



__LFP Update__ 7.4

November 2012

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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Call for Applications: LFP Regional Conference in South Africa in the Visual Arts

The Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity invites applications for PROJECT R5, a visual arts-focused encounter in South Africa. A team of artists from North American faith-based universities and from around Southern Africa will be selected to launch this project with a two-week seminar and studio event. This event is supported by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) and Lilly Fellows Program for visual artists on your campus.

Why "R5"?

Artists in Southern Africa wrestle with five critical issues: **Remembrance**: the intertwined and contested histories of people groups; **Resistance**: the vivid tradition of prophetic artistry; **Reconciliation**: persistent questions over how to justly reconcile aggrieved people; **Representation**: in a post-colonial, multicultural society, who may represent whom? And how? and **Re-visioning**: how does hope factor into artistic imagination?

This project will convene North American and Southern African artists with their South African hosts to engage these questions, see how art was created in response to them, and ask how this story might inspire and reorient their work. They will visit in and around Johannesburg and Cape Town and work in studio at Volmoed, in the Western Cape.

Who can apply?

Professors of art in member colleges and universities of the CCCU and the Lilly Fellows National Network who are also working as painters, sculptors, weavers, potters, photographers, videographers or in other artistic professions.

For additional background and application information, see the [conference website](#).

Upcoming Deadline for Nominations for the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program

Hopefully you are in the process of selecting your nominations for the sixth cohort of [Lilly Graduate Fellows](#) who will be entering graduate school in the fall, 2013. As indicated in the September [_LFP Update_](#), the process for nominating Graduate Fellows remains basically unchanged from 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, 2013, and received a bachelor's degree from Network institutions after April, 2008, are eligible for the Lilly Graduate Fellowship. Additional eligibility requirements are found [here](#). **The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2013.**

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:

Name

E-mail address

Campus mail address

Permanent address

Telephone number (campus, cell, or permanent--at whichever we can reach the student)

Month and year of graduation

The Twenty-second Annual LFP National Conference

On October 19-21, 2012, the LFP convened its twenty-second annual [National Conference](#) for administrators and faculty representatives from National Network Schools at the [University of Indianapolis](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme of this three-day conference was Incorporating Service: The Body at Work. The three speakers were: Dr. Jeff Bouman, Director of Service Learning at [Calvin College](#), Dr. Samuel Wells, former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University and currently Vicar of St. Martin-of-the-Fields Parish in London, and Dr. Regina Wolfe, Wicklander Senior Fellow in the Institute of Business and Professional Ethics at DePaul University. Dr. Bouman addressed issues relating to significant patterns of incorporating service, questioned how these intersect the various Christian communities that have founded church-related institutions of higher education, and examined how these patterns converged or diverged. He also questioned how these patterns reflected the theological distinctives of Reformed, Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist, and Anabaptist approaches to Christian higher education. Dr. Wells reflected on the gestures and/or habits of mind and body within which we discover ourselves embodying service in Christ-like ways. Dr. Wolfe asked participants to consider the university as an incorporated entity that we inhabit.

In addition, UIndy's Theatre Department staged a one-act play during the dinner on the first evening of the conference written and directed by Jim Ream, Chair of the Department of Theatre. The National Conference also introduced participants to the [First Cohort of Lilly Graduate Fellows](#), which completed its three-year fellowship last year, who also attend this year's National Conference. The Graduate Fellows attended a Reunion Conference the two days prior to the

National Conference. Participants were treated to the wonderful hospitality of the University of Indianapolis and had a chance to explore the city of Indianapolis during the conference. To learn more about the National Conference and to see pictures from the three-day event, visit the [LFP National Conference website](#) and the University of Indianapolis [conference website](#).

The twenty-third LFP National Conference will be held at the [University of Scranton](#), in Scranton, Pennsylvania October 18-20, 2013, addressing the theme Faith and Academic Freedom in Civic Virtue.

Twelfth Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators

On Thursday and Friday, October 18-19, 2012, at the University of Indianapolis, the Thirteenth Annual LFP [Workshop for Senior Administrators](#) welcomed participants from [Network Schools](#) to discuss the theme *Christian Higher Education: The Legal and Regulatory Landscape*. The two speakers for this workshop, David W. Burcham, President of [Loyola Marymount University](#), Los Angeles, California and John E. Hart, General Counsel of Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio addressed the challenges posed by contemporary legal and regulatory dynamics to the mission and identity of church-related institutions of higher learning and suggested positive ways to address them. Mel Piehl, Dean of Christ College of [Valparaiso University](#), reprised his role as facilitator of the workshop as the speakers and attendees sought to answer questions relating to the challenges faced by universities and colleges with a church-related mission and identity of contemporary legal and regulatory dynamics. Through their discussion they explored how these challenges might offer opportunities to strengthen mission and identity and how church-related institutions might identify and address contemporary legal and regulatory challenges to hiring practices and labor relations.

