



# Religious Studies in Kansas

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES • THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS • FALL, 2014

109 Smith Hall • 1300 Oread Avenue • Lawrence, Kansas 66045 • 785-864-4663 • FODORS@KU.EDU

## *Department Greetings and News from the Chair*

Greetings from Smith Hall on Mount Oread! The Fall 2014 semester is rapidly approaching its end. The time has arrived for us to update you on our accomplishments over the past calendar year, and the exciting developments that are looming on the 2015 horizon.

We extend a warm welcome to our new colleague, **Samuel Hayim Brody**, who joined the department in Fall 2014 as our specialist in Judaism. Sam studied Political and Social Thought and Middle-Eastern Studies at the University of Virginia before turning his attention to the study of traditional Jewish sources at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he received his MA. From there, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in the History of Judaism from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has previously taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Cincinnati. Sam studies modern Jewish intellectual history, with a special focus on German-Jewish thought. He is especially interested in the relationship between religion and politics throughout the history of Jewish thought, and in the relationship of Judaism to conversations about religion and politics. Corollary to this interest is attention to the ways in which philosophy, ritual and liturgy, legal discourse, exegesis, and polemics and dialogue with Christian and Muslim cultures interact to produce varying forms of Jewish self-definition over time. Since joining the KU faculty, Sam has presented a paper at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association; he also has presentations scheduled for the upcoming meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Association of Jewish Studies. He completed editorial work on Volume 15 of the *Martin Buber Werkausgabe, Schriften zum Messianismus*, which is now in press and should see publication in the first quarter of 2015.

We are also happy to welcome our new Administrative Associate, **Trish Baudino**. Trish received

her MA in 2012 from KU's Indigenous Nations Studies program, and has a specialization in Museum Studies. Trish came to us after completing a year-long internship with the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Earlier this year, the Administrative Associate position in the Religious Studies department was split into a shared position with the Department of Dance; hiring Trish was the happy result of our collaboration with our colleagues in the Dance department.

Unfortunately, we must say adieu to **Paul Nahme** (Assistant Professor, Judaism), who accepted a position as Dorot Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University this spring. Likewise, **Amanda Enneking** (Administrative Associate) has left us for the green hills of Portland, Oregon, where she is currently an Administrative Assistant at the Oregon Health and Science University. While we were sorry to see Paul and Amanda go, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

We are also preparing to bid a fond farewell to **Dr. Robert Shelton**, who will retire from the Religious Studies Department at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year. Robert L. Shelton came to KU and what was then the Kansas School of Religion in 1967 to teach courses in ethics and in American religion as well as courses in interpersonal communication in what is now the Department of Communication Studies. He was a popular teacher from the beginning, soon attracting so many students that they overflowed the 120-seat room 100 Smith Hall. He was also active in campus service, especially in mediating the conflicts of the day that were sweeping over campus, first concerning racial equality and then concerning the Vietnam War. His voice of sanity in the time of what KU people called "the troubles" helped the campus endure and work for social justice. But his careful, individualized work with students was always preeminent in his campus life.

In 1977 the Kansas School of Religion was taken into KU as the Department of Religious Studies, and a year later Bob was elected chair of the department, a position he held for ten years. Toward the end of that service he was appointed University Ombudsman, whose principal duty was to mediate conflicts among KU students, faculty members, and staff members. He continued in that position for over a decade, earning the respect of the broad and diverse constituency that is KU.

Bob has taught a wide range of courses. His curricular home base has always been ethics, but he also taught courses in religion and society, race relations, and peace and conflict studies. For years he taught an enormously popular course called The Loving Relationship (later Loving Relationships), which explored the many dimensions of love and human connections. His work in developing that course led to a book, *Loving Relationships*, published in 1987.

Bob shaped the Department more than anyone else before or since, guiding its early hires, its curriculum, and its cultivation of outside support, especially in the organization now known as the Friends of the Department of Religious Studies. His support of his colleagues has been unstinting. We salute him and thank him for his unwavering leadership and service as he makes the transition to active retirement.

