

Communiqué

Fall 1998

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

New MA Program Now in Place

The department's master's program is in place after official approval and initiation in fall semester 1998. Six students are enrolled. The program is designed to serve the distinct educational aims of two different categories of students: those who are preparing for a doctoral program, and those who will use graduate study to enrich their educational lives, prepare for seminary study or strengthen work in allied disciplines. Students in journalism, education, history, literature, anthropology and art history are typical examples of students in allied fields.

The master's degree requires at least 30 credit hours of graduate study, of which 24 are to be taken in residence. The program allows considerable latitude for different courses of study and expects students to work out an appropriate selection of courses in consultation with a member of the department.

The graduate program serves students who are preparing for a doctoral program, the seminary or study in allied disciplines.

Students also will be required to demonstrate a competency in the principal methods of the study of religion, engage in appropriate language work and complete a portfolio of papers or a thesis.

The new degree program involves expanding departmental ties to the Religious Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis. When it is fully implemented, the cooperative project will allow graduate students at both institutions joint access to faculty and

Students entering the program select an area of emphasis from among seven areas now supported by the program. These include American Religious History, Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Religion and Society, Religions of Indigenous Peoples, Religions of Asia, and Women and Religion.

other academic resources. The two programs currently exchange courses through interactive telecommunications.

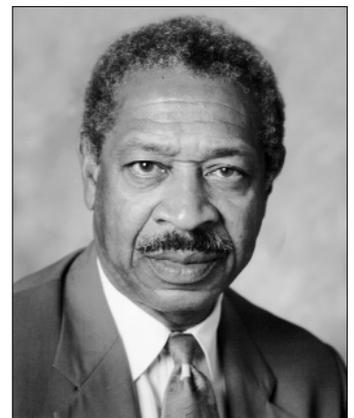
Two winter 1998 graduates, Rachel Haverstick and Kathleen O'Toole, are among the six master's students. Both are teaching assistants for the academic year.

Inquiries about program requirements and admissions may be directed by mail to the Department of Religious Studies, 405 General Classroom Building, Columbia, MO 65211-4140; by phone (573) 882-4769; by fax (573) 884-5438; or by e-mail at religswk@showme.missouri.edu. Additional information is on the web site at <http://www.missouri.edu/~religwww/degree.html#MasterofArts>.

Open Door Promotes Thoughtful Discussion

In opening his office door for informal discussion with students and faculty, noted historian of religions Charles H. Long begins a tradition in the department. Long, the retired director of the Research Center for Black Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, is a visiting lecturer in religious studies. His presence on campus this fall is in celebration of the department's new master's program.

He is the former William Rand Kenan Professor of the History of Religions at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and former professor of religion at Duke University. In retirement he devotes himself to the meaning of religion in the formation of the Atlantic world.
(Continues on Page 2)



Charles Long, noted historian of religions and a visiting lecturer, is developing a tradition of informal conversation in the department.



(Long, continued from Page 1)

Long received a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and taught at the Divinity School there from 1960-1974. He also served as the Jeannette K. Watson Professor of Religion at Syracuse University.

“It is our hope that Chuck Long will not only stimulate our thinking about religion, but that he will help us begin a tradition of continuing conversation among our graduate students and majors after the model of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago,” department Chair Jill Raitt says. “In this department, we believe that often more learning goes on during such conversations than in formal situations.

“This is the kind of learning that stimulates independent thinking and research, as well as collegial relationships that last a lifetime. Our only regret is that all of our alumni cannot join us. We encourage them to participate if they are in Columbia during the time that Dr. Long is on campus.”

Long will be on campus Nov. 9 to 13, continuing his lectures that ran during the second weeks of September and October. He can be found in his office at 421 General Classroom Building.

The title of Long’s public lecture series is “Reorientations in the Understanding and Study of African-American Religion in the United States.” He will present “Transcendence: Relationships, Materialities, and the Thickness of Time” Nov. 11 at 4:30 p.m. in 6 Hulston Hall. His first two lectures, presented in September and October, were “There is a River: Orientations and Beginnings” and “The Country and Constitution of the Soul.”

