



THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



Greetings from the chair

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be able to invite you to read and share the recreated Religion Department Newsletter. The department has been exceptionally lively over the past few years, with lectures, symposia, program innovations, awards, new faces, and many achievements and stories that reflect the sparkling intellectual and social life here in Dodd Hall. We will be reporting on these developments in this newsletter and those to come, on a planned schedule of two issues per year. We are eager to renew contacts with alumni, to make new friends, and to give stronger shape to the community of all of those who have been associated with the department over the last forty-six years. We would be delighted to hear from you, and we hope that you will stop in to see us when you are in town. The annual Graduate Student Symposium would be a good occasion for a visit, as would the special lectures that are held periodically throughout the year. Inside you will find information on our Religion Club facebook page and other kinds of connections that we hope you will explore. We look forward to hearing from you!

John Corrigan
Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor
Chair, Religion Department

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam:
Charles Wellborn **2**

Faculty in Focus **3**

Undergraduate
In Action **6**

Grad Student Spotlight **8**

Graduate
Student Symposium **10**

Grad students Shannon
Dunn and Rosemary
Kellison received the
2009 Elisabeth Schüssler
Fiorenza New Scholar's
Award.



page 8

Department Launches New Graduate Area in History and Ethnography of Religions

The addition of new faculty in Islam, Christianity, and African Religions has provided an exciting opportunity for the department to reconfigure one of the major components of its graduate curriculum. For almost twenty years, the study of the religions of South and East Asia has been one of the four major fields of the FSU graduate program. In Fall 2009 Professors **Bryan Cuevas** (Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhism), **Kathleen Erndl** (South Asian Religions), and **Jimmy Yu** (Religions of China) joined forces with Professors **François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles** (Medieval and Early Modern Christianity), **Adam Gaiser** (Islam), and **Joseph Hellweg** (African Religions)

to inaugurate a new field of study called "History and Ethnography of Religions" (HER). This area offers MA and PhD students the opportunity to study a broad range of religious and cultural traditions using a variety of methodological approaches.

The interdisciplinary character of the new field of study can be immediately recognized by the diversity of the training and interests of the faculty members directing it. The opportunity for crossing disciplinary boundaries is expanded even more because the area can draw on the expertise of the faculty in the other three departmental areas of graduate study - American Religious History (ARH), Religion, Ethics, and

Philosophy (REP), and Religions of Western Antiquity (RWA). And, of course, there are clear and obvious connections with a number of units throughout the university, such as Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Women's Studies, Art History, and Anthropology.

The presence of three prominent scholars of Asian Religions means that the department will continue to have a high national and international profile in this area and to attract graduate students from around the world who want to study with them. **Bryan Cuevas**, the Religion Department's Director of Graduate Studies, specializes in Tibetan religion, history, and culture and has been widely recognized as a leader in his field since the publication of his first book, *The Hidden History of the Tibetan Book of the Dead* (Oxford).

Kathleen Erndl began **continued on page 11**

RECENT ENDOWMENTS



John F. Priest Professorship of Religion, endowed by Gloria Priest in honor of her husband, who was a distinguished member of the department from 1968 to his retirement in 1996. Bryan Cuevas was named Priest Professor in 2009.

The Sheng Yen Educational Foundation Professorship of Chinese Buddhism

Sheng Yen Educational Foundation Graduate Fellowships

The Jason Driver Graduate Scholarship

The Chair's Fund endowed by Gloria Priest, Robert Spivey, and Walter Moore.

The Charles Wellborn Lecture in American Religious History. The first Wellborn lecture was given by Daniel Walker Howe, January 21, 2010 (see "In Memoriam: Charles Wellborn" below).

Lectures

The Charles Wellborn Lecture in American Religious History: Daniel Walker Howe, Oxford University and University of California, Los Angeles, "What God Hath Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848," Jan 21, 2010.

Keynote Address for the Ninth Annual Graduate Symposium: Bernadette Brooten, Brandeis University, "Beyond Slavery: Overcoming Its Religious and Sexual Legacies," Feb 19, 2010.

The Tessa J. Bartholomeusz Lecture in Religion: Luis Gomez, University of Michigan, "Distorted Views: Buddhism with a 'Self'? The Inversion of Traditional Categories in the [Mahayana] Mahaparinirvana Maha Sutra," March 13, 2010.

The Lucius Moody Bristol Lecture in Social Ethics: Richard Miller, Indiana University, "Religion, Public Reason, and the Morality of Democratic Authority," Oct. 12, 2010.

Jonathan Chan, Hong Kong Baptist University, "Law and Morality: A Confucian Perspective on Freedom of Expression," Oct. 23, 2010.

Michael Pasquier, Louisiana State University, "Standard Lives: Visualizing Oil and Religion in Louisiana," Nov. 10, 2010.

Tessa J. Bartholomeusz Lecture and Keynote Address for Tenth Annual Graduate Symposium: "Spiritual Exercise' and the Interpretation of Buddhist Philosophy in India," Matthew Kapstein, University of Chicago and École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, Feb. 18, 2011.

FOR AN UPDATED LIST, VISIT RELIGION.FSU.EDU

IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES WELLBORN (1924-2009)

We are saddened to report the death of Charles Wellborn, who died Oct. 1, 2009. Charles began teaching in the Religion Department in 1965, the first year it became an independent department. He was a decorated World War II veteran who had been a member of the ski patrol stationed in Italy. He had a national reputation as a Southern Baptist preacher from the time of his youth and became the senior pastor of the prominent Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, where he successfully led the fight for desegregation. Charles received his PhD from Duke in 1964, where he began his work on Walter Lippmann, which led to his 1969 book, *Twentieth Century Pilgrimage: Walter Lippmann and the Public Philosophy*. While at FSU, he was an award-winning teacher, who taught a variety of courses including Religion and Ethics, Religion in the United States, and Religion and Drama. He was also an accomplished actor, whose ency-



clopedic knowledge of theatre was one of the primary reasons he was chosen to head the FSU London program, beginning in 1976 until his retirement in 1990. He published seven books and over a hundred articles and essays. With Leo Sandon and George Bedell of the Religion Department, he wrote *Religion in America*, a popular survey, which was first published in 1975. His last book, *Grits, Grace, and Goodness*, a collection of his essays, was published in 2003 by Smith and Helwys. In 2008, he established in the FSU Religion Department the Charles Wellborn Lecture in American Religious History.

THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

at The Florida State University

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2011

Editor
David Levenson

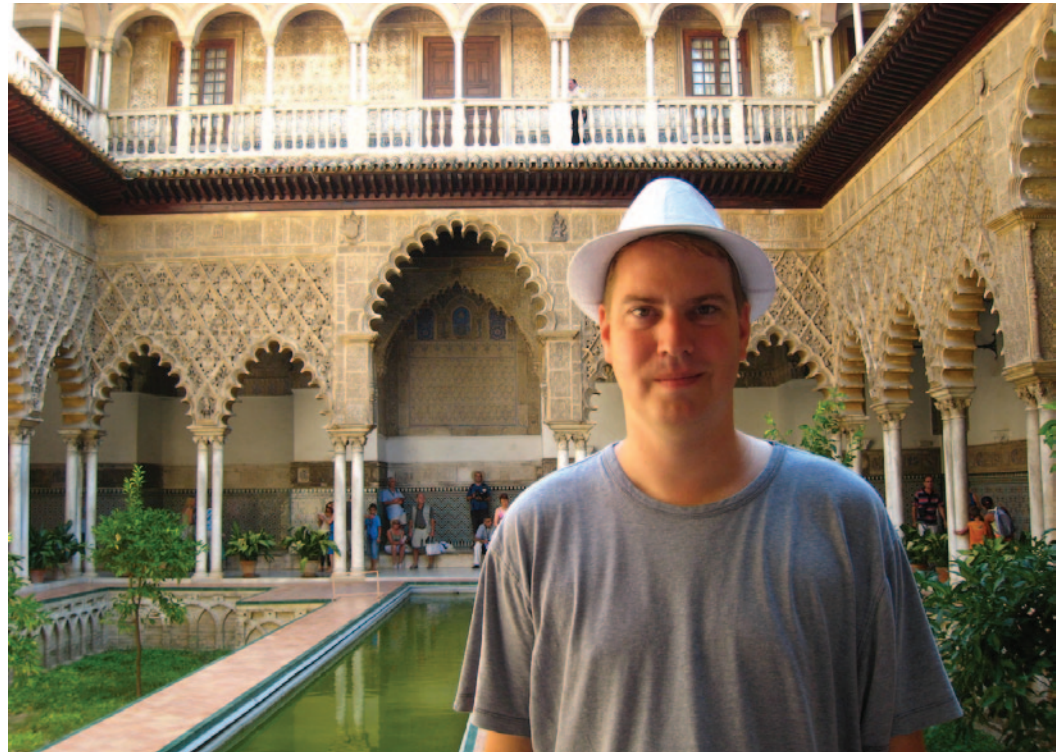
Design
Wil Oakes

Adam Gaiser joined the department in the fall of 2006 as a specialist on Islam. He has taught classes in the area at every level of the curriculum. In addition to teaching “Islamic Tradition,” which had been taught in the department by Professor John Kelsay for almost twenty years, he has developed courses in “Islam in the Modern World,” “Islam in North America,” “Muhammad and the Qur’an,” “Shiite Islam,” and “Islamic Mysticism.”

A native of Fairfax, Virginia, Gaiser was a Comparative Religion major at the College of William and Mary. He also continued his study of Russian, which he began in high school, with a semester abroad in St. Petersburg. During that semester, on a trip to Samarkand and Bukhara (Uzbekistan), he decided to focus on the study of Islam. Returning to William and Mary, he began the study of Arabic and the Middle East. Between college and graduate school, Gaiser improved his command of Arabic and knowledge of the Middle East while volunteering at a school in Jerusalem. In his PhD program at the University of Virginia, where he focused on Islamic Studies within the area of History of Religions, Gaiser worked closely with Prof. Aziz Sachedina, one of the world’s foremost experts on Shiite Islam, who had also been a co-director of Professor Kelsay’s dissertation. He had the opportunity to continue his study of Arabic for two summers in Jordan and to do dissertation research in Amman for a year on a Fulbright-Hays dissertation fellowship.

Gaiser’s research focuses on the Ibadiyya, a non-Sunni and non-Shiite interpretation of Islam, whose contemporary adherents may be found today in Oman and parts of North and East Africa. His new book, *Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Tra-*

FACULTY IN FOCUS: Adam Gaiser



Gaiser at the courtyard of the Alcázar of Seville, a royal palace in Seville, Spain.

ditions, published by Oxford University Press in 2010, traces the elaboration of Ibadi conceptions of leadership in the early and medieval periods. Gaiser’s current research examines early Kharijite and Ibadi martyrdom narratives.

Recent travels have taken Gaiser to Oman, a major center for the study of Ibadi Islam, and to Barcelona, Spain, where he participated in the

NEH’s summer institute on “Cultural Hybridities: Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean.” While in Spain, he also had the opportunity to travel to Cordoba, Granada, and Seville, as well to the Basque Country, the family home of his wife, Professor Carolina Gonzalez of the FSU Department of Modern Languages.

Faculty News



John Corrigan has recently published *Religious Intolerance in America: A Documentary History*, co-authored with Lynn Neal (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), *Religion in American History*, co-edited with Amanda Porterfield (Blackwell, 2010), *The Spatial Humanities: GIS and the Future of Humanities Scholarship*, co-edited with David Bodenhamer and Trevor Har-

ris (Indiana University Press, 2010), *Religion in America: An Historical Account of the Development of American Religious Life* (8th edition), co-authored with Winthrop Hudson (Pearson, 2010), and *Jews, Christians, Muslims* (2nd edition), co-authored with Frederick Denny, Carlos Eire, and Martin Jaffee (Pearson, 2011). His edited volume on *Religion and Space in the Atlantic World* will be published in the coming year.