### ***Past Events, Spring and Fall of 2014:***

**February 28, 2014. Philip Lutgendorf**, Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies, and Co-Chair of the South Asian Studies Program at the University of Iowa. One of the most innovative and wide-ranging contemporary scholars of South Asian religions and current President of the American Institute of Indian Studies, Dr. Lutgendorf spoke on “The Clue in the Lake: Tulsidas and the Sufis of Avadh.”

**April 28, 2014. Stewart Hoover**, Professor of Media Studies and Religious Studies and Director of the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Our featured speaker for the 2014 FODORS Awards Reception, Dr. Hoover is an internationally-recognized expert on media religion, and the University of Colorado's Center for Media, Religion, and Culture is one of only four in the world devoted to this important and emerging field of study. His lecture, "Religion in the Media Age," considered the changing landscape of religion in relation to trends in contemporary media, with an eye to future directions of the fields of media studies and religious studies.

**September 29, 2014. Saba Mahmood**, Associate Professor of Social Cultural Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Mahmood is an associate professor of social cultural anthropology at UC Berkeley. A specialist in Islam, gender and human rights, Dr. Mahmood presented a lecture on “*Religious Conflict and Modern Governance in the Middle East*,” and also held a colloquium for graduate students and faculty during her visit.

### ***Upcoming Events, Spring 2015:***

**April 13, 2015. Annual Religious Studies Reception and Lecture:**

**5:30 PM: Awards Reception, Malott Room, Kansas Union.**

*Please RSVP to Trish Baudino ([pbaudino@ku.edu](mailto:pbaudino@ku.edu)) if you plan to attend.*

**7:00 PM: Annual Friends of the Department of Religious Studies Lecture, Kansas Room, Kansas Union.**

**Bron Taylor** (Professor of Religion, Nature, and Environmental Ethics at the University of Florida, and a Carson Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany) will present a lecture titled “**Spirituality After Darwin: ‘Dark Green’ Nature Religion and the Future of Religion and Nature.**” In this presentation Professor Taylor presents evidence that, especially since Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, a new, global, earth religion has been rapidly spreading around the world. Whether it involves conventional religious beliefs in non-material divine beings, or is entirely naturalistic and involves no such beliefs, it considers nature to be sacred, imbued with intrinsic value, and worthy of reverent care. Those having affinity with such spirituality generally have strong feelings of belonging to nature, express kinship with non-human organisms, and understand the world to be deeply interconnected. In a recent book Taylor labeled such phenomena ‘dark green religion’, noting that its central ethical priority is to defend the earth’s biocultural diversity. Taylor provides a wide variety of examples of new forms of religious (and religion-resembling) cultural innovation among those promoting such nature spirituality, from individuals (including artists, scientists, filmmakers, photographers, surfers, and environmental activists), to institutions (including museums, schools, and the United Nations). By tracking these, Taylor provides an opportunity to consider what such spirituality may portend for the religious and planetary future.

**For further details regarding upcoming events, please visit our department website:**

**<http://religiousstudies.ku.edu/events-0>**

## *Activities of Department Faculty and Staff, 2014*

**Jacqueline Brinton's** (Assistant Professor, Islam) book manuscript, *Preaching Islamic Renewal: Religious Authority and the Media in Modern Egypt*, is currently under contract with the University of California Press and is scheduled for release in 2015. Her article entitled "How Television Extends Religious Authority: Increasing Perceived Piety through Visual Presence" is currently being revised for publication in the journal *Material Religion*. This past year she attended a conference on Islamic Law and Ethics and delivered a paper titled "Making Ethics Theological." The paper will be published in 2015 in an edited volume, *Islamic Law and Ethics*. Jackie also attended a conference at Columbia University in September and delivered a paper entitled "The Changing Nature of Mediated Authority: YouTube and Conversion Performances." She will be delivering a paper on teaching Islamic ethics in January 2015 at the Annual Conference of the Society of Muslim Ethics.

