

Communiqué

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

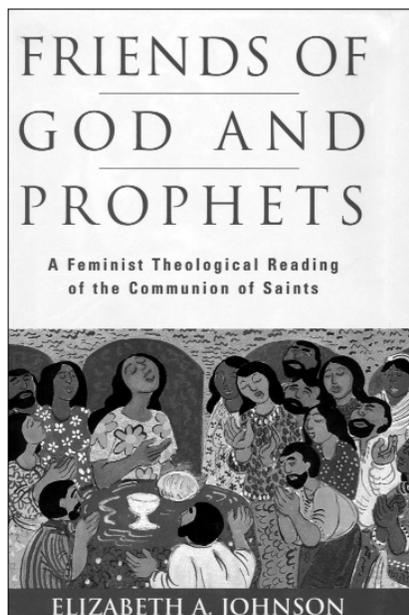
Paine Lectures Draw Scholars, Public

The first Rufus Monroe and Sophie Paine Lectures in Religion for the academic year focused on “Apocalypse! The Book of Revelation in Its Own Time.”

The lectures included presentations on the first century Common Era setting of the Revelation of John by three specialists. Each lecture highlighted a distinct aspect of Revelation and employed a particular method of analysis. The goal of the sessions was to provide a counterbalance to futuristic interpretations of Revelation by presenting historical perspectives on this text.

The first presentation was a slide lecture, “Worshipping the Roman Emperors: John’s Views on Politics and Religion,” by Associate Professor Steve Friesen. With Revelation 13 as a starting point, Friesen used archaeological materials and social-historical methods to illustrate the tensions between John’s theology and mainstream culture.

Professor Paul Duff, chair of religion at George Washington University, delivered the second lecture, “Surrounded by Enemies: John’s Competition in the Churches.” He examined the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 and used textual methods to look at evidence for disagree-



Elizabeth A. Johnson, the author of Friends of God and Prophets, is among the distinguished speakers in the Rufus Monroe and Sophie Paine Lectures.

ments between John and other leaders in the churches to whom he wrote.

Professor David Barr, chair of religion at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, presented the concluding lecture, “Transforming the Imagination: John’s Narrative as Story.” Barr provided a broad overview of the whole text of Revelation. He highlighted the plot and characters in Revelation as a way of understanding how John sought to influence his audience through the visionary stories he recorded.

A lecture by Professor Karen McCarthy-Brown of Drew University provided a different topic for discussion. Her talk, “Making Wanga: A Haitian Response to an Infamous Case of Police Brutality,” centered on the case of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima, who was severely tortured by members of the New York police department. McCarthy-Brown examined the ways in which Haitians draw on African religious traditions to make sense of contemporary crises such as the Louima case.

Elizabeth A. Johnson of Fordham University, the author of *She Who Is*, which won the Grawemeyer Prize for the best book published in the field of religion, will present “Imaging God: Creating Worlds” Feb. 23 at the Newman Center.

(Continues on Page 2)

MA Program Expands

Department welcomes new teaching assistants

With the success of the department’s master’s program came the addition of teaching assistants, Natalie Fisk, Heather Hignite and Thad Horrell. Fisk transferred to a program in Buddhist studies at the end of the fall semester. Hignite and Horrell join second-year teaching assistants Steve Blower, Rachel Haverstick and Melissa Young.

“One of the greatest strengths of the department is that its relatively small size allows for individual attention to the needs of graduate students,” says Young. The department has five graduate students.

Young, an alumna of Rhodes College, knew from the start that her interest was in religious studies. Her graduate studies interest is in contemporary American Protestantism. (Continues on Page 2)



(Lectures, Continued from Page 1)

Lectures other than the Paine series include these four Religion, the Professions and the Public: Colloquia 2000 events:

5:30 p.m. March 6 in room S-261, School of Nursing, "Religion and Health Affairs" by William F. May of Southern Methodist University, founding director of the



William F. May, former president of the American Academy of Religion, will speak on "Religion and Health Affairs" March 6 in the School of Nursing. May is the founding director of the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility.

Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, and former president of the American Academy of Religion.

7:30 p.m. March 13 in Gannett Auditorium, "Religion and Journalism" by Gustav Niebuhr, religion correspondent of The New York Times and a religion reporter for more than 13 years.

7:30 p.m. April 3 in room 7, Hulston Hall, "Religion and Law" by Azizah Al-Hibri, law professor at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Va., and founder of Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights.