He will teach three sessions of Understanding Religion, and will meet with master’s students and interested majors three times. In a cross-disciplinary sharing, he will teach a class for Black Studies and discuss the interpretation of texts in The Veda, a master’s course taught by Associate Professor Joel Brereton. In addition, he will conduct a seminar for the religious studies faculty.

Long is not new to MU; he served as a consultant for the department’s NEH grant, helping to define the significance of developing a department of religious studies in the 1980s.

Called to Serve

Service learning is popular among students and in the community

*By Horace Griffin
Service Learning Coordinator*

In fall 1997, the religious studies department joined MU’s Service Learning Program. Not only is service learning a highly rated and popular program on campus, it has become a model for other universities implementing the program.

Service learning is designed to provide students with an opportunity to enrich and apply their classroom knowledge. In their projects, they explore careers or majors; improve citizenship; understand and appreciate cultural traditions and values; and develop civic, corporate and social responsibility. As they enhance their personal growth and self-image, the students enrich the lives of people in the community.

The program encourages students to share their major studies with students in public schools and to develop projects related to their studies at various agencies in the Columbia area.

A program of this sort is especially attractive to religious studies majors because it allows them to combine religious theory and practice. Three department students majoring in religious studies responded to the call in winter 1998: Brandon Cline, Tish Duncan and Antwaun Smith.

Cline and Duncan chose Columbia Public Works as their site. They are interested in environmental issues and how eco-theology can help develop ways to preserve the resources that we have been given. Smith, who worked at Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, a mid-Missouri agency, shared his academic and pastoral study of AIDS in some local churches.

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Jill Raitt
Nancy Moen

The department welcomes news from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

Department faculty, who are teaching new courses and researching unique topics, report on their work in "Faculty Kudos." Left to right are senior secretary Wanda Kent and faculty members Paul Johnson, Philip Clart, Joel Brereton, Sue Crowley and Robert Flanagan.



Faculty Kudos

Brereton completes term as department chair

Associate Professor Joel Brereton recently concluded a three-year term as department chair. It was a difficult three years for him, marked by the loss of both his parents. He is teaching the department's first graduate course, which deals with general issues of canon, interpretation and authority through an examination of the *Veda*, the formal scripture of the Hindu tradition.

Brereton's study of the *Veda* took an unanticipated turn in spring 1998 when Oxford University Press asked him and a Harvard colleague, Stephanie Jamison, to prepare a new translation of the *Rigveda*, the oldest and more significant of the core texts of the *Veda*. The project will be a substantial undertaking if Oxford gives approval because the text is about the size of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* combined.

This fall, Brereton will give a paper at the American Association of Religions on the composition and interpretation of the dialogue between the sage Yajnavalkya and his wife, Maitreyi, a passage in the *Brihad Aranyaka Upanishad*, a later Vedic text.

Clart is specialist in East Asian religions

A native of Cologne, Germany, Philip Clart joined the department in August 1998 as assistant professor in East Asian religions and will teach courses on Chinese and Japanese Religions, Daoism, Confucianism and Chinese Popular Religion during the academic year. Clart holds a master's degree from the University of Bonn, Germany, and a doctoral degree in Asian Studies from the University of British Columbia. He and his wife, Ursula, have two daughters, Anna, 6, and Laura, 4.

Clart did his doctoral research on the relationship of religious tradition and modernity in contemporary Taiwan, as exemplified in a case study of a central Taiwanese spirit-

writing cult. Clart taught classes in Chinese religions and Classical Chinese language at UBC from 1996 to 1998.

Crowley serves department, Honors College

Sue Crowley continues to coordinate the Humanities Sequence for the Honors College where she has been promoted to associate director. She also researches and publishes articles on Walker Percy, one of which will be reprinted in a volume on *The Grail*. Crowley teaches one course a semester for the department and acted as host for a reception honoring the department's 14 graduating seniors. On a personal note, she dotes on her two granddaughters who live in Columbus, Ohio.

