

Department of Religion

50th Anniversary Issue

Fall 2015

FSU RELIGION TURNS 50

During the 2015-16 academic year, the Department of Religion will celebrate 50 years of the study of religion at FSU. Since 1965, the mission of the department has been to promote research and instruction designed to increase understanding of the many ways in which religion impacts human life. Today, this program involves eighteen full-time and several more part-time faculty; approximately sixty M.A. and Ph.D. students; over one hundred undergraduate majors; and three wonderful office staff. All of us feel that we are part of a grand heritage. Marking this anniversary is a way of acknowledging that, as well as a means of looking forward.

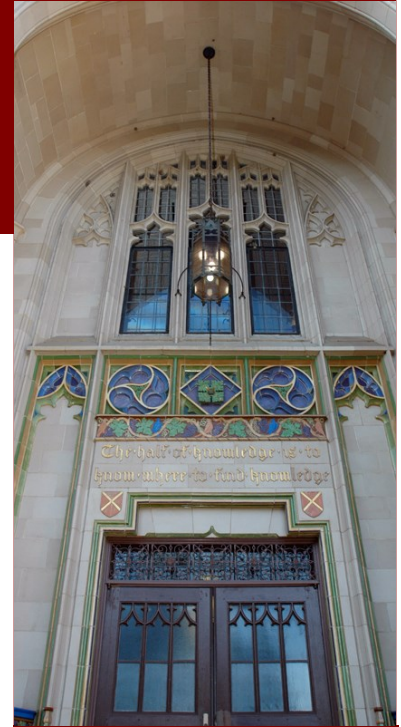
Throughout the coming academic year, the Department will sponsor a variety of events. We hope that many readers of this newsletter will be able to attend. For those who cannot, updates and reports of these will be regularly posted on the departmental website at <http://religion.fsu.edu>

The series begins on Sunday, September 20, 2015, with a reception in honor of retired faculty. Several of these live in Tallahassee, while others plan to make the trip in order to help us celebrate. The FSU Alumni Center, 1030 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, will provide a fitting venue for conversation. Please join us for this celebration from 4-6 p.m. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.



Department Faculty ca. late 1970's

Following this opening, there will be a series of lectures. Places and times are TBA, but for planning purposes, the tentative list is provided on page three of this newsletter.



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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

Kristina Buhrman joined the department in the fall of 2013 as a specialist on Japanese religions. A native of the Finger Lakes region of New York, she came to Florida State University from a one-year teaching position at the University of Missouri, after she received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 2012. In addition to Japanese Religions, a course she developed for FSU, she has taught courses on religion and morality in samurai culture, Japanese Buddhism, folklore in Japanese religion, and divination.

Buhrman's research utilizes medieval Japanese diaries to reconstruct ritual practices and the circulation of beliefs in Japanese culture. She trained at the Historiographical Institute at the University of Tokyo in reading these sources, which are generally written in a particularly Japanese style of classical Chinese (*kanbun*). Her current work focuses on the development and spread of Onmyōdō, a loosely-defined collection of divinatory and ritual practices that drew from a number of Chinese traditions, and that was particularly influential in pre-modern Japan. Her dissertation described the astronomical and astrological aspects of the elite specialists of this field. She also researches and teaches on the modern depiction of historical

religious and magical practice in Japanese popular culture.

Michael J. McVicar earned a Ph.D (2010) in Comparative Studies from the Ohio State University with concentrations in religious studies, cultural studies, and American religious history. He researches the relationship between religion and politics in twentieth-century U.S. history, with a specific focus on the development of theologically and socially conservative religious movements that emerged in post-World War II U.S. culture. Since joining FSU's department of religion in 2013, McVicar has taught courses on contemporary evangelicalism, theory and method in religious studies, new religious movements, and gender and sexuality in religion. His first book, *Christian Reconstruction: R. J. Rushdoony and American Religious Conservatism* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), documents the rise and fall of Christian Reconstructionism, a controversial theological movement pioneered by the Calvinist theologian and social critic, Rousas John Rushdoony. McVicar's current research focuses on the interaction between religion, domestic intelligence gathering by non-governmental organizations, and the development of political and social conservatism after World War II.

