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## News And Notes: Volume 22.3

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### *Conferences*

#### Phil Quinn Memorial Conference

Date: December 2-3, 2005

Place: University of Notre Dame, Center for Continuing Education

The Philosophy Department at the University of Notre Dame would like to announce a conference in honor of the memory of our colleague, Phil Quinn. Speakers include Robert Adams, Paul Griffiths, Martha Nussbaum, Ernest Sosa, Eleonore Stump, Sumner Twiss, and Linda Zagzebski. For updated information, see <http://www.nd.edu/~ndphilo/>. If you have questions, please contact [asmith3@nd.edu](mailto:asmith3@nd.edu). Registrater now.

#### Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Meeting

Theme: Christianity and Mystery

Date: April 20 – 22, 2006

Place: University of Notre Dame

Keynote Speakers include William Wainwright (Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Richard Cross (Oxford University), and Merold Westphal (Fordham University).

Papers are invited on any topic of interest to Christian philosophers.

Papers should be of such length as to be read in 30 minutes or less. Two copies, suitable for blind review, should be submitted, along with a one-page abstract containing the author's name and affiliation as he or she would like it to appear on the program. Papers should be submitted to Thomas Flint, Department of Philosophy, 100 Malloy Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 46556.

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2005. Notifications will be sent by January 31, 2006.

Christianity and Mystery Historically, Christianity has both lauded human reason for its ability to discern truths and chided those who feel that reason is our sole avenue to truth. Some truths, it has insisted, can be known only by way of divine revelation; and even after they have been revealed, our grasp of these truths is expected always to be limited and halting, however important our acceptance of them might be. Truths of this sort are traditionally known as mysteries – “those divine things,” as Aquinas describes them in the *Summa Contra Gentiles*, “that have been divinely revealed to us to be believed, since they transcend the human intellect.”

The notion of mystery raises a number of intriguing philosophical issues. Some of these have to do with specific beliefs traditionally seen as mysteries – the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Eucharist, the resurrection of the body, and so on. To what extent can such mysteries be understood? What models or analogies best illuminate them for us? What are the most powerful objections to the coherence of these specific beliefs, and how (if at all) can these objections best be countered? Other questions concern the very nature of mystery. What, precisely, makes something a mystery? How do we know when a certain belief should be so classified? What level of understanding concerning mysteries is to be expected? How is such understanding to be achieved? Is a religion that places such emphasis on mystery one that is rationally respectable? These questions and many more naturally rise to the surface when one considers the Christian emphasis on mystery, and they will provide the theme for our SCP Midwest Regional Meeting.

### *Fellowships*

#### Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion

The Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame announces five fellowships for the 2006-2007 academic year: The Alvin Plantinga Fellowship (\$40,000) awarded to a distinguished senior scholar; The Frederick J. Crosson Fellowship (\$40,000) reserved for foreign scholars and those outside the field of philosophy; two Postdoctoral Fellowships (\$30,000); and one Visiting Graduate Fellowship (\$14,000) awarded to a graduate student in philosophy who is working on a dissertation in the philosophy of religion. Plantinga and Postdoctoral Fellows usually have the option of teaching one course in philosophy per semester for an additional \$6,675 annually. Applicants should send the following materials to Thomas P. Flint, Director, Center for Philosophy of Religion, Malloy Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556: 1) A complete CV. 2) Three letters of recommendation. 3) A statement of no more than three pages (double-spaced) specifying the fellowship for which you are applying and describing the project on which you would like to work while at the Center. 4) One published or unpublished paper. Application Deadlines: Plantinga and Crosson Fellowships: January 16, 2006. All others: March 1, 2006. E-mail: marsden.3@nd.edu Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~cprelig>

### *Announcements*

#### Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Study of Jesus and Culture

Emory University and Candler School of Theology invite nominations for A Distinguished Visiting University Professorship: "The Alonzo L. McDonald Family Chair on The Life and Teachings of Jesus and their

Impact on Culture.”

The McDonald Chair seeks interpretations of the person and teachings of Jesus from the broadest array of disciplines; invites interdisciplinary approaches; and carries no confessional or religious constraints.

The recipient, who may be on sabbatical or leave from his or her institution, will be expected to deliver a semester's set of lectures or performances (ten to twelve) that could and would serve multiple instructional and public purposes and be suitable for publication in book form or be made available publicly in the modality appropriate for the Chair holder's discipline or field.

For additional information, please visit

<<http://www.candler.emory.edu/ABOUT/positions.html>>.

### *Post-Doctoral Research*

#### Harvard Divinity School in collaboration with the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics

Harvard Divinity School announces two full-time post-doctoral research positions for 2006-2007 (potentially renewable for a second year) in theology and analytic philosophy of religion, respectively. Successful candidates will conduct interdisciplinary research and joint publications with Professors Sarah Coakley and Martin A. Nowak in their Templeton-funded project, 'Evolution and Theology of Cooperation'. Candidates must have a completed doctorate, relevant qualifications in either theology or analytic philosophy (or both), and some science or mathematics background. Full-time residence during the academic year is required. Salary: in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000, plus benefits.

Harvard University is an equal opportunity, affirmative-action employer and encourages applications from and nominations of women and/or ethnic minority candidates.

Letters of application or nomination, accompanied by a recent curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, a writing sample and/or publications, should be sent to Professor Sarah Coakley, The Evolution and Theology Search Committee, c/o Monica Stuart, Harvard Divinity School, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138.

Review of applications begins December 31, 2005. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit full dossiers by that date. E-mail: [monica\\_stuart@harvard.edu](mailto:monica_stuart@harvard.edu).