



PERSPECTIVES

On Religion

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New Professor of Islam

AHMED SOUAIAIA

In its new professor of Islam, the Department has found an insider's priceless perspective, that of a scholar who seeks to lay bare the riches of all reasoned voices. Ahmed Souaiaia (pronounced "sway-yie-ya") is an outspoken humanist who takes the moral high road, himself no outsider to one of the world's most misunderstood religions, misread sometimes even by its own followers.



Ahmed Souaiaia

Islam's uniqueness, Souaiaia said, lies in its moral/political blueprint.

"This is in the Semitic context comparing the three great traditions," he said. "In Judaism, the covenant is between God and the Chosen People alone. In the Christian tradition, despite the universality of the message, there is no clear cut method of how to lead the state.

"Contrast this with the last 10 years of Muhammad's prophethood. Muhammad was called upon for the creation of a state and one which extended beyond the faithful to include non-Muslims."

But Islam's golden age lay not with its founder according to Souaiaia.

"The hardest of any tasks is the beginning," Souaiaia said, quoting an Arab proverb. But he said that, while Muhammad's achievements were earthshaking, Islam's greatest glory peaked while the West was plunging into the Dark Ages.

Had it not been for the Abbasids, a caliphate succession, Greek philosophy would have been lost. Under Caliph Harun Al-Rashid, Western philosophy not only survived for translation from Greek into Arabic then into Latin, but math, science, law and other disciplines flourished in the courts of the Caliphate.

Drawing on an innate desire to make a difference in the world, Souaiaia journeyed from his native Tunisia to the University of Washington for his undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees and then to Iowa City.

He brought with him several fields of expertise, among them:

—language - Souaiaia commands Arabic in several dialects and he is proficient (the word "fluent" is less specific in the academic community today with the rise of the proficiency movement in teaching) in French, Persian, Biblical Hebrew and German,

Souaiaia (cont'd.)

—and law and religion - these latter two are inextricably woven.

The professor's truest love shines in the law and there he is also its sternest taskmaster.

"I loved legal philosophy," Souaiaia said. "That is where my journey truly began."

Souaiaia's dissertation is of no little significance. According to his thesis, the oral tradition is as important as the written word in the transfer of power among the Islamic leadership.

The topic would be considered heresy in some Islamic countries today where the written word is believed to be the only law.

"I chose to write about this because the Muslim world is in crisis," he said. "I'm not saying this as an outsider. We are misreading history if we insist that all the Muslim worlds' problems are caused from without or if we designate the past as the only

prescription for the ailing present. It can be argued that the way laws go so does a civilization; and the end of the journey of jurisprudence in the Islamic civilization ought to be seen as the beginning of the latter's decline."

Souaiaia has lectured and taught extensively. He is the author of seven books, four peer-reviewed journal articles, and two electronic publications. He has also written an article, "Sources of Islamic Law and Practices," expanding on his dissertation, which will be published this winter in Hamline University School of Law's *Journal of Law and Religion*.

In 2002, he earned the Institute of International Education Andrew Heiskell Award for innovations in the classroom.

— Jean Buotos

Faculty Endowment

You can hire the world's most talented carpenters to build your new house, but if they don't have access to the proper tools, the final product will never become your dream home.

The same can be said for our skilled faculty on whom we rely to "build" a top-ranked University of Iowa education.

The Department of Religious Studies has an energetic and talented faculty that is nationally recognized for its work in undergraduate and graduate education. As strong as each member is, he or she could not continue to reach high levels of success without the resources offered to them through private support.

For example, endowed faculty funds allow the holders of chairs, professorships, and fellowships to hire graduate students, travel to professional meetings and conferences, complete their research, and promote innovation in the classroom.

It's providing access to the entire toolbox that makes endowed faculty funds an important component in the UI's comprehensive fund raising campaign.

The \$1 billion campaign, called Good. Better. Best. Iowa. The Campaign to Advance Our Great University, is touching virtually every area of

campus. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences set a goal to raise \$81 million as part of this effort, with \$38 million designated for faculty enrichment programs.

The Department of Religious Studies currently has three endowed faculty chairs: the J. J. Mallon Chair in Judaic Studies, the Krumm Family Chair in Reformation Studies, and the Figge Chair in Catholic Studies. They allow the department and the university to recruit and retain the best teachers and researchers in the field. At present, the Mallon and Krumm Family chairs provide an annual payout that is used to support salaries, benefits, and the tools listed above to the chair holder. The endowment for the Figge chair is not yet sufficient to allow the UI to make an appointment.

