



2008 Conference Addresses Timely Topic

When the SVHE Board of Directors and the Program Committee selected religion and politics as the theme for the 2008 conference, no one knew that this year's presidential primaries would inspire newspaper headlines such as the recent "Religion Looms Large in Election" or "Religion Becomes Top Topic in Presidential Race." We simply realized that for good and for ill, religion is, and has always been, a central concern for voters, politicians, and policy makers. And we knew that our organization's origins, traditions, and current projects position us ideally to host a conference addressing the interface of religion, education, and politics.

To examine the theme, "Keeping it Civil: Religion

in an Election Year," SVHE fellows and guests will gather in Baltimore from July 23 to 27 at the College of Notre Dame Conference Center. Discussion and deliberation will take place in a variety of settings: plenary presentations, roundtable conversations, seminars (formerly called Morning Groups) and informal conversations. As usual, seminars, focused on a range of other topics of interest, including popular culture, autobiography, and the environment, will also be offered.

Plenary speakers include

- Michael J. Perry, the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law at Emory University, author of numerous essays and books on religion and politics, including *Under God? Religious Faith and Liberal Democracy* and *Love and Power: The Role of Religion and Morality in American Politics*.
- Melissa Rogers, Visiting Professor of Religion and Public Policy and founder and director of the Wake Forest University Center for Religious and Public Affairs. Previ-

ously Dr. Rogers served as director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life in Washington, D.C.

Faculty from SVHE's June '08 Institute on Religion and Public Life, supported by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, discussing strategies for developing religious literacy and informed citizenship among college students. Institute co-Directors Bob Spivey and Marvin Kaiser will chair the panel.

In order to make the conference a success, the Program Committee relies on the contributions of countless volunteers. If you are interested in contributing time and talent, please consider convening a seminar, contributing to the annual auction, assisting with evening socials, recruiting conference participants, or volunteering for a task that more closely matches your interests.

Cynthia Magistro,
Program Chair
(magistro@setonhill.edu)



Caption describing picture or graphic.

2008 is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60th anniversary

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."



Every Human has Rights

It's a time for a global conversation about human rights.

To consider the values that unite us as one human family, and one global village. But it can be more.

For the last 60 years it's been governments that have been asked to sign the Universal Declaration.

We hope that 2008 can be the year that individuals, not

just governments, sign the declaration. We're hoping for one billion signatures from across the world.

We want yours to be one of them. We urge you to embrace the values and goals of the declaration. To protect the rights of your fellow global villagers. And encourage others to do the same in your communities, workplaces and schools.

Please sign the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. Make your personal pledge to live your life by its principles.

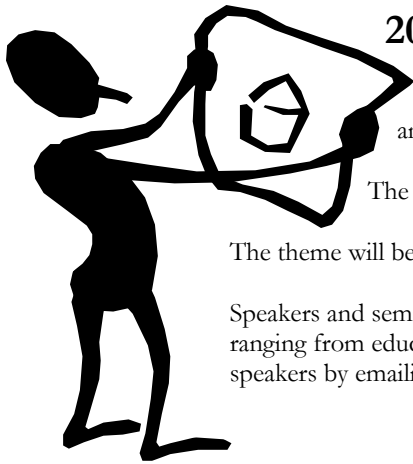
Every human has rights.

Log on to
www.everyhumanhasrights.org
 To read the entire declaration and
 To sign your name to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

HELP US

ENVISION THE SOCIETY'S FUTURE

SVHE'S Strategic Planning Committee invites all Fellows to contribute to its final recommendations about the Society's future. Our initial thinking will be available on the Society website by mid-March, but we want our final report, which will be discussed at the 2008 Town Meeting, to reflect as much as possible our members' views about the Society's direction and goals. Please read and comment on our work thus far and offer your own suggestions by sending them to the SVHE website (www.svhe.org). If you prefer, send typed suggestions to our Portland office to be passed on to us. We appreciate your participation in helping us envision and realize the best possible future for the Society.



2009 Annual Conference Planning Underway

The Program Committee and Board of Directors are happy to announce that the location and theme for SVHE's 2009 Annual Conference have been selected.

The meeting will take place from July 22 to 26 at Elmhurst College, near Chicago.

The theme will be "The Academy and the Marketplace."

