



PERSPECTIVES

On Religion

Fall 2008 • Volume 15

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Religious Studies Lecturer

When Jordan Smith was in college, one of his sources of inspiration and instruction was the scholarship of George Nickelsburg, former Chair of the University of Iowa Department of Religious Studies and now a Professor Emeritus. As a freshly minted Ph.D. from Florida State University, Smith is excited to be a Lecturer in the department where Nickelsburg researched and taught.

"Nickelsburg was a major influence on my work in Second Temple Judaism as a graduate student," Smith says. "Coming here and taking up work in the same department and teaching many of the classes that he taught is both a humbling and empowering experience for me."

Smith comes to the UI with an invigorating combination of youthful enthusiasm and solid scholarly achievement. He has already participated in and presented papers at the national and international levels, including conferences at Oxford and in Hungary, and he brings powerful research tools to his work: He has built a foundation in Greco-Roman philosophy, and he reads Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Latin, Syriac and "a little Egyptian," in addition to modern research languages including



Jordan Smith

German, French and Spanish.

And the enthusiasm is immediately palpable. "I get paid to do what I would do in my free time: To read these books, and talk about it, and argue about it!" he exalts. "So it's a great position to be in. I'm thrilled to be here."

What most captivates Smith's interest as a scholar and a teacher is the interaction of Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian ideas concerning afterlife, the immortality of the soul, and martyrdom.

In his dissertation, Smith studied the development of the concept of martyrdom through the writings of Origen of Alexandria (ca. 185-254) for whom martyrdom meant something substantially different than the contemporary definition of "dying for the faith."

"Martyria' refers to physical actions that instruct others, either for good or for bad," Smith explains. "For Origen, it's the larger idea of what my actions tell others. He's someone who has no problem fleeing persecution, and he did so numerous times. But once you are put in the position of choosing death or apostasy, you have to choose death."

"Martyrdom today, especially with 'jihad' in Islam, is a completely different concept than it was for the early Christians, and for the Greeks and the Romans, where it was more a passively giving up of your life."

"My study so far has been limited to Jews, Chris-

Smith (cont'd.)

tians, Greeks and Romans, stopping at about 500. Islam has not emerged on the scene yet. But my goal, eventually, is to learn more about the concept of martyrdom in Islam, and move the study into modern times.”

Smith grew up in a religiously conservative environment in Tennessee, but his intellectual curiosity led him to embark upon a long and sinuous process of learning—a process to which he hopes to invite his students. “The enlightenment for me was that you can study this material and determine how these ideas came about,” he says. “It has interested me to find out that some of the things I took for granted all my life are not originally there in the texts—they come along only later.”

“I’m teaching a course on the development of ideas about afterlife and immortality in Jewish and Christian traditions. When we look at the oldest biblical texts, we don’t have those concepts.”

“It didn’t just go Abraham-Moses-David-Jesus and everything just flew in a straight line to where we are today. It was full of u-turns, and you really needed the Persians and the Greeks to contribute their ideas.”

In his “Jesus and His Interpreters” course, Smith is using canonical and non-canonical texts from the early Christian movement to illuminate the diversity of ideas in this movement. “Talking about Christianity in monolithic terms is just as inappropriate when discussing the early church as it is for Christianity today,” he says. “We are looking at the very different picture of Jesus we get in each of these texts.”

“Was Jesus born of a virgin? Well, my students often don’t realize that only two of the canonical gospels say that, and they don’t agree on how it happened. It’s amazing to really get the diversity, and I think that’s one of the things I most want to do with my students—to battle this idea that there was just this one track—Jesus taught it to his disciples and they all agreed, and they agreed with Paul.”

“Some students come to the classes with a Bible they have had their whole lives, and they think that this is THE word. And I try to explain to them that whenever you read a Bible you are reading a commentary by the people who translated it. What text they used, what words they used to translate into English are all influenced by their beliefs and the agenda they want to put forward.”

“My students are really interested to learn that of the hundreds of manuscripts we have, no two are exactly alike. There is all this stuff going on behind the scenes, and there are radically different views. Paul expected his world to end rather soon. ‘Some of you are not going to die before Jesus comes back.’ But then the temple is destroyed. Jerusalem is destroyed. Where’s Jesus? Somehow they turned this around to make sense of it. It’s just amazing to see the evolution.”

“It’s fascinating to look at how these ideas came to be joined together. We have aspects of Greco-Roman culture and aspects of Jewish culture, and new ideas as well. And why not?”

But Smith acknowledges that undermining the naïve assumptions with which some students enter his classes can be tricky—even dangerous—at a time of resurgent fundamentalism, in which many ministers deliver their messages in dogmatic terms. He believes, however, that the in-depth study and analysis of historical facts is not a threat to faith, and it is necessary to promoting the kind of dialogue that can alleviate polarizing conflicts.

“We discuss things in a respectful, non-antagonistic way, so that students can think about things for themselves,” he explains. “If the exposure of one idea is going to destroy everything that parents and churches have spent 18 years building up, it’s not a very solid base.”

“Belief and faith are necessarily things you cannot prove. We look at the ways in which humans have tried to grapple with and explain their beliefs. Recognizing that humans, to explain things, need vocabulary and ideas and concepts does not necessarily say anything about the ultimate origins of all this. I think it’s actually more empowering to realize that the details are not what are important. Too often we get caught up in details, which leads us into conflicts.”

