

**THE
RUSSELL
KIRK
CENTER
NEWSLETTER**

Permanent Things



Number 21 Fall 2012

www.kirkcenter.org

Intercollegiate Studies Institute Leadership Retreat

In August, undergraduate students under the direction of Richard Brake, ISI National Director of Education, visited the RKC to hear lectures by George Nash on "The Conservative Intellectual Movement," Bradley Birzer on "The Legacy of Russell Kirk," and Harry Veryser on "The Dynamic Nature of Austrian Economics."



Reflections by Students:

"The combination of intellectual rigor with natural beauty made for a week that was both intensely stimulating and relaxing! It was a wonderful opportunity to discover great intellectual mentors."

—Amanda Achtman, Univ. of Calgary

"It really gave me the intellectual backing to defend conservative ideas and principles on campus...and provided me with 'best practices' for recruiting members and running the organization."

—James Holt, Harvard



**Participants in the ISI Seminar
gather on the grounds of the RKC**



- Benjamin G. Lockerd
Editor
lockerdg@gvsu.edu
- Noelle Kasa
Editorial Assistant
kasan@mail.gvsu.edu
- Ashlee Cowles
RKC Assistant
admin@kirkcenter.org

**Donations to
the Russell Kirk
Center may be
sent to:**

**P.O. Box 4
Mecosta, MI
49332**

**Online at:
www.kirkcenter.org
"Support Us"**

ISI-LIBERTY FUND AT THE RUSSELL KIRK CENTER



ISI-Liberty Fund April 2012:
"The Modern State, Civil Society, and the Future of Freedom in the Thought of Robert Nisbet."



ISI-Liberty Fund September 2012:
"Law, Liberty, and the Rise of the West"

ISI-Liberty Fund Seminars

Liberty Fund and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute co-sponsored two programs at the Kirk Center this year, in April and in September.

The April 2012 program was entitled, "The Modern State, Civil Society, and the Future of Freedom in the Thought of Robert Nisbet." Led by Professor Daniel Mahoney of the Political Science Department at Assumption College and Professor Ted McAllister of Pepperdine University's

"Our American polity is a regime of ordered liberty, designed to give justice and order and freedom all their due recognition and part."

—Russell Kirk, *The American Cause*

School of Public Policy, graduate students

took part in six discussion sessions on the erosion of civil society in modern America.

In September, a second group of graduate students took part in "Law, Liberty, and the Rise of the West." Multiple discussions on the

distinctions of the West—including its religious heritage, laws, culture, and spirit of entrepreneurship—were co-moderated by Professor Steven Grosby of Clemson University and Professor James Stoner, Jr. of Louisiana State University.



**Graduate students at the
 RKC Library Conference Room**

RUSSEL KIRK CENTER EVENTS

RKC Inaugural High School Seminar



The eldest daughter of Jeff and Cecilia (Kirk) Nelson, Isabel is a senior at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Delaware.

This summer the RKC inaugurated its first summer seminar for high school students interested in history. On July 22, 2012, Isabel Nelson, a high school senior, spoke on "Mercy Otis Warren: Foremost Female of the American Revolutionary Era." Warren wrote poems, plays, and history during and after the Revolutionary War and was mentored by John Adams. Isabel's presentation was based on the prize-winning paper she submitted to the state contest for the 2012 National History Day in Delaware.



Philadelphia Society Announces Distinguished Members

At the national meeting of the Philadelphia Society's in April, the Board of Trustees announced that Annette Y. Kirk and Richard A. Ware were elected Distinguished Members.

Mark Your Calendars: At the fall 2013 meeting of the Philadelphia Society in Atlanta, Georgia there will be a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of publication of Russell Kirk's book *The Conservative Mind*.



Annette Kirk at Piety Hill in Mecosta, Michigan

MORTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY DEDICATION

On July 28, 2012 family members, friends, and neighbors honored the memory of Russell Kirk at the dedication of a display of Kirk's works in the Russell Kirk Reading Room at the new Morton Township Library.

The Kirk family has had a long history of supporting the library from the time of its original founding in 1966. At the dedication Annette Kirk spoke of the hours her daughters spent reading books in the old library building and how Russell's grandchildren are now enjoying the many programs offered at the new facility.

Dr. Jeffrey Nelson—son-in-law and publisher—emphasized Kirk's affection for the rural community of Mecosta and his commitment to promoting cultural renewal in the region. Nelson concluded his remarks with, "I firmly believe that Russell would be much happier and prouder at having this room dedicated here in the Morton Township Library than he would have having a similar room dedicated to him in the Library of Congress."

THE RUSSELL KIRK CENTER NEWSLETTER

The Russell Kirk Center
P.O. Box 4
Mecosta, MI 49332
Phone: 231-972-5590
Fax: 231-972-8078
Email: info@kirkcenter.org

www.kirkcenter.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Joanne Emmons
Former Michigan State Senator
Chairman

Dr. Jeffrey O. Nelson
Executive Vice President
Intercollegiate Studies Institute
Vice Chairman

Annette Y. Kirk
President
The Russell Kirk Center

Dr. Benjamin G. Lockerd
Professor of English
Grand Valley State University
Secretary

Kevin P. Shields
Vice President
Automatic Data Processing,

RUSSELL KIRK CENTER SEMINARS

Five Great Divides in American History

Gleaves Whitney, Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, gathered at the RKC with the New Centurions in September for a discussion on conservative responses to five great divides in American history, from the founding of the world's first large republic to the revolutions of the 1960s. Following Whitney's lecture, Bruce Walker of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy offered reflections on his lecture and how Russell Kirk personally influenced his formation as a conservative.



Bruce Walker, Andy Anuzis, Annette Kirk, Gleaves Whitney, Mary Eileen Lyon, Randall Thompson, Wesley Reynolds, Colonel and Mrs. Eric Robyn.

Cultivating the Moral Imagination through Literature

This past summer, students of Vigen Guroian from the University of Virginia met at Piety Hill to hear James Person lecture on "Russell Kirk's Ghostly Tales" and Vigen Guroian lead a reading of T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. In addition to participating in lively discussions, the students enjoyed canoeing and playing Russell Kirk's favorite parlor game, "Snapdragon," which dates from the 16th Century and involves setting brandy and raisins alight in a shallow bowl to be snatched and eaten by participants who must take caution not to get burned!



James Person and Vigen Guroian visit the new Russell Kirk display at the Morton Township Library in the village of Mecosta.