Along with his yearly summer travel to Japan, **Bill Lindsey** (Associate Professor, Japanese religions) also spent time in Korea hiking, enjoying temple stays, and visits to museums in preparation for the Religion in Korea course he is currently teaching. An article, "Performing Well: Children's Bodies and Religious Childrearing Confraternities in Modern Japan," appeared in the online journal *Childhood Remixed*. In addition, he edited an anthology of South and East Asian religious texts entitled *Songs, Scriptures, and Stories: Primary Sources from the Religious Traditions of Asia*.

In the past year, **Aaron Ketchell** (Lecturer; Ph.D. from KU American Studies) continued to teach the department's introduction to religious studies and guided directed readings on the ethnography of American religions and religion and social theory. He also presented on religion in the United States for the KU Applied English Center's American Life Seminar. His current research project is an examination of popular Catholicism at El Santuario de Chimayo, with focus placed upon the multivalent definitions of pilgrimage and the interface between religion and consumer culture in northeast New Mexico. Additionally, he recently began an exploration of ethnicity and religion in the Strawberry Hill neighborhood of Kansas City, Kansas, with emphasis upon preserving oral histories of eastern European Catholics in the area.

**Joshua Lollar** (Lecturer, Ph.D. from Notre Dame University, Department of Theology and Religion) is contributing an essay on the 20<sup>th</sup> century reception of Maximus the Confessor (7<sup>th</sup> c. Greek Christian theologian) to the *Oxford Handbook of Maximus the Confessor*, due out in 2015, and an essay entitled "The World as Cenobium: Greek Patristic Foundations of the Contemplation of Nature in Eastern Christianity" to a volume commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the repose of the Russian monastic reformer Iosif Volotsky. He presented a paper on Maximus and the consciousness of time at a conference in Berlin in September. Joshua continues to work on his translation of Maximus the Confessor's *Ambigua to John*.

**Tim Miller's** (Professor, new religious movements and religion in America) work over the last several years has focused on the history of American intentional communities, both religious and secular. In 2013 he completed and published *The Encyclopedic Guide to American Intentional Communities*, and since then has worked on adding new material to it. A revised edition will be published this fall. Meanwhile, he has been working on articles to be published in forthcoming books. During the summer of 2014, Tim traveled to the Czech Republic and Germany to visit communes of the Twelve Tribes movement, do other field research, and to attend a conference. He began by visiting the Twelve Tribes commune in Mšecké Žehrovice, Czech Republic, where the fruit harvest was just getting under way. He then went on to the movement's two German communes, at Wörnitz and Klosterzimmern, where the communities are engaged in a conflict with the government over their child-rearing practices. After that, he attended the annual conference of the Utopian Studies Society (Europe) in Prague, where he presented a paper on ecovillages. After the conference, Tim traveled on to Italy, where he visited the Torri Superiore ecovillage and also spent two days in the homeland of the Waldensians, who were some of the very first Protestants, dating to the twelfth century.

**Paul Mirecki** (Associate Professor, ancient Near Eastern studies) continues to teach his popular undergraduate class "Understanding the Bible" each semester. In Fall 2014, he is also teaching his course "The Dead Sea Scrolls," focusing on Jewish sectarian texts from the Second Temple Period and after. He also serves on the executive committee of the Jewish Studies Program. In Summer 2014, he completed his latest book, *The Bible in Context* (Cognella Press), which contains 142 religious and political writings from the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world. The book helps students understand the diverse and complex world that produced the 66 biblical texts. The book is richly illustrated with photographs, introductions and commentaries. In March 2014, he read the paper "Greek Temple Warning Inscriptions: A Study of the Type and Its Functions" at the Central States Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in St. Louis. In October 2014, he read the paper "The Early Modern Book: Redefining Genre (The 'Gospel Harmony' from Little Gidding, England ca. 1630; Harvard University, Houghton Library A 1275.5)" at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual European Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**Robert Shelton** (Associate Professor, religious ethics, peace and conflict studies) is completing his final year of "Phased Retirement." His .75 time appointment is devoted

to three courses in the fall semester, and research and service time in the spring semester. His largest course, REL 667: Religious Perspectives on War and Peace, is one of his contributions to the “Peace and Conflict Studies” inter-departmental program. Religious Ethics, a smaller but very busy class, is a part of his specialization that brought him to KU in 1967. He also has a small seminar in Religious Movements and Social Change. His community service continues to include facilitating the Community Advisory Panel for ICL Performance Products in Lawrence, as well as serving on the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Ethics Committee. His travels have included attending the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York, with his wife Carolyn, where he served one week as the Chaplain of the United Methodist House, and other weeks in sessions with lecturers in Chautauqua’s extensive program.

