

The Center for Christian Discernment and Academic Leadership Conference Explores Effect of Higher Education on Church Life

By Roger Ward

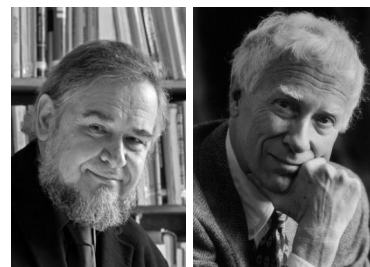
Professor of Philosophy

January 23-24, 2012 will mark a special occasion in the life of Georgetown College. The Center for Christian Discernment and Academic Leadership (CDAL) directed by Dr. Roger Ward (Philosophy) will host a conference on East Campus focusing on the effect Christian colleges and universities have on American church life. The conference "Christian Life and Witness: From the Academy to the Church" will be headlined by Dr. Paul Fiddes (Oxford) and Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff (Yale). Dr. Fiddes will speak at the Founders Day Convocation in the Chapel on January 24th.

The conference is the first public offering of the Center for Christian Discernment and Academic Leadership. The Center evolved from the success of the Meetinghouse Program, the eight-year, \$2.5 million program supported by the Lilly Endowment. With the conclusion of the grant activities, a new organization and model was needed to continue programs that have become ingrained in the life of the college. The Center is organized under Academic Programs and works with the supervision of Provost Rosemary Allen. President Crouch calls the Center a "natural outcome" of the Lilly grant. "Through the Lilly grant, we were able to initiate programs challenging our students to see how their talents can come together with the needs of the world to form their vocation. The CDAL can continue to show our students the importance of viewing their vocation as a distinctively Christian call on their lives to impact the world."

As the Meetinghouse Program neared its conclusion, Dr. Sheila Klopfer (Religion) and Dr. Ward worked

together to formulate the documents supporting a center with a mission "to promote events and programs that combine disciplined reflection with Christian fidelity for both individual scholarship and support of Georgetown College's mission." In May 2010, the Trustees of the College approved the Center and named Ward the director. "We had the idea of a conference early on, and we have been working all year contacting speakers and making plans," Ward said. Jarrod Lopez, a student at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky and 2006 Georgetown College graduate, has been assisting Ward with the conference planning.



Paul Fiddes (left) and Nicholas Wolterstorff (right) will headline the upcoming CDAL conference

Other activities of the Center include the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy, a nationally recognized academic seminar that has met since 2004 and has published two collections of essays, the Cliff Childers Christian Leaders Scholarship and Ministry Student Formation programs, and the Faculty Seminar on Vocation. In addition to these programs, the Center will also continue to coordinate with Campus Ministries, the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, and the Graves Center for Calling and Career, a pattern that began with the Meetinghouse Program. H.K. Kingkade, Director of Religious Life, says "having a Center enables the college to continue successful programs and also venture out with new ideas and initiatives to encourage young

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Cliff Childers Christian Leaders Scholarship and Program Makes Changes, Gets New Name

By Jonathan Sands Wise

Visiting Professor of Philosophy

This year, the Cliff Childers Christian Leaders Scholarship and Program (CLS) has undergone several modifications, all of which will hopefully be for the long-term benefit of the program. One of the most important alterations has been to our official name. As of this year, we are now honored to have the program named after Cliff Childers, a long-time friend of the college and a highly respected lay leader from Somerset, Kentucky.



CLS students and faculty in Hilton Head during Fall Break

Along with the new name, we have added some new leadership. After 10 years as a director of CLS, Dr. Roger Ward has stepped down to be the founding director of the Center for Christian Discernment and Academic Leadership. Fortunately, Roger will still be heavily involved in both the planning and fundraising of CLS, but he will be less involved in the day-to-day operations of the program. Since Dr. Sheila Klopfer was on sabbatical this year, Roger asked me (Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise) to help take her spot as a co-director during the 2010-11 school year. With Roger stepping down, I will now take over his position and be a co-director with Sheila starting in the fall of 2011.

