



e t h i c s & c u l t u r e

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NOTRE DAME CENTER FOR ETHICS & CULTURE



David Solomon

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past September, in his inaugural address as president to the Notre Dame community, Fr. John Jenkins remarked upon a “disconnect” too often present in the world’s great universities “between the academic

enterprise and an over-arching religious and moral framework that orients academic activity and defines a good human life.” For his part, Fr. Jenkins has taken it as the principal aim of his presidency to ensure that such a disconnect does not characterize the University of Notre Dame. “My presidency,” Fr. Jenkins stated, “will be driven by a whole-hearted commitment to uniting and integrating these two indispensable and wholly compatible strands of higher learning: academic excellence and religious faith.”

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture strives to be a place where such dynamic integration between academic excellence and the Catholic faith is made manifest. As the activities detailed in this newsletter make plain, the Center’s commitment to the intellectual life is always connected to the religious and moral truths that have made Our Lady’s University such a great institution. We extend our best wishes and prayers to Fr. Jenkins as he assumes the presidency of Notre Dame, and offer him our unrelenting support in the mighty struggle to make Notre Dame an exemplary research and teaching institution while maintaining its Catholic character.

Besides a new president, Notre Dame also has a new provost, Dr. Tom Burish, and a new football coach, Charlie Weis. The football coach is off to an impressive start and the new provost brings with him vast experience, a Notre Dame pedigree, and an expressed commitment to preserve and enhance Notre Dame’s special place in American higher education. We wish them both well and look forward to

working under the direction of the new provost. We doubt that the new football coach will be calling on us for assistance, but if we are needed we will do what we can. I didn’t have any experience playing varsity football as an undergraduate, but, come to think of it, neither did our new coach. Our senior research fellow, Alasdair MacIntyre, has more than a casual interest in football and is famous for out-maneuvering his opponents in the world of moral philosophy. He also once famously said that the two institutions in contemporary culture most effective in teaching virtue are the Marine Corps and well-coached football teams. If his skills are needed by Coach Weis to assist in inculcating virtue in defensive backs, we will consider lending him to the football program for a short time.

I am writing these notes in a coffee bar in Ruzomberok, Slovakia, where I am lecturing this week at the new Catholic University of Slovakia founded here just a decade ago. This university, like a number of other new Catholic universities in Hungary, Poland, Croatia and elsewhere in formerly Communist countries in central and eastern Europe, is struggling with all the difficulties of a new institution planted in a somewhat hostile setting. In observing the heroic struggles here, someone from Notre Dame cannot help but be reminded of Father Sorin’s similar struggles in the founding of Notre Dame, painted so magnificently by Fr. Marvin O’Connell in

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SIXTH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

JOY IN THE TRUTH: THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE 2005

To many of those who identify with the mission of the Center, there is no set of issues closer to the heart than the challenges presently facing Catholic higher education. Thus we deemed it most fitting to devote our sixth annual Fall flagship conference to the theme: “Joy in the Truth: The Catholic University in the New Millennium.” The result was an enormously successful conference which took place September 29-October 1, 2005 in McKenna Hall at the University of Notre Dame.

As a mission statement for the conference we turned to Pope John Paul II’s words from the opening of his 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic universities, *Ex corde ecclesiae* (*From the Heart of the Church*): “Without in any way neglecting the acquisition of useful knowledge, a Catholic University is distinguished by its free search for the whole truth about nature, man and God. The present age is in urgent need of this kind of disinterested service, namely of *proclaiming the meaning of truth*, that fundamental value without which freedom, justice and human dignity are extinguished.”

So, our aim with this conference was to bring together scholars representing all the main academic fields to discuss a broad range of issues relating to the way in which the Catholic university can best perform the service of proclaiming to the present age the truth about nature, man and God. We also sought to benefit from the insight and experience of our friends from non-Catholic

Christian colleges and universities, as well as from our friends at secular institutions.

The conference consisted of 11 plenary sessions involving 14 invited speakers, as well as 31 colloquium sessions in which 90 scholars made presentations. It is estimated that close to 400 people participated in “Joy in the Truth.”

The conference keynote address was delivered before a large audience on Thursday evening, September 29, by Philip Gleason, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Notre Dame and author of the seminal *Contending with Modernity: Catholic Higher Education in the Twentieth Century*. Professor Gleason’s keynote address was entitled, “Through Dangers, Toils and Snares: An Historical Perspective on Catholic Higher Education.”

