **Strategic Management Journal**. She serves on the boards of three Fortune 500 companies, and has been a consultant for Eli Lilly, General Electric, Motorola, Pratt and Whitney, as well as many church-related institutions. In this talk Dr. Woo will explore how ethical awareness and habits are originally developed, and what role education and character formation play in corporate life and the shaping of genuine business leaders.

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The Vietnam War in Fiction and in Memory

February 9

Larry Heinemann, Award-Winning Author

• Chicago native and Vietnam War veteran Larry Heinemann is the author of two novels about Vietnam including *Close Quarters* (1977) and *Paco's Story* (1986), for which he won the National Book Award, as well as a comic Chicago novel, *Cooler by the Lake* (1992). His short stories and nonfiction have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Playboy*, *TriQuarterly*, and numerous other magazines and journals. His new personal chronicle of his return to Vietnam, *Black Virgin Mountain* (2006), has been called "an equally classic and haunting memoir." Heinemann will talk about differences between his responses to the Vietnam War in fiction and non-fiction and will read from *Black Virgin Mountain*.

Beethoven: The Universal Composer

February 16

Edmund Morris, Award-Winning Author

• Edmund Morris is the author of *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* (1980), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, *Dutch: A Memoir of Ronald Reagan* (1999) and a biography of Theodore Roosevelt, *Theodore Rex* (2002). His recent biography *Beethoven: The Universal Composer*, in the acclaimed Harper Collins Eminent Lives series, permitted Morris to bring his own lifelong passion for music to bear on the extraordinary life and work of the man who competes only with Bach and Mozart for the title of "greatest Western composer." In this lecture Morris will present significant features of Beethoven's life and work, illustrated with audio excerpts and demonstrations at the piano. He will give special attention to the fascinating subject of Beethoven's hearing defects, examining particular effects in the music that seem to derive from the composer's increasing deafness after 1801. This special Symposium, co-sponsored by the Department of Music, is made possible through the generosity of Valparaiso University alumnus Lowell Baier (1961).

*Duesenberg
Recital Hall
at the
Center
for the Arts*

Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium (Session II)

February 23

• 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 October 27, 2005.)



Twentieth Annual Christ College Freshman Debates

Debate One: Tuesday, March 28
Debate Two: Thursday, March 30

Debate Three: Tuesday, April 4
Debate Four: Thursday, April 6

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
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