

Dr. Simon Blackburn launches the first Vanier College Humanities Symposium

Montreal, January 27, 2012. Who says philosophy is only for academics? Certainly not world-renowned philosopher, Dr. Simon Blackburn, who has worked hard to make philosophy accessible to a wider audience and who will launch *Humanities, Truth and Lies* – the first Vanier College Humanities Symposium with his Opening Keynote address on February 1 at 1:30 in the Vanier College Auditorium.

Dr. Simon Blackburn, professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, England, and UNC, Chapel Hill, has debated with scientists and theologians and been a frequent guest on BBC radio and television in England. He is well-known for using humour and simple language to discuss philosophy. He is the author of several books including *Lust: The Seven Deadly Sins*; *Truth: A Guide, Think*, and *Plato's Republic: A Biography*. His principal work focuses on the field of philosophical ethics.



Dr. Blackburn's Vanier College Humanities Symposium keynote address, entitled, *The Humanities in a Scientific Age*, will focus on how the humanities can help people live more fulfilling lives by providing an understanding of how our histories and cultures shape us.

[Scheduled events](#) during the three-day Symposium include speakers who will cover areas such as music, theatre, film, art, medicine, sustainability, language, religion, politics and ethics. The focus will be on topics that are central to the Humanities including the sources and meaning of artistic creation and expression, ideas about self, the nature and limits of truth and certainty, and the status of the real and the imaginary.

The Symposium which is open to the public promises to be a provocative and stimulating exploration of ideas that engage us across disciplinary lines and that go to the heart of what it means to be human.

The Humanities Symposium will run February 1-3, 2012. Events will take place in the Vanier College Auditorium (A-103). Check the [schedule](#) for details.