Flanagan nears completion of two books

"Students are what make teaching meaningful, so please keep in touch," Adjunct Professor Bob Flanagan asks MU graduates. He is nearing the end of writing two books and is involved in the study of the religious dimensions of North American culture. He teaches Human Sexuality, The Reality of God, Contemporary Religious Thought, and Religion and Contemporary Social Issues, and is adding a new course on Jewish-Christian relations. In other social notes, Flanagan and his wife, Mary Flanagan, MEd '81, PhD '89, entertained the department in the capacious house that Flanagan built out of a small barn/house. Flanagan officiated at son Jeremy's wedding the past spring, and younger son Caleb entered MU as a freshman business major. Mary continues her counseling practice.

Friesen's book accepted for publication

Assistant Professor Steven Friesen's book on the worship of the Roman emperors, known as imperial cults, and the Revelation of John has been accepted for publication by
(Continues on Page 4)

(Kudos, continued from Page 3)

Oxford University Press. Friesen finished the rough draft after a year's research leave awarded by the UM Research Board. In 1997, he taught the department's first distance-learning course, a seminar on The Historical Jesus, as part of the collaborative master's program with Washington University. Reflections on that course will appear in the next issue of *Chalkboard*, published by MU's Program for Excellence in Teaching.

Also in 1997, Friesen became the department's director of Graduate Studies and received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on a research database containing all known references to four kinds of religious officials from the Roman Empire. That research database, information about his course on Biblical Hebrew and photos of his family are available on the Internet through links to his home page at <http://www.missouri.edu/~religsf/index.html>.

Griffin teaches new special topics course

Life shifted into high gear for Professor Horace Griffin after being hired as a department faculty member. In March 1996, he resigned from his teaching position at Fisk University and finished work on three biographies for a large volume, *Notable Black American Men*, which will be published this fall. At the same time, Griffin's partner, Ken Stone, was hired by Chicago Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses in Hebrew Bible.

Griffin is teaching a new special topics course, Religion and Homosexuality, a popular class that also promises to be useful for the book he's writing, *Their Own Received Them Not: African American Lesbians and Gays in Black Churches*. Also this fall, the *Journal of Pastoral Care* will publish his article "Revisioning Christian Ethical Discourse on Homosexuality: A Challenge for the 21st Century." Other courses Griffin teaches are American Religious History Post-Civil War, Black Religion,

Religion and Oppression/Faith and Freedom, and Religion and Human Sexuality. In his spare time, he enjoys movies, plays and concerts.

Johnson's dissertation wins 1998 prize

Professor Paul Johnson came to the department from the University of Chicago in fall 1994, replacing Phil Arnold in the area of Indigenous Religions. He had completed two years of fieldwork in Brazil, where he investigated the Candomblé religion, a tradition that arrived from West Africa during the slave trade. His dissertation, "The Nation and the 'Nations': Religious Identity and Ritualizing Space in Brazilian Candomblé," explored the historical relation of the religion to the nation-state, and how symbols of the nation have been incorporated into the tradition for its own ends. The dissertation earned the 1998 Susan Colver Rosenberger Dissertation Prize for best of the year at the University of Chicago Divinity School. In addition, he has published articles on South American shamans, fieldwork methodology, and the social and political meanings of religious icons.

This past summer, Johnson spent two months in Honduras among the Garífuna of the Caribbean coast. The Garífuna present a new challenge in understanding New World African traditions. Although African in descent, they speak mostly Arawak, originally an Amazonian language. Johnson hopes to return to Honduras next summer. In the meantime, he resides outside of Columbia, finding peace in the woods with a guitar and two dogs.

Raitt resumes duties as department chair

Professor Jill Raitt chairs the department and teaches undergraduate and graduate seminars. She received an MU development leave for 1995-96 and used the time to **(Continues on Page 5)**



New books and publications in progress are among the accomplishments of faculty members Steven Friesen, Sharon Welch, Jill Raitt, chair, and Horace Griffin.

(Kudos, continued from Page 4)

study Greek. Since then, she has taught The Early Church, Medieval Christianity, Introduction to Religion, Spirituality, and The Catholic Intellectual Tradition. For two years she has worked with the Freshman Interest Groups program, in conjunction with Introduction to Religion, with peer adviser Antwaun Smith.

