



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEST

July 2, 2012

Dekan der Theologischen Fakultät
Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Theologische Fakultät
Platz der Universität 3
D-79098 Freiburg

Dear Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann:

Greetings from Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University and The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the West campus. We wanted to share with you some of the highlights of the recent visit by Prof. Dr. Dr. Andre Wiercinski. Professor Wiercinski was, as you know, a visiting professor here in Barrett and the New College these past four months (March through June 2012).

Prof. Wiercinski's visit included many projects undertaken here involving Barrett and New College faculty. Most notable among the many included his inviting three of our colleagues to contribute essays to his volume on hermeneutics and the philosophies of Martin Heidegger and Hans-Georg Gadamer. This project, conceived shortly after his arrival in Arizona, allowed time for a number of meetings with the invited authors to engage in the type of philosophical conversations that produce the best contributions to such volumes. Each of these was incredibly valuable to all involved.

In addition, Professor Wiercinski's work included meeting often with students here in both Barrett and the New College. These meetings, both formal and informal, were a great benefit to those young scholars who are just now beginning their study of hermeneutics. To have the president of the International Institute of Hermeneutics and a professor at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität available for conversation was an invaluable addition to their semester. Furthermore, we all know how such conversations have lasting consequences and we know it will have influence on these students' work for many years to come.

Along these pedagogical lines, his one-day seminar on Heidegger's "Ursprung der Kunstwerk" allowed students who have more advanced understandings of hermeneutics, aesthetics, and the work of Heidegger the opportunity to work through this essay's many difficult and challenging provocations to thinking.

As a part of his invitation Professor Wiercinski was also required to deliver an original paper in a public lecture. His lecture "Learning as the Memory of Understanding: Toward a Hermeneutics of Education" was a major campus event including sponsorship from the education division of our student government. The many in attendance appreciated

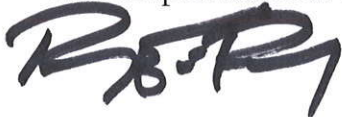
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the lecture and it led to many important conversations among them. Those who approached Professor Wiercinski in conversation at the reception following his talk found themselves delving deeper into the issues raised by his talk.

This visit by Professor Wiercinski exceeded our already high expectations. Much tangible and important work was accomplished and relations were nurtured that will have important consequences for the study of hermeneutics here and, we suspect, in his future work.

With Respect and Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RE Ramsey".

Ramsey Eric Ramsey
Associate Dean
Barrett, the Honors College

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Langland".

Elizabeth Langland
Vice-President of West Campus and
Dean of The New College
Arizona State University