



Department of Religious Studies
NEWSLETTER
2006-07/FALL 2006/Volume 7

Greetings from the Chair:

It is sometimes difficult for me to believe I am beginning my 19th year at the College of William and Mary, as I remember so vividly when I came for a visit in August of 1989, liked what I saw, and called Ohio State University from the Williamsburg Hospitality House to inform them I resigned. Now beginning my eighth year as Chair of this fabulous department, I never imagined how wonderful my students and colleagues would be. Of course, when I joined the department it already had a good reputation for teaching, but I believe that over the past almost two decades we have grown into a department with a reputation for teaching excellence and scholarly productivity. The program we have created in the past 15 or so years, with generous support from the administration, has grown by leaps and bounds. We have a larger and more diverse faculty. We offer a much greater selection of courses, in areas never before taught at W&M, with a growing number of students each year. Both inside and outside the classroom, the Religious Studies program has developed unprecedented strength and vibrancy, enriching the campus and even beyond. I am continually privileged to guide this program as it continues to grow even stronger.

At professional meetings and other scholarly gathering spots, I am continually exhilarated by our reputation among alumni, and among those who have met former students and teachers in our program. They are our best ambassadors, more so than the books we write and the papers we deliver and the public lectures we present. Over and over, away from the college, as I publicize our programs and talk about my colleagues, it has been gratifying to know how well-recognized we are around the country and how meaningful a role so many of our alumni and former teachers have begun to play.

I draw my strength from my students and from my colleagues – from the synergy of our faculty and their enthusiasm for teaching and from the lectures and discussions that take place outside the classroom walls. And, as always, much of what we do depends on the generosity of our dedicated supporters. I hope you will contact me, or any of my colleagues, if you want to know about the excitement that currently electrifies the Wren.

Sincerely,

Marc L. Raphael, Nathan and Sophia Gumenick Professor of Judaic Studies, Professor of Religious Studies, Director of the Program in Judaic Studies, and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies

The Faculty Changes

On Leave Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

Alison Beach
Maureen Fitzgerald

On Leave Spring 2007

Julie Galambush

Visiting Professors, 2006-2007

Suzanne Bessenger: M.A., University of Virginia; teaching Hinduism and Gods and Goddesses (F'06 & S'07).

Kevin Jung: Ph.D., University of Chicago Divinity School; teaching Introduction to the History of Christianity (F'06 & S'07), Contemporary Christian Thought (F'06), Theory and Method (F'06), What is Freedom (S'07), and Sex and Sexuality in the Christian Tradition (S'07).

Raj Nadella (Spring 07): M.Div. and M.A.B.L., Union Theological Seminary – PSCE; teaching Jesus and the Gospels.

Donald Polaski: Ph.D. and M.Div., Duke University; teaching History and Religion of Ancient Israel (F'06 & S'07) and Hebrew Prophets (S'07).

Matthew White: M.L.A., University of Richmond; teaching African American Religions (F'06), Sects and Cults (S'07), and a Topics course (S'07).

The Faculty News

Michael Daise: During 2005-2006, Professor Daise taught courses in Christian Origins, the Gospel of John, Ritual in Early Judaism and Christianity and, for Classical Studies, New Testament Greek. He has recently completed a monograph for Mohr Siebeck Publishers, Tübingen, Germany – *Feasts in John: Jewish Festivals and Jesus' 'Hour' in the Fourth Gospel*, due to be in print during the spring of 2007.

Julie Galambush: Since the publication of *The Reluctant Parting: How the New Testament's Jewish Writers Created a Christian Book* last November, Julie has been having the time of her life traveling and lecturing in churches, synagogues, museums, and such. She is currently working on materials to help teachers in

synagogues and Jewish day schools understand how to talk about Christianity in Jewish contexts.

David Holmes: In May, Oxford University Press published David L. Holmes's book, *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers*. He also completed a long article on recent William and Mary history entitled "William and Mary in 1965." During the year, Mr. Holmes spoke at a number of colleges, libraries, bookstores, and conferences, none in Florida. He continues to teach courses in American religious history, the interdisciplinary freshman seminar on World War II, and the new course on religion, architecture, and worship.

John Morreall: Professor Morreall was on research leave for 2005-2006, working on his third book on the philosophy of humor, *I Think Therefore I Amuse*. For 2004 and 2005, he was President of the International Society for Humor Studies. In September, he gave the Martel lecture on "Leadership and Humor" at Temple University. In addition to several articles on humor, Prof. Morreall published "Is God in Heaven?" in the *Journal of Higher Criticism*, and articles on consumerism and religion, and militarism and religion. This year he will complete the book on humor and collaborate on another with Bob Mankoff, Cartoon Editor of the *New Yorker*.

Marc Lee Raphael: Professor Raphael began his eighth year as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and in the same month completed editing the 18 essays (and his introduction) in the forthcoming *Columbia History of Jews and Judaism in America*. During the summer he and Judith Abrams coedited *What is Jewish about America's Natinal Pasttime: Essays on Jews, Judaism and Baseball* (William and Mary, 2006). He completed his 18th year as Director of the Program in Judaic Studies.

