

Religious Studies

Alumni Newsletter

Indiana University Vol. 25/No. 1 • Winter 2006–07

From the chair

Embracing the opportunities and challenges ahead

Greetings from Sycamore Hall!

As I begin my term as chair of the Department of Religious Studies, I am grateful to my immediate predecessors, Richard Miller and David Haberman, for their hard work to strengthen the department's excellence. Under their leadership, we thoroughly revised the doctoral program, which had remained unchanged since its founding in the 1980s, and we recruited a dozen new faculty members. What are the opportunities and challenges that face us in the next few years? I have been on the job only a few months, but I see at least three areas for growth and change.

A new and younger faculty. After a wave of retirements and new hires, a full 12 of the 17 faculty members in the department have come to IU in 2000 or later. Only one of us has been in the department more than 13 years. On the one hand, we miss the wisdom and experience of IU veterans, and senior faculty need to support our younger colleagues as they seek to reach their full potential as scholars and teachers. On the other hand, the department is full of energy as recently arrived faculty members bring new ideas and areas of expertise to our curriculum. We are developing a host of new courses in such topics as African religions, African-American religions, evangelical Christianity, Islam in Africa and southeast Asia, theories of religion, and comparative ethics. This trend will continue as this year we search for two more new colleagues, in East Asian religions and South Asian Buddhism.

The undergraduate program. Having made changes in the doctoral program to make it more responsive to the current academic environment, we need now to look at our undergraduate major and curriculum. We have long divided our courses into the categories "eastern religions,"



David Brakke

Islam in southeast Asia? We need to think about how to ensure that our majors study a diversity of religious traditions at a time when the divide between "east" and "west" increasingly appears too simple and even inaccurate. What should educated people of

"western religions," and "critical issues in the study of religion," and we require our majors to take at least one course in each area. But do these categories make sense for courses on African religions or on

the 21st century know about religion?

Undergraduate students of the 2000s come to the study of religion with questions and concerns that differ from those of the students of the 1970s and 1980s. Certainly, we still have plenty of students who want to find new ways of understanding the world and its ultimate meaning, to explore their own religious traditions more deeply, to think critically about ethical and philosophical issues, and to delve into cultures foreign to their own. But events of the last decade or so have sparked greater student interest in the political dimensions of religion, in specific traditions like Islam, in the interactions of religious communities in

(continued on page 4)

Department welcomes new faculty

This fall, the Department of Religious Studies welcomed six new faculty members from diverse backgrounds who bring a myriad of new experiences and expertise to the department. Among them are three historians of American religious history. **Candy Gunther Brown** received her PhD from Harvard University. Professor Brown comes to IU after several years on the faculty of Saint Louis University. She is a historian of American religion and culture. Her book *The Word in the World: Evangelical Writing, Publishing, and Reading in America, 1789–1880* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004) describes the rise of an evangelical print culture in the 19th century and studies how evangelicals, rather than fearing the impurity of the secular world, instead engaged the world through publishing. Her current research examines the rise of diverse

modes of spiritual healing in the 20th century and their creation of new locations, practices, and meanings. **Sylvester Johnson** got his PhD from Union Theological Seminary and joins the IU faculty after several years at Florida A&M University. His work studies the intersections of race, gender, and religion in American culture. His book *The Myth of Ham in Nineteenth-Century American Christianity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) won the American Academy of Religion's prize for the Best First Book in the History of Religions. He is currently working on a genealogical study of the "heathen" concept in America from the colonial era to the 19th century. **Kathryn Lofton** earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Formerly a faculty member at Reed College, Professor Lofton is a historian of American

(continued on page 2)

Around the department

Bill Gallagher gives \$25,000 endowment to department

Bill Gallagher, a friend of the Department of Religious Studies, has given a \$25,000 endowment to allow the annual Bill Gallagher essay prize to be awarded on a permanent basis. Each year a first-, second-, and third-place winner is chosen and given a monetary award that totals \$1,000.

Bill Gallagher went to college to study business, and he currently owns a successful petroleum distribution business in Denver, but he credits the undergraduate and graduate work he did in the religious studies with preparing him for the world he lives in today. Inspired by professors at the University of Colorado, where he graduated cum laude in 1992 with a BA in religious studies, and then at the University of Chicago, where he earned an MA in the same field, he has long wanted to encourage students to learn more about religion. This desire led him to fund an annual student essay contest at his alma mater and to seek out Professor Constance

Furey, a classmate from graduate school who now teaches at IU, in order to establish a similar contest at IU's Department of Religious Studies. The Bill Gallagher Essay Contest has attracted outstanding submissions from students throughout the College of Arts and Sciences for the past four years, and Gallagher's recent gift of \$25,000 ensures that the contest, with its generous prize money for remarkable undergraduate essays, will be a permanent tradition in the department.

