

OUR COMMON HUMANITY



SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3, 2026



**BELMONT
UNIVERSITY**

College of Liberal Arts
& Social Sciences

SCHEDULE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

FULL PROGRAM



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SESSIONS ARE LOCATED IN
JANET AYERS ACADEMIC CENTER, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO *The Louie M. & Betty M. Phillips Foundation*



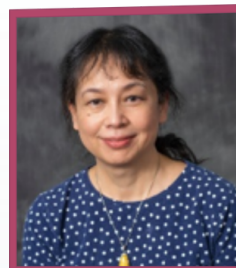
OUR COMMON HUMANITY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



"CELEBRATING OUR
COMMON HUMANITY WITH
WALT WHITMAN"
DR. MARK EDMUNDSON



"FROM STORY TO
SCREEN: THE POLITICS OF
FRICTION, CENSORSHIP
AND TRANSLATION"
DR. HOLLY LIU

SCHEDULE:

TIME	TITLE & PRESENTER	WELL CORE CATEGORY
10:00	"CELEBRATING OUR COMMON HUMANITY WITH WALT WHITMAN" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, PRESIDENTIAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
11:00	"CURIOUSLY HUMAN: 25 YEARS OF THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM" DR. JASON LOVVORN, PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
12:00	PRESERVING THE PAST OF THE SYMPOSIUM FOR THE FUTURE PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LIBRARY STAFF AND OTHERS	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
1:00	"SCIENCE IS A CONVERSATION" SCIENCE FACULTY PANEL MODERATED BY DR. KRISTA MCBRIDE, PHYSICS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
2:00	"WOMEN'S VOICES IN ANCIENT GYNECOLOGY" DR. MARY CUNNINGHAME, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
3:00	"HEALTHCARE AND CULTURE OF NEPAL" HEATHER FERRARI, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MEDICAL CENTER	OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS
4:00	Q&A FOR FYS AND OTHERS WITH DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, AUTHOR OF WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU HERE FACILITATED BY DR. KATE HOLLAND	OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS
5:30	"FROM STORY TO SCREEN: THE POLITICS OF FRICTION, CENSORSHIP AND TRANSLATION" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. HOLLY LIU, CHARLES A. DANA PROFESSOR OF CHINESE AND GERMAN, ALMA COLLEGE	CULTURAL WELLNESS



OUR COMMON HUMANITY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29



"PERFORMING ORAL HISTORIES FOR RURAL RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING"

DR. DANA BULTMAN

TIME	TITLE & PRESENTER	WELL CORE CATEGORY
10:00	"PERFORMING ORAL HISTORIES FOR RURAL RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. DANA BULTMAN, HARRY AND JANE WILLSON PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA	CULTURAL WELLNESS
11:00	"CENTERING DEPENDENCY: SEVERE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND EQUAL HUMANITY" DR. NOEL BOYLE, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	CULTURAL WELLNESS
12:15	FACULTY Q&A WITH DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, AUTHOR OF WHY TEACH? TEACHING CENTER LUNCHEON, ROGERS BOARD ROOM, BARBARA MASSEY BUILDING	NO WELL CORE FACULTY / STAFF EVENT
2:00	"'WE CAME CRYING HITHER': KING LEAR, MIGRANTS, AND THE CLIFFS OF DOVER" DR. MARCIA McDONALD, PROFESSOR EMERITA, ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
3:30	"UNLEARNING JAPANESE: IGNORANCE AND REDISCOVERY" DR. CHRISTOPHER BORN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ASIAN STUDIES AND JAPANESE, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	CULTURAL WELLNESS
5:30	"LANGUAGE STUDY: AT THE HEART OF A HUMANISTIC EDUCATION" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. DANA BULTMAN, DR. HOLLY LIU, WILL COULTHARD, BELMONT CLASS OF '24	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
7:00	"TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL: THE LUMOS AWARD" MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION WITH 4 PAST LUMOS TRAVELERS	CULTURAL WELLNESS



OUR COMMON HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME	TITLE & PRESENTER	WELL CORE CATEGORY
9:00	"ROLL FOR HUMANITY: HOW D&D SATISFIES CORE HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING" DR. LAURA-KATE GONYEA HUSE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
10:00	"A LIFE MADE OF STORIES: FROM LITERATURE TO SONG, TRADITION, AND HEALING" ASHLEY DAVIS, WORLD MUSIC ARTIST, REIKI MASTER HEALER AND BELMONT CLASS OF '98	OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS
11:00	"THOREAU'S CELLY AND OTHER STORIES: FINDING COMMON HUMANITY IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN JAIL" DR. PETE KURLA, HISTORY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
12:00	"OUT OF THE MAELSTROM OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE" DR. MAGGIE MONTEVERDE, ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
1:00	"THE TROUBLE WITH ANSWERS" PANEL DISCUSSION: MODERATED BY DR. KRISTA MCBRIDE, PHYSICS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
2:00	"WHEN THE MEDIUM TALKS BACK: AI, MEANING-MAKING AND HUMAN CONVERSATION" DR. KEVIN TROWBRIDGE, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	SOCIAL WELLNESS
3:00	"MAGNIFICENT HUMANITY: HOW THE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL MAKES US THINK ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE COURSES" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. SALLY HOLT, RELIGION; DR. ARPITA MANDAL, ENGLISH; DR. JENNIFER THOMAS, BIOLOGY; DR. MITCH MCCOY, SPANISH BELMONT UNIVERSITY	SPIRITUAL WELLNESS
4:00	"THE ARTIFICIAL OTHER: DIALOGUE AND DISAGREEMENT WITH AI" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. JOEL OVERALL, ENGLISH, WITH BELMONT STUDENTS EMMA BOWMAN AND MARLY HANNA, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
7:00	A VIEWING OF THE FILM CODA FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF BELMONT'S AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB	SOCIAL WELLNESS