Alumni and friends may contribute to one of these existing funds or create a new faculty enrichment program. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated and important.

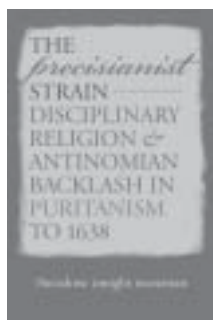
We are grateful to those who provide those tools, and we invite you to make your contribution. Please feel free to contact me at jeff-liebermann@uiowa.edu or 800/648-6973 to discuss your options in greater detail.

— Jeff Liebermann
UI Foundation

Recently Published Books by Faculty

THE PRECISIANIST STRAIN

by Theodore Dwight Bozeman



In an examination of transatlantic Puritanism from 1570 to 1638, Theodore Dwight Bozeman analyzes the quest for purity through sanctification. The word “Puritan,” he says, accurately depicts a major and often obsessive trait of the English late Reformation: a hunger for

discipline. *The Precisianist Strain* clarifies what Puritanism in its disciplinary mode meant for an early modern society struggling with problems of change, order, and identity.

Focusing on ascetic teachings and rites, which in their severity fostered the “precisianist strain” prevalent in Puritan thought and devotional practice, Bozeman traces the reactions of believers put under ever more meticulous demands. Sectarian theologies of ease and consolation soon formed a reaction to those demands, Bozeman argues, eventually giving rise to a “first wave” of antinomian revolt, including the American conflicts of 1636-1638. Antinomianism, based on the premise of salvation without strictness and duty, was not so much a radicalization of Puritan content as a backlash against the whole project of disciplinary religion. Its reconceptualization of self and responsibility would affect Anglo-American theology for decades to come.

PRACTICAL PURSUITS

by Janine Tasca Sawada



The idea that personal cultivation leads to social and material well-being became wide spread in late Tokugawa Japan (1600-1868). *Practical Pursuits* explores theories of personal development that were diffused in the early nineteenth century by a network of religious groups in

the Edo (Tokyo) area, and explains how, after the Meiji Restoration of 1868, the leading members of these communities went on to create ideological coalitions inspired by the pursuit of a modern form of cultivation. Various engaged in divination, Shinto purification rituals, and Zen practice, these individuals ultimately used informal political associations to promote the Confucian-style assumption that personal improvement is the basis for national prosperity.

This wide-ranging yet painstakingly researched study represents a new direction in historical analysis. Where previous scholarship has used large conceptual units like Confucianism and Buddhism as its main actors and has emphasized the discontinuities in Edo and Meiji religious life, Sawada addresses the history of religion in nineteenth-century Japan at the level of individuals and small groups. She employs personal cultivation as an interpretive system, crossing familiar boundaries to consider complex linguistic, philosophical, and social interconnections. Moreover, because the task of self-improvement was a common concern across social classes, by focusing on this “practical pursuit,” Sawada demonstrates in a new way the problematic nature of the conventional distinction between popular and high religion.

Chris Simpson: A Fulbright Experience

In the 2003-2004 academic year, I was fortunate enough to be a U.S. Fulbright Scholar, studying at the Institute of Philosophy at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Leuven (Louvain), Belgium. The KUL, as it is commonly abbreviated, is some 575 years old. Leuven itself is an old university town with narrow, labyrinthine streets and densely packed four to five story buildings—modern structures sharing walls with those hundreds of years old. Along with my wife, Kaysha, and our baby boy, David, I walked these crowded streets daily.

Academically, this last year was a productive and pleasant one. Beyond sitting in on many excellent courses, I spent the bulk of my time doing dissertation research at the Institute of Philosophy. I had ongoing one-on-one consultations with Professor William Desmond—whose work plays a major part in my dissertation. William and I became fast friends and spent much time in the Erasmus—the café in front of the Institute of Philosophy—talking over a rich European coffee or a Trappist beer. He helped me structure and think through many philosophical issues related to his own work as well as many practical issues, such as

teaching, writing, career, and publication. Serendipitously, the other Fulbright scholar working at the Institute of Philosophy in Leuven, Michael Brogan, was a student of John D. Caputo, another major thinker that I am treating in my dissertation. Mike's friendship and help with Caputo's work were invaluable to me. Through the Institute's international program, I developed friendships with some of the brightest of the next generation of scholars from all over the world. I had colleagues from India, Korea, Hong Kong, Mexico, Italy, Spain, Hungary, UK, Ireland, Canada, Austria and Australia—many accented voices struggling together with difficult philosophical topics and texts.

