Summer Seminar on Faith Integration and Ethics: May 2010

The Institute of Faith Integration will sponsor another “Seminar in Faith Integration and Christian Ethics” this May.

Seminar Description: theological and philosophical foundations for interdisciplinary study in Christian ethics are explored. Theories addressed will include: divine command ethics, natural law morality, and virtue based ethics among others. Applied issues germane to each academic discipline are also covered from a Christian perspective.

Instructor: Craig A. Boyd, Professor of Philosophy & Executive Director of Faith Integration.

Costs: the seminars are free and participants will also receive free books and other materials.

Sign Up: Those wishing to participate should respond as soon as possible to afode@apu.edu. Space is limited to 15 participants. Early career faculty will be given preference.

Dates: May 17-21.

Times: 8:00 a.m. to noon.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM ON FAITH AND CULTURE: HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Inspired by the conviction that a Christian understanding of the dignity of the human person should inform fundamental questions about the future of health care, our conference seeks to engage participants from a broad range of disciplines and health care professions.

Confirmed speakers include: Paul Griffiths, Duke Divinity School; Jeff Levin, Baylor University; Gilbert Meilaender, Valparaiso University; Stephen Post, Stony Brook University; Margaret Somerville, McGill University; Daniel Sulmasy, University of Chicago; John Swinton, University of Aberdeen; and S. Kay Toombs, Baylor University.

For a more complete description and call for papers at www.baylor.edu/ifl/bsfc2010. Proposals for paper presentations and panel discussions are invited through July 1.

This year’s symposium will take place October 28-30 on the university campus in Waco, TX.
Book Review: The Devil Reads Derrida: And Other Essays on the University, the Church, Politics, and the Arts, James K.A. Smith. Reviewed by Craig A. Boyd

This book is proof that Christians can also be postmoderns. The author, a Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College, manages to call into question various ideas often thought to be held sacred by both the political left and the right. Smith rightly contends that any identification of the Christian faith with one political party is a form of idolatry in that both approaches present us with a false dichotomy. Thus, God is greater than both the Republicans and the Democrats.

Smith’s approach is an interesting evangelical mixture of Reformed, Augustinian, and Pentecostal theology. One chapter is even titled “Teaching Calvinists to Dance: Why I am Reformed and Pentecostal.” There is thus both a playful and provocative spirit to the book and the reader senses that although the topics themselves are serious, the author has a sense of humor about himself that is refreshingly humble.

The book covers a wide array of topics ranging from reviews of popular movies (such as “American Beauty”) to various controversies within evangelical thought (e.g. “Open Theism”). This is a marvelous book on faith integration and is highly recommended.

“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?”

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

FAITH INTEGRATION-RELATED EVENTS AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2010 CRAL Annual Conference: Enhancing the Quality of Christ-Centered Adult Education. May 10-12. Indiana Wesleyan University. Keynote speaker: Dr. Roger Parrott. Contact: Cynthia Tweedell cynthia.tweedell@indwes.edu

 CCCU NEW FACULTY WORKSHOP. June 1-4 Palm Beach Atlantic University www.cccu.org

 CCCU BIOLOGOS CONFERENCE ON FAITH & SCIENCE. June 9-12. Gordon College. This conference provides a unique opportunity to explore questions at the intersection of science & faith with peers who are wrestling with these same questions. Keynote Speakers include: Claudia Beversluis, Darrel Falk, and Karl Giberson. Contact: Juliene Moore. conferences@cccu.org.

To make announcements: please email Faith-Integration@apu.edu

April 19, 2010