

Religious Studies Alumni Newsletter

Indiana University Vol. 25/No. 2 • Winter 2008–09

From the chair

Alumni make a difference for students

When most of our alumni remember the Department of Religious Studies, they recall a supportive and engaged community of faculty members and undergraduates and graduate students. The department provides a small-college feel within the scope of a large university's resources and opportunities. Alumni support — in the form of volunteer hours or via our various endowment funds — enables us to create this atmosphere and to make a difference in our students' education.



Brakke

Our general endowment, the Religious Education Fund, makes possible events that enhance the learning of undergraduate majors and bring students and faculty together. In recent months students journeyed to Indianapolis to attend a Latin Mass after which they discussed with a local priest the issues involved in maintaining this tradition. They also met with faculty members over lunches to discuss their research. You can read about recent URSA activi-

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Weaver co-authors Christianity textbook 'for students'

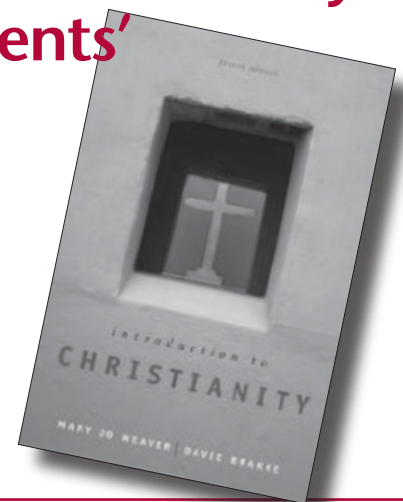
Professor Emerita Mary Jo Weaver recently published the fourth edition of her popular textbook, Introduction to Christianity.

In preparing this edition, she worked closely with David Brakke, professor of Religious Studies and current chair of the department. We asked Professor Weaver why she co-wrote this book: "Did your students ask you to write this book?" Professor Weaver responded: "No student asked me to write this book, but I wrote it for them." She explains why in this column.

When I was hired in 1975, it was partly to teach one of the big courses (R152 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). By big courses, I mean big. There were 250+ students in R152 at that time.

Mind you, I went to Catholic grade school, high school, and college. I worked for a few years as a chemist, then went to Notre Dame for my PhD. For a number of strange reasons, I ended up teaching in a Catholic seminary for three years. A big class there was 20. Then I came to IU in the fall of 1975 and was plunged into R152 in one of the Business School auditoriums that held 300 and there I was! Teaching Judaism, Christianity and Islam was a tall order from someone who barely knew what a Protestant was!

I designed that course to compare the three traditions in various ways: a week on the founders of all three traditions, on the sacred books, on their rituals and prayers, on their political alliances, etc. I developed simulation games, had slides and exercises — it was fun and exhausting, and I taught it every single semester for 10 or 11 years. As I learned more about Christianity, meaning Protestantism, and about American religious history I found myself



"Because I could not find a book that did what I wanted it to, I wrote it myself."

concentrating increasingly on Christianity and less on Judaism and Islam. There were introductions to Judaism and Islam in the department, but no intro to Christianity as such. So, as the course began to change into an introduction to Christianity, we put R180 (now R247) into the curriculum, and I was delighted to teach it.

Because I could not find a book that did what I wanted to do, I wrote it myself. Most of the books I looked at were too much focused on one tradition, or too historical, or too Sunday school. I wanted a book that would act as a framework for a course, something that others could use to build in their own particular approaches. Accordingly, I wanted to have sections on the Bible, history, American religious history, and political issues. I also thought that those divisions would help the course