In this lecture, Professor Gleason provided a guided tour of Catholic higher education from the founding of Georgetown University in 1789 to the present day. In regard to this history Professor Gleason distinguished four stages: the initial founding stage (1789-1889); a period of crisis and reorganization (1889-1920); a period of synthesis inspired by the neo-Scholastic revival, a synthesis that served to make Catholic higher education intellectually distinctive (1930-1965); and finally a fourth period, when the synthesis which characterized Catholic higher education throughout most of the 20th

century was exploded by what Gleason called “the perfect storm” of academic, social and ecclesial factors that converged



Center assistant director, Elizabeth Kirk, and director, David Solomon, share a moment with new Notre Dame president, Rev. John Jenkins.



The Baylor Boys, Don Schmeltekopf, Mike Beaty and Robert Sloan, on a coffee break.



Conference keynote speaker, Philip Gleason, fields a question from Tris Engelhardt.

JOY IN THE TRUTH



Helen Alvaré gets to the point!

in the mid-1960s.

As for the present, Professor Gleason observed that social and academic influences continue to push Catholic colleges and universities in the direction of assimilation to prevailing secular norms. Yet he did not give up the hope that Catholic institutions could still avoid the thoroughgoing process of secularization that characterizes the history of so many of their

prestigious Protestant counterparts. The influence upon Catholic institutions of ecclesial authority, Gleason claimed, as exemplified perhaps most of all by *Ex corde ecclesiae*, has done much to stem what might have become an unintended slide ever deeper into secularization.

After a full day of invited and colloquium sessions on Friday, September 30, the conference participants convened again in plenary session that evening to hear a talk by good Center friend and advisory board member, **Helen Alvaré**, associate professor of law at the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America. Professor Alvaré's talk was entitled, "The Catholic University: Mediator of Grace and Truth." While not denying there is much to take issue with in regard to the inroads that secularization has made in the

Catholic academy, Professor Alvaré argued that it is crucial not to lose the trust that we should have in what then Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, called "the shape of grace in history." For even in weak human beings and in weak institutions, grace can find a way to embolden and to

renew. And there are many signs that such grace is operative in Catholic academia, Professor Alvaré contended, for example in the rise of a new crop of Catholic colleges and universities, in the impressive confidence of many Catholic intellectuals to speak the truth to our culture, in the abiding presence of the sacraments, in the pride of place still often given to the



Old friends: Ralph McInerny and Marvin O'Connell enjoy a quiet moment.

disciplines of theology and philosophy, and in the presence at many Catholic institutions of devoted clergy and religious.

Among the other invited speakers at the conference were **Alasdair MacIntyre**, the Center's senior research fellow, who participated in a panel entitled, "New Undergraduate Programs at Catholic Universities: Charting a New Course." Professor MacIntyre directs the interdisciplinary minor in philosophy in the Catholic tradition in Notre Dame's philosophy department. His fellow panelists were **Don Briel**, founding director of the renowned Catholic Studies program at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul), and **Thomas Smith**, the founding director of a new program in the Humanities and

Augustinian Traditions at Villanova University.

Ralph McInerny, Grace Professor of Medieval Studies at Notre Dame, also gave a stimulating lecture on "The Analogy of Truth," while Notre Dame professors **Marvin O'Connell**, **Katherine Tillman**, and **Philip Sloan**, were the panel-

ists in a wonderful session devoted to the enduring influence of Cardinal Newman.

There were also panels devoted to particular disciplines and programs at Catholic universities, such as the discussion on "The Role of Philosophy at a Contemporary Christian University." Here the panelists included the chair of Notre

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Cheers! Conference dinners are always festive times for laughter and conversation.

CATHOLIC CULTURE SERIES

VALOR, FELLOWSHIP AND SACRIFICE: TOLKIEN'S CATHOLIC MYTH

"Is there any pleasure on earth as great as the circle of Christian friends by a good fire?"

When C.S. Lewis penned these words, he probably didn't have in mind a large lecture room in DeBartolo Hall. Nevertheless, taking this warm image as an inspiration to consider the works of J.R.R.

Tolkien during our annual Catholic Culture Series, the Center certainly expanded its circle of friends with record attendance at a series of lectures each Tuesday evening from October 25th to November 15th.