"Bill's idea for an annual essay contest came completely out of the blue," Furey explains, "but I shouldn't have been surprised because it's a classic example of his low-key activism. For example, after he studied Native American religions as an undergraduate, he spent a summer helping out kids on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. Among all my friends in graduate school, he was the one who cared most about how

academic theories could help us out in daily life." When asked why he's sponsoring the essay contest, Gallagher responded with a characteristic mix of idealism and pragmatism. He's convinced that his background in the critical study of religion helped him grow his business "in an industry dominated by immigrants of various worldviews and religious backgrounds," and that the business world needs critical-thinking, liberal arts graduates. He also emphasizes that cross-cultural understanding is more important than ever right now: "Particularly in the current war environment, critical studies of religion are essential. War abolishes distinctions: a war on radical Islamic terrorists can all too easily be perceived as a war on Islam. But, as J.Z. Smith reminds your students, 'map is not territory.' We need careful, critical thinking to see (and, as necessary, change) the relief lines on the maps that inform our collective world views."

New faculty

(continued from page 1)

religion and culture. She is completing a book tentatively titled *The Modernity in Mr. Shaw*, which examines the ways late-19th- and early-20th-century Protestant seminararians, tabernacle evangelists, black Pentecostals, reform Jews, and liberal universalists understood the "modern" as a term of self-description and theological exposition. She has also published articles that explore the religious dimensions of Oprah Winfrey's multimedia empire. **Chaya Halberstam** joins the department in the area of Hebrew Bible. She has a PhD from Yale University. Her main area of research is the Hebrew Bible as interpreted by rabbinic authorities of Late Antiquity. With an undergraduate degree in comparative literature, she mainly uses a literary methodological approach, and she is interested in the intersection of literature with law, ethics, and psychology. Her current research is on the place of property or possessions in negotiating the relationship between the human and divine in biblical and rabbinic literature. She comes to IU after teaching at King's College, London. **Dorothea Schulz** joins the department in the area of African religions. She received her PhD at Yale University in 1996. Trained in sociocultural anthropology, Professor Schulz studies Islam in Africa, gender studies, media studies, public culture, and the

anthropology of the state. She has extensive field research experience in West Africa, particularly in urban and rural Mali, where she just finished working on new Muslim networks that stretch beyond the confines of the nation-state and promote a relatively new conception of publicly enacted religiosity (significantly displayed in feminized signs of piety). She also recently completed her Habilitation at the Free University in Berlin. Finally, **David Quinter** joined the department as a visiting lecturer in Buddhism. He received his PhD from Stanford University in September and spent several years studying in Japan prior to coming to IU.

The department also welcomed a new

department secretary, **Janet Tippin**, in June. Tippin brings extensive office experience to this position and has worked at IU for several years. She and her husband met here at IU as students in 1982 and have been back in Bloomington for seven years. They have two sons, one an IU student, and the other a senior at Bloomington North. In her spare time she likes to exercise and enjoys spending time outdoors and with her family.



Janet Tippin



The department welcomes new faculty members, from left, Dorothea Schulz, Chaya Halberstam, David Quinter, Sylvester Johnson, Kathryn Lofton, and Candy Brown.

Faculty news

David Brakke became chair of the Department of Religious Studies on July 1, 2006. His new book *Demons and the Making of the Monk: Spiritual Combat in Early Christianity* was published by Harvard University Press in January 2006.

It examines how conflict with demons formed the monk as a virtuous person and as an authoritative figure in late ancient Christianity. He contributed the chapter "Self-Differentiation Among Christian Groups:



The Gnostics and their Opponents" to *Origins to Constantine*, the first volume of the new *Cambridge History of Christianity*, edited by Margaret Mitchell and Frances Young. In the summer of 2006, Brakke traveled to the monastery of Montserrat outside Barcelona to meet with his fellow editors of the works of Shenoute of Atriipe, and he attended a summer school in Coptic



papyrology at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. In October, he delivered a paper titled "The Body As/At the Boundary of Gnosis" at a conference on Bodies and Boundaries in Late Antiquity sponsored

by Cornell University. At the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting in Washington, he gave a talk to the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins on theory and methodology in the study of early Christian monasticism, and he contributed to a panel discussion of the new book *The Secret Revelation of John* by Karen King of the Harvard Divinity School. He has an edited volume out in 2006, *Beyond Reception: Mutual Influences Between Antiquity, Judaism, and Early Christianity*. Brakke currently serves as the president of the IU chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Candy Gunther Brown has published the following articles: "From Tent Meetings and Store-front Healing Rooms to Wal-Marts and the Internet: Healing

(continued on page 4)

Mary Jo Weaver retires after more than 30 years at IU

On Friday, April 7, 2006, more than 100 students, alumni, faculty, staff members, administrators, and members of the community filled Woodburn Hall 101 to honor Professor Mary Jo Weaver at her retirement. After greetings from Richard Miller, David Brakke introduced Professor Weaver, whose retirement lecture was titled "As Much Fun Learning as Teaching." Weaver told the story of her own career as a way of exploring the changes in the academy, religious studies, and American Christianity over the last 40 years. Her primary themes were the increased role of women in academic life, the excitement and unfulfilled promise of Roman Catholic feminism, and the changing attitudes toward "theology" and "spirituality" among scholars of religious studies. The lecture gave its hearers a lot to ponder, but also, in typical Weaver fashion, it frequently left them roaring with laughter.

After the lecture, colleagues and current students greeted Professor Weaver at a reception in the University Club, and more than 60 former students joined her for a celebratory dinner at the Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center. Representing classes from the 1970s through the 2000s and coming from all over the country, these Weaver fans were undeterred even by a tornado warning from honoring their beloved mentor with toasts and speeches well into the



Mary Jo Weaver, center, with Susan Gubar, Distinguished Professor of English, left, and Sheryl Fullerton, senior editor of *Josey-Bass*, at Weaver's retirement reception

evening. Informal gatherings followed on Saturday, April 8.