OUR COMMON HUMANITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1



**"WHAT IS A
SYMPOSIUM?"**
DR. ALEX PRIOU



DR. BRANDON
TULLOCK

**"MORE THAN
TRANSLATION:
WHAT WE GAIN
WHEN WE LEARN
ANOTHER
LANGUAGE"**

TIME	TITLE & PRESENTER	WELL CORE CATEGORY
10:00	BELMONT LAUNCH FOR "IN OUR HANDS: A MAKER'S MANIFESTO FOR CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CREATIVE PRACTICES" DR. BONNIE SMITH-WHITEHOUSE, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND GLOBAL HONORS PROGRAM, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
11:00	"THE FURIOUS FLYCYCLE AND THE LONG JOURNEY HOME: AN ODYSSEY OF SORTS" DR. DARRELL GWALTNEY, H. FRANKLIN PASCHALL CHAIR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES AND RELIGION, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	SPIRITUAL WELLNESS
12:30	"THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THE OFFICE, AND THE VACATION: HOW THREE TV ARCHITECTURES SHAPE OUR FEELING BODIES" DR. AMANDA SALMON, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
2:00	"WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM?" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. ALEX PRIOU, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF AUSTIN	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
4:00	"WALKING WITH THE ENEMY: THE ART OF SUBVERSIVE MIMICRY IN THE POST-TRUTH ERA" TOM WILLIAMS, WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART, BELMONT U, AND GEDIMINAS GASPARAVIČIUS, MYERS SCHOOL OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON	CULTURAL WELLNESS
5:30	"MORE THAN TRANSLATION: WHAT WE GAIN WHEN WE LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. BRANDON TULLOCK, DIRECTOR, AP GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, COLLEGE BOARD, AND BELMONT CLASS OF '07	OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS
7:00	DAS LEBEN DER ANDEREN (THE LIVES OF OTHERS) - A FILM BY FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK, VIEWING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION MODERATED BY DR. REGINE SCHWARZMEIER, GERMAN, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	CULTURAL WELLNESS



OUR COMMON HUMANITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day



CARRIE GRACE YORK



DR. MASOOD RAJA



GABRIELA GONZALES

TIME	TITLE & PRESENTER	WELL CORE CATEGORY
9:00	"THE NECESSITY OF A HUMANISTIC EDUCATION IN AN ERA OF AI" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. ALEX PRIOU AND DR. MASOOD RAJA	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
10:00	PHILOLOGOI	SOCIAL WELLNESS
11:00	"IBN TUFAYL'S HAYY IBN YAOZAN, JON LOCKE, AND ROUSSEAU: A TWELFTH CENTURY MUSLIM TEXT AND ITS IMPACT ON EUROPEAN HUMANISTIC THOUGHT" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. MASOOD RAJA, LINSLEY SCHOOL AND BELMONT ALUMNUS BA (CLASS OF '99) AND MA (CLASS OF '01)	INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS
12:00	"UNDER THREAT: REGIONAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AT RISK" PANEL DISCUSSION: ASHLEY DAVIS, DR. BRANDON TULLOCK, AND DR. JOHN DEPRIEST	CULTURAL WELLNESS
1:00	"EATING IS A SMALL GOOD THING" PRESENTING THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COOKBOOK PRESENTED BY DR. SUE TROUT AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE ENGLISH CLUB	CULTURAL WELLNESS
2:00	"I'M GOOD, I SWEAR": A READING AND Q&A WITH AUTHOR CARRIE GRACE YORK FEATURED SPEAKER: CARRIE GRACE YORK, BELMONT CLASS OF '26, MODERATED BY DR. GWEN NIEKAMP, BELMONT UNIVERSITY	SPIRITUAL WELLNESS
3:00	"HOW TO LOVE YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE: A READING WITH Q&A" FEATURED SPEAKER: GABRIELA GONZALES, BELMONT CLASS OF '19	CULTURAL WELLNESS



OUR COMMON HUMANITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day



ASHLEY DAVIS



DR. JOHN DEPRIEST



DR. BRANDON TULLOCK

4:00	WINNERS OF THE 2026 SANDRA HUTCHINS HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST READINGS BY BELMONT UNDERGRADUATES AND MASTERS STUDENTS	CULTURAL WELLNESS
5:00	"THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE: A CLOSING CONCERT" ASHLEY DAVIS, JOHN DEPRIEST, AND BRANDON TULLOCK	CULTURAL WELLNESS

OUR COMMON HUMANITY



Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of the Belmont Humanities Symposium

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN THE THEN DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY DECIDED TO ORGANIZE “MURDER IN THE MANSION,” WE CALLED IT A SYMPOSIUM BECAUSE WE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE AN ASPECT OF ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR DISCIPLINES, THE FOCUS ON CONVERSATION. TODAY, AS SOCIAL MEDIA, TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NEWS CYCLES, AI, AND POLITICAL DIVISION SEEM TO THREATEN OUR ABILITY TO INTERACT DEEPLY AND MEANINGFULLY WITH EACH OTHER, EVEN WITH THOSE WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH, THAT RECIPROCAL, CONVERSATION-BASED FORMAT, THAT REQUIRES BOTH LISTENING AND SPEAKING, SEEMS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT. PERHAPS WE SHOULDN’T BE SURPRISED, THEN, TO DISCOVER THAT THE ORIGINAL, ROOT SENSE OF CONVERSATION ISN’T ABOUT TALKING WITH EACH OTHER AT ALL: IT’S ABOUT LIVING WITH OTHERS, OPENING UP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING OURSELVES ABOUT AS WE ENCOUNTER OTHERS, AND IN THAT WAY ALLOWING OURSELVES TO CELEBRATE EVERYTHING OUR COMMON HUMANITY HAS TO OFFER. SO, THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF ENGAGING WITH ONE FOCUSED SUBJECT FROM MANY ANGLES, DURING THE FIVE DAYS OF OUR 25TH SYMPOSIUM WE WILL RESUME CONVERSATIONS ON THE FIVE TOPIC GROUPINGS REPRESENTING THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS: OUR ENCOUNTERS AND CONVERSATIONS; OUR COMPARATIVE IMPULSES; OUR CONTEXTS; OUR TECHNOLOGIES; OUR NARRATIVES AND LANGUAGES.

