

The Eighteenth Biennial Conference of the  
**American Cusanus Society** and the  
**International Seminar on Pre-Reformation Theology**



In tribute to Donald Duclow, on the theme of:  
**Mystical Theology and Renaissance Platonism in the Time of Cusanus**

September 24-26, 2021 | United Lutheran Seminary | Gettysburg, PA

Plenary Lectures

**Clyde Lee Miller**, Stony Brook University (SUNY)  
**Valery Rees**, School of Philosophy and Economic Science, London

Pre-Conference Presentation

**Christopher Bellitto**, Kean University

Banquet program

Tribute to **Donald Duclow**, Gwynedd Mercy University  
and Performances of Selections from “The American Songbook”

### Conference Theme

The life of Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464) coincided with the transmission of the Platonic tradition from the heights of medieval Neoplatonism to the flourishing of Renaissance Platonism. This conference aims to advance the scholarly conversation about both Platonism and mystical theology by looking backward to the historical sources animating that conversation as well as toward Nicholas of Cusa's legacy in the sixteenth century and beyond. In addition, this conference reinterprets Nicholas of Cusa's place in the history of thought by exploring the sources that informed his thinking, as well as by digging deeper into his own works with an eye to their later reception by modern philosophers and theologians.

By drawing together these diverse strands in the scholarship on Nicholas of Cusa, this conference also offers tribute to Donald F. Duclow, an outstanding scholar not just of Cusanus in particular, but of the Neoplatonic tradition in general.

This conference and the Bond-Watanabe Collection, now one of the largest Cusanus collections in the United States, is made possible by the Kiyomi Koizumi Watanabe Fund in memory of Morimichi Watanabe. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge financial support from the American Cusanus Society and facilities and staff assistance from our host, United Lutheran Seminary.

### Program

#### Thursday, September 23 (for early arrivals)

4:00 PM	Social Hour	Singmaster Center
5:30 PM	Dinner (optional)	Appalachian Brewing Co.
7:30 PM	Session Chair: <b>Vincent Evener</b> , United Lutheran Seminary Greeting: <b>Guy Erwin</b> , President, United Lutheran Seminary Public Lecture: "Pope Benedict XVI's Resignation and Post-Papacy: Medieval Lessons for Next Time" <b>Christopher Bellitto</b> , Kean University	Valentine Auditorium

#### Friday, September 24

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	Hotel / Singmaster
10:30 AM	Optional experiences: battlefield tour / museum / etc. TBA	Valentine Commons
12:15 PM	Lunch	Refectory
1:00 PM	Registration and Refreshments	Valentine Commons

3:00 PM	<p>Plenary Lecture I: <i>The Kiyomi Koizumi Watanabe Lecture</i>  Session Chair: <b>Vincent Evener</b>, United Lutheran Seminary</p> <p>Welcome: <b>Guy Erwin</b>, President, United Lutheran Seminary</p> <p>Introduction to the Conference Theme and First Plenary:  <b>Joshua Hollmann</b>, Concordia University, St. Paul</p> <p>“Pilgrimage and Seeing the Icon in <i>De visione Dei</i>”  <b>Clyde Lee Miller</b>, Sony Brook University (SUNY) (virtual)</p>	Library Lecture Room <hr/>
4:30 PM	<p>Social Hour</p> <p>Hosted by <b>Evan Boyd</b>, Librarian, United Lutheran Seminary</p> <p>Presentation of Recent Acquisitions, Bond-Watanabe Collection</p>	Pioneer Room, Library
6:00 PM	Dinner	Refectory
7:45 PM	<p>Paper Session I: <b>Deleuze in the Wake of Nicholas of Cusa</b>  Session Chair: <b>Jeremiah Hackett</b>, University of South Carolina</p> <p>“Genealogy of the Fold: Deleuze and Renaissance Platonism”  <b>David Albertson</b>, University of Southern California (virtual)</p>	Library Lecture Room <hr/>
9:00 PM	Social Hour	Singmaster Center

### Saturday, September 25

7:30 AM	Breakfast	Hotel or Singmaster
9:00 AM	<p>Plenary Lecture II: <i>The Morimichi Watanabe Lecture</i>  Session Chair: <b>Jason Aleksander</b>, San José State University</p> <p>“Reflected Light: the Pervasive Influence of Dionysius between  Florence and Germanic Lands in the Later Fifteenth Century”  <b>Valery Rees</b>, School of Philosophy and Economic Science, London  (virtual)</p>	Library Lecture Room <hr/>
10:30 AM	Coffee Break	Library Rotunda
10:45 AM	<p>Paper Session II: <b>Cusan Contemporaries</b>  Session Chair: <b>William Collinge</b>, Mount St. Mary’s University</p> <p>Jean Gerson’s <i>Annotatio</i> and the Contours of Mystical Theology  <b>Sam Dubbelman</b>, Boston University</p> <p>Vincent of Aggsbach’s Attack on Jean Gerson  <b>Thomas Izbicki</b>, Rutgers University</p> <p>Vincent of Aggsbach as Letter Writer. Themes, Objectives, and  Communicative Strategies  <b>Thomas Woelki</b>, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (virtual)</p>	Library Lecture Room <hr/>

