

UI Students Find Help from Past to Support Public Event on Church-State Separation

IOWA CITY, IA -- When a group of University of Iowa students became aware of the extent to which Americans are harmed by religious bias in American law, they thought the subject deserved broad public attention, and began looking for a means of focusing community awareness on this issue. Secular Students at Iowa (SecSI) decided they wanted to present author and international activist Sean Faircloth as a speaker, but needed support for travel and other costs of bringing him to the UI campus. They found most of that support in money endowed before any of those students were born: the Detiger Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City (UUSIC).

Eleanor Detiger, an Iowa City Unitarian before moving to Holland, had underwritten a large UUSIC conference in 1981 that was so widely attended that it raised extra funds which were subsequently endowed to support events of interest to a wide community.

Tomorrow (Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m.) Faircloth will speak on *The Pursuit of Social Justice through Secular Government*, calling attention to serious harms caused by religious bias in laws affecting public education, medical research, reproductive health, marriage rights, employment law, end-of-life choices, employment law, and other areas. In his recent book, *Attack of the Theocrats—How the Religious Right Harms Us All and What We Can do About It*, Faircloth also presents steps that can be taken to diminish religious bias in government while preserving free exercise of religion.

The event is free and will take place in the Main Lounge of the Iowa Memorial Union, hosted by SecSI, and co-sponsored by UUSIC.

About the Organizers

Secular Students at Iowa (SecSI) is a recognized student organization at the University of Iowa. The group's core principles are advocacy, community, education, and service.

<http://secularstudents.org.uiowa.edu/>

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City (UUSIC) was founded in 1841. It is a diverse spiritual community that draws inspiration from a wide variety of faiths as well as reason and personal experience, and that emphasizes social action. <http://uusic.org/>

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