The honors for Weaver continued into the fall, when she was awarded the St. Elizabeth Seton Medal by the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati on Oct. 9, 2006. The medal honors a distinguished woman who has made outstanding contributions to theology. Weaver's lecture on that occasion, "A Whistling Shepherd and a Little Lost Otter: Gentle Disturbance as a Call to Prayer," will appear soon in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*.

With the retirement of Mary Jo Weaver,

the Department of Religious Studies welcomes to its emeriti ranks the last of a distinguished group of scholars who came to IU in the 1960s and 1970s and made this department the world-class center for religious studies that it is today, people like James Ackerman, James Hart, Samuel Preus, David Smith, and Stephen Stein. At meetings we will miss Weaver's wisdom and wit, and students have lost the talents of one of our greatest teachers. But her retirement is well-deserved, and we are grateful to her for helping to build this department and for setting the high standards to which we hold ourselves.

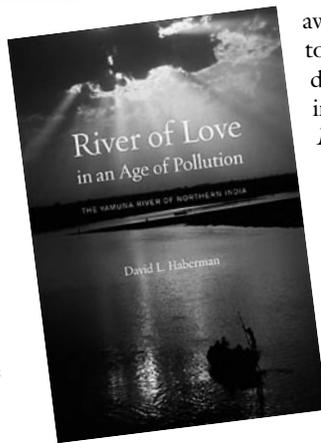
Faculty news

(continued from page 3)

Spaces in the United States, the Americas, and the World, 1906–2006,” *Church History* (September 2006): 631–647; “Singing Pilgrims: Hymn Narratives of a Pilgrim Community’s Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come, 1830–90,” in *Sing Them Over Again to Me: Hymns and Hymnbooks in America*, ed. Mark A. Noll and Edith L. Blumhofer (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006), 194–213; “Publicizing Domestic Piety: The Cultural Work of Religious Texts in the Woman’s Building Library,” *Libraries and Culture* 41.1 (Winter 2006): 35–54; “Evangelicals,” in *American History Through Literature, 1820–1870*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert Sattelmeyer (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006), 381–86. She presented “From Tent Meetings and Storefront Healing Rooms to TV Broadcasts and the Internet: Shifting Spaces for Spiritual Healing Practices in the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, 1906–2006,” at the American Society of Church History, Philadelphia, in January 2006, and “Healing Rooms,” in a newspaper interview for the *Virginian Pilot* in July 2006. In March 2006, she presented “Insider/Outsider and Pentecostal History,” at the Society for Pentecostal Studies in Pasadena, Calif., and in April she presented “Anglo-American Cultural Conflicts of the Late Eighteenth Century,” at the Mid-America American Studies Association, and “The Peale Family and American Naturalism,” for the Mid-America American Studies Association in St. Louis. In November 2006, she presented “Adjusting Body and Spirit: The Science, Art, and Philosophy of Chiropractic Manipulations,” at the American Academy of Religion, in Washington, D.C. Brown has accepted professional society service positions with the Council of American Society of Church History (2007–09) and the Evangelical Theology Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion (2006–08). She organized a major academic conference, for which she obtained significant funding from the Deaconess Foundation, Incarnate Word Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Voices Project, Aquinas Institute, and Saint Louis University grants (\$11,500): “Spiritual Healing: A Dialogue Offering Catholic, Protestant, and Medical Perspectives,” St. Louis (April 2006). She is currently working on a book manuscript, “Miracle Cures? A Cultural History of

Spiritual Healing in America.”

Constance Furey has returned from a yearlong leave and has been appointed director of IU’s Renaissance Studies Program. In that capacity, she has coordinated a series of lectures on demonology and the problem of deception that will take place in the spring. At the Renaissance Society of America conference earlier this year, she presented a paper about how friendship was portrayed as the ideal trope in a famous 16th-century treatise about Christian marriage. In August, she was a respondent at a conference on cosmopolitanism organized by Nancy Levene and Shaul Magid. An article based on lectures she gave at Harvard Divinity School last year will appear in the next issue of *Harvard Theological Review*. Another article, about how a 17th-century female poet envisioned utopia, just appeared in a special issue of the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. In addition to her book project, she is currently working on a chapter about desire and devotionism for the *Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism*. This semester, she is teaching an undergraduate course about medieval Christianity and also *Interpreting Religion*, the course required of all entering graduate students in the department. This year, the graduate course has attracted a particularly large and varied group of student from six different departments, including journalism, political science, and folklore.



David Haberman was awarded a research grant to spend the 2006–07 academic year in India studying tree shrines. His book *River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India* was published by the University of California Press in September 2006.

Bert Harrill published the article “Servile Functionaries or Priestly Leaders? Roman Domestic Religion, Narrative

Intertextuality, and Pliny’s Reference to Slave Christian Ministræ (Ep. 10,96,8).” *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 97 (2006): 111–30. He also presented a paper, “Cannibalistic Language in the Fourth Gospel: Ideology of Internal War,” at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Johannine Literature Section in Washington, D.C., in November. He was also awarded three grants: Arts and Humanities New Frontiers: New Perspectives Grant, for a conference on “The End of Everything: Catastrophe and Commu-

nity in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Worlds,” sponsored by the Ancient Studies Program, of which he is the director. Professor Harrill has also been awarded the College Arts and Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship and a summer faculty fellowship.

