



THE *25 Years.*
MacLaurin
INSTITUTE

PO Box 141007, Minneapolis, MN 55414

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Be sure to check
www.maclaurin.org as we
begin podcasting this fall!

Upcoming Events 2007-2008

All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. This is a tentative list, so be sure to check www.maclaurin.org or call 612-378-1935 for updates.

September 18, 2007 (and every Tuesday evening through Nov. 20)
Must the Sun Set on the West? An Indian Explores the Soul of Western Civilization, a 10-week series of lectures by Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi, MacLaurin Institute (Fellow), 7:00 p.m., location to be determined

September 21, 2007
Dueling with Darwin: A Night with GK Chesterton, Dr. Chuck Chalberg, Normandale College (Professor of History) and Dale Ahlquist, American Chesterton Society (President), 7:00 p.m., Nicholson Hall, Room 35

September 28-29, 2007
Civitas Forum On Charitable Choice, Dr. David E. Campbell, Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies, Dr. Stephen Monsma, and Jay Hein, Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota West Bank campus. Visit www.maclaurin.org/civitas for more information and to register.

October 5, 2007
Fall 2007 Veritas Conversations: Interpersonal Forgiveness: What's So Good about Loving Your Enemy?, Dr. Gayle Reed, University of Wisconsin (Professor of Psychology), 7:00 p.m., Fraser Hall, Room 102

October 17, 2007
Fall 2007 Veritas Conversations: Wedded Bliss: What Makes for Happy Marriages, Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox, University of Virginia (Professor of Sociology), 7:00 p.m., Mayo Memorial, Room 100

November 2, 2007
The Innocence of God, Udo Middelmann, MacLaurin Institute (Francis A. Schaeffer Fellow), 7:00 p.m., Nolte Center, Room 140

November 8, 2007
Twelfth Annual Holmer Memorial Lecture, *Theological Knowledge and the Knowledges of the University*, Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School (Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics), 7:00 p.m., Willey Hall, Room 175

November 16, 2007
Fall 2007 Veritas Conversations: Third Annual Faith and Literature Lecture, *Modern Literature and the Question of Belief*, Dr. Roger Lundin, Wheaton College (Blanchard Professor of English), 7:00 p.m., Nicholson Hall, Room 155

December 6, 2007

First Annual Faith and Business Lecture, *Business Ethics: Succeeding without Selling Your Soul*, Dr. David Miller, Yale University (Professor of Business Ethics, Executive Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture), 7:00 p.m., Carlson School, Room 1-147

January 24, 2008

Sixth Annual Faith and Bioethics Lecture, *The Challenge of Disposable Elders: A Thought Experiment*, Dr. Christopher Hook, Mayo Clinic and Mayo Clinic College of Medicine (Consultant, Mayo Clinic; Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Ethics Education, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine), 12:00 p.m. (noon); *Bioethics and the Church: Present and Future Challenges*, 7:00 p.m., local church

February 1-2, 2008

Student Apologetics Training Conference, Dr. Francis Beckwith, Baylor University (Professor of Philosophy); Joe Boot, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries; and Dr. Tim Muehlhoff, Biola University (Professor of Communication) and 12 different workshop presenters. For further information, check out the conference website after Sept. 30: www.maclaurin.org/apologeticsconf.php

February 15, 2008

Third Annual Faith and Economics Lecture, *Faith and Charity*, Dr. Arthur Brooks, Syracuse University (Professor of Public Administration, Director of the Non-Profit Studies Program)

February 22, 2008

Economic Parables: The Monetary Teachings of Jesus, Dr. David Cowan, pastor, speaker, writer, and theologian; currently doing research at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

February 28, 2008

Second Annual Faith and Human Rights Lecture, *Making Disciples or Making Enemies: The Rights and Limits of Proselytism in the New Religious World Order*, Dr. John Witte, Emory University Law School (Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law, Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion)

March 12, 2008

Fourth Annual Faith and Law Lecture, Doug Kmiec, Pepperdine University

March 28, 2008

Second Annual Faith and the Environment Lecture, *Troubling Questions in Conservation Biology: Are There Norms in the Search for Value and Purpose?*, Dr. Fred Van Dyke, Wheaton College (Professor of Field Biology)

April 3, 2008

Conceiving Parenthood: American Protestantism and the Spirit of Reproduction, Dr. Amy Laura Hall, Duke Divinity School (Director of the Doctor of Theology Program; Associate Professor of Theological Ethics)

May 1, 2008

Lecture on population and demographics, Dr. Walter Benjamin, Hamline University (Emeritus Professor of Religion)