Each Fall since 2002, the Center has sponsored a week of evening lectures for undergraduates by experts on various aspects of the lives and works of particular Catholic writers. In the past three

years, this series has spotlighted G.K. Chesterton, Flannery O'Connor and Walker Percy, and Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh. This year, we changed the format of the series by spreading the lectures out over the course of a month, rather than holding them all in one week. This format seems to have worked quite well, as we had approximately 200 persons in attendance each week of the series, including many new faces from the local South Bend community.

The series opened with a lecture by **Ralph Wood**, the University Professor of Theology and Literature at Baylor University, entitled "J.R.R. Tolkien: A Catholic Writer for our Uncatholic Age." Professor Wood is a dear friend of the Center and has lectured at several of our past events. Once again, he enriched us all by providing reflections on how Tolkien "gave us such a deepened Catholic vision and understanding of the world." According to Wood, Tolkien's Catholic world-view, as depicted in Middle Earth, provides a powerful remedy to the ills of our anti-authoritarian and anti-sacramental modern culture. Tolkien depicts our modern culture in a unique way by using the image of the One Ring in *The Lord of the Rings*.

For example, the Ring has the quality of deathlessness which has the effect of making the Ring-bearers live longer, but not necessarily of living, or dying, well. This quality of the Ring stands in stark contrast to the specifically Catholic ideal of a

good and holy death, such as that made by Boromir. After the lecture, Professor Wood signed copies of his book, *The Gospel According to Tolkien: Visions of the Kingdom in Middle-earth* (Westminster John Knox, 2003).

The following week, **Joseph Pearce**, Writer in Residence and Professor of Literature at Ave Maria University, gave a lecture entitled, "Tolkien: Truth and Myth." In his talk, Professor Pearce gave us the "key" to unlocking *The*

Lord of the Rings. This key, he said, is found in the appendices of the text: March 25th, familiar to us as the Feast of the Annunciation, is the date of the un-making of the One Ring in Middle Earth. Professor Pearce explained how the One Ring—the "One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them"—is a symbol of the Original Sin which binds us all. In the Christian tradition, the Incarnation of Christ is the un-making of Original Sin. Professor Pearce used this key to unlock the Christian themes and Catholic imagery in *The Lord of the Rings*. After the lecture, Professor Pearce signed copies of his book, *Literary Converts* (Ignatius Press 2000). He has also written numerous other books, including *Tolkien: Man and Myth* (Ignatius Press 2001).

Notre Dame assistant professor of political science, **Mary Keys**, gave our third lecture, "J.R.R. Tolkien's Literary Politics of Friendship and Humility." Professor Keys focused on *The Hobbit* and its dialectic between justice and friendship. During this lecture, several of the questions from the audience revealed a frustration among common folk—us mere hobbits—with



Joseph Pearce leads the Fellowship towards Mount Doom.

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BREAKING BREAD

"WELCOMING THE STRANGER" BREAKING BREAD FALL 2005

A sumptuous meal in the Notre Dame Stadium press box.

One hundred Notre Dame students eager to talk about the Christian spiritual life.

Rev. Mark Poorman, CSC, associate professor of theology and vice-president for student affairs.

Such were the ingredients for "Welcoming the Stranger," the Fall 2005 edition of *Breaking Bread*, a dinner and evening of spiritual discussion shared by Notre Dame students, faculty and staff that took place on Wednesday, November 2, 2005.

The theme of the evening's discussion, the virtue of hospitality, was suggested by our special guest speaker, Fr. Poorman. And so, during the salad course, Fr. Poorman delivered some reflections meant to prompt discussion of this virtue. He talked of his experience in the novitiate with the Congregation of Holy Cross, and how his work with the poor challenged him to overcome complacency in order to better serve others in need. He also spoke of his sister's decision to adopt two children from China, and how this act of generosity demanded that she lovingly upset the settled pattern of her life. In the remaining portion of the meal, each table—consisting of seven or so students and a member of the Notre Dame faculty or staff—discussed how to live the virtue of hospitality and what changes one might have to undergo in order to live this virtue ever more generously.

Specific topics of discussion ranged from providing care to the homeless and poor, to asking whether Notre Dame was living up to its institutional call to welcome students from diverse backgrounds; from analyzing whether contemporary architecture, especially of the home, reflects hospitality, to questioning whether technology has had a negative impact on human relationships. Yet all conversations were inspired by Fr. Poorman's stimulating reflections and centered on the Christian call to hospitality.



