

UNH Sidore Series Features Pioneer in Theology

Talk centers on African American women

By [Tracy Manforte](#)
UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- The Saul O Sidore Memorial Lecture Series continues at the University of New Hampshire next week with guest speaker Emilie Townes, of the Union Theological Seminary. The series addresses the changing roles of women and religion.

Townes will focus on African American feminist identity-building in contemporary American Christianity. Her talk, titled "Growing like Topsy: Womanist Religious Reflections on Difference and Solidarity," will take place Thursday, Oct. 28, from 12:40 to 2 p.m., in the Memorial Union Building theater. The lecture series is free and open to the public.

A pioneer of womanist theology, Townes will examine religious thought and influences of gender, race and class. She will also look at how these elements relate to the interplay of culture, identity, community, theory, practice, life and death.

Townes is also a well-known author in her field, whose books build upon a theme of political activity and cultural awareness as a foundation for Christian community-building. Her most recent titles are "Breaking the Fine Rain of Death: African American Health Issues and a Womanist Ethic of Care" (1998) and "Embracing the Spirit: Womanist Perspectives on Hope, Salvation and Transformation" (1997).

The Sidore series continues next semester with guest lectures scheduled Feb. 24, March 23 and April 20. Further information will be released as details become available.

The Sidore Lecture Series was established in 1965 in memory of Saul O Sidore of Manchester. The purpose of the series is to offer programs that raise critical and sometimes controversial issues facing society. The series is sponsored by the Sidore Foundation, the UNH Center for the Humanities and the UNH Foundation.

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