

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Braniff Conference in the Liberal Arts**  
The World is Bare: Nature and the Recovery of Human Flourishing

Plenary Address: Dr. Thomas Hibbs, President, University of Dallas

Keynote Address: Dr. Jason Baxter, Associate Professor in Humanities, Wyoming Catholic College

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**Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019:**

- 1:30-3:00: Graduate Seminar on *Purgatorio 27/28* with Jason Baxter (Gorman Faculty Lounge)
- 3:30-4:00: Opening Reception, Registration (Sponsored by the English Department and *Imagine Dallas*) (Art History Loggia)
- 4:00-5:00: Poetry Reading, featuring a curated group of ten local poets (Art History Auditorium)
- 5:30-7:00: President Thomas Hibbs, “Laudato Si and the Ecological Poetics of Brother Antoninus, Dominican Beat Poet” (Art History Auditorium)
- 7:00-8:00: Depart for Dinner

**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Cardinal Farrell Hall, Catholic Board Room):**

- 8:00-9:00: Continental Breakfast, Registration
- 9:00-10:15: **Is Human Nature Natural?**  
Moderator: Megan Furman, University of Dallas
- “Educating According to Nature? Locke and Rousseau’s Equivocations”  
Luke Foster, University of Chicago, Committee on Social Thought  
Respondent: Antonio Sosa, University of Dallas
- “Apuleius’s Ethics: The Philosophic Life and the Cult of the Daemons”  
Peter Bayer, University of Toronto  
Respondent: Elizabeth Bloch, University of Dallas
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-12:15: **Nature and Science**  
Moderator Miriam McElvain, University of Dallas
- “‘Meditation of Mortality’: Natural Science and the Bible in Bacon’s Psalms and *New Atlantis*.”  
Hannah Wells, Baylor University  
Respondent: Zachary Meckley, University of Dallas

“Genetic Enhancement and the Evolution of Homo Naturalis: Christian Ethics and Consumer Eugenics”

Charles McDaniel, Baylor Honors College

Respondent: William Stigall, University of Dallas

“The Emergence of the Image: Catholic Theology, Human Origins, & the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis.”

Christopher Baglow, Notre Dame

Respondent: Chris Mirus, University of Dallas

12:15-1:30: Lunch

1:45-3:15: **Nature and Politics**

Moderator: Melissa Dow, University of Dallas

“Between Throne and Altar: Nature, Grace, and Tradition in the Political Thought of Robert Bellarmine”

Michael Gonzalez, Baylor University

Respondent: Nicolas McAfee, University of Dallas

“Heidegger’s Phusis: Nature as a Political Problem”

Karl von der Luft, St. John’s College, Santa Fe

Respondent: Jerry Chichester, University of Dallas

“The Moral Imperative: Paul Tillich’s Personalist Theory of Natural Law”

Sarah Thomas, Zepyr Institute, Palo Alto, CA

Respondent: Matthew Wilde, University of Dallas

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:45: **Nature and the Poet**

Moderator: James Zeller, University of Dallas

“A Romantic Agrarian: John Crow Ransom’s Kantian Conservationism”

Joseph Boyne, Tulsa Community College

Respondent: Adam Cooper, University of Dallas

“Richard Wilbur’s Response to the Poet’s Alienation from Nature.”

Christopher Petter, Catholic University of America

Respondent: Matt Spring, University of Dallas

5:00-5:15: BGSA President Welcome and Conferral of BGSA Service Award

5:15-6:45: Jason Baxter, “The Nine Billion Names of God: The Humanities and Science from Plato to Hubble”