FIFTH ANNUAL
BENEDICTINE PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE

"HAUSTUS: THE CHALLENGE OF HOSPITALITY"

Thursday, June 2– Saturday, June 4, 2011
Saint Anselm College
Manchester, NH
Fifth Annual
Benedictine Pedagogy Conference
Schedule

Thursday, June 2:

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Conference Check-in/Registration (N. Lounge, Cushing Center)

3:30 p.m. Welcome (North Lounge Cushing Center)
- Fr. Jonathan DeFelice, O.S.B. – President, Saint Anselm College
- Conference co-chairs – Dr. Gary Bouchard and Susan Gabert, Saint Anselm College

4:00 p.m. Presentation: “Transmitting the Monastic Charism of Hospitality to Non-Benedictine Faculty and Staff” (North Lounge Cushing Center)
- The Presentation will attempt to create a template for what core qualities need to be in place for an educational institution that incorporates the Benedictine charism of hospitality. It will describe means of creating a culture of welcome that draw from Christian and monastic tradition and will contrast that tradition with the methods of today’s hospitality industry. It will also provide an index of categories to measure the quality of Benedictine hospitality.

Presenter:
Fr. Joel Rippinger, OSB
Faculty/Staff Chaplain and Instructor
Marmion Academy

5:35 p.m. Vespers (evening prayer) (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

6:00 p.m. Dinner (Davison Dining Hall)

7:30 p.m. Compline (night prayer) (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

8 p.m. Poetry Reading – Gaudet seniors Center
Friday, June 3:

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast (NHIOP, Auditorium)

8:30 a.m. Mass (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

- 9:30 a.m. Presentation: “Transcending Incivility with Hospitality: Teaching Politics in a Benedictine Institution” (NHIOP, Auditorium)- this session will be followed by small group discussion
  
  - Using our experience of teaching politics at Saint Anselm College, our presentation outlines several ways in which our Benedictine identity, and particularly the hallmark of hospitality, have helped us in educating our students. We address specifically the challenges of empowering students to transcend America’s culture of incivility, to engage in meaningful and constructive political dialogue, and to meet global challenges in the twenty-first century.

  Presenters:
  Daia Kuehne
  Professor of Politics
  Saint Anselm College

  Christine Gustafson
  Associate Professor of Politics
  Saint Anselm College

Noon Daytime prayer (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

12:30 p.m. Lunch (NHIOP, Auditorium)

1:30 p.m. Keynote Address: “Hastus: The Challenge of Hospitality”

Presenter: E.J. Dionne (NHIOP, Auditorium)

A graduate of Portsmouth Abbey School in Rhode Island, Eugene Joseph “E.J.” Dionne went on to receive his B.A. from Harvard University and his Dphil from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. A well known American journalist and political commentator, E.J. has been a long-time op-ed columnist for The Washington Post. He is also a Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, a University Professor in the Foundations of Democracy and Culture at Georgetown Public Policy Institute, a Senior Research Fellow at Saint Anselm College, and a Commentator for National Public Radio. Additionally, Dionne writes for Commonweal magazine. Before becoming a columnist for the Post in 1993, E.J. worked as a reporter for that paper as well as The New York Times, where he served as a correspondent to the Vatican.
3:00 p.m. Session one

Following papers will be offered: (select one)

- The Strong Have Something to Yearn For and the Weak Have Nothing to Run From (NHIOP rm. 4001)
  - Recent research on college students paints a gloomy picture: students who are under-prepared for college, less academically engaged while at school, and who graduate without significant gains in basic skills of writing, reading charts, or reasoning analytically. The Federal government and accrediting bodies are tightening standards and regulations. The Rule of St. Benedict, the medieval monastic educational tradition, and our present-day Benedictine understanding offer some fresh ways of considering admissions, teaching, curricular development, and academic advisement in the age of Academically Adrift.

