The Seminar on Religion and World Civilization is a program of the Center for Faith and Vocation at Butler University, promoting understanding of interfaith and intercultural relations through discussion of religious issues in global perspective.

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Classroom Conflict —
Teaching the Origins of Human Beings
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2004
How have the culture wars affected the teaching of evolution in secondary and college classrooms? An exploration of how teachers and students face the clash of scientific and religious ideas.

Speaker
Dr. Kenneth Miller
A professor of biology at Brown University, he is author of Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution (HarperCollins, 1999) and co-author of three high school and college biology text books.

Respondents
Mr. Joseph Ruhl
A biology teacher, Ruhl is head of the science department at Lafayette Jefferson High School, Lafayette, Ind. The school was featured in a PBS documentary on evolution and creationism.

Ms. April Jones and Ms. Amy Lotz
These Butler University seniors are preparing for careers in medicine and biology.

The Scientist and the Theologian
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2004
A discussion about the search for compatibility between faith and science. How do scientists wrestle with religious belief within their fields? And what is the status of scientific exploration within theological circles?

Speaker
Dr. Amit Goswami
A philosopher of science, Catholic priest and emeritus professor at the University of Notre Dame, he is the author of Philosophical Consequences of Quantum Theory (University of Notre Dame Press, 1992).

Respondent
Dr. Edward Stephenson
A physicist at Indiana University and the IU Cyclotron Facility in Bloomington.

Science of the Soul
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005
Neuroscientists are gaining greater understanding of how the human brain works. A discussion of how research in this field is affecting traditional theological concepts of the soul.

Speaker
Dr. Kevin Sharpe

Respondent
Dr. Vimal Patel
A pathologist at Indiana University School of Medicine, an advocate of complementary medicine and a Hindu community leader in Indianapolis.

Case-Winters is a professor at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago engaged in research on the relationship between religion and science.

What if We Are Not Alone?
Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2005
A conversation about the spiritual implications of life beyond Earth and the debate within the field of cosmology known as “fine tuning.”

Speaker
Dr. Ernan McMullin
A physicist and professor emeritus, University of California, he is an advocate of complementary medicine and a Hindu community leader in Indianapolis.

About the Center for Faith and Vocation
The Center for Faith and Vocation gives students space to reflect on faith and spirituality during their time at Butler. Its mission is to encourage and challenge students to think about how they are being called to make a difference in the world.

The center strives to deepen students’ understanding of their own faith, diverse religious traditions and the meaning of vocation. Students can explore these issues through internships with religious, community and service organizations; on-campus programs; one-on-one counseling; and opportunities for international travel.

The center honors the diverse religious and spiritual commitments of Butler students and faculty and works with campus ministries to encourage distinct faith expression, interfaith collaboration and a better understanding of what it means to discern vocation.

We welcome your thoughts about the seminar and how Butler can nurture the spiritual commitments of its students as they prepare to make the world a better place.

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