



**Summer Institute of  
Christian Spirituality**  
**SPRING HILL COLLEGE**

**Summer Colloquium on Spirituality 2010**

**“Thomas Merton & Interreligious Friendship”**

June 6-8, 2010, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Byrne Memorial Hall, Spring Hill College, presented by Dr. Victor Kramer Sunday, June 6); Dr. David King (Monday, June 7); Dr. Sidney Griffith (Tuesday, June 8), with a special introduction on Sunday June 6 by local media celebrity, Spring Hill faculty member and current president of the International Thomas Merton Society.

*Sunday, June 6, 2010* - Dr. Victor Kramer, published author, retreat director, popular speaker and teacher, will open the three-part colloquium. Notable past roles include serving as Director of the Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University and as a Research Scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical & Cultural Research at St. John’s University. His presentation, *Thomas Merton’s “Hidden” Agenda in Interfaith Dialogue*, will explore Merton’s gifts as an intellectual and Christian seeker that led him to an increasing openness to other traditions in his own personal quest for God.

*Monday, June 7, 2010* - Dr. David King, Associate Professor of English and Film Studies at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, has lectured and published widely on Catholic writers, filmmakers, and artists and is particularly interested in the sacramental aspects of film and literature. His presentation, *Thomas Merton and Ecumenism*, will examine Merton’s legacy in terms of what it offers Christians with regard to the topics of friendship, pacifism, the universal church and mutual understanding, and moreover, how his work allows other Christians to see the benefits of ancient Catholic traditions like community and vocation, liturgy, and formal prayer.

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010* - Dr. Sidney Griffith, whose publications focus on the history of Muslim-Christian relations, especially within the World of Islam, and in the early Islamic period, is a professor in the Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where his areas of academic specialization include the study of Syriac and Arabic. His presentation, *Thomas Merton: Pioneer in Interreligious Dialogue*, will show how Merton’s personal contacts, with people from other religious traditions, that focused not so much on theological issues, but on practical matters such as spiritual exercises and religious consciousness, helped to define him as a pioneer in interreligious dialogue.

SPT 542: Christ & Interreligious Friendship (Historical / Pastoral) The Colloquium can also be taken as a one-credit course, with further readings and assignments, which build on and expand the three presentations, under the direction of Dr. Switzer.

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Summer Colloquium on Spirituality  
June 6 - June 8, 2010  
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Colloquium Cost: \$75.00 for all three lectures or \$30 per lecture. I will be <input type="checkbox"/> attending all 3 lectures; <input type="checkbox"/> 6/6 only; <input type="checkbox"/> 6/7 only; <input type="checkbox"/> 6/8 only	
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Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality  
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