We are greatly in Fr. Poorman's debt not only for choosing such a fine topic, but also for his insightful reflections. Fr. Poorman was elected vice president for student affairs by Notre Dame's Board of Trustees in April 1999. He had served the previous two years in the University's administration as executive assistant to first the executive vice president and then the president. Fr. Poorman's teaching and research concern moral theology and its pastoral applications. His undergraduate courses survey contemporary issues in Christian ethics, and his graduate courses are concerned with Christian ethics, Catholic moral teaching and pastoral practice. Among the subjects on which he has written articles and lectured widely are medical ethics, sexuality, Christian ministry, and Catholic higher education. He is the author of *Interactional Morality* (Georgetown Press, 1993) and editor of *Labors from the Heart* (Notre Dame Press, 1996), a collection of essays on mission and ministry at Notre Dame. Fr. Poorman resides on campus in Keough Hall, an undergraduate residence hall.

One participant's reflections sum up the success of "Welcoming the Stranger": "Not only was I moved by Fr. Poorman's personal experiences and reflection, but it was so refreshing to hear the different perspectives from my peers. I participated in a summer service internship this summer, and it was the primary reason that I was interested in hearing Fr. Poorman. Not only did I find his speech relevant to my summer, but also to my overall experiences here at the University and out in the community. Additionally, I had the opportunity to speak with Fr. Poorman after the dinner, and found him to be so approachable, conversational, and genuinely interested in what I had to say. I would not only specifically recommend asking Fr. Poorman to speak again at this event, but to undoubtedly continue to promote this type of event and dialogue among faculty and students. I could not speak more highly about my *Breaking Bread* dinner experience."

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

In our newsletters, we often recognize a particular benefactor's generosity to our Center. This Fall, we are pleased to note our deepest appreciation for the many kindnesses **Dr. Paul Wright** has shown to the Center, most notably as the generous benefactor of our one-hour medical ethics course. We are also delighted to take the opportunity to promote Dr. Wright's new book, *Mother Teresa's Prescription: Finding Happiness and Peace in Service*, which is forthcoming from Ave Maria Press in the Spring of 2006. In this book, Dr. Wright recounts his spiritual quest—how he found himself in the midst of a successful life, a life marked by a flourishing career as a cardiologist, a wonderful family, abundant material goods, financial security, and a respected role in the community. His was a good life by all the measures we conventionally apply to lives in contemporary culture. At the heart of his outwardly successful life, however,

he discovered dissatisfaction and emptiness. His unhappiness motivated his search for an answer to the question none of us can ultimately avoid: what is the purpose of my life? His book tells the story of his quest to answer these questions and the answer he finally arrives at with the assistance of Mother Teresa. Among the most difficult lessons for Dr. Wright, one senses, is Mother Teresa's insistence that for him genuine love and compassion requires not that he fly off to exotic places like Tijuana and Calcutta to exercise his love, but that he stay at home in Youngstown, Ohio. Charity in a real sense must begin at home. Dr. Wright first shared his story with us when he related it to an audience of Notre Dame alumni physicians and medical ethics experts in McKenna Hall at our annual **Philip and Doris Clarke Family Medical Ethics Conference**. Happily, his story will soon be available for all to read!

NEW ADDITION TO CENTER STAFF

The Center is pleased to announce the addition of **Elizabeth Kirk**, who is serving as the Center's assistant director. Elizabeth comes to the Center from Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she has been an assistant professor since 2003. She began her law career in 1996 in Chicago, Illinois, first working in the areas of estate planning, probate, and trust litigation and later providing general litigation counsel to various educational, religious and not-for-profit organizations. From 2000-2002, she clerked for Judge Daniel A. Manion of the United States Court of Appeals, and from



Elizabeth Kirk

2002-2003 she taught at The Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature with honors from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Juris Doctor with high honors from Notre Dame Law School. She is on leave during the 2005-2006 academic year from Ave Maria while she serves as the Center's assistant director. Elizabeth's legal expertise and experience gives the Center's staff a whole new dimension, one that we believe will be tremendously beneficial to our endeavors. Elizabeth's main duties are in the areas of conference planning, publications and development.

O'BRIEN-SMITH VISITING LECTURER: MICHAEL NOVAK

On Friday afternoon, September 16, 2005, the Center was proud to host, in conjunction with the O'Brien-Smith Visiting Lecture Program at Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business, **Michael Novak**, George Frederick Jewett Chair in Religion and Public Policy at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.



