



## \_\_LFP Update \_\_ 6.4

### November 2011

Welcome to the **LFP Update**, an e-publication from the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts to keep LFP representatives and others informed about the activities of 1) LFP National Network institutions, 2) present and former Lilly Fellows and, 3) the LFP office at Valparaiso University.

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#### **Upcoming Deadline for Nominations for the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program**

Hopefully you are in the process of selecting the fifth cohort of [Lilly Graduate Fellows](#) who will be entering graduate school in the fall, 2012. As mentioned in the [September LFP Update](#), the process for nominating Graduate Fellows remains basically unchanged from last year. As was the case last year, each network school can nominate up to three students for the Lilly Graduate Fellowships. Students who plan to enter Ph.D., MFA, or comparable programs in fall, 2012, and received a bachelor's degree from Network institutions after April, 2007, are eligible for the Lilly Graduate Fellowship. Additional eligibility requirements are found [here](#). **The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2012.**

Please submit your nominations to the LFP office via the [LFP general e-mail](#). If for some reason the transmission fails to go through, please fax the nominations to 219-464-5496 or submit the nominations via the US Mail. If you must fax or mail the nominations, please give the office a quick phone call to alert us (219-464-5317). Please include the following information regarding the nominees:

1. name
2. e-mail address
3. campus mail address
4. permanent address

5. telephone number (campus, cell, or permanent--at whichever we can reach the student)
6. month and year of graduation

### The Twenty-first Annual LFP National Conference

On October 21-23, 2011, the LFP convened its twenty-first annual [National Conference](#) for administrators and faculty representatives from National Network Schools at [Samford University](#) in Birmingham, Alabama. The theme of this three-day conference was [Reconciliation in History, Literature, and Music](#). Placing reconciliation at the heart of the conference, the three keynote speakers, working within the disciplines of history, literature, and music, explored the intersection of race and religion. Furthermore, Birmingham, as a center of activity of the Civil Rights Movement, provided an opportunity to explore these themes within a specific historical context.

The [three speakers](#) for the conferences were Charles Marsh, Trudier Harris, and Rosephanye Dunn Powell. Historian Charles Marsh, a professor of religious studies and director of the Project on Lived Theology at the University of Virginia, is the author of the award-winning *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights*, as well as many other books on the Civil Rights Movement and race in the South. Marsh is currently at work on a biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In the first plenary session in the Brock Recital Hall, Marsh included some of this recent work in, "Are We Still of Any Use?: The Audacious Hope of the Engaged Scholar." Trudier Harris offered the second plenary session in [Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel](#) of [Beeson Divinity School at Samford University](#). Harris, the J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English Emerita at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a scholar of Southern literature and the author of many books, the most recent of which is *The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South*. Fully engaging the conference theme of reconciliation, Harris presented "The Terrible Pangs of Compromise: Racial Reconciliation in African American Literature." The third plenary session brought conference participants from Samford University's campus to Birmingham's [Sixteenth Street Baptist Church](#), the focal point of much of the civil rights movements in the 1950s and 1960s and site of the tragic bombing that took the life of four girls, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Denise McNair in 1963. Rosephanye Dunn Powell led this plenary session with "African-American Spirituals and Gospel: Song Creating Community," to which she brought her award-winning musical talents. Powell, a singer and composer, is professor of voice and director of voice studies at Auburn University and a noted interpreter and performer of the African-American spiritual. Immediately following Powell's presentation at the Sixteenth Street church, attendees had an opportunity to tour the historic church and [Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute](#). To see videos of Charles Marsh and Trudier Harris' talks, please see the [LFP National Conference website](#).

Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to experience music and the theme of reconciliation, first at the presentation of the documentary, *Mississippi Remixed*, hosted by Samford alum and [Lilly Graduate Fellow Joel Davis](#) on Friday afternoon and for which Davis composed the score. Music and reconciliation were woven together again at the Friday evening Vespers, "Standing in the Need of Prayer," on October 21 in A. Hamilton Reid Chapel. Attendees heard the moving testimony of Carolyn McKinstry, who was present at the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where she lost four of her friends. Vesper music was performed by Samford University students, including the Samford University A Cappella Choir.

Attendees to the national conference had many opportunities to become more acquainted with the city Birmingham, with the first evening's dinner at the Birmingham Museum of Art, tours of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and Civil Rights Institute, and finally a Saturday evening reception at [Vulcan Park and Museum](#) followed by dinner on the town at a number of the city's national, award-winning restaurants.

The twenty-second LFP National Conference will be held at the [University of Indianapolis](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 19-21, 2012, addressing the theme *Incorporating Service: The Body at Work*. See the [LFP National Conference website](#) for more information.