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Faculty news

David Brakke published three essays recently: "The East (2): Egypt and Palestine," in the *Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*, edited by Susan Ashbrook Harvey and David G. Hunter (Oxford University Press); "Care for the Poor, Fear of Poverty, and Love of Money: Evagrius Ponticus on the Monk's Economic Vulnerability," in *Wealth and Poverty in Early Christianity*, edited by Susan Holman (Baker Academic); and "From Temple to Cell, From Gods to Demons: Pagan Temples in the Monastic Topography of Fourth-Century Egypt," in *From Temple to Church: Destruction and Renewal of Local Cultic Topography in Late Antiquity*, edited by Johannes Hahn, Stephen Emmel, and Ulrich Gotter (Brill). In May 2008 he spoke on "A New Fragment of Athanasius's 39th *Festal Letter*: Heresy, Apocrypha, and the Canon" at the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society in Chicago, and in June he traveled to Münster, Germany, to meet with the editors of the works of Shenoute of Atripe. In September he delivered a paper titled "Macarius's Quest and Ours: Literary Sources for Early Monasticism" at the 9th International Congress of Coptic Studies held in Cairo, Egypt; during his time in Egypt he was able to travel with colleagues to visit the Monastery of St. Antony near the Red Sea. In October he participated in a panel on religion and sexuality as part of Sexploration Week, sponsored by the IU Health Center.

Candy Gunther Brown published "Healing Words: Narratives of Spiritual Healing and Kathryn Kuhlman's Uses of Print Culture, 1947-1976" in *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America*, edited by Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer (University of Wisconsin Press). In January 2008, she presented "A Critical Appreciation of the Scholarship of David D. Hall" at the American Society of Church History in Washington, D.C. In September 2008, she spoke on "The State of Evangelicalism Today" at the IUPUI Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. Also during fall 2008, Brown chaired panels on "Popular Evangelical Expressions: Consumerism and Communism" at the American Academy of Religion in Chicago and "Lived Religion: Past and Present" at the Harvard Divinity School. She had interviews in the *Florida Times-Union*, *American Way of Life*, and the *Wichita Eagle*.

Constance Furey presented a plenary address titled "Excluding All Others: Religious Affinities and the Common Good" at the



Manning (upper right) with students and faculty in Bangladesh.

Manring takes research abroad

Rebecca Manning's article on a sectarian Sanskrit grammar, titled "Does Krishna Really Need His Own Grammar? Jiva Gosvami's Answer," appears in the December issue of the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. She is currently writing an article on Sitala (the smallpox goddess) for Brill's new *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* and a conference paper on the homogenization of Hinduism in popular Indian cinema. This fall she learned about Jewish communities in India as she prepared her response to "In Search of Bene Israel" for the Jewish Women in Global Perspective documentary-film festival at IU. She also researched modernity in Damascus and China to prepare her response to a panel at the conference on Traditional Scholarship and Asian Modernity, also held at IU. She continues to serve on the executive committee of the South Asian Language Resource Council, based at the University of Chicago. In early January she will conduct a weeklong pedagogical workshop for faculty of the Bangla Summer Institute on the campus of the Independent University of Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh. And Manning will spend the entire summer on site as director of curricula for that program, which is part of the U.S. State Department's efforts to train Americans in critical world languages. She looks forward to continuing her work there, and to the opportunities it provides for maintaining her own language skills and research in that part of the world.



Manning with an instructor at Sisimpur Studios outside Dhaka, India. Sisimpur is the Bangladeshi version of Sesame Street.

Notre Dame Graduate Student Conference, "From Res Publica to the Republic of Letters: The Common Good in Transition and Translation" in October 2008. Her article, "Troubling Presence: Abundant History

and Heterology," was solicited for inclusion in a special issue of *Historical Compass* focused on Robert Orsi's essay "Abundant History: Marian Apparitions as Alternative

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Faculty news

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Modernity.” She continues to serve as director of the Renaissance Studies Program, and organized a symposium in September 2008 where visiting scholars from the departments of Political Science, English, Spanish, and Comparative Literature delivered works-in-progress and participated in a roundtable discussion about the past and future of the field. She is teaching the course Body, Bible, and Reformation this fall for the Honors College, and is involved in the newly organized IU Teaching Coalition, a working group developed by participants in the 2008 Freshman Learning Program.