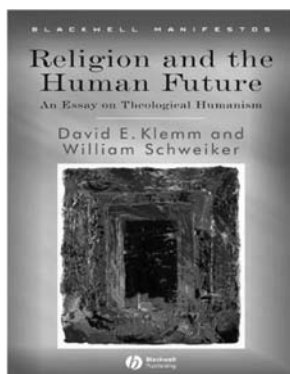
“If we are going to survive, we’ve got to get away from letting the few convince us that we have to be on one side of a given divide or the other. Most of us live in the middle, but we allow people to insist, ‘You are either this or you are that.’ We have to get past that sort of thinking or we will destroy ourselves. It’s a scary time, but I hope that what I am doing, in some small way, is of help.”

By Winston Barclay

Recent Books

Religion and the Human Future: An Essay on Theological Humanism

David E. Klemm and William Schweiker

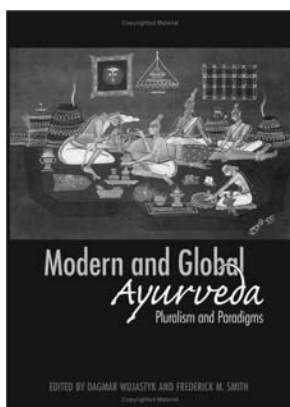


This powerful manifesto outlines a vision called theological humanism which is based on the idea that the integrity of life provides a way to articulate the meaning of religion for the human future. The book explores the quest to understand the meaning

and responsibility of our shared and yet divided humanity amidst the uncertainty of modern society, and sets forth a dynamic and robust vision of human life beyond the divisions that haunt the humanities, social sciences, theology, and religious studies.

Modern and Global Ayurveda: Pluralism and Paradigms

Ed. by Frederick M. Smith and Dagmar Wujastyk



Modern and Global Ayurveda provides an overview of the relatively recent history of Ayurveda in its modern and globalized forms. One of the traditional medical systems originating on the Indian subcontinent, Ayurveda is fast becoming a transnational phenomenon.

Contributors to this volume include both scholars and practitioners of Ayurveda. The wide range of perspectives they offer includes philosophical, anthropological, sociopolitical, economic, biomedical, and pharmacological.

How Zen Became Zen: The Dispute over Enlightenment and the Formation of Chan Buddhism in Song-Dynasty China

Morten Schlütter



How Zen Became Zen takes a novel approach to understanding one of the most crucial developments in Zen Buddhism: the dispute over the nature of enlightenment that erupted within the Chinese Chan (Zen) school in the twelfth century. The famous Linji (Rinzai) Chan master Dahui Zong-

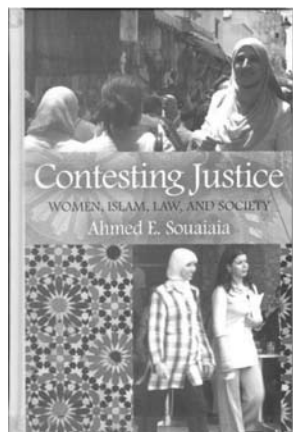
gao (1089–1163) railed against “heretical silent illumination Chan” and strongly advocated *kanhua* (*koan*) meditation as an antidote. In this fascinating study, Morten Schlütter shows that Dahui’s target was the Caodong (Soto) Chan tradition that had been revived and reinvented in the early twelfth century, and that silent meditation was an approach to practice and enlightenment that originated within this “new” Chan tradition. Schlütter has written a refreshingly accessible account of the intricacies of the dispute, which is still reverberating through modern Zen in both Asia and the West. Dahui and his opponents’ arguments for their respective positions come across in this book in as earnest and relevant a manner as they must have seemed almost nine hundred years ago.

Although much of the book is devoted to illuminating the doctrinal and soteriological issues behind the enlightenment dispute, Schlütter makes the case that the dispute must be understood in the context of government policies toward Buddhism, economic factors, and social changes. He analyzes the remarkable ascent of Chan during the first centuries of the Song dynasty, when it became the dominant form of elite monastic Buddhism, and demonstrates that secular educated elites came to control the critical transmission from master to disciple (“procreation” as Schlütter terms it) in the Chan School.

Recent Books (cont'd.)

Contesting Justice: Women, Islam, Law and Society

Ahmed Souaiaia



Contesting Justice examines the development of the laws and practices governing the status of women in Muslim society, particularly in terms of marriage, polygamy, inheritance, and property rights. Ahmed E. Souaiaia argues that such laws were not methodically derived from legal sources but rather are the preserved understanding and practices of the early ruling elite. Based on his quantitative, linguistic, and normative analyses of Qur'ānic texts—and contrary to the established practice—the author shows that these texts sanction only monogamous marriages, guarantee only female heirs' shares, and do not prescribe an inheritance principle that awards males twice the shares of females. He critically explores the way religion is developed and then is transformed into a social control mechanism that transcends legal reform, gender-sensitive education, or radical modernization. To ameliorate the legal, political, and economic status of women in the Islamic world, Souaiaia recommends the strengthening of civil society institutions that will challenge wealth-engendered majoritism, curtail society-manufactured conformity, and bridle the absolute power of the state.

FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

During 2007-2008, **Diana Fritz Cates** completed *Modes of Tending: Thomas Aquinas on the Emotions*, which is an interpretation of Aquinas's theory of emotion from the perspective of religious ethics. This work was supported by a University of Iowa Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant and the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. The book will be published by Georgetown University Press during the coming year. As a teacher, Prof. Cates celebrates the many accomplishments of her students. Jordan Copeland was a fall 2007 graduate. He successfully defended his dissertation, *Rehearsals for Engagement: The Moral Practice of Friendship and the Cultivation of Social Concern*, and took a tenure-track position at LaSalle University. Richard McCarty successfully defended his dissertation, *An Ethical Analysis of Thomas Aquinas and the Virtue of Temperance: Revisiting Sexual Virtue*, and turned to a tenure-track position at Mercyhurst College. Abigail Struck-Marcel completed her undergraduate Honors Thesis, *Justifying Gene Therapy: A Case Study of the French X-SCID Trial*, and turned to medical school at the UI Carver College of Medicine. Prof. Cates continues to serve the department, university, profession, and community in many ways. During 2007-2008 she is Chair of Religious Studies. She served on the 2007 Final Selection Committee of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Competition. She continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, on the Board of Directors for the Society of Christian Ethics, and on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*.

Jay Holstein continues to be fully engaged in undergraduate education teaching four courses every semester that enroll more than 500 students. He also has more than 50 students enrolled in his three Guided Independent Study courses.

Ralph Keen, who has resumed his duties as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Honors Advisor in our department, enjoyed a productive research leave during the spring semester, spending most of his time at the Obermann Center, where this se-

mester he is spending half of his time. During the past year he completed four entries for the *Oxford Handbook to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, edited by Irena Backus; the chapter on the late-medieval and early-modern periods for the *Oxford History of Antisemitism*, edited by Richard Levy and Albert Lindemann; an article on 16th-century Catholic printers for the *Wolfenbütteler Notizen für Buchgeschichte*; and another on the Reformation-era polemicist Georg Witzel for *Catholic Historical Review*. (For *CHR* he also wrote three book reviews during the past year.) During the spring semester Keen presented a paper on François de Sales at the meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association. This past summer his book-length manuscript in modern Jewish Existentialism, *Exile and Restoration in Jewish Thought*, was accepted by T & T Clark in London; final copy will be delivered in December for publication in 2009. Ralph has also signed a contract with Rowman & Littlefield for the second edition of *The Christian Tradition*, the first edition of which (2004) was recently reprinted.

Active in the European Studies Group of International Programs, Keen was awarded a course development grant from IP to create a course on religious identity in the modern secular state, which will be offered next year. This semester, returning to his beloved Reformers, Ralph is conducting a graduate seminar on the reception of the Church Fathers by early-modern religious thinkers, and in November participated in a panel discussion of "New Directions in Reformation/Early-Modern Studies" at the AAR meeting in Chicago. He is also leading the undergraduate Senior Seminar, as well as teaching the second half of Judeo-Christian Tradition.

David Klemm was active during 2007-2008 in teaching, research, and service in the following ways. Klemm taught a graduate seminar on the thought of Paul Ricoeur, a major figure of the twentieth-century; the senior seminar for Religious Studies majors; a course entitled "From Romanticism to Existentialism" on major trends in the religious thought of the nineteenth-century; and "From

Existentialism to Postmodernism" on major trends in the twentieth-century. Two of his doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations, were awarded their Ph.D. degrees, and secured tenure-track positions in their field. J. Sage Elwell's dissertation was entitled "Crisis of Transcendence: Theology, Ethics, and the Arts in Contemporary Culture." Sage finished his dissertation with the benefits of a Ballard-Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, and he is now working as an assistant professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College, in Buchanan, West Virginia. Kelly A. Armstrong wrote on "Epistemological Hermeneutics in Clinical Praxis: Appropriating Paul Ricoeur," and she works as a clinical ethicist in the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois. Klemm also supervised the successful M.A. program of Matthew Creswell, and he served as a committee member for two other doctoral dissertations.

Klemm's publishing program continues apace. The following works appeared in 2007-2008. He published a book, co-authored with Professor William Schweiker of the University of Chicago, entitled *Religion and the Human Future: An Essay on Theological Humanism* (Blackwell Publishing: Oxford and New York, 2008). In addition, Klemm published "Philosophy and Kerygma: Ricoeur as Reader of the Bible," as Chapter 3 in a volume entitled *Reading Ricoeur*, edited by David Kaplan (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2008), pp. 47-70. An article co-authored with William H. Klink, Professor of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa, entitled "Consciousness and Quantum Mechanics: Opting from Alternatives," appeared in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, vol. 43, no. 2 (June, 2008), pp. 307-28. Klemm also published "Kunstreligion and Early German Romanticism: Schleiermacher and Caspar David Friedrich," in a book entitled *Schleiermacher, Romanticism, and the Critical Arts* that was published as a special issue of *New Athenaeum/Neues Athenaeum: A Scholarly Journal Specializing in Schleiermacher Research and Nineteenth-Century Studies* VIII (2007), pp. 41-66.