Video recordings of the two plenary sessions will be available on the [Workshop for Senior Administrators website](#) in the near future. The Fourteenth Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators will be held at the University of Scranton October 17-18, 2013. Check the website for more information on next year's workshop.

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 18-19, 2012 at the University of Indianapolis, site of the National Conference. The Board considered proposals for [Mentoring Programs](#) and decided to fund a Mentoring Program at [Northwest Nazarene University](#). The Board also decided to fund six [Small Grants](#) at [Benedictine University](#), [Bethel University](#), [East Texas Baptist University](#), [Westmont College](#), the [University of St. Francis](#) and [Villanova University](#). Finally, the Board also funded one Regional Conference: [Calvin College's PROJECT R5](#), a visual arts-focused encounter in South Africa.

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

- **J. Bradley Creed**, Provost, [Samford University](#)
- **Angela Kim Harkins**, Department of Religious Studies, [Fairfield University](#)
- **Julie Straight**, Department of English, Northwest Nazarene University, and former Lilly Postdoctoral fellow, 2002-2004.

The four-year terms of these board members will begin with the National Network Board meeting in April, 2013. We welcome these colleagues to the Board and thank retiring Board members Dean de la Motte ([Salve Regina University](#)), Thomas (Tal) Howard ([Gordon College](#)), and John Ware ([Xavier University of Louisiana](#)) 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 Carlow College, in Pittsburgh,

PA, and Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. There are now 100 schools in the [National Network](#).

Exiles from Eden

The LFP is pleased to announce that it has launched a new blog, [Exiles from Eden](#). As we note in our about page, *Exiles from Eden* takes its name from the [book](#) of that same title published in 1993 by Mark Schwehn, founder and current Project Director of the LFP. In that book, Schwehn suggests that church-related colleges and universities offer a unique opportunity to be creative places of interaction among the values and challenges connected to teaching and scholarship in modern colleges and universities. He, and we, suggest that the pursuit of what matters most to undergraduates, graduates, and those who work in higher learning (church-related or not) is enriched by engaging ideas and practices arising from the Christian tradition. We hope that this blog will be a forum for such engagement.

The title of that work, *Exiles from Eden*, is especially rich. First, it marked an event from Schwehn's own life—his move from the University of Chicago to Valparaiso University—that captures an often unspoken idea academics use to frame their work and their lives. That idea, which is certainly rooted in reality, is this: the R1 universities like Chicago that most shape the ideals and professional practices of academics in their graduate education occupy the place of “Eden,” while the places most academics actually find themselves working occupy a sort of “exile” from that ideal. Most academics thus exist in a world in which “their work”—meaning research and other tasks that conform to the values instilled by their disciplinary affiliations and graduate education—is thwarted by local demands of service and teaching, tasks generally not high in the hierarchy of values instilled by graduate education but which are frequently valued by faculty members themselves (teaching especially; see a report on the latest [HERI faculty survey at The Chronicle](#)). With this idea in mind, we hope part of the conversation on this blog will involve the actual work we do—how we nurture meaningful careers in which we put to great use the disciplinary training we have received as professionals in the academy and at the same time meet our desires and responsibilities to teach and serve at our local institutions.

Another dimension of the title, *Exiles from Eden*, is that Valparaiso University is also a church-related (Lutheran) institution. *Exiles* appeared on the heels of [Ex Corde Ecclesiae](#) (1990), books like James Burtchaell's ominously titled [The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of Colleges and Universities from their Christian Churches](#) (1998), and just prior to George Marsden's [The Soul of the American University: From Protestant Establishment to Established Nonbelief](#) (1994). In other words, it appeared when the ground underneath church-related higher education was shifting, and the consequences of that shift were as yet unclear. Since that time, church-related institutions, religious practice on campuses, and religion as a field of study have, in the words of [one set of authors](#), made a “comeback”. Prompted by funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. and The Pew Charitable Trusts and facilitated by groups like the LFP, the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Collegium, and others, church-related institutions are engaged in a rich conversation about the shape and strength of their individual and, to some extent, collective mission as institutions forwarding certain religious ideas and practices together with the aims of higher learning. Moreover, the conversation fostered by such organizations has much to offer the Post-9/11 religious cultures of our campuses (secular or religious) and can provide interesting resources for answering such vexing questions as the role of values in the classroom (see, for example, [Mark W. Roche, “Should Faculty Members Teach Virtues and Values?: That is the Wrong Question,” in Liberal Education, 95, No. 3: 32-37, Summer 2009](#)). We hope that this blog will extend that conversation by connecting voices and engaging the academy at large, and we hope you will follow us and join in.