One of the most popular aspects of the program for several years now has been the Vocations Seminar, a fun and challenging class in which students get the opportunity to read both various reflections on vocation and biographies and autobiographies of people of faith who have lived out their own vocations in clear and often startling ways. As they read, students are challenged to write weekly reflections on these works and to begin the difficult process of understanding their own path in life. As an important component of the course, students participate in a Spring Break mission trip and reflect on their calling in light of their week-long

service. Starting this year, the Vocations Seminar is now an official part of the catalog as both an upper-level philosophy course and a Foundations 112 course for second semester freshmen. The class has continued to be challenging, fun, worthwhile, and popular as Roger has taught both sections of it this spring.

Even with all of these changes, we are looking to institute new changes this coming year. The CLS program, as a recent survey emphasized very powerfully, has done wonderful work for years in the lives of students who choose to take advantage of its many opportunities. Unfortunately, though, some students have failed to get involved and have missed out on this opportunity. To ensure that students understand more fully what options they have and to help them form a stronger identity as members of the CLS program, Sheila and I will be making two minor changes this summer and fall. First, with the generous assistance of James Koeppe, we have secured two of the sessions of Directions, a summer adventure program offered for incoming freshmen, for CLS students. We will subsidize their fee for attending and will begin on the trip to get to know our students and to give them the opportunity

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CDAL Continues Lilly Grant's Vocation Programs for Faculty

By Jarrod Lopez

CDAL Intern

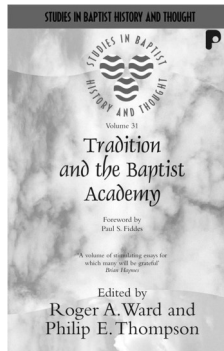
One of the primary motivations of the Center for Christian Discernment and Academic Leadership is providing support for Georgetown College's teaching scholars as they seek to navigate the tension between the commitments of their Christian faith and the demands of academia. Two initiatives of the Lilly Grant – the Faculty Seminar on Vocation and the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy – were especially suited to address this complex issue and will be continued by the Center.

Each May for the past several years, the Faculty Seminar on Vocation has assembled twelve to fifteen members of the faculty for three days of focused reflection. This year's seminar will be led by Susan Felch, Professor of English at Calvin College and Director of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, and Roger Ward (Philosophy). They will guide the group in exploring their vocational identities as teaching scholars, as well as engage them in practical and theo-

logical examinations of scholarly habits and the unique role of Christian scholarship in the academy. The seminar will take place on campus May 31-June 2.

The Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy, directed by Dr. Ward in partnership with a planning committee representing several schools, will convene their seventh annual conference in Prague on July 26-30. Since its inception in 2004, the conference has served as a venue for Baptist junior scholars to engage in scholarly conversation under the leadership of an established senior scholar. Essays from 2005 and 2007 are available in book form as *The Scholarly Vocation and the Baptist Academy* (Mercer 2008) and *Tradition and the Baptist Academy* (Paternoster forthcoming). This year's theme is "Baptists and History," which will explore questions related to how historical narrative can augment understandings of Baptist theology and practices. David William Bebbington (University of Stirling, Scotland) will be the keynote speaker and senior scholar.

More information about both programs can be found on the Center's new website (see below).



CDAL Conference (continued from page 1)

men and women in the academy."

The Center's website (<http://wordpress.georgetowncollege.edu/cdal>) is now available with links to the Cen-

ter's programs and descriptive documents. The Center encourages interested faculty to post "Christian Scholarship Profiles," brief descriptions of the ways they creatively combine Christian fidelity and academic discipline through research and teaching.

CLS Program Changes (continued from page 2)

to explore what it means to have the vocation of being a college student. Second, and for the same reasons, we hope to develop a fall overnight retreat for all CLS freshmen this fall. In this way, we hope to develop strong connections with the CLS students at the front end of their college experience as a means of encouraging them to take full advantage of the four-year CLS

program.

CLS has long been a wonderful program at Georgetown College, a program that offers students the opportunity to explore what it means to be a Christian and a leader both in their college career and in their lives. With these changes and others that we will continue to make, we hope to strengthen these aspects of the program and continue to offer students the opportunity to explore what God wants to do in and through their lives.

Stop Paying for Slavery Tour Stops at Georgetown College

By Bryan Langlands
Campus Minister

It's been said that with great knowledge comes great responsibility. The Stop Paying for Slavery Tour (created by an organization called Not for Sale) arrived on campus on February 28, and for two days we were blessed with numerous opportunities to learn more about the problem of modern day slavery (also known as human trafficking).

