

# UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

## Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture by **Holmes Rolston, III**

### *Caring for Nature:*

*From Fact to Value, from Respect to Reverence*

Despite the classical prohibition of moving from **fact** to **value**, encounter with the biodiversity and plenitude of being in evolutionary natural history moves us to **respect** life, even to **reverence** it. Darwinian accounts are value-laden and necessary for understanding life at the same time that Darwinian theory fails to provide sufficient cause for the historically developing diversity and increasing complexity on Earth. Earth is a providing ground; matter and energy on Earth support life, but distinctive to life is **information** superintending this matter-energy, coded in the genetic molecules. Life is generated and regenerated in struggle, persists in its perishing. Such life is also a gift; nature is grace. Biologists and theologians join in celebrating and conserving the genesis on Earth, awed in their encounter with this creativity that characterizes our home planet.



**Monday, October 11 at 3:00 p.m. in EESAT 130**

Holmes Rolston, III is University Distinguished Professor and Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University, is often called “the father of environmental ethics” as an academic discipline. He was recently featured in **Fifty Key Thinkers on the Environment** (Joy A. Palmer, ed., Routledge). Rolston has written seven books, most recently **Genes, Genesis and God** (Cambridge University Press), **Philosophy Gone Wild** (Prometheus Books), **Environmental Ethics** (Temple University Press), **Science and Religion: A Critical Survey** (Random House, McGraw Hill, Harcourt-Brace), and **Conserving Natural Value** (Columbia University Press). He gave the **Gifford Lectures**, University of Edinburgh, 1997-1998. In 2003 he was awarded the **Templeton Prize in Religion**, awarded by Prince Philip in Buckingham Palace and in amount about \$ 1.3 million dollars, larger than a Nobel Prize. Advocating environmental ethics, he has lectured on all seven continents, and is past president of the **International Society for Environmental Ethics**.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or [philosophy@unt.edu](mailto:philosophy@unt.edu).