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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
10:00	"CELEBRATING OUR COMMON HUMANITY WITH WALT WHITMAN" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, PRESIDENTIAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WALT WHITMAN IS OUR GREAT POET OF DEMOCRACY. HE OFFERS A VISION OF WHAT IT FEELS LIKE, DAY TO DAY, TO LIVE IN A FREE AND EQUAL SOCIETY THAT CELEBRATES OUR COMMON HUMANITY. WHITMAN HAS HIGH HOPES FOR THE DEMOCRATIC FUTURE, BUT HE SEES SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY AND DOES HIS BEST TO SOLVE THEM IMAGINATIVELY. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
11:00	"CURIOUSLY HUMAN: 25 YEARS OF THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM" DR. JASON LOVVORN, PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY SINCE 2002, THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES HAS CELEBRATED THE SPECIAL STATUS OF HUMANKIND WITH LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, FILMS, SERVICE EVENTS, AND AWARDS. ACROSS THIS LONGSTANDING SYMPOSIUM SERIES, INNATE CURIOSITY ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US, AS WELL AS HUMANITY'S PLACE IN IT, HAVE BEEN STAPLE OFFERINGS TO THE BELMONT COMMUNITY. THIS TALK, WHICH SERVES AS THIS YEAR'S MONTEVERDE LECTURE, WILL EXPLORE THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF THE BELMONT HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM WHILE PRESSING ON THE VALUE OF SYMPOSIA IN GENERAL AND EXPLORING THE DEEPLY CURIOUS NATURE CONNECTED TO OUR SYMPOSIUM'S SUCCESS. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
12:00	"PRESERVING THE PAST OF THE SYMPOSIUM FOR THE FUTURE" PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LIBRARY STAFF AND OTHERS THIS FOLLOW UP TO THE PRESENTATION IN THE PREVIOUS HOUR WILL EXPLORE MORE FULLY WAYS THE HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM IS BEING REMEMBERED THROUGH THE NEW LIBRARY ARCHIVE, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES SEVERAL YEARS OF THE JOURNAL PRODUCED BY STUDENTS UNDER FACULTY GUIDANCE, PAST PROGRAMS, AND FOR THE COVID YEARS RECORDED LECTURES. SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY STAFF, THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL, AS WELL AS SEVERAL FACULTY AND STUDENTS INVOLVED WITH THE ARRANGING AND PARTICIPATING IN HUMANITIES SYMPOSIA PAST AND PRESENT. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
1:00	"SCIENCE IS A CONVERSATION" SCIENCE FACULTY PANEL MODERATED BY DR. KRISTA MCBRIDE, PHYSICS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY IN THIS FIRST OF TWO PANELS BY BELMONT SCIENCE FACULTY, DR. RYAN FOX (MATHEMATICS), DUSTIN KELLER (PSYCHOLOGY), AZUAH DAHMEN (BIOLOGY), JEFF GUSTOFSON (CHEMISTRY) AND DAVON FERRERA (PHYSICS) WILL DISCUSS A FUNDAMENTAL BUT OFTEN OVERLOOKED ASPECT OF SCIENCE, ONE THAT RELATES IT TO THE MOST HUMAN OF ALL ACTIVITIES: CONVERSATION. SCIENCE IS OFTEN PRESENTED AS A COLLECTION OF FACTS AND ANSWERS, BUT AT HEART, SCIENCE IS A CONVERSATION, A CONTINUAL EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS, EVIDENCE, IDEAS, AND PERSPECTIVES. LIKE ALL MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY REQUIRES US TO LISTEN CAREFULLY, CHALLENGE OUR ASSUMPTIONS, AND RECOGNIZE THAT BEING WRONG IS NOT FAILURE BUT INFORMATION, INVITING US TO RECONSIDER WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW. THIS PANEL EXPLORES HOW MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE MODEL A SHARED PURSUIT OF UNDERSTANDING, AND ASKS WHAT WE MIGHT LEARN FROM BRINGING THAT SAME OPENNESS, CURIOSITY, AND WILLINGNESS TO BE CHANGED INTO OUR EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
2:00	"WOMEN'S VOICES IN ANCIENT GYNECOLOGY" DR. MARY CUNNINGHAM, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY WE HAVE PRESERVED DISAPPOINTINGLY FEW TEXTS WRITTEN BY ANCIENT GREEK WOMEN. BEYOND THE FRAGMENTS (MOSTLY OF LYRIC POETRY) THAT REMAIN, HOW COULD WE EVER HOPE TO KNOW WHAT ANCIENT WOMEN THOUGHT ABOUT THEIR LIVES OR THE WORLD AROUND THEM? THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE CAN UNCOVER SOME OF THE WEIRD, SURPRISING, AND INSIGHTFUL BELIEFS THESE WOMEN HELD BY LOOKING CLOSELY AT AN UNLIKELY SOURCE: ANCIENT GYNECOLOGY. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
3:00	"HEALTHCARE AND CULTURE OF NEPAL" HEATHER FERRARI, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MEDICAL CENTER HEATHER FERRARI, BELMONT CLASS OF '18 LUMOS TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENT, WILL SHARE HER IMMERSION EXPERIENCE IN CHITWAN, NEPAL, CONSIDERING IT BOTH CULTURALLY AND THROUGH THE LENS OF A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: THE DIFFERENCES, THE SIMILARITIES, AND HOW LIVING IN NEPAL HAS IMPACTED WHAT SHE DOES NOW, AS THE HOLDER OF AN M.S. IN NURSING WORKING AS A CRITICAL CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER AND CLINICAL PRECEPTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HOSPITAL IN THE CARDIO-VASCULAR CRITICAL CARE UNIT. WELLCORE: OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
4:00	Q&A FOR FYS AND OTHERS WITH DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, AUTHOR OF WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU HERE FACILITATED BY DR. KATE HOLLAND IF YOU ARE IN, OR IN THE PAST TOOK, BELMONT'S FIRST YEAR SEMINAR, CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT YOU READ AND DISCUSSED DR. MARK EDMUNDSON'S ESSAY "WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE." GIVEN THE NATURE OF FYS, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO REFLECT ON AND ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ESSAY IN PREPARATION FOR CLASS DISCUSSION (AMONG OTHER THINGS). RARELY, THOUGH, DO WE GET A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND SHARE OUR THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS WITH THE AUTHOR OF THE MATERIALS WE ARE READING. THIS Q&A SESSION, MODERATED BY TWO FYS FACULTY, WILL OPEN WITH QUESTIONS COLLECTED FROM SOME OF THIS YEAR'S STUDENTS. HOWEVER, THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T JUST FOR FRESHMEN: ANYONE WHO HAS EVER ASKED THEMSELVES ONE OR BOTH OF THOSE TITLE QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS WHICH THEMSELVES RESONATE FAR BEYOND COLLEGE, WILL FIND PLENTY MORE TO ASK ABOUT AND REFLECT ON IN THIS SESSION. WELLCORE: OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
5:30	"FROM STORY TO SCREEN: THE POLITICS OF FRICTION, CENSORSHIP AND TRANSLATION" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. HOLLY LIU, CHARLES A. DANA PROFESSOR OF CHINESE AND GERMAN, ALMA COLLEGE THIS PRESENTATION INVESTIGATES THE CHALLENGES OF NARRATIVE MIGRATION ACROSS LINGUISTIC AND MEDIAL BOUNDARIES. PART I EXAMINES LITERARY TRANSLATION THROUGH THE WORK OF MONIKA MARON (FLUGASCHE, ANIMAL TRISTE), EXPLORING HOW TRANSLATORS NAVIGATE POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CENSORSHIP, INCLUDING THE DELIBERATE ELIMINATION OF TEXT REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION. PART II TURNS TO CINEMATIC ADAPTATION, ANALYZING HOW STORIES RESIST OR SUCCUMB TO NARRATIVE FLATTENING THROUGH THE STUDIO-ALTERED ENDING OF THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI, THE BRECHTIAN ALIENATION OF THE NASTY GIRL, AND THE SEARING IRONIES OF THE LOST HONOR OF KATHARINA BLUM. FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE MAX KADE FOUNDATION. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 60 MINUTES



