

Engineering, Computer Science, Physics & Math Department

ORU Engineering hosts Engineering and Metaphysics 2012 Conference in June

Oral Roberts University College of Science and Engineering and The Blyth Institute will host the Engineering and Metaphysics 2012 Conference on June 15-16 on campus.

The conference explores ways in which non-reductionistic views of humanity influence and impact engineering and design disciplines. It also considers how topics from the field of engineering might shed light on metaphysical questions. It covers aspects of humanity including creativity, intention, ritual, morality, and spirituality, and how they impact engineering design decisions.

This year's plenary speaker will be Walter Bradley, distinguished professor of Mechanical Engineering at Baylor University.

For participants who would like to present a paper or talk at the conference, abstracts are due March 31, 2012. Topics should be relevant to the engineering and metaphysics dialogue, but can be on a wide range of topics. A conference proceedings volume will be assembled, and the deadline for inclusion in the proceedings will be for the final paper to be ready by Aug. 1 to allow time for modification based on input from the conference. Acceptance of abstracts for talks does not guarantee inclusion in the final proceedings volume. Send abstract submissions (less than 500 words) to submissions@eandm2012.com. Abstracts will be accepted or returned within three weeks of submission. Send any questions to the same address.

Early bird registration of \$98 will end Jan. 31. Registration does not include hotel arrangements. For more information, send an email to info@eandm2012.com or go to <http://www.eandm2012.com/>.

Behavioral Sciences Department

The Behavioral Sciences Social Work club had a busy fall semester. The club sponsored some great outreach opportunities. The first outing was serving lunch to veterans at the American Legion. The event was held on Veterans Day and students had the opportunity to put feet to showing our veterans gratitude for their service. The second large outreach involved getting messy for the good of our community. Several students donned old clothes and met Jesse Badoe, the Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Tulsa



Working in Neighborhoods Department, in north Tulsa

to paint abandoned homes covered in graffiti. Jesse told the group how their efforts would help curb gang activity, drug trafficking and prostitution because these abandoned homes are often used by people involved in that kind of activity. Social Work students are always finding ways to serve. Be sure to find their page on Facebook and join us this spring in reaching our community.



Biology & Chemistry Department

Dr. Lois Ablin and Gary Ritzhaupt (Chemistry professors) led twenty students from Organic Chemistry and General Chemistry to participate in judging at the Victory Christian Center Science Fair on January 11 and 12. They served as judges in categories such as chemistry, physics, botany, biology, and health.

News from the Dean

American Scientific Affiliation update



The ORU chapter of the American Scientific Affiliation met this last Tuesday with guest speaker being our own New Testament professor, Dr. Jeff Lamp of the ORU College of Theology and Ministry. His stimulating and informative lecture was titled, "Who's Talking to Whom? Theology and Science at Table Are Sat Down," which covered the American Association for the

Advancement of Science's Initiative for Cooperative Strategies for Incorporating Science into Theological Education. Although a New Testament professor, Dr. Lamp originally received a BS in Engineering from OU-Norman and is currently finishing up his MS in Environmental Science at OSU-Tulsa. The discussion that followed covered what the best response would be to the initiative and how we can try to get scientists to see the Christian perspective, rather than try to use it for their own practical gain in working together, making it a dialogue more than just a one-sided scientific monologue. The AAAS regional meeting will be in early April, giving the ORU community opportunity to think through and work out this initiative. In other news, due to changes in the national ASA policy, students can now become members of the ASA for free! For more information, go to www.asa3.org.



Science and Science Fiction Conference

On April 12-13, 2012, ORU will be hosting a Science and Science Fiction Conference, themed "When Worlds Collide: Science, Faith, and the Imagination." This exciting conference will explore the relationship between science and science fiction in a two-day interdisciplinary event. Topics will range from covering all forms of speculative science and speculative fiction, including story, film, television, radio, graphic novels, and theoretical physics. The conference is sponsored by ORU's Colleges of Arts and Cultural Studies, and Science and Engineering. Guests of Honor will include the Templeton Prize-winning physicist and bestselling author of popular science books, Paul Davies, as well as Campbell award-winning hard science fiction author and biologist Joan Slonczewski. For more information, go to sciencefiction.oru.edu.



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Science Fiction Conference April 12-13, 2012