



The College of Arts and Sciences
and
The Department of Religion
at
Florida State University

proudly present the

John F. Priest Lecture

John F. Priest Lecture Series

Established by a generous gift from Gloria Priest, the John F. Priest Lecture Series honors the life and work of John Priest (1929-1998). Priest served as a professor in the Department of Religion at Florida State University from 1968 until his retirement in 1996, when he was named professor emeritus.

While at FSU, Priest also served as director of the graduate humanities program (1969-1976) and chair of the Department of Religion (1978-1984). Priest was a founding member of the American Academy of Religion, which he served as national secretary, vice president, president (1967), and executive director and treasurer (1976-1978).

Priest received his A.B. from Asbury College (1949) and his B.D. (1955) and Ph.D. (1960) from Drew University. From 1949 to 1952, he served as a missionary in India for the Methodist Church in Moradabad, Bareilly and Lucknow. Priest was also honored with a variety of fellowships, including the Kent, Fulbright, Dempster and Lilly. Prior to coming to FSU, Priest served as a faculty member at Ohio Wesleyan University and the Hartford Seminary Foundation, and was academic dean at Hartford from 1966 to 1968. He was a longtime member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Schools of Oriental Research.

For more information about the Department of Religion,
visit www.religion.fsu.edu or call (850) 644-1020.

John F. Priest Lecture

Welcome

Sam Huckaba, College of Arts and Sciences Dean

Introduction of Speaker

David Levenson, University Distinguished Teaching
Professor

Lecture

“John’s Dionysian Gospel: Imitations of Euripides’ *Bacchae*”

by

Dennis R. MacDonald
John Wesley Professor
Claremont School of Theology

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, Alumni Center

Florida State University

(Reception immediately following the lecture)

Dennis R. MacDonald

Dennis R. MacDonald received his PhD from Harvard University in New Testament and Christian Origins and has taught Christian origins at Goshen College, the Iliff School of Theology, and the Claremont School of Theology. For eleven years he was Director of the Institute for Antiquity and Christianity at Claremont Graduate University. He also has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Union Theological Seminary (NYC), and this term at Florida State.

Twice he received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has served as President of the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Region of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature and President of the Pacific Region of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. He has appeared often as an authority for Greek mythology on the History Channel.

MacDonald has published a dozen books with three more to appear shortly. Among these are *The Legend and the Apostle: The Battle for Paul in Story and Canon* (1983), *Christianizing Homer: The Odyssey, Plato, and the Acts of Andrew* (1994), *Two Shipwrecked Gospels: The Logoi of Jesus and Papias’ Exposition of Logia about the Lord* (2012), *The Gospels and Homer: Imitations of Greek Epic in Mark and Luke-Acts* (2014), *Luke and Vergil: Imitations of Classical Greek Literature in the Aeneid and Luke-Acts* (2014), and *Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero* (2015). He is currently completing *John and Euripides: The Dionysian Gospel*.