7:30 p.m. April 24 in Jesse Wrench Auditorium in Memorial Union,

"Religion, the Professions

and the Public" by Martin E. Marty and Diane Winston. Emeritus professor from the University of Chicago, Marty is noted for lifelong contributions to the public's understanding of religion in American society. Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, Winston is a fellow at the Center for Media, Culture and Religion at New York University.

(MA Program, Continued from Page 1)

The department receives inquiries from students with a variety of degrees. "The program makes an ideal preparation for the student who wishes to go on to pursue a PhD in religious studies," says Blower, who received an undergraduate degree in classics at Fordham University. His focus is Biblical studies.

Haverstick is in her sixth year with the department, which includes a bachelor's degree in 1998. "I enjoy acting as a teaching assistant for fascinating classes and am learning to be a good teacher from the excellent faculty," she says. Haverstick plans to complete her master's in spring 2001 and immediately work toward a doctoral degree.

Hignite, who is impressed with the quality of the faculty, comes to the program with an undergraduate degree in English and religion and philosophy from Drury College. She is focusing on women and religion.

Information on the master's program is available through the department's web page, www.missouri.edu/~religwww/, or by writing Associate Professor Steve Friesen, director of graduate studies, at 405 General Classroom Building, Columbia, MO 65211-4140.

Debut Appearance

Religious Studies News, the official publication of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature featured MU's religious studies department as the opener for a new regular item called "Department Meeting." The interview included responses from Chair Jill Raitt and comments from Professor Joel Brereton and teaching assistant Rachel Haverstick, AB '98.

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Editorial Board

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

Faculty and staff members in the religious studies department are, front row from left, Steve Friesen, Lisa Isaacson, Yossi Feintuch, Paul Johnson and Jill Raitt; second row, Wanda Kent, Philip Clart, Monica Cawvey, Sue Crowley and Sharon Welch. Not pictured are Bob Flanagan and Joel Brereton.



Faculty Kudos

Welch promoted to professor

Promoted to professor in 1999, Sharon Welch teaches Women and Religion, Religion and Culture, and Introduction to Religion. She also was reappointed as an adjunct faculty member of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. Welch teaches a summer seminar on multicultural education for teachers and leads workshops for teachers on multicultural education. With counseling psychology Professor Helen Neville, she presented an MU Teaching Renewal Workshop on Training Multiculturally Competent Professionals. In addition to leading other workshops, she presented the Gates Lectures at Grinnell College in October. Welch has written an essay, "Return to Laughter," on the challenges of theology after metaphysics for a volume edited by John Caputo for the Blackwell Readings in Continental Philosophy.

Friesen wins early tenure

Steve Friesen attained a rare achievement in spring 1998 when he received tenure one year early, an honor accompanied by promotion to associate professor. During the summer, he visited archaeologists and excavations at the ancient sites of Ephesus, Aphrodisias and Pergamon in Turkey. The trip was funded through the MU Research Council and the MU Alumni Association as a follow-up to his National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend of 1997. The summer stipend allowed him to construct a database with information on religious officials from these sites, and the trip made it possible to examine some of the inscriptions where these officials are mentioned. Readers may access the database at <http://web.missouri.edu/~religst/officials.html>. At the end of the trip, Friesen flew out of Istanbul just 36 hours before the earthquake hit. Friesen also organized and participated in the semester's first Paine

lecture. He spoke on "Worshipping the Roman Emperors: John's Views on Politics and Religion."

Brereton is on leave

Professor Joel Brereton is on leave for the academic year to work on translating the *Rigveda*, the oldest Vedic text of formal Hindu scripture. Brereton spends some of his time in Cambridge, Mass., working on the translation with Stephanie Jamison of Harvard University. The *Rigveda* consists of 1,028 hymns; Brereton plans to have about 500 of the hymns translated within the year. He and Jamison are planning a translation that integrates and advances contemporary scholarship on the *Rigveda*. Discussions of the interpretation, literary features, and religious and ritual contexts of the hymns will accompany the translation.