Her publications since 1994 have been both serious and humorous. They range from an article on love, "Caritas in St. Augustine," through an essay on Sts. Ignatius of Loyola and Teresa of Avila, and another on Christian Life Communities to a series of letters from the fictitious Hilda Bibfeldt. Raitt served as a senior editor of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation* (four volumes), which was published in 1996.

In June and July 1996, she presented a paper in Melbourne, Australia, to the International Conference on Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church: "Transformations and Traditions: St. Augustine's Teaching on the Transformation of Christians." She pursued research on Christian Life Communities in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, taking a week off to visit Ayer's Rock and to snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef. She still lives on her farm and rides her horses.

Welch writes on ethics and spirituality

Professor Sharon Welch has published a book, *Sweet Dreams in America: Making Ethics and Spirituality Work*, and is working on a revised second edition of *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*. She served as a visiting professor in 1996 at Uppsala (Sweden) University, and in 1997 at the University of Amsterdam, offering seminars, lectures and workshops on postmodern feminist ethics. She leads workshops on racial diversity and multicultural education locally and throughout the United States.

Welch regularly offers a summer course on the theory and practice of multicultural education for teachers from elementary through secondary schools. She is teaching Introduction to Religion, and Women and Religion. In winter 1999, she will offer Images of Good and Evil and a graduate course, Women and Religion. Welch enjoys her new house on University Avenue where she lives with her daughters, Zoe and Hannah, and their dog, Pei.

Lawless is department's adjunct professor

Elaine Lawless officially has been named adjunct professor and can direct department dissertations and serve on master's committees. She is a member of MU's English department and a nationally renowned expert in midwestern folklore, specializing in Missouri women who lead rural congregations.

Wanda Kent oversees office duties

Senior Secretary Wanda Kent joined the religious studies department in May 1996. She was not new to MU. For 18 years, Kent has worked for the University, both on campus and at the hospital. She greets students, helps solve their scheduling problems, calms faculty and keeps the

front office clicking pleasantly along. She is mother of two and grandmother of one. When time allows, she relaxes at her piano, in her flower garden or with a good book.

Hudson starts tutoring business

Linda Hudson, PhD '92, has begun her own business tutoring international students.

"Major" Honors

Department majors collect numerous awards

Chapman Scholarship winners for 1998 are **Rachel Haverstick** and **Jennifer Davis**. Previous winners of the department's prestigious award are **Patricia Duncan** and **Antwaun Smith**, 1997; **Krisda Siritwangchai** and **Travis Statler**, 1996; and **Brandon Cline** and **Gail Lundberg**, 1995. The Chapman Scholarships were established through a generous gift of **Paula** and **Larry Chapman** of Columbia.

Professor **Jill Raitt** was made an honorary member of Mortar Board in May 1998. Antwaun Smith and Jennifer Davis were tapped into the national honor society, Mortar Board, in April 1997. Rachel Haverstick and Antwaun Smith presented papers at Webster University in St. Louis on April 4-5, 1997.

Antwaun Smith, **Ryan Evans** and **Sonya Salazar** won McNair scholarships. Smith studied with **Joel Brereton** during fall 1997; Evans studied with Raitt in summer 1998; and Salazar is studying with **Paul Johnson** in 1998-98. McNair fellowships are for honors students who are the first generation in their family to attend college. In addition to their scholarship, they receive funds to attend a professional meeting, usually the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion.

Winners of mentorships and their mentors were Patricia Duncan with mentor **Steve Friesen** in 1996; Brandon Cline with **John Foley** (classics) in 1997; Krisda Siritwangchai with Joel Brereton in 1997; Antwaun Smith with Paul Johnson in summer 1997; Rachel Haverstick and Jennifer Davis with Jill Raitt in summer 1997; and **Heather Kinney** with Raitt in summer 1998. Mentorships provide students with \$3,000 in the summer, or \$1,000 in the school year, to study with a professor who serves as their mentor.

Faculty Changes in Department

Recent Appointments

Professor Horace Griffin joined the religious studies department in fall 1996 as assistant professor of American religions. He earned a doctoral degree at Vanderbilt University and comes to Mizzou from Fisk University. He serves the department as director of undergraduate study and service learning coordinator. See related article, "Called to Serve," on Page 2.

