

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Topic: Politics (evangelical influence) [book signing following discussion]

October 2011

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**Ford Hall Forum
at Suffolk University**
presents

Evangelicals in the Electorate

with
**Dr. John C. Green,
Dr. Karl Giberson,
and
Dr. Randall Stephens**

moderator **Eric Convey**

November 10, 6:30-8 pm

C. Walsh Theater

(Boston, MA 02114) **Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University** presents ***Evangelicals in the Electorate*** with **Dr. John C. Green, Dr. Karl Giberson, and Dr. Randall Stephens**; moderator **Eric Convey**. Thursday, November 10, 6:30-8 pm. Admission is free and open to all; book signing to follow discussion. C. Walsh Theater at Suffolk University, 55 Temple Street, Boston, MA. Wheelchair accessible and conveniently

located near the Park St. MBTA Station. For more information, call the Ford Hall Forum at 617-557-2007 or visit www.fordhallforum.org.

Although some dismiss Evangelical Christians as zealots with uncommon social politics and little regard for science, this powerful voting bloc is a force to be reckoned with in our democracy, and likely misunderstood. **Dr. John C. Green**, Senior Research Advisor at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, presents empirical data on what evangelicals actually believe based on surveys of clergy and parishioners. Authors of the newly released *The Anointed: Evangelical Truth in a Secular Age*, **Dr. Karl Giberson** and **Dr. Randall Stephens**, provide an analysis of intellectual authority within this group and examine themes ranging from Creationism to messaging. Ford Hall Forum Board member and former religion reporter for the Boston Herald **Eric Convey** converses with these sociological researchers to predict how Evangelical Christians' true values will translate into civic action.

Further background information on participants:

John C. Green is a Senior Fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, as well as the Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics and a Professor of Political Science at the University of Akron. He co-authored *The Bully Pulpit: The Politics of Protestant Clergy*; *Religion and the Culture Wars: Dispatches From the Front*; and *The Diminishing Divide: Religion's Changing Role in American Politics*. In addition, he is the co-editor of *The State of the Parties; Multiparty Politics in America*; and *Financing the 1996 Election*. Green received his B.A. from the University of Colorado and his Ph.D. from Cornell University.

Randall Stephens is the editor of the *Journal of Southern Religion* at Florida State University and of *Historically Speaking* from the Johns Hopkins University Press. Stephens is also a Professor of History at Eastern Nazarene College as well as a member of the Polkinghorne Society there. He was named a Top Young Historian by the History News Network (HNN) at George Mason University and was selected by Indiana University as the 2008 Young Scholar of American Religion. He is the author of *The Fire Spreads: Holiness and Pentecostalism in the American South* co-authored with Karl Giberson *The Anointed: American Evangelical Experts*. Stephens received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Florida. He earned a Master's in Theological Studies from Nazarene Theological Seminary and another from Emporia State University in History. He received his B.A. from Mid-America Nazarene College.

Karl Giberson is a physicist and a scholar who specializes in the "Creation/Evolution" debate. Since 1984, Giberson has taught science and religion courses at Eastern Nazarene College, where he also directs their Honors Scholar Program. Giberson is a fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) and in 2009 became the Executive Vice President of the BioLogos Foundation. Giberson has also served as Director of the Forum on Faith & Science at Gordon College. Giberson is widely published in the fields of science and religion, as both the founding editor of *Science & Technology News* and the former editor-in-chief of *Science & Spirit*. In addition, Giberson blogs

regularly for both The Huffington Post and the BioLogos Forum. He co-authored the book *The Anointed: American Evangelical Experts* with Randall Stephens. Giberson earned both a masters and a Ph.D. from Rice University and holds two B.A.s from Eastern Nazarene College.

Since July 2006, **Eric Convey** has served as the Managing Editor of the Boston Business Journal, where he previously worked as a reporter. Convey has also been an adjunct professor as well as an advisor to the student newspaper at Gordon College for the past ten years. From 1995 through 2006, Convey worked as an editor and reporter for the Boston Herald and before that as the Press Secretary for the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 through 1995. Convey has worked as a reporter for many area newspapers such as the Essex County Newspapers, the Beverly and Peabody Times, and the Ottaway Newspapers. Convey graduated from Gordon College and is currently a member of the Board of Directors at the Ford Hall Forum.

Coming up next at Ford Hall Forum:

Stay Tuned for Flash Forums

Flash Forums are programs that Ford Hall Forum will produce right when the news hits. Arranged roughly a week in advance, Flash Forums will bring in an expert speaker, either in person or via Skype, to deliberate on a hot-off-the-press issue. Ford Hall Forum plans to inaugurate its Flash Forums as a breakfast program held at Suffolk University Law School.

About Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University:

Ford Hall Forum is the nation's oldest free public lecture series. The Forum promotes freedom of speech and fosters an informed and effective citizenry through public presentation of lectures, debates, and discussions. Its events illuminate the key issues facing our society, by bringing to its podium knowledgeable and thought-provoking speakers from a broad range of perspectives. These individuals speak in person, for free, and in settings that encourage frank and open debate.

The Forum began in 1908 as a series of Sunday evening public meetings held at the Ford Hall, which once stood on Beacon Hill in Boston. While the original building no longer exists, the public conversations have continued throughout the Boston area with the generous support of foundations, corporations, academic institutions, and individuals. In its 103rd year of programming, the Forum continues to build upon its partnership with Suffolk University. Suffolk is now housing the Forum's administrative offices just a block away from where the original Ford Hall once stood.

Ford Hall Forum programs are made possible through the generous contributions from individual members as well as corporations and foundations, including ACLU Massachusetts, AIG, The Barr Foundation, The Boston Beer Company, Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Edwards Angell Palmer and Dodge, The Fred and Marty Corneel Fund, Fidelity Investment, Helen Rees Literary Agency, Houghton Chemical Corporation, Iron

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For more information on Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University, visit www.fordhallforum.org. Information about Suffolk University's partnership with the Ford Hall Forum can be obtained by contacting Mariellen Norris, (617) 573-8450, mnorris@suffolk.edu.

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