Numerous publications for Clart

The Professor Philip Clart family announces a new addition. Sarah Sophia made her MU debut on July 17, 1999, at University Hospital. Clart, who has completed his first year at MU, is teaching Religions of China and Japan, Daoism, East Asian Buddhism and the senior seminar. He gave a public lecture at Washington University in St. Louis in October 1998 and submitted numerous items for publication: an article on a Chinese new religion in the Greater Vancouver area, eight entries for an encyclopedia of Taoism and two book reviews. He has been revising his dissertation into a book manuscript. In December he participated in an international conference on Chinese religions in Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

Johnson explores boundaries between traditions

Professor Paul Johnson spent the summer along the Caribbean coast of Honduras in a village of Garífuna people. Their religion involves a mélange of rituals that
(Continues on Page 4)

(Kudos, Continued from Page 3)

invoke and incarnate ancestors through spirit possession set against a backdrop of popular Latin American Catholicism. Johnson worked at sorting out the lines of division within one community. He investigated participation in traditional ritual, members who choose evangelical protestantism and rifts that exist in the community of 5,000 based on these tensions. He also is exploring how their traditional ceremonies gain in force or are forgotten as many Garifuna migrate to the United States. Johnson prefers working on the boundaries between traditions, amidst the partial appropriations and resistances. He believes the world is veering from discrete, clearly defined religions toward hybrid systems. Johnson and Genevieve Zubrzycki were married Jan. 26 in Quebec.

Horace Griffin moves to Illinois

Horace Griffin has moved to Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evansville, Ill., where he is assistant professor of pastoral theology and director of the Chicago Collegiate Seminarians Project. The position allows Griffin to apply his administrative skills in a similar manner to the expertise he displayed at MU in his service learning courses. "We are all sorry to have lost Horace as a colleague," department Chair Jill Raitt says, "but we are pleased that he has found a position that precisely suits his abilities and training." Griffin's e-mail address is H-Griffin@nwu.edu. His postal address is Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, 2122 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201-2938.

Lawless delivers Sidore Lecture at the University of New Hampshire

Adjunct Professor Elaine Lawless, a professor of English, delivered the Saul O. Sidore Memorial Lecture at the University of New Hampshire in October. She spoke on "Transforming the Master Narrative: How Women Shift the Religious Subject." Lawless is teaching Women's Folklore and Feminist Theory, and Belief and Religious Ethnography, and she serves on the arts and science promotion and tenure committee.

Crowley oversees new Honors College program

Sue Crowley continues as associate director of the Honors College, coordinating the humanities sequence and a new Scholar in Residence program. She teaches Modern Literature and the Quest for Values and Biblical Themes in American Literature. Her research is in the influence of the Gnostics on the fiction of Toni Morrison. During breaks she is a power granny and goes by her new name, Mimi.

Flanagan is adjunct faculty member

Professor Bob Flanagan remains an adjunct member of the department. He teaches Contemporary Religious Thought, Religion and Contemporary Social Issues and History of Religion in Post-Civil War America.

Isaacson is student and teacher

Lisa Isaacson is teaching Major World Religions, substituting for Joel Brereton, who is on leave. She has taught philosophy and religious studies at Columbia College since completing her MU PhD in philosophy in 1983. At Columbia College, Isaacson works with nontraditional students, and she is finding it interesting to teach traditional students at MU. As a graduate student in religious studies, she has become a traditional student again as well. Isaacson and her husband, David, live in Moberly, Mo.

Rabbi Feintuch joins department as lecturer

Rabbi Yossi Feintuch, PhD Emory University, joined the religious studies faculty as a lecturer in winter semester 1998, teaching Judaism and The Torah: A Liberal View. He is rabbi for the Congregation Beth Shalom at the Hillel Foundation. Members of the religious studies faculty attended the bar mitzvah of Feintuch's son.

Department chair plans numerous colloquia

Department Chair Jill Raitt has completed an essay, "Margins," that looks at marginality through an analysis of the marginalia in medieval manuscripts among other things. She has worked with an interdisciplinary committee to develop "Religion, the Professions and the Public: Colloquia 2000," which may lead to a national conference in 2001. Raitt participated in Martin Marty's Public Religion Project based in Chicago, which allowed her to develop ideas for the colloquia and to invite Marty as a speaker for the Religion and Journalism colloquium. The winter 2000 colloquia are Religion and Health Affairs and Religion and Law. Colloquia on Religion and Business, Religion and the Environment, and Religion and Psychology are being planned for fall 2000 and Religion and Education for winter 2000. In May 1999, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land provided her a much-needed break. By fall, she had developed her web page, including a link to Religious Studies 203, Medieval Christianity, and Religious Studies 239, Spirituality. Visit the web site at www.missouri.edu/~religjr/.

Graduates Making News

Monica Cawvey, AB '94, joined the faculty for fall semester 1999. She taught American Religious History to the Civil War and a revised version of her summer 1997 course, American Conversion Narratives. In 1999, she passed her PhD qualifying exams at the University of Chicago Divinity School, where she earned her MA in 1996.