Bryan Cuevas is currently working on a book on the history of Tibetan sorcery and the political uses of ritual magic in the centuries leading up to and immediately following the establishment of the office of Dalai Lama and the formation of a centralized Tibetan state. He began this project while a Member in Residence in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (2007-2008). This year he has published two articles relevant

to this research: “The ‘Calf’s Nipple’ (Be’u bum) of Ju Mipam (‘Ju Mi pham): A Handbook of Tibetan Ritual Magic,” in *Tibetan Ritual*, edited by José I. Cabezón (Oxford, 2010), and “Illustrations of Human Effigies in Tibetan Ritual Texts: With Remarks on Specific Anatomical Figures and Their Possible Iconographic Source,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (vol. 21, no. 1, 2011). He continues to serve as Book Review Editor for *The Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies* and was recently appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. He will be promoted to full professor in Fall 2011.

Matthew Day continues to serve as Editor of *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*. He also continues to annoy the field’s Establishment whenever he gets a chance—whether in print or in person. He **continued on next page**

will spend the summer in Maine with his wife and sons, working on a book manuscript in the morning and sailing in the afternoon.

François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles published a French edition of Augustine's Soliloquies (Rivages, 2010), which included material he developed for his FSU course on "The Soul and the Self." His research on the French sources of the illustration of the 1539 Great Bible will be published in *Church History* in 2011. He is currently working on *Book of Kings, King of Books: French and English Sovereigns and the Bible* for Palgrave Press.

Kathleen Erndl gave two presentations at the AAR in 2010: "When a Woman Becomes Chandika: Justice, Violence, and the Feminine in Popular Hindi Film" and "The Scholarly Contributions of Rita Gross from the Viewpoint of a Former Student." She is completing a book on Hindu women's possession practices and is also doing research and teaching a course on religious themes in Bollywood films.

Adam Gaiser's first book, *Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions*, was published in 2010 with Oxford University Press. He spent the summer of 2010 in Spain at an NEH Summer Institute on "Cultural Hybridities: Christians, Muslims & Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean," where he worked on early Ibadi connections to Umayyad Spain. He is currently doing research on early Kharijite and Ibadi shurat (martyr) narratives.

Matthew Goff published a volume of essays, *The Other in Second Temple Judaism: Essays in Honor of John Collins* (Eerdmans, 2011), which he co-edited with Daniel Harlow, Joel Kaminsky, and Karina Martin Hogan. He is currently finishing a commentary on 4QInstruction, which will be published by the Society of Biblical Literature.

Joseph Hellweg was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Kankan in Guinea and the University of Bamako in Mali during 2008-2010. During that time, he returned for a month to northwestern Côte d'Ivoire, the site of his previous research. In May 2011, the University of Chicago Press will release his book based on his research in Côte d'Ivoire, *Hunting the Ethical State: The Benkadi Movement of Côte d'Ivoire*. While in Guinea and Mali, Hellweg began new research on the N'ko alphabet invented by a Guinean man in 1949 for writing the West African Mandenkan language. The language is particularly used by healers in Guinea, Mali, and Côte d'Ivoire for recording medicinal plant remedies.

Sarah Irving is working on her second book, *Science, Religion, and the Atlantic Republic of Letters*. She presented part of her work on the book at the Harvard Atlantic History Workshop in April, 2010. She and her husband John just had their first child, Madeleine Irving-Stonebraker, this January.

Aline Kalbian was appointed to the Florida Department of Health's Bioethics Working Group in 2010. The eight-member group met throughout the year to evaluate and discuss the ethics of emergency preparedness for pandemic influenza. In July 2011, she and Martin Kavka will become co-editors of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. She continues to work on a book about bioethics and contraception.

Martin Kavka published "Screening The Canon, or on Levinas and Medieval Jewish Philosophy," in *New Approaches to Jewish Philosophy* (eds. Elliot R. Wolfson and Aaron Hughes; Indiana University Press, 2010) and put the finishing touches on *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era*, which he co-edited with David Novak and Zachary Braiterman. In 2010 he presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion, the Association for Jewish Studies, the Society of Christian Ethics, and the North American Levinas Society, and gave an invited talk at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. The FSU course he designed on religion and fantasy literature, inaugurated in 2008, regularly enrolls over 250 students a semester. The course he developed entitled "What Is Religion?" will be required of all majors beginning next year.

Nicole Kelley is working on a book provisionally entitled *The Church Body: Deformity and Disability in Ancient Christianity*. In May 2011 she will present a paper entitled "The one whom the Lord loves, he cures: Lame Bodies and Healing Power in Early Christian Texts" at an international conference sponsored by the University of Cologne. She will be promoted to associate professor with tenure in Fall 2011.

John Kelsay is now serving as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences. One focus of this position involves directing a newly established FSU Center for Humanities and Society. He also continues to teach and write in the area of religious ethics and is working on a book currently entitled *The Just War Idea*.

Amy Koehlinger is working on a book for Princeton University Press exploring the role that the sport of boxing played in the gender identities of American Catholic men. She was awarded sabbatical leave for spring 2012 to complete the book manuscript. In February 2011 she presented a paper on "The Goods, the Guts, and the Gab: Understanding Alternative Catholic Masculinity through Boxing" at a

conference on "Sport History as U.S. Cultural History" in Tutzing, Germany. In March she will present an invited paper at a conference on secularization at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. She won a University Teaching Award for 2009/2010 and is developing a new class on sport and religion for fall semester 2011.

David Levenson is working with Thomas Martin of Holy Cross on several subjects connected with Josephus' *Jewish War*. In addition to working on a translation and commentary for book six of the work, which will appear in the new Josephus series being published by Brill, they are completing an article on the early modern editions of the ancient Latin translation of Josephus' works, and collating manuscripts for a critical edition of the Latin translation of book six of *The Jewish War*. He also continues to serve on the Society of Biblical Literature Taskforce on Teaching about the Bible in Public Schools.

Amanda Porterfield was buried in her study for a year working on a new book, tentatively titled *Doubt In Early America: Religion, Politics, and Suspicion*. The book tells how religious skepticism was stifled in the early republic and charts the emergence of a symbiotic relationship between laissez-faire politics and evangelical religion. Now back to life in the classroom, she reports that "she is happy working with amazing cadres of spectacular students."