Michael Novak

Mr. Novak's lecture, delivered to a packed audience at the Mendoza School of Business Jordan Auditorium, was entitled "Business as a Calling," based upon his book of the same name. In it Mr. Novak underscored the moral dimension of business. He exhorted

the audience, composed mostly of students in the Business School, to recognize that a career in business is not simply a fast track to wealth and security, but a calling to service of the common good, for example, by creating jobs and benefiting the community with acts of intellectual creativity.

Mr. Novak has written some twenty-five influential books on the philosophy and theology of culture. He has also received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion (a million-dollar purse awarded at Buckingham Palace), and delivered the Templeton address in Westminster Abbey.

FELLOWSHIPS

MARY ANN REMICK SENIOR VISITING FELLOWSHIP

The Center currently invites applications for its inaugural **Mary Ann Remick Senior Visiting Fellowship**.

Mary Ann Remick, of Rochester, Minnesota, is one of the Center's most devoted friends and benefactors. We are so pleased that her wish to sponsor at the Center a distinguished senior fellow for a year of full-time research and writing on ethical issues related to the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition is about to be fulfilled.

The term of the inaugural Fellowship

is the 2006-07 academic year. The deadline for application for the Fellowship is January 31, 2006. The successful applicant

will be notified by March 17, 2006.

For more information about the Mary Ann Remick Senior Visiting Fellowship, visit the Center's website, or contact Tracy Westlake, Administrative Assistant to the Director, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, 1047 Flanner Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana, 46556, and at 574.631.9656 and westlake.1@nd.edu.



Mary Ann Remick on a visit to the Center

OUR NEW MYSER FELLOW

The Center is very proud to announce its next Myser Fellow, **Matthew Levering**, associate professor of theology and associate director of the Graduate Program in Theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida. Professor Levering will succeed current Myser Fellow **Michael Baxter**, assistant professor in Notre Dame's Theology Department, whose tenure as Myser Fellow ends with the 2005 calendar year.

Professor Levering distinguished himself from a group of highly-competitive candidates. Dr. Levering has been at Ave Maria College since 2000. He is the author of three monographs: *Christ's Fulfillment of Torah and Temple: Salvation According to Thomas Aquinas*, as well as *Scripture and Metaphysics: Aquinas and the Renewal of Trinitarian Theology and Sacrifice*, and *Community: Jewish Offering and Christian Eucharist*.

With Michael Dauphinais, he is also the co-author of *Knowing the Love of Christ: An Introduction to the Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas* and *Holy People, Holy Land: A Theological Introduction to the Bible*. He has edited *On the Priesthood:*

Classic and Contemporary Texts and *On Christian Dying: Classic and Contemporary Texts*, and co-edited *Reading John with St. Thomas Aquinas: Theological Exegesis and Speculative Theology*. He has organized three major theological conferences, serves as associate editor of Sapientia Press, and as co-editor of the English version of the international philosophical and theological journal, *Nova et Vetera*.



Matthew Levering

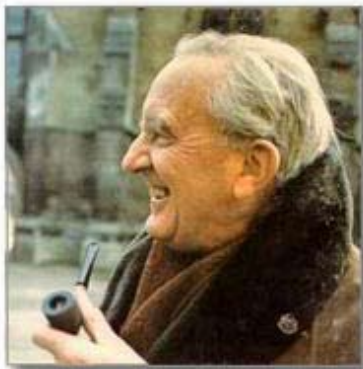
Professor Levering will enjoy the Myser Fellowship during the 2006-07 academic year. During that time he plans to pursue a book project tentatively entitled, *Temples of the Holy Spirit: Reclaiming a Jewish Theology of the Body*, in which he will look to argue that a rejection of the Jewish understanding of the body contributed powerfully to the confusion about the human body in contemporary Christian ethics.

The Myser Fellowship is a generous gift from **John and Pat Myser** of Mendota Heights, Minnesota. Its aim is to reward young academics who have shown excellence in teaching with a year of full-time research and writing.

From Catholic Culture Series, continued from page 4

contemporary government and political administration. Professor Keys provided an admonition, on behalf of Tolkien, that may not be intuitive to the modern political mind, but is thereby even more persuasive: if you want justice, work for friendship; if you want friendship, set a high value on humility. Understanding the role of friendship and the virtue of humility are essential to unlocking the works of Tolkien, suggested Professor Keys, and are critical to establishing social and civic happiness in our own world.