She is writing the proposal for her dissertation, which she tentatively has titled *Saving the Body: The American Religious Dimension of Health and Diet*. In her dissertation, Cawvey will explore the writings and diet plan of Sylvester Graham, a Presbyterian minister known for the bread that eventually turned into the graham cracker.

In the past year, Cawvey taught literature and writing for undergraduates at the University of Chicago and World Traditions at the Missouri Scholars Academy, a three-week program for gifted Missouri students. Cawvey enjoys her new home in Columbia, where she relaxes by singing in a choir.

Brandon Cline, AB '97, and **Tish Duncan**, AB '98, celebrated their first wedding anniversary July 18, 1999. They spent the past year with the Catholic Charities Volunteer Corps in St. Paul, Minn. Duncan served as a youth counselor to children ages 7-13 who suffered from emotional and behavioral disorders because of abuse or neglect. Cline worked as a family services assistant for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, serving as a liaison between the affiliate and its homeowners and applicants. They have entered the master of divinity program at the University of Chicago Divinity School. They are both house scholars of the Disciples Divinity House and Fund for Theological Education Ministry Fellows.

Jennifer Davis, AB '98, married David Wilson in September 1999. Davis works at MU.

Liora Gubkin, (formerly Jennifer), AB '91, is a teaching assistant for Religions of Asia at the University of Southern California. An essay based on Gubkin's dissertation research will appear in an edited collection from Greenwood Press in memory of

the Holocaust and the state of Israel. She also teaches fifth grade at a conservative synagogue. When not teaching, Gubkin continues to write her dissertation on the ritualization of the Holocaust in Passover Haggadot in the United States and plans to receive her PhD in May 2000.

Rachel Haverstick, AB '98, is working towards her master's in religious studies at MU and serving as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Religion and Medieval Christianity. Haverstick plans to write a thesis about the implications of oral tradition in Revelation and work on a project that examines the textualizing of Voudou and the retextualizing of pre-Christian European religions in the United States.

Margaret Hill, AB '89, received her MA in social work in 1997 from Aurora (Ill.) University. After working in gang neighborhoods and with the homeless, she returned to the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis. Hill researches and analyzes conflict issues for the firm's attorneys. She continues her social work as a consultant and grant writer.

Heather Kinney, AB '99, is in her first semester of studies at the Aquinas Institute of Theology, working toward a master of divinity degree.

Scott Leiker, AB '97, is applying to MU's doctoral program in counseling psychology and works as the counselor assistant coordinator at Daybreak Dual Diagnosis Treatment Center in Columbia. He volunteers at Columbia Community Hospice and assists with Buddhist meditation at the Interfaith Center. With other members of his religious community, Leiker is re-creating a student group called St. Sophia's Society. The group will have guests from different religious traditions lecture on their order or lineage.

Gail Lundberg, AB '97, is working for Health Midwest: Rehabilitation Center for Blindness and Low Vision as the day residential aide. The center trains blind or visually impaired persons to enter the work force and to learn basic living activities. Lundberg assists with computer training, braille and other tasks. **(Continues on Page 6)**

(Graduates, Continued from Page 5)

Judith McKenzie, AB '98, recently married Heriberto Del Porto and is living in Portland, Ore., where she works at FamilyWorks, a free, nonprofit family counseling center funded by the county and administered by Lutheran Family Service.

Robert Myers, AB '99 mathematics, physics and German, is enrolled in a doctoral mathematics program at the University of California at Berkeley, where he is a member of the university symphony. Myers returned to MU in October 1999 to perform as the violin soloist for the University Philharmonic Orchestra.

Kara Rogers, AB '93, a doctoral student in folklore and American studies at Indiana University-Bloomington, has completed her course work and is working as a theater manager and folklorist for Jubilee Community Arts and the Laurel Theater in Knoxville, Tenn. She passed qualifying exams in November. Rogers plans to publish her completed MA thesis, *Leaving the Laurel, the Establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, as a book of regional interest for the Southern Appalachian

area. She is researching children and "church play" or "playing church."

Jennifer Stanley, AB '98, recently returned from Bulgaria, where she was working with the Peace Corps.

Constance Steinkuehler, AB '93, is working toward a PhD in educational psychology, specializing in cognitive science applied to education, with primary interest in argumentation. In a recent letter she wrote, "My religious studies degree prepared me for my current endeavors in ways that I could never have predicted. I learned how to pay close, analytic attention to context, culture and interaction."