The main speakers from Not for Sale who shared



NomiS performs in chapel during the "Main Event"

with us were David Batstone, a professor at the University of San Francisco who founded Not for Sale, and his nephew Ethan Batstone. They told many stories about the cases of slavery they have helped to prosecute (both in the United States and abroad) and the survivors of trafficking whom they are supporting. A hip hop artist named NomiS joined the Batstones and performed during the

tour's "Main Event" as well.

We also learned about the different things that every person can do to combat modern day slavery, including learning about the red flags or possible signs of trafficking situations, slavery mapping (reporting suspected cases of trafficking that one sees), supporting safe houses for people who survive and escape situations of slavery, boycotting (supporting those companies that intentionally guard against unjust labor practices and letting companies that have a bad record regarding labor practices know why you are not buying their products), and others.

Part of the reason this tour was such a success at Georgetown College involves the excellent leadership and coordinating efforts of the faculty members who were responsible for bringing the tour here: Drs. Regan Lookadoo and Alison Jackson Tabor. With help from Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise, Dr. Rebecca Singer and others, many pre-tour events were planned that helped to raise a great deal of awareness about modern day slavery before the tour arrived. In explaining this strategy, Dr. Lookadoo explained that she did not want to take such a heavy and important topic as this and just "drop it on campus." Instead, through events such as viewing documentaries and jewelry-making workshops, many students, staff and faculty developed a basic awareness of the problem of human trafficking before the tour arrived and were therefore eager to learn more from the Batstones.



Dr. Lookadoo speaks at Stop Paying for Slavery Tour

One of the things that ended up exciting me most about this tour was the way in which a broad coalition of people and groups from across campus and Scott County got involved: students (including the newly formed student group called the Student Abolitionist

Movement), Campus Ministry, staff members, faculty from across many different disciplines, local community members (including local businesses and churches), and many others. As the community called Georgetown College continues to forge our Christian identity, events like these will continue to help us braid faith, learning and action on behalf of the most vulnerable people in society. Indeed, our responsibility is great.



G C R e p r e s e n t a t i v e s A t t e n d N e t V U E C o n f e r e n c e

By Jonathan Sands Wise

Visiting Professor of Philosophy

In 1999, the Lilly Endowment formed the Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation to support colleges as they sought ways for their students to explore their vocations, or callings, from a Christian theological perspective. By helping students find and understand their vocations, the Lilly Endowment hoped to foster in them a passion for living meaningful lives of leadership and service. One of the 88 institutions that Lilly supported was Georgetown College, and one of the programs that Georgetown sponsored through this endowment was the Cliff Childers Christian Leaders Scholarship and Program (CLS).

Since CLS is dedicated to mentoring students in their scholarly and religious endeavors, the fit was natural, and CLS benefited greatly from the funding and vision that the program provided. As the endowment came to an end, the Coalition of Independent Colleges (CIC) stepped in to form a network of institutions interested in continuing this exploration; the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education was officially launched with a conference in 2009 and hopes to hold a series of biannual conferences exploring vocation.

The second such conference was this year in Indianapolis from March 10-12. As a member institution, Georgetown was invited to send up to three members of our administration and faculty. Rev. H. K. Kingkade, the Director of Religious Life, and I attended.

And we enjoyed it immensely! The conference was made up of three large forums, with such speakers as Christian Smith, a professor of sociology, Kathleen Norris, a renowned Christian poet and essayist, and Eboo Patel, Founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core. There were also dozens of smaller papers and great shared meals and receptions for conversation and fellowship. As one example of the papers that we were given the chance to attend, Christian Smith shared recent research that he has completed on the religious lives of teenagers and emerging adults (roughly ages 19-29) in America. H. K. and I found his description both elucidating and challenging as we discussed the general religious characteristics of the students that we are trying to reach and considered what sorts of students we have on our campus. The conference was both entertaining and informative, and CLS is fortunate to be part of Georgetown College, a campus that continues in its commitment to be part of the ongoing vocational conversation represented by NetVUE.

V o c a t i o n i n A r l i n g t o n : A S t u d e n t ' s S t o r y

By Abby Shelton

Finding your passion is probably one of the best feelings in the world. Up until a few weeks ago, I thought I knew my passion. In fact, I thought I had known it my whole life. I was going to be a teacher. No questions asked, and my plans never changed. Then along came Mission Arlington, and lo and behold, things started changing.

