

Friday @ the Center: April 7, 2006

LFP National Research Conference CFP

Proposals for papers and concurrent sessions from scholars in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, professions, and social sciences are invited for the 2006 Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference, "The World and Christian Imagination," to be held at Baylor University Nov. 9-11. St. Paul exhorts Christians to take every thought captive to Christ. Yet we face significant challenges in doing this in a post-Christian culture. How can we see the shape of the world in the light of Christian imagination at its fullness? "The World and Christian Imagination" will not merely explore Christian imagination as such, but will exercise Christian imagination in relation to the breadth of human thought, from atheism to aesthetics, from the Bible to biography, and from cosmology to culture. SPU is an LFP institution, which means that contributors from SPU are eligible for up to \$500 stipends to cover conference expenses. Abstracts of 500-750 words are due by **May 12, 2006**. See www.baylor.edu/IFL/Pruit2006/about.htm for further details.

Teaching Tips: Course Evaluations

The Instructional Development Committee has recommended that all course syllabi include a statement about the administration, significance, and use of on-line course evaluations. See below for a sample. If you forgot to include this in your syllabus, you certainly could distribute a memo to this effect. Either way, why not take some time next week in class to share your previous course evaluation responses with your students (in as great or little detail as you are comfortable with) and discuss how you are using this information. This demonstrates to students the fact that their input is taken seriously. Several research studies at other institutions have demonstrated that when students better understand how their input is utilized, response rates improve.

Course Evaluation: I hope that you will participate in an online evaluation of this course and its instructor in a thoughtful and constructive manner. The evaluation data is used to make improvements in the course, and your feedback is considered when selecting textbooks, designing teaching methods, and preparing assignments. Courses are evaluated using the Banner Course Evaluation System. All answers are completely confidential - your name is not stored with your answers in any way. In addition, I will not see any results of the evaluation until after final grades are submitted to the University.

Upcoming Faculty Development Opportunities:

- **April 20:** Weter Lecture, with Dr. Margaret Diddams on "Martin Buber's I and Thou." 7:30 p.m.
- **May 16:** "Beginning in the Scholarship of Teaching," faculty lunch and presentation by Dr. Bud Bouma, Professor of Biology, Calvin College. Noon.
- **May 18:** "Balancing the Personal and the Professional," faculty women's lunch, presentation by Dr. Debra Rienstra. Noon.
- **June 5:** Faculty in-service: "What we know about SPU Students." 9:30 a.m.
- **June 12:** Final Mentoring Dinner. Guest speaker: Dr. Les Steele. 6 p.m.
- **June 19-21:** Faculty Theology Mini-Courses. Watch for more information!
- **June 22-25:** Newer Faculty Retreat. Fort Casey Inn.

April Grant Advisor

The April edition of *The Grant Advisor* is now available and can be accessed through on-campus computers at <http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus/>. The monthly newsletter contains 20-25 full program reviews and over 300 listings of grant and fellowship programs, organized into eight academic divisions (fine arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, education, international, health, and other).

For those on the Western calendar--may you have a blessed Holy Week!



Susan

Susan VanZanten Gallagher
Professor of English
Director, Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development