THE MacLaurin INSTITUTE

*Bringing God into
the marketplace
of ideas*

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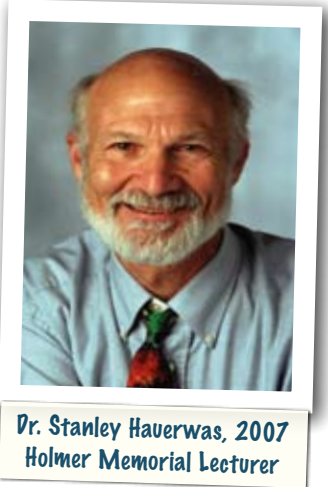
Civitas Forum Anchors Fall 2008 Institute Programs

On September 28-29, Jay Hein, Director of the White House Office for Faith-Based Initiatives, along with three public policy scholars, will shed urgently-needed light on an 11-year-old effort to provide federal funds for the delivery of social services by distinctly faith-based organizations.

“Christians can and should bring the mind of Christ into policymaking,” said the Institute’s Executive Director, Dr. Bob Osburn. “This initiative deserves the public’s attention and scholarly evaluation after many years of federal funding for openly faith-based organizations serving the neediest among us.” The Civitas Forum on Charitable Choice is co-sponsored with the Center for Public Justice, the Minnesota Governor’s Office for Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, and the Center of the American Experiment—and is partially funded by the Lanners Foundation. Call 612-378-1935 to register.

Other Institute Fall programming highlights that will attract students and community members include a 10-lecture series by popular Institute Fellow Vishal Mangalwadi, beginning Tuesday, September 18 and every week through November 20. Watch for flyers announcing *Must the Sun Set on the West? An Indian Explores the Soul of Western Civilization*.

The ever-quotable G.K. Chesterton makes a rare cameo appearance for the Institute on the University of Minnesota campus, September 21. Thanks to his impersonator,



Dr. Chuck Chalberg, and his interpreter, Dale Ahlquist of the American Chesterton Society, the early 20th century Christian gadfly will hold forth on science in his very own inimitable style.

Along with the November 8 Holmer Lecture by Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, a final highlight of the Fall semester is the Veritas Conversations, conducted in cooperation with the Boston-based Veritas Forum. Drs. Gayle Reed (October 5), Brad Wilcox (October 17), and Roger Lundin (November 16) will attract student attention to the timeless offer to join in the grand drama of living in allegiance to Jesus Christ.

We’re also hard at work on numerous programs for the spring, which include the annual Faith and Law Lecture and the Faith and Human Rights Lecture. Please visit our website (www.maclaurin.org) as we are constantly updating our program schedule.

Institute News Briefs

- The Institute would like to thank **Matt Kaul** for his outstanding service as program coordinator the last two years. Matt and his wife moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where Matt will pursue a PhD in English at Indiana University. Matt will be greatly missed!
- **Sara Joy Proppe** has joined the Institute as the new program coordinator. Sara Joy most recently worked as an ESL teacher in Peru. Please join us in welcoming Sara Joy! (See interview with Sara Joy on page 3.)
- The Institute is pleased to announce that **Josh Maloney** will be spending the year with us as Writer-in-Residence. Josh is a recent MFA graduate of the University of Minnesota and will be exploring various writing projects during the upcoming year. We hope to sponsor some public readings and other community-oriented events—so

be sure to regularly check the Institute website for the latest news: www.maclaurin.org.

- This fall the Institute will offer two Christian study courses: *Introduction to New Testament Greek I*, taught by **Pete Lackey**, and *Genesis*, taught by **Bruce Olson**. For complete information and registration details, please visit www.maclaurin.org/courses.php.
- In light of the 35W bridge collapse and the resulting traffic difficulties, the Institute will publish a page on our website called “Parking and Travel to Institute Events” (www.maclaurin.org/parking.php). This page will give directions to Institute events—and parking options—from various directions. The good news is that access to the University is still remarkably easy, even in spite of the collapse.

Taking the Christian Worldview to Class (and Beyond)

- Is anything correct about “political correctness?”
- (How) can our faith inform our participation in the immigration debate?
- Does theology help us speak about global warming without getting heated?
- Is our “truth” truer than others’ “truth?”
- Where do faith, law and morality intersect?
- Is there a “Christian view” of gangsta rap?
- Does God’s Trinitarian nature have any implications for the academic fragmentation on campus?



So beginning in September, we’ll launch a multi-faceted program designed to help students do just that through **formation** in moral/theological wisdom, **conversation** with peers/profs and **incarnation** of the Christian vision/values. Some of the initiatives we’re planning include: bi-weekly “campus conversations,” theological “intensives,” off-campus community engagements, student/student and staff/student mentoring, campus-oriented “interfaith dialogues” and student-led conferences. And with weekly meetings already in progress (having started in July), the preparations for the upcoming year are well underway.