Over the past couple of years, **Sumner B. Twiss** has published a number of articles on such subjects as Confucianism and human rights, religious intolerance, the moral psychology of perpetrators of atrocity, and global ethics and human rights. He has delivered lectures in Nairobi (on global ethics), Harvard (on Roger Williams), Nishan, China (comparing Christian and Confucian influences on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights), and Hong Kong (on just war in classical Confucianism). He continues to serve as co-editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics* and is an active member of a Hong Kong Baptist University project on Chinese ethics of war and peace. He is working to complete a co-authored book on the practice of global ethics and a co-edited volume on religious ethics, human rights, and public policy.

Jimmy Yu's first book, *Sanctity and Self-Inflicted Violence in Chinese Religions: Bodily Practices in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries China*, has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. He also helped to secure a gift from the Sheng Yen Education Foundation in Taiwan to FSU to establish a permanent professorship in the Department of Religion and to provide funding support for graduate students doing research on Chinese Buddhism. He is currently working on a monograph on the construction of modern Chinese Buddhism.

Faculty Awards

BOOK AWARDS

Amy Koehlinger won the 2009 Eric Hoffer Prize, Culture Category, for *The New Nuns: Racial Justice and Religious Reform in the 1960's* (Harvard, 2007).

Sarah Irving won the Royal Society of Literature and Jerwood Award for Non-Fiction for *Natural Science and the Origins of the British Empire* (Pickering and Chatto, 2008).

Martin Kavka won the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award for *Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2008).

FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Joseph Hellweg for research and teaching in Guinea, West Africa (2009-2010).

2009 UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARD

Amy Koehlinger

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

John Corrigan, Co-PI, “New Tools for the Humanities: Visualizing Complex Spatial Data” (2010) (\$225,000), and Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant (2007) (\$30,000).

FSU ARTS AND HUMANITIES PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT GRANT

John Corrigan, “Religion in the Atlantic World: Space, GIS, and Representation” (2008) (\$39,000).

2009-2010 COUNCIL ON RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY AWARDS

Matthew Goff, “Two Book Projects: Giants in Ancient Judaism and Ancient Wisdom from the Dead Sea Scrolls.”

Sarah Irving, “How Science Became Useful: Protestantism & the British Atlantic Origins of Modern Science.”

Nicole Kelley “The Church Body: Deformity and Disability in Early Christianity.”

Jimmy Yu, “The Formation of a New Chan Buddhism: The Life’s Work of Venerable Sheng Yen.”

2010-2011 Council on Research and Creativity Awards

Bryan Cuevas, “Magical Warfare in Buddhist Tibet.”

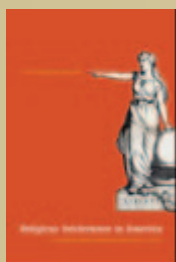
Matthew Day, “The Bourgeois Order of Things: ‘Religion,’ Capitalism and the Taxonomic Imagination.”

Amy Koehlinger, “Rosaries and Rope Burns: Boxing and Manhood in American Catholicism, 1890-1970.”

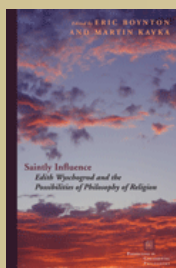
Faculty Publications



Oxford University Press published Adam Gaiser’s *Muslims, Scholars, Soldiers: The Origin and Elaboration of the Ibadi Imamate Traditions* (2010).



UNC Press published *Religious Intolerance in America* (2010), edited by John Corrigan and Lynn S. Neal.



Fordham University Press published *Saintly Influence: Edith Wyschogrod and the Possibilities of Philosophy of Religion* (2009), edited by Martin Kavka .



Wiley-Blackwell published *Religion in American History* (2010), edited by John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield.