Kevin Jaques’s book *Authority, Conflict, and the Transmission of Diversity in Medieval Islamic Law* was published by Brill in February 2006. He is currently writing another text, to be published by Oxford University Press, that examines the life and works of Ibn Hajar al-‘Asqalani (d. 852/1448), an Egyptian scholar who is generally considered the last of the great scholars of prophetic traditions (*hadith*).

(continued on page 5)

From the chair

(continued from page 1)

a global context, and in complicated questions surrounding biomedical technology and the environment. We hope through our curriculum to speak to these new interests, while also introducing students to the questions that have long fascinated students of religion.

Support for graduate education. We have long prided ourselves on the quality of our graduate program, and its relatively small size enables our master’s and doctoral students to interact with faculty more intensively than in many larger programs. Still, we could expand the numbers of our students slightly, and, certainly, we could do a better job of supporting individual students financially. As alumni of our program know, our graduate students work very hard as associate instructors to finance their education, and the competition for the best applicants to the top graduate programs is fierce. We are working with the College of Arts and Sciences to improve the financial support for our graduate students, but in a period of declining state support for higher education, we cannot rely on the College alone. Rather, we must find ways to expand our own modest endowed resources for graduate education.

One of the great pleasures of my new role has been increased contact with alumni and friends of the department, some of whom were my students but most of whom were not. I hope that you will keep in touch with the department by visiting our Web site, sending us your news, and letting us know when you are in Bloomington. My colleagues and I would welcome any thoughts you have on the future of religious studies as a discipline and at IU in particular. Please feel free to contact me at any time!

— David Brakke

Faculty news

(continued from page 4)

He is also working on a substantial monograph to be published as a part of the de Gruyter *Handbook of Medieval Historiography* that will examine the way in which scholars have used biographical catalogues written by Muslim historians in the early, medieval, and early modern periods.

Nancy Levene traveled to Malta in the summer to deliver a paper on history and hermeneutics at the biennial conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas. In the late summer, she co-convoked a conference with Shaul Magid at IU, titled “Cosmopolitans, Post-ethnicity, and the New Jewish Diaspora,” which brought together both visiting and local scholars to discuss ethics and politics in contemporary Jewish thought. In December, she will deliver a lecture on “Athens and Jerusalem: Myths and Mirrors” at a conference on political Hebraism at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. And in the spring, her article “Reflections on Knowledge and Obscurity from Anselm to Freud” — part of a longer book project on histories of reason — will appear in *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Kathryn Lofton arrived in Bloomington this July. In August, her article “Practicing Oprah; Or, The Prescriptive Compulsion of a Spiritual Capitalism” appeared in the *Journal of Popular Culture*. This fall, she will deliver two presentations, the first on theories of practice in 19th-century American thought and the second on Oprah Winfrey’s confessional motif, at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. In January, she will present an analysis of early fundamentalism and masculinity at the American Society of Church History.

In March, **Rebecca Manring** presented a paper on nominal declension in Jiva Gosvami’s Sanskrit grammar, the *Harinamamrtavyakarana*, at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Seattle. In April, the Association for Asian Studies published her Catalogue of the Sukumar Sen (Barddhaman Sahitya Sabha) Manuscript Catalogue in their Resources for Scholarship on Asia series; the AAS is distributing the catalogue free of charge to libraries and others who request it, which is a great service to the academic community. Most of her time at this year’s AAS was devoted to evaluating applications for the new Bangla summer language program in Dhaka; she had to read the more than 100 applications for about a dozen spots in the program (which, she’s told, was a great success). Organizers of the 13th World Sanskrit Conference invited her to present a paper at their meeting in Edinburgh in



Attending the 2006 Durga Puja in Cincinnati are, from left, Rebecca Manring, Jorie Slodki, Astara Light, a local community member, and Leslie Rodgers.

July. After the conference she took the train down to London to spend some time in the South Asia collection at the British Library. While in London, she managed to take in a Tagore play, *Red Oleander*, which had been translated by last year’s IU Fulbrighter, Professor Anand Lal of Jadavpur University in Kolkata. This fall, the honors students in her I380/R382 Women in South Asian Religious Traditions class traveled to Cincinnati for the Tri-State Durga Puja, an important annual festival in the Bengali Hindu calendar. Mid-October brought the annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, and the meeting of the South Asian Language Resource Council board on which she sits. And she organized a panel on Indian sectarian grammars for the AAR meetings in November in Washington, D.C.