I am sure that this experience will have an impact on my work for the rest of my life. It was more than worth the enormous headache of everything that led up to it (applying for the grant, getting Belgian visas, moving across the Atlantic with a baby, finding housing, etc.). Beyond this, I would encourage anyone interested to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity of the U.S. Fulbright Grant program.



Leuven Cathedral

Board of Fellows Final Meeting

The Board of Fellows, whose members labored arduously for almost eight decades to foster and safeguard religious studies at the University of Iowa, gathered for the last time on May 10, 2004.

Originally known as the Board of Trustees, its members shouldered considerable responsibility for establishing policy, raising funds and securing less tangible yet real support. Faculty trained in the Jewish and Christian traditions offered the first classes in the Autumn term 1927. These early endeavors, which the Board tirelessly championed, have proven enormously successful. We have a flourishing graduate program, well over a hundred undergraduate majors, and enormously successful courses with students from every corner of the campus. The objectives to which the Board of Fellows originally applied itself have been largely achieved. Religious Studies has a secure and fully

integrated place at the University of Iowa. We cannot overemphasize the department's indebtedness to the many women and men who have served on the Board.

Although the Board of Fellows no longer exists and the School of Religion is now the Department of Religious Studies, we continue to depend upon our many friends and supporters. To this end, we have established two new organizations. The first is a relatively compact Advisory Board to assist the department and help guide its critical fundraising efforts. The second and larger group is the Friends of the Department, whose members continue to be our advocates across the state and among our many current and future supporters. We expect to meet regularly with both groups in conjunction with the department's annual Adler luncheon.

— *Raymond Mentzer*



The University of Iowa Department of Religious Studies Honor Roll of Contributors

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed \$100 or more to the University of Iowa Department of Religious Studies through the UI Foundation from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003. Contributors are listed alphabetically.

Baird, Patty Jo, Cottage Grove, Wis.
Baird, Robert D., Cottage Grove, Wis.
Boyd, Susan K., Iowa City, Iowa
Buchanan, Ellen K., Iowa City, Iowa
Buchanan, John W., Iowa City, Iowa
Caplan, Fredda Ellen, Iowa City, Iowa
Caplan, Richard M., Iowa City, Iowa
Carroll, Vincent W., Sarasota, Fla.
Collins, Chris, Coralville, Iowa
Collins, Tracy L., Coralville, Iowa
Coren, Alfred B., State College, Pa.
Coren, Martha L., State College, Pa.
Davidson, Charles W., Coralville, Iowa
Deming, Catherine, Iowa City, Iowa
Deppe, Dawne M., Cabin John, Md.
Dierks, David R. S., Iowa City, Iowa
Dierks, Sally B., Iowa City, Iowa
Diocese of Davenport, Davenport, Iowa
Dunlevy, Allie Lu, Fairfield, Iowa
Dunlevy, James H., Fairfield, Iowa
Ely, John M., Jr., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Ely, Shirley W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Funk, David C., Iowa City, Iowa
Funk, Jean Kuehl, Iowa City, Iowa
Gunderson-Schipper, Sherry L., Rockford, Mich.
Haines, Dianne Strain, Naperville, Ill.
Handy, Lowell K., Des Plaines, Ill.
Herb, Glenda Sanders, West Bloomfield, Mich.
Herb, Larry L., West Bloomfield, Mich.
Hershberger, Diana K., Goshen, Ind.
Hershberger, John K., Goshen, Ind.
Hodson, Donald L., Washington, Iowa
Hodson, Kathryn J., Washington, Iowa
Huber, Coletta D., Davenport, Iowa
Huber, Lawrence R., Davenport, Iowa
Igram, Mohamed H., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Igram, Sally S., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Jensen, Jonna E., Baldwin, Iowa
Johnson, David L., Brooksville, Fla.
Kemp, Elkan V., Rotonda West, Fla.
Kemp, Nettie E., Rotonda West, Fla.
Klemm, David E., Iowa City, Iowa
Kohn, George F., Pacific Grove, Calif.
Kundrat, Mary A., Des Moines, Iowa
Lewis, Molly, Pacific Grove, Calif.
Lyman, Mary Keough, Iowa City, Iowa
McCabe, Brian F., Iowa City, Iowa
McCabe, Yvonne L., Iowa City, Iowa
McNulty, Patrick J., Des Moines, Iowa
Mentzer, Elizabeth J., Iowa City, Iowa
Mentzer, Raymond A., Iowa City, Iowa
Moderson, Keith W., Evanston, Ill.
Pachow, E. Mavis, Kissimmee, Fla.
Pachow, Wang, Kissimmee, Fla.
Patterson, Kristi L., Stoughton, Wis.
Patterson, William L., Stoughton, Wis.
Price, Susan M., Jefferson City, Mo.
Price, William Ray, Jr., Jefferson City, Mo.
Remley, Betty J., Anamosa, Iowa
Remley, Howard M., Anamosa, Iowa
Richman, Kelli, Morganville, N.J.
Schipper, Andrew J., Rockford, Mich.
Shepard, Robert S., Durham, N.C.
Smith, Robert F., Kansas City, Mo.
Stenger, Mary Ann Small, Louisville, Ky.
Stenger, Robert L., Louisville, Ky.
Stuit, Dewey B., Iowa City, Iowa
Sueppel, William F., Iowa City, Iowa
Tollefson, Robert J., Storm Lake, Iowa
Trachte, Larry A., Waverly, Iowa
Wheatley, Alice E., Carlisle, Pa.
Wheatley, Ira M., Carlisle, Pa.
Whitehouse, Glenn A., Tampa, Fla.