With only a few short weeks left before the fall semester, we’re feverishly promoting our vision across the campus (and beyond). So if you are (or know) a student interested in exploring the reasons and/or role for Christian faith in today’s world, Mars Hill Students would love to hear from you. Or if you’d like a student team to present the Mars Hill vision to your church’s college (or youth) group, we’d be thrilled to do so. To learn more, please contact **Dave Firnstahl** at davefirnstahl@netzero.net or **Pete Lackey** at petelackey@att.net.

Believe it or not, this is only the short list of questions **Mars Hill Students** will be tackling together throughout the 2007/08 academic year! But if you look closely, you’ll see that these questions all share one fundamental concern: to engage meaningfully as students who are Christ’s followers with the intellectual and cultural environment at the U (yes, even the question about gangsta rap!). And that’s what Mars Hill Students are all about.

Does Christianity Domesticate Men?

An Interview with Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox

Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Virginia. He received his PhD from Princeton University and has held research fellowships at Princeton, Yale and the Brookings Institution. He has also written the book *Soft Patriarchs, New Men: How Christianity Shapes Fathers and Husbands*. On October 17, as part of the Fall 2007 Veritas Conversations, Dr. Wilcox will lecture for the Institute (see Upcoming Events on page 4 for details).

MacLaurin Institute: What led you to pursue your research on how Christianity shapes husbands and fathers?

Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox: I was motivated by two factors. First, most of the research in this area had suggested that conservative Christian families were less “loving” than liberal religious families. I suspected this was not true. Second, Promise Keepers had just come on the scene and I wanted to see what, if any, impact that groups like PK were having on ordinary husbands and fathers.

Institute: How does religion “domesticate” men?

Wilcox: Religion often but not always turns the hearts and minds of men toward the needs and aspirations of their families. I call this “domestication.”

Institute: What are the current sociological trends that will significantly impact the family in the next 50 years?

Wilcox: One of the biggest problems facing contemporary families and Christians is the rise of an extended adolescence where young men and women do not feel the need to commit to marriage and family life until their late 20s or 30s. Instead, the focus is on careers, or education, or having a good time. The problem with the growth of this period of adolescence is that young people are more likely to lose their faith, to live in an unchaste fashion, and — most importantly — not start the vocation to fatherhood or motherhood to which God may be calling them.



Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox

Institute: Can you give us a brief summary of the two talks you will give for us in October?

Wilcox: In my talk at the Center, I will discuss the ways in which faith, commitment, gender complementarity, and chastity are the building blocks of happy and stable marriages. In my talk at the University, I will discuss the ways in which religion domesticates urban fathers in ways that make them better partners and better citizens.

Interview with Institute’s New Program Coordinator



Sara Joy Proppe

MacLaurin Institute: Why did you want to work at the Institute?

Sara Joy Proppe: I was first introduced to the Christian study center concept when I visited the Center for Christian Study at the University of Virginia. Seeing their library and hearing about their programs really inspired me. Being a lover of academics, the study center seemed

like an incredibly relevant resource for Christian students at the public university. When I discovered the MacLaurin Institute and its work on the University of Minnesota campus, I was immediately drawn to it. The Institute has a vision and a passion for integrating faith and academics, and I wanted to be a part of that.

Institute: What ministry experience have you had?

Sara Joy: In the fall of 2004 I participated in the Witherspoon Fellowship under the directorship of Alan Crippen. This was my first deep drink of faith and scholarship, and since then my thirst has been insatiable. Following my time in Washington D.C., I moved to

Gainesville, Florida, to work with Reformed University Fellowship, the campus ministry of the PCA. During my time there I mentored college girls and was involved in programs at the Christian Study Center of Gainesville. My next move took me to Peru for a year to teach ESL and, again, work with college students through a Presbyterian mission.

Institute: What are you looking forward to the most this year?

Sara Joy: While I’m thoroughly excited about meeting and hearing such wonderful scholars, I think I am most excited about working to build the community of faith in academia. I believe the Gospel permeates every facet of our lives, making its integration into our scholarship very crucial.

Institute: Coming from Peru (and before that Texas, Florida and Washington D.C), what are your impressions of the Twin Cities?

Sara Joy: Well, I hear there are two seasons in the Twin Cities, winter and construction. Coming in the construction season has resulted in my getting lost quite a few times, but, other than that, I really appreciate the cultural and international vibrancy here. I look forward to getting involved with the community. And I am excited to eat hot dish — or what we Texans call casserole — as I hear it’s popular here!