Richard B. Miller continues to direct the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions and is leading a new interdisciplinary faculty seminar in 2006–07, “Memory: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics.” His recent publications include “On Medicine, Culture, and Children’s Basic Interests: A Reply to Three Critics,” in *Journal of Religious Ethics* 34 (March 2006): 177–89 and the White Paper, “Intelligent Design, Science Education, and Public Reason,” with Robert A. Crouch and Lisa H. Sideris, which is the product of a year’s collabora-

tion at the Poynter Center of faculty in the sciences, education, and the humanities concerned about the intrusion of religion and the culture-wars in U.S. science education. The text is available at <http://poynter.indiana.edu/science.shtml>. Miller attended two invited presentations, “Beyond Madness and Self-Deception after 9/11: Memory, Witness, Lamentation,” at St. Olaf College (March ’06), and “Theological and Ethical Reasons for Respecting ‘Public Reason’ in Teaching Religion,” at a presentation and panel discussion of “Religion Inside/Out: Pedagogical Issues Past, Present, and Future,” at Ball State University (April ’06). He received a New Frontiers Grant from the Office of the Vice Provost of Research to sponsor four half-day seminars on “Privacy Public: Ethics, Privacy, and the Technology of Public Surveillance” in 2006–07. He presented “Our Duties and Debts to Children” at the McDowell Conference, American University, on Nov. 3 and “On the Ethics of Memory and Grief” as part of his work-in-progress at a graduate symposium at the University of Notre Dame in early November. He taught the second half of a new two-semester sequence, From Christian Ethics to Social Criticism, in the spring.

David Quinter finished his dissertation, “The Shington Ritsu School and the

(continued on page 7)

Student Notes

Graduate news

The Religious Studies Graduate Symposium is planned for March 8–9, 2007, with the topic of “Religion: Practicing Theory/Theorizing Practice.” More details will be forthcoming on the departmental Web site, www.indiana.edu/~relstud.

Nicole Willock presented at the 11th Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies hosted by the Seminar for Central Asian Studies of Bonn University. It took place from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2 in Konigswinter, Germany. She presented her paper on “Tibetan Perspectives of the Cultural Revolution.”

Cheryl Cottine was accepted as a summer research fellow at the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf for a six-week stay. The fellowship provides support and library access for researching Kierkegaard studies.

Bryan Gutridge was selected for the American Institute of Indian Studies’ advanced Sanskrit program, held each summer in Pune.

Jen Hart received a scholarship to be a visiting foreign scholar in the Department of the Study of Religion at Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark. The position lasts for six months, starting in September. The project she will be working on is tentatively called: “Judaism and Mandaeism: A Study of Real or Invented Kinship.”

Nicole Karapanagiotis was selected for the American Institute of Indian Studies’ advanced Sanskrit program in Pune, India. She was awarded an AIIS fellowship with tuition, airfare, and living stipend to study there.

Ellen Muehlberger took part in March

in the Medieval Studies Symposium’s Readers Circle, presenting a selection of Narsai of Edessa’s Sermon on the Epiphany in Syriac. She organized a panel, “Ritual and the Imagination,” for the June 2006 annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society, and presented her own paper at that meeting, “Imagining Angels at Ritual: John Chrysostom and Narsai of Edessa on the Power of the Priest.” She participated in the Early Jewish Christian Relations program unit at the November 2006 meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, presenting her paper “Origen and Jerome on Accusations of Jewish Angel Worship.” She has also agreed to serve as the on-campus student representative for SBL at IU Bloomington for the 2006–07 academic year. Finally, she was invited to “Jews, Christians, and Pagans in Antiquity — Critique and Apotheosis,” a conference sponsored by the University of Aarhus and scheduled for January 2007, where she will take part in a doctoral student seminar.

Jeremy Rapport received the Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship for the 2006–07 academic year at IUPUI, and he is teaching in the religious studies department there. He has also had a paper proposal accepted as part of a panel on new religious movements at the AAR this fall.

Mark Wilson was awarded the Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship for 2006–07. This coveted award is given annually to 30 doctoral students in the United States who are expected to make a contribution to research and scholarship in the study of ethical or religious values.

Undergraduate news

Christine Foust, a religious studies and music dual degree candidate, was awarded the Theta Alpha Kappa Undergraduate Achievement Award in spring 2006. The award was created to award a “student who exemplifies the high character, academic excellence, and personal achievement characteristic of our student members.”

Jeremy Watt, triple major in religious studies, economics, and sociology, won the Department of Religious Studies Senior Honors Essay Award in spring 2006 for “The Incongruous Bull: In Supremo Apostolatus.” In addition to graduating with departmental honors for this work, Watt has been awarded an **Undergraduate Library Research Award** for his thesis. His thesis examines the Papal Bull In Supremo (1839), the famous encyclical of Pope Gregory XVI calling for European powers to end the trans-Atlantic slave trade of Africans to the Americas.

Jordan Pickett, art history and religious studies double major, won an **Undergraduate Library Research Award in the**

(continued on page 7)

Religious Studies

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 ialumni@indiana.edu.

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IUAlumniCareers.com

The IU Alumni Association’s new online career services center, **IUAlumniCareers.com**, is officially open! This Web site provides online career and mentoring services for IU alumni. Register at **IUAlumniCareers.com** to search for jobs posted by employers, post your résumé for review by employers, or search for an alumni mentor for career advice.

IU alumni are invited to register as mentors to give career advice to their fellow alumni. As a mentor, you may choose how often and in what manner you wish to be contacted, and you may opt out of the mentor program at any time.

Employers are invited to register to post job openings at no charge.

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Contact the IAAA membership department at iaaemb@indiana.edu or (800) 824-3044.