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

Editorial Office

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Let's Linkup

Welcome to www.missouri.edu/~religwww

The Department of Religious Studies web site provides information on faculty, degrees and courses, in addition to announcements of events and awards. The faculty section provides links to e-mail addresses and personal web pages for professors Joel Brereton, Steve Friesen and Jill Raitt.

The degree section includes requirements for undergraduate and graduate degrees, and allows visitors to download an MA application form.

The department plans to develop an alumni page with links to alumni home pages and e-mail addresses. Alumni may send their addresses for inclusion on the new page.

The Force Is with Us

The final paperwork is approved, and it's official! Students may now join the religious studies club. The Force: A Religious Studies Organization is open to all MU students enrolled or considering enrolling as a major or minor in religious studies or interdisciplinary studies.

Religious studies seniors Justin Arft and Jeff Bell presented the idea for a club to faculty members and were the leaders in establishing The Force.

The organization will give students an opportunity to participate in the creation of a group in their field of interest. Organizers expect to attract 30 members and will accept all interested students.

By hosting discussions and forums on religious traditions, the group will emphasize the importance of awareness of religious diversity and will increase knowledge of religious traditions. Members of the group have helped to advertise and to increase support of the Paine lectures.

"We plan on collaborating with various community groups, faculty and staff so that we have a broad base of resources that will allow us to ensure sound, intelligent, enlightening and informative discussions," Arft says.

Department Seeks Benefactors

For Employed Alumni Only

By Jill Raitt, Department Chair

Dear alumni,

I am writing the sort of piece that I have not written before. Since its founding 19 years ago, this department has not asked any of you to contribute to its programs. All of us understood that all of you were either in graduate school or just beginning your careers. Now some of you are well-established, and it is time to ask those of you who are in a position to do so, to contribute to the Religious Studies Alumni Scholarship Fund.

We think that such a fund should appeal to you as you become benefactors for the undergraduate majors in this department. We always have been justly proud of our majors; we are so still. You are a wonderful group of students, past and present. This year, we have nearly 30 majors, many of whom will continue into graduate or professional schools. You know how tough it is to meet financial obligations as undergraduates, and you know what a boost to morale winning a scholarship can be.

Please be as generous as you can be in the support of undergraduate scholarships in the Department of Religious Studies. You can clip the form below and send it, with your tax-deductible contribution to the address listed. Thank you for your accomplishments and for your continuing interest in your department.

..... *Cut Here*

Please direct my gift of \$ _____ to the Department of Religious Studies as:

- _____ Unrestricted support
- _____ Faculty enhancement (research, conference travel, etc.)
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⌘ *Thank you for your kind support* ⌘

Taking the Rhodes

Antwaun Smith, AB '98, brings prestige to the department and MU as a Rhodes Scholar. The oldest of international studies awards available to American students, Rhodes Scholarships were created in 1902 by Cecil Rhodes, British philanthropist and colonial pioneer. The award provides two years of tuition at Oxford University in England and a yearly stipend.

One of only 32 Americans selected as Rhodes Scholars, Smith traveled to Oxford in September 1999 to begin his studies in Chinese religion, culture and language. Prior to attending Oxford, Smith attended Harvard University on a Mellon Scholarship; MU was the only institution in Missouri with a Mellon Scholarship recipient for 1998-99.

At MU, Smith worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant in religious studies, a freshman interest group adviser, a writing-intensive tutor and a basic English instructor.

"Antwaun is the type of student who took advantage of every opportunity available at MU and excelled in all of them," says Ted Tarkow, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science.

Smith's other awards include the Chapman, Brooks, McNair and Bright Flight scholarships; Phi Beta Kappa and Golden Key National Honor societies; and a University Scholar Award.

Smith plans to continue his study of religion and work toward becoming a professor of religious studies.

“Major” Honors

Department scholars win awards

Chapman Scholarship winners for 1999 are **Heather Kinney** and **Amber Leberman**. The Chapman Scholarships were established through a generous gift of Paula and Larry Chapman of Columbia.

Marcia Chatelain was tapped into Mortar Board, the national honor society, in fall 1999. Chatelain also is a member of the Mystical Seven honor society and the recipient of a 1999 McNair Scholarship for honors students who are among the first generation in their family to attend college. Chatelain is studying with Jill Raitt.

Stacey Specht received the Hesburgh Award for Excellence in 1998. Specht is one of the first four students to receive the new award, which honors students who are successful in all of their undergraduate course work. Specht received an engraved plaque and a check for \$1,000.



The 1999 Paula and Larry Chapman Scholars in Religious Studies are Amber Leberman, left, and Heather Kinney, right, pictured with department Chair Jill Raitt.

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