AQUINAS SEMINAR
PRESENTATIONS
1970-2005
“I think it was at Drew that I first heard the word ‘interdisciplinary’- about seven years ago. Educational procedures seem to me to be genuinely interdisciplinary only if they involve not merely a coming together or confrontation of different departments, but also their interpenetrating one another. I have felt the impulse towards this interpenetration as something in the Drew atmosphere.”

The Aquinas Program, of which the Aquinas Faculty Seminar was the heart, was launched in the fall of 1970. The brain child of several creative Drew faculty minds under the leadership of the late Dean of the Graduate School, Bard Thompson, its realization was made possible by a substantial grant from the Aquinas Fund, of which former University President Robert F. Oxnam (now deceased) was a trustee.

Among the names which constantly reoccur in the descriptions of the planning and inauguration of the early years of the program are: Robert Chapman, David Graybeal, Phil Jensen, James O’Kane, John Ollom, and of course, Dean Thompson and Shirley Sugerman, who has been coordinator for the program since its inception. However, the germinal idea for the program’s first year was encapsulated in memos from John von der Heide. Two memos written by Professor von der Heide early in 1969 proposed that a year be given to study and psychology and laid out the lineaments of what was to be.

In each of the first three years, 1970-73, the Program was built around an Aquinas Visiting Professor brought to the campus for the specific purpose of directing the program. Each visiting professor was charged with conducting a seminar open to appropriate students from each of the three schools of the University, organizing and directing an interdisciplinary seminar for faculty on the year’s theme, and offering appropriate public lectures.

In 1970-71, Dr. David Bakan, Professor of Psychology at York University, Ontario, Canada, and President of the History of Psychology division of the American Psychological Association, served as the Aquinas Visiting Professor. In line with the schematism for the program, Dr. Bakan offered a student seminar, gave public lectures, and led the Faculty Seminar, all on the theme “Psychology and History.” Some twenty faculty representing a variety of disciplines constituted the Faculty Seminar, each offering a relevant paper for review and discussion during the course of the year.

Subsequently, the seminar papers were put into publishable form, edited by Shirley Sugerman, and published in 1978 under the title, Continuities and Discontinuities: Essays in Psychohistory.

In 1971-72, continued interest and substantial support from the Aquinas Fund enabled the University to secure Owen Barfield of England as Aquinas Visiting professor. Professor Barfield was a person of broad interests and competencies with publications in the fields of Philosophy and Science, Language, History, and Literary Criticism. With a prize-winning book on Coleridge just off the press, Professor Barfield offered an exciting advanced student seminar on that subject. Again the heart of the Visiting Professor’s task was the direction of the Faculty Seminar, which by now had grown to some 40 faculty
participants and had launched out on a new theme: Permanence and Change. As expected, professor Barfield’s leadership was both competent and challenging. An honorary D.Litt. degree for Professor Barfield at Commencement completed the year.

Dr. Charles Mullett, then just recently retired as Professor of History after 47 years of teaching at the University of Missouri, assumed the Aquinas Visiting Professorship in 1972-73. Again the Aquinas Fund provided substantial financial support for the Program. An intellectual historian of note, Professor Mullett offered a 2 semester student seminar on British Intellectual History. He also teamed with Dr. John Bicknell, Professor of English (now emeritus) in an interdisciplinary graduate seminar entitled “The 1870’s”—a pilot offering in anticipation of the opening of a new doctoral program in 19th Century Studies. In a report to the Aquinas Fund, Dean Thompson noted that Dr. Mullett made “an invaluable contribution” to the planning for the 19th Century program. With all of the above, Mullett nevertheless bent his main energies toward the Faculty Seminar which continued to draw some forty faculty, representing at least sixteen different disciplines. The Seminar continued with the theme begun in the previous year: Permanence and Change.