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Student notes

(continued from page 6)

spring for his paper, "Iconography of the Dormition: A New Eulogia Tablet from Scythopolis." Pickett was also awarded first prize in the Department of Religious Studies 2006 Gallagher Essay Contest for his paper on Sethian Baptism. In addition, Pickett will soon have an article published in *Sources in Art History*.

Theta Alpha Kappa is an international academic honor society founded in 1976 to honor outstanding undergraduate students in the fields of religious studies and/or theology. In spring 2006, the following students were elected to TAK: **Jenny Conti, Sherie Cooley, Peter Eshelman, Christine Foust, Erin Griffin, J. Curtis Griner, Paul Helms, Adam James, Michael Jones, Megan Little, and Jowanda Peterson.**

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, at the College of William and Mary, and has evolved to become the nation's leading advocate for the liberal arts and sciences education at the undergraduate level. **Lara King and Jowanda Peterson** were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in spring 2006.

No plans for hibernation for IU's URSA

The Undergraduate Religious Studies Association kicked off the school year with a welcome-back party in September at which students had a chance to meet and talk with both new and returning faculty. In October, URSA students were treated to a luncheon with Sylvester Johnson and Candy Brown to discuss an article published in *The New York Times* about religion in the secular university. A movie night with new faculty member Dorothea Schulz, titled "Divorce Iranian Style," was held in November, and in December, Rebecca Manring showed and discussed a Pakistani film called *Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)* that deals with the rise of religious fundamentalism in the 1970s in Pakistan and the remnants of Partition in the subcontinent. Some URSA students also participated in a Pages for Prisoners "pack-a-thon." Pages for Prisoners is a volunteer not-for-profit organization that sends requested books to prisoners all over the country to encourage self-education. At the pack-a-thon, volunteers met at Boxcar Books to find requested books and pack them for shipping. In spring 2007, the URSA committee plans put together a team to participate in Bowl for Kids Sake, and they are planning several field trips to local religious sites.



URSA welcome-back party

Faculty news

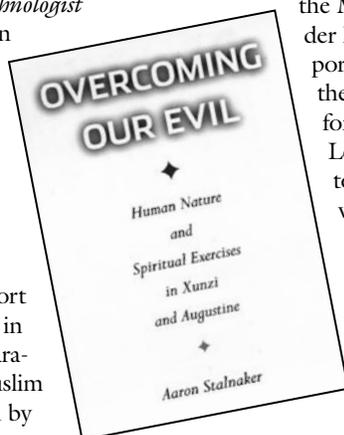
(continued from page 5)

Mañjuśrī Cult in the Kamakura Period: From Edison to Monkan, in August 2006 and was awarded his PhD from Stanford University in September. In October, he gave an invited lecture at Otani University in Kyoto, Japan, "Resituating Eison's Mañjuśrī Faith and Hinin." He has an article forthcoming in *Buddhist Literature* 3, "Contemplating the *Mañjuśrī Parinirvāna Sutra*: A Translation of the *Wen-shu-shih-li pan-nieh-p'an ching* and Reflections on Its Provenance."

Dorothea Schulz recently completed three essays for books that deal with aspects of Muslim activism in contemporary Mali and the public controversy that this activism fuels. Her article in *American Ethnologist* 33(2) examines how the adoption of new media technologies by Muslim "revivalist" groups in Mali reconfigures religious experience, community, and authority. An article on the commodification of occult services in Mali will appear in a special issue of *Mande Studies* on divination. She also published a country report on "Islamic law and national law in Mali" that forms part of a comparative study on "shari'a law" in Muslim majority countries commissioned by

the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and compiled by the Van Vollenhoven Institute in Leiden, The Netherlands. Her article on the consumption of U.S. American soap operas and Latin American telenovelas by urban telespectators in Mali appeared in *Visual Anthropology* 12, and an article on Muslim dress practices and sartorial styles in Mali will appear in *Fashion Theory*. Another article, to appear in an edited volume on the *Politics of Memory and Cultural Heritage in Africa*, takes up her earlier research on the making of national culture and history in Mali. She gave a paper at an invited session on "Comparative Secularisms in the Neoliberal Age" at the American Anthropological Meetings in November. In December, she organized an international workshop on "Piety, Responsibility, Subjectivity: Reconfigurations of the Moral Economy of Gender Relations in Contemporary Muslim Africa" at the International Institute for the Study of Islam in Leiden, The Netherlands, together with co-convenor Marloes Janson, Centre Modern Orient, Berlin.

Aaron Stalnaker's book *Overcoming Our Evil: Human Nature and Spiritual Exercises in Xunzi and Augustine*



Augustine was published in July 2006. He also drafted an essay titled "The Mencius-Xunzi Debate in Early Confucian Ethics."

Steven Weitzman, Irving M. Glazer Chair of Jewish Studies and director of IU's Borns Jewish Studies Program, spent spring 2006 in Jerusalem as a visiting scholar with the Hebrew University's Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and as a fellow of the William F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. There he advanced an ongoing study of the origins and nature of religious violence in the Hebrew Bible and early Judaism, a sequel to his recently published *Surviving Sacrilege: Cultural Persistence in Jewish Antiquity* (Harvard University Press, 2005). During this period, Weitzman also completed a draft of *The History of Jewish Civilization*, a co-authored book forthcoming from Prentice-Hall.

