



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 2008

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

January 17

Teaching and the Formation of Professionals

**Charles R. Foster, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of
Teaching and Learning; Candler School of Theology, Emory University**

• As a Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Charles Foster led the Study of Clergy Education, an extensive literature and field research project involving surveys, classroom observations, and interviews with faculty, students, and administrators in Roman Catholic, mainline and evangelical Protestant, and Reform and Conservative Jewish seminaries. The resulting book *Educating Clergy: Teaching Practices and Pastoral Imagination* explores the influence of historic traditions and academic settings in contemporary classroom and communal pedagogies. The book's focus on teaching in a professional context invites a critical reappraisal of venerable distinctions between liberal and professional education. This Symposium is offered in conjunction with the year-long Valparaiso University faculty seminar Liberal Education in the Twenty-First Century, part of the Christ College 40th anniversary observance.

January 24

~A Christ College "Last Lecture"

Scholarship and Place

**David Morgan, Duesenberg Chair in Christianity and the Arts
Christ College, Valparaiso University**

• Professor David Morgan, Duesenberg Chair in Christianity and Arts, will leave Christ College at the end of this academic year to accept an appointment in art and religion at Duke University. Dr. Morgan's path-breaking scholarship in visual culture, media, and religion is recognized nationally and internationally. His books include *Icons of American Protestantism: The Art of Warner Sallman*; *Visual Piety: A History and Theory of Popular Religious Images*; *Protestants and Pictures: Religion, Visual Culture, and the Age of American Mass Production*; *The Sacred Gaze*; and *The Lure of Images*. In this talk David Morgan will reflect on the influence of place on the course and nature of his scholarly work. What has it meant for his research to be at Valparaiso, to travel around the world, and to teach courses such as Valpo's Freshman Core and the Christ College course *Word and Image*? A reception in the Christ College Commons will follow the Symposium.

January 31

How Free Are Africa's New Religious Markets?

**Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Professor of Religious Studies
University of Tennessee**

• Africa is characterized today by remarkable religious growth, notably of Christianity and Islam. Despite the traditional heritage of religious pluralism, many governments are nervous about the proliferation of religious organizations—particularly unconventional and/or foreign ones. New strategies of regulating religion, notably minority groups, are being devised. Africa's current phase of liberalization and democratization is also being countered in many areas by new patterns of religious exclusivism and competitiveness. Dr. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, professor of religious studies at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and president of the International Association for the History of Religions, has published and spoken widely on new religious movements in Africa, religious pluralism, art, gender, the media, and religion in relation to human rights.

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February 7

Why Should We Still Read the American Classics?

**Andrew Delbanco, Professor of Humanities and Director of American Studies
Columbia University**

• Andrew Delbanco, essayist, literary critic, and professor of humanities at Columbia University in New York, has written extensively on American history and culture. In 2001 he was named America's Best Social Critic by *Time* magazine. Dr. Delbanco's books include *The Puritan Ordeal*; *Required Reading: Why Our American Classics Matter Now*; *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil*; and *The Real American Dream*. In addition, he edited *Writing New England*, an anthology, and *The Portable Abraham Lincoln*, a collection of the president's writings. This Symposium is offered in conjunction with the year-long Valparaiso University faculty seminar Liberal Education in the Twenty-First Century, part of the Christ College 40th anniversary observance.

February 14

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 October 16, 2007.)

February 21

~ ***The Christ College All-College Reading***

What Exactly Do the Violent Bear Away?

***Thoughts on the Tricky Questions in Flannery O'Connor's
The Violent Bear It Away***

**Christina Bieber Lake, Professor of English
Wheaton College**

• Each year Christ College students, faculty, and staff read together a book chosen to delight, inform, and engage the community in thoughtful conversation. The reading for 2007-2008 is *The Violent Bear It Away* by late 20th-Century Southern Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor. Christina Bieber Lake is associate professor of English at Wheaton College in Illinois. A popular teacher and speaker, and a respected scholar of contemporary American literature, African American literature, Southern literature, and literary theory, Dr. Lake is the author of *The Incarnational Art of Flannery O'Connor*, in which she argues that O'Connor designed a unique aesthetic to defy the Gnostic dualisms that characterize American intellectual and spiritual life.



Twenty-Second Annual Christ College Freshman Debates

**Debate One: Tuesday, April 8
Debate Two: Thursday, April 10**

**Debate Three: Tuesday, April 15
Debate Four: Thursday, April 17**

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.