

## ZYGON CENTER FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE

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Dear Friend,

Here at the Zygon Center for Religion and Science (ZCRS), we have been gazing into the future. In March 2011, we will bring together nearly 100 graduate students and 20 faculty members from across North America for our third annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality, one of our most exciting and unique programs. With distinguished thinkers and a promising new generation of scholars and leaders, we will consider one of religion and science's big questions: "What is our human future?"

The Student Symposium is one of our newest programs, but it's the kind of innovative initiative for which ZCRS is known. The Zygon Center is a special place where thoughtful conversation flourishes among natural and social scientists, theologians, philosophers, scholars, students, religious leaders and practitioners, and concerned citizens. In order to sustain and nurture this community, we bring in people to ask urgent questions and, as a result, we send out people who are able to "yoke" religion and science in their own lives and in the communities they serve. Together we fulfill the Zygon Center's mission of research, teaching, and outreach.

The Zygon Center has a proven track record. For more than twenty years, our Epic of Creation has been telling the grand stories of the cosmos, life, and humankind with lectures and discussion from scientists, biblical scholars, and theologians all focusing on the intimate story of our human origins. Now in its fourth year, the Future of Creation focuses on environmental concerns and our shared human destiny. This year the Advanced Seminar in Religion and Science—a fertile ground for research since 1965—will investigate the latest research on our genetic and evolutionary origins and their implications for our full humanity.

These programs live out the meaning of "Zygon." Our name, coming from the Greek word for "yoking" or "joining," is not only about the interdisciplinary adventure of joining religion and science. It's also about the "yoking" of people and ideas in common purpose. We are building and renewing partnerships with an expanding network of organizations and institutions. With your support, we can become the center of a growing, inquiring, and learning community.

Each of the Directors of ZCRS shares the sense that this work is vitally important for our shared future. I am honored to have my signature join those of my distinguished predecessors, and I am particularly excited to share in this vision for the future of the Zygon Center. We now invite you, with your financial support, to join us in envisioning our future. It has been several years since we have asked for your contribution. ZCRS has been able to maintain a modest operating budget through our partnerships with the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and the Center for Advanced Studies in Religion and Science. These partnerships give us a strong foundation, but in order to sustain and expand our work for the future, we once again need a strong financial commitment from all of our friends and supporters.

Please consider supporting the Zygon Center's mission and community with a generous donation this year. Your gift will help to prepare the next generation of students, faculty, and public leaders to engage in constructive dialogue in religion and science. In a time of momentous and often contentious debate on these urgent matters, your gift will help train leaders in thoughtful and creative discourse and action.

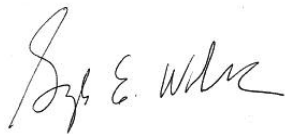
Consider these "powers of ten": A hundred dollars will support a student to participate in a research conference; a thousand dollars will sponsor a course for ten students; and ten thousand dollars will fund a symposium for a hundred promising new scholars and leaders. By yoking your resources with those of others, these "powers of ten" will multiply the power of one: you. We invite you to join your power to the work of ZCRS by returning the enclosed form with your gift.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and your partnership in building the power of our common purpose through the research, teaching and outreach of the Zygon Center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lea F. Schweitz  
Director, Zygon Center for Religion and Science



Dr. Gayle E. Woloschak  
Director, 2007-2009



Dr. Antje Jackelén  
Director, 2003-2007



Dr. Philip Hefner  
Founding Director, 1998-2003