In the world of academic conferences, Klemm made several appearances. He gave a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, entitled “Delicate Distinctions: Secular, Religious, and Theological Humanisms,” for a session on Religion and Humanism. His prepared paper, “Hymns to the Holy,” was one of two featured lectures on the recent intermedia art of Hans Breder, at a program entitled “Bodily Consciousness: An Alchemical Concert” at the Society for the Arts, Religion, and Contemporary Culture at the Museum of Biblical Art, in New York City. Finally, he gave two papers, “Response to Altizer” and “The Catholic Otherness in Altizer’s Theology” at “Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Theology and Critique,” an interdisciplinary conference at the University of Iowa, in March, 2008. The major speaker was Thomas J. J. Altizer, world-renowned theologian. Klemm was conference organizer of the event (with massive help from his doctoral advisee, Daniel Boscaljon, and administrative assistant, Maureen Walterhouse). Major support for the conference came from Dean Linda Maxson of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through the Perry A. and Helen Judy Bond Fund for Interdisciplinary Interaction, as well as from the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of English, and the UI program in International Studies.

In the area of service to the profession, Klemm continues his work on the Steering Committee of the Schleiermacher Group of the American Academy of Religion, and on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (JAAR) and *Literature and Theology: An International Journal of Religion, Theory, and Culture*. He served as an external reviewer for tenure and promotion decisions at peer institutions, the Canadian Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. He also served as an external reviewer for three university presses.

Raymond Mentzer stepped down as director of the Department of Religious Studies in August and is currently enjoying a Career Development Leave. During the past year,

Mentzer taught courses on Traditions of Religious Reform and Religious Conflict in the Early Modern Period. His research program has meant the publication of several book chapters: “Communities of Worship and the Reformed Churches of France,” in *Defining Community in Early Modern Europe*, Michael Halverson and Karen Spierling (eds.) (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), pp. 25-42; “Masculinity and the Reformation in France,” in *Masculinity in the Reformation Era*, Scott Hendrix and Susan Karant-Nunn (eds.) (Kirksville, Mo.: Truman State University Press, 2008), pp. 120-139; “Theory in Practice: Calvin’s Ecclesiology in the French Churches,” in *Calvinus sacramentum literarum interpretis. Papers of the International Congress on Calvin Research*, Herman Selderhuis (ed.) (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2008), pp. 209-222; and “Calvin und Frankreich,” in *Calvin Handbuch*, Herman Selderhuis (ed.) (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008), pp. 78-87. Mentzer wrote book reviews for the *Sixteenth Century Journal*, *American Journal of Legal History*, *Cristianesimo nella Storia*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Religious Studies Review*, and *Journal of Religion in Europe*. He presented papers at the Biennial Calvin Colloquium sponsored by Erskine Seminary, the annual meeting of the American Society of Church History, and the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference. Mentzer is current president of the Calvin Studies Society and the American delegate to the *Commission Internationale d’Histoire et d’Études du Christianisme*. His 2007 article “Fasting, Piety and Political Anxiety among French Reformed Protestants,” *Church History* 76 (2007), pp. 330-362 won the 2008 Harold J. Grimm Prize for the year’s best article in Reformation studies.

Micheline Pesantubbee continues her work with the American Academy of Religion. In December 2007 she completed her term as Executive Secretary and began serving on the Program Committee. She also republished her article on “Beyond Domesticity: Choctaw Women Negotiating the Tension Between Choctaw Culture and Protestantism with a new Introduction” in *Native Women’s History in Eastern North America before 1900* published by the University of Nebraska Press. She presented a paper titled “‘Bearly’ Understandable: Transformation from Human to Bear

and Man to Woman,” for the Animals and Religion Consultation and was a panelist for a session on “Native American Religious Traditions: The Future of the Field and the Influence of Inés Talamantez,” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. She was also a panelist on “Can the Subaltern Speak? Revisited: Gender, Colonialism, and the Politics of History in Noenoe Silva’s *Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism*,” at the annual Native American and Indigenous Studies International Meeting. She is starting a new book project on the Shawnee Movement of 1805-1813.

Howard Rhodes spent the spring semester on developmental leave at the Obermann Center for Advanced Study. He continues to work on a book project at the intersection of Christian theology, virtue ethics, and political philosophy. Building on work from his annual course on Christian just war tradition and international relations, he has increasingly focused on just war ethics as the book’s central concern. In the spring semester, he will deliver a series of lectures on the law of war in a course at the University of Iowa, College of Law. Also in the spring semester, Rhodes will deliver a paper on George Santayana, democratic citizenship, and the spiritual life at a conference at the University of North Carolina–Greensboro to honor the great scholar of American pragmatism, Henry Levinson. He is looking forward to teaching the department’s Religion and Society course in the spring.

Morten Schlütter this year became the most recently tenured faculty member in the department, at which occasion he also received a Dean’s Scholar Award (see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter). In July, his long-standing book-project on Chinese Chan (Zen) Buddhism in the twelfth century was published, and he is now working on a new book on the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*, a key scripture of Chan Buddhism that exists in a number of different versions. His new book is under contract with University of Hawai’i Press. Schlütter is also the co-editor of a volume on the *Platform Sutra* that is under contract with Columbia University Press.