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

TIME	SESSION INFO
10:00	"PERFORMING ORAL HISTORIES FOR RURAL RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. DANA BULTMAN, HARRY AND JANE WILLSON PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EVERYONE LIVES IN A PLACE WITH A LOCAL IDENTITY AND USES A LANGUAGE TO RELATE SOCIALLY. WHEN ECONOMIC CHANGES CREATE PRESSURE, RURAL COMMUNITIES FACE PARTICULAR CHALLENGES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN RESIDENTS ARE SOCIALLY ISOLATED AND MULTILINGUAL. IN GEORGIA, A TEAM OF HUMANITIES STUDENTS IS STRENGTHENING WELL-BEING THROUGH COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS AND PERFORMANCE. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
11:00	"CENTERING DEPENDENCY: SEVERE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND EQUAL HUMANITY" DR. NOEL BOYLE, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY PEOPLE WITH SEVERE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS SEEM TO LACK THE VERY TRAITS PHILOSOPHERS HAVE TRADITIONALLY USED TO DEFINE WHAT MAKES US HUMAN: RATIONALITY AND AUTONOMY. DRAWING BOTH FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AS THE PARENT OF A MAN WITH SEVERE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS AND FROM THE FEMINIST CARE ETHICS OF PHILOSOPHER EVA FEDER KITTAY, DR. BOYLE WILL ARGUE THAT AN ADEQUATE ACCOUNT OF WHAT MAKES US HUMAN WOULD PUT RELATIONS OF DEPENDENCY AND INTERDEPENDENCY AT THE CENTER. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
12:15	FACULTY Q&A WITH DR. MARK EDMUNDSON, AUTHOR OF WHY TEACH? TEACHING CENTER LUNCHEON, ROGERS BOARD ROOM, BARBARA MASSEY BUILDING DURATION: 75 MINUTES
2:00	"'WE CAME CRYING HITHER': KING LEAR, MIGRANTS, AND THE CLIFFS OF DOVER" DR. MARCIA McDONALD, PROFESSOR EMERITA, ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY THE ICONIC DOVER CLIFFS ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST OF ENGLAND SERVE AS THE SETTING FOR A POWERLESS KING LEAR'S RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON HUMANITY, "WE CAME CRYING HITHER," IN ACT 4 OF SHAKESPEARE'S 1605 TRAGEDY, KING LEAR. FOR CENTURIES, THESE CLIFFS HAVE BEEN THE DESTINATION FOR MIGRANTS CROSSING THE CHANNEL TO SEEK A NEW LIFE. BY CONSIDERING SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDY OF A KING GAINING HUMANITY AS HE LOSES POWER AND THE PLIGHT OF THE 21ST CENTURY MIGRANT WITHIN THE SETTING OF THIS CLIFFSCAPE, WE CAN CONSIDER ANEW WHAT IT MEANS TO RECOGNIZE OUR COMMON HUMANITY. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 75 MINUTES