**Hamsa Stainton** (Assistant Professor, religions of India and South Asia) continued as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in 2014, and is repeatedly impressed by our thoughtful, passionate students. Hamsa substantially revised our Senior Seminar in Theories and Methods (REL 490), and began teaching a new introductory course on Hinduism. His students benefitted in particular from field trips to the Nelson-Atkins Museum and the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center in Kansas City. In addition to his regular courses, Hamsa also taught Sanskrit and directed an independent study on religion in Nepal. In March, he presented a paper on a panel he organized for the annual conference of the Association of Asian Studies in Philadelphia. He gave an invited lecture in September at the University of Iowa entitled “Rebooting Hindu Hymns.” In October, he participated in the dissertation-to-book workshop sponsored by the American Institute of Indian Studies in conjunction with the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison. Throughout the year, Hamsa continued to work on his monograph on Sanskrit poetry and prayer from North India, as well as an edited volume on Hindu Tantra. He also had a substantial research article accepted for the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, and submitted another to the prestigious *Journal of Indian Philosophy*.

**Daniel Stevenson** (Professor and Chair, Chinese religions, Buddhism) continued to chair the KU Department of Religious Studies in 2014. The edited volume containing his article on “Buddhist Ritual in the Song” went to press and is due out by the end of the year. In February he gave an invited lecture at Florida State University on “Remapping Buddhism as a ‘World Religion’: Gyōnen’s (1240-1321) *Essentials of the Eight Sects* (*Hasshū kōyō* 八宗綱要) and Modernist East Asian Agendas.” The following month he served as a paper respondent for a panel at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Philadelphia, and in early June, he attended the Middle Period China Conference at Harvard University as paper discussant and session facilitator. In August, Dan was

invited to direct a week-long seminar on the Tiantai school of Chinese Buddhism, which was held on Mount Tiantai in Zhejiang, China. The program was organized by Woodenfish, an institution based in Beijing that sponsors academic workshops on Buddhism held in China. The Tiantai seminar was attended by thirty-five scholars, graduate students, and persons with specialized interest from eleven countries. Dan continues as co-editor of the *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*, formerly known as the *Chung-hwa Buddhist Journal*, which saw the second volume in its new series published in 2014. This year he was also invited to join the editorial board of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (Indogaku bukkyōgaku gakkai), and he will serve as a proposal reviewer for 2014 post-doctoral grants awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies. Dan has two major works in progress, one being a book manuscript on key sites and economies that mediated Buddhist cultural discourses in Song Dynasty (960-1279) China, the other, entitled “The ‘Tiantai Four Books’ (天台四書): Protocols of Buddhist Learning in Late Song and Yuan China,” a study of educational norms and curricula for beginning students in Tiantai public monasteries of the late Southern Song.

**Molly Zahn** (Assistant Professor, Hebrew Bible and early Judaism) returns to Smith Hall this fall after spending last academic year as a Kingdon Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH), University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work at the IRH involved research for a new book project on the many ways in which authoritative scriptures, including many of the books now found in our Bibles, were rewritten and reused in early Judaism. Along the way, she met many wonderful new colleagues and had the rare opportunity to participate in weekly seminars and informal colloquia on subjects across the humanities. Besides work on the book project, Molly completed an article on evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls for scribal editing of scriptural texts, and another on scribal interventions in the Samaritan version of the Pentateuch (Torah). She presented parts of her work at the IRH and at UW-Madison’s Department of Hebrew, as well as at McMaster University in Ontario and at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Baltimore. Molly has also taken on the mantle of Graduate Director for the Religious Studies department. Topping off a busy year, Molly and her husband, Peter Grund (Associate Professor, KU English Department), welcomed their daughter Iris in September. Congratulations!