In the past year Schlütter gave a paper at the Symposium on Literati Buddhism, organized by the Center for Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, entitled “The Literati Role in the Evolution of Chan Ideology as Seen Through the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*.” He also presented a paper, “Problematizing the Digital: The Use and Misuse of Electronic Text in the Study of Chinese Buddhist History” to the Joint International Conference on Digital Buddhist Studies, organized by The Electronic Buddhist Text Initiative and the Chinese Buddhist Electronic Text Association, Taipei, Taiwan. He further gave a talk at Luther College, Decorah, IA, entitled “The *Platform Sutra* as Contested Space.” Finally, Schlütter gave a presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, entitled “Electronic Resources for the Study of Chinese Religions: Reflections on Current and Future Impact and Directions.” Schlütter also published some book reviews, and reviewed book manuscripts for publication for University of Hawai’i Press and Columbia University Press.

Frederick M. Smith completed an edited book (with Dagmar Wujastyk of Bonn University), *Global and Modern Ayurveda: Pluralism and Paradigms* (State University of New York Press), which appeared in July 2008, and for which he wrote the introduction. The book, based on two conferences at Cambridge University, addresses the practice of and research into the ancient Indian medical system known as Ayurveda. He has several articles and book reviews in press, and spoke at a number of conferences and forums during 2008, including the University of Charleston, Fairfield University (Connecticut), and Panjab University (Chandigarh, India); was a keynote speaker at a conference on Therapeutic Practices against the Norm, in Pondicherry, India (paper title: “Three approaches to possession and mental health care: *Sattvāvajaya*, the Bālājī temple in Rajasthan, and the Muthusamy temple in Tamil Nadu”), and at a conference on Ritual

Dynamics and the Science of Ritual in Heidelberg, Germany (paper title: “The interrelations between Vedic ritual and Hindu temple construction in modern India: a case study from Maharashtra”). He was also a speaker at the 2008 AAR in Chicago on a panel addressing issues of comparative ritual in India and China, and was the discussant on a panel on cross-cultural and religious healing practices. He hopes that his book, an annotated translation and study of the Āśvamedhika parvan (the book of the horse Sacrifice) of the Indian national epic, the *Mahābhārata*, will be completed by next summer (to be published by the University of Chicago Press). His 2006 book *The Self Possessed: Deity and Spirit Possession in South Asian Literature and Civilization* (which won an award: Choice academic title, book of the year for 2007) is being reprinted in India (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2008). Fred spent the summer in India, largely dealing with the almost unimaginable challenges of home improvement in the Himalayas.

Professor **Ahmed Souaiaia** had a very busy academic year. His book *Contesting Justice: Women, Islam, Law, and Society* (SUNY Press, 2008) was released in March and soon after that he was invited to discuss it and deliver the keynote address in the Feminist Jurisprudence Conference, Hamline Law School (April 11, 2008). He was invited for several other talks to discuss topics covered in his book as well as address current events. In fall semester, two of his articles: “She’s Upright: Sexuality and Obscenity in Islam” (Brill Academic Publishers) and “Politics of Appearances: Religion, Law, and the Press in Morocco” (Muslim World Journal of Human Rights) were published. He also had a most active teaching year providing oversight for the Arabic program while conducting the search to hire a permanent Arabic lecturer. This added seven outside courses in addition to his regular four courses a year for the department. He also supervised eight Senior and Honors Projects involving students who are

primarily affiliated with the new and emerging emphasis area through the International Programs.

Richard Brent Turner’s book, *Jazz Religion, The Second Line, And Black New Orleans* was accepted for publication by Indiana University Press in August, 2008 and it will appear in August, 2009. His essay, “Constructing Masculinity: Interactions between Islam and African-American Youth since *The Black Muslims In America*” will appear in Manning Marable and Hishaam Aidi, eds., *Islam and Black America* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). His book chapter, “Islam and African Americans” was published in Howard Dodson and Colin Palmer, eds., *Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience: Origins* (Michigan State University Press, The New York Public Library, and Proquest, 2008), pp. 169-221. In August, 2008, Dr. Turner completed an essay “Malcolm X and Youth Culture” which will be published in Robert Terrill, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Malcolm X* (Cambridge University Press). He reviewed a book manuscript for New York University Press in 2008. His article, “The Gede in New Orleans: Vodou Ritual in Big Chief Tootie Montana’s Jazz Funeral” was published in *Journal of Haitian Studies*, vol. 12, no. 1 (Spring 2006): 96-115; and he read the article at KOSANBA (The Congress of Santa Barbara) International Colloquium at University of Massachusetts, Boston in November 2007. Dr. Turner was appointed to the Board of Directors of KOSANBA, A Scholarly Association for the Study of Haitian Vodou in November 2007. He received an Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant from The University of Iowa in 2008 to begin research on a new book project, “Civil Rights to Hip Hop: The African-American Muslim Christian Connection.” Dr. Turner is in his third year as Coordinator of the university’s African American Studies Program which has 15 faculty who teach courses for the undergraduate major and minor in African American Studies.

Religious Studies Marks the Retirement of Dwight Bozeman



Dwight Bozeman

It was with great celebration, but also with a tinge of sadness, that the Department of Religious Studies, along with the Department of History, marked the retirement of Professor T. Dwight Bozeman in the spring of 2008. Our good colleague came to the UI in 1974 and was on the faculty for 34 years.

Professor Bozeman taught a range of undergraduate courses under the canopy of “religion in America.” His most popular courses exposed undergraduates to the dizzying array of religions in the U.S., including traditions outside the mainstream, such as Shakerism, Mormonism, Pentecostalism, Black Islam, Scientology, and the Christian Identity theologies of the racist right. Professor Bozeman was also fond of teaching the Senior Seminar, a capstone course that brings our many Religion Majors together to integrate their learning, in extended conversation with a professor, but more importantly in conversation with each other.