For more information about private support for the Department of Religious Studies, contact Jeff Liebermann, director of development, Social Sciences and Humanities, for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the UI Foundation, at the address or phone number listed below.

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FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

Dwight Bozeman's *Precisianist Strain: Disciplinary Religion and Antinomian Backlash in Puritanism* was published in February by the University of North Carolina Press (for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture). In a period of developmental leave in the Fall of 2003, he pursued research on radical Protestant movements in England and their New England offshoots during the revolutionary period of 1640-1660. Currently he is finalizing an essay on the "Complications of Liberty" in the thought of Baptist tolerationists in old and New England in that period. He continues to serve as University of Iowa liaison for the American Society of Church History, and will read the essay at the Spring meeting of the Society this academic year. This semester he is chair of the Department's search committee in Theology and Ethics. He is pleased to learn that his former student, Robert Moore-Jumonville, has just published his revised dissertation, *The Hermeneutics of Historical Distance*, with the University Press of America.

In 2004, **Diana Cates**, along with Kenneth Cmiel (history) and Rex Honey (geography) were awarded an International Programs Major Research Project Award to lead a year-long interdisciplinary "Human Rights Reading Group," which is integral to the development of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights. Prof. Cates published "Honoring the Religious Impulse within the Arena of Genetic Counseling" in *Update*, ed. Mark Carr, 19/1 (2004), 8-16. Her chapter, "Spending the Day with a Good Friend: Autobiography, Moral Character, and the Religious Imagination," and her journal article, "The Religious Dimension of Ordinary Human Emotions: Working with Gustafson and Nussbaum," are in press. The latter was delivered before the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Prof. Cates taught a new graduate seminar on the philosophical and religious ethical study of the emotions. She was active as a presenter, guest lecturer, panelist, etc., around the university and for the larger public. She continued her work on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. She also continued to serve as Ethics Representative for the (newly renamed) Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders, Iowa Department of Public Health.

Jay Holstein's courses continue to draw good enrollments: *Judeo-Christian Tradition* with 515; *Quest for Human Destiny* with 150 in the regular semester and 81 in Saturday & Evening; *The Bible in Film* caps at 37 as well as *Quest II: Sex, Love, and Death* at 31 and *The Bible and the Holocaust* at 69. On September 23 Holstein gave the keynote address for a conference involving Pediatric Cardiology entitled "On Healing, Healers, and the Good Life." He will speak at Temple Judah in Cedar Rapids on November 7 on "The Baffling Speech of God in the Book of Job." This year he is serving as chair of the Programs Committee for the department and supervising three senior Honors projects.