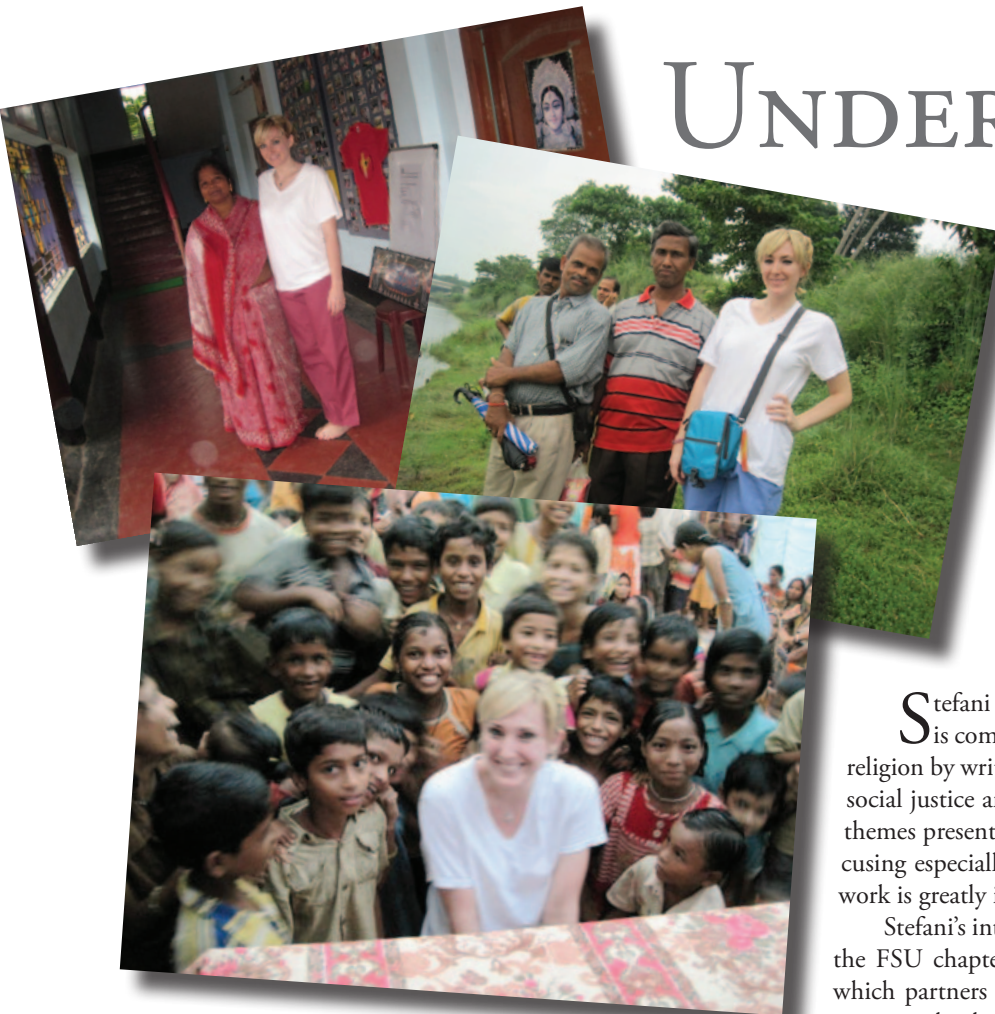


Rivages published *Augustin: Soliloques suivi de Lettres intimes*, introduction by François Dupuigrenet Desrousilles (2010).



Harvard University Press published John Kelsay’s book *Arguing the Just War in Islam* (2009).

UNDERGRADUATE IN ACTION: Stefani Mead



Stefani Mead, a senior religion major and Orlando native, is combining her interests in social action and the study of religion by writing a thesis with Prof. Aline Kalbian on the topic of social justice and public health. The thesis examines the religious themes present in some recent models of public health equity, focusing especially on Paul Farmer, a leader in public health, whose work is greatly influenced by Catholic Liberation Theology.

Stefani's interest in this topic grew out of her involvement with the FSU chapter of GlobeMed, a network of university students which partners with grassroots organizations around the world to improve the health of the impoverished. FSU GlobeMed raises

money to help their partner, the Alternative for Rural Movement (A.R.M.) located in Orissa, India. Their contributions have assisted in the purchase of mobile health clinics to help with STI and HIV cases, improving maternal health, and reducing child mortality.

This past summer, as president of FSU GlobeMed, Stefani had the opportunity to spend several weeks in Orissa, India, to meet

the staff of A.R.M. and learn more about their specific needs. According to Stefani, her Religion Department courses "have helped to shape how to view the world," and her work with Prof. Kathleen Erndl in particular made it easier for her to bond faster with her hosts. She reports that she "also emailed Dr. Erndl a couple of times when I was in India for advice on how to approach certain topics with the

women without offending the men who were present. At night we would sit outside and talk with our hosts, often about religion. It was really helpful knowing some of the basics, and our hosts seemed to appreciate it too."

After completing her BA in Religion, Stefani plans to pursue a second degree in dietetics and then go on to graduate work in nutrition and public health.

RELIGION CLUB UPDATE

In addition to the ever increasing number of religion majors (currently at around 150), the reestablishment of the Religion Club two years ago is a clear sign of a heightened interest in the study of religion among FSU undergraduates. The goal of the student organization is to promote the study of religion at FSU by sponsoring films, lectures, and visits to area sites of interest. Under the leadership of Daniel Wise last Spring and Leah Wise this fall, the group organized a diverse program that included a film series with six screenings in the spring and three in the fall, a discussion of Paganism in the group's "Reli-

gion of the Month" series, and participation in a number of events of religious significance on campus and throughout the community.

Information about Religion Club activities is quickly disseminated by its very active Facebook site. Find out more at http://religion.fsu.edu/undergraduate_religion_club.html.

Top: Prof. Matthew Goff talks with (L to R) Justin DeBerry, Leah Wise, and Matt Schnitzlein.

Bottom: Religion Club President Leah Wise with (L to R) Club Vice-President Adam Cushing, Club Treasurer Aaron Richard, Department Office Manager Susan Minnerly, Strozier Librarian Ted Chaffin, Professor Joseph Hellweg, and Club Secretary Alexis Feenstra.



Undergraduate Awards and Honors

BETTY PHIFER AWARD

Heather Kantrowitz, 2009; Brynne MacKinnon, 2010

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Stephanie Brehm, Laura Guidry-Grimes, Andrew Pietrylo, 2009; Daniel Wise, 2010

ARTS AND SCIENCE TRAVEL AWARD

Roberto De La Noval, 2010

DEAN OF STUDENTS DEAN'S CUP AWARD

Heather Kantrowitz, 2009

BA HONORS THESES

Summer 2008

Laura Guidry-Grimes, "The Other Side of the Magic Fire: An Exploration of Jewish

Bioethics Through Twilight of the Golds" (directed by Aline Kalbian)

Spring 2009

Stephanie Brehm, "Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert: Exposing Religious Incongruity" (directed by Amanda Porterfield)

Crystal (Dawn) Betts-Green, "Visions of Womanhood: Submission, Purity, and Femininity in Modern Evangelical Movements" (directed by Kathleen Erndl)

Spring 2010

Kathryn-Joyce Thorn, "Love in the Philosophical Theology of Jean-Luc Marion" (directed by Martin Kavka)

Fall 2010

Adam Cushing, "A Source-Critical Approach to Daniel 7 and an Analysis of Possible Influences upon its Throne-vision" (directed by Matthew Goff)

BESS WARD HONORS TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Spring 2009: Carly Nasehi

Spring 2011: Savannah Groenendyke

GRADUATION HONORS 2010

Summa Cum Laude

Daniel Wise
Taylor Cyr

Magna Cum Laude

Lauren Cosgrove
Natasha Kaminsky
Lauren Lussier
Kathryn-Joyce Thorn
Clarissa Wray
Allison Spingler

Cum Laude

Jessica Cuddy
Michael Hopkins
Brynne MacKinnon
Anna Masi
Sebastian Novas

Recent Graduates

SPRING 2010

Natalie Aleman
Traci Alexander
Michel Causey
John Calvaliere
Lauren Cosgrove
Bradley Crocker
Jessica Cuddy
Hilary Cunkle
Ashley Douglas
Timothy Douglass
Brian Garrity
Hiba George
Kendall Green
Michael Hopkins
Natasha Kaminsky
Jason Knott
Jennifer Lamoureux
Lauren Lussier