### Twelfth Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators

On Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, 2011, at [Samford University](#), the Twelfth Annual LFP [Workshop for Senior Administrators](#) welcomed a record sixty-three participants from [Network Schools](#) who gathered for a lively and thoughtful discussion of *Leadership, Mission, and Meaning: Engaging the Curriculum*. The Administrators Workshop addressed the connection of church-related mission to the curriculum with a focus on general education. The conference aimed to frame questions and approaches for connecting church-related mission to specific goals for student learning and for connecting those learning goals, in turn, to the curriculum. It also offered guidance in curriculum review and revision at church-related schools. The speakers for this year's Administrators Workshop were [Paul E. Benson](#), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Philosophy at the [University of Dayton](#) in Dayton, Ohio and [Mary Strey](#), Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty, and Professor of Chemistry and Biology at [Central College](#) in Pella, Iowa. Facilitated by Mel Piehl, Dean of Christ College

of [Valparaiso University](#), Strey and Benson offered tools and strategies for gaining a better understanding of how mission and the curriculum can authentically connect. Following the two plenary sessions, attendees broke into focus groups to discuss issues related to the theme of the workshop.

Administrator Workshop attendees attended the Vespers service, “This Far by Faith,” at the [Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel](#) of [Beeson Divinity School at Samford University](#), Thursday evening, October 20, led by Dr. Penny Marler, liturgist and Professor of Religion, with preaching by Timothy George, Dean and Professor of Divinity, History, and Doctrine, at Beeson Divinity School. The service was directed by Eric L. Mathis, Instructor of Church Music and Worship Leadership with Kristin Kenning, Assistant Professor of Music, as cantor. Video recordings of the two plenary sessions will be available on the [Workshop for Senior Administrators website](#) in the near future; **the LFP office will contact representatives and attendees as soon as they are ready for viewing.**

The Thirteenth Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators will be held at the [University of Indianapolis](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 18-19, 2012, and will address issues concerning church-related higher education and the contemporary legal landscape.

### Report from the LFP National Network Board October Meeting

The [National Network Board](#) of the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts met for its semi-annual meeting October 20-21, 2011 at Samford University, site of the National Conference. The Board considered proposals for [Mentoring Programs](#) and decided to fund three Mentoring Programs at [Hope College](#), [Salve Regina University](#), and [Westmont College](#). The board also moved to extend the pilot program for [Small Grants](#) another year and set the next **deadline for applications as September 15, 2012.**

The National Network Board voted the following LFP Representatives to the National Network Board:

- **Michael Beaty**, Chair of the Department of Philosophy, [Baylor University](#), Waco, Texas
- **Caryn D. Riswold**, Associate Professor of Religion, Chair of Gender and Women’s Studies, [Illinois College](#), Jacksonville, Illinois
- **Gretchen Van Dyke**, Associate Professor of Political Science, the [University of Scranton](#), Scranton, Pennsylvania

The four-year terms of these board members will begin with the National Network Board meeting in April, 2012. We welcome these colleagues to the Board and thank retiring Board members Susan Sanders, RSM ([Saint Xavier University](#)), Richard Wilson ([Mercer University](#)), and Lisa DeBoer ([Westmont College](#)) for their years of faithful service to the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts.

The National Network Board also approved membership into the LFP National Network for [Central College](#) in Pella, Iowa. There are now [96 schools in the National Network](#).

### The Sixth Biennial Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Imaginative Writing

The LFP office is now accepting nominations for the [Sixth Biennial Arlin G. Meyer Prize](#), which for 2012 will honor works in Imaginative Writing.

The Arlin G. Meyer Prize is awarded biennially to a fulltime faculty member from a college or university in the [Lilly Fellows Program National Network](#) whose work was published in 2009, 2010, or 2011. Work that exemplifies the practice of the Christian artistic or scholarly vocation in relation to any pertinent subject matter or literary and artistic style will be considered. The prize will be awarded in different years for works of creative imagination and for works of scholarship. The 2012 Arlin G. Meyer Prize will reward the author of a creative work that emerges from his or her practice of the vocation of the Christian creative writer, in accord with the principles and ideals of the Lilly Fellows Program. In subsequent years, the Meyer Prize will honor those who practice in the fields of non-fiction, musical performance, performance art, and visual arts.

The Prize honors Arlin G. Meyer, Professor Emeritus of English at Valparaiso University, who served as program director of the

Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts from its inception in 1991 until his retirement in 2002. The Prize of \$3000 will be awarded at the Lilly Fellows Program National Conference at University of Indianapolis, October 19-21, 2012. For more information on the prize, see the [Arlin G. Meyer Prize website](#).

