

Flannery O'Connor in the Age of Terrorism:

An Academic Conference on Violence and Grace

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Call for Papers • Proposals Due: May 1, 2006



Regarding her fiction, O'Connor wrote, "Violence is strangely capable of returning my characters to reality and preparing them to accept their moment of grace." Speaking of "A Good Man is Hard to Find," she cautioned, "You should be on the lookout for such things as the action of grace in the Grandmother's soul, and not for the dead bodies." Lately, however, critics have begun to disallow O'Connor's long-term, efficacious control of her reception by refusing to ignore the "dead bodies." This conference proposes to examine the intersection of violence and grace in a world wracked by terrorist attacks, school shootings, war, and acts of nature. What grace is radical enough to withstand the looming, lustful violence that haunts and hovers over our quotidian lives? *Explore this question with us.*

Plenary Speakers

Bruce Gentry, editor of *Flannery O'Connor Review* and author of *Flannery O'Connor's Religion of the Grotesque*

Tim Caron, author of *Struggles over the Word: Race and Religion in O'Connor, Faulkner, Hurston, and Wright*

Ralph C. Wood, author of *Flannery O'Connor and the Christ-Haunted South*

Christina Bieber Lake, author of *The Incarnational Art of Flannery O'Connor*

Jon Lance Bacon, author of *Flannery O'Connor and Cold War Culture*

Katherine Hemple Prown, author of *Revising Flannery O'Connor: Southern Literary Culture and the Problem of Female Authorship*

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