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

TIME	SESSION INFO
3:30	"UNLEARNING JAPANESE: IGNORANCE AND REDISCOVERY" DR. CHRISTOPHER BORN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ASIAN STUDIES AND JAPANESE, BELMONT UNIVERSITY WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT CULTURE AND LANGUAGE? EVEN OPERATING AT A HIGH-LEVEL IN JAPANESE AND HAVING MUCH EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN, THERE CAN BE MUCH MORE TO LEARN THAN MEETS THE EAR AND EYE. ESTABLISHED THINGS WE THINK WE KNOW MUST BE "UNLEARNED" BEFORE WE CAN GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING. IN THIS TALK, WE WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF KNOWING, IGNORANCE, AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN ANOTHER CULTURE. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 60 MINUTES
5:30	"LANGUAGE STUDY: AT THE HEART OF A HUMANISTIC EDUCATION" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. DANA BULTMAN, DR. HOLLY LIU, WILL COULTHARD, BELMONT CLASS OF '24 EVEN AS OUR WORLD BECOMES INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES STUDYING A SECOND LANGUAGE BOTH IN COLLEGE AND IN HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN RAPIDLY DECLINING DUE TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS SUCH AS THE LOSS OF LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE COMPLETION AND LACK OF INVESTMENT IN LANGUAGE STUDY AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION. THIS HAS IMPLICATIONS NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS GOING OUT TO JOIN A GLOBAL WORK FORCE BUT FOR HUMANITIES FIELDS OF STUDY BROADLY, GIVEN THE CENTRAL ROLE LANGUAGE ITSELF PLAYS IN ALL OF THESE DISCIPLINES. THIS PANEL DISCUSSION WILL EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE STUDY, EVEN FOR STUDENTS NOT SEEKING TO ATTAIN PROFICIENCY IN A SECOND LANGUAGE. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 60 MINUTES
7:00	"TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL: THE LUMOS AWARD" MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION WITH 4 PAST LUMOS TRAVELERS SINCE 2010, THE LUMOS AWARDS HAVE ENABLED BELMONT STUDENTS TO TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE BY FUNDING THEM TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF AN ISSUE OR PROJECT. IN THIS LUMOS PANEL DISCUSSION, FOUR PAST LUMOS TRAVELERS WILL EACH GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THEIR PROJECT BEFORE ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON HOW THEIR EXPERIENCES INFORMED THEIR UNDERSTANDING BOTH OF THE PLACE AND PEOPLE THEY WERE IMMERSSED IN AND BROADENED THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE TIES AND CHALLENGES THAT BIND US TOGETHER AS HUMAN BEINGS: SAM OSBORN, CLASS OF '17, WILL DISCUSS HIS 2018 EXPERIENCES IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL, WHERE HE TAUGHT ENGLISH TO K-5 CHILDREN AND HELPED TO REBUILD SCHOOL BUILDINGS DESTROYED IN THE 2015 EARTHQUAKE; RACHEL BEIHL, CLASS OF '18, WILL DISCUSS HER PROJECT IN VALENCIA, SPAIN, WORKING WITH UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN THROUGH SAVE THE CHILDREN'S AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM; ELIZABETH MOSS, CLASS OF '24, WILL DISCUSS HER PROJECT WITH STORY WORKS IN BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND, WHERE AS CHARITY MANAGER SHE LED WRITING WORKSHOPS, MANAGED VOLUNTEERS AND DEVELOPED A NEW SONGWRITING COURSE; AND VALERIA DRAINE, CLASS OF '24, WILL DISCUSS HER PROJECT IN SAN IGNACIO, BELIZE, WHERE DURING HER PLACEMENT WITH THEIR MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, SHE ASSISTED PHYSICIANS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 90 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
9:00	"ROLL FOR HUMANITY: HOW D&D SATISFIES CORE HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING" DR. LAURA-KATE GONYEA HUSE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES, BELMONT UNIVERSITY AT ITS CORE, DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS IS A COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING GAME. WHILE THE STORY IS BASED IN A FANTASY SETTING WITH MAGIC, THE PLAYERS AT THE TABLE GAIN REAL BENEFITS INCLUDING INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH, MORE SOCIAL CONNECTIVENESS, AND REDUCED DEFENSIVE PROCESSING. STORYTELLING IS A FUNDAMENTAL FORM OF COMMUNICATION FOR HUMANS, AND PLAY IS BIOLOGICALLY NECESSARY FOR HUMANITY. D&D THUS CREATES A SPACE FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION AND CONNECTION WHILE SATISFYING CORE HUMAN NEEDS. WELLCORE: EMOTIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
10:00	"A LIFE MADE OF STORIES: FROM LITERATURE TO SONG, TRADITION, AND HEALING" ASHLEY DAVIS, WORLD MUSIC ARTIST, REIKI MASTER HEALER AND BELMONT CLASS OF '98 NEARLY THREE DECADES AGO, ASHLEY DAVIS LEFT BELMONT UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN ENGLISH, HAVING CHOSEN THE STUDY OF LITERATURE OVER MUSIC BUSINESS BECAUSE OF A LOVE OF READING AND A DEEP BELIEF IN THE POWER OF STORIES. NOW AN INTERNATIONALLY TOURING SINGER-SONGWRITER, DAVIS RETURNS TO BELMONT TO EXPLORE HOW THAT DECISION SHAPED AN UNEXPECTED CREATIVE LIFE. THROUGH STORYTELLING AND LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE, DAVIS TRACES A PATH FROM THE LITERATURE SHE STUDIED AT BELMONT TO THE AMERICAN AND IRISH FOLK TRADITIONS THAT SHAPED HER SONGWRITING. SHE EXPLORES HOW YEARS OF TOURING, TRAVEL, AND CULTURAL IMMERSION AND COLLABORATION EXPANDED HER ARTISTIC VOICE, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO HER WORK AS A REIKI MASTER AND THE CREATION OF HER ALBUM MANTRA. AT ITS HEART, "A LIFE MADE OF STORIES" ASKS WHAT IT MEANS TO BUILD A CREATIVE LIFE AROUND LISTENING, CURIOSITY, AND CONNECTION. DAVIS REFLECTS ON A JOURNEY THAT HAS TAKEN HER FROM LITERATURE CLASSROOMS TO STAGES, RECORDING STUDIOS, AND HEALING SPACES AROUND THE WORLD, REVEALING HOW THE STORIES WE INHERIT, ENCOUNTER, AND CREATE CAN BECOME A THREAD THROUGH A LIFE, CONNECTING WHERE WE BEGAN WITH WHO WE ARE STILL BECOMING. WELLCORE: OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