  Presenter:
  Sister Edith Bogue
  Associate Professor of Sociology
  The College of Saint Scholastica

- Benedictine Faculty Forum Overview (NHIOP, rm. 4004)
  - The talk will describe the Benedictine Faculty Forum, under development at Benedictine University, and modeled on a similar program at Santa Clara University. The BFF is intended to assist faculty participants to build a deeply supportive community among the participants, and to assist them in working through current and future personal and professional issues, to become self-reflective of who they are, what they do, and why they do it, to consider spirituality and contemplation as valuable tools in life, without attempting to "form" the participants into a particular faith tradition, and to understand the opportunities for university leadership and definition, and to help them discern where they can be productive and fulfilled.

  Presenter:
  Prof. John Kevin Doyle
  Benedictine University

- "The Benedictine Parish: An Untapped Resource" -by Fr. Jerome Day, O.S.B (St. Anselm) (NHIOP, rm. 4006)

- Pushing the Intellect and Enjoying it: How to Challenge Students the Benedictine Way (NHIOP, rm. 4007)
  - Often the intellectual value of the arts is usurped by the aesthetic. In the course, Creativity, Art & Culture, implicit within the academic goals is to enrich the appreciation of the arts through study, contemplation and disciplined research. Students come away from the course with an understanding and ability to incorporate Benedictine balance into their studies and into their lives.

  Presenter:
  Alicia Cordoba Tait, DMA
  Professor of Music
  Benedictine University
4:30 p.m. Session Two

Following papers will be offered: (select one)

- Teaching Benedictine Values in a First Year Symposium Course (NHIOP, rm. 4001)
  - Brief Description: The paper will describe how Benedictine values are integrated into the First Year Symposium course at Belmont Abbey College and will describe the challenges of teaching these values to a class with an equal population of Catholics and non-Catholics. Although the course draws heavily on Benedictine and Catholic traditions and requires extensive reading and writing, it is taught by faculty across the disciplines. I will describe, with Benedictine humility, my experiences as a Math professor teaching such a course.

  Presenter:
  Steve Brosnan
  Associate Professor, Math/Physics
  Belmont Abbey College

- Michel de Montaigne, Education, and Hospitality (NHIOP, rm. 4004)
  - Michel de Montaigne’s fascinating essay “On the Education of Children” offers a number of principles that in his mind ought to govern not only the selection of a tutor but also the whole educational enterprise of a young man from its goals to its methods to its outcomes. But the essay on education needs to be read in the context of Montaigne’s steadfast and unwavering dedication to hospitality, a theme that runs through many of his essays and that was indeed a major concern of his in the running of his estate. This paper will examine Montaigne’s views on hospitality and how they relate to the education of children with a view to evaluating Montaigne’s position vis-à-vis pedagogy and hospitality in a Benedictine context.

  Presenter:
  Rev. John R. Fortin, O.S.B.
  Professor, Department of Philosophy
  Saint Anselm College

- Reflections on “Haustus” – in the Classroom (NHIOP, rm. 4006)
  - This presentation will address the topic of the meaning and practice of Benedictine Hospitality In the Classroom. The presentation is primarily inspired by the Benedictine hospitality stories related by Kathleen Norris in her books, Amazing Grace . . . , and Cloister Walk. For example, in Amazing Grace, Norris describes how she taught writing workshops every summer at Benedictine monasteries. She observes “each year as I read the student evaluations I found that no matter what they thought of me as a teacher, the students deeply appreciated the hospitable atmosphere” (of the host monastery). (265) It is my belief that the college and university classroom is highly analogous to the type of hospitality stories Norris describes in her books, and I will attempt to explore both these stories and this analogy in this presentation.

  Presenter:
  Patrick T. Flynn, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor, Philosophy
  Benedictine University

5:35 p.m. Vespers (evening prayer) (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

6:30 p.m. Reception & Dinner (Davison Dining Hall)
Saturday, June 4

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast (NHIOP, Auditorium)

9:30 a.m. Session Three

Following papers will be offered: (select one)

- The Challenge of Virtual Hospitality: A Service Learning Training Program to Meet Community Needs (NHIOP, rm. 4001)
  - This paper describes a new program at Saint Leo University that trains students, faculty, and staff in community-based service learning activities. This virtual learning community will expose Saint Leo trainees to virtual situations that they will encounter in real life. This outcome of this training is to actualize hospitality through the service learning activities that the trainees will take into their community.