Ralph Keen delivered a plenary address at the Erasmus of Rotterdam Society's annual spring meeting with the Renaissance Society of America, and completed a series of entries for a forthcoming encyclopedia of anti-Semitism. Having completed a book-length study of the religious humanism of Philip Melancthon, he has begun research into the ideas of covenant and divine sovereignty and their shifting roles in medieval religious thought. During the past year he completed his terms on the advisory board of the UI Center for the Book and the CLAS Scholarship Committee, of which he was chair. He continues to serve on the coordinating committee of the European Studies Program and the faculty advisory panel of the UI Honors Program. Within the department he remains director of undergraduate studies and honors advisor.

David Klemm co-taught, with Professor William Klink of the Department of Physics, a new course cross-listed in Department of Religious Studies (32:149) and the Program in Literature, Science, and the Arts (33:152). The course was taught under the title *Values in the Contemporary World*, with the subtitle "Science, Subjectivity, and the Soul." The course examined competing arguments concerning the nature of the soul from both neurophysiologists and philosophical theologians. In addition, Klemm published two chapters in edited books: "Re-entering the Magic Theatre: The Trace of the Other in Hermann Hesse's *Steppenwolf*" in *Believing in the Text*, edited by David Jasper and George Newlands, Religions and Discourse Series, volume 18 (Bern, Switzerland: Peter

Lang, 2004), pp. 145-57; and "Material Grace: The Paradox of Property and Possession," in *Having: Property and Possession in Religious and Social Life*, edited by William Schweiker and Charles Mathewes (Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004), pp. 222-245. Klemm also published two articles in a single journal issue dedicated to the idea of theological humanism, which he edited: "Introduction: Theology of Culture as Theological Humanism," *Literature and Theology: An International Journal of Religion, Theory and Culture*, vol. 18, no. 3 (September, 2004), pp. 239-250; and "The Darkness Inside the Human Soul: Uncertainty in Theological Humanism and Michael Frayn's *Play Copenhagen*," *Literature and Theology: An International Journal of Religion, Theory and Culture*, vol. 18, no. 3 (September, 2004), pp. 292-307. Klemm has had to take a medical leave of absence for the 2004-05 academic year.

J. Kenneth Kuntz attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta in November 2003 at which time he read a paper entitled, "Growling Dogs and Thirsty Deer: Uses of Animal Imagery in Psalmic Rhetoric," in the *Biblical Hebrew Poetry* section. His article, "Hendiadys as an Agent of Rhetorical Enrichment in Biblical Poetry, with Special Reference to Prophetic Discourse," was recently published in *God's Word for our World: Biblical Studies in Honor of Simon John De Vries* (T & T Clark International, 2004), vol. 1, pp. 114-134. During the 2003-04 academic year Kuntz served the department as Chairperson of its Programs Committee. During summer 2004 he was acting chair of the department and in January 2005 he will once again become Director of Graduate Studies. In August 2004 he attended a meeting at the National Endowment on the Humanities in Washington, D.C., where he was a panelist evaluating university faculty research proposals in religious studies. Having turned 70, Kuntz was required to retire this summer from the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist church. At the university he has entered into a two-year stint of phased retirement, not teaching during the fall semesters of 2004 and 2005, but returning to the classroom during the spring semesters of 2005 and 2006. This scarcely finds him less occupied since a few months ago he signed a contract with

Wadsworth Press to write a revision of *The People of Ancient Israel*, his Old Testament textbook which has been out of print for some time.