1973-74 saw a change in the structure of the Aquinas Program. In place of a single visiting professor, a group of distinguished scholars were brought to campus at appropriate dates throughout the year. Each visitor offered a public lecture and guided the Faculty Seminar on a topic relevant to the year’s overall theme: Changing Patterns of Human Behavior. Among the prominent Visiting Scholars were: William I. Thompson (Humanities, York University), Otto Klineberg (Social Psychology, The Sorbonne), Peter Homan (Religion and Psychology, University of Chicago), David Bakan (Psychology, York University), Phillip Rieff (Sociology, University of Pennsylvania), Stanley Hopper (Religion, Syracuse University), Leo Marx (English, Amherst College), and Louis Feuer (Sociology, University of Toronto). In addition, John Ollom (Physics), Calvin Skaggs (English), Charles Courtney (Philosophy of Religion), Shirley Sugerman (Psychology and Religion), and Will Herberg (Theology) from the Drew faculties assumed leadership roles. Again the Aquinas Fund underwrote the major expenses of the program.

Although Program support from the Aquinas Fund was no longer available after the 1973-74 year, the faculty seminar continued under local leadership and with University support and was designated as The Aquinas Seminar. As Dean Thompson wrote in one of his last reports to the Aquinas Fund, “The Seminar has become an important factor in the intellectual life of the University. It is the mirror of the Graduate School—the place where scholars contend, the place where all segments of the University are gathered for academic discourse.”

And so it continues to this present day and occasion: the 35th Anniversary of that forum “where scholars contend.” Since the Seminar’s inception in that fall of 1970, 409 papers have been presented by many different scholars, some visiting, but mostly local. Papers and scholars represent numerous disciplines—from Anthropology to Zoology—and the authors span the spectrum of age—from young instructors testing the waters to seasoned professors continuing to pursue the cutting edges. A list of presenters and their topics follows this introduction.

We cannot conclude these introductory notes without noting that the Aquinas Fund did not cease to be
interested in what had been started here with the Aquinas Program, and in the institution itself. Funds were made available on an individual basis to support a number of minority and international students in their courses of study. In the mid 1970's funds were made available to underwrite a two year visiting professorship in the history of science. And, most substantial of all, a challenge grant of $200,000 was awarded the University toward funding an endowed chair for the Robert Fisher Oxnam Professorship in Science and Society - a chair first held by Dr. John Ollom and currently occupied by Dr. David Kohn. Genuinely heartfelt thanks must go to the Aquinas Fund from the University and from all the participants who have benefited from the largess bestowed upon us.

And now, in conclusion, we must pay our tributes and commendations to all those in the campus community who have contributed so substantially to an enterprise, wholly voluntary, which has enriched our intellectual life for thirty-five years and to continue to live on. Above all, our thanks to Dr. Shirley Sugerman, who has served the Seminar since it’s very inception as the Coordinator/Director: initially coping with myriad details of arranging for the needs of our visiting colleagues and the Seminar; and subsequently, inviting, cajoling, encouraging, reminding, and arranging for the annual topics and faculty presenters. Also, to the late Dean Bard Thompson, without whose vision, dedication, and relentless energy, none of this would have happened - and, too, to his successor deans, Merrill Skaggs and Jim Pain, who have continued to lend their interest, encouragement, and support. Certainly to Robert Oxnam without whose intense interest and support and persuasive power with the Aquinas Fund none of this could have happened the way it did. Successor presidents too, Paul Hardin and Tom Kean, have continued to support the Seminar as a valuable enterprise on a campus ever claiming a commitment to interdisciplinary pursuits.

We express our ongoing appreciation to that small group of faculty who, across the years, have served as an advisory committee to elaborate programming and keep the whole project productive and in order, including: originally Phil Jensen and John von der Heide*; throughout the years Robert Chapman*, David Graybeal, Tom Oden, James O’Kane, John Ollom, Neal Riemer*, Roger Wescott*, Pat Boeshaar, and Barent Johnson; and more recently Alan Candiotti, Heather Elkins, Robert Ready, Andrew Scrimgeour and Merrill Skaggs. The three academic deans Paolo Cucchi, Jim Pain and Maxine Beach have also been on the steering committee. Above all, we applaud all those who have made presentations and those who have shared in the rigorous discussion thereof, in that “place where scholars contend.”

Barent Johnson
University Registrar, Emeritus
University Archivist, Emeritus

*deceased
1970-71

PSYCHOLOGY, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Phillip K. Jensen. “Psychological Contributions to Psycho history.” 10/15/70.

