
On March 24 the Boisi Center hosted a full-day conference entitled “Blasphemy, Free Expression and Journalistic Ethics” to discuss the conflicts that arise when religious values confront the journalistic ethics of free speech and a free press. The event brought journalists, religious leaders and scholars together in a rare conversation across professional and religious boundaries.

A morning keynote address by Charles Haynes, senior scholar at the First Amendment Center in Washington,

D.C., provided excellent context for the day’s discussion. Haynes appealed to Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island for whom religious freedom and free speech were inextricably intertwined. “The very power [to censor speech] that protects a religious group today will be used against them tomorrow,” Haynes said. “What is blasphemy to one is religious conviction to another.” A recent poll indicates that 43% of Americans do *not* believe “people should be allowed to say things in public that might be offensive to religious be

On February 7, the Center presented a panel discussion of legal issues pertaining to religious freedom entitled "Headscarves and Holy Days: Should the Law M

groups." As a result, speech codes—many of which, Haynes argued, are unconstitutional—have flourished in American schools and universities. Rather than enacting

In September 2005 a Danish newspaper published twelve satirical cartoons

