

E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 07  
VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2006

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*WEEKLY CALENDAR*

**MONDAY, October 16**

Fall Break  
6:00 p.m. Stand for All Families Picnic  
Glendale Baptist Church  
7:00 p.m. Relevant Religion Series  
Scarritt Bennett

**TUESDAY, October 17**

Fall Break  
7:00 Immigration – Making Sense of the Debate  
Wightman Chapel, Scarritt Bennett

**WEDNESDAY, October 18**

10:10 a.m. Weekly Worship Service – Andrew Bradley  
All Faith Chapel  
3:10 First Year Colloquy  
G-23

**THURSDAY, October 19**

7:00 p.m. Cole Lecture by Lamin Sanneh  
"Has Christianity Outlived the Enlightenment? The Post-Western  
Resurgence and the Post-Christian West"  
Benton Chapel

**FRIDAY, October 20**

10:00 a.m. Cole Lecture by Lamin Sanneh  
"Christianity in the Heart of the Dragon"  
Benton Chapel

**SATURDAY, October 21**

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**Stand for ALL Families - October 16th, 6:00pm**

James Dobson is in Nashville this day spreading his message of intolerance and discrimination. Come join us as we counter his message with one of love, and inclusion and most of all, celebration. This event will take place at Glendale Baptist Church

and is presented by Vote No on 1. For more information, visit  
<http://www.voteno1tn.com/standforallfamilies.html>

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**Vanderbilt University Divinity School announces the 2006**

Cole Lectures to be delivered by Lamin Sanneh

*D. Willis James Professor of Missions & World Christianity and Professor of History, Yale University*

**Thursday, October 19, 2006, 7:00 P.M.**

**Friday, October 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.**

**Benton Chapel**

**Thursday, October 19, 2006, 7:00 P.M .**

"Has Christianity Outlived the Enlightenment? The Post-Western Resurgence and the Post-Christian West"

**Friday, October 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M .**

"Christianity in the Heart of the Dragon"

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Relevant Religion Series

September 25, October 2, 9 16

Victor Judge, Registrar and Editor of *The Spire*

The Relevant Religious Questions in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson

Information and registration

[www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/rel\\_religion.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/rel_religion.html)

[www.scarrittbennett.org/programs/calendar.aspx](http://www.scarrittbennett.org/programs/calendar.aspx)

936-8453

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Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

7:00 Immigration - Making Sense of the Debate

Wightman Chapel, Scarritt Bennett

Few among us have been immune to the fierce, much too often over-heated national debate about immigration and issues connected to it. Certainly, this debate has found its way into our own community in which immigrants, in large numbers, have come to live. What is sorely needed is a thoughtful, rationally framed conversation centered on accurate information and focused on reasonable solutions to the challenges with which we are faced. For this reason, I am writing to invite and encourage you to join me for an important evening of information, reflection, and conversation about immigration - something which, seemingly overnight, has become one of our most significant debated issues of the day. Here's the scoop.

A group of concerned citizens, along with a wide coalition of local and statewide organizations, concerned by the alarming, emotionally driven rhetoric surrounding the debate on immigration, have joined forces to organize an educational forum on this important issue. This forum will take place on October 17 (7:00 – 9:00) at the Wightman Chapel on the Scarrett-Bennett campus. The purpose of this forum is to add clarity and reason to the immigration debate by sharing accurate information and exploring positive steps that can be taken to tackle the challenges at hand. A panel of expert panelists and members of our immigrant community will speak on a variety of essential topics and ample opportunity for questions and commentary will be allotted.

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On four Thursday nights in October there will be a series of discussions for "spiritual progressives," based on God's Politics by Jim Wallis and The Left Hand of God by Michael Lerner. The theme is "Doing Justly: Integrating Our Deepest Spiritual Beliefs Into Our Professional and Public Lives."

Discussion will be facilitated by Rabbi Rami Shapiro of Scarritt-Bennett Center, Rev. Judi Hoffman of Edgehill United Methodist Church, Rev. Victor Singletary of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Rev. Charles Strobel of the Campus for Human Development, and Rev. James Lawson, Civil Rights Pioneer.

Sessions are as follows:

October 5, 7-9, The Temple, 5015 Harding Road. "From Prophets to Principles: Is There a Progressive Spiritual Politics and What Does It Look Like?"

October 12, 7-9, Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church, 2708 Jefferson Street. "From Principles to Policies, I."

October 19, 7-9, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 2015 West End Avenue. "From Principles to Policies, II."

October 26, 7-9, Vine Street Christian Church, 4101 Harding Pike. "From Policies to Politics: Enacting Our Agenda."

For more information and to register, go to [www.tennesseeallianceforprogress.org](http://www.tennesseeallianceforprogress.org) and link to the registration page. Or call 888-903-9576

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The Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions would like to invite you to the following public forum:

"Confronting a Pandemic Threat: Risks, Rights, and Responsibilities"

Monday, October 23, 4-6 pm (Reception following)

Student Life Center, Ballroom A

Panelists: Dr. William Schaffner, Dr. Kelly Moore, Dr. Carol Etherington, and Professor James Blumstein.