11:00	"THOREAU'S CELLY AND OTHER STORIES: FINDING COMMON HUMANITY IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN JAIL" DR. PETER KURLA, HISTORY, BELMONT UNIVERSITY THE PHILOSOPHER AND NATURALIST HENRY DAVID THOREAU SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL IN CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS FOR REFUSING TO PAY HIS LOCAL POLL TAX, A PROTEST AGAINST THE MEXICAN WAR AND ITS EXPANSION OF SLAVERY. FOR YEARS, "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (1849)," THE ESSAY INSPIRED BY THAT NIGHT IN THE TOWN LOCKUP, WAS STANDARD READING IN ANY NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS, A FOUNDATIONAL TEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING FORMS OF "RESISTANCE TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT." YET WE TEND TO FORGET THAT THOREAU HAD A "CELLY" OR CELLMATE IN JAIL WITH HIM THAT EVENING. THIS TALK CONSIDERS THE OTHER GUY IN THE CELL WITH THOREAU THAT NIGHT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF JAILS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
12:00	"OUT OF THE MAELSTROM OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE" DR. MAGGIE MONTEVERDE, ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, WHEN BELMONT'S TEACHING CENTER WAS JUST GETTING UNDERWAY, A COLLEAGUE BEGAN A TEACHING WORKSHOP BY ASKING US, "WHAT IS YOUR METAPHOR FOR TEACHING?" MY ANSWER? "THE MAELSTROM." WHILE I'M NOT SURE THAT IS A PERFECT METAPHOR FOR MY APPROACH TO TEACHING, I'VE COME TO REALIZE BY READING BACK OVER PAPERS I HAVE WRITTEN FOR PAST SYMPOSIA THAT IT IS DEFINITELY AN APT METAPHOR FOR WHAT I SEE AS ONE OF, IF NOT THE, PRIMARY VALUE OF A HUMANISTIC EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY ONE ORGANIZED AROUND THE STUDY AND TEACHING OF ENGLISH: IDEALLY, THROUGH WIDE READING IT SHOULD OFFER MUCH OFTEN DISPARATE INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE TO DIGEST AND PONDER, AND THROUGH WRITING, ESPECIALLY THROUGH WRITING REFLECTIVE ESSAYS, IT SHOULD TRAIN THE TOOLS THAT ENABLE THE SWIRLING FUNNEL OF THOUGHT TO FORM. WE'LL SEE IF THAT HAPPENS TODAY! WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
1:00	"THE TROUBLE WITH ANSWERS" PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED BY DR. KRISTA MCBRIDE, PHYSICS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY IN THIS SECOND PANEL OF BELMONT SCIENTISTS, THE CONVERSATION BEGUN MONDAY WILL BE CONTINUED BY LUCY WATSON (MATHEMATICS), ERICK SPEARS (BIOLOGY), CHRISTINA DAVIS (DATA SCIENCE.), EMILY MOSES (CHEMISTRY) AND MATTHEW ZEH (PHYSICS) WHO WILL TACKLE ANOTHER FALSE PERCEPTION OF THE NATURE OF SCIENCE, THE EXPECTATION THAT THE TASK OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IS TO PROVIDE DEFINITIVE ANSWERS. HOWEVER, MEANINGFUL INQUIRY RARELY ENDS WITH AN ANSWER. OFTEN, IT BEGINS WITH A BETTER QUESTION. SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY REQUIRES US TO USE EVIDENCE, EXPERIENCE, OR ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE TO CHANGE OUR UNDERSTANDING, EVEN WHEN IT CHALLENGES WHAT WE THOUGHT WE KNEW. THIS PANEL EXPLORES WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE EMBRACE UNCERTAINTY, RECOGNIZE THE LIMITS OF OUR ANSWERS, AND ALLOW BETTER QUESTIONS TO DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD WE SHARE. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
2:00	"WHEN THE MEDIUM TALKS BACK: AI, MEANING-MAKING AND HUMAN CONVERSATION" DR. KEVIN TROWBRIDGE, CHAIR, PUBLIC RELATIONS, BELMONT UNIVERSITY GENERATIVE AI IS THE FIRST WIDELY USED COMMUNICATION MEDIUM THAT DOES MORE THAN CARRY HUMAN MESSAGES: IT RESPONDS, ADAPTS, QUESTIONS, AND REFRAMES. DRAWING ON COMMUNICATION THEORY AND A REFLEXIVE ACCOUNT OF THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF USING CHATGPT FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MEANING-MAKING. THIS TALK ASKS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE PARTICIPANT IN A CONSEQUENTIAL INTERPRETIVE EXCHANGE IS NOT HUMAN. IT CONSIDERS BOTH THE PROMISE AND RISKS OF AI AS A CONVERSATIONAL PARTNER—AND WHAT REMAINS DISTINCTLY HUMAN WHEN THE MEDIUM TALKS BACK. WELLCORE: SOCIAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
3:00	"MAGNIFICENT HUMANITY: HOW THE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL MAKES US THINK ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE COURSES" PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED BY DR. MITCH MCCOY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH BELMONT UNIVERSITY DR. SALLY HOLT, RELIGION, DR. ARPITA MANDAL, ENGLISH, DR. JENNIFER THOMAS, BIOLOGY, AND DR. MITCH MCCOY, SPANISH WILL SHARE THEIR THOUGHTFUL REACTIONS TO THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. IN ADDITION TO DESCRIBING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE ENCYCLICAL, THEY ALSO PLAN TO SHARE HOW IT FOSTERS IDEAS FOR THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS IN CURRENT AND FUTURE COURSES IN THEIR FIELDS. WELLCORE: SPIRITUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
4:00	"THE ARTIFICIAL OTHER: DIALOGUE AND DISAGREEMENT WITH AI" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. JOEL OVERALL, ENGLISH, WITH BELMONT STUDENTS EMMA BOWMAN AND MARLY HANNA, BELMONT UNIVERSITY WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE GENERATIVE AI NOT TO FIND ANSWERS OR AVOID DISAGREEMENT, BUT TO ENTER INTO IT? IN THIS PRESENTATION, WE REFLECT ON OUR EXPERIENCES CREATING AND ENGAGING AI PERSONAS DESIGNED TO MEANINGFULLY CHALLENGE OUR OWN POSITIONS, CONSIDERING HOW RHETORICAL CONCEPTS SUCH AS KAIROS, STASIS, AND MEMORY SHAPED THESE SUSTAINED DIALOGUES ACROSS DIFFERENCE. DRAWING FROM A RANGE OF PERSPECTIVES—including SKEPTICISM, ENTHUSIASM, AND POSITIONS IN BETWEEN—THE PANEL CONSIDERS WHAT THESE ENCOUNTERS REVEAL ABOUT AI'S POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS AS A TOOL FOR RHETORICAL DISCOVERY, CRITICAL REFLECTION, AND UNDERSTANDING DISAGREEMENT. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
7:00	A VIEWING OF THE FILM CODA FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF BELMONT'S AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB WHEN HER FAMILY'S FISHING BUSINESS IS THREATENED, RUBY FINDS HERSELF TORN BETWEEN PURSUING HER MUSICAL PASSION AND HER FEAR OF ABANDONING HER DEAF PARENTS. CODA EXPLORES DEAF CULTURE, FAMILY DYNAMICS, AND IDENTITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF RUBY, TORN BETWEEN THE HEARING WORLD AND THE DEAF WORLD. WELLCORE: SOCIAL WELLNESS DURATION: 2.5 HOURS