Emeriti faculty news

Having concluded a two-year stint at DePauw University, **David Smith** is enjoying retirement by returning to Yale for a second year of teaching biomedical ethics. His course this fall is in political science, cross-listed with religious studies. The 80 students include many athletes, singers, and writers of various stripes. They love to argue and Smith is having a ball. Smith can easily be reached at smithd@indiana.edu.

(continued on back page)

For the Balls, working at Boise State University (Idaho) is a family affair. **Marcy Flickinger Ball**, BA'96, is the school's coordinator of the Residential College & Special Projects, Student Housing. Her husband, **Jeremy D. Ball**, BA'95, JD'98, is an assistant professor of criminal justice administration. He is also a faculty-in-residence coordinator for the university's Civic Leadership Residential College.

Alana H. Berland, BA'04, works at Training Wheels, a team-building and development company that runs workshops for those seeking experimental resources, like rope climbing. The company also has a product line to assist facilitators. Berland is pursuing her master's degree in conflict resolution at the University of Denver.

Kathryn J. Hoffa Betournay, BA'73, writes, "I have retired from my career as a minister, chaplain, and pastoral counselor and will be working from my home as a fabric artist. My interdepartmental major at IU in fine arts and religious studies has stood the test of time. We are also moving to Concord, N.H."

Simon M. Braune, Cert/BA'99, MLS'05, is the librarian at the Middle East Institute's George Camp Keiser Library in Washington, D.C. His final project paper for SLIS-L625 Information in the Social Science, taught by Lokman Meho, was published in 2005. Braune's paper "Islam as Practiced by the Kazaks: A Bibliography for Scholars" is featured in *MELA Notes: The Journal of the Middle East Librarians Association* (No. 78, 2005).

Robert Brown, MA'91, is a visiting assistant professor of religion at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Previously, he was the Pocock Distinguished Visiting Professor in religious studies at the College of Wooster in Ohio. His research is currently focused on religion in early America and the colonial American intel-

(continued on page 9)

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Alumna profile

Religious studies alumna values degree

You're getting a deal when you major in religious studies.

I elected religious studies as my second major in 2000 because I was in a hurry: I wanted to learn as much as possible about myself, my community, and the world and only had four years to do it (well, four-and-a-half, as it turned out). My other major was journalism, which provided me with the technical skills in news writing and reporting as well as the theoretical understanding in ethics, law and media models. Religious studies, with its interdisciplinary and historical approach to religion, offered a different set of skills.

Nonviolence and the Struggle for Freedom, with Professor Gerald Larson, and Religion, Ethics, and Public Life, with Professor Ann Mongoven, launched my studies in my freshman year. The lectures were filled with interesting ideas and new methods of thinking, and they opened my eyes to the impact of religion on the lives of people and society. I soon found myself attending extracurricular lectures and becoming a devoted student of religion.

As a practicing Jain, I also started to learn about my religion, Jainism. Before I entered Sycamore Hall, my knowledge of Jainism — to put it charitably — was limited. But as classes addressed different Jain ethics, that soon ended.

Across campus, I forged ahead with journalism, covering religion for the *Indiana Daily Student* and writing about religion for the newspapers where I interned. I brought the lessons I learned about Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism into newsrooms, including *The Seattle Times*, *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis, and the *Associated Press* in Detroit. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* hired me in 2004, and since then, I have been covering immigration and religion. Stories about Hindus, Muslims, and Jews have been published in the paper with prominence. Once again, my background in religious studies helped a newspaper better connect with overlooked readers. Some of the best letters I have received have been from readers who appreciated reading about their religion in the pages of their local newspaper.

This time last year, I traveled with a group of other Americans to Southeast Asia, where I studied religion and society over a two-week period in Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia. These countries were grappling with profound issues relating to religion and politics. Studying religion from a historical perspective helped me keep the events in context.

Take a look around you: Tensions in southern Thailand, conflict in India, trouble in the Sudan. Let's not forget about Rick Warren and the renewed interest on part of evangelical churches to reduce AIDS in Africa or the 9/11 bombings. Religion is everywhere. After returning from the study tour in Southeast Asia, I published six articles for the *Journal Sentinel* related to that region. Stories about priests who underwent training in Wisconsin captured the goodwill of readers who volunteered to send in donations. Other stories about religious diversity in Singapore as a travel piece gave readers a glimpse of a multicultural society in the middle of a hotbed of political activity.

Religious studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to learning, which is the key to living and making sense of a complex world. My professors — especially Professor Ann Mongoven, Professor Steve Weitzman, and Professor Robert Company — encouraged me to learn all that I could and apply that as well. I feel privileged to have learned at their feet.

We live in an interdependent world. The best preparation students can give themselves is a background of the world religion. These lessons will serve them and the world. It certainly has for me.

— Sheila B. Lalwani

Sheila Lalwani received her BA in religious studies and journalism in 2002. She currently works as a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and frequently covers religion and immigration. She is the Midwest captain for the Religion Newswriters Association and was named a fellow in 2006. She is also the founding president of the AAJA Wisconsin chapter.

