



the RELIGION AND SCIENCE STUDENT SOCIETY of the

ZYGON CENTER FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE

presents



Sacred Soil, Living Water, Holy Air: *Science, Spirituality, and the Elements of Earthly Life*

THE FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS

The fourth annual **Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality**, to be held on **Friday, October 21, 2011** at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, is a one-day conference designed to provide an interdisciplinary and interfaith forum for graduate, professional, and ministry students to engage in collaborative conversations and professional networking with faculty mentors. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best student papers as judged by a faculty committee, and papers will be published on the Zygon Center's website and recommended for publication in journals such as *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*.

Greek philosophers and Hebrew prophets, indigenous peoples and immigrants, earth scientists and environmental advocates: from ancient to modern, we have long recognized soil, water, and air as essential elements of earthly life. Much more than simple chemical elements, they are complex substances in dynamic interaction with living organisms—including humans. Finite and often fragile, they are both precious gifts and contested resources. The fourth annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality will consider:

- **Elements of Earthly Life: scientific, religious, and philosophical perspectives on soil, water, and air**
- **Sacred, Living, Holy: scientific, theological, ethical, spiritual, and liturgical bases for environmental stewardship and creation care**
- **Soil, Water, Air: conservation, preservation, restoration, and management of soil and land resources; surface, ground, and marine water resources; and air and atmospheric resources**

We will also consider closely related issues such as:

- **urban land use, agricultural sustainability, and protection of forest, prairie, and wilderness ecosystems**
- **water quality management, watershed and aquifer sustainability, and protection of ocean, lake, river, shoreline, and wetlands ecosystems**
- **air quality management, climate change response, and protection of the ozone layer**

We invite paper proposals addressing these issues from graduate and professional students from the natural sciences (including ecology, earth sciences, and environmental sciences), the social sciences, the applied sciences and engineering, and the humanities, as well as from seminary and divinity school students. We welcome historical, critical, and constructive approaches to theoretical and empirical issues of environmental concern as well as reflective work on practical engagements.

TIMELINE, GUIDELINES, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- **August 1, 2011: 500-word paper proposals due;** see website for guidelines on content and format
- **August 15, 2011: full papers invited based on faculty review;** all authors will be notified of review result
- **October 1, 2011: 3000-word final papers due;** see website for guidelines on content and format
- For proposal and paper guidelines and more information on the Student Symposium, please visit: www.zygoncenter.org/studentssymposium/
- Please send paper proposals, final papers, and any other correspondence to: zygonrsss@gmail.com
- For more information about the Zygon Center, please visit: <http://www.zygoncenter.org>