JOHN F. PRIEST LECTURE



February 5, 2015: Dr. Dale Martin, Yale University

“Jesus in Jerusalem:
Armed and Not Dangerous”

LECTURES 2014-2015



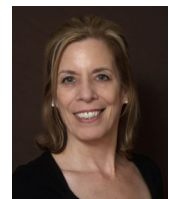
September 6, 2014: Bartholomeusz lecture, Dr. Brian Hatcher, Tufts University, “Swami Vivekananda's Practical Vedanta as Creative Theology”

February 27, 2015: UG Symposium, Religion and Culture.

Keynote: Dr. Amanda Porterfield, Florida State University, “The Tragedy of Christian Democratization in America.”

April 10-12, 2015: National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference (see related story).

April 10, 2015: Bartholomeusz lecture, Dr. Jason Josephson, Williams College, “How Buddhism Became a Religion”





GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



February 22-24, 2013: 12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, "Politics of Religion" Keynote: Dr. Aaron Hughes, University of Rochester. There were 52 presenters from 23 different universities and 14 states.

Religion 50th Anniversary Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, **Sept. 20, 2015:** Reception in honor of retired faculty.

Week of **Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2015:** Sheng Yen lecture, Robert Sharf, Taking Critical Buddhism Seriously.

Week of **Oct. 20-24, 2015:** Ed Blum, American Religious History, "The Age of Miracles Is Still With Us" Twelve Steps to Recovering American Religious History.

Monday, **Nov. 16, 2015:** Anne Monius, South Asian Religions, From Confidence to Critical Rethinking: The Study of South Asian Religions in the Wake of Said's *Orientalism*.

Week of **Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 2015:** Ron Green, Religious Ethics, Decoding Religion: Can We Theorize Human Religiousness?

Week of **Jan. 11-15 or 18-22, 2016:** Sheng Yen Lecture, Stephen Teiser, Curing with Karma: Healing Liturgies in Chinese Buddhism.

Week of **Jan. 25-29 or Feb. 1-5, 2016:** John F. Priest lecture.

March 23-26, 2016: Bartholomeusz Lecture, Don Lopez,
Lecture 1 Dispatches from Nirvana: 45 Years of Buddhist Studies.

Lecture 2 Christian vs Buddhist: The Battle for the Soul of Tibet.



February 21-23, 2014: 13th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, "Inscribing Authority: Bodies, Spaces, Texts" Keynote: Dr. Candida Moss, University of Notre Dame (center above). There were 35 presenters from 11 different universities, 2 countries and 9 states.



February 20-22, 2015: 14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, "Religion & Resistance" Keynote: Dr. Bruce Lincoln, (second from left) University of Chicago. There were 68 presenters from 26 different universities, 3 countries and 14 states.

RECENT GRADUATES

Spring 2015

Christopher Blythe, PhD
Daniel Dillard, PhD
Lauren Gray, PhD

Fall 2014

Adam Ware, PhD

Summer 2013

Cory Fritch, MA
Laura Brock, PhD
Cara Burnidge, PhD
Eric Naizer, PhD
Andrew Polk, PhD

Spring 2013

Tara Baldrick-Morrone, MA
Adam Brasich, MA
Adam Cushing, MA
Aaron Ellis, MA
Andrew Gibbs, MA
Brent Gordon, MA
Zachary Johnson, MA
Charles McCrary, MA
Jesse Northrup, MA
James Woodington, MA
Dianna Bell, PhD
Dustin Feddon, PhD
Rosemary Kellison, PhD
David May, PhD
Monica Reed, PhD

Fall 2012

Lori Chung, MA
James Broucek, PhD

Summer 2012

Lauren Cosgrove, MA
Nyoko Edoho-Eket, MA
Robert Britt-Mills, PhD
Shannon Dunn, PhD
Shem Miller, PhD

Spring 2012

Cameron Bailey, MA
Gregory Curtis, MA
Sharayn Menne, MA
Daniel Tuzzeo, MA
Rebecca Wiggins, MA
Daniel Wise, MA



Rosemary Kellison, Kirk Essary and John Kelsay at the 2013 SBL-AAR.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

As you can see by the long list of graduates, this has been a very busy couple of years! Our graduates have earned noteworthy placements: **Adam Ware** is a Research Librarian at The Orlando County Regional History Center; **Rosemary Kellison** is an Assistant Professor at The University of West Georgia; **Kirk Essary** holds a Post-doctoral Researcher position at the University of Western Australia; **Shannon Dunn and Emily Clark** are Assistant Professors at Gonzaga University; **Monica Reed** is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State Univ.