In the fourth and final lecture, **Greg Wright**, Writer in Residence at Puget Sound Christian College in Everett, Washington, provided his reflections on *The Lord of the Rings* films in a lecture entitled, “Missing the Spirit: The Scouring of the Shire, Tolkien’s Catholicism and Peter Jackson’s *Return of the King*.” Mr. Wright’s critical analysis of the relationship between J.R.R. Tolkien’s work and Peter Jackson’s trilogy was a wonderful way to end our series, as it tied together many of the themes addressed by the other speakers, including Tolkien’s Catholicism, from a new perspective that all



J.R.R. Tolkien

in the audience could appreciate—that of the wildly successful films. According to Mr. Wright, the films’ significant departure point from the books is the failure to include the “Scouring of the Shire.” The victory at Mount Doom, suggested Mr. Wright, is meaningless if the hobbits could not fight evil in their own backyard. While acknowledging practical reasons for omitting the Scouring of the Shire from the film, Mr. Wright declared that in so doing, Peter Jackson missed Tolkien’s spirit. After the lecture, Mr. Wright signed copies of his book, *Peter Jackson in Perspective: The Power Behind Cinema’s The Lord of the Rings* (Hollywood Jesus Books 2004). He has also written *Tolkien in Perspective: Sifting the Gold from the Glitter* (VMI Publishing 2003).

The Center plans to continue the series next Fall with four lectures on “forgotten” Catholic authors, Walter F. Miller, Jr., Sigrid Undset, Robert Hugh Benson, and George Bernanos. The Center also seeks to expand the Catholic Culture Series into the Spring semester by offering the viewing of several films that manifest an important aspect of the moral or spiritual life (such as the virtue of courage). Please visit our website for further details as these events approach.

From Joy in the Truth, continued from page 3

Dame’s philosophy department, **Paul Weithman**, as well as **Rev. Kurt Pritzl, O.P.**, dean of the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America, and **Michael Beaty**, chair of the department of philosophy at Baylor University.

Robert Sloan and **Donald Schmeltekopf**, president emeritus and provost emeritus, respectively, of Baylor University, gave a presentation on the challenges Baylor has faced in attempting to integrate the ideals of devotion to its Christian heritage and excellence in scholarship.

Other major plenary sessions included talks by **H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr.**, **Rev. Wilson Miscamble, CSC**, and **Margaret M. Hogan**.

The topics discussed by the conference participants over the weekend ranged widely—from academic freedom to new curricular initiatives; from spiritual aspects of the intellectual life to what Catholic universities can learn from non-Catholic. Issues involving women, families and the Christian university

were discussed along with issues affecting the formation of professionals. But if one had to choose a dominant theme that characterized the entire conference, one would have to say that it was the theme of unity, unity in the truth and unity in the curriculum. Time and again throughout the presentations criticism was made of the fragmentation and compartmentalization of the disciplines in the modern academy. Our hope is that our sixth annual Fall conference helped make manifest the way toward a resolution of this problem, a resolution founded upon what St. Augustine called *gaudium de veritate*: joy in the truth!

The Center would like especially to thank **George Maas** of Edina, Minnesota, as well as the entire Maas family, whose Maas Family Endowment for Excellence played such a large part in supporting this conference.

Save the Date! Next Fall’s conference, on the theme of modernity, will take place at Notre Dame from November 30th to December 2nd. We hope to see you there.

There is at present no issue in biomedical ethics more fraught with misconceptions and exaggerated expectations than the field of stem cell research, especially research involving human embryos. To help us separate the facts from the fiction, the Center called upon **Carter Snead**, associate professor at the Notre Dame Law School, to deliver our semi-annual Schmitt Lecture, which was entitled: “Speaking Truthfully About Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning.” Professor Snead’s lecture was delivered on Wednesday afternoon, November 16, 2005, to a large crowd in the main auditorium of McKenna Hall at Notre Dame.

Professor Snead is uniquely qualified to discuss the moral, scientific and legal ramifications of stem cell research and human cloning. Before joining Notre Dame’s law faculty this year, Professor Snead was general counsel for President Bush’s Council on Bioethics. While serving on the Council, Professor Snead advised its members on the legal and public policy dimensions of numerous ethical questions arising from advances in biomedical science and biotechnology. He was the principal drafter of the Council’s 2004 report, “Reproduction and Responsibility: The Regulation of New Biotechnologies,” a comprehensive critical assessment of the governance (both public and private) of the activities at the intersection of assisted reproduction, human embryo research, and genetics.

