

The Rivendell Institute has sponsored two special speakers recently. Bishop John Rucyahana of Rwanda spoke in September about what he discovered upon his return to Rwanda from exile, in 1994. He found the remains of people who had been hacked to death, and survivors who had suffered unimaginable torment. How could he witness to hope in the face of this evil? In his address to the Yale audience, Bishop Rucyahana made one point clear: "This is not magic!" He argued that his efforts to bring redemption and reconciliation to both perpetrators and victims have only progressed because of Christ's power to bring forgiveness and healing. The bishop related that when he first saw the devastation, he "died," identifying with the sacrifice Jesus made to bring us life and light. By offering his own testimony to the work of God, the uniqueness of Jesus Christ came through clearly and credibly.

In October, astronomer Jennifer Wiseman spoke about "God in the Cosmos," and used photos from the Hubble telescope to explain some of what is known about the expanse and history of the universe. She raised questions about human significance and what we can learn about God from the universe. Dr. Wiseman is Chief of the Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Rivendell Seminars this past semester focused on the book of Acts to explore the challenge of connecting the Good News about Christ to the seemingly alien and indifferent world around us. The study has moved on to Colossians and 1 Peter, examining the inexhaustible resources of the Gospel to develop character and leadership. The Rivendell Reading Group has studied Tim Keller's book, *The Reason for God*.

Don Smedley participated in a number of forums this past semester. One was held at Georgetown University, on Muslim-Christian dialogue, including the topics of religious freedom and persecution of Christians in the Middle East. Don attended another conference at the American Academy of Religion in Montreal, another for the Evangelical Philosophical Society and finally, the Evangelical Theological Society. At the latter event he presented a paper at an extended panel discussion, on "Evangelicals and a Common Word." The Rivendell Women's Ministries held a retreat on the topic of "Fear and Faith Colliding," and every Friday night the institute sponsors a woman's Bible study for women graduate students, faculty, and post-doctoral students.