

# 2012 FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP SYMPOSIUM

May 4th, 2012

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

### **JONATHAN DEN HARTOG, PH.D.**

#### **Associate Professor of History**

Dr. Jonathan Den Hartog is an associate professor of history at Northwestern College, where he has taught for six years. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Notre Dame in 2006 and specializes in Early American History, as well as American Religious and Political History. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, the American Antiquarian Society, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, the University of Notre Dame, and Northwestern College. He has published several essays in edited volumes regarding the political outlooks of the founding generation, as well as publishing journal articles, book reviews, and short essays.

#### **Religion and Politics in the New American Nation**

Although scholars and polemicists have spilled much ink over the role religion had (or didn't have) during the American Revolution, much less attention has been paid to how religion and politics functioned in the new nation. What role did it have? This address will consider how Christianity functioned publicly in the early American republic and informed multiple political movements. Such historical reflections can provide some wisdom and critical perspective as the Northwestern community once again confronts a tumultuous presidential election season.

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### **LUKE ALECKSON, M.F.A.**

#### **Assistant Professor of Art & Design**

#### **Art and Utopian Imagination**

Discussed will be a variety of past and present utopian visions that shape our current cultural climate, including Marxist revolutionary utopias, 19th century Christian utopias, 1960's communes and "eco-topias," as well as more recent, often technology-driven, variants of all these. Aleckson will discuss the ways in which these ideas have informed his own art practice and how he sees them affecting broader cultural discourse.

### **CHARLES ALING, PH.D.**

#### **Professor of History**

#### **Two New Egyptological Discoveries Bearing on the Story of Joseph**

Two new officials have been discovered from Egypt's Middle Kingdom period, the probable time of Joseph. We will discuss their careers and titles, and show the impact of these discoveries for the historicity of the Joseph story.

## **ROBIN R. BELL, TH.M.**

**Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries**

### **The Integration of Multicultural Education Theory and Practice in Education for Social Justice: A Case Educating for Shalom in Christian Higher Education**

This presentation focuses on multicultural education theory and practice as a useful framework for helping educators see the world as it is, as well as a to investigate issues of social justice and equity in the context of school learning. The presenter will engage with participants through dialogue regarding what cognitive and theological frameworks inform our teaching practice for *Shalom* in Christian higher education. In addition, we will consider the stance of Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff that the goal of Christian higher education is to energize students for a certain way of being in the world here and now-to encourage them to struggle for shalom (Wolterstorff, 2004).

This presentation is for teachers, students, and administrators in Christian higher education who are: 1) committed to inquiry and applying best practices of educating for shalom; 2) concerned about the goal of Christian higher education in a postmodern and diverse society; and 3) preparing students for the life and work of the Kingdom of God (Wolterstorff, 2004).

## **CLYDE BILLINGTON, PH.D.**

**Professor of History**

### **The Berlin Pedestal: The Oldest Egyptian Mention of the Israelites**

The Berlin Pedestal is a broken part of an ancient pedestal base on which a statue--now missing-- of an unknown pharaoh of Egypt once stood. As its name implies, the Berlin Pedestal is now located in the Berlin Museum in Germany. There are three enemy name rings inscribed on the Pedestal, and five Egyptologists have read the last name on the right as the name Israel. The hieroglyphic spelling of the name Israel on the Pedestal dates to ca. 1380 BC, thus making it the oldest known reference to the Israelites. This presentation will first deal with scholarly opinion on the Pedestal, and then second will deal with its significance for biblical archaeology and Old Testament studies.

## **THOMAS A. BLACK, D. MIN.**

**Department of Biblical & Theological Studies**

### **“Scrambling”: How an Assessment of Sin and Spiritual Development Might Benefit NWC Students**

Author and scholar Richard Averbeck explores the dynamics of sin's effects on the human spirit and how the processes of spiritual formation can overcome these effects. The ultimate outcome of sin in the human life, he claims, is what he calls “scrambling”: the development of an individual pattern of trying to be “OK” despite the effects of sin in our soul and life. “Scrambling” is not, Averbeck claims, a necessary outcome for Christian disciples. The processes of spiritual development or formation can help us to reverse our tendency to “scramble” and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can set us on the path to true discipleship. We will explore the biblical evidence for Averbeck's concept and how it might be used to develop a rich process of discipleship on the Northwestern campus.