Monica Reed, Betsy Barre, Cara Burnidge, & Michael Pasquier at 2013 SBL-AAR

Cara Burnidge is an Assistant Professor at University of Northern Iowa; **Dianna Bell** is the Mellon Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt; **James Broucek** is an Assistant Professor at Iowa State University; and **Shem Miller** is an Adjunct Professor at University of Mississippi.



Thomas Whitley, Amanda Furiasse, Joshua Paterson, Harold Short, and Zechariah Eberhart.

Several of the students listed as graduating with their Master's degrees are continuing in our PhD program: **Tara Baldrick-Morrone, Adam Brasich, Charles McCrary, and Lauren Cosgrove** to list a few. **Aaron Ellis** is continuing at FSU in the PhD program in Theatre. Others have gone to other institutions for their advanced degrees: **David James Woodington** is pursuing his PhD at Notre Dame; **Nyoko Edoho-Eket** is continuing with her PhD at the University of Wisconsin Madison; and **Daniel Wise** is pursuing his PhD at the University of Virginia.



Tara Baldrick-Morrone, Harold Short, Yonatan Binyam, James Riggan & Ross Moret.

GLOBAL MEDICINE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND BIOETHICS

The Religion department co-sponsored the *National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference* on April 10-12, 2015. FSU was selected as the site of the 2015 conference on the basis of a proposal authored by several religion majors who had formed the *FSU Society for Practical Ethics (SPEFSU)* in 2013. Successfully applying for, planning, and convening the conference was *SPEFSU's* first major project. Over 200 undergraduates from universities and colleges in the US attended this two-day conference. The students presented papers, participated in the Bioethics Bowl, attended a career luncheon, and heard talks from several influential figures in the field. Dr. Ruth Macklin, Professor of Bioethics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Susan Holman, author of the book *Beholden: Religion, Global Health, and Human Rights*, and Wendi Adelson, a lawyer and advocate for anti-trafficking legislation in Florida were the featured speakers. The theme of the conference was *Global Medicine, Social Justice, and Bioethics*.

The FSU Bioethics Bowl team place fourth in the competition among a field of twenty teams! Religion majors were active participants on the team.

Several faculty members and graduate students from our department also participated as speakers, advisors, and Bioethics Bowl Judges.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Between spring 2012 and spring of 2015 **137** students graduated with a bachelor's degree in Religion. The following undergraduate students received awards:

May 20, 2015:

David Miller – Betty Phifer award and a Frost Scholar at Oxford

February 28, 2015:

UG Symposium Best Paper award - Tim Burnside

May 29, 2014:

Megan McDaniel – Betty Phifer award

Liana Whipple – Department Academic Achievement award

Savannah Harnett – Department Academic Achievement award

May 3, 2013:

Marcus Harden; Betty Phifer Award for Academic Excellence

Stefani Mead; Betty Phifer Award for Academic Excellence

Hali Beebe; Department Academic Achievement

Olivia Ramsey; Department Academic Achievement

Brandon Gamble - A certificate for outstanding performance and dedication as the Religion Club President for 2013.

April 18, 2012

Lauren Astigarraga – Betty Phifer award

Zachary Kermitz – Betty Phifer award



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The Department of Religion wants to hear from YOU.

Send us an update.

Please take a moment to keep in touch and give us an update by sending us your name, grad year and degree earned, your current mailing address and/or email address, and any news (Gotten married? Taken a new job? Written a book?) so we can include it in a future newsletter. You can send your emails to ssetson@fsu.edu or, if you prefer postal mail, to the address below.

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

In August 2015, **Aline Kalbian** begins a three year term of service as Chair of the Department of Religion. She succeeds **John Kelsay**, who served as Chair from 1996-2006, and again from 2012-2015.

Professor Kalbian came to FSU in 1998, following the completion of her doctoral work at the University of Virginia. Her research and teaching interests are in the area of religious ethics, with a special focus in bioethics, sexual ethics, and Roman Catholic moral theology. Publications include *Sexing the Church: Gender, Power, and Ethics in*



Contemporary Catholicism (Indiana University Press, 2005) and *Sex, Violence, and Justice: Contraception and the Catholic Church* (Georgetown University Press, 2014). Professor Kalbian also serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*.

Promoted to full professor in 2014, Professor Kalbian's previous service at FSU includes two terms as advisor for undergraduates majoring in Religion. In 2014, she received an FSU award for undergraduate instruction. We look forward to working with her.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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