Professor Paul Johnson, who also joined the department in fall 1996, may be remembered by some as a visiting lecturer at Mizzou in fall 1994. He received a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and teaches Indigenous Religions, and Modern Perspectives in Religion.

Professor Philip Clart, who joined the department in fall 1998, has a PhD from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. He teaches East Asian Religions.

Rabbi Yossi Feintuch serves as adjunct professor of Jewish Studies.

Visiting Lecturers

Visiting MU in fall 1996, Professor Liza Burr taught Introduction to Hebrew Bible and Introduction to New Testament. She holds a PhD from Harvard University's religion program.

Professor Steve Crain taught a video-link course, Creation and Cosmology, from Washington University in St. Louis during winter semester 1997.

Bill Young, visiting professor from Westminster College, is teaching Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, enabling Professor Steve Friesen to offer Biblical Hebrew.

Professor Charles H. Long, retired director of the Research Center for Black Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, is delivering three public lectures and holding seminars for master's students, undergraduate majors and faculty.

Renowned Speakers Are Paine Lecturers

The respected Paine Lecture Series has added a group of lectures to the yearly agenda of presentations by national speakers. For the first time, Mizzou alumni presented lectures in their specialties. Some of the alumni talks were targeted at students who are majors and minors in the religious studies department.

Historical look at Paine lecturers

The following national speakers appeared: Wendy Doniger presented three lectures from her series, "The Implied Spider: Politics and Theology in Myth," March 5-7, 1997.

Andrew Louth, a reader in patristics at the University of Durham, England, presented "And if you Pray Truly, You are a Theologian: Reflections on an Early Christian Spirituality," April 15, 1997. He also met with the Early Christianity class and the Spirituality class.

Pamela Schaeffer, special projects editor for the *National Catholic Reporter* and former religion editor for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, spoke on "Stalking the Holy: A Religion Writer Talks About Her Work," Oct. 13, 1997. The lecture was co-sponsored by the School of Journalism, where she also met informally with students and faculty.

Charles H. Long, a visiting faculty member for fall 1998, helped inaugurate the department's new master's program with his lectures.

Alumni lecture to public and department

Mizzou alumni delivered the following lectures: Ben Hebblethwaite, AB '93, used slides and music to accompany his public lecture on "The Rastifarian Movement in South Africa."

Monica Cawvey, AB '94, presented "A Conversation with Monica Cawvey" to department majors and minors on graduate study in religious studies.

Tom Finan, AB '89, spoke on "The Future of the Past in the Present: Medieval Irish Prophetic Poetry and Cultural Politics."

Simon Pursifull, AB '89, of St. Louis met with department majors to discuss "Life after Religious Studies."

Whatever Happened To...

The department has more than 80 graduates, many of whose addresses are obsolete. Alumni are asked to help update files by sending the names and addresses of former classmates and students or by encouraging them to write the department. Another edition of the newsletter is planned for October 1999. Graduates since the previous newsletter include:

Winter 1996: Jason Kruse, Christopher Powell-Smith, Travis Statler, Jim Spencer

Winter 1997: Thad Horrell, Lori Imstrand, Gail Lundberg, Scott Leiker

Fall 1997: Michael Bond, Brandon Cline, Krisda Siriwangchai, Jolene Switser, Susan Zeman

Winter 1998: Jennifer Davis, Patricia Duncan, Rachel Haverstick, Judith McKenzie, Kathleen O'Toole, Robyn Ricks, Antwaun Smith, Jennifer Stanley, Barbara Stocklas

Graduates Making News

Gay Albers, AB '88, obtained an MA in social work from Washington University and an MDiv from Vanderbilt University. She spent several years as a Methodist minister and hospital chaplain in Minnesota, and recently moved to Denver. She married Gregory Roberts, MD, Sept. 19.

Monica Cawvey, AB '94, is working on a PhD at the University of Chicago. An MU teaching assistant in fall 1996, she returned in spring 1997 to teach two courses, Narratives of Conversion and Captivity, a four-week course in the department, and a course in the Scholars Academy. She returned again in spring 1998 to teach two courses for the Scholars Academy.