David Haberman is on sabbatical this fall working on a book on tree worship in India. He is spending part of the semester in northern India, finishing the ethnographic research for his book, *People Trees: Worship of Trees in Northern India*. In October he delivered a lecture at Hamilton College, titled “A Flood of Opportunity” and based on his recent book, *River of Love in an Age of Pollution*. He also spoke at Skidmore College on “Faces of Trees of Banaras,” where he met with a seminar of students reading his book on pollution and sacred rivers in India. Haberman finished an article, “Faces in the Trees,” to be published in a special edition of the *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*. In this piece he explores the practice of dressing and attaching facemasks to sacred trees in India, and investigates what is gained by this practice that might not be there if the facemask had not been appended, while re-examining contentious religious studies concepts such as animism and anthropomorphism.

J. Albert Harrill completed his three-year term directing IU’s Program in Ancient Studies. During his tenure, the program grew to national prominence and received an internal review by the Dean’s office that was extremely positive. The new director is Edward J. Watts, associate professor of history and adjunct in the Religious Studies Department. Harrill presented “Divine Judgment against Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11): A Scene of Perjury” at Boston University’s interdisciplinary conference, “What the Gods Demand: Blood Sacrifice in Mediterranean Antiquity,” in November 2008. That month he also presented a paper on ancient Stoic philosophy at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, for the Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti Consultation, in Boston. In summer 2008, he did research at the University of Münster, Germany, with a residence grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Founda-

tion. And in April 2008, he and colleague David Brakke, presented an URSA event on the early Christian and Greco-Roman archaeology of Syria and Turkey, with slides from their faculty study tour. In addition, Harrill has received a contract from Cambridge University Press to write a new book on the Apostle Paul.

James Hart was invited to give The Husserl Lecture in Leuven, Belgium at the Husserl Archives, but just before departure he injured himself. The paper was read in absentia; but his “curtain call” last fall was two seminars on “The Uniqueness of the Transcendental I” and “The Beginninglessness and Endlessness of the Transcendental I.” He is finishing the proofs for his two-volume work, *Who One Is: A Transcendental-Existential Phenomenology*, to be published with Springer. This has preoccupied him since retirement. As a result he has temporarily deserted his New Leaf/New Life therapeutic justice colleagues.

Nancy Levene published two articles this fall: “Athens and Jerusalem: Myths and Mirrors in Strauss’s Vision of the West,” in *Hebraic Political Studies*, and “Traces of History in St. Anselm,” in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*. She was nominated to the steering committee of the Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group of the American Academy of Religion, and is a contributing member of a committee to create a new Center for Theoretical Studies in the Humanities at IUB.

Shaul Magid is serving as a guest co-editor of three journal volumes, a *Prooftexts* volume on “Kabbala as Mystical Poetics,” including his essay “Lurianic Kabbala and its Literary Genre: Myth, History, Fiction;” a volume of *Jewish Studies Quarterly* on “Jewish in Ottoman Lands” with an essay entitled, “Constructing Women from Men: The Metaphysics of Male Homosexuality among Lurianic Kabbalists in 16th-Century Safed;” and a volume of *Modern Judaism* with an essay entitled, “The Role of the Secular in Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Theology: (Re)Reading Heschel After 9/11.” His work-in-progress includes *Interpreting Hasidism: Studies in Hasidic Textuality from the Baal Shem Tov to the Present* and *Judaism on the Cusp of Postethnic America: Becoming an American Religion*, both with Indiana University Press. His essay “Subversion as Return: Scripture, Dissent, and Renewal in Contemporary Judaism” will appear in 2009 in *Subverting Scripture*, edited by Beth Benedix (Palgrave Macmillan). He recently revised the entry for Judaism in the *World Book Encyclopedia* and published the following essays: “Which Birthright: Why Choosing Home over Homeland May Not be So Bad?” in *Zeek Magazine*, May 2008; “Is There an Orthodox War Against Modern