**Michael J. Zogry** (Associate Professor, American religion and Native American religions) continued work on his book about the influence of James Naismith’s religious beliefs on his life and the commemoration of his legacy. In December 2014, UNC Press published a paperback edition of his book *Anetso, the Cherokee Ball Game: At the Center of Ceremony and Identity*. Zogry continued his term as Director of the Indigenous Studies program at KU in 2014. In addition, he continued in his second term as a co-chair of the national

Steering Committee, Native Traditions in the Americas program unit, American Academy of Religion. He also served on several university committees, including the Diversity Leadership Council and the KU/Haskell Advisory Council. In March, Zogry began his work as Tour Scholar for the Smithsonian Institution Museum on Main Street 2015 Traveling Exhibition, "Hometown Teams," sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council.

### ***News from Our Alumnae/Alumni:***

After 16 years as a correspondent with the *National Catholic Reporter*, **John L. Allen Jr.** (MA, 1992) joined *The Boston Globe* in February 2014 as an associate editor covering "All Things Catholic." In the Fall of 2014, **Vibha Shetiya** (MA, 2006) successfully defended her doctoral thesis, and received her Ph.D. degree in South Asian Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. **Jimmy Yu** (MA, 2002), who graduated from KU with a specialization in Chinese Buddhist history, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Religion at Florida State University. Earlier this year, **Melodie Woerman** (MA, 1983) celebrated 20 years of editing publications for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, where she now serves as the full-time Director of Communications. **Madisen Janssen** (BA, 2014) is working with the prestigious Teach for America program as a Special Education teacher at a middle school in Kansas City. **Kristi Boone** (BGS, 2014) reports that she is working diligently on her MA in Religious Studies and Global Development at the University of Leeds. **Ron Cobb** (MA, 1976) published his third book, *Spiritual Journeys*, this year. **Jordan Goldschmidt** (BA, 2008) is currently serving on the Wichita Holocaust Commemoration Council. **Jeremy Rapport** (MA, 2002) continues to teach classes on American Religious History and New Religious Movements at the College of Wooster in Ohio, where he is preparing for his tenure review in the spring. He and his wife, **Kris D'Atri** (MA, 2002), have two children: Laura, 9, and Drew, 6. **Kerri Blumenthal** (BA, 2003) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of Florida; as a FLAS fellow in Quechua she spends extended time in the Peruvian Andes in dialogue with local communities about agriculture, industrialization, and religious rituals. **Philip Spivey** (MA, 1995) is in his fifteenth year of teaching philosophy and religious studies at the University of Central Arkansas. **Emily Stratton** (MA, 2013) is in her second year as a Ph.D. student in Religious Studies at Indiana University, where she continues to study contemporary trends in Pentecostal and Charismatic forms of Christianity. This past summer, Emily spent 10 weeks in Ghana on a FLAS Fellowship for foreign language study. **Abby Durham** (BGS, 2013) recently accepted a position with the Levite Jewish Community Center in Birmingham, Alabama, where she is currently the Birmingham Community Youth Group Coordinator.

## ***Religion in Kansas: An ongoing student and faculty research project***

Professor Tim Miller continues to offer regularly his course on *Religion in Kansas* as the first step in a long-term project to preserve and study all manner of documents, memorabilia, oral lore and information concerning the wide spectrum of religious traditions and communities that have been active in the state, past and present. The course has a sizeable fieldwork component which is designed to train students in oral historiography and archival research by sending them out into the state to gather documents and conduct interviews with persons who have had long-term involvement with religious communities in Kansas. Materials gathered and processed by participants in the course are made available to the public in digital form on the Religion in Kansas Project website, <http://ksreligion.omeka.net/>.

Our long-range objective is to create a comprehensive information center on religion in Kansas, past and present, which will be administered by the Moore Religious Studies Reading Room in Smith Hall, with digital access through the Religious Studies website. We invite our friends and supporters to join us in the project. We depend heavily on public collaboration. Our documentation of Kansas religious history is only as rich as the knowledge and insight that persons who are heirs to this living history are willing to provide us. If you know of materials that should be preserved for posterity, or of persons with long involvement in one or more of the many religious organizations in the state who would be willing to be interviewed, please get in touch with Tim Miller at [tkansas@ku.edu](mailto:tkansas@ku.edu) or 785-864-7263. All suggestions are welcome, and we will follow up to the extent that our limited resources permit.

