## E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 8 VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER October 11, 2004

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, October 11

10:00 - 11:00 Staff Meeting

Tillett Lounge

12:00 noon James Ault Jr. book signing

Cokesbury Bookstore

12:15 United Methodist Student Association

Monday Prayer and Praise Service

Wightman Chapel Scarritt Bennett Center

6:30 - 8:00 pm Rev. Karen McClintock

Sexual Shame; An Urgent Call to Healing

Co-Sponsored by the Office for GLBT Life, Carpenter Program in Religion,

Gender and Sexuality and Vanderbilt University Lambda Association

Div G-23

### TUESDAY, October 12

5:30-6:30 p "Stepping Out"

GLBT Office (info below)

5:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting

Wilson Hall 103A (info below)

### WEDNESDAY, October 13

10:10 a.m. Worship Service GABLE Service

All Faith Chapel

3:10 - 5:00 p First Year Colloquy

Div G-23

7:30 pm Forum at the Jewish Community Center

(information below)

### THURSDAY, October 14

4:00 p Professor David Carr of Union Theological Seminary "The Colonization

of the Mind: Ancient Textual Culture as Imperial and Counter-Imperial Tool"

Sponsors: Graduate Department of Religion, Divinity School, Center for the Study of

Religion and Culture.

Divinity G-27

5:30-7:30 p Eco-Concerns - Soap Making

(information below)

### FRIDAY, October 15

10:10 Coffee Hour

Common Room

#### SATURDAY, October 16

9:00 a – 3:00 p **John McClure**, Charles G. Finney Professor of Homiletics

Claiming Theology in the Pulpit

Divinity G-23

Register online for Ministry Today programs or call 343-3994

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Cokesbury Bookstore and Vanderbilt Divinity School will host a book signing by Dr. James M. Ault, Jr. on Monday, October 11, 2004 at noon in the Cokesbury Bookstore. Dr. Ault is the author of *Spirit and Flesh: Life in a Fundamentalist Baptist Church*.

JAMES M. AULT, JR., was educated at Harvard and Brandeis universities. After teaching at Harvard and at Smith College, he made his first film, *Born Again*, a portrait of this fundamentalist Baptist congregation, which won a Blue Ribbon at the American Film Festival and was broadcast in the United States and abroad in 1987. He has since produced and directed a variety of documentary programs for the Lilly Endowment, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Episcopal Church Foundation, and other organizations. He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.

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October 11 6:30-8pm

Author, Rev. Karen McClintock, PhD, will speak about her book:

Sexual Shame; An Urgent Call To Healing will speak about her experience. An excerpt from her book: "My father was a gay man who lived in marriage with my mother for all of his 64 years. My mother chose celibacy over divorce. They both lived in the intense secret of this reality and raised me without a single word about it. I learned the truth of Dad's sexual orientation just six months before his death. The process of coming out of my family closet led me to do research on children of undisclosed homosexual and bisexual parents, culminating in a doctorate." Location: Vanderbilt Divinity School, room G-23.

Co-sponsored by the Office for GLBT Life, Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender and Sexuality and Lambda.

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October 12th, 5:30-6:30pm

First meeting of group, "Stepping Out" A new group formed for those beginning the process of coming out who desire a confidential space to discuss their journey. Meets once a month. Led by student Randi Minas and Counselor, Daniel Sullivan. Meets at the GLBT Office. Contact: randi.k.minas@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

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"You are cordially invited to our Wednesday Evening Adult Education series at Christ Church Cathedral this fall. We have an impressive series of presentations by VDS faculty:

October 13: Doug Meeks, "Exclusion and Inclusion in the Global Household"

October 20: Paul DeHart, "Sharing God's Life"

October 27: Marjorie Suchocki, "Religious Diversity and the Reign of God"

November 3: Fernando Segovia, "Church and World: The Struggle for Inclusion in Central America"

November 10: John Thatamanil, "The Bhagavad-Gita and the Gospel of John: Contemplating Divinity across Traditions"

Each session meets from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, preceded by a Healing Service at 5:15 pm and dinner at 5:30 pm, for a cost of \$5.00. Childcare is provided. The Cathedral is located at 900 Broadway in downtown Nashville. Please call for reservations for dinner--255-7729. We hope many of you can join us! Alice Nichols MDIV3"

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Wed. Oct 13 7:30 pm Forum at the Jewish Community Center

The five Nashville rabbis will address how the various Jewish movements approach homosexuality. The forum will be moderated by Jeff Fladen the director of Jewish Family Services. This program is free and open to the public. This is a prelude to the visit and address on this topic by Rabbi Greenberg on Oct 20.