**The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2012.**

### The Fourth Biennial Lilly Fellows Program Book Award

The Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2011 [Biennial Lilly Fellows Program Book Award](#) is *Souls in Transition: The Religious Lives of Emerging Adults* (Oxford University Press, 2009), by Christian Smith, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the [University of Notre Dame](#), with Patricia Snell Herzog, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Rice University in Houston, Texas. The prize was presented to Christian Smith at the LFP National Conference at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, October 22, 2011.

An exemplary work of scholarship combining empirical data with personal stories, *Souls in Transition* cuts through the media clutter on college-age adults to offer a vital portrait of their religious, moral, and spiritual assumptions and practices. The implications in this work for the way colleges and universities--religiously-affiliated or not--recruit, retain, instruct, and prepare students for lives that matter are challenging and profound. *Souls in Transition* should be required reading for anyone working in higher education.

The biennial Lilly Fellows Program Book Award honors an original and imaginative work from any academic discipline that best exemplifies the central ideas and principles animating the [Lilly Fellows Program](#). These include faith and learning in the Christian intellectual tradition, the vocation of teaching and scholarship, and the history, theory or practice of the university as the site of religious inquiry and culture.

*Souls in Transition* was one of forty-eight books nominated for this award. Finalists for the award were: John Fea, Jay Green, and Eric Miller, eds., *Confessing History: Explorations in Christian Faith and the Historian's Vocation*; Paul J. Griffiths, *Intellectual Appetite: A Theological Grammar*; and Warren Nord, *Does God Make a Difference?: Taking Religion Seriously in Our Schools and Universities*. *Souls in Transition*, along with the three finalists, will be featured in LFP Publications and on the LFP website. For past winners and finalists, click [here](#).

### Upcoming Deadlines for Awards and Grant Opportunities

**November 15, 2011:** Nominations for the [Lilly Graduate Fellows Program](#)

**March 1, 2012:** Nominations for the [Arlin G. Meyer Prize](#)

**September 15, 2012:** Applications for [Small Grants](#)

### From the Colloquium

#### From the Colloquium, November 2011

The colloquium for the [Lilly Postdoctoral Fellows](#) at Valparaiso University meets weekly to discuss issues connecting Christianity and higher learning. In alternating years, the colloquium (which meets every Monday afternoon), focuses on the Vocation of the Christian Scholar. While in years past the colloquium has looked especially at issues related to vocational discernment, the colloquium this year has taken a slightly different track, using as its guiding question: "How have religious and academic practices shaped us as scholars, teachers, and as human beings." To address this question, the colloquium has engaged readings that (1) critique professional formation in the humanities and the arts and (2) offer theological reflection on the vocation of the scholar/teacher from Christian and Jewish perspectives.

After our traditional opening reading, Robert Frost's "[Two Tramps in Mud Time](#)", we have read the following texts that critique our professional formation as scholars and teachers: the classic work by Max Weber, "[Science as Vocation](#)," which casts the vocation of the scholar as a dispassionate, disinterested pursuit of knowledge for its own sake; sections from Charles Taylor's *The Secular Age*, which offers a telling account of the general ethos and worldview that inform professional formation in the academy; the last two chapters from Louis Menand's *The Marketplace of Ideas*, which focus on the way our disciplinary training in graduate

school shapes our academic loyalties, aims, and system of rewards, and finally sections from James Elkins' *Pictures and Tears*, which, in asking why some people--but not art historians--cry before certain paintings, examines larger questions about professional academic training and our emotional lives.

In turning to Christian and Jewish reflection on the nature of intellectual formation, we began with Dante's *Inferno*, paying particular attention to the role of Virgil and to Canto 26 on Ulysses' intellectual hubris; this reading was accompanied by Stephanie Paulsell's (LF 93-95) address to the incoming Lilly Graduate Fellows in 2009 and 2010, "[Ulysses' Mad Flight: Christian Anxiety and the Intellectual Life.](#)" We followed these works with sections from Paul Griffiths' *Intellectual Appetite* (named a finalist for the 2011 LFP Book Award), which offers a theological history of the way Christians have distinguished between the vice of *curiositas* and the virtue of *studiositas*. We then read Simone Weil's classic "[Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies with a View to the Love of God](#)" and Abraham Joshua Heschel's classic *The Sabbath*. As is the tradition, we will end with a viewing and discussion of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*.

In the February edition of "From the Colloquium," I will reflect further on a few of these readings specifically.

May you have a wonderful holiday season.  
Joe Creech