1971-72

PERMANENCE AND CHANGE

Owen Barfield. Introduction. 10/21/71.
Owen Barfield. “Language and Discovery.” 4/22/72. (with written unsigned response)

1972-73

PERMANENCE AND CHANGE II

Sidney Greenblatt. [Title Unknown.] 4/25/73.

1973-74

CHANGING PATTERNS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Modern Religious Thought.” 10/30/73. 1 cassette.

Peter Homans. “Psychological Notes on Traditionalism, Modernism, and Radicalism As Seen in Popular Culture.” 10/30/73.

David Bakan. “Outline for Notes for a Fifth Covenant.” 11/6/73. 2 cassettes.


1974-75

PSYCHOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE


Philip Rieff. “Fellow Teachers.” (conclusion) 12/10/74.

Roger Wescott. “Interhemispheric Travel Before the Vikings.” 2/18/75.


1975-76

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN MODERN CONSCIOUSNESS

Peter Miller. “Carlos Castenda, Don Juan, and the Counter Culture.” 5/10/76.

1976-77

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN MODERN CONSCIOUSNESS II

Neil Hamilton. “Truncated Protestants and Beyond.” 10/18/76. 2 cassettes.
Paul Barry. “Is This Art Form Really Necessary?” 11/29/76. 2 cassettes.
Joan Steiner. “Continuities and Discontinuities in Conrad’s Heart of Darkness.” 2/7/77.
Ed Long. “Coherence and Incoherences in the Structuring of Knowledge.” 2/21/77. 2 cassettes.
Hans Morsink. “Aristotle on Sex Roles in Reproduction.” 3/7/77. 3 cassettes.
John W. Bicknell. “A Radical Discontinuity in the History of Ideas About the History of Ideas.” 3/21/77. 2 cassettes.
Robert Zuck. “Plants and the Origin of Man: Predicting Our Origin and Our Future.” 5/2/77. 2 cassettes.

1977-78

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN MODERN CONSCIOUSNESS III

Phil Peek. “Culture Change: Syncreticism or Ethnocide.” 10/6/77. 2 cassettes.
Donald Siebert. “The Laser: Applications and Implications or It’s All Done with Mirrors.” 10/17/77. 2 cassettes.
Leedom Lefferts. “Paths Toward Purity in Rural Thai Buddhism.” 11/10/77. 1 cassette.
James Kirby. “America’s Immortal Past.” 11/21/77. 1 cassette.
James O’Kane, John Ollom and Leedom Lefferts. “Demographic Doomsday? Or Micro demographic Doomsday?” (a panel discussion) 2/20/78. 2 cassettes.

1978-79

SELF AND IDENTITY


1979-80

SYSTEMATIC FORGETTING AND COLLECTIVE REMEMBERING


1980-81

SYSTEMATIC FORGETTING AND COLLECTIVE REMEMBERING II

James Carse. “Exercising the Faculty of Oblivion.” 10/6/80.
Norman Lowery. “The Space We Share, Which is Consciousness (Muriel Rukeyser):
Avoiding/Confronting ‘Systematic Forgetting’ and Continuity and Discontinuity in Modern Consciousness’: A Performance/Lecture in Nonverbal/Verbal Modalities Including Dream Music.” 11/24/80.

1981-82

SYSTEMATIC FORGETTING AND COLLECTIVE REMEMBERING II

Phil Peek. “Alternative Realities and Higher States of Consciousness.” 10/12/81.
Neal Riemer. “Political Health as an Integrating Concept in Political Science: Some Preliminary Reflections.” 5/10/82.

1982-83

THE CLASSICS REVISITED

Merrill Skaggs. “The Slavery Stowe Accepted: Another Look at Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” 10/25/82.
Robert Corrington. “Remembering and Forgetting in Hagei’s Phenomenology of Spirit.” 11/22/82.
Fred Curtis. “Marx’s Das Kapital.” 12/13/82.
Fred Curtis. “Marx’s Das Kapital.” 2/7/83.