Graduate fellowships ensure the future of high-quality education

As we watch distinguished faculty members such as Mary Jo Weaver and Stephen Stein retire, we may ask: Who will be the inspiring teachers and groundbreaking scholars who will educate future generations of American students? And what role will the IU Department of Religious Studies play in ensuring that quality non-sectarian research and teaching about religious traditions continue in the years to come? Through our graduate programs the department seeks to train promising young scholars of religion and to enable graduate students with other career ambitions to deepen their knowledge of religion and its role in society. It is through a limited number of graduate fellowships that we are able to attract to IU outstanding graduate students, whose talents and enthusiasm benefit undergraduates as well.

The Department of Religious Studies has a few existing fellowship endowments to which supportive friends and alumni may contribute. These include the *Todd Sullivan Memorial Fellowship*, which supports outstanding students in ethics, philosophy, and politics in the study of religion; the *Ackerman Warshaw Fellowship*, intended for students in biblical studies; and the as

yet unnamed dissertation research support fellowship, which enables a doctoral candidate to spend more time writing his or her dissertation and less time working at an unrelated job. We are grateful to the alumni and friends who helped to create these fellowships, which yet could use enhancement from contributions of even a modest size.

And thanks to the current Campaign for IU Bloomington, donors have a special opportunity to endow graduate fellowships. Under the program Matching the Promise, annual incomes from gifts of at least \$150,000 will be matched at a ratio of 1:2, from gifts of at least \$250,000 at a ratio of 1:1. That is, a \$200,000 endowment that produces income for a fellowship of \$10,000 per year would be matched by the university with an additional \$5,000, producing a fellowship of \$15,000 for the student. Donations are eligible for this

matching program until the committed funds for matching run out. The matching program will similarly support undergraduate scholarships established with gifts as low as \$50,000.

Graduate students play a key role in the department's intellectual life. As associate instructors, they help to mentor undergraduate students and inspire them to reach their potential, and as junior scholars, they challenge and stimulate the faculty and represent the future of American higher education.

If you would like to explore how you can help to support graduate education in the department, please contact the chair, David Brakke, at dbrakke@indiana.edu or (812) 855-3531. For more information about the Matching the Promise program, please visit the IU Foundation's Web site at iufoundation.iu.edu/mtp.

Alumni notebook

(continued from page 8)

lectual transition toward modernity. He teaches new religious movements, African-American religion, American fundamentalism, and religion in early America. Brown is the author of *Jonathan Edwards and the Bible*, published by Indiana University Press in 2002. He is at work editing a volume of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*.

Among the numerous work experiences and activities outlined in his vita, **Michael Antonio Canganelli**, BA'74, has been a solo general practitioner attorney and counselor at law in Chicago since 1982. In 2005, he was a substitute teacher in Spanish, French, and German at various high schools in Indiana. Canganelli lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

Since 1992, **Michael W. Griffin**, BA'81, MPA'95, has served as the clerk-treasurer of Highland, Ind. Since 1999, he has been an adjunct professor at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU Northwest.

Diego Merino, BA/BM'02, taught with Teach for America after graduation and then worked as the dean of school culture at the Village Academy in East Harlem, N.Y. Merino is now a program officer at American Jewish World Service, an international NGO based in New York.

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Faculty news

(continued from page 7)

In June **Stephen J. Stein**, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, delivered the Tanner Lecture at the annual meeting of the Mormon History Association in Casper, Wyo. The title of his lecture was "Historical Reflections on Mormon Futures," which dealt with the historical and eschatological futures respectively. It will appear in published form in the *Journal of Mormon History*.

Stein's edition of Jonathan Edwards's *Blank Bible* was published as volume 24, parts 1 and 2 (Yale University Press) in early September. The *Blank Bible* is a biblical commentary in manuscript, previously unpublished, that Edwards compiled over 30 years and that contains more than 5,500 entries on all parts of the Bible.

Late in 2006 Cambridge University Press will publish *The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Edwards*, edited by Stein. This interdisciplinary volume contains 16 essays by scholars in diverse fields who deal with all aspects of Edwards's life, thought, and legacy. Stein has an essay in it on Edwards as a biblical exegete. This volume is designed for classroom use and for the general reader.

Stein has also recently completed an essay titled "Gender and Authority: Women in Shaker History," which will appear in the Italian journal *Rivista di Storia del Cristianesimo* in a forthcoming issue devoted to the public and private roles of women in various religious groups.

Mary Jo Weaver was awarded the St. Elizabeth Seton Medal on Oct. 9 at the College of Mount St. Joseph. In 1996, the College of Mount St. Joseph established the St. Elizabeth Seton Medal in theology during its 75th-anniversary year to recognize the educational legacy of the Sisters of Charity who founded the College in 1920. Named in honor of the foundress of the Sisters of Charity, St. Elizabeth Seton, this award is presented annually to a woman who has made outstanding contributions to theology. At the event, Weaver gave a lecture titled "A Whistling Shepherd and a Little Lost Otter: Gentle Disturbance as a Call to Prayer," which was subsequently accepted for publication by the journal *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*.

Professor Emeritus **Gerald Larson** delivered a lecture at IU on Oct. 16 titled "Plato's Cave and the Cave of Yoga: Some Problems in the Philosophy of Mind," which grew out of a book he has finished after 20 years, vol. 10 of the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies, titled *Yoga: India's Philosophy of Meditation*, which he hopes will be out by late 2006 or early 2007.



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