## **DANIEL R. CRANE, PH.D.**

**Professor of Chemistry**

### **Will We Allow Science to Rewrite Theology?**

Advances in science in the last six centuries have engendered conflict between science and theology. According to the Northwestern College philosophy of education statement, we believe that “when apparent conflicts occur [between biblical truth and truth discovered through reason and experience], all truth claims defer to the truth revealed in the Bible.” How do we resolve these apparent conflicts between science and theology? The philosophy of education statement seems to allow for the possibility that science could change theology and also sets limits to such changes. Science has in fact changed our understanding of the Bible in the past. Should we allow science to change our understanding of the first few chapters of Genesis?

## **JOHN F. EASTERLING, D.MIN., D.MISS.**

**Professor of Intercultural Studies**

### **The Tale of Two Churches in Thailand**

In 1990, two missionary families moved to Thailand under the supervision of the Baptist General Conference to study the Thai language, intern under a Thai pastor, and eventually plant churches. Their coming to Thailand was following nearly two millennia of Buddhism that is firmly established in the land. Christianity has not had an easy reception but slowly the Christian church has been planted by men and women with faith, a call, determination, vision, and hard work. As these two missionary families began to work together, they started to realize that they each had a distinct calling. After ten years, their one church became two in order to better develop their strategies for reaching the Thai people with the gospel.

## **CAROL EIKUM, M.M.**

**Associate Professor of Music**

### **YOUR VOICE: TIPS TO IMPROVE SPEAKING AND SINGING**

Have you ever wondered how to improve your voice for speaking or singing? This session will give you practical tips for using your voice more efficiently. You can find more vocal ease and strength for public speaking, singing in a choir or on the worship team, or even singing in the shower. Voluntary and user-friendly opportunities for vocal exploration and interaction will be included. In addition, find out why a voice scientist recommends using a coffee straw to protect your voice.

## **DAVID ERICKSON, PH.D.**

**Professor of Marketing**

### **Economics of Retirement**

Retirement planning is a challenging, but fascinating area of study. Although complex, it provides tremendous intellectual opportunities to a wide variety of interested parties. Most individuals are interested in achieving financial security: achieving economics independence so that they are able to maintain their desired lifestyle without employment income. To become economically independent, one must generally forgo a certain level of immediate consumption to provide an opportunity for discretionary funds to grow and accumulate over time while avoiding catastrophic financial occurrences that could result in undesirable financial dependence. Retirement planning plays an essential role in helping individuals to learn how to save now in order to help support future consumption and economic independence.

## **DAVID E. FENRICK, PH.D.**

**Director-Center for Global Reconciliation and Cultural Education**

### **Missional Experiential Education for Developing Christian Global Citizens**

At the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Christian educators are faced with the challenge of equipping Christian disciples for participation in God's present mission in the world, a world in which communities are in the midst of rapid cultural change and now made up of complex networks of languages and cultures. As Christian disciples increasingly interact with people from other cultural groups, there is a need for a global level of citizenship and intercultural competence for participation in the *Missio Dei*. Christians around the world, most of whom will never have the opportunity to participate in formal theological education, are being called upon to demonstrate a missional multicultural witness in the communities where they live. Given this reality, Christian education at every level needs to discover a pedagogical *process* for preparing all Christians for missionary vocations that address the emerging missiological realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The research presented analyzes the degree to which the principles of intercultural communication and experiential education theories and practices can inform and enhance Christian education more effectively than traditional (formal) pedagogical models. "Essential Ingredients" for a "Missional Experiential Education" (MEE) are presented, providing insights for an educational praxis applicable to local churches, institutions of higher learning, missionary organizations, short-term mission agencies, and para-church ministries. This study included both qualitative and quantitative research from three educational programs. Each learning environment in the study included the following initial ingredients: (1) an experiential pedagogy, (2) an intercultural immersion experience(s), and (3) a multicultural learning community, although there were significant differences in their construct, location, and learning audience.

