8th Annual Humanities Symposium

NATURE and the HUMAN SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER 13-21, 2009

WWW.BELMONT.EDU
**Sunday, September 13**

**STUDENT READING OF SELECTED POETRY & PROSE ON NATURE & THE HUMAN SPIRIT**
Patio, Bell Tower (rain location, LCVA 117), 6:30-8 p.m.  
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**Monday, September 14**

**REVERDIE: THE ETERNAL REBIRTH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN NATURE**
Dr. Maggie Monteverde, Department of English, Belmont University  
Massey Board Room, 10-10:50 a.m.  
**DEEP INTO THE THICKET...: NATURE WRITING, HOLY WRITING**
Dr. Robbie Pinter, Department of English, Belmont University  
Massey Board Room, Noon-12:50 p.m.  
**BRINGING NATURE TO THE CLASSROOM, BRINGING THE CLASSROOM TO NATURE**
Dr. Jimmy Davis (Communications), Dr. Darlene Parvini (Biology) and Dr. Bonnie Smith (English)  
Massey Board Room, 2-2:50 p.m.  
**THE PRESENTATION OF NATURE: THE BOOK ARTS AND THE NATURAL WORLD**
A Presentation with Professor Teresa Van Hatten-Granath (Art) and Dr. Danielle Alexander (English), Belmont University, LCVA 117, 4-5:30 p.m.  
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**Tuesday, September 15**

**LANDSCAPE AND NATIONAL IDENTITIES**
Dr. Doug Murray, Department of English, Belmont University  
Massey Board Room, 11-11:50 a.m.  
**NATURE AS CONSCIENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS: THE PASTORAL HERO AND THE SYMPATHETIC IMAGINATION**
Dr. Annette Sisson, Department of English, Belmont University  
Massey Board Room, 2-2:50 p.m.  
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**Wednesday, September 16**

**NIA DANCE: CREATIVE FLOW THROUGH CONSCIOUS MOVEMENT**
Adrienne Young, Alumna, Belmont University  
Curb Café, 7:30-9 p.m.  
**ART EXHIBIT: SNAKE HANDLERS AND REDEMPTION**
Bunch Library, Leu Art Gallery  
On exhibit through September 24, 2009  
**SEEDS: A STORY OF SELF-CULTIVATION**
Micah Stover, Alumna, Belmont University  
Bunch Library, Leu Art Gallery, 3-3:50 p.m.  
**INVISIBLE LANDSCAPES: LEARNING FROM NATURE IN THE CITY**
Dr. John Tallmadge, Author and Scholar  
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
**RELIGION, POLITICS AND PUBLIC GOOD: A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE**
Dr. Peter Hershock, Coordinator of Asian Studies, East-West Center  
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall, 7-8:30 p.m.  
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**Thursday, September 17**

**WILDERNESS AT HEART – THE PREDATOR/PREY RELATIONSHIP: WHAT HUMANS CAN LEARN FROM HORSES ABOUT BEING WHOLE**
Dr. Judy Skeen, School of Religion, Belmont University  
Bunch Library, Leu Art Gallery, 11-11:50 a.m.  
**CAMPUSS NATURE WALK: “LEARNING TO SEE THE UNSEEN”**
Dr. John Tallmadge, Author and Scholar  
Begins at the Bell Tower  
3:30-4:30 p.m.  
**NATURE, COMMUNITY AND THE LIFE WE DREAM**
Janisse Ray, Author and Activist  
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall, 5-6 p.m.  
**RECEPTION WITH THE SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS**
Lower Foyer, Troutt Theater, 6-6:45 p.m.  
**A READING BY POET MARY OLIVER**
Mary Oliver, Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet  
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall, 7-8 p.m.  
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**Friday, September 18**

**WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE**
Dr. Abigail Jahiel, Illinois Wesleyan University  
Massey Business Center 104, 8:30-10 a.m.  
**NATURE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT SYMPOSIUM PANEL**
Featured Speakers Mary Oliver, Janisse Ray, John Tallmadge and Guest Publisher, Helene Atwan  
Troutt Theater, 10-10:50 a.m.  
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**Saturday, September 19**