Thanks to the generous support from the Friends of the Department of Religious Studies, the Religion in Kansas Project was able to hire two fieldwork interns again this summer to continue our work of exploring and documenting trends in the Kansas religious experience. Diana Brown, a current KU Religious Studies graduate student, took as her focus the pagan communities in Kansas. For this project, Diana recorded oral histories with over a dozen pagan practitioners, and is in the process of creating an online subject guide on the topic (<http://kspaganism.wordpress.com/>). When it is complete, this subject guide will include transcripts of the oral histories as well as a digitized series of pagan newsletters and a bibliography of resources that are popular with Kansas pagans. Chhaya Kolavalli, a 2014 graduate of KU's Anthropology MA program, concentrated her efforts on exploring Christian intentional communities in Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. Over the course of her internship, Chhaya interviewed several current, former, or aspiring Christian intentional community members. She then created an online guide to Christian intentional communities in Kansas

(<http://ksintentionalliving.wordpress.com/>); her guide includes an overview of the topic, transcripts of interviews, a bibliography of resources, and a list of the intentional communities that currently exist in the state.

This year, the Religion in Kansas Project also had the good fortune to receive a Carnegie-Whitney grant from the American Library Association, thanks to a successful grant proposal written by our Librarian/Archivist, Melissa Fisher Isaacs. This grant provided partial support to the interns as they worked to create an index of the archival collections, held by repositories across the state, that are related to religion in Kansas. Both interns worked with representatives from several county historical societies across the state compile the index. Creating an index of the manuscript and archival collections that document religion in the lives of Kansans will serve two important purposes. First, the index will raise awareness of and improve access to the holdings of special collections and public libraries across the state, particularly those in rural areas which may have limited resources for promoting their collections or making catalogs or digitized materials available online. Second, this index will serve as a planning tool for the Religion in Kansas Project as we work to collaborate with libraries, archives, museums, religious communities, and individuals throughout the state to facilitate the digitization and preservation of resources that document the diversity of religious tradition and experience in Kansas. Assessing the number and scope of relevant collections currently held by libraries across the state will allow us to plan for digitization projects, to pursue further grant funding to support those projects, and to understand both where collecting gaps may exist and where our resources would best be directed as we plan future collecting initiatives. We anticipate the completion of the index in September 2015.

### ***Additions to the Moore Reading Room Collection:***

In addition to our regular purchase of books and materials through funds from the Friends of the Department of Religious Studies, the collection housed in our Moore Religious Studies Reading Room benefits regularly from public donations of books. It contains a truly remarkable spectrum of materials, which range in date from the nineteenth century to the present and make available, under one roof, virtually all of the major works that have been formative to the field of Religious Studies. The collection is open to the public, and we welcome your visit!

## ***Our Award-Winning Students***

### **Department Graduate Teaching Assistants for 2014-2015:**

Nathan Bowman, Bryan Miller, Peter Rea, Sarina Smith, Matthew Leveille

### **Graduate Student serving as Graduate Teaching Assistant in KU's Western Civilization program for 2014-2015:**

Diana Brown

### **Recipients of Friends of the Department of Religious Studies, Zelma McIlvain, Starrett-Clark, and St. John's Episcopal Scholarships for 2014-2015:**

Katie Hobson, Krystal Luce, Yohong Roh, Siji Wang

### **Mabel Jensen Memorial Fund to Support Student Research and Professional Activity, 2014:**

Diana Brown

### **Lewis Ethics Essay Awards, 2013-2014:**

Cassi Fitzgerald, "Missionaries of Charity: Serving the Poorest of the Poor"

Max Mays, "The Nonviolent Methods of Malala Yousafzai"

Emily Nichols, "Shane Claiborne: The Simple Way"

Peter Rea, "Resistance to Authority and Violence in the Name of the Gospel"