Brynne MacKinnon
Jessica McBride
Anna Masi
Sadie Molinet
Lawrence Murphy
Meghan Murray
Alison Slusarczyk
Nicole Stevens
Kathryn-Joyce Thorn
Faith VanBuskirk
Daniel Wise
Clarissa Wray

SUMMER 2010

Keven Allen, Jr.
Jamekia Anderson
Jonathan Brand
Sebastian Novas
Brett Roof

Samuel Friedman
Christopher Gosier
Audriana Hubbard
Jenna Reimers

FALL 2010

Susan Biggs
Taylor Cyr
John Fraites
Audriana Hubbard
Chelsea Levine
Chase Lurding
Jonathan Nuckols
Allison Spingler
Gary Thacker
Cameron Ward

COLLOQUIUM FOR MAJORS



Martin Kavka meets with his fall semester class, entitled "What is Religion?" The faculty voted this year to make this a required course for all religion majors.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ShannonDunn & RosemaryKellison

FSU STUDENTS WIN
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD
AT THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF RELIGION

Rosemary Kellison and Shannon Dunn received the Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Award for their article, "At the Intersection of Scripture and Law: Qur'an 4:34 and Violence Against Women." The award was presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. The award-winning article was published in the Fall 2010 volume of *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, which awards the prize annually to new scholars who do outstanding feminist research in the field.

The article addresses the relationship between the body of literature called tafsir, or Qur'anic interpretation, and Islamic legal theory (sharia) on the topic of domestic violence. Qur'an 4:34, interpreted literally, permits a husband to beat his wife. The authors attempt to answer two related questions: first, how do Muslims reconcile verses from the Qur'an with social norms, or individual consciences, that are in conflict with them? Second, how do legal norms reflect changing views about gender and family, on the one hand, and intellectual trends about history and the interpretability of the Qur'an, on the other?

Rosemary and Shannon are Religion PhD candidates in the Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy track. They originally collaborated on this project for a class on the Qur'an, which they took with Professor Adam Gaiser, and presented an early version of their research at the 2009 FSU Religion Graduate Student Symposium.

Shannon entered the PhD program after receiving a master's degree at the

Claremont School of Theology and a BA in Religion from the University of Puget Sound. At FSU she has taught courses in "Religious Ethics and Moral Problems" and "Gender and Religion" and is currently teaching "Christian Tradition." In 2007 she won the best graduate student paper award at the annual meeting of the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) for her paper, "Veiled Contradictions: Feminist Philosophy and the Foulard Debate." Her dissertation, tentatively titled, "Gender Justice in a Post-Secular Age? Domestic Violence, Islamic Sharia, and the Liberal Legal Paradigm,"

examines the relationship between domestic violence and other forms of social

dominance.

Rosemary has a BA in Comparative Studies from Ohio State University and an MA in Religion from FSU. She has taught "Religious Ethics and Moral Problems" and "World Religions." In 2009 she also won the SECSOR best graduate student paper award for her paper, "Religion/State as a Discourse of Dissent: Moses Mendelssohn in Response to McCutcheon and Fitzgerald." Rosemary has completed her doctoral exams and is currently working on her dissertation prospectus.



Dunn (left) and Kellison (right) with Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza at the 2009 AAR Meeting.

Graduate Student Awards, Publications, and Placements

AWARDS

Chris Blythe, Best Article Award, John Whitmer Historical Association, 2010, for “The Church in the Days of Alpheus Cutler: New Insights into Nineteenth-century Cutlerite Ecclesiology.”

Rosemary Kellison and **Shannon Dunn**, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza New Scholars Award for “At the Intersection of Scripture and Law: Qur’an 4:34 and Violence Against Women” (2010).

Emily Clark, Roger Rollin Award for best paper in American Studies at the 2010 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in the South Meeting for “The Romanticized Nostalgia of New Orleans Prostitution.”

Brooke Sherrard, Southeastern Council on the Study of Religion Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2010, for “The Compulsion of Geopolitics: The Shift from Multiculturalism to Jewish Nationalism in the Popular Writings of American Biblical Archaeologist Nelson Glueck.”

Rosemary Kellison, Southeastern Council on the Study of Religion Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2009, for “Religion/State as a Discourse of Dissent: Moses Mendelssohn in Response to McCutcheon and Fitzgerald.”

Michael Graziano, 2010 Kingsbury Writing Award.

Rachel Grossman, currently a MA student in the American Religious History area, won the Best Undergraduate paper award at the 2010 SECSOR Annual Meeting last spring.

FELLOWSHIPS

Kate Temoney, Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship

Brooke Sherrard, Library Resident Research Fellowship from the American Philosophical Society. University Fellowships (2009/2010 and 2010/2011).

Cara Burnidge, KONIAG Education Foundation Scholarship, 2010.

Diana Bell, Center for the Advancement of Human Rights Grant, 2010.

Barton Price, King V. Hostick Award of the Illinois State Historical Society and Lynn E. May, Jr. Scholarship for work at Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, 2010.

Chris Blythe, Hugh B. Nibley Fellowship,

Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Studies, Brigham Young University, 2010-2011.

Shawntel Ensminger, P.E.O. Scholar Award, 2009-2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Brooke Sherrard, “Palestine Sits in Sackcloth and Ashes: Reading Mark Twain’s *The Innocents Abroad* as a Protestant Holy Land Narrative,” *Religion and the Arts* 15 (2011).

Daniel C. Dillard, “God will put a hook into that man’s jaws, so that he cannot preach”: Religious Intolerance and the American Transcendentalists,” *Hindsight History Journal* 4 (2010).

Joshua Fleer, “The Church of Detroit Baseball: American Civil Religion and Willie Horton at Comerica Park,” in *The Politics of Baseball: Essays on the Pastime and Power at Home and Abroad*, edited by Ron Briley (McFarland, 2010).

