**ACTC Liberal Arts Institute at Saint Mary’s College of California**

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**ACTC Liberal Arts Institute Conference on**

**The Intersection of Religious and Secular Cores in Liberal Arts Education**

**Sponsored by Rhodes College, “Project for the Study of Liberal Democracy,” Pepperdine University’s Seaver College, the Apgar Foundation, and the ACTC Liberal Arts Institute**

**Thursday, September 25 – Saturday September 27, 2014**

**at Rhodes College**

**Thursday September 25th**

Welcome at Rhodes College to Conference

Reception and Dinner

**Plenary Address:** Roger Scruton, Senior Research Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford and Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington DC. Evening Plenary Address: “Introducing the Sacred into a Secular Curriculum”

**Friday September 26th**

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

**9:00- 9:50 Plenary address:**Wilfred McClay, G.T. and Libby Blankenship Chair in History of Liberty, University of Oklahoma : “The Varieties of Core Experience: Some Jamesian Reflections.”

**10:00-10:50: Breakout sessions:**

1. The Advantages and Significance of Religion for a Liberal Arts Education

Molly Flynn, Assumption College, “You’ve Got to Recapitulate the Positive: How can institutional identity contribute today to the liberality of education?”

Rick Kamber, The College of New Jersey, “How Appreciation of Religion Can Be Taught in a Secular Classroom.”

2. The Classical Tradition: Conflicts and Conjunctions

Adam Kotsko, Shimer College, “’These Fragments I Have Shored Against My Ruins’: *The Wasteland,* Modernism, and ‘The Western Tradition’.”

Matthew B. Koss, College of the Holy Cross, “When Cores Collide.”

**11:00-11:50 Plenary panel:** Rhodes & Pepperdine Co-sponsors’ Panel

John Churchill Phi Beta Kappa (Rhodes Class of ‘71) "Core for What? Varieties of Curricular Experience."

Jane Rodeheffer, PPepperdine University, ““Boundary Issues: Patterns of Recognition (Epignosko) in Homer’s Odyssey and The Gospel of Luke."

Stephen Wirls, Rhodes College, “How the Secular Presupposes the Sacred and Why We Should Teach That Way”

Moderator: Scott Newstok, Rhodes College

**12:00- 12:50 Lunch**

**1:00- 1:50 Plenary address**: Thomas Hibbs, Distinguished Professor of Ethics & Culture and Dean of the Honors College, Baylor University: “Potens Omnia: Enduring Longings in a Secularized Culture.”

**2:00-2:50 Plenary panel:** Religion and Philosophy: Disciplinary Walls or Common Ground

James Bryson, McGill University, “Love as Common Ground: Philosophy and Religion in Dialogue in the *Symposium*.”

Roger Barrus, Hampden-Sydney College, “The Tensions between Religion and Philosophy, and the Benefits of their Interactions.”

Bainard Cowan, University of Dallas, “Dante as a Means of Access to a Christian-Secular Understanding of Reason.”

**3:00-3:50 Breakout sessions:**

1. Shaping a Core from a Christian Perspective  
 Joseph Nagy, Sacred Heart University, “The Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the Liberal Arts: Turning the Soul Toward the Good.”

William Tate, Covenant College, “Philosophies and Goals that Give Shape to our Core: The Secular Poet, Wallace Stevens.”

2. Why Christians Read Great Books

Marc Guerra, Assumption College, “Augustine’s Argument about the Place and Role of Classical Pagan Literature in Christian Education.”

C.-J. Armstrong, Concordia University—Irvine, “Basil’s *On Greek Literature* and the Vocation of a Student.”

3. Modern Religious Thinkers & 20th Century Secularism

Richard Bodek, College of Charleston, “Transcending Religion through Martin Buber.”

Mark Alterman, Manhattan Christian College, “Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Letters and Papers from Prison*.”

**4:00-4:30 Plenary Discussion session**

4:45-5:30 Wine and Cheese Reception Blount Lobby

**Saturday September 27th**

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

**9:00-9:45 Plenary Address** Lorraine Pangle, Professor of Government

Co-Director, Thomas Jefferson Center for Core Texts and Ideas, University of Texas-Austin: “Religious Texts, Public Universities”

**10:00-10:45 Plenary panel:** What Use is a Religious Text in a Secular Institution?

Anne Leavitt, Independent Scholar, “The Infidel and Augustine’s *On Christian Doctrine*.”

Anne Foerst, St. Bonaventure University, “Bonaventure’s *Itinerarium* Goes Secular.”

Joseph Knippenberg, Oglethorpe University, “Teaching Religious Core Texts in a Secular College.”

**11:00-11:45 Breakout sessions:**

1. A Suspension Bridge Over a Chasm.

John Isham, Carthage College, “Rhetoric as a Possible Bridge between the Religious and the Secular.”

Mark A. Kalthoff, Hillsdale College, “Liberal Education, the Ordered Soul, and Cicero’s *De officiis*: A Core Text for Every Curriculum.”

2. Art, Prisms, and Politics: Can We Resurrect an Image?

J. David Alvis, Wofford College, “Michelangelo, *the David*, and the Difficulties of Synthesizing the Religious and Secular.”

John Seery, Pomona College, “Two Senses of the Gothic.”

3. Negotiating across the Religious and the Secular

Neil Robertson, University of King’s College, “Trying to Square the Secular Sacred Circle: Reading Core Texts in History.”

Michael Dink, St. John’s College, “Religious Texts in the St. John’s Seminar.”

**12:00- 1:00 Lunch**

**1:15 -2:15: Breakout session:** The Eastern Dimension

1. Eastern Texts in a Core Curriculum

Peter Diamond, New York University, “The Place of the *Analects* in a Global Liberal Arts Curriculum.”

Roosevelt Montás, Columbia University, “Gandhi at the Intersection of Religion and Politics.”

2. The Thinking and Teaching of Eastern Texts

Patricia Greer, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, “How to Deal with Profound Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Issues Raised by Eastern Texts.”

Thomas Michael, Boston University, “Teaching the *Daodejing* in a Core Curriculum.”

**2:30-3:30 Plenary session:** Student Reflection on the Spiritual Life

Kathleen Burk, University of Dallas, “Approaching Religious Texts with ‘Spiritual but not Religious’ Readers.”

Charles Hilken, Saint Mary’s College of California, “Christian de Troyes’ *Perceval* as a Midwife to Christian Pacifism.”

Margaret Oakes, Furman University, “Boethius’ *Consolation of Philosophy* and Putting One’s Life into Perspective.”

**3:45-4:30 Plenary Discussion session**

Reception 5:00-5:45 PM

**Sunday, September 28th** Breakfast at hotel