Orthodoxy?” in *The New Vilna Review*, July 2008; “Is Kabbala Mysticism?: Another View,” in *Zeek Magazine*, March 2008; and “From Pariah to Charmed Hero: America’s Obsession with Jews and Israel,” in *Religion Dispatches*, October 2008. He presented the following lectures: “From ‘Beyond Vietnam’ to Iraq: Martin Luther King Jr. after 40 Years” at *Building Bridges: Martin Luther King Jr. after 40 Years*, Ivy Tech Community College April 2008; “American Judaism after Zionism—New Directions,” at the University of Rochester in April 2008; and “Interim Judaism/Interim Jews: Michael Morgan’s Contribution to American Jewish Thought,” at *In Quest for the Past and Future of Jewish Philosophy* in March.

Richard Miller returned to teaching in the department and directing the Poynter Center after a productive yearlong sabbatical, during which he completed five articles and a small book. This fall 2008 he is teaching his newly revised course, Religion, Culture, and Medical Ethics. Miller gave interviews to *Newsweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. He is serving on the College of Arts and Sciences tenure committee this year and will teach the Wells Scholars Seminar in spring 2009 on “The Ethics of Happiness.”

Richard Nance was appointed an adjunct faculty member in the IU Department of Central Eurasian Studies. He completed initial preparation of a book manuscript on the subject of Indian Buddhist textual practice during the late first millennium CE, tentatively entitled *Speaking for Buddhas: Scriptural Commentary in Indian Buddhism*. He also published book reviews in the *International Journal of Hindu Studies* and the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, and is currently finishing up a new paper — “Tall Tales, Tathāgatas and Truth” — versions of which were presented at the fall 2008 IUB Religious Studies Faculty Colloquium and the American Academy of Religion in Chicago.

Lisa Sideris is currently teaching a new course for which she received an Active Learning Grant as well as a Global Citizenship Course Development Grant: R300 Religion, Ethics, and the Global Environment. She contributed an article on “Ecological-Ethical Aspects of American Religions” to the *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* (CQ Press). In August, she was interviewed on WFHB about her recent book on Rachel Carson, for their weekly segment, “EcoReport.” At the end of the fall semester, she participated in a panel on “Interfaith Perspectives on Darwinism” at Butler University, as part of a series of seminars commemorating the 150th anniversary of Darwin’s *Origin of Species*.

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Faculty news

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Stephen Stein published “Gender and Authority: Women in Shaker History,” in *Rivista di Storia del Cristianesimo*; “Apocalyptic Religious Movements in American History,” in *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society*; “Religion in America History,” the “Foreword” for the Organization of American Historians’ *Magazine of History*’s issue on “American Religion,” for which he served as the editor. He delivered a lecture on “Historical Reflections on Religious Pluralism in America” in May 2008 at the First Freedom Center, Richmond, Virginia, where he is a member of the National Advisory Board. He presented a research paper entitled “Cotton Mather and Jonathan Edwards on the Epistle of James: A Comparative Study,” at the University of Tübingen in Germany in October 2008 as part of the international symposium on “Cotton Mather’s *Biblia Americana*,” a conference dealing with the early Enlightenment and the rise of pietism in America. He continues to serve as the general editor of *The Cambridge History of Religions in America*, a major reference project that will ultimately be published in three volumes by Cambridge University Press.

Aaron Stalnaker published “Judging Others: History, Ethics, and the Purposes of Comparison” in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, and “Transforming the Self: Confes-



Graduate students Brad Storin, Eric Hammerstrom, Geoffrey Goble, and Diane Fruchtman performed at the Bloomington Farmers Market this fall.

sion and Performance in the Thought of Augustine and Xunzi” in *Augustine and World Religions*, edited by Brian Brown, John Doody, and Kim Paffenroth (Lexington Books). In October he responded to a panel of critical appraisals of new work in Confucian ethics at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, and he delivered the Bristol Lecture in Ethics on “Confucian Democracy and the Question of Deference” at Florida State University.