  Presenters:
  Marguerite McInnis, Ph.D.
  Chair, Department of Social Work
  Saint Leo University

  Rhondda Waddell, Ph.D., LCSW
  Professor of Social Work
  Director, Center for Values, Service, and Leadership
  Saint Leo University

- "Bringing Catholic Social Teaching to the Border-Enhancing Benedictine Hospitality through Catholic College/Migrant Service Partnerships" (NHIOP, rm. 4004)
  - This presentation provides an overview of Mexican/U.S. border issues through the personal experiences and research activities during a collaborative project with the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, while highlighting important themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Through the lens of CST, examples will be given of how such human rights issues can be infused into interdisciplinary curriculum for classroom discussion or emersion experiences which foster critical thought and civic action. This lively experience will include learning, teaching tools, and exchange of resources and experiences through presentation and discussion.

  Presenter:
  Marcia Runnberg, MSW, ACSW, LICSW Assistant
  Professor, Social Work Program Coordinator-Extended Studies
  The College of St. Scholastica
- Costly Obedience to the Word: Inter-Religious Hospitality in the Life of Henri le Saux, O.S.B. (NHIOP, rm. 4006)
  - The "spiritual but not religious" and religious consumerism mentalities condition undergraduate experiences of comparative theology and world religions courses, even among Christian students. The predilection toward conflating religions into a kind of univocal sameness and displaying an interest in them from a safe distance will be critiqued through the life story of Swami Abhishiktananda (Henri Le Saux, OSB). Abhishiktananda's path of dialogue was a deeply committed, agonizing struggle with the irreducible realities of Christianity and Hinduism. Refusing to fuse them while also responsive to the reality of the God of Jesus Christ in both, his path was one of hospitality to the presence of the Word, even and especially in alterity.

  Presenter:
  Erik Ransstrom
  Adjunct Instructor in the Theology Department
  Saint Anselm College

- When Disciplinary Values and Church Teachings Both Need to be Welcomed: Teaching Women, Gender and the Family (NHIOP, rm. 4007)
  - Few academic discussions touch upon as many sensitive church subjects as those of women, gender and the family. The history of women's political, economic, and legal status or discussions of political and social movements in the United States require complex discussions of heterosexual marriage, sex, birth control, abortion, lesbianism and gay marriage, not to mention female ordination. How does one harmonize the demands of one's academic field, and the liberal and occasionally anti-Church attitudes of many of its practitioners, with a respect for the mission and identity of the campus on which one teaches? This presentation will touch upon faculty issues of academic freedom, disciplinary responsibility, and Catholic identity as experienced by professors in history, sociology and political science, as well as student issues of discomfort with conflict, unwillingness to disagree with the professor, and difficulties studying material from both a historical and a religious/moral perspective.

  Presenters:
  Jennifer Lucas
  Assistant Professor of Politics
  Saint Anselm College

  Beth Salerno
  Associate Professor of History
  Saint Anselm College

  Tauna Sisco,
  Assistant Professor of Sociology
  Saint Anselm College
10:30 a.m. Session Four

Following papers will be offered: (select one)

- Panel: The Role the Benedictine Value of Hospitality has played in Welcoming the Muslim Student (NH10P, Auditorium)
  - This session will examine the role that the Benedictine value of Hospitality has played in both welcoming Muslim students to a Catholic campus of the Benedictine charism and helping them feel welcome, accepted and valued. The session will provide practical information regarding the challenges faced across the campus community, as well as the services that can be implemented to successfully incorporate the specific needs of this student population. The presenters will share lessons learned in addressing such issues as academic honesty, the role religious observation plays in the classroom and campus life, the impact of dietary needs and the unique cultural expectations that affect the Student Life experience.

  Presenters:
  Marco Masini
  Associate Vice-President for Student Life
  Benedictine University

  Jon Miller
  Associate Dean
  Benedictine University

  Joan Henehan
  Student Development Coordinator
  Benedictine University

- “Inclusivity and Sexual Orientation: a message of welcome” (NH10P, 4001)[Saint Anselm]

Noon Daytime Prayer (Saint Anselm Abbey Church)

12:30 p.m. Lunch (Davison Dining Hall)

Departure