This forum will address current strategies and continued challenges for managing a pandemic. Our discussion will seek to situate a pandemic threat within the context of professional responsibility. What are the duties and obligations of professionals -- doctors, nurses, lawyers, ministers, business leaders, politicians and administrators -- in the face of such a threat? Please join us for this important conversation. There will be an opportunity to engage our panelists in discussion. Sponsored by the Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions, 343-5447.

Website: <[http://www.vanderbilt.edu/moral\\_leadership/events.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/moral_leadership/events.htm)>

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#### GABLE ANNOUNCEMENT

On Thursday Oct. 26, GABLE is hosting an evening of conversation and coming out stories. You are cordially invited to a time of sharing and community at Professor Melissa Snarr's home. We will share stories of coming out to our communities, our friends, and our families. The purpose of the evening is to tell of our own journeys and to hear about the journeys others have taken. These may be our own coming out experiences or the experiences of others who have come out in their own way and in their own time.

Please know that ALL of our Divinity School community are welcome, GBLTQ and our straight allies and friends. Our time is always best served when we are all gathered together.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please RSVP to [khette.cox@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:khette.cox@vanderbilt.edu).

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Two forthcoming PowerPoint lectures by Cornelia Wunsch, Research Associate at the University of London, are sponsored the Divinity School, the Classics Department, the Graduate Department of Religion, and the University Lecture Committee.

Dr. Wunsch is one of the foremost young scholars in the culture of Mesopotamia in the first millennium BCE. (See <http://www.islet-verlag.de/autor2.html>).

1. CHILDREN - WANTED & UNWANTED: On Infant Exposure, Foundlings, And Adoption In Neo Babylonian Society (6th Century Bce)

This presentation examines the evidence on child abandonment and adoption from Neo-Babylonian legal records written on clay in

comparison with earlier, contemporary and later sources. Cuneiform law provides a well-established framework for the transfer of children under different circumstances and conditions. Examples of legal symbolism and fiction (i.e. placing a child's foot on clay, throwing a child to a dog) are discussed and the position of the child in his or her new household with respect to status and inheritance rights is reviewed.

Wednesday, October 25th  
Noon (12pm) Tillet Lounge  
\*Bring Your Lunch\*  
Drinks Provided

## 2. THE MERCHANTS OF BABYLON: Entrepreneurs in the 6th c. BCE

This PowerPoint presentation focuses on an exceptional family of entrepreneurs for over five generations, in comparison to its contemporaries. In a culture dominated by palace and temple economies, this family's business patterns and strategies, networks of influence, access to institutional resources, political circumstances and kinship alliances, investment patterns and business risks, and relation to the temples-all played a productive role that shaped Neo-Babylonian economic life well after Persia integrated Babylon within its empire.

UNIVERSITY SEMINAR  
Center for the Study of Religion and Culture  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 4:10-6:00  
LOCATION: 123 Buttrick

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29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Vanderbilt University  
Holocaust Lecture Series  
Against Cultural Genocide  
October - November 2006  
For more information, call 322-2457 or visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust)

The first two events of this year's Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series, "Against Cultural Genocide" will take place after our return from Fall Break:

Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m.  
Lecture, Renaissance Room. Law School  
**Genocide in Guatemala: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives**  
Beatriz Manz  
Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of California at Berkeley

How could a genocide take place so close to the U.S. and be so hidden? The terror in Guatemala's countryside was devastating, with the expected deep scars for Mayan survivors. Professor Beatriz Manz will reflect on the geopolitics of the early 1980s and on Guatemala's history of repressing the Mayan people and culture. The lecture will present contemporary observations on the devastation from the perspective of one K'iche' Maya village. Beyond her many academic accomplishments, Professor Manz has devoted herself to human rights issues, working with such international institutions as UNHCR Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Sunday, October 22, 7 p.m.  
Film and discussion, Sarratt Cinema

**Fateless**

(2005, Hungary/Germany/U.K.)

Directed by Lajos Koltai

Based on the autobiographical novel of 2002 Nobel Literature Prize winner Imre Kertesz, *Fateless* unfolds from the naïve perspective of a 14-year-old Hungarian Jewish boy as he journeys from Occupied Budapest through a series of death and concentration camps – Auschwitz-Birkenau, Zeitz, and Buchenwald – to his liberation and return to a less than welcoming Budapest. The audience joins with the author, the filmmaker, and their protagonist at the bounds of human experience to confront the question of human freedom or fate. Discussion of the film will follow the screening.

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The Vote No on 1 campaign needs you! We are in need of volunteers everyday during the week and we are just around the corner on Church Street. This is a project to ensure that a state amendment doesn't not get passed that would define marriage as between one man and one woman. We canvass every Saturday at 9:30AM and we need great people to go door to door with us! Please be a part of this great campaign and important time in Tennessee history! Contact Anne Gregory-Cole at 615.321.8467 or [annemgregory-cole@hotmail.com](mailto:annemgregory-cole@hotmail.com) and go to our campaign website at [www.voteno1tn.com](http://www.voteno1tn.com).

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If you have information/ announcements to be included in the E-Communicator please email the information to [sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu) All information must be received by noon on Thursday for the following week's E-Communicator.