Steven Weitzman published *The Jews: a History*, a comprehensive account of Jewish history coauthored with IU faculty member Matthias Lehmann and former IU faculty member John Efron. Recent research has unsettled many established ideas about

the Jewish past. This book aims to rewrite Jewish history in the light of these ideas in a form that is accessible to a broad audience of learners. Other research completed in the last year includes essays published or forthcoming in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and *Jewish Social Studies*. He has focused much of his scholarly efforts, however, on writing a biography of King Solomon forthcoming from Yale University Press. The biography is an attempt to tell King Solomon’s life story while reflecting on his role in the history of religion, culture, science, and imagination. Weitzman is looking forward to offering a seminar on Solomon and his search for wisdom in spring 2009.

From the chair

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ties in this newsletter. **Saralynn McKinnon-Crowley**, a junior from Indianapolis, calls our annual spring Honors Day celebration “a really wonderful event.” She believes that the fall Welcome Back Party introduces interested students to the department and is “a good bonding experience.” We rely on the friends and alumni for support in these kinds of activities.

We work to build community among our graduate students as well. For example, our general fund sponsors the Graduate Student Symposium in the spring semester. Organized around a particular theme, the symposium brings a major scholar to Bloomington as keynote speaker and attracts graduate students from all over the country as paper presenters. Our graduate students get involved in planning and hosting this event, making it “a family effort,” says PhD student **Diane Fruchtman**. “The symposium really crystallizes, in a fashion outsiders can see and appreciate, the supportive intellectual community that the graduate program here offers.”

Endowment funds also provide direct support to individual students. We can promote undergraduate research through our senior honors essay research grant and the generous Gallagher Essay Prize, which encourages numerous undergraduate students (most of whom are not majors) to think and write about topics in the study of religion.

Prizes and fellowships have an even greater impact for graduate students. The Todd Sullivan Memorial Fellowship helps us to attract and retain promising students in the fields of religious ethics or philosophy of religion. The Sullivan Fellowship enabled **Mark Wilson** to focus on his research and writing as he completed his MA thesis on Augustine and memory. Even more, Wilson says, “I began to see myself as a legatee of a rich tradition within the Religious Studies Department. This helped to solidify my sense of intellectual identity and played no small part in my decision to pursue a career in academia.” Wilson recently defended his PhD dissertation on the ethical dimensions of regret and now holds a Catherine of Siena Teaching Fellowship at Villanova University.

The department’s Dissertation Research Support Fellowship alleviates some of the financial difficulties that can delay a student’s completion of his or her degree. For example, **Holly Folk** was by her own account a “non-traditional” student: she was raising two daughters while earning her PhD, and the dissertation fellowship gave her much needed time by funding child-care. “Financial support,” she says, “is vital to ensure women’s success in higher education.” Now, Folk is an assistant professor at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. **Jeremy Rapport** is currently completing his dissertation in American religions, and the dissertation fellowship allowed him to reduce his teaching load to finish his project this year.

Contributions from alumni and friends make a real difference in the lives of our students; they help us to create and maintain the supportive and challenging environment that makes the Indiana Religious Studies department so unique. If you have any questions about how you can support the department or about any facet of the department’s life, please contact me at dbrakke@indiana.edu. — *David Brakke*

URSA creates extension of education

Religious Studies students enjoy quality educational experiences thanks to alumni and donor support.

The faculty in the Religious Studies Department is committed to providing students with an outstanding academic experience. Primarily, students receive this exceptional academic experience inside the classroom. However, with the generous support of our donors and alumni the department can offer students opportunities to continue this experience beyond the classroom. The department created the Undergraduate Religious Studies Association (URSA) to serve this mission.

URSA Mission Statement

URSA, a group open to religious studies majors as well as non-majors, seeks to be a vibrant forum for the exchange of ideas among curious minds. By extending discussion outside the classroom, URSA hopes to enhance each student's educational experience. To this end URSA will work to connect students in dialogue, both among themselves and with the faculty of the religious studies department. URSA's aim is to provide a discussion setting that is not only educational, but also enjoyable, taking the form of public lectures as well as movie nights and faculty-led discussion lunches. Beyond the campus, URSA aspires to be a link to the Bloomington and Indiana communities by organizing field trips to places of religious and scholastic interest.