Raymond A. Mentzer continues to serve as director of the Department. He also remains active in the classroom, teaching a variety of course on early modern European religious culture. Mentzer participated in a number of academic conferences, beginning in mid-September 2003, when he spoke on "The Synod in the Reformed Tradition" at the Conference on the Synod in Christian Tradition held at Bruges (Belgium) and sponsored by the Fondazione per le science religiose Giovanni XXIII (Bologna). The following month, he gave a presentation entitled "Masculinity and the Reformation in France" at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, meeting at Pittsburgh. Along with several others, he offered comments on "The Career of Robert Kingdon" at the annual luncheon of the American Society of Church History, held at Washington D.C., January 2004. In the spring, Mentzer traveled to France to address "Fasting, Piety and Politics in the Reformed Tradition" to an international conference on Protestantisme(s) et autorité, organized by the University of Toulouse. He returned to France in mid-May to participate in an international gathering focusing on the Huguenot political leader Philippe Duplessis-Mornay. Finally, Mentzer gave a series of three seminars on "John Calvin and the Reformed Tradition," at the First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, during April 2004. For five weeks beginning in late-June 2004, he co-directed a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers at the H.H. Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The subject was "John Calvin and the Transformation of Religious Culture in Geneva, France and Beyond." His recent publications include "La chambre de l'Édit de Grenoble," in *Rendre la justice en Dauphiné de 1453 à 2003*, ed. Olivier Cogne (Grenoble: Archives Départementales de l'Isère and Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, 2003), pp. 51-53; "Idéologie réformatrice et comportement quotidien," in *Les deux réformes chrétiennes: propagation et diffusion*, ed. Ilana Zinguer and Myriam Yardeni (Leiden: Brill, 2004), pp. 253-261; "Fashioning Reformed Identity in Early Modern France," in *Confessionalization in Europe, 1555-1700: Essays in Honor and Memory of Bodo Nischan*, ed. John M. Headley, Hans J.

Hillerbrand and Anthony J. Papalas (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004), pp. 243-255; "Disciplina nervus ecclesiae: The Calvinist Reform of Morals at Nîmes," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 18 (1987): 89-115, reprinted in *The Reformation: Critical Concepts in Historical Studies*, ed. Andrew Pettegree (London and New York: Routledge, 2004); and several brief entries: "Belgic Confession of 1561," "Gaspard de Coligny," "Canons of Dort," "Gallican Confession," "Huguenots," "Edict of Restitution," in *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, ed. Hans Hillerbrand, 4 vols. (New York: Routledge, 2004), 1: 213, 447-448, 2: 613-615, 779, 895-898, 3: 1606-1608.

Micheline Pesantubbee is continuing work on her book project, *Choctaw Women in a Chaotic World; the Clash of Cultures in the Colonial Southeast*. In November 2003 she presented a paper on her current research on a Cherokee beloved woman entitled "Nancy Ward: American Heroine or Keeper of the White Path," in a joint session of Native Traditions in the Americas and Women and Religion at the annual American Academy of Religion meeting. She also gave a lecture and moderated a session on Native American Religions at the Interfaith Center of New York in June 2004. In the spring she taught the seminar course for American Indian and Native Studies Program and Introduction to Native American Religious Traditions and this semester she is teaching American Indian Environmentalism and Introduction to American Indian and Native Studies. She continues to co-chair Native Traditions in the Americas and is on the steering committee for Women and Religion for the American Academy of Religion. She is also a candidate for secretary of the American Academy of Religion.

Janine T. A. Sawada is currently pursuing cross-cultural research on religion and society under the auspices of the UI Global Scholar award. In May she published a monograph called *Practical Pursuits: Religion, Politics, and Personal Cultivation in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press). Her essay, "The Confucian Linguistic Community in Late Tokugawa Japan," has appeared in *Confucian Spirituality*, *Encyclopedia of World Spirituality*, ed. Tu Wei-ming and Mary Evelyn Tucker (Crossroad Press). She has also published a review of Helen Hardacre's *Religion and Society in Nineteenth-Century Japan* in the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*. Sawada continues

to serve as president of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions and in that capacity organized a panel this spring called "Veneration and Identity: New Research on Ritual in Japan," held at the Association for Asian Studies conference in San Diego.

Morten Schlütter has now completed his first year in the Department of Religious Studies and is happy to report what a positive experience it has been. He has been busy teaching a number of new courses, and has enjoyed his participation on four dissertation committees. Schlütter has also been working on his book manuscript "When Chan Became Chan: Sectarianism, Patronage and the Quest for Enlightenment in Song-Dynasty (960-1279) Chan Buddhism," which is challenging perceived wisdom about Chan (Zen) Buddhism in China by showing the profound impact government policies and relations with members of the educated elite had on Chan masters and their formulation of competing Chan orthodoxies. His article "The Record of Hongzhi and the Recorded Sayings Literature of Song-Dynasty Chan," in *The Zen Canon*, edited by Steven Heine and Dale S. Wright, New York: Oxford University Press, was recently published, and another article "Vinaya Monasteries, Public Abbeys, and State Control of Buddhism under the Northern Song (960-1127)" in *Going Forth: Visions of Buddhist Vinaya*, edited by William Bodiford, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press is coming out early next year. In September Schlütter participated in a discussion panel entitled "The Cultural Revolution in Context" which was one of the kickoff events for the university's "The Year of the Arts and Humanities." He has also organized a panel on the use of digitized source materials in the study of Asian Buddhism, which has been accepted for the coming annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago. Schlütter is chairing the panel and will be presenting a response paper.