12:15 PM	Lunch	
1:15 PM	<p>Working Session I: “<b>Desire and Love in Cusanus’ Mystical Theology</b>”</p> <p>Session Chair: <b>Richard Hunter</b>, Gwynedd Mercy University</p> <p>Featured participants:</p> <p><b>Donald Duclow</b>, Gwynedd Mercy University</p> <p><b>Bernard McGinn</b>, University of Chicago (virtual)</p> <p><b>Paula Pico Estrada</b>, Universidad del Salvador (virtual)</p> <p>Reading selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernard McGinn - selection from <a href="#">Harvest of Mysticism: pp. 448-456</a></li> <li>• Paula Pico Estrada – “<a href="#">From Affectus to Caritas</a>,” <i>American Cusanus Society Newsletter</i> 33 (2016): 15-21.</li> <li>• Donald Duclow - selection from article “<a href="#">Intellect and Mystical Theology in Nicholas of Cusa</a>,” pp. 321-325 specifically.</li> </ul>	Library Lecture Room
3:00 PM	<p><b>Free Time with Guided Options</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battlefield Tour – Colonel Izbicki of the Bernkastel Battalion</li> <li>• Museum Tour</li> <li>• <a href="#">The Future of Cusanus Studies: an Open-Invitation Virtual Roundtable</a></li> </ul> <p>Hosted by <b>Sean Hannan</b>, MacEwan University</p>	
4:30 PM	ACS Business Meeting	Singmaster Center
6:00 PM	Reception, hosted by <b>Guy Erwin</b> , President, United Lutheran Seminary	Lewars House
7:15 PM	<p><b>Candlelight Banquet and Tribute to Donald Duclow</b></p> <p>Master of Ceremonies <b>Gerald Christianson</b>, United Lutheran Seminary</p> <p>“The American Songbook”: <b>Wayne Hill</b>, baritone; <b>Susan Homiller</b>, soprano; <b>Michael Matsinko</b>, pianist</p>	Refectory
9:00 PM	Social Hour	Singmaster Center

### Sunday, September 26

7:00 AM	Mass	St. Francis Xavier
7:30 AM	Breakfast	Hotel or Singmaster
8:15 AM	Ecumenical Service	Chapel
9:15 AM	<p>Paper Session III: <b>Cusan Themes</b></p> <p><b>Christopher Bellitto</b>, Kean University</p>	Library Lecture Room

	<p>“Form, Space, and a Symbolism of Color: Transformations through Cusan Perspectivism”  <b>Nathan Pederson</b>, Loyola University of Chicago</p> <p>“Incorruptible Time: Cusanus on the Perfection of Time in the Intellect”  <b>Elizabeth Brient</b>, University of Georgia (virtual presentation)</p> <p>“Nicholas of Cusa’s Theory of the Peace of Religions, Based on His <i>De Visione Dei</i> and <i>De Pace Fidei</i>”  <b>Pooya Heybatollahi</b>, Independent Scholar, Iran (virtual presentation)</p>	
10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
10:45 AM	<p>Working Session II: <b>Selected Primary Sources</b></p> <p>Session Chairs: <b>Maarten Halff</b>, Independent Scholar and <b>Jason Aleksander</b>, San José State University</p> <p>Reading selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eckhart, <a href="#">Sermons 32b and 43</a></li> <li>• Nicholas of Cusa, <a href="#">Sermon 285</a></li> <li>• Hadewijch, <a href="#">Vision VII</a></li> <li>• Porete, <i>Mirror of Simple Souls</i>, <a href="#">chapters 58-80</a></li> <li>• Hildegard of Bingen, selections from <i>Scivias</i> (TBD)</li> </ul>	<p>Library Lecture Room</p> <hr/>
12:15 PM	<p>Close of Conference</p> <p>Departures begin at 12:30</p>	
1:00 PM	Lunch (optional)	TBD

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The Program Committee for the 2021 Gettysburg Conference: **Joshua Hollmann**, chair, **Sean Hannan**, **Jason Aleksander**, **Michael Moore**, **Christopher Bellitto**. Arrangements Committee: **Vincent Evener**, chair, **Gerald Christianson**. Registrars: **Andrew Taminger**, **Charles Frekot**.

\*\* Thank you for 35 years of collegial dialogue and productive scholarship. \*\*