The Sixth Biennial Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Imaginative Writing

On October 20, 2012, at the its twenty-second annual National Conference at the University of Indianapolis, the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts presented the [2012 Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Imaginative Writing](#) to Bobby C. Rogers, Professor of English and Writer in Residence at [Union University](#) in Jackson, Tennessee, for his book of poetry, [Paper Anniversary](#).

Paper Anniversary is highly deserving of the national recognition that a first-book prize like the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize garners; the jurists for the prize agreed with Ed Ochester's comment that these poems "travel to large subjects." In fact, it is Rogers's ability to move from, even transform, the details of diurnal living to quiet but profound contemplation of (existential) aspects of the human condition which several jurists found most powerful. One jurist mentions the following: "I am inspired by Bobby Rogers's *Paper Anniversary* to live a fuller life: to wonder at the beauty—the resting silk of an unknotted necktie, the mysterious 'green heft' of an avocado, 'the silhouette of some low-forking tree, riotous and sharp.' Reading Rogers's collection, I kept asking myself, 'How did he do it, how was I transported here?' Madeleine L'Engle reminds us that every Christian is capable of miracles, and indeed Rogers has turned the water of the ordinary into wine." In a similar vein, another jurist comments, "We're reminded in one of Bobby Rogers's poems that the 'lives we're given are made mostly of waiting.' *Paper Anniversary* reminds us what waiting offers. Rogers calls us to attend to the quiet moments, the unloosened necktie or the removal of paint, and realize the truths within them. Rogers transforms the mundane to wisdom and writes poems infused with an eternal perspective." The letter of citation for the award applauds Rogers's keen sense of rhythm and sound, his careful and eloquent diction as well as figurative language; perhaps most impressive is his deft, penetrating use of narrative. The stories told here are subtle and tender and exquisitely crafted, navigating, as one jurist put it, "psychological and emotional terrain with superb dexterity—yet, somehow, without being showy at all." Finally, the jurors appreciate (and several were profoundly moved by) the humility by which Rogers attends to the limitations of language and the oft-times small scope of human understanding.

The Lilly Fellows Program also honored three finalists for the Award: [*Heaven & Earth Holding Company*](#), a book of poetry by John Hodgen in the Department of English at [Assumption College](#) in Worcester, Massachusetts; [*Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home*](#), by Rhoda Janzen in the Department of English at [Hope College](#) in Holland, Michigan, and [*Beautiful Assassin*](#), a novel by Michael White in the Department of English at [Fairfield University](#) in Fairfield, Connecticut.

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 exemplifies the practice of the Christian artistic or scholarly vocation in relation to any pertinent subject matter or literary and artistic style. The 2012 Prize has been awarded to the author of a creative work that emerges from the practice of the vocation of a Christian 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 \$3000 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 Fifth Biennial Lilly Fellows Program Book Award

The Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts invites nominations for the [Lilly Fellows Program Book Award](#). 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.

Works under consideration should address the historical or contemporary relation of Christian intellectual life and scholarship to the practice of teaching as a Christian vocation or to the past, present, and future of higher education. Single authored books or edited collections in any discipline, published in 2009 to 2012, are eligible. The committee will receive nominations of academic faculty, clergy, and others. Authors or editors cannot nominate their own works. A Prize of \$3000 will be awarded at the Lilly Fellows Program national Conference at the University of Scranton, October 18-20, 2013. **Nomination deadline is March 1, 2013.**

Summer Seminar Update: A New Book

The LFP is pleased to announce the recent publication of *Sex, Gender and Christianity*, edited by Priscilla Pope-Levison and John R. Levison. This collection of essays is the culmination of the Lilly Fellows [Summer Seminar](#) on Gender and Christianity at [Seattle Pacific University](#) during the summer of 2010. For more information on the book see the [recent post](#) on the LFP blog, *Exiles from Eden*.

Upcoming Deadlines for Awards and Grant Opportunities

November 15, 2012: Nominations for the [Lilly Graduate Fellows Program](#)

March 1, 2013: Nominations for the [LFP Book Award](#)

March 15, 2013: Applications for LFP [Summer Seminars](#)

Follow the LFP

Along with the LFP Facebook page and blog, [Exiles from Eden](#), the LFP activities can now be followed at the new Google + page and the LFP Twitter feed, [@LFPProgram](#). The blog can also be followed on Twitter. Find it at [@Exilesfromeden](#).

From the Colloquium Is Moving...

The traditional "From the Colloquium" piece of the LFP Update will now appear on the LFP-sponsored blog, [Exiles from Eden](#). The blog will feature periodic and more in depth commentary on weekly colloquium meetings. A semester-long summary of the fall readings will appear on the blog in January.