Tamara Sonn: Professor Sonn has been involved in a number of projects combining Religious and International Studies. As a fellow at the Reves Center last year she hosted campus-wide events in which Prince Hassan of Jordan discussed "The Prospects for Peace in the Middle East," and Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi of Iran, who discussed "Islam, Human Rights, and Democracy." During the summer of 2006, she convened a conference at the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Islamic Education Reform. The conference was supported by the United States Education Foundation in Pakistan. She is currently editor-in-chief of a new journal of Religious Studies for Blackwell, the Religion Compass. Professor Raphael and Professor Vose are also editors for the journal. You

can see it on-line at http://www.blackwell-compass.com/home_religion_compass.

Kevin Vose: Professor Vose is serving as co-editor of the Buddhism section of Blackwell's online journal, *Religious Compass*; reviewing books on Tibetan Buddhism for the Journal of Asian History and the Journal of Asian Studies; teaching two new courses, Zen and Tibetan Religion, and two old courses, Buddhism and Religion in East Asia. He will be presenting a paper at the national meeting of the America Academy of Religion in Washington D.C. on the possibilities of value-free logic in a religiously plural setting within a panel that he organized examining the seventh century Indian, Candrakirti. Professor Vose is trying to finish a book manuscript that has been accepted by Wisdom Publications, tentatively titled *Refiguring Candrakirti: A Buddhist Debate on Perfection*.

Honors Theses 2006

M. Vail, "Music of the Gods: The Intersection of Music and Religion in the Indian Tradition" (Advisor: R. Mann)

Alumni News

Amy Hargar Buchanan '97: Amy continues her work as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Her new hobby is scrapbooking. Husband, Stephen, and sons, Jack and Colin, are doing well.

Rachel Hamberger '03: Rachel lives in NoVA and is working as a behavior therapist for children with autism. She completed her masters in infant special education at George Washington University over the summer and she hopes to be teaching soon.

David Hildebrand '03: David, aka "Raphael" in the modeling world, recently appeared on E-TV. He's doing catering as well and he's living in the Big Apple.

Michael Murphy '93: Mike worked in special ed in Manassas (1993-95) and in residence life and student activities at the University of New Hampshire (1995-97). He studied College Student Personnel Admin at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (1997-99). He returned to residence life, taught a few courses, and was an academic advisor at Sonoma State University, in

addition to conducting wine tours (1999-2002). He married Dr. Geneve Allison in Alameda, CA on November 28, 2003. Mike was general manager for the on-campus student apartments at San Francisco State University (2002-04). Currently, he and his wife reside in Boston where he works in the development office at the Harvard Business School.

Owen Phelan '98: Owen successfully defended his PhD and graduated from Notre Dame in August 2005. He's been keeping the medieval history seat warm at the University of Michigan during academic year 2005/06. This year, he'll be teaching Church History at Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD.

Timothy Pollock '95: Tim is teaching at Hagoromo Kokusai Daigaku (Hagoromo International University) in Japan. He's done some editing on the Genius Japanese/English Dictionary...the most popular bilingual dictionary for high school students in Japan. This summer he spent some time island hopping in the Japan Sea. He and his fiance, Cindy, will marry next year in Hawaii.

Lectures

Thanks to the generous donations from our friends and alumni*, the department is able to sponsor lecture series and host events for our concentrators. Here are highlights from our 2005/06 lecture schedule:

09/16/05: Tamara Sonn, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies, William and Mary. "**Sex, Violence, and Human Rights in the Middle East**"

09/20-22/05: Benjamin G. Wright, Professor of Religious Studies, Lehigh University. **Five lectures on Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity**

11/01/05: Mary Schilling, Director of the Career Center, William and Mary. "**Religious Studies – Career Services Workshop**"

11/15/05: Donald Polaski, Visiting Instructor of Religious Studies, William and Mary. "**Reaching the Limits of Wisdom: Job and Ecclesiastes**"

11/15/05: William Rudolph, Rabbi, Congregation Beth El. "**American Conservative Jewish Thought Today**"

11/17/05: Jeffrey S. Gurock, Professor, Yeshiva University. **“Non-observant Orthodox Lives on: a Movement’s Southern Exposure”**

11/29/05: Danny Zemel, Rabbi, Temple Micah. **“American Reform Jewish Thought Today”**

01/26/06: Jeffrey Hamburger, Professor, Harvard University. **“Reading Representations: Female Readers from the Hedwig Codex to Châtillon’s Léopoldine au Livre d’Heures”**

02/12/06: Ithamar Gruenwald, Professor, Tel Aviv University. **“Pilgrimage in Ancient Israel”**

03/13-16/06: Luke Timothy Johnson, Robert W. Woodruff Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. **Five lectures on ancient Judaism and the interactions among Jews and Christians.**

03/14/06: Giles Constable, Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University. **“The Fourth Crusade”**

04/15/06: Robert W. Tuttle, Professor, George Washington University Law School. **“Evangelicalism and the Establishment Clause: from Intelligent Design to the Faith-Based Initiative”**

*June 05-June 06 Alumni donors: S. Jackson, E. Munzinger, M. Dettmer, R. Hamberger, G. Mirabilio, M. Stachel, T. Taylor, and R. Tuttle.

