E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 14

VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER March 9, 2009

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week of March 3rd – Spring Break

MONDAY, March 9

10:00 am – P&P

Tillett Lounge

12:00 – 1:00 pm – Dean's Faculty Brown Bag Lunch

Tillett Lounge

TUESDAY, March 10

Visiting Scholar Day, via the Admissions Office

12:00 – 1:00 pm – La Mesa

Common Room

7:00 pm – "How Many Ultimate Realities are There? Religious Diversity and

The Trinity" lecture by Prof. John J. Thatamanil

Benton Chapel

WEDNESDAY, March 11

9:00 am – Academic Planning

Tillett Lounge

10:10 am – Weekly Worship Service

All Faith Chapel

11:30 am – Field Education Supervisors Training and Lunch Meeting

Tillett Lounge

12:00 – 1:00 pm – EEC Lunch Meeting

Private Dining Room

THURSDAY, March 12

7:30 am – Community Breakfast featuring Stacey Floyd-Thomas

Reading Room (Div 124)

FRIDAY, March 13

10:10 a.m. – Coffee Hour – Divinity Reading Room

12:00 – 1:00 pm – EcoConcerns Meeting

Private Dining Room

1:00 – 2:00 pm – GPAC

Tillett Lounge

2:00 pm – GDR Faculty Meeting

SATURDAY, March 14

9:00 am – 12:00 noon – KMSI Saturday Intensive with

Stacey Floyd-Thomas & Anthony Pinn

Arts Room (details below)

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Save the Date for Gala

Friday, April 3rd

8:00 pm – 12:00 midnight

Vanderbilt Divinity Reading Room

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Tuesday, March 10th is visiting scholar day. Please make our special guests feel welcome.

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The Center for the Study of Religion and Culture at Vanderbilt is pleased to announce the 2009 Mafoi Carlisle Bogitsh University Seminar in Religion and Culture:

How Many Ultimate Realities Are There? Religious Diversity and The Trinity

John J. Thatamanil

Assistant Professor of Theology, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7:00 pm

Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Reception to follow in Tillett Lounge

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Community Breakfast March 12, 2009
Vanderbilt Divinity School Refectory
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Stacey-Floyd-Thomas
Associate Professor of Ethics and Society

"I found God in myself, and I loved her fiercely": Womanist Literature as a Resource for Ethics

In observance of Women's Month, our time together will focus on a choreopoem performance and discussion taken from Ntozake Shange's For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf. With this presentation of vignettes and accompanying conversation, this gathering will address how Black women's fiction aids in advancing the search for the imago Dei via an interlocking race-gender-class analysis that asserts the theological and moral dimensions of their lives in ways that undermine the dominant society's impositions upon them.

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EEC invites you to "Organizing 101: How to organize for justice in the church" on Wed., March 11 from noon - 1pm. Lunch will be provided. PDR

Speakers include Angela Cowser on power and the need for direct action, and local pastors Maurice Harris and Sherry Woolsey sharing their own experience of getting congregations involved in activism.

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Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies

Spring Saturday Intensive with

Stacey Floyd-Thomas
Associate Professor of Ethics and Society
&
Anthony Pinn
Agness Cullen Professor of Theology, Rice University

Black Literature and Music as a Resource for Womanist Ethics and Liberation Theology

March 14, 2009, Vanderbilt Divinity School , Arts Room, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

This event is free and open to the public.

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Relevant Religion Series

March 24, 31 and April 7, 2009
West End United Methodist Church
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Annalisa Azzoni
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

Marriage at the Beginning: Marriage in the Ancient Near East and the Hebrew Bible
This series will examine different aspects (religious, legal, socio-economic) of marriage through a survey of ancient Sumerian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian sources and the relevant sections of the Hebrew Bible. The variety of literary and historical texts will reveal a complex picture of how this "institution" developed at the very beginning of recorded history.

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Antoinette Brown Lecture March 26, 2009
Vanderbilt Divinity School Benton Chapel

Traci C. West
Professor of Ethics and African American Studies, Drew University

Lying on Women: Religion, Race, and Intimate Violence in the African Diaspora

The lecture will address intimate violence against women and girls who are often stymied by cultural myths about women's culpability. These myths work together with the lies the perpetrators tell. Christian religious beliefs can add to this problem or offer truth-telling resources that counter it. This lecture will focus on what it means to cross cultural, national, and historical boundaries to identify Christian activist strategies that confront this deceit as well as the violence, especially sexual violence, against women in Africa and America.

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Announcements of Paper Competitions:

North American Academy of Ecumenists

2009 Student Essay Contest $250 and funding to attend the 2009 NAAE Conference

The Ethical Horizon from an Ecumenical Perspective

Does ecumenical dialogue contribute anything to ethical analysis?

Does analyzing ethical issues contribute anything to ecumenical dialogue?

June 15, 2009 Deadline

Please go to www.naae.net for details on the competition.