Speakers and seminars will address the complicated relationship of education to enterprise, dealing with topics ranging from education and athletics to university-industry partnerships. Fellows are invited to recommend speakers by emailing the office at society@pdx.edu.

Planning is underway for the Seminars (formerly morning groups) for the 2008 conference. Old favorites will return, including, among others, Forms of Autobiography, Popular Culture, Historical Fiction, and Celebrating the Religious Search. New Seminars, and some initiated last year, will address this year's conference theme. These include Religion and Politics and a seminar continuing work that will be started in SVHE's June Institute on Religion and Public Life for university faculty and students.

Those interested in organizing a Seminar or presenting work at one that is already planned should contact Margie Jones (margie8888@aol.com) for additional information.

2008 Fellows Meeting Seminars (formerly Morning Groups)

Celebrating the Search

Our morning group: Celebrating the Search will continue and we already have several people who have agreed to make presentations.

We look forward to having some additional presentations of your own experience and Carol (shamefacedly) has lost her notebook with the names and e-mail addresses of those who agreed to make presentations next summer so PLEASE step forward and send in your name.

I believe that among our presenters will be Alfred McQueen and Ira Rifkin and we may be able to persuade Gayle Bray. Gottfried Paasche will be willing to make a presentation with his daughter--the Rabbi. So come one, come all and celebrate the search with us.

Carol Ochs
cochs@earthlink.net

Forms of Autobiography

For our meeting this year our cho-

sen theme will be "Kairos." The ancient Greeks had two words for time, kronos for chronological or sequential time and kairos to indicate the right moment or opportune time, usually for a crucial action. While kronos is quantitative, kairos has a qualitative nature.

Past presenters have given us scholarly articles, excerpts from personal journals, poetry, memoirs, videos, photographic essays, and/or informal spoken reminiscences—a rich tapestry of possible forms for autobiography. Presenters might choose any one or a combination of several of them to explore the concept of kairos in the context of a life history.

We will happily greet returning group members and are always eager to welcome new ones. We invite anyone interested in presenting a paper and/or leading a discussion on some aspect of the general theme to contact us. Personal autobiographical works as well as studies of such materials by others are welcome.

It's still early in the year, but as of January these are two of our planned presentations:

Mary Ann Willis will speak on kairos as one way to understand a life (title to follow) Marianne Gilbert Finnegan, "*A Brief History of (Our) Autobiography*"

Co-Conveners:

Marianne Finnegan
(mgfinnegan@verizon.net or 518-587-7961)

Mary Treanor
(mary.treanor@valpo.edu or 219-464-5128)

Historical Fiction Seminar

Historical fiction, as critic Dawn Coleman writes, illustrates for us in striking ways "how the present continually reinvents the significance of the past," a past that includes ongoing debates about the use of violence against others, religious freedom, civil rights, and the role of literature in the education of Americans. Novelist Frederic Beigbeder

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SVHE Institute on Religion in Curriculum and Culture of Higher Education

June 15—20, 2008
Trinity Conference Center

Religion builds communities, but it can also fracture societies. Nowhere is that clearer than on the college campus

Religion's centrality in contemporary life makes it an inescapable object of study and reflection; moreover, study of religion should extend beyond the borders of religious studies departments to include the larger curriculum. The academy is responsible for creating a campus culture that makes room for religious diversity.

Today, students flock to religion courses and many are involved in student religious organizations, but in the classroom and across campus, religious differences often inspire disagreement and angry confrontation. Because of their religious commitments, many students are challenging their professors in areas ranging from stem cell research and evolutionary biology to religiously motivated world conflict. Campus politics is often dominated by controversial issues such as abortion and gay rights, issues which bring to light deep differences in religious belief.

One response to this conflict is to attempt to limit or ignore the discussion of religion across campus. Another is to find productive ways of recognizing and addressing the important role that religion plays in American democracy and a global society.

This Institute seeks to provide the opportunity to rethink the place of religion in higher education and to provide skills to address the difficult questions generated by religious difference in the classroom, across campus and in a diverse democracy and changing global world. Its goal is to produce exemplary curricular and co-curricular models reflecting the needs of the diverse participating institutions and their students.

For example

- A model, mini-unit on learning about Islam would be invaluable for numbers of courses in which understanding of this tradition is essential.
- Science and religion as a general area for study would welcome specific topics, including the tension between faith and evolution.
- Exploring the role of religion and ethics for professions such as medicine, law and business could be made widely available by means of on-line education.