1983-84

THE CLASSICS REVISITED II

Perry Leavell. “On Bryce’s The American Commonwealth.” 10/10/83. 2 cassettes.

1984-85

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1985-86

Ruby Riemer. “Philosophy and Feminine Consciousness.” 11/18/85. 2 cassettes.
Alan Candiotti. “Mathematics - Science or Art?” 4/28/86.

1986-87
Jonathan Reader. “Reformation of Parsons’ Sick Role Theory.” 10/13/86. 2 cassettes.
10/27/86. 2 cassettes.
Robert Ready. “Contemporary Secular Consciousness.” 12/1/86. 2 cassettes.
Arthur E. Jones, Jr. “Questions for the Biographer: Selections with Annotative Comment from
Unpublished Correspondence of Thomas Gibbons.” 2/23/87. 2 cassettes.
to Kafka.” 4/23/87. 2 cassettes.

1987-88

Charles Courtney, Robert Chapman, David Graybeal, John Ollom, Neal Riemer, Shirley Sugerman and
John Copeland. “A New Age: Recent Technology Developments and Attitude Conflicts Concerning
Infants with Life-Threatening Illnesses.” 10/12/87. 2 cassettes.
Jim Hala. “Promiscuous Equivocalities: The Semiotics of Gender in Two Late Medieval English Texts.”
11/9/87. 11/9/87.

Catherine Keller. “Penetrating Into These Holes: Feminism and Postmodern Age.” 2/29/88. 1 cassette.

Ruby Riemer. “Poetry and Postmodern Sensibility or Midrash Without Torah.” 3/7/88. 1 cassette.


1988-89

VARIETIES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS (CIVIL CONSCIOUSNESS)


Tom Ogletree. “Renewing Ecumenical Protestant Social Teaching.” 10/31/88. 2 cassettes.


Roger Shinn. “Civic Consciousness.” 12/12/88. 2 cassettes.

Johan Noordsij. “Language and Psychosis.” 2/20/89. 2 cassettes.

Alan Candiotti. “Chaos and It’s Implications.” 3/27/89. 2 cassettes.


1989-90

VARIETIES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS (CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS II)


James Hala. “Steinbeck’s Attempted Modernization of Malory’s Morte de Arthur.” 11/13/89.


Barent Johnson. “Drew - University on the Verge II.” 5/14/90. 2 cassettes.

1990-91

EVENTS THAT TRANSFORM THINKING

Tom Kean. “Changes in the Political System.” 9/24/90. 2 cassettes.


Jim Hala. “There Are Only Differences.” 10/22/90. 2 cassettes.

George DeStevens. “The Medical, Social, and Ethical Dynamics of Drug Therapy: Whence and Whither.” 11/12/90. 2 cassettes.


Roz Seneca. “Subject to Constraint.” 5/13/91. 2 cassettes.

1991-92

EVENTS THAT TRANSFORM THINKING II


William Campbell. “Enemies in Inner Space: Some Problem Parasites.” 10/7/91. 2 cassettes.


Christopher Van Wyk. “Artificial Intelligence.” 4/20/92. 2 cassettes.

1992-93

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Nancy Schaenen. “What’s Going on in NJ Schools?” 12/7/92. 2 cassettes.

1993-94

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES II


Jim Pain. “Non-Roman Rites in the Roman Catholic Church.” 3/7/94. 2 cassettes.


1994-95

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES III


Catherine Keller. “University, Universe and U’s: A Transdisciplinary Discussion.” 10/24/94. 2 cassettes.

Paul Wice. “Good Speech/Bad Speech; How Far Can the First Amendment Stretch?” 11/7/94. 2 cassettes.


Laurel Kearns. “Saving the Creation: Religious Environmentalism.” 2/20/95. 1 cassette.


Davie, Jody. “Looking for the Center: Ethnographic Encounters with American Main Stream Religion.”
3/20/95. 2 cassettes.

Callander, Marilyn. "Further Tales from Nepal." 4/10/95. 2 cassettes.


1995-96

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES IV

Bill Carson. "Scandals and Scoundrels in International Finance." 10/2/95. 2 cassettes.