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
10:00	BELMONT LAUNCH FOR "IN OUR HANDS: A MAKER'S MANIFESTO FOR CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CREATIVE PRACTICES" DR. BONNIE SMITH-WHITEHOUSE, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND GLOBAL HONORS PROGRAM, BELMONT UNIVERSITY NO ALGORITHM CAN REPLACE THE IMAGINATION. IN WORLD WHERE SO MUCH LIES BEYOND OUR CONTROL AND DIGITAL NOISE CAN DROWN OUT OUR INNER LIVES, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO FIND WAYS TO "COME HOME" TO OURSELVES. OUR IMAGINATIONS, OUR DREAM WORLDS, AND OUR CREATIVE IMPULSES BELONG TO EACH OF US ALONE AND MAKE US OUR UNIQUE, UNREPEATABLE SELVES. WE WILL EXPLORE HOW TO TEND TO THE IMAGINAL INTELLIGENCE OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE COLLECTIVE AND WHY THIS WORK IS VITAL FOR HUMANITY. WELLCORE: EMOTIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
11:00	"THE FURIOUS FLYCYCLE AND THE LONG JOURNEY HOME: AN ODYSSEY OF SORTS" DR. DARRELL GWALTNEY, H. FRANKLIN PASCHALL CHAIR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES AND RELIGION, BELMONT UNIVERSITY A BOOK. MANY BOOKS. THE STORIES THEY TELL. THE QUESTIONS THEY RAISE. A LONG JOURNEY FROM RURAL MISSOURI BAPTIST ROOTS INTO WORLDS UNKNOWN CHANGED ME. SOME REFLECTION ON HOW THE PEOPLE I MET ALONG THE WAY WHO PUT BOOKS IN MY HANDS AND WHAT I FOUND IN THOSE BOOKS INTRODUCED TO ME HUMANITY AND THE ARTS AND A FAITHFULNESS THAT CONTINUES TO LEAD ME ON A LONG JOURNEY HOME. WELLCORE: SPIRITUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 70 MINUTES
12:30	"THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THE OFFICE, AND THE VACATION: HOW THREE TV ARCHITECTURES SHAPE OUR FEELING BODIES" DR. AMANDA SALMON, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BELMONT UNIVERSITY WHAT DO A GATED SUBURB, A FLUORESCENT OFFICE LABYRINTH, AND A LUXURY RESORT HAVE IN COMMON? ON THE SURFACE, THEY PROMISE THREE DIFFERENT THINGS: SAFETY, PURPOSE, AND FREEDOM. BUT YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, SEVERANCE, AND THE WHITE LOTUS EACH REVEAL THOSE PROMISES AS ARCHITECTURAL SLEIGHTS OF HAND. THIS TALK ASKS: IF OUR COMMON HUMANITY DEPENDS ON CONVERSATION, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ARCHITECTURE OF OUR LIVES HAS ALREADY SCRIPTED OUR FEELINGS BEFORE WE SPEAK? WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 70 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
2:00	"WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM?" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. ALEX PRIOU, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF AUSTIN FOR AN ANCIENT GREEK ARISTOCRAT, A "SYMPOSIUM" REFERRED TO A DRINKING PARTY OR BANQUET THAT IDEALLY TOOK PLACE IN A TASTEFULLY APPOINTED HOME, WHERE DIVINELY INSPIRED ORATORY MIGHT BE PERFORMED, COMPLEMENTED WITH FLUTE GIRLS, FOOD, AND (OF COURSE) WINE. FOR THE MODERN ACADEMIC, HOWEVER, A "SYMPOSIUM" IS AN EXCEEDINGLY SOBER AFFAIR THAT TYPICALLY TAKES PLACE IN A DREARY CONVENTION HALL WITH FLUORESCENT TUBES OVERHEAD, WHERE OFTEN DULL AND TEDIOUS POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ARE DELIVERED BEFORE AN AUDIENCE KEPT BARELY AWAKE BY STALE COFFEE. WE ASK: WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THIS UNDENIABLE CIVILIZATIONAL DECLINE? WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 70 MINUTES
4:00	"WALKING WITH THE ENEMY: THE ART OF SUBVERSIVE MIMICRY IN THE POST-TRUTH ERA" TOM WILLIAMS, WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART, BELMONT UNIVERSITY, AND GEDIMINAS GASPARAVIČIUS, MYERS SCHOOL OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SPEAKERS WILL DISCUSS THEIR NEW COLLECTION OF ESSAYS ON CONTEMPORARY ART IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION AND "A CRISIS OF TRUTH." THE COLLECTION INCLUDES ESSAYS BY 17 DIFFERENT WRITERS, AND EACH ONE DISCUSSES INSTANCES WHERE ARTISTS EMBRACE POSITIONS THAT THEY OTHERWISE OPPOSE. GASPARAVIČIUS AND WILLIAMS WILL DISCUSS THE HISTORY OF SUBVERSIVE MIMICRY AND SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN THE BOOK. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 75 MINUTES
5:30	"MORE THAN TRANSLATION: WHAT WE GAIN WHEN WE LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. BRANDON TULLOCK, DIRECTOR, AP GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, COLLEGE BOARD, AND BELMONT CLASS OF '07 WHAT CAN LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE GIVE YOU BEYOND THE ABILITY TO TRANSLATE WORDS FROM ONE LANGUAGE INTO ANOTHER? DRAWING ON MY OWN PATH FROM STUDYING GERMAN AS AN UNDERGRADUATE TO LIVING, STUDYING, AND WORKING ABROAD, LEARNING SPANISH AND CATALAN, BECOMING AN APPLIED LINGUIST, AND RAISING A MULTILINGUAL FAMILY, I'LL EXPLORE SOME OF THE LESS PREDICTABLE THINGS THAT LANGUAGE LEARNING CAN MAKE POSSIBLE. THE TALK CONSIDERS HOW LEARNING LANGUAGES AND SPENDING TIME IN OTHER CULTURES CAN CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM, THE PLACES AND COMMUNITIES WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN, AND THE WAYS WE UNDERSTAND BOTH OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES. FUNDED BY THE GRANT FROM THE MAX KADE FOUNDATION WELLCORE: OCCUPATIONAL WELLNESS DURATION: 60 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
7:00	DAS LEBEN DER ANDEREN (THE LIVES OF OTHERS) - A FILM BY FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK, VIEWING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION MODERATED BY DR. REGINE SCHWARZMEIER, GERMAN, BELMONT UNIVERSITY IN 1984 EAST-BERLIN, GERD WIESLER, AN AGENT FOR THE SECRET POLICE, THE STASI, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SPY ON GEORG DREYMAN, A WELL-RESPECTED PLAYWRIGHT, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED ACTRESS CHRISTA-MARIA SIELAND. INTRUDING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE COUPLE, A LIFE FILLED WITH LOVE, ART IN THE FORM OF LITERATURE, THEATER AND MUSIC, FREE THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION, A NEW AND UNTIL THEN UNKNOWN WORLD IS OPENING UP FOR WIESLER WHO HAS REALIZED HOW PITIFUL AND EMPTY HIS OWN LIFE WAS. - THE FILM WON THE 2007 ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 2.5 HOURS