## **W. EDWARD GLENNY, TH.D., P.H.D.**

**Professor of New Testament Studies & Greek/Endowed Professorship**

How should Christian higher education effectively develop students to give God-honoring leadership in the world? In this presentation, I propose that in the context of Christian higher education the book of Proverbs is an excellent resource for developing students for God-honoring leadership in the world. I will advance this thesis by discussing what leadership is, by summarizing the purposes of Proverbs, by reviewing the original social context and theology of Proverbs, and by suggesting some ways Proverbs could be used to develop leadership skills.

## **JUDITH HOUGEN, M.F.A.**

**Associate Professor of English**

### **Summer at the Monastery: Writing, Sacrament, and the Glory that Fills**

In this presentation, Hougen will read and briefly discuss a personal essay from a larger manuscript she is creating on faith and the writing life. The highly narrative essay features scenes from her time at St. Benedict's Monastery as a scholar-in-residence. Within the narrative, Hougen explores the idea of the sacramental nature of God's creation and how the arts can participate in that nature, taking on a sacramental role as they testify to the glory of God.

## **ALLISON KEUNING, PH.D.**

**Associate Professor of Psychology**

### **Toward an Understanding of Wisdom: An Investigation the Psychosocial, Cognitive, and Spiritual Correlates of Wisdom**

The current study is being conducted by students in the Northwestern College Psychology Research Lab under the supervision of Dr. Allison Keuning to explore the role of wisdom in relation to emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual functioning in a diverse sample of college students. Recruitment will target: a) students from undergraduate psychology courses and b) students from ethnic minorities and international countries. Informed consent will be obtained from each participant, who will then meet face-to-face with an undergraduate research associate for approximately one hour. During the testing session, participants will respond to questions, both verbally and in writing related to their religious background, daily spiritual practices, and religious values. Participants will additionally complete measures designed to assess wisdom, emotional well-being, social support, and cognitive functioning. Once data has been collected, it will be analyzed together with previously collected research from our lab investigating the same constructs with community dwelling elderly individuals. Results will be submitted for publication/presentation in professional venues, including the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference and the Northwestern College Scholarship Symposium.

## **JOANNA R. KLEIN, PH.D.**

**Associate Professor of Biology**

[PowerPoint](#)

### **Genome Annotation of the Marine Bacterium *Cellulophaga lytica***

*Cellulophaga lytica*, is a marine bacterium that was recognized as a novel species in 1999 and represents a poorly understood branch of the tree of life. Bacteria closely related to *C. lytica* often have the ability to degrade polysaccharides such as cellulose, the main component of plant cell walls. The use of cellulose containing materials in the production of ethanol is an active area of research with the goal of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and addressing current limitations of producing ethanol from corn. Therefore, cellulose degrading bacteria are of particular interest as researchers study the role microorganisms have in energy production. The Joint Genome Institute (JGI) of the Department of Energy, has sequenced the entire genome (DNA sequence) of *C. lytica*. In collaboration with the JGI, we are identifying and characterizing genes within this organism in a process called bioinformatics and genome annotation. Additionally, we are examining the physiology and motility of the bacterium in the laboratory. The goal of our research is to shed light on this poorly understood organism and contribute to bioenergy research and applications.

## **MATTHEW L. MILLER, PH.D.**

**Assistant Professor of History**

[PowerPoint](#)

### **The Extraordinary Adventures of Paul B. Anderson in the Land of the Bolsheviks**

In 1924 Russian moviegoers enjoyed the popular and critically acclaimed silent film *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*, directed by the leading Soviet filmmaker Lev Kuleshov. This film, a quick-moving satire, portrays the experiences of a wealthy young American leader as he travels to Russia for the first time. Mr. West serves as president of the YMCA, the Young Men's Christian Association. Today's viewers may be surprised that a YMCA leader would serve as a symbolic representative of the United States; they may also be surprised that this organization played a very prominent role in Russia at the beginning of the twentieth century. Kuleshov's film is not based on actual events, but it highlights the cultural significance of the YMCA's own extraordinary adventures in this country. The real-life "Mr. West" was Paul B. Anderson, an American who eventually emerged as the most significant leader for the Y's efforts.