David M. Graybeal. "Non-Governmental Organizations." 10/16/95. 2 cassettes.

Styra Avins. "Where Has All the Music Gone?" 10/30/95. 2 cassettes.


1996-97
EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES V

John Bicknell. “1865-1875: A Disappointing Decade?” 10/7/96. 2 cassettes.

Sara Webb. “Threats to Biodiversity: Biological Invasions and Habitat Fragmentation.” 10/21/96. 2 cassettes.


Donald Kent and David Cowen. “Medicine Then & Now.” 2/10/97. 1 cassette.


1997-98

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES VI


Peggy Samuels. “Early Modern Readers.” 2/2/98.
Lynn Siebert. “Porter and Berlin: Anything goes when you Say it with music. Music for memories or for the millennium?” 3/2/98. 2 cassettes.

1998-99

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES VII

Tom Kean. “The President’s Initiative on Race—What’s Next?” 11/16/98. 1 cassette.
Robert Corrington. “Semiotic Cosmology and the Emergence of a Universal Religion.” 12/7/98. 2 cassettes.
Ashley Carter. “Cosmology at the Millennium.” 2/22/99. 2 cassettes.

1999-2000
PHENOMENON OF THE MILLENNIUM: EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES


Heather Elkins. “Buying the Farm: Appalachian Stories and Structures.” 2/7/00. 1 cassette.


2000-01

PHENOMENON OF THE MILLENNIUM: EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES II


Mark Freeman. “‘It’s Everywhere You Want to Be’: A Psychological Perspective on America’s Peculiar Relationship with Advertising.” 11/6/00. 1 cassette.

Pat Boeshaar. “Science and Pseudoscience at the Turn of the Millennium.” 11/20/00.

Kristin Anderson. “Resisting Violence in Families: Contradictions of the Past and Future.” 2/19/01. 1 cassette.

Chris Taylor. “Contested Pasts, Alternative Futures: Reflections on Islamic Renewal (tajid) and Reform (islah) Over the Last Century.” 2/26/01.

Maurice Lovell. “Freud’s Talking Cure: Where does it Stand?” 3/19/01. 2 cassettes.


Victoria Lee Erickson. “Centering Religious Conversion, De-centers Criminological Identity, and Re-centers the Relationship Between Sociology and Theology.” 4/16/01. 1 cassette.

Roger Knowles. “Etiology of Alzheimer’s Disease: Influence of Molecular and Environmental Factors.” 4/30/01. 1 cassette.

2001-02

DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL AWARENESS


Chris Taylor. “Islamic Extremism in Perspective.” 10/30/01.


Maxine Beach. “Where Should the Boundary be Set?” 12/3/01. 1 cassette.

Feisal Abdul-Rauf. “Aspects of Islamic Spirituality.” 12/12/01.


Tom Dickens and Bernard Smith. “Creating the Conditions for its Own Expansion; American Business and the Construction of a National Market During the Late 19th Century.” 3/25/02.

2002-03

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DIMENSIONS ON GLOBAL AWARENESS II

Merrill Skaggs. “[The Recent Addition to the Drew Library, the Caspersen Cather Collection].” 11/4/02.
Fred Curtis. “Sustainable Development—a Doomed Project.” 12/2/02.
Ashley Carter and Joe Patenaude. “A Perspective on Copenhagen.” 2/10/03.
Andrew Scrimgeour. “Be Careful Whom You Cite: Mapping the Intellectual Landscape of the Humanities.” 3/31/03.
Nora Colton. “Poverty and Despair: Rethinking Structuralism in Yemen.” 4/28/03.

2003-04

DIMENSIONS ON GLOBAL AWARENESS III

Joe Romance. “Patriotism in the Twentieth Century.” 10/20/03.
Lydia Ledeen. “Classical Music as Global Culture.” 12/15/03.

2004-2005

TWELVE PAPERS IN SEARCH OF A THEME

Cristina McKittrick. “Stress: From Adaptation to Disease.” 12/6/04.
Bernard McKenna. “Magical Transformations and Traumatic Recovery in Rebecca West’s Harriet Hume and Virginia Woolf’s Orlando.” 3/7/05.