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
9:00	"THE NECESSITY OF A HUMANISTIC EDUCATION IN AN ERA OF AI" PANEL DISCUSSION: DR. ALEX PRIOU AND DR. MASOOD RAJA PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE RISING COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION, STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AS WELL AS ACCREDITING BODIES, HAVE BEGUN TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS THAT CAN BE COMPLETED IN FEWER AND FEWER HOURS, MOST RECENTLY IN NINETY. THIS WOULD NOT BE SUCH AN AREA OF CONCERN WERE IT NOT THAT THE PRIMARY ASPECT OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION THAT IS BEING REDUCED TO CREATE SUCH DEGREES ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A HUMANISTIC LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION, SUCH AS ARTS, LANGUAGE, AND HUMANITIES REQUIREMENTS, THUS CONTINUING A TREND BEGUN BY THE EMPHASIS ON STEM FIELDS AND/OR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS. THIS PANEL WILL FOCUS ON THE ROLE THAT THESE VERY FIELDS PLAY IN DEVELOPING THE INTELLECTUAL AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS LIKELY TO BE MOST ESSENTIAL FOR A FULFILLING LIFE AND SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL CAREER. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
10:00	PHILOLOGOI JOIN US FOR A MODERATED DISCUSSION WITH PHILOSOPHY FACULTY AND STUDENTS AS PART OF THE HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM. WELLCORE: SOCIAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
11:00	"IBN TUFAYL'S HAYY IBN YAOZAN, JON LOCKE, AND ROUSSEAU: A TWELFTH CENTURY MUSLIM TEXT AND ITS IMPACT ON EUROPEAN HUMANISTIC THOUGHT" FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. MASOOD RAJA, LINSLEY SCHOOL AND BELMONT BA (CLASS OF '99) AND MA (CLASS OF '01) IN THIS BRIEF TALK, DR. RAJA WILL FIRST INTRODUCE IBN TUFAYL (1105-1185), A TWELFTH CENTURY ANDALUSIAN MUSLIM PHILOSOPHER, AND THEN DISCUSS HIS ALLEGORICAL TEXT, HAYY IBN YAOZAN, BEFORE TRACING THE IMPACT OF IBN TUFAYL'S TRANSLATED WORK ON JOHN LOCKE AND ROUSSEAU. IN THIS WAY, HE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRANSCULTURAL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN AND ISLAMIC HUMANISTIC THOUGHT. WELLCORE: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
12:00	"UNDER THREAT: REGIONAL AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AT RISK" PANEL DISCUSSION: ASHLEY DAVIS, BRENDAN TULLOCK, AND JOHN DePRIEST FOR THOSE OF US WHO GREW UP SPEAKING ENGLISH, SURROUNDED FOR THE MOST PART ONLY BY FELLOW ENGLISH SPEAKERS, OUR LANGUAGE CAN BECOME KIND OF INVISIBLE TO US AND WE CAN FORGET HOW CENTRAL ONE'S LANGUAGE IS TO ONE'S OWN IDENTITY. FOR MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE THE CENTRALITY OF THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE TO THEIR PERSONAL AND CULTURAL EXISTENCE NEVER LEAVES THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS BECAUSE THEIR BIRTH LANGUAGE IS UNDER THREAT, AT RISK OF DISAPPEARING ENTIRELY. OUR PANELISTS WILL DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIGENOUS AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES AND WHAT IS LOST WHEN A LANGUAGE IS AT RISK OF BEING LOST, FOCUSING ATTENTION PARTICULARLY ON THE CELTIC LANGUAGES OF GREAT BRITAIN, ESPECIALLY MANX, THE NATIVE AMERICAN CROW LANGUAGE, AND CATALAN, ONE OF THE REGIONAL LANGUAGES OF SPAIN. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
1:00	"EATING IS A SMALL GOOD THING: THE BELMONT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COOK BOOK" PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR SUE TROUT AND THE STUDENT PRESIDENTS OF THE ENGLISH CLUB LONG BEFORE BELMONT ADOPTED THE IDEA OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY AS ONE OF ITS DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS, THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRACTICED IT BY SHARING HOMEMADE FOOD AMONG ITS STUDENTS AND FACULTY. PERHAPS BECAUSE WE MISSED THIS DURING COVID, SEVERAL YEARS AGO WE BEGAN A PROJECT OF CREATING A DEPARTMENTAL COOKBOOK. FEATURING RECIPES FROM FACULTY, SOME FAMILIAR TO ITS STUDENTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS, OUR COOKBOOK IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS DEBUT. ORDERS ANYONE? THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION WHICH MANY A DEPARTMENTAL BAKE SALE HAS HELPED OVER THE YEARS. IN ADDITION TO PRESENTING THE COOKBOOK, SUE TROUT WILL DISCUSS HOW COMMUNITY COOKBOOKS SUCH AS THIS FUNCTION AND STUDENTS KELLY FOX, LUKE BOUCHARD, AND ABBY PRECISE WILL DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF PUTTING IT TOGETHER. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
2:00	"I'M GOOD, I SWEAR": A READING AND Q&A WITH AUTHOR CARRIE GRACE YORK FEATURED SPEAKER: CARRIE GRACE YORK, BELMONT CLASS OF '26, MODERATED BY DR. GWEN NIEKAMP, BELMONT UNIVERSITY COME HEAR CARRIE GRACE YORK, BELMONT CLASS OF 2026, READ FROM HER DEBUT MEMOIR I'M GOOD, I SWEAR, A BOOK ABOUT LOSING AND FINDING FAITH ANEW, GROWING UP, AND OVERCOMING THE PRESSURE TO BE PERFECT. FOLLOWING THE READING, DR. GWEN NIEKAMP, A MEMBER OF THE CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY AT BELMONT, WILL FACILITATE A Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR. WELLCORE: SPIRITUAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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OUR COMMON HUMANITY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION
3:00	"HOW TO LOVE YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE: A READING WITH Q&A" FEATURED SPEAKER: GABRIELA GONZALES, BELMONT CLASS OF 2019 A GRADUATE OF BELMONT WITH A BA IN ENGLISH, GABRIELA GONZALES IS AN ACCOMPLISHED POET WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN MULTIPLE OUTLETS; SHE ALSO PERFORMED AT TEDx NASHVILLE. SHE WILL READ FROM HER RECENTLY PUBLISHED NOVEL <i>HOW TO LOVE YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE</i>, OF WHICH ONE REVIEWER ON YA BOOKS CENTRAL WROTE "THIS BOOK WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH, IT WILL MAKE YOU SOB, AND IT WILL STAY WITH YOU LONG AFTER THE FINAL PAGE." IN ADDITION TO READING FROM HER NOVEL, SHE WILL TALK ABOUT THE PROCESS OF WRITING A NOVEL BASED IN PART ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS THE PUBLISHING PROCESS FOR HER BOOK. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
4:00	WINNERS OF THE 2026 SANDRA HUTCHINS HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST READINGS BY BELMONT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH HOLDS A WRITING CONTEST FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS WITH WINNERS SELECTED BY A FACULTY COMMITTEE. TOP ENTRIES OF POETRY, FICTION AND CREATIVE NON-FICTION OF SUBMISSIONS BY BELMONT UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTERS STUDENTS WILL BE READ BY THE WRITERS. A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW, ENCOURAGING THE AUDIENCE TO STAY FOR THE CONCERT WHICH WILL END THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM. WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES
5:00	"THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE: A CLOSING CONCERT" ASHLEY DAVIS, JOHN DEPRIEST, AND BRANDON TULLOCK OUR TRIO OF ALUMNI FROM THE PANEL EARLIER IN THE DAY ON ENDANGERED LANGUAGES WILL CLOSE OUT THIS YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM WITH A CONCERT OF MUSIC, SOME COMPOSED BY THEMSELVES, REPRESENTATIVE OF A VARIETY OF CULTURES, FROM NATIVE AMERICAN TO FOLK, FROM CELTIC TO CATALAN. TO END AS WE BEGAN IN THE WORDS OF WALT WHITMAN, WE WILL "HEAR AMERICA SINGING." WELLCORE: CULTURAL WELLNESS DURATION: 50 MINUTES



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