Jen Welch, "The Muslim Public Affairs Council: Active Nonviolent Approach to Counter Terrorism"

### **Department of Religious Studies Prizes for Student Research, 2013-2014:**

#### ***Graduate:***

Diana Brown, "Eastern Methods and Western Bodies: Dion Fortune's Assessment of Yoga for a 'Western' Audience"

Seth George, "The Protestant Missionary Movement's Response to Faith and Salvation in the Western Pure Land Sect of Buddhist China"

#### ***Undergraduate:***

Joshua Palmer, "Theological Rhetoric and Dante's Divine Commedia: Instances of Allegory Broadening Moral and Theological Discourse"

Landon Rosevear, "Therapeutic Yoga: Beneficial Alternative Medicine?"

Jan Tyner, "Bethel Bible College"

### **Recipient of the Lynn Taylor Award, 2014:**

Madisen Jannsen

## *Let's Keep in Touch*

It is always a pleasure to have our friends and former students of the Department stop by Smith Hall for a visit when they are on campus. Should you be further afield, please don't hesitate to drop us a letter or email with your latest news. We will gladly pass it along. We are also pleased to include you on our mailing list for lectures and special programs. Just let us know how to reach you. Thanks for the many things you do to advance the cause of the academic study of religion. We look forward to hearing from you. For regular updates on Religious Studies courses and activities at KU, please see our website, [www.religiousstudies.ku.edu](http://www.religiousstudies.ku.edu).

We're on social media, too!

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/KUReligiousStudies](https://facebook.com/KUReligiousStudies)

Follow us on Twitter: @SmithHallKU

## **“Have Interest, Will Travel”: Faculty Lecture/Workshop Opportunities**

Our faculty members like to share their research and interests with groups in Kansas and nearby areas. In most cases, a speaker will give a single, illustrated lecture, although other arrangements can easily be accommodated. Department faculty members already carry full-time loads of teaching, research, and service at KU, so we cannot promise to fill all requests. In some cases well-qualified graduate students are also available for presentations. Travel expenses are subsidized, where necessary, by the Friends of the Department of Religious Studies. For contact information and details regarding faculty expertise, please consult our website ([www.religiousstudies.ku.edu](http://www.religiousstudies.ku.edu)) or the department office:

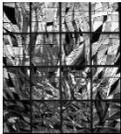
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In an effort to develop more environmentally sustainable practices, we hope eventually to circulate our annual newsletter in electronic format. If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, please send your address to Trish Baudino, [pbaudino@ku.edu](mailto:pbaudino@ku.edu). And send us some news when you do!

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November 10, 2014

Dear Friend of Religious Studies in Kansas:

The Friends of the Department of Religious Studies at KU is very appreciative of the generous support of benefactors. Private donations are crucial for supporting ongoing educational and community service activities of the Department of Religious Studies and for encouraging innovation and excellence. Public support through the state is not sufficient for all of these activities. This year, our private supporters (including those of past years, whose endowments continue to provide resources) provided \$64,000 for departmental programs. As always, student scholarships were our largest budget item, at \$25,000, and support for the departmental reading room (including acquisitions and student salaries) was second, at \$15,000. Lesser amounts supported faculty research, conferences and lectures, faculty outreach, our annual banquet, and many more things.

Outstanding graduate students continue to seek us out, and we welcome them, of course—but we always have trouble providing them with as much support as we would like. Solid support for students is important for recruitment, retention, and recognition of excellence. As the percentage of state support within the university's budget continues to decline, we need to offset these differences through the private sector.

Please help support the academic study of religion with a gift in the enclosed envelope. If you prefer, you can contribute directly to the KU Endowment Association. Please indicate clearly that you want to earmark your donation for the Department of Religious Studies.

Thank you for your support in the past and the future. We welcome you to attend our Religious Studies Annual Awards Reception and Public Lecture scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015, as described in this newsletter. Otherwise, please feel free to stop by the department anytime you are on the KU campus. Attendance at our annual banquet comes free to those who make a donation to the Department of Religious Studies.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Canda, Ph.D.  
President, Friends of the Department of Religious Studies