



SPECIAL EDITION!

In Honor of 2005 Templeton Prize Winner

CHARLES TOWNES

CHARLES TOWNES WINS ANNUAL TEMPLETON PRIZE!

Just as this newsletter is going to press, word comes that Charles Townes has been awarded the 2005 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities. This 1.5 million dollar prize is given each year to encourage and honor those who advance knowledge in spiritual matters. A former provost at MIT, Townes won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964 for his work on the development of the laser. His ground-breaking article on science and religion, "The Convergence of Science and Religion", in the IBM journal THINK led to a lifelong search for the commonality between the two disciplines

On Sunday, June 12, the fifteenth annual Townes Lecture will be held at Higgins Auditorium at Boston College. The intent of the Townes lecture series is to contribute to the science-religion dialogue at the highest level, with first-rate scientists who explore ways in which the two disciplines, science and religion, can be reconciled for their mutual benefit. It is typically attended by members of the BTI community - the nine theological schools in the Boston area - and by scientists from all local institutions.

Charles Townes will be in attendance this year. In addition to a dinner preceding the lecture and a reception following, we will have a birthday cake in honor of his ninetieth birthday.

Coming June 12:
10th ANNUAL CHARLES TOWNES LECTURE
Sponsored by Boston Theological Institute and interFASE

A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE TOWNES RECEPTION

by Barbara Smith-Moran

At a brief private ceremony on Wednesday, 4 May, at Buckingham Palace, Charles H. Townes received the 2005 Templeton Prize from HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He was surrounded by his wife Frances and two younger generations of his family. Everyone (except HRH) then retired to the smoking room of the Cambridge and Oxford Club on Pall Mall St. for a festive reception, hosted by Dr. Jack Templeton and the John Templeton Foundation. In the formal, well-appointed room furnished with red leather armchairs (intended comfortable seating as we smoked, undoubtedly), Dr. Templeton and Charles Harper circulated among the 60-or-so guests. Nobody smoked, though.

I was privileged to be among the reception guests, and it was wonderful to see Dr. and Mrs. Townes looking so relaxed and happy with their family and admirers who had arrived to celebrate the occasion. Waiters and waitresses served drinks and delicacies as previous Templeton Prize winner

Arthur Peacocke and other personages enjoyed the company in the gold and red damask surroundings. Dr. Templeton [DrJack.jpg] spoke about the Templeton Prize, his father's vision for the prize, and Dr. Townes's achievements in science and in the science-and-religion field, which merit the Prize. He then presented Dr. and Mrs. Townes with a cake to celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary. After Mrs. Townes made the first cut, Dr. Templeton, a member of the American College of Surgeons, commended her fine incision.

Then Dr. Townes took the podium [TownesTalk.jpg] and clearly enjoyed himself as he gave away large chunks of his prize to six groups he deeply cares about: Furman University (his alma mater), The UCC Church of Berkeley (his home parish), The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (where he serves on the Board of Directors), Pacific School of Religion (alma mater of his son-in-law, the Rev. Craig Anderson) InterFASE (which he has

befriended and mentored since its founding in 1980), and the Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless of Berkeley (founded by Mrs. Townes).

A jolly good time was had by all.

The Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities was founded in 1972 by financier and philanthropist Sir John Templeton. Given each year to a living person who has encouraged the advancement of knowledge in spiritual matters, the Templeton Prize is the world's largest and best known award in the field of religion. Dr. Townes joins Mother Teresa as the only other recipient of both the Nobel Prize and the Templeton Prize.

To Contact Us:

For comments, submissions, letters to the editor, please e-mail villa@bostontheological.org

We will make every effort to respond to your comments, questions, or concerns!

2005 TOWNES LECTURE AT BOSTON COLLEGE ON JUNE 12

*Dr. Rosalind Picard
of MIT Media Laboratory
is 2005 Lecturer*

Rosalind W. Picard is founder and director of the Affective Computing Research Group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Laboratory and is co-director of the Things That Think Consortium, the largest industrial sponsorship organization at the lab. She holds a Doctorate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

She has been a member of the faculty at the MIT Media Laboratory since 1991, with a sabbatical in 1998. She completed her doctorate at MIT in 1987. She is a Member of the Technical Staff at MIT Media Laboratories designed for digital signal processing and new methods of image compression and analysis.

The author of a hundred viewed scientific articles, Rosalind Picard is internationally

known for pioneering research in affective computing and in content-based image and video retrieval. Her award-winning book, *Affective Computing*, (MIT Press, 1997) lays the groundwork for giving machines the skills of emotional intelligence.

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On a Machine Who Would deny Its Maker

Rosalind Picard June 12, 2005

A variety of findings in neuroscience, cognitive science, and psychology have indicated that emotion plays a vital role in intelligent human functioning, especially in memory, perception, decision making, creativity, and social interaction. These findings are inspiring computer scientists to rethink the nature of intelligence, and to build machines that are not only cognitive, but also affective.

This talk will highlight several of the new emotional abilities being given to machines. Part of the talk will demonstrate some of these cutting edge technologies, while another part will address philosophical and religious questions, through a dialogue between two future affective robots, in an imagined age when there is no visible sign of human presence, and when it is "unscientific" to believe humans ever existed.

The International Faith and Science Exchange

cordially invites you to the

Charles H. Townes Lecture in Science and Religion

to be given by

ROSALIND W. PICARD

Associate Professor of Media Arts & Sciences, MIT

“Toward Machines That Can Deny Their Maker”

Sunday evening, 12 June 2005, 7 p.m.

Higgins Hall 300, Boston College

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Lecture and reception open to the public. See below for driving directions.
Dinner with Dr. Picard and Dr. & Mrs. Townes, The Yawkey Center, 5:30 p.m., \$40.

GETTING TO BOSTON COLLEGE

Boston College is located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton, approximately six miles west of the city of Boston.

From points north and south: Take Interstate 95 (Route 128) to Exit 24 (Route 30). Proceed east on Route 30, also known as Commonwealth Avenue, and follow for about five miles to Boston College.

From points west: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90) to Exit 17. At the first set of lights after the exit ramp, take a right onto Centre Street. Follow Centre Street to the fourth set of lights, and turn left onto Commonwealth Avenue. Follow Commonwealth Avenue 1-1/2 miles to Boston College.

From downtown Boston: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Route 90) to Exit 17. Take a left over the bridge after passing the Sheraton Tara Hotel. Take the first right onto Centre Street. Follow above directions from Centre Street.

By public transportation : The Boston College branch of the MBTA's "Green Line" (B) ends at the Boston-Newton boundary on Commonwealth Avenue. Cross the street and walk by St. Ignatius Church and follow the perimeter road around to campus entrances.

The SHORELINE

Boston Theological Institute

210 Herrick Road

Newton Centre, MA 02459