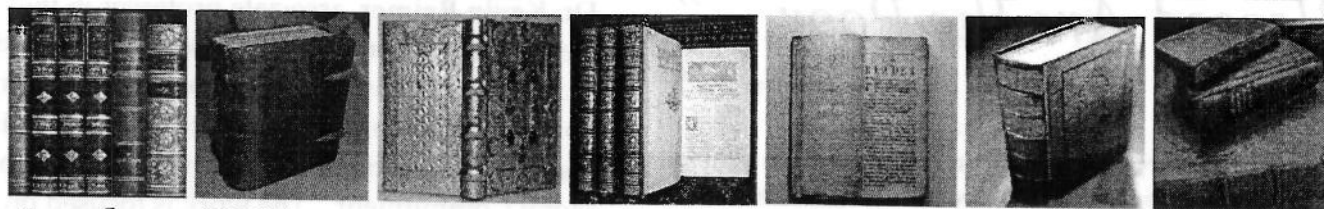


RESEARCH REPORTER



September, 2005

APU Office of Faculty Research

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Humanities

Dr. Carole Lambert, Professor of English and Director of the Office of Faculty Research, explores recent developments in the thought of Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, expressed in his books *Production of Presence: What Meaning Cannot Convey* and *The Powers of Philology: Dynamics of Textual Scholarship*. A long-time teacher of literary theory, Gumbrecht took a sudden turn in recent years away from rationalist methods of interpreting literature and toward participatory studies – not looking *at* literature, but looking *with* it, placing the joy of stories, poems, and music over the scientific reduction and deconstruction of great authors. Though this is a positive change of heart from a Christian point of view, Lambert expresses concern over Gumbrecht's emphasis on experience void of any discernment: should the thrill of violence or cruelty be placed on an equal aesthetic footing with Shakespeare or Bach? How is crashing planes into skyscrapers not "art"? Lambert finds in Gumbrecht's writings an example of post-modernity wrongly understood, and calls for us to exercise discernment in our own acceptance of this new way of thinking. Dr. Lambert's article appeared in the Summer, 2005 issue of the *Southern Humanities Review* (pp. 276-281). – KW

Dr. John S. Park, Professor of Theology at the APU Los Angeles Regional Center, vindicates John Wesley's position in the reason/revelation dispute that has taken on such shrill tones in modern times. Like all doctrinal disputes, it is imbalanced: German Enlightenment figures tend to make rationalism supreme over all; at best, revelation is only made to serve science or philosophy in its spiritual teachings, thus denying the importance of a relational knowledge of God. At the same time (and often in reaction to the Enlightenment position) modern (liberal) theology, starting with

Schleiermacher, makes religious experience supreme to the exclusion of reason, eliminating any ability on the part of mankind to distinguish God's revelation from human passions. This tension is resolved by Wesley, Park argues, in the way he retains a pre-modern view of reason or experience as dependent on revelation: knowledge is guided to fullness only by the Holy Spirit who transforms us in both character *and* mind. God remains supreme in His unknowable essence, while reason is elevated by His interactions with mankind – the most important being the revelation of Grace. Dr. Park's article, "Religious Epistemology: John Wesley and His Contemporaries," appeared in *The Spirituality and Leadership of John Wesley*, edited by Ki Yang (Seoul: Qumran Press: 2005). – KW

Dr. Kenneth L. Waters, Sr., Associate Professor of New Testament Theology, offers an explanation for what seems to be Matthew's divergence from the other gospel writers in his account of Jesus' resurrection. While Mark, Luke, and John all show the women arriving at an already empty tomb, Matthew's Chapter 28 seems to suggest that they actually witnessed the opening of the tomb. Waters argues that this is in fact due to an often unrecognized literary device common to Hebrew literature known as "temporal-spatial collapse," – merging a past event with the literary present in order to create a flashback in the storyline. Matthew's narrative is therefore not a divergence from the other gospels at all; it is instead an example of a literary practice that was as familiar to Matthew's audience as TV and movie flashbacks are to us today. Dr. Waters' article appeared in the June 2005 issue of the *Expository Times* (pp. 295-301). – KW

RESEARCH COLLOQUIA

“Blessed Are the Poor...”

– *Jesus, Matthew 5:3*

Presenters:

Connie Brehm, RN, Ph.D., FNP, on “Homelessness Within Los Angeles County: Health Care Initiatives in Shelter-Based Clinics”

Roger B. Conover, Ph.D., on “Sustainable Development in an Era of Globalization: Conflicts and Complementaries”

September 22, 3pm, Faculty Dining Room

A “colloquium” is an informal conference or group discussion about a broad theme. Professors Connie Brehm and Roger Conover will launch the Office of Research’s Fall colloquia with presentations from their recently published research relevant to poverty, a domain that Jesus repeatedly emphasizes as deserving the attention of His followers. Based on her ten years of helping the homeless in Los Angeles County, Professor Brehm has developed a model for compassionate, effective medical care provided to the poor in shelter-based clinics. Her model can serve as a paradigm for other communities to follow. In contrast to Professor Brehm’s local and experientially developed strategy, Professor Roger Conover draws from his extensive doctoral research to propose a dynamic model of how the poverty which results in homelessness may be alleviated globally. This colloquium will not solve the complex problem of widespread poverty, but it may thoughtfully advance the discussion of how to alleviate poverty locally and globally. It may also exemplify APU’s definition of “transformational scholarship”: “research and scholarship that serves to bring about change in the character of individuals and how they relate to and engage the world around them.”

– CL

FUNDING AWARDS

Dr. Kevin Reimer, associate professor in the Department of Graduate Psychology, received a grant from the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love (John Templeton Foundation) to fund his research project titled “Naturalistic Conceptions of Moral Commitment.” The work is focused on character formation for adolescents in underserved Southern California communities. Dr. Reimer’s research considers virtue, personality, and emotion variables in adolescent volunteerism, with special attention given to how caring buffers against depression and suicide. Dr. Reimer plans to obtain data this fall with analysis to be completed in the Spring. – KW

APU FACULTY RESEARCH

The Office of Faculty Research and the Office of Sponsored Research and Grants work to assist APU faculty with their research and dissemination endeavors, provide external research funding, and promote an academic climate that celebrates and strengthens the Azusa Pacific University community of Christian scholars and researchers.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the Faculty Research Newsletter, or if you would like to be formally recognized for your research and publications. We will be sure to feature research in the Sciences in our next issue.

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