The 2009 Mercersburg Prize -- $750

For the best paper on any topic in Mercersburg Theology

Winning paper to be presented at the Mercersburg Society Convocation

In June 2010 and considered for publication in the

New Mercersburg Review

Send submissions by June 1, 2009 to:

Dr. Anne Thayer

Lancaster Theological Seminary

555 West James Street

Lancaster, PA 17603

Questions? Contact athayer@lancasterseminary.edu

The Journal of Law and Religion is issuing a
Call for Presenters and Papers at its Annual Symposium on Friday, October 16, 2009
On the Global Economic Crisis

This Symposium will focus on how the religious traditions can contribute to the discussion about the future of the global economy and state and international intervention in that economy in light of the current economic crisis. The Journal is seeking presenters who are working on issues involving law and religion that respond to this crisis. We seek to present a diversity of religious and secular traditions and viewpoints at these symposia, and to engage these issues critically and constructively.

The kinds of questions that the Symposium will engage are the following but they should not be considered an exclusive list of possibilities: What is the proper role for law and legal institutions in a situation of global economic crisis, from the perspective of the religious traditions (and secular traditions that engage them)? What do these traditions counsel about the proper regulation of the accumulation of capital, business practices, the relationship of workers and owners, and national and international economies? What do they say about government responsibility or the legal and moral responsibility of non-governmental actors to those who are economically vulnerable or devastated due to the structure of the global economy? How do the religious traditions respond to international legal regimes that engage economic and related social issues, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?

Presentations may, but need not, be accompanied by publishable papers. The Journal Board regularly invites presenters as well as others submitting abstracts whose work cannot be presented at this program due to time constraints to publish their work in a subsequent issue of the Journal. Travel funding for presenters is quite limited.

If you are interested in presenting at this Symposium, please send a brief abstract (one to three paragraphs) describing your proposed presentation to Linda Berglin, production mgr. of the Journal of Law and Religion, at lberglin@hamline.edu or Hamline University School of Law, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. If you are new to the Journal community, some background on your work in law and religion would be much appreciated. The Journal will start selecting presenters from the

call for presenters and papers about April 1, 2009 but abstracts are welcome after that date. Presentations are most likely to be delivered in panel or roundtable style, perhaps 15-20 minutes per presentation, depending on what proposals are received. Abstracts will be kept confidential within the selection committee until presenters are chosen and confirmed.

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The Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies
Vanderbilt Divinity School and the African American Pulpit Journal
Presents the African American Lectionary Homiletics Symposium &
Garnett-Nabrit Lecture Series

Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching

March 17 – March 19, 2009
Location: American Baptist College

Symposium Schedule, **Tuesday, March 17, WORKSHOPS • 2:00–2:50 pm**

Baptist World Center Classrooms–Second Floor,

Room A -- **Homiletics for Strengthening the Family**

Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Perry and Georgia Engle Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Princeton Theological Seminary

Room B -- **Impact of the Prison Industry Complex on Children**

Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas, Assistant Professor for Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt University

Room C -- **Black Church Sacred Music**

Mr. James Scandrick, Director of the Institute on Black Sacred Music

Room D -- **Institute on Pastoral Excellence**

Rev. Amy Steele, ABC, and Rev. Charles Mock, Home Mission Board, NBC

WORKSHOPS • 3:00–3:50 pm, Baptist World Center Classrooms–Second Floor

Room A -- **Financial Strategies for Money Management**

Rev. Michael Lomax, Group Vice President, Private Wealth Management

Room B -- **Church and Business Administration**

Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church

Room C -- **Ministry for Children**

Rev. Marilyn Thornton, Lead Editor of African American Resources, Abingdon Press, United Methodist Publishing House

7:00 pm, Sanctuary, Worship with Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

Wednesday, March 18 , 10:00 am, Sanctuary

Community Emphasis

Mr. William C. Bell, President and CEO, Casey Family Programs

11:00 am, Sanctuary, Sermon

Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Perry and Georgia Engle Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Princeton Theological Seminary

Noon, BWC Cafe , Nannie H. Burroughs Luncheon

Exploration of Ministry with Rev. Melva Sampson

WORKSHOPS • 2:00–2:50 pm

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Private Wealth Management

Room B -- **Church and Business Administration**

Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church

Room C -- **Preaching that Empowers Black Women**

Rev. Melva Sampson, Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, March 19, 10:00 am, Sanctuary

Lecture: Strengthening the Black Family

Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Associate Professor of Ethics and Society, Vanderbilt University

11:00 am, Sanctuary, Sermon

Rev. Michael Lomax, Group Vice President, Private Wealth Management

Conference Location

American Baptist College
1800 Baptist World Center Drive
Nashville, TN 37207
For More Information Contact:
(615) 936-8453
Kelly Miller Smith Institute

The Conference is free and open to the public.

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Link to the SGA google calendar

http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=si59sgmfmkh91ar5s6hdchjll4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

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To make room reservations within the Divinity School go to the Divinity portal

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/p/

and use the on-line room reservation form.