The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University inaugurated the Symposium Against Indifference in 2003 as a biennial series of events and lectures dedicated to overcoming apathy in the face of human concerns by raising awareness and promoting compassionate engagement. The Symposium seeks to challenge the University community — as well as the wider Ashland community — toward a deeper understanding of difficult issues and toward creative personal and corporate responses. Symposium themes from previous years include the Holocaust, human nature, terrorism, the promises and perils of technology, inquiry into what makes a hero, against global indifference, and engaging Latin America and the Caribbean.
POPE FRANCIS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CHRISTIAN LIFE
Presenter: Jana Bennett
Wed., October 14, 7 p.m.
Ridenour Room, Daugh College of Business and Economics

In writing his recent encyclical “Laudato Si,” many readers have accused the pope of stepping into political and economic spheres he should not enter. In her presentation, Bennett will suggest that a different reading of the encyclical will see it as digging deep into Christian tradition; and perhaps think a bit differently about environmental justice, our obligation to buy differently, to build their buildings differently. In her presentation, Jana Bennett will suggest that a different reading of the encyclical will see it as digging deep into Christian tradition; and perhaps think a bit differently about environmental justice, our obligation to buy differently, to build their buildings differently.

THE PERENNIAL IMAGINATION AND THE CREATIVE GROUND: Cultivating Deep Roots in Land and People
Presenter: Bill Vike
Tue., March 15, 7:30 p.m.
Trustee Room, Myers Convocation Center

The "invention" of Agriculture 12,000 years ago marks our adoption of a food-based civilization. Common childhood diseases fueled by an unprecedented energy bounty. Bill Vitek, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Clarkson University, traces the development of three distinct periods in this history, with a focus on the last two centuries and the awakening of a new consciousness about our place on a living, creative planet, and its potential to reshape food production. With the material means and the philosophical foundations now available as sources of sustenance for body and mind, will we embrace an ecopsychic worldview? Must we?

VICTORIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH: Progress or Adaptation?
Presenter: Bruce Lanphear
Tue., April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Trustee Room, Myers Convocation Center

Americans have an unwarranting belief that biomedical technology will solve our health problems. This belief is fueled by successful technologies, like vaccines, as well as by accidentally, many innovative technologies of the past, such as smoking, morose vehicle control, and blast. With common complications, like heart disease, lung disease, and autism as case studies, Lanphear, Clinical Scientist at the British Columbia Children’s Hospital, will present a set of provocative questions to dialogue about:
• whether our ultimate goal should be to search for the cure or whether we should be more strategic about the types of technologies we embrace
• how we invest our health dollars

CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
Presenter: Wayne Goodman
Thu., March 31, 6:30 p.m.
112 Kettering

As a consulting geologist on numerous projects in the Michigan Basin and surrounding region, Ashland alumna Wayne Goodman’s greatest focus is on exploration, development and enhanced recovery projects in the petroleum and carbon storage industries. Goodman is part of the operating and technical team for the Great Lakes Reservoir Sequestration Partnership, which is conducting detailed geological, geophysical and petrophysical studies of rock properties and potential underground storage zones in deep saline reservoirs in Michigan.

EDUCATION IN A HOTTER TIME: Climate Change and the University
Presenter: David Orr
Mon., February 8, 7:30 p.m.
Trustees’ Room, Myers Convocation Center

David Orr argues that institutions of higher education are in a unique position to lead, to educate differently, to buy differently, to build their buildings differently. In Orr’s words, “education must now be measured against the standards of decency and human survival.”

We live in a culture obsessed with private material means and the philosophical foundations about our place on a living, creative planet, and its potential to reshape food production. With the material means and the philosophical foundations now available as sources of sustenance for body and mind, will we embrace an ecopsychic worldview? Must we?

David Orr will give a brief introduction to the Department of Chemistry, Philosophy Club, and the Newman Center for Nonviolence.