Such program opportunities represent the kind of campus initiatives we welcome.

With support from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund the Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE) invites applications from colleges and universities to develop model programs to address religious literacy (see www.svhe.org).

The **ten campuses** selected, each normally consisting of a team of 3 faculty and 1 student, will participate in the SVHE Institute/Workshop at the Trinity Conference Center (West Cornwall, CT) June 15-20, 2008. There they will develop curricular and/or co-curricular programs related to issues of religion and public life to be implemented and assessed during the following academic year(s) and afterward widely distributed by means of a monograph summarizing the results.

**SVHE Institute on Religion in
Curriculum and Culture of Higher Education**

Institute faculty

Marvin Kaiser, co-director, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Portland State University; SVHE executive director; sociology of religion.

Robert Spivey, co-director, former chair, Department of Religion, Florida State University; former executive director of the American Academy of Religion; SVHE associate executive director; Biblical studies.

Miriam Diamond, coordinator, faculty developer, editor-author of Encountering Faith in the Classroom (2008 Stylus); educational processes.

Allen Dunn, professor, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, editor, Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal; English literature.

Richard B. Miller, professor, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University; director, Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions; religious ethics.

Kevin Reinhart, associate professor, Department of Religion, Dartmouth College; Islamic studies.

Nancy Thomas, director, the Democracy Imperative at the University of New Hampshire, senior associate with Everyday Democracy (formerly Study Circles Resource Center) and former director of SVHE's Democracy Project; legal issues and deliberative democracy.

Participating campuses will support their faculties' experience at the Institute/Workshop by matching SVHE/duPont funds for room, board and travel costs as follows:

3 faculty @ \$500 each	\$1,500
1 student @ \$1,000 each	<u>\$1,000*</u>
Total	\$2,500

*Encouraged, not required.

For further information contact Robert Spivey – bspivey@foundation.fsu.edu or 850/644-0767.

Rolling application—deadline March 31.



**Looking for past participants
of SWCT**

The Summer Workshop in College Teaching is seeking contact information for former SWCT and NTW workshop participants and staff. Did you yourself come to one? Was this your entrance into the Society? Do you know any former participants who aren't current Society members that are still teaching? SVHE plans to offer up to ten fellowships to come to a SWCT Planning Conference this summer at the annual Fellows' Meeting. As a teaching fellow most expenses would be paid (room & board at the conference and conference fees, along with a travel allowance). More on this later--for now, tell us about those you know!

Nota Bene: A Speech for Our Time

“Catching Up With Martin: the ‘fierce urgency’ of King’s Vision for Current and Future Leaders”, a Founder’s Day speech at Washington and Lee University by Fellow John Maguire, masterfully blends King’s voice with others, both past and present, which still speak to that ‘fierce urgency’ for “transforming our values, reordering our priorities, rooting our social activism in deep spirituality, and living out the centrality of a world-encircling love.” Participating in the struggle to achieve these elements of King’s vision is what truly honors him, Maguire finds direct parallels between King’s historical circumstances and our own, circumstances whose urgency still requires us to “to provide young people with...opportunities to engage in self-transforming and structure-transforming direct action.” Accessible on our website: www.svhe.org

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concur, noting that “Novels, I believe, are a means of understanding history; they can be windows on our world.” We will focus this summer on fiction that responds to one of the most crucial historical events of our time—the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001. We will read novels that capture the rise of terrorism, the actual attacks, and the aftermath for Americans and Muslims alike. The reading list is as follows: Salman Rushdie’s *Shalimar the Clown*, Don DeLillo’s *Falling Man*, Laila Halaby’s *Once in a Promised Land*, and Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*. If you have not already read the 9/11 Commission Report, I urge you to look at *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation* by Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon. I look forward to the 2008 meeting in Baltimore and urge those interested in participating in this group to contact me; in particular, I need facilitators for three of the titles above. I hope you will join the group for another exciting and stimulating workshop.

Convener: Mary E. Papke
(papke@utk.edu)

The Modern Era

The group on modernism, once a lively element of the SVHE mix, has attracted only four presentations in the last three years. I am interested, still, in hearing from Fellows who would like to discuss issues connected with any aspect of the modernist age.