Fernanda is a beautiful, little eight-year-old girl who resides in Arlington, Texas. If I had to pinpoint when I started to feel my calling to children's ministry, it has to be when I sat on the sidewalk drawing rainbows with Fernanda as she helped me practice my mediocre Spanish. I remember thinking to myself how at peace I felt with where I was at that moment and how grateful I was to God for putting me there. It was on that sidewalk that I realized I need to make a different kind of

impact on the lives of children. I realized that God is calling me to something different than the plan I had set out for myself.

To make a long story short: through a conversation with my father, prayer, and a little bit of research, I decided that God is calling me to children's ministry. I've felt a change in my heart that makes obvious the difference between how I felt about teaching and the passion I now have for following God's plan for my life. I have feelings of excitement and security in my heart, and I have no doubt that this is what God wants for me.

It never occurred to me that it would be on a spring break mission trip with my friends that I would discover God's plan for my life. I desperately needed this trip. I needed to be snapped back into focus, to step back, and to listen to God. And once I did, He changed my life.

Lilly Grant at Georgetown College Concludes After Eight Years

By Roger Ward
Professor of Philosophy

What would you do with \$2 million to develop programs that encourage theological exploration of vocation? That question came to Georgetown College ten years ago. The Lilly Endowment Incorporated, the largest U.S. private foundation, decided to invest in the creativity of church-related colleges and universities across the country. In all, 88 colleges and universities received the \$2 million for their programs.

Dr. Dwight Moody, Dean of the Chapel at the time, directed the writing and implementation of the grant for



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Georgetown. The five-year plan (2001-06) for programs for faculty, staff and students was dubbed "The Meetinghouse: A Place for Theological Exploration of Vocation." Several innovative programs were included in the original plan, including the Graves Center for Calling and Career and the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy, as well as encourage-

ment for creative ideas from faculty and staff. James Koeppel initiated Directions, the popular summer program for incoming students, with a grant from the Meetinghouse. Proclaimer's Place, a preaching seminar led by Dr. Joel Gregory for pastors of African-American churches, was key in the development of Georgetown's Bishop Scholars Program.

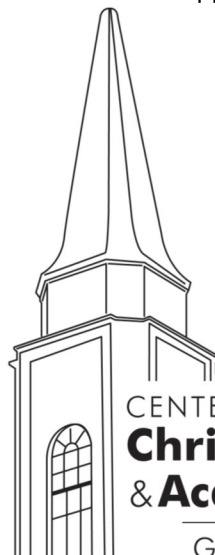
At the conclusion of the five-year program, Lilly invited applications for a three-year \$500,000 extension grant. Georgetown applied and was one of 40 institutions to receive this continuation grant. Dr. Roger Ward became coordinator of the program that included the creation of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Vocation, which brought together "Fellows" to coordinate activities, such as new faculty orientation, faculty retreats, and the summer seminar. These programs en-

couraged faculty to consider the relation of their teaching and scholarship to Georgetown's Christian mission.

Students at Georgetown during the Lilly grant years benefited from support for spring break mission travel, a revamped program of retreats and meetings for Cliff Childers Christian Leaders Scholars, and the formation of the Ministry Student Formation Program. An academic course, Seminar on Vocation, was created to support the CLS program, and a version of this course is now offered as an FDN 112 option.

Chris Coble, Lilly Program Director, praised the programs in a recent letter: "I am delighted to read about the ways that the project activities have become integrated into campus life. This is good news! We are pleased that these grants helped Georgetown sharpen its educational mission and encourage practices of vocational reflection among faculty and students."

Dr. Ward wishes to thank all the faculty members who have worked in leadership with the grant, including Dr. Homer White, Dr. Sheila Klopfer, Dr. Rebecca Powell, Dr. Ellen Emerick, Dr. Regan Lookadoo, Dr. Susan Bell, and Dr. Doug Griggs, as well as Dr. Rosemary Allen, Bryan Langlands, H.K. Kingkade, Ken Holden, Robin Fleischer, Jo Anna Fryman, Robbi Barber, Sally Weisenberger, and especially Dr. Bill Crouch, for their administrative support.



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& Academic Leadership**

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