**HIKE AT RADNOR LAKE**
Candice Ethridge, Native Plant Enthusiast, and Kevin Bowden, “Bird Walk” Leader for Tennessee Ornithological Society  
Radnor Lake, 8 a.m.  
**RETHINKING THE ENVIRONMENT, POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE NEXUS**
Dr. Kavita Philip, University of California, Irvine  
Massey Business Center 103, 9:30-11 a.m.  
**ENVIRONMENTS, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY: A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE**
Dr. Peter Hershock, Coordinator of Asian Studies, East-West Center  
Massey Business Center 103, 1:15-2:45 p.m.  
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**Sunday, September 20**

**FILM VIEWING AND DISCUSSION: INTO THE WILD**
Moderated by Ken Roberts, Alumnus, Belmont University  
LCVA 117, 2:30-5 p.m.  
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**Monday, September 21**

**NATURE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT—RECIPIROCITY AND RELATIONSHIP: A WRAP-UP SESSION**
Massey Business Center 100, 10-10:50 a.m.
A Poetry Reading
Thursday, September 17, 7-8 p.m.
Belmont Heights Baptist Church

Mary Oliver is the celebrated author of more than a dozen books of poetry and prose. With her lyrical connection to the natural world, Oliver’s poetry has firmly established her in the highest realm of American poets. Oliver has been honored with the National Book Award for Poetry, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, among others. She is renowned for her evocative and precise imagery, which brings nature into clear focus, transforming the everyday world into a place of magic and discovery. As poet Stanley Kunitz writes, “Mary Oliver’s poetry is fine and deep; it reads like a blessing. Her special gift is to connect us with our sources in the natural world, its beauties and terrors and mysteries and consolations.”

Mary Oliver

Finding Common Ground: An Eco-Feminist Reading of Christa Wolf’s Work
Tuesday, September 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Massey Board Room

Deborah Janson is an associate professor of German in West Virginia University’s Department of Foreign Languages. Her current scholarly interests focus on GDR and post-Wende literature, including the theme of national and personal identity in works by minority and East German writers. She is also currently writing about Christa Wolf and has published articles on works from the German Enlightenment and Romantic periods on German literature from an eco-feminist perspective.

Nashville-based singer-songwriter and Belmont alumna Adrienne Young offers tightly crafted songs that, like the feel of her home and the flow of her conversation, infuse her love for American tradition with high contemporary energy. An ardent supporter of sustainable agriculture, she bundled seed packets into the liner notes of her Grammy-nominated first album Plow to the End of the Row (2003). The Art of Virtue (2006) continued her success, and the reception for her newest release, Room to Grow (2007), has been highly enthusiastic. In fact, the Los Angeles Times has proclaimed her “the Americana find of the year.”

Folk Music Concert
Tuesday, September 15, 7:30-9 p.m.
Curb Café

John Tallmadge has dedicated his career to writing and teaching about the environment, pedagogy, and sustainability. He is the author of three books—The Cincinnati Arch, Meeting the Tree of Life: A Teacher’s Path, and Reading Under the Sign of Nature: New Essays in Ecocriticism—as well as numerous articles in journals such as Orion, Utne Reader and Audubon. Filled with luminous lessons of mindfulness, attentiveness, and other spiritual practices, his most recent book, The Cincinnati Arch, is a hopeful guide for finding nature and balance in unlikely places.

Nature, Community and the Life We Dream
Thursday, September 17, 5-6 p.m.
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall

Writer, naturalist, and activist Janisse Ray is author of three books of literary nonfiction: Ecology of a Cracker Childhood (2000), a memoir about growing up in a junkyard in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book. She has also written Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home, as well as Pohook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land. Ray believes the most vital challenge we humans face in the 21st century is figuring out, individually and collectively, how to lead whole lives—how to live well despite the destruction and fragmentation around us. Tony Horwitz from the New York Times Book Review writes, “What sets Ecology of a Cracker Childhood apart is the ambitious and arresting mission implied in its title... Ray’s passion for preserving and restoring this unsung landscape is heartfelt and refreshing.”

Invisible Landscapes: Learning from Nature in the City
Wednesday, September 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Bunch Library, Multimedia Hall

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Dr. Tallmadge will also lead a “nature walk” to demonstrate the active presence of nature within an urban setting. This nature walk will take place on Thursday, September 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and will begin at the Bell Tower.

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