Brandon Cline, AB '97, and **Tish Duncan**, AB '98, were married July 18 at Mount Olivet Church in Columbia at a ceremony presided over by Professor Bob Flanagan. They have begun volunteer work with Catholic Charities in Minnesota.

Alan Deffenderfer, AB '92, is preparing for PhD comprehensive examinations at Claremont (Calif.) Graduate School and managing the school's bookstore.

Patty Faber, AB '85, the department's first AB, is counseling in Wisconsin. In a recent letter she says, "I believe I received a fine education, in some ways, in spite of myself. You 'created' a great department, and I use many of the analytical and comprehension skills I learned in my religious studies classes in my current job. Please know that I'm very grateful for having been your first graduate."

Tom Finan, AB '89, is a PhD candidate in the history department at the Catholic University of America.

Jennifer Gubkin, AB '91, is a graduate student at the University of Southern California, writing her dissertation on Jewish feminist ethics; she recently published a short piece in *Soundings*.

Ben Hebblethwaite, AB '93, is working on an MA in French literature at Purdue University after several years at Claremont Graduate School followed by a year in his native South Africa.

Pamela McClure, AB '87, received a PhD in English from MU in 1997 and served as a teaching assistant for World Religions in fall 1997.

Simon Pursifull, AB '89, met with majors in January 1997 to discuss "Life after Religious Studies." He continues working at State Farm Insurance in St. Louis, where he lives with his new wife, Vickie.

Ryan Shaw, AB '94, and Shannon Glass, married in July 1995 at a ceremony presided over by Professor Bob Flanagan. The couple lives in St. Louis, where Shaw manages Slackers Book Store. He received a master of theological studies from Duke University's Divinity School.

Krisda Siritwangchai, AB '97, began Asian studies at the University of Washington in Seattle in fall 1998.

Antwaun Smith, AB '98, received Ford and Mellon fellowships. He began a master's program in Chinese studies at Harvard University in fall 1998.

Travis Statler, AB '96, entered MU's School of Law in fall 1998.

The department encourages alumni to send news and letters to the editor, which may be edited for length and clarity.

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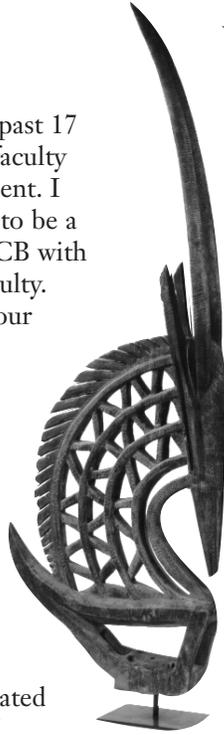
Et Cetera

By Jill Raitt
Department Chair

As I sit before my computer thinking about the past 17 years, I see so many faces of students, staff and faculty who have contributed to the life of this department. I salute and thank all of you because we continue to be a strong, collegial corner of the fourth floor of GCB with bright, delightful students and a harmonious faculty.

Because of frequent changes in secretaries, our most recent newsletter went out in fall 1994, so we have some catching up to do! As you can see by the front page story, our most exciting news is the department's new master's program, which began this fall with two of our own graduates, two transfer students from Emory University and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, a Columbia College professor (PhD in philosophy) and a Fordham University graduate. In fall 1999, we hope to admit 10 master's students.

During academic year 1997-1998, we graduated 14 outstanding students, 11 with honors, two of



whom had 4.0 grade point averages, and one with a fistful of fellowships for graduate study. As usual, most of our graduates were double majors, which makes us even prouder of their achievements.

We also are very pleased with our new faculty members, Paul Johnson, who replaces Phil Arnold, Horace Griffin, replacing Bill Green, and Philip Clart, who teaches in the new position of East Asian religions. With regret we said good-bye to Rabbi Harvey Rosenfeld who left the department and Columbia in summer 1997. We thank him for more than 13 years of outstanding service and send our best wishes.

An important goal for us through this newsletter is to stay in touch with all of you and to ask you to help us locate any graduates whose addresses we have lost. If you have addresses of graduates, please send them to us, and please keep us current when you move.

This wood headcrest of an antelope is the work of a Bamana artist from Mali. It is printed courtesy of MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology.

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