## **PHILIP E. NORRIS, D.M.A., & TIMOTHY K. SAWYER, M.M.**

**Professor of Music & Associate Professor of Music**

### **DEEP RIVER: from commission to concert**

[Deep River](#)

***A choral work for trumpet, bass solo, choir and piano by Dr. Phil Norris***

A short presentation on how this musical work came into being, examining the creative process of addressing problems, and seeking musically satisfying solutions.

## **WALTER J. SCHULTZ, PH.D.**

**Professor of Philosophy**

### **Jonathan Edwards' Answer to Spinoza's Conundrum**

[Paper](#)

The issue of God's purpose in creating the world were important questions for theologians and philosophers in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as they were for most Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thinkers before then. In 1677 Baruch Spinoza proclaimed that such theorizing is futile because "if God acts with an end in view, he must necessarily be seeking something he lacks." In other words, the very concept of acting to achieve a purpose means that the agent values the last state—the state to be achieved—more than the initial state. So, *if God created the world to achieve an end, then the state achieved must be more valuable than the initial state without creation.* It must provide God with something real and valuable that he otherwise lacked. It follows that God must not have been fulfilled in his initial state without creation. Furthermore, God must not be self-sufficient, rather he must have acted out of necessity to satisfy a deficiency. If so, then he is not free. The implications of this for Christian theology and the Christian life were, and still are, inestimably important. The 18<sup>th</sup> century American theologian and philosopher, Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), began to write about this issue when he was only 19 years old. His 1755 dissertation, *Concerning the End for Which God Created the World*, contains the only logically-sufficient, biblically justified answer to Spinoza. This paper presents Edwards' description of God's end in creation, Edwards' explanation of how that end is *not* more valuable to God than God's initial state without creation, and Edwards' account of what could have motivated God to create.

## **BRAD SICKLER, PH.D.**

**Adjunct Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies**

### **A Lack of Fit: Does the Evil Provide Evidence of God's Existence?**

Normally we ask whether (and how) the likelihood of theism is affected by the existence of evil. In response, skeptical theists argue that if God has morally sufficient reasons for allowing evil, we would not reasonably expect to understand what those reasons might be. In this paper, we take something like skeptical theism on the offensive and ask whether *evil* is made more or less probable by the existence of God. In order to answer this, I will start by showing that the problem of evil is generated by the occurrence of events which we think God should not allow; this is what I will call a 'lack of fit.' Then, by reflecting *a priori* on what the world would be like if it were created by God and we were made to inhabit it, we will see two things. First, given God's properties and our properties, we would *expect* to find a lack of fit. Moreover, as surprising as it seems, careful analysis will show it is reasonable to think the occurrence of 'unfit' events is more likely given theism than atheism. Thus, the existence of evil in this problematic sense actually provides evidence in support of theism.

**MICHAEL WISE, P.H.D.**

**Professor of Hebrew Bible & Ancient Languages; Scholar-in-Residence**

**Reading Hebrew with Jesus**

Learning to read the Bible in Hebrew in the Judaea of Jesus' day was far more difficult and elaborate than we realize. This paper, part of a much larger study, will explain what was involved. One implication of these findings is that we should probably adjust our vision of Jesus in the society of his day: he almost certainly was not poor, but rather, well to do. This paper will explain why that seems a necessary inference.

**KENNETH YOUNG, PH.D., D.MIN.**

**Professor of Systematic Theology**

**Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman: What is Reconciliation Anyway?**

Transcending the particular questions in the Martin/Zimmerman case there are general biblical principles offering a biblical ethic guiding the Christian communities responses to race relations issues. The gospel offers a theological solution to be applied. Jesus offers a model to be followed. This paper offers three levels for thinking biblically about reconciliation using both biblical and systematic theological framework for thinking about a solution to the living in a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural Christian community.

**JONATHAN A. ZDERAD, PH.D.**

**Associate Professor of Mathematics**

**Is the Universe a Giant Computer?**

Consider looking at physical phenomenon at all scales from sub-atomic structures to the everyday world that we live in to the universe as a whole. There is growing evidence that the same sorts of rules govern all of creation and that those rules might be like simple computer programs. We will investigate the "computation metaphor" and its implications for science and religion.