In his energetic and engaging lecture, Professor Snead argued that, contrary to much popular rhetoric, science itself provides no answer to the moral question of whether it is licit to do research on human embryos or to clone human beings. He further claimed that the best moral argument for the maximal protection of the embryo was based on equality,

claiming further that this was not a religious argument, but one accessible to all in the public debate.

The aim of the Schmitt Lecture Series—which in the past has featured such distinguished lights as Gilbert Meilaender, Mark Siegler, Paul Griffiths, Stanley Fish, Jean Bethke Elshtain, and Michael Baxter—is to provide an occasion to reflect on the ethical, political and religious dimensions of science and technology. It is difficult to imagine a topic which answers more directly to the charge of the Schmitt Lecture than the topic discussed by Professor Snead.

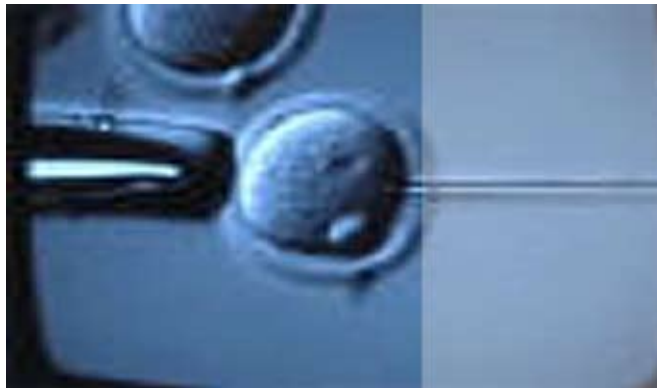
The lecture was well-attended by Notre Dame’s Schmitt Fellows, those graduate students in the Schools of Science

and Engineering who are the principal recipients of the generosity of the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation to the University of Notre Dame. It was for the sake of honoring that generosity that the Schmitt Lecture Series was founded.

A reception immediately followed the lecture in

McKenna Hall, and then a special group of Center guests, including the Schmitt Fellows and a cross-section of Notre Dame faculty, convened at the Morris Inn for a dinner in honor of Professor Snead. After dessert, Professor Snead generously agreed to take more questions from the audience. In this lively question-and-answer period, we were especially pleased to see how many of those questions came from Schmitt Fellows, who found this topic deeply compelling.

In the end, the day was a great success, and a fitting tribute to Arthur J. Schmitt’s desire to help form young persons in the fields of science and engineering not only as people of technical expertise, but also as moral leaders in their fields.



MEDICAL ETHICS COURSE

Last year, thanks to the generosity of **Dr. Paul Wright**, the Center organized a one-day medical ethics course designed to give undergraduates considering a vocation in health care the opportunity to engage in conversation with physicians, philosophers and theologians familiar with medical ethics. Due to the overwhelming success of the course, we decided to offer the course every semester. This Fall, on Saturday, October 29th, almost 100 undergraduate students met together, using the small-group discussion format of our Medical Ethics Conference, to discuss real case studies that they might encounter in their future medical practices.

The cases focused on three major themes designed to provide a context in which to explore more deeply the idea of medicine as a moral enterprise. In the first session, we reflected on the principles, virtues, and practices that characterize a good doctor. Some of the questions explored included how we should educate doctors with respect to moral character, and in the day of pharmaceutical advertising and market pressures, what sorts of outside interests can influence a doctor's judgment and practice. In the second session, we reflected on a series of complications that can arise in the doctor-patient relationship, specifically focusing on the limits of patient autonomy and consent. In the final session, we explored the more general problems of social justice in the health care system.

In addition to providing an excellent educational opportunity, the course also provides a forum for students to form an on-going mentoring relationship with practicing alumni physicians. This year, six alumni physicians who regularly attend the **Philip and Doris Clarke Family Medical Ethics Conference**, along with two other resource people, volunteered their time and expertise to make the

course another huge success. The physicians were **Dr. Paul Wright** of Youngstown, Ohio, who initiated and generously funded the course; **Dr. Paul McCauley**, who runs a free clinic in Maryland; **Dr. Mark Lindenmeyer**, who currently practices law and works in an administrative capacity for three hospitals in the Cincinnati area; **Rev. Jim Foster, CSC, MD**, who serves as an adviser to pre-med students at Notre Dame; and finally—our first husband and wife physician team—**Dr. Tom Murphy**, a clinical endocrinologist, and **Dr. Laura David**, an OB/GYN, both professors at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to these physicians, **John Robinson** of Notre Dame's Law School and Center director **David Solomon** served as resource people for the course.