Shaun Horton, “Of Pastors and Petticoats: Humor and Authority in Puritan New England,” *The New England Quarterly* 82, no. 4 (December 1, 2009).

Rosemary B. Kellison, “Connections, Confusions, Colonialism and the Construction of Religion: Making Sense of Fitzgerald’s *Discourse on Civility and Barbarity*,” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 21.3 (2009).

Rosemary Kellison and **Shannon Dunn**, “At the Intersection of Scripture and Law: Qur’an 4:34 and Violence Against Women,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 26.2 (Fall 2010).

Michael Gueno, “Religion in the Practice of Daily Life,” *Religion in the Practice of Daily Life*, vol. 1, part 1: “Regional Histories of Religions in the Practice of Daily Life,” ed. Richard Hecht and Vince Biondo (Greenwood Press, 2010).

Emily Clark, “Of Catholics, Commies, and the Anti-Christ: Mapping American Social Borders Through Cold War Comic Books,” *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (Fall 2009).

Chris Blythe, “Sophisticated Dissent: Charles B. Thompson’s Inspired Enoch, A Case Study in Scriptural Rivalry and Narrative Theology in Nineteenth-century Mormon Sects,” *Restoration Studies Journal* 11 (2010).

Shannon Dunn, “The Female Martyr and the Politics of Death: An Examination of the Martyr Discourses of Vibia Perpetua and Wafa Idrisan,”

Journal of the American Academy of Religion 78/1 (2010).

Tamara Marks, “Kierkegaard’s ‘New Argument’ for Immortality,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38 (2010).

Kathleen Hladky, “I Double-Dog Dare you in Jesus’ Name!’: Claiming Christian Wealth and the American Prosperity Gospel,” *Religion Compass* (2010).

RECENT PLACEMENTS

Katie Hladky (American Religious History, Ph.D. expected 2011), Assistant Professor, College of Charleston.

Nahed Artoul-Zehr, (Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy, Ph.D. expected 2011), Minerva Research Fellow, Naval War College.

Matthew Hagele, (Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy, Ph.D. expected 2011), Instructor, Kirkwood Community College.

Todd Brenneman (American Religious History 2010), Lecturer, University of Central Florida.

Joseph Williams (American Religious History 2010), Assistant Professor, Rutgers University.

Elizabeth Barre (Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy 2010), Assistant Professor, Marymount Manhattan College.

Janet Rumfelt (Religion Ethics, and Philosophy 2009), Lecturer, University of Colorado.

Thomas Neal (Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy 2009), Director, St. Joseph Educational Center.

Michael Pasquier (American Religious History 2008), Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University.

Kelly Baker (American Religious History 2008), Lecturer, University of Tennessee.

Jordan Smith (Religions of Western Antiquity 2008), Lecturer, University of Iowa.

Howell Williams (American Religious History 2007), Relationship Manager, Learning House.

Dawn Hutchinson (American Religious History 2007), Assistant Professor, Christopher Newport University.

Kevin Vaccarella (Religions of Western Antiquity 2007), Assistant Professor, John Tyler Community College.

Arthur Remillard (American Religious History 2007), Assistant Professor, St. Francis College.

ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The Ninth Annual Graduate Student Symposium was held February 19-21, 2010, on the theme, "Sects and Sexuality: Issues of Division and Diversity." Thirty-nine papers were presented by students representing eighteen different institutions from every region of the country - from Baylor to Buffalo and from Harvard to Hawaii. Ten professors from the FSU Religion Department and Professor Kathryn Lofton from the departments of American Studies and Religion at Yale provided responses to the student papers. The opening keynote address was given by Bernadette Brooten, the Kraft-Hiatt Professor of Christian Studies at Brandeis, on the topic, "Beyond Slavery: Overcoming Its Religious and Sexual Legacies." Kathleen Erndl of the FSU Religion Department delivered the closing keynote on "Sex and Sensibility: Interrogating Gender and Values in Bollywood Cinema." In addition to the sessions devoted to student papers, there was a roundtable discussion on "Incorporating Gender into Your Scholarship," featuring Professors Brooten and Lofton along with Professor Nicole Kelley from the FSU Religion Department. The winner of the Leo F. Sandon Award for the best paper went to Mike Nesius of the FSU Geography Department. As in past years, the entire department - staff, students,

and faculty - provided support for the symposium. Special thanks are due to symposium director Jenny Collins-Elliott, a PhD student in Religions of Western Antiquity, the graduate student committees who worked so hard on all facets of the planning and execution of the event, Prof. Sarah Irving, faculty advisor, and the FSU Religion faculty members who responded to the papers.

The Tenth Annual Symposium on the theme, "Discourses of Ritual and Power," will take place February 18-20, 2011. Emily Clark, a PhD student in American Religious History, is the director and Prof. Jimmy Yu, the faculty advisor. Once again there will be participation from students from across the country with over forty papers scheduled to be given. This year's keynote speaker will be Professor Matthew Kapstein of the University of Chicago and director of studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. His address, which also serves as this year's Tessa J. Bartholomeusz lecture, is entitled "'Spiritual Exercise' and the Interpretation of Buddhist Philosophy in India." There will be two roundtable discussions on the topics, "What the Foucault Do We Do Now?: The Power of Authority in Religious Studies," and "Life After Grad School: Post-Grad Prospects."



Top (L to R): Stephanie Brehm with Professors Kathryn Lofton and Martin Kavka.

Bottom (clockwise from top): Jason Leto, Brooke Sherrard, Kathleen Hladky, Shawntel Ensminger, and Monica Reed.