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#### **ECO-CONCERNS**

Ever wondered how soap is made? Come learn how!

Eco-concerns is sponsoring a soap-making night on Thursday, October 14th

from 5:30 - 7:30! Light snacks will be provided.

Location: 124 38th Avenue North (Lisa Dordal and Laurie Samuels' house) Coming from the Vanderbilt area of West End, head away from downtown on West End. Turn right on to Murphy Road (just before the 440 overpass). Intersection of Murphy and West End is a HUGE intersection with office buildings, a gas station, etc. Go about a 1/4 of a mile on Murphy to 38th. Turn Right. We are one block down on the right (you don't cross Nebraska). PLEASE RSVP TO lisa.a.dordal@vanderbilt.edu IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME!

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2004 Benefits Fair for Vanderbilt Employees

October 12, 13 & 14

Tuesday, October  $12^{th}$  8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  $3^{rd}$  Floor Breezeway – Robinson Research Building Wednesday, October  $13^{th}$  7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Floor Breezeway – Robinson Research Building Thursday, October  $14^{th}$  11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Vanderbilt Law School www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/hrs

HR Customer Services 322-8330

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Women's Studies News

You are invited to participate in an important Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, October 12th, at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson 103A. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the ongoing problem of fraternity and sorority "theme" parties in which women are asked to dress as prostitutes or some variation thereof.

For those of you new to this debate, I have been told that VU frat parties both on and off campus have included the following themes:

"Pimps and Hos", "Principals and Schoolgirls", "Playboy Bunnies", and "White Trash Wedding." Sorority parties, held off campus, have included "Hooters and Harleys" and "G.I. Joe and Barbie Ho." A party at an off-campus frat house last weekend, with the theme of "Corporate Hos," drew 1000 undergrads.

The parties alone are disturbing enough. But the fact that many students--even women students-outside of Women's Studies do not think these parties are a "big deal" is equally disturbing. As a number of you have pointed out, it seems the time is ripe for a collective discussion of these issues and the formulation of some kind of response. Surely such parties cannot be written off as "harmless fun."

The Town Hall Meeting will be an open forum for faculty, students, and administrators to discuss the continuing concerns surrounding questionable behavior by fraternities and sororities. We hope you will join us for what we hope will be a thoughtful, lively discussion.

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# RSVP Fall Open House 2004

Vanderbilt University Divinity School is sponsoring a free informational workshop on Saturday, October 23, from 8:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Current students, faculty, alumni/ae and staff will address the professional, academic, financial and personal aspects of pursuing a theological education. The school offers a Master of Theological Studies and a Master of Divinity degree; the women and men studying for those degrees come from thirty different religious and they include both first and second career students.

The Master of Divinity degree is a professional degree designed primarily for those persons interested in ordination. The Master of Theological Studies program is designed for persons interested in pursuing graduate study across the several theological disciplines in the Divinity School. This degree program may serve as a foundation for later doctoral studies in religion, for diaconal or ordained ministries in certain denominations, or as a vehicle for the enhancement of one's own religious faith and understanding.

Continental breakfast, lunch, and parking will be provided free of charge for those who preregister. Call the Office of Admissions at 615 343-3963, email <a href="mailto:marian.o.berky@vanderbilt.edu">marian.o.berky@vanderbilt.edu</a>, or access the online registration form at

<u>www.divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/div/admissions/openhouse.html</u>. You may also fax the Office of Admissions at 615 322-0691,

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If you have information/announcements to be included in the E-Communicator please email the information to sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu All information must be received by noon on Friday for the following week's E-Communicator.