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Learn more about URSA on the Web. Visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~relstud/ursa>.

Two earn Burnett/Masters Junior Scholarship

In 1939, in honor of her husband Harry Bentley Burnett and his twin brother Percy Bentley Burnett, Mary Quick Burnett established the Harry B. & P.B. Burnett Scholarship endowment with Indiana University, to provide merit scholarships to outstanding junior men. In 1965, in honor of his wife, Keith Masters established the Esther F. Masters Scholarship endowment with the Indiana University Foundation, to provide merit scholarships to outstanding junior women.

Recipients for 2008–09 were Saralyn McKinnon-Crowley and Devin Carpenter.

In 2004, in the spirit of these two endowments, the Edward L. Hutton Honors College created the Burnett/Masters Junior Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to Hutton Honors College junior men and women, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements, exceptional leadership, and many contributions to their fields of study, to Indiana University and to the Bloomington community.



Devin Carpenter and Saralyn McKinnon-Crowley

Eligible students must be members of the Hutton Honors College entering a third year at IUB and maintain a 3.6 or higher cumulative GPA. Eligible students also have not received HHC scholarships as incoming freshmen. Each year the Honors College receives 60 to 70 applications, and is able to provide up to 25 scholarships.

We are extremely happy for these two outstanding and deserving students.

Religious Studies welcomes eight to Honors Program

The Religious Studies Honors Program provides students the opportunity to enroll in advanced seminars and to graduate with the "honors" in the major distinction. Students take six hours of departmental honors credit under the direct supervision of a mentoring professor. A copy of the honors thesis is bound and available for review in the main office. The department welcomes the following students to the Religious Studies Honors Program: Cameron Bailey, Matthew Bortnick, Trevor Giddings, Bryan Healy, Lauren Johnson, Nicholas Marshall, Robert Schoon, and Timothy Swanger.

STAY IN TOUCH!

The next time you're surfing the Web, visit the Religious Studies site at www.indiana.edu/~relstud. It is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the department. Alumni are also encouraged to join the Religious Studies alumni e-mail listserv, to send and receive e-mail from other alumni and the department.

To subscribe, send an email to mhosek@indiana.edu.

Fall URSA events

The fall 2008 events calendar included faculty and student lunches, movies with discussion, and field trips.

Oct. 2: movie with Professor Furey (*The Exorcist*)

Oct. 15: movie with Professor Manning (*The Clay Bird*)

Oct. 16: lunch with Professor Stalnaker

Oct. 27: lunch with Religious Studies graduate students

Nov. 10: lunch with Professor Johnson

Nov. 12: movie with Professor Weitzman (*Pulp Fiction*)

Nov. 17: movie with Professor Brakke (*The Matrix*)

Dec. 3: lunch with Adjunct Professor Conkle (IU School of Law—Bloomington).

Dec. 7: field trip to the Tibetan Cultural Center for a prayer service.

From the URSA president

URSA board promotes community

One of my goals for URSA was to create a sense of community among the undergraduates, and I think URSA is well on its way to doing this. The Executive Board and I decided to add a calendar of events so that students may be able to adjust their own schedule and never have to miss an event! The Religious Studies undergraduates can also expect that every semester we will have an event focusing on Eastern, Western,

or critical issues. We are also expanding social events to increase this sense of community. URSA provides our members with plenty of opportunities to interact with not only other majors, but with professors as well. Check our fall 2008 events. <http://www.indiana.edu/~relstud/ursa/events.shtml> If any alumnus has an interesting idea for program, please contact MaryLou Hosek at mhosek@indiana.edu. — *Patrick Fritz*



URSA executive board: Saralyn McKinnon-Crowley, Patrick Fritz, and Aren Wilson-Wright.

