

Animals and Christianity at L-MC

Written by Meghan Wright, LMC
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The Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Series will feature Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster on Tuesday, February 21 in Evans Auditorium in the Cannon Student Center on the campus of Lees-McRae College. She will present two lectures on the topic of animals and Christianity.

At 3:30 p.m. hear “Ox, Ass, Arf: Animals in Christian History” and at 7 p.m., “Animals Return to the Sanctuary: The Re-emergence of animals in Christian practice.”

Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster is Professor and Paden Chair in Religion and Environmental Studies at Southwestern University in Austin, TX where she has served on the faculty since 1998. Dr. Hobgood-Oster has chaired both the religion department and the environmental studies program. She teaches in the areas of religion and ecology, animals in religion, the history of Christianity, environmental studies, animal ethics and ecofeminism.

Her two most recent books are *The Friends We Keep: Unleashing Christianity’s Compassion for Animals and Holy Dogs* and *Asses: Animals in the Christian Tradition*. She also served as an executive editor of *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* and has written numerous articles and encyclopedia entries. She has co-chaired the Animals and Religion Consultation of the American Academy of Religion and is currently President-Elect of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture.

Dr. Hobgood-Oster is a frequent lecturer on college campuses and is a contributor to several popular publications such as *The Huffington Post*. Her current book project, *A Dog’s History of the World*, is scheduled for publication in 2013. Dr. Hobgood-Oster holds a Ph.D. in historical theology from St. Louis University and a M.Div. from Vanderbilt University. In addition, she is the dog rescue coordinator for the Georgetown Animal Shelter and lives with her spouse, Jack, and their two rescue dogs Codi and Cooper.

The Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series is designed to provide scholarly evangelical speakers for religious emphasis programs at small Christian colleges. The Staley endowment to Lees-McRae College provides the funding to bring Dr. Hobgood-Oster to the campus during the 2011-12 academic year.

These lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mr. Jim Taylor at 828-898-8842 or taylor@lmc.edu