Feedback from the student participants has been overwhelmingly positive. One student commented that, "The subject matter that we covered was more contemporary than the usual philosophy classes, and with that came a relevance to my own personal life, [which] heightened my awareness of the issues confronting medicine today, and motivated me to take a stand in these pressing issues that are around me." He continued, "The discussion leaders were great—they were kind, intelligent, and honest. They had hope and love for their patients (and/or clients), which filled me with optimism for the future, whatever field I may choose." Perhaps the highest compliment from a college student was this: "I really enjoyed the seminar, and am really glad I convinced myself to give up a Saturday for it!"

We are grateful to all the resource people and physicians who generously gave their time to lead this course, and are especially grateful to Dr. Wright for his generosity in funding the project.

From Breaking Bread, continued from page 5

Breaking Bread, originally the inspiration of a former Center undergraduate assistant, is chiefly administered by the Center's current staff of undergraduate assistants. As one of these assistants, Kate Wilson, puts it: "Breaking Bread is a truly unique opportunity to bring students and faculty together in meaningful dialogue outside of the classroom setting. Events like this are not only inspiring, but leave students with wonderful



Notre Dame students enjoy a hearty meal in the press box in Notre Dame Stadium.

memories of their experience. Through the sharing of a meal, professors are no longer images of authority, but friends with common goals and common values."

Breaking Bread is swiftly becoming a beloved Notre Dame tradition. The Center once again extends its profound gratitude to **Mr. Fran McGowen**, of Malvern, Pennsylvania, whose generosity makes possible this event.

From the Director, continued from page 1

his biography of our founder. Our new leaders, Fr. Jenkins, Dr. Burish, and even Coach Weis, have much work to do, but they can build on a century and a half of dedicated service by those who have come before. The foundation has been laid at Notre Dame and our main task is to keep faith with those who have come before us and whose dedication and sacrifice have left us so much with which to work. When we see how difficult it is to create new institutions, it should remind us again of the importance of maintaining in a healthy condition those already underway. Inspired by our new leaders at Notre Dame, we face this task with eager hope.

In the midst of our excitement about the future, however, we were saddened recently by the death of one of our most generous benefactors and a good friend to the Center, Jack Schuster. Jack was a loyal son of Notre Dame and carried into his work in the world of banking and business the lessons he learned so well here. His death was made even sadder by its coming just at the moment he was commencing his retirement, a retirement in which he hoped to deepen his relationship with his alma mater. He both lived and died well, and we will miss him. His wife Silva, and his children Nicole and John, remain in our prayers.

NEW CENTER "TAILGATERS"

In order to spend more time with our friends in a relaxed and festive setting, the Center this Fall inaugurated a series of "tailgaters," which were held before three Notre Dame home football games: vs. Michigan St. (September 17), vs. Tennessee (November 5), and vs. Syracuse (November 19).

These tailgaters took place in the Center's conference room on the 10th floor of Flanner Hall. With plenty of fine food and cold adult beverages, Center director David Solomon, associate director Daniel McInerny, and assistant director Elizabeth Kirk, mixed and mingled with friends and benefactors, including some of our friends from campus and the South Bend area.

Each one of the three tailgaters featured at least one "special guest star." For the Michigan St. tailgater the special guest star was renowned Catholic scholar **Michael Novak**, in town not only for the lecture he delivered at the Mendoza

School of Business the afternoon before (see the related article in this issue), but also to enjoy the football weekend with his son and daughter-in-law and their family.

For the Tennessee tailgater our special guest stars were

Gerry Bradley, associate professor at the Notre Dame Law School, and **Philip Bess**, professor in Notre Dame's School of Architecture. A trio of special guests were featured at the Syracuse tailgater: Notre Dame's **Ralph McInerny**, Grace Professor of Medieval Studies and professor in the philosophy department, **Rev. Wilson Miscamble**, CSC, of

the history department, and **Rev. Mike Heintz**, rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral here in South Bend.

These tailgaters were a lot of fun, and have inspired us to make them a Center tradition. Feeling left out? Well, all you have to do in Fall 2006 is follow the sounds of laughter up to the 10th floor of Flanner Hall!



Go Irish!

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