Professor Bozeman is aware that, all in all, he has taught well over 3000 undergraduates in his career. It must be deeply satisfying to ponder the thousands and thousands of ripples created by a lifetime of skillful teaching.

Professor Bozeman was very successful in the world of graduate instruction as well. He led 15 Ph.D. students to the completion of their degrees. He has 4 more Ph.D.’s in progress at this time. He served faithfully on many comprehensive exam and dissertation defense committees chaired by others.

As a faculty colleague, Professor Bozeman stands out as a person of remarkable intelligence, diligence, and devotion to the good of the department. He is a highly productive scholar who wrote or contributed substantially to several acclaimed books on Puritanism in America, most recently *The Precisianist Strain: Disciplinary Religion and Antinomian Backlash in Puritanism to 1638* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2004).

My own favorite memory of Professor Bozeman is easy to identify. He is an avid gardener, and he would often bring the secretary and the Assistant to the Director one of his prized roses in a vase that was kept handy for just this purpose. He also brought berries when they were in season. This sort of basic kindness and generosity was always evident in Professor Bozeman, and they enhanced the environment of Gilmore Hall.

Here’s wishing Dwight Bozeman a fond farewell and many rewarding years ahead.

Diana Fritz Cates

The 500-Year Flood: A Personal Report

In 1993 the campus was hit with the 100 year flood. Being 7 months pregnant and without running water in my house for almost 2 months I remember it well. Who would have guessed that just 15 years later the campus would be inundated again, but worse. Words cannot describe the sights of this past summer's flooding in Iowa, and even the pictures only partially capture the essence of the tragedy. It never ceases to amaze me, however, the way people can pull together in times of need. Even before the calls went out for help with sandbagging or help moving library books, the people of Iowa City and beyond were there. You can find pictures of students from many cultures, children, and Amish men working side by side. They turned out in droves to try to save the University campus. I've included a few pictures here. For more photos I encourage you to go to the following web site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uinews/sets/>



Dubuque Street and Mayflower Residence Hall

Photo by Tom Jorgensen, University News Services

The worst hit on campus were the Iowa Advanced Technology Labs, the Iowa Memorial Union, and the entire Arts campus. Workers did a fantastic job of moving everything to the upper floors of the Main Library in time to save all of the books, including the Special Collections that were housed in the basement, which took on water. Hancher scrambled to find alternative venues for its 2008-09 season, but in the end about half of the events were cancelled. The art studios were relocated to the empty Menards Building on Highway 1, now dubbed "Studio Arts Building." The School of Music classes have been scattered all over Iowa City including West High School, Preucil School of Music, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, Congregational

United Church of Christ, Newman Catholic Center, and Trinity Episcopal Church, just to name a few.

The University sustained millions of dollars in damage to its facilities. A price cannot be placed on the personal loss many faculty suffered, not only to their homes and offices, but some faculty in the sciences lost years worth of research. I cannot guess how long the recovery from this year's flood will take. Anyone wishing to contribute directly to the flood relief effort, please visit this web site: <https://www.uifoundation.org/GiveToIowa/WebObjects/GiveToIowa.woa/wa/goTo?area=floodfund>.



UI Art Museum

Photo by Tom Jorgensen, University News Services

Two weeks after the water receded I took thirty minutes to drive around the downtown and Czech Village areas of Cedar Rapids—some of the worst hit by the flooding. Having worked in the downtown area years ago, I wanted to see firsthand the devastation. Trying to be respectful to the many who lost everything, I took no pictures and did not linger in any one place. The sights were overwhelming. As I said above, words could never describe.

Maureen Walterhouse

Dean's Scholar

In 2008, Morten Schlütter, Associate Professor of Chinese Religions, was awarded the prestigious Dean's Scholar Award. This is a faculty development award that recognizes newly-promoted faculty members who excel in both teaching and scholarship or creative work. It is a two-year award that carries a grant of \$5,000 per year. With this award, Prof. Schlütter plans to complete a book on the *Platform Sutra*, which is perhaps the most famous of all Chinese Buddhist texts and a key scripture of the Chan school which came to dominate Chinese monastic Buddhism by the tenth century. Prof. Schlütter will use the *Platform Sutra* as a window through which a number of crucial changes and developments within Chan ideology and doctrine can be observed diachronically, challenging several common notions about Chan and providing a new perspective on the evolution of Chan Buddhism.

2007-2008 Doctor of Philosophy

AUGUST 2007

Verna Marina Ehret “Globalization and the Future of a Theology of Redemption: Beyond Fundamentalism and Postmodernism.” (Committee Chair: Professor David E. Klemm)

Joan Malia Henriksen Hellyer “The Good Nurse: Recovering the Virtue of Obedience for the Work of Health Care Teams” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Diana Fritz Cates)

Christopher James Kelly “The Sound of the Watchman: Mimetic Exegesis and the Monastic Ideal in Cassian’s ‘Conferences’.” (Committee Co-Chairs: Professor Raymond A. Mentzer and Associate Professor Ralph Keen)

DECEMBER 2007

Kelly Ann Armstrong “Epistemological Hermeneutics in Clinical Praxis: Appropriating Paul Ricoeur.” (Committee Chair: Professor David E. Klemm)