Phil O’Mara
pomara@bridgewater.edu

Popular Culture

The popular culture seminar will continue to bring a distinctively SVHE lens to popular culture. We are interested in popular culture broadly understood, with four questions in mind:

- 1) What values are communicated through popular culture?
- 2) What does popular culture tell us about society?
- 3) What are we reading/watching/listening to in popular culture, and why do we like it?

4) Why this study is important, and what can we do with this knowledge?

Two presentations are scheduled so far for summer 2008:

1. Nancy Jones -- "*The Perspective of Harry Potter, from without and within*"

The phenomenon of this publishing miracle from the point of view of readers, teachers, detractors, skeptics, believers, and Harry himself.

2. Christine Feldman, conference participant for most of her just over 30 years, is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Communication and a 2007-2008 Andrew Mellon Fellow in the Humanities. Christine will discuss her nearly completed dissertation on Mod culture (the British-born music, fashion, and design from 1963 to 1967) with special attention to the culture's international circulation. Given Ms. Feldman's recent academic successes as a 2006-2007 Fulbright scholar at the University of Hamburg and a newly-minted publication deal in the works with Peter Lang (Mod Culture: A Transnational History) her presentation:

"Mod in Academe: Popular Culture Studies Revisited," Will give us a front-row look at how the field of Communication and research on popular culture topics in general are currently perceived and treated in academia. (see article on page 5 by Christine Feldman)

Margie Jones margie8888@aol.com

Religious Literacy: Campus Models

This seminar, closely related to the Society's duPont funded project on Religion and Public Life, will explore potential and actual curricular and co-curricular models for furthering religious literacy on campuses and beyond.

In addition to discussion of initiatives developed by campuses at the June SVHE Institute, participants are encouraged to present other religious literacy programs, including those on campus, in community, and in both public and private schools.

Participants are also encouraged to submit relevant articles for discussion by the group.

Convener: Bob Spivey
(bspivey@foundation.fsu.edu)

Theorizing Culture: Slavoj Zizek Keeps It Real

The Slovenian cultural critic Slavoj Zizek may be the closest thing that academia has to rockstar celebrity. His lectures and public appearances are filled to overflowing, and his cultural criticism appears in a wide variety of popular and scholarly venues, both in Europe and the United States. Zizek's scholarship has a breath-taking range and draws on dramatically different traditions and discourses. A typical Zizek essay might start with a discussion of a scene from a recent film and then proceed to argue that the scene illustrates a crucial insight that is found in Hegel's philosophy, developed in the work of French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, and supported by recent work in neurobiology. This essay would most certainly end by giving the Hegelian insight a Marxist spin and applying it to the contemporary political scene.

At the core of Zizek's work is the conviction that human consciousness is inevitably shaped and limited by its own necessary contradictions. In his own words: "my entire work circulates around this gap that separates the One from itself, for which the Lacanian designation is the Real." Zizek argues that all legitimate human convictions begin with a confrontation with this Real. In this seminar we will read Zizek's *The Fragile Absolute--or, Why is the Christian Legacy Worth Fighting For?* This provocative book argues that the legacies of both Marxism and Christianity are "worth fighting for," and that, because they both bear testimony to the Real, they should be viewed as allies in the fight against the "barrage of new spiritualisms." The seminar will begin with supplementary readings that will help us understand some of the broad features of Zizek's theory, but we will spend most of our time on the text itself. If you have questions or would like copies of the supplementary readings, please contact the either

Eric Bain-Selbo
Eric.bain-selbo@wku.edu
Allen Dunn
ardunn@utk.edu



Dr. Mod, or How a “Rockergrrrl” became a Fulbright Scholar and learned to love academia

Christine J. Feldman

Ph.D. Candidate in Communication, University of Pittsburgh
Presenting at the 2008 FM Popular Culture Seminar

As the daughter of a former professor and longtime SVHE Fellow (Reynold Feldman), it is indeed thrilling to be presenting my work (“Mod in Academia: Popular Culture Studies Revisited,”) at the 2008 gathering in Baltimore. Like many children of SVHE Fellows, I attended—and enjoyed—the meetings alongside my parents. The last meeting I attended was at Reed College in 1998, which seems, in some ways, a lifetime ago. At that time, I was working at a student-oriented travel agency in Portland while pursuing my childhood dream of being a rock musician. Ten years later, I am in the midst of completing my Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Pittsburgh. Though I did not begin graduate school until 2001, I believe attending the SVHE 1998 meeting was a turning point in eventually making that decision. While there, I was reminded of not only how much I missed the intellectual stimulation of the morning groups, but also, the inspiring and energizing conversations that I had strolling through the campus or at coffee breaks in between the officially planned events. I realized I deeply missed the fellowship and community that an intellectual community like SVHE offered.