Recent MA and PhD Recipients

SPRING 2009

Sonya Cronin - PhD

"Raymond Brown, 'The Jews,' and the Gospel of John" (directed by David Levenson)

John Koyles - PhD

"The Trace of the Face in the Politics of Jesus: Experimental Comparisons Between the Work of John Howard Yoder and Emmanuel Levinas" (directed by John Kelsay and Martin Kavka)

Thomas Neal - PhD

"Return to Carmel : The Construction of a Dis-calded Identity in John of the Cross" (directed by John Corrigan)

Cara Burnidge - MA

"Charles M. Sheldon and the Heart of the Social Gospel Movement" (directed by Amanda Porterfield)

LaBron Chance - MA

Jennifer Collins - MA

Rosemary Kellison - MA

Colin Womack - MA

SUMMER 2009

Elizabeth Barre - PhD

"Reconciled to Liberty : Catholics, Muslims, and the Possibility of Overlapping Consensus" (directed by John Kelsay)

Janet Rumfelt - PhD

"Idolatry, Magic, and Poetic Subjectivity : Breaking the Spell of Metaphysics in Jewish and Christian Postliberal Thought" (directed by Martin Kavka)

Lauren Gray - MA

FALL 2009

Todd Brenneman - PhD

"Traveling Light: Max Lucado and the Power of Sentimentality in American Evangelicalism" (directed by Amanda Porterfield)

Christy Flanagan - PhD

"The Paradox of Feuerbach : Luther and Religious Naturalism" (directed by John Kelsay)

SPRING 2010

Frank Pittenger - MA

"Text as Tabernacle : Agrarians, New Critics, and the Tactical Diffusion of Protestant Hermeneutics in the Pre-War South" (directed by John Corrigan)

Kirk Essary - MA

Julia Fortune - MA

Dana Oines - MA

Kathryn Stotts - MA

SUMMER 2010

Louis See - MA

Jonathan Shea - MA

FALL 2010

Michael Gueno - PhD

"Among the Pueblos: The Religious Lives of Franciscan Missionaries, Pueblo Revolutionaries, and the Colony of Nuevo Mexico, 1539-1722" (directed by John Corrigan)

“History and Ethnography of Religions,” continued from page 1

teaching Hinduism and South Asian Religions at FSU in 1993, the same year she published her groundbreaking study *Victory to the Mother: The Hindu Goddess of Northwest India in Myth, Ritual and Symbol* (Oxford). **Jimmy Yu**, an expert on Chinese Buddhism, is the most recent addition to the Asian Religions faculty and already has attracted a considerable following among undergraduates and graduate students. His book, *Sanctity and Self-Inflicted Violence in Chinese Religions: Bodily Practices in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries China*, has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press.

Extensive language training is essential for the study of Asian Religions, and graduate students have the opportunity to study Sanskrit texts with Professor Erndl, Tibetan texts with Professor Cuevas, and Chinese texts with Professor Yu. Many have also received grants to do intensive language courses at the elementary and intermediate level at centers in the United States and abroad.

HER is also a natural home for graduate students specializing in Islam. They work closely with **Adam Gaiser** (see Faculty in Focus) who offers regular graduate seminars on such topics as “Muhammad and the Qur’an,” “Shiite Islam,” “Islamic Mysticism,” and “Islam in North America.” They also have the opportunity to study with **John Kelsay** from the departmental REP faculty, one of the world’s leading authorities on war and the Islamic tradition, whose books on *Islam and War* (Westminster/John Knox) and *Arguing the Just War in Islam* (Harvard) are essential reading in a field where new books on the subject seem to appear every day. Kelsay has taught Islam at all levels of the curriculum and directed graduate students focusing on Islam from a Comparative Religious Ethics perspective since he came to the department in 1987. The study of Islam at FSU

is further enhanced by the contributions of HER faculty Hellweg, who studies Islam in Africa, and Erndl, who provides expertise in Islam in India and Hindu-Muslim relations.

The two most recent members of the department expand the scope of History and Ethnography of Religions by adding coverage of two areas that have not been represented in the department for a number of years.

Joseph Hellweg brings to the program a much needed focus on religions of Africa along with his training as a cultural anthropologist and extensive fieldwork experience in West Africa. For three years, Hellweg lived in a Muslim region of Côte d’Ivoire, where he participated in the rituals of a group of initiated hunters, who call themselves dozos, and studied their role in the wider society. This research provided the basis for his forthcoming book from University of Chicago Press, *Hunting the Ethical State: The Benkadi Movement of Côte d’Ivoire*. His course on Ethnographic Field Methods, which he is teaching this semester, provides essential training for HER graduate students. Students doing ethnographic research also have the advantage of working with **Kathleen Erndl**, whose ethnographic research on Hindu women’s religious practices in North India has been supported by a Guggenheim fellowship, and **Amy Koehlinger** from the departmental ARH faculty, the author of the award-winning *The New Nuns: Racial Justice and Religious Reform in the 1960s* (Harvard), whose work applies ethnographic methods to the study of American Catholic culture and religion.

HER students whose primary focus is the Christian tradition work closely with **François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles**, who specializes in medieval and early modern Christianity. One of the world’s leading authorities on the history of the book, he served for seventeen years as the curator of rare books at the Bibliothèque Nationale and for five years as the director of the French national school for librarians. Du-

puigrenet Desroussilles was recruited by FSU to be one of the senior figures in the interdisciplinary program in the History of Text Technologies (HoTT). His expertise in the study of a wide range of literary, historical, and philosophical texts from medieval and early modern Europe makes him an invaluable resource for the department and university. With Dupuigrenet Desroussilles’ work on the book as a religious and cultural object in medieval and early modern Europe, Cuevas’ internationally recognized expertise on the book in Tibet, and Yu’s focus on the book in medieval China, FSU becomes a national leader in this area among religion departments in the United States.

The study of Christianity in the HER program provides another example of the close interaction between HER and the other graduate areas in the department. Students focusing on the Christian tradition do much of their work with faculty in ARH, REP, and RWA. At the same time, Dupuigrenet Desroussilles makes important contributions to other areas. His course on “The Bible in the Medieval World” provides an opportunity for RWA students to study the history of biblical interpretation, and his course on “The Soul and the Self” covers an area of interest to many students in REP.

In only its second year as a graduate field of study, it is already obvious that History and Ethnography of Religions has become a vibrant interdisciplinary program built on the strong foundation provided by the study of Asian Religions at FSU. Its six faculty have developed a program that not only offers broad and deep training for the twelve graduate students in the area, but that has also created an integral connection with each of the other three departmental fields of study.

For more information about all of our graduate programs, please visit the department website: <http://religion.fsu.edu/graduate.html>.



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