Jordan Joel Copeland “Rehearsals for Engagement: The Moral Practice of Friendship and the Cultivation of Social Concern.” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Diana Fritz Cates)

MAY 2008

Michael Charles Baltutis “The Festival of Indra: The Construction of a South Asian Urban Celebration.” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Frederick M. Smith)

J. Sage Elwell “Crisis of Transcendence: Theology, Ethics, and the Arts in Contemporary Culture.” (Committee Chair: Professor David E. Klemm)

Pankaj Jain “Sustaining Dharma, Sustaining Ecology: Perspectives from Swadhyayis, Bishnois, and Bhils in India.” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Frederick M. Smith)

Richard William McCarty “An Ethical Analysis of Thomas Aquinas and the Virtue of Temperance: Revisiting Sexual Virtue.” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Diana Fritz Cates)

Eric John Rothgery “Generating and Mediating Religious Identities: Islamic Healing Rituals Shared by Hindus and Muslims in the Dargahs of Hyderabad, India.” (Committee Chair: Associate Professor Frederick M. Smith)

Robert Steed “To Extend Love to All Creeping Things: Ethics in Ge Hong’s Baopuzi.” (Committee Chair: Assistant Professor Morten Schlütter)

Department of Religious Studies	
Course Enrollments	
Summer 2007	96
Fall 2007	1,632
Winter 2006	96
Spring 2008	1,707
Student Profile	
Undergraduate Majors	66
Undergraduate Degrees Conferred 2007-08	28
Graduate Students Enrolled	
29 Ph.D.; 4 M.A.	
Graduate Degrees Conferred 2007-08	
11 Ph.D.; 4 M.A.	

Fifth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts Planned

Under the leadership of Professor David Klemm, with the help of his Ph.D. student, Daniel Boscaljon, and with the support of many other graduate students, colleagues, and units from around the university, the Department of Religious Studies is planning a Fifth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts for the spring of 2009. The theme will be “Reading the Book of Nature.”

This conference has grown tremendously over previous versions. It began as an informal collection of papers offered by graduate students in Religious Studies, English, Art and Art History, American Studies, Rhetoric, Communication Studies, and other departments, with faculty participation from some of those departments. The second year added a keynote speaker—Professor David Jasper, Director of the Centre for the Study of Literature, Theology and the Arts at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Professor Jasper’s appearance stimulated additional faculty participation. The third year included an address by Professor Donald Kuspit, Department of Art History and Criticism at SUNY, Stony Brook. Donald Kuspit is a distinguished art critic in New York City, and his Friday evening lecture drew a full house with standing room only in the main lecture hall in the Art Building. The Saturday paper sessions grew during the third year,



David Jasper, Thomas Altizer, David Klemm, and Dan Boscaljon

with double sessions being offered concurrently. Last year, Thomas J. J. Altizer, the famous “death-of-God” theologian, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at SUNY Stony Brook, and Professor David Jasper both presented lectures to large, enthusiastic audiences. Several additional faculty presented papers on a Friday afternoon, and four concurrent paper panels ran all day the next day. The faculty papers included two presentations from the UI (Professor Lori Branch from English and Professor David Klemm from Religious Studies), Professor Alison Jasper from the University of Stirling, Scotland, and Professor Mattias Martenson from the University of Uppsala, Sweden. Presenters on Saturday included assistant professors from four or five institutions and graduate students from Religious Studies and English at the UI and from a variety of other universities, including several from the University of Chicago, Indiana University, one from Montreal, two from California, and so forth. The 2009 conference promises to involve more faculty and graduate students than ever.

Each year money must be raised to hold this conference. The department would greatly appreciate gifts for the 2009 conference and beyond. To support this conference is to promote the study of the many contributions that literature and the arts make to diverse forms of religious life. It is also to enhance the graduate study of religion at Iowa in dramatic ways: the conference provides our students with the opportunity to converse with top scholars in religious studies and related fields, to learn what is involved in organizing and holding a conference, and to make scholarly presentations that further their academic careers. The conference also allows recent Ph.D.’s to gain additional experience presenting papers.

Gifts can be sent to the UI Foundation, Department of Religious Studies Gift Fund earmarked for “Religion, Literature, and the Arts.”

JOB PLACEMENTS

We are pleased to report new positions of our recent graduates.

Kelly Armstrong (karmstrong@siumed.edu) is the senior ethics consultant at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois, a tertiary acute care teaching hospital. In this capacity she analyzes and facilitates resolution of ethical questions, issues, or conflicts in patient care and research, especially in emotionally charged end-of-life situations such as withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. She works directly with patients and their healthcare providers, as well as consulting at the state level regarding public policy. Additionally, Dr. Armstrong is Associate Director for Illinois's regional ethics consortium, and she engages in regular teaching responsibilities with SIU School of Medicine as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Humanities

Michael Baltutis (michael-baltutis@uiowa.edu) is Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He is teaching courses on religions of Asia and religious ritual. Michael is also teaching "Living Religions of the East" both fall and spring semesters for the Department of Religious Studies at The University of Iowa.

Jordan Copeland (copeland@lasalle.edu) is Assistant Professor of Religion at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Jordan is offering undergraduate courses in "The Christian Tradition," "Contemporary Moral Issues," and "Contemporary Religious Thought." At the graduate level his courses include "Principles of Moral Theory" and "Issues in Health Care." Jordan is also developing a course with a professor from Biology entitled, "Playing God: Scientific Discoveries and Religious/Moral Concerns."

