

Friday @ the Center: February 22, 2008

Attend a LFP Conference on Religious Identities

This year's Lilly Fellows National Research Conference, *Convivencia: Religious Identities in the New World*, will be held at Loyola Marymount, Los Angeles, on March 27-29. Funding is available for faculty from Lilly Network schools who would like to attend the conference, but who will not be presenting papers. A subsidy of \$300.00 per person is available, with a limit of one per school. These will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply, please email the conference administrator, Sheryle Bush (convivencia@lmu.edu). The conference website (<http://www.lmu.edu/pagefactory.aspx?PageID=41106>) includes a registration form, hotel accommodation, and a provisional program.

Dealing with Problem Students: #5

Confrontational Charlie or Charlotte: This student challenges everything you say, argues about irrelevant points, and does not follow the general rules of liberal discourse in the classroom, causing disruption and ill ease. If you are wondering if this is just a problem of your own perception, a quick 5 minute feedback form (what's going well in the class, what's interfering with learning?) may reveal that other students are disturbed by this behavior as well. The instructor needs to intervene in such a situation, talking to CC privately. Point out specific examples of the questionable behavior and explain why it is inappropriate. There's a fine line, as we all know and sometimes struggle with ourselves, between passionate debate and impassioned confrontation, firm disagreement and rude challenges. CC may not agree with your approach or position, but needs to learn how to work amiably with you and others. If CC asks an irrelevant question in class that requires a lengthy answer, suggest either that the student meet with you during office hours or refer him or her to pertinent resources.

Templeton Fellowship Essay Contest: Property Rights

Junior faculty members and college students are invited to participate in the 2008 Sir John M. Templeton Fellowship Essay Contest, which encourages college students and young faculty members to study the meaning and significance of economic and personal liberty. This year's topic concerns the relationship of property right and human rights. Cash awards are given to authors of the top three essays in both the student and faculty category. Let your students know about this opportunity, and consider submitting something yourself if you are a junior faculty member (assistant professor or higher, untenured), 35 years of age or younger. Application deadline: **May 1, 2008**. For complete details see www.independent.org/students/essay.

Finally, check out the new look of the Center's webpage at <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/index.html> and see who is this quarter's "Center Star." Special thanks to Dominic Williamson and Anna Dufault for their work on this sleek new way of keeping *you* informed.



Susan

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