While some might say that the apple does not fall far from the tree, and that it is not uncommon for children

to follow the career footsteps of their parents, I was quite reluctant to do so. Although I always felt comfortable within a scholarly community, I actively sought other venues to express my ideas. I wanted to be “creative,” and I somehow had it in my head that one could not be creative as an academic in the way that artists, for instance, could be. However, as a songwriter and musician, I realized that my favorite aspect of being part of a rock music scene was the history and lore that surrounded this musical genre and community. Since I had always been especially interested in the music and history of the early-to-mid sixties, I even played the same kind of Rick-enbacker guitar that John Lennon played in the Beatles’ early days. I also found myself reading everything I could on this era—whether about its music, fashion, design, or politics. I suddenly found myself wanting to engage with this topic in a deeper way, and realized that I needed to find another way to do so. I played my last concert in the summer of 2001 and began an M.A. program in Communication, Culture, and Technology at Georgetown University that fall. Within my first semester, much to my surprise, I discovered the work of British scholar Dick Hebdige who had written about the “Teddy Boy,” “Mod,” and “Punk” youth subcultures of the 1950s to 70s. I was thrilled to find out that Hebdige was

a well-respected scholar in Communication and Cultural Studies because of his seminal work in these fields. His book *Subculture, the Meaning of Style* (1979) is, indeed, a landmark publication and opened-up a new world for scholars interested in youth and popular culture. For the first time, I realized that I could maintain my interests and pursue them in a scholarly way. Thus, I began my study of early-to-mid sixties “Mod Culture” (think: British Invasion bands and Carnaby Street fashions) in earnest. I soon learned that there were also enclaves of contemporary “Mods”—young people who mimic and recreate the fashions and music of this period. With this additional discovery, my main scholarly pursuit became trying to understand what attracts younger generations to this now more than forty-year-old style.

Indeed, since I decided to pursue what I love with an attentive, scholarly eye, some amazing things have happened. In the spring of 2003 I received an M.A. with distinction from Georgetown for my thesis “Making Time: The Retro-Forward Logic of Mod Style.” That fall, I began my Ph.D. program in Communication at Pittsburgh. From the start of my doctoral work, I decided to add an international dimension to my study of Mod, so my dissertation

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**Society for Values in
Higher Education**

PO Box 751-SVHE
c/o Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207

Phone: 503.725.2575
Fax: 503.725.2577
E-mail: society@pdx.edu



Dear Friends and Family!

I was invited to publish a series of articles on a local website about my experience in Ghana, West Africa and it's up! Check it out at http://sheville.org/visitors/thingsToDo_article.php?articleID=325 and let me know what you think!

Peace and Blessings, Janna

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Janna Hoekema
281 White Pine Dr.
Asheville, NC 28805
(828) 232-4475 or
(616) 826-7124

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("Mod Culture: A Transnational History") looks at the origins of the culture in Britain and its interpretations in Germany, the U.S., and Japan. I feel very fortunate in having received much intellectual and financial support for my work. A University of Pittsburgh summer fellowship allowed me to interview contemporary Mods in Japan in 2004. In 2005, the Popular Culture Association awarded me the Marshall Fishwick Popular Culture Collections Travel Grant in order to look at American teen and music magazines from the 1960s at Bowling Green State University's Popular Culture and

Music libraries. Last year I was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Hamburg's Research Center of Contemporary History, where I was able to complete oral history interviews and archival research on Mod culture in Germany.

At the beginning of January, the acquisitions editor at Peter Lang (North America) gave me the news that my book proposal based on the dissertation has been accepted for their "Mediated Youth" book series. It will be published in 2009. I am very happy to report: Yes, it is possible to study popular culture and receive academic accolades for it! I have in-

deed, to borrow from a Stanley Kubrick film title, "learned to stop worrying and love academia." I have realized that the academic world does allow and encourage innovation and creativity. I may be a late bloomer in coming to this realization, but I am grateful that I finally "got it."

I hope you will join me this summer at SVHE for what I think will be a vibrant and engaging discussion about the role of popular culture studies in the scholarly community.