Frederick Smith has maintained active teaching and research agendas in the last year. He is currently teaching a senior seminar on ritual studies and two Sanskrit language courses. He continues as South Asia, Buddhism, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia editor for the *Religious Studies Review*, is editing a volume on the modern practice of Ayurveda (the ancient Indian medical science), and is completing a major backlog of articles and reviews that were left unfinished

while he was completing his volume on deity and spirit possession in South Asia. The latter project is now complete and is being considered by a couple of major university presses.

Ahmed Souaiaia has taught Introduction to Islam in spring and fall semesters, Religion and Politics in the Muslim World (fall 2003), and Human Rights & Islam (spring 2004). He lectured in Arizona State University, University of Washington and held public lectures in a couple of community centers in Iowa City. During the 2003-4 academic year, he finished writing a journal article, "On the Sources of Islamic Law and Practice," *The Journal of Law & Religion*, Vol. 102. Additionally, he has written and published a number of commentary & Op-Ed essays including the following pieces: "Spinning the Intelligence for Political Expediency," "In the Name of Certitude: The Pursuit of Juridical and Political Infallibility in Shi'ite Islam," "Enabling Suffrage Right before Colonizing Mars," "Democracy: Historical Victim of 'Operation Iron Hammer,'" and "Aggression, the Spring of Perpetual Anguish." He was also interviewed by local and regional periodicals.

Richard Turner's book, *Islam in the African-American Experience*, second edition was published (Indiana University Press, November 2003), with a new introduction and updated bibliography. He contributed a chapter, "Islam in the African-American Experience," pp. 445-471, in *The Black Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2004), Jacqueline Bobo, Cynthia Hudley, and Claudine Michel, eds. His article, "The Influence of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X on Hip Hop," appeared in *USA Today*, Vol.133, no.2710 (July 2004), pp.64-66. Turner presented a paper at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting in Atlanta, GA (November, 2003); and lectured at Luther College (January 2004); Williams College (January 2004); Wayne State University (February 2004); and Florida Atlantic University (March 2004). He was a panelist on the National Academies Review for the Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral and Post-doctoral Fellowships for Minorities, Washington D.C. (March 2004). He served on the search committee for the Department of Religious Studies position in Islam; and as Director of graduate studies in African-American World Studies Program. He also created a new course offering titled "Readings in Twentieth-Century African-American Religion: Civil Rights to Hip Hop."

Robert Weir has, at last, seen his most recent book published. The book was co-authored with Robert Olick, J.D., Ph.D., an attorney-ethicist on our program faculty for several years. The book was published in May: Robert Weir and Robert Olick, *The Stored Tissue Issue: Biomedical Research, Ethics, and Law in the Era of Genomic Medicine* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004). Jeff Murray, M.D., one of the internationally known geneticists on the CCOM faculty, was an indispensable consultant throughout the process of writing the book. More recently, Weir has worked with Richard Caplan, M.D. (and very active in retirement), on developing an anthology that revises and updates an anthology that Weir edited in 1980 on the subject of death in literature. The proposed anthology—Robert Weir and Richard Caplan, eds., *Dying, Death, and Afterwards: Human Mortality in Literature*—is currently being reviewed at some publishers. Next: yet another book is waiting to be written. In Weir's real life he enjoys being a husband, father, grandfather, and supportive fan for his favorite team, namely any team playing against the New York Yankees!

THANKS

My thanks to all who returned the alumni surveys. I was able to pass along many good, constructive comments to the faculty for their consideration. Rest assured I've sent all greetings to the appropriate professors.

I also want to thank those who sent publications to the RGSO library. When you visit our web site under "News and Events" we have a link to the list of contributions.