Pilgrimage Symposium

On February 12, 2006, two classes from the Department of Religious Studies joined two others from the College of Arts & Sciences (Classical Studies, Modern Languages & Literatures) in a symposium devoted to pilgrimage in Europe and the Middle East, from ancient to modern times. The event, organized by Professor Michael Daise and open to the Williamsburg public, brought Israeli scholar Ithamar Gruenwald (Tel Aviv University) into conversation with three William and Mary faculty members: Professors Tamara Sonn (Religious Studies), Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies) and George Greenia (Modern Languages and Literatures), discussing the ‘sacred journey’ as it has been conceived and practiced in Ancient Israel (Prof. Gruenwald), Classical Greece (Prof. Spaeth), Medieval Spain (Prof. Greenia) and Modern Islam (Prof. Sonn).

Religious Humor

A painter discovered that he did not have enough paint to complete the church steeple. Rather than make another trip to the store, he decided to stretch the paint by adding some paint thinner to it. When he finished, he lowered himself to the ground and looked up to see the results of his handiwork...which he readily determined were dreadful. As he pondered the situation, the sky turned dark and the lightning flashed. Then a loud, booming voice from above said, “Repaint and Thin No More!”

Courses 2006-2007

FALL 2006

R.S. 150: Fr Seminar – WWII Lit & Film	D Holmes
R.S. 201: Intro to Religion	J. Galambush
R.S. 203: Hist/Rel of Ancient Israel	D. Polaski
R.S. 204: Christian Origins	M. Daise
R.S. 205: Reading Bible in Hebrew I	N. Zahavi-Ely
R.S. 210: Intro History of Christianity	K. Jung
R.S. 211: Intro History of Jewish Thought	M. Raphael
R.S. 212: Intro to Islam	T. Sonn
R.S. 213: Intro to Hinduism	S. Bessenger
R.S. 214: Intro to Buddhism	K. Vose
R.S. 308: Topics: Contemporary Christian Thought	K. Jung
R.S. 308: Topics: Zen	K. Vose
R.S. 318: Islam in the Modern World	T. Sonn
R.S. 326: Judaism in America	M. Raphael
R.S. 335: Modern Religious Thought	J. Morreall
R.S. 340: Roman Catholicism Since 1800	J. Morreall
R.S. 345: Religion in America til 1840	D. Holmes
R.S. 348: African American Religion	M. White
R.S. 357: Letters of Paul	M. Daise
R.S. 391: Theory of Religion	K. Jung

SPRING 2007

R.S. 150: Fr Seminar – What is Freedom	K. Jung
R.S. 150: Fr Seminar – Witchcraft in American History	M. White
R.S. 203: Hist/Rel of Ancient Israel	D. Polaski
R.S. 204: Christian Origins	M. Daise
R.S. 206: Reading Bible in Hebrew II	N. Zahavi-Ely
R.S. 210: Intro History of Christianity	K. Jung
R.S. 212: Intro to Islam	T. Sonn
R.S. 231: Intro to Hinduism	S. Bessenger
R.S. 215: Religion in East Asia	K. Vose
R.S. 304: Hebrew Prophets	D. Polaski
R.S. 308: Topics: Vision and Knowledge	K. Jung
R.S. 308: Topics: Women in Buddhism	S. Bessenger
R.S. 308: Topics: Religion and Architecture	D. Holmes
R.S. 308: Topics: Tibetan Religion	K. Vose
R.S. 317: Women in Islam	T. Sonn
R.S. 329: Rabbinic Mind	M. Daise
R.S. 342: Comedy, Tragedy, and Religion	J. Morreall
R.S. 346: Religion in America, 1840-Pres	D. Holmes
R.S. 347: Sects, Cults and Small Denominations	M. White
R.S. 357: Letters of Paul	R. Nadella
R.S. 391: Theory of Religion	J. Morreall

Donor Opportunity

If you wish to support the Department of Religious Studies by contributing to our operating funds, you may do so by sending a **check** made payable to the William and Mary Foundation and designate it for the Department of Religious Studies. The mailing address is The Department of Religious Studies, College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795. To provide more specific with your gift, please mention one of the codes (below) in your letter or on your check.

<u>A</u>	Jack Van Horn Prize for the Best Honors Thesis
<u>B</u>	Asia/Middle East Religion Program Fund
<u>C</u>	Chair's Discretionary Fund to Support the Activities of the Department
<u>D</u>	Stephen J. and Diane P. Lovell Endowment Fund to Support the Teaching of Biblical Hebrew
<u>E</u>	Religious Studies Fund for the Department Library [Wren] Book Purchases
<u>F</u>	Religious Studies Account
<u>G</u>	Alumni to Campus to Speak to Students
<u>H</u>	Distinguished Scholars to Campus to Speak to Students
<u>I</u>	Annual Lecture on a Contemporary Religion Issue

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