Verna Ehret (vehret@mercyhurst.edu) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania. Verna will be teaching "Religious Person and Tradition," as well as courses in social ethics and Christology over the next year.

Steven Fink (finksr@uwec.edu) is Assistant Professor in Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Most of Steven's courses focus on world religions or Islam.

Joan Henriksen Hellyer (henriksenhellyer.joan@mayo.edu) is Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Bioethics Research program at Mayo Clinic,

Rochester. Joan is doing qualitative bioethics research sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute of the NIH. In this project she interviews people regarding their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs about donating their DNA for genetic research. Bioethics Research is particularly interested in research involving biobanks, where DNA is stored indefinitely and is likely to be shared widely. It is expected that the results of the research will guide the governance of biobanks as well as the development of data-sharing policies.

Richard McCarty (rmccarty@mercyhurst.edu) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania. Rich will be developing and teaching courses on "Social Ethics," "Religious Perspectives on Sexuality," "Marriage and Family," and "Concepts of Liberation."

J. Sage Elwell (elwell@wvwc.edu) is Assistant Professor of Religion at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Sage is offering courses in religion, culture and the arts.

Christopher Kelly (kellyc@sacredheart.edu) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. His course offerings include "Introduction to the Study of Religion" and "The Human Search for Truth, Justice, and the Common Good," a capstone course to SHU's core curriculum. Chris will also be teaching an elective course each semester. This fall the course will be "The Development of Christian Thought." In the spring of 2009, he will teach "The Western Monastic Ideal."

Pankaj Jain (pankajaindia@gmail.com) is Lecturer in the Foreign Languages and Literature Department at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He will offer instruction in Hindi. You can see his syllabi and bio online at www.indicuniversity.org.

Robert Steed (robert.steed@hawkeyecollege.edu) is Instructor in East Asian Cultures in the Humanities Department at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa. Robert's courses include "East Asian Cultures," "Introduction to World Religions," "Asian Religious Traditions," "Japanese History and Culture," and "Independent Study in Japanese language."

Congratulations to all!!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR 2008



Diana Fritz Cates

I am pleased to serve as DEO of the Department of Religious Studies while Raymond Mentzer enjoys a year-long research leave. From the first day I began serving in this position, I have been gaining valued perspective on my department of 18 years. I have appreciated more than ever Maureen Walterhouse's devotion, competence, and hard work. I have also been "wowed" by the gifts and accomplishments of our faculty. This newsletter is partly an opportunity to spread the word about the faculty's impressive scholarship, teaching, and service.

One of the most exciting things we do as a department is to add new faculty and instructors. Last spring we hired Dr. Jordan Smith to join the department as Instructor of Biblical Studies. Dr. Smith has wonderful ideas about how to extend undergraduate learning with respect to biblical texts and the cultural contexts within which they were composed. Last summer our colleague in Japanese Religions, Dr. Janine Sawada, left Iowa to take a position at Brown University. During the current academic year, we are carrying out a search for a new faculty member in Japanese Religions and Culture.

Looking back on the life of the department over the past year, what stands out most in my view are the accomplishments of our graduate students. As this newsletter reveals, no fewer than eleven of our students earned their Ph.D.s and are now realizing the fruits of their labor in teaching positions or other positions of intellectual leadership. Never before have I seen such a large and successful contingent of Ph.D. degree-earners within a single year. Several other graduate students are getting ready to follow the lead of their colleagues. Thanks to the strength of our Religion Graduate Student Organization, the faculty are not alone in the joys of coaching graduate students to educational and professional success; our Ph.D. graduates consistently give back to the department and to the graduate student community in the form of mentoring.

Gilmore Hall was not directly affected by the flooding over the summer of 2008. However, we acknowledge with sadness the losses that have been sustained by other colleagues, staff, and students around the university, and other people in the Iowa City and surrounding communities, whose lives and careers have been deeply affected by this event.

Looking ahead, it is important to acknowledge the significant financial needs of the department. Let me highlight three of these. First, we seek ways of increasing graduate student support, particularly in the form of competitive dissertation-year scholarships. Second, we would like to see our highly successful Religion and the Arts conference, spearheaded by Dr. David Klemm, acquire financial backing and security. Third we need to press forward on meeting the financial requirements of filling the V.O. and Elizabeth Figge Chair of Catholic Studies. The department is actively engaged in all of these initiatives, and we would very much appreciate your help.

At a time of financial instability in this country and around the world, the department is unmoved in its commitment to educate the people of Iowa, the hundreds of undergraduates who fill our classes, and the next generation of Religious Studies scholars and teachers. We will not flag in our efforts to promote understanding and critical reflection concerning the roles that religions around the world play in shaping personal lives, communities, political interactions, and international relations. As always, we will strive to raise the level of discourse on religion in public life. Please consider a donation to the department. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support our educational enterprise.

Perspectives On Religion is published by The University of Iowa Department of Religious Studies. Publication of this newsletter was made possible by support from the M. Willard Lampe Fund and the Alice Marguerite Blough Development Fund.

Diana Fritz Cates
Director
Maureen Walterhouse
Editor

72871/11-08
Printed by the
UI Printing Department

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