Maureen

Ph.D. Degrees Awarded 2003-04

MAY 2004

Xue Yu “Buddhism, War, and Nationalism: Chinese Monks in the Struggle Against Japan 1931-1945”
(Committee Chair: Professor Janine Sawada)

Department of Religious Studies	
Course Enrollments	
Summer 2003	202
Fall 2003	1,737
Spring 2004	1,891
Student Profile	
Undergraduate Majors	102
Undergraduate Degrees	
Conferred 2002-03	44
Conferred 2003-04	36
Graduate Students Enrolled	
43 Ph.D.; 12 M.A.; 1 P.I.	
Graduate Degrees Conferred	
2003-04	
1 Ph.D.; 6 M.A.	

AN INVITATION

Over the years the Department of Religious Studies has been the recipient of the thoughtful generosity of friends and alumni whose contributions have enriched our program in special ways. We greatly appreciate your gifts and encourage your continued support this year and each year. Gifts of any size are welcome and can be designated for any of the funds listed below. We are currently working to complete the endowment campaign for the V.O. and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Chair of Catholic Studies and would welcome leadership gifts of \$1,000 or more to this fund. Gifts at this level and above will qualify you for membership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Club. The Department’s Gift Fund and Board of Fellows Fund are used primarily for faculty development. There are also funds which the Department uses to help fund lectures, seminars, and student scholarships. For additional information, please call Jeff Liebermann at The University of Iowa Foundation (800/648-6973).

Thank you very much for your ongoing interest and support. Please return this form with your credit card number or check, made payable to The University of Iowa Foundation, Levitt Center for University Advancement, P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, IA 52244-4550.

V.O. Figge and Elizabeth Kahl Figge
 Chair of Catholic Studies (30-143-029)
 ___ \$1,000 ___ other \$_____

Gift Fund (30-143-000)
 Islam Gift Fund (30-143-018)
 Judaica Gift Fund (30-143-017)
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We'd like to remind you that:

- Gifts for the Department of Religious Studies through The University of Iowa Foundation, the UI's preferred channel for private support, qualify as charitable gifts to an I.R.C. Sec. 501 (c) (3) organization for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes.
- Contributors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized as Dean's Club members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences honor roll of contributors. Higher outright or deferred gifts can qualify you for membership in The President's Club.
- Your employer or your spouse's employer may multiply your contribution through a matching gift program. Please ask your human resources director for the appropriate form.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Raymond A. Mentzer

The department is pleased to welcome our most recent colleague Ahmed Souaiaia, who specializes in the study of Islam. You have no doubt read the feature story about him in this issue of the newsletter. Ahmed teaches introductory courses on Islam and the Qur'an as well as more advanced offerings on human rights and Islam, Islamic ethics, and modern Islamic political movements. He is also developing a graduate program in modern comparative Islamic and Middle Eastern studies. This is an important appointment, which represents the attainment of a longstanding departmental goal, supported by the university Provost, the college Dean, and the many friends of religious studies at the University of Iowa. We look forward to Ahmed's continuing contribution to our scholarly discourse.

Within the next several months, we expect to make a faculty appointment in Modern Religious Thought: Theology, Ethics and Culture. The search is well under way for a specialist in the study of relationships between religion, politics and struggles for social justice in the contemporary world. As always, we look forward to introducing another new colleague in next year's newsletter.

Finally, you may have noticed mention in the current newsletter that the Board of Fellows has dissolved. We remain, however, critically dependant on you - our friends throughout Iowa and across the country. Accordingly, the department has established a small Advisory Board whose members will assist in spreading our message and raising the funds necessary to support and strengthen our work. In this very vein, we have, as Jeff Liebermann points out in his accompanying piece, fully endowed chairs in Judaic studies and Reformation studies. A senior appointment to the Figge Chair in Catholic Studies is the next step. Though we are close, we have not yet reached our financial objectives for the project. We hope that you will consider a gift to support the Figge chair. With your help, we can make Catholic studies a permanent feature of our endeavors at the University of Iowa. Needless to say, we would be equally pleased if you choose to contribute to one of the department's other funds. A listing can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. We appreciate everything that you do for us. My colleagues and I hope to see you at upcoming events and ask that you continue to convey your news, suggestions and concerns.

Raymond A. Mentzer

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Raymond A. Mentzer
Director
Maureen Walterhouse
Editor

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PERSPECTIVES
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