URSA

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Celebrating a new year

At the fall welcome back reception, photographers captured the sense of community felt by new and returning undergraduates. Professor Harrill stumped the students in two truths and a lie and all enjoyed a delicious spread and mingled with their teachers.



Weaver

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act as a feeder to other courses in the department (to courses on the Bible, ethics, American religion, etc.)

It was important to me for students to see that Christians, citing the Bible, could argue for or against slavery, for or against war, for or against helping the poor. It was also important that students see that there were many Christianities and that diversity was part of Christian history, and that Christianity was dynamic, always changing and adjusting to its contexts. Finally, I wanted the book to be useful. All those appendices were teaching tools I developed over the years.

Students over the years have helped me to see what is important to them. The basic structure of the book is something I hit upon by trial and error in teaching and something that I worked out with students over the years (incorporating their feedback into subsequent editions).

The structure took final shape in the second, third, and fourth editions to include these sections: “Biblical and Historical Background” (revelation and religious experience in Judaism, context for and life of Jesus, emergence of the Christian churches); “Historical Roots of Christian Diversity” (Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christianity 4th through 14th centuries, aspects of Reformation, and reformation continues and Christian churches move to America); “Christianity in the Modern World” (reactions to secularism and modern challenges, modern American Christianity, and worldwide Christianity, tensions between the church and the world’s politics and money, engaging or refusing to conform – racism, war and peace); and finally “Contemporary Christianity” (liberal and conservative, women’s movement, homosexuality, and the media).

In the third edition we added boxed short discussions of an important concept, person, and controversy in each chapter. In the fourth edition we updated many of these using current events (the Amish school shooting, e.g.), and also added a whole new set of sidebars on spirituality.

Introduction to Christianity, with its commitment to dynamism and diversity, would not have happened anywhere else. My colleagues over the years and, most of all, my students shaped it with their questions, encouraging words, and suggestions. —*Mary Jo Weaver, Emerita Professor of Religious Studies*

Alumni Notebook

1960s

In August, **Rev. Charles G. Robertson**, BA’64, MA’81, Cert’84, retired after 41 years of active ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after nine years as pastor of Wilshire Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, Calif. As President of the Wilshire Center Interfaith Council, he led the first “Abrahamic” pilgrimage to the Holy Land involving Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and he preached the nationally televised Easter Sunrise Service at the Hollywood Bowl in 2006. Rev. Robertson has also served as a pastor in Jasonville, Ind., Spencer, Ind., and Flint, Mich., and taught English in Poland from 1974 to 1976. He lives in Los Angeles.

1980s

Kathy L. Osborn, BA/BS’87, JD’99, is a member of Baker & Daniels business litigation group and practices in the downtown Indianapolis office. She joined the firm in 2000 and became a partner in January 2008. Before becoming a lawyer, Osborn worked for 11 years for IU’s Institute for Disability and Community.

In May, SUNY Press published *Rachel Carson: Legacy and Challenge*, co-edited by **Lisa H. Sideris**, BA’89, MA’97, PhD’00. The book incorporates a range of perspectives on Carson, whose work inspired the environmental movement. Sideris, an assistant professor in the IU Department of Religious Studies, contributes essays on the religious aspect of Carson’s work and on the relationship between breast cancer, to which she succumbed in 1964, and her understanding of the environment. Sideris lives in Bloomington.

1990s

Sean P. McCloud, BA’91, is an assistant professor of religion and modern culture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is the author of *Divine Hierarchies: Class in American Religion and Religious Studies*, published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2007. McCloud is also the author of *Making the American Religious Fringe: Exotics, Subversives, and Journalists, 1955–1993*, also published by the University of North Carolina Press. He lives and works in Charlotte.

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Please send me information about IU Alumni Association membership.

IUAA membership supports and includes membership in the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association and your local alumni chapter. You may join online at www.alumni.indiana.edu or call (800) 824-3044.

Attach additional pages if necessary. Mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266.



Religious Studies Alumni Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Religious Studies and the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ualumni@indiana.edu.

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