

The Limits of Understanding: Encountering Mystery

Midwest Christianity and Literature Conference, Sept. 22-24, 2011

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Alvis (University of Dallas)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Adam Deville (University of St. Francis)

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (4:7). This conference explores literature’s engagement with that “which passes all understanding.” How have humans found rest and peace in the embracing of mystery? How have they wrestled with that which cannot be grasped? How have they rebelled? Surrendered? Resigned themselves? From the mysticism of Saint Francis to the rebellious inquisitiveness of Faust, all human responses to the mystery at the heart of life are of interest.

Abstracts and/or proposals of 250-500 words should be submitted by May 30, 2011. Papers and readings should be about 15-20 minutes. Scholarly studies from a variety of theoretical perspectives are welcome, as is creative writing in all genres. Creative pieces should be submitted in full.

All proposals should be sent as Word document attachments to Dr. Mark Buechsel at mbuechsel@sf.edu. Anyone interested in leading a session should also e-mail Dr. Buechsel. Please contact Angela Springer at aspringer@sf.edu for registration form and hotel information. The regional meeting is being sponsored by the Department of English and Foreign Languages, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Indiana.