



# Religious Studies

## Alumni Newsletter

Indiana University

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### 'Lucky adopted Hoosier' retires after 35 years

Steve Stein, beloved Chancellor's Professor, retired from Indiana University in May. On April 7, in keeping with departmental tradition, he delivered a final public lecture, "Miscellaneous Observations on Religion in America." A reception in the University Club followed and was attended by many current and former students and colleagues. The department planted a redbud tree in Stein's name near Sycamore Hall. Professor Mary Jo Weaver wrote the following biography for the IU retiring faculty history book.

Steve Stein, who retires after 35 years in the Department of Religious Studies, is distinguished among scholars of American religious history as one who recognizes and celebrates the extensive possibilities of the First Amendment. When the founding fathers wrote that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." they could not have foreseen the explosion of religious energy that would mark 19th-century America or the new religious movements fostered by immigration and by intense regard for apocalyptic visions in the 20th. Steve's essay



Nancy Hiller, BA'93, MA'95, left, chatting with Steve and Devonia Stein, is one of several alumni who returned to IU to participate in the April 7 retirement celebration of Steve Stein.

"The Changing Economy of the Spiritual Marketplace in the United States" (2001) sees new religious movements as exciting and sometimes challenging aspects of an experiment in progress. His large service course "The Cult Controversy" gives him

a chance to examine stereotypes about religious belief and practice, and his courses on sectarianism, religious violence, diversity, outsider groups, and various expressions of "end-time" prophecy and activity introduce  
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### Deborah Brooks Pettry to serve on College Alumni Board

Deborah Brooks Pettry, BA'73, a native of Indiana, earned her undergraduate degree in religious studies at Indiana University and later earned a doctorate at Purdue. She now lives in San Diego and has recently accepted a position on the IU College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board. She has been president and owner of ACL Inc. since 2000 and this year celebrates 25 years in leadership development. Pettry was kind enough to share some thoughts with this newsletter recently — on Bloomington, Indiana University, and the Department of Religious Studies.



Deborah Brooks Pettry

our friendship through the remainder of high school and since. She's an editor with

Last fall I had dinner in Washington with a good friend and IU graduate, Susan Keller, BA'74 (journalism). Susan and I met at an IU high school journalism institute and continued

the *New York Times* in their Washington, D.C., bureau, after having worked for years in Manhattan. I told her that I had visited Bloomington a few years ago, after an absence of 20 years, and had found it as good as my memories. Even better. She simply didn't believe me. Her memories of our years in Bloomington were good, but she couldn't believe that people who had lived in New York (her), Washington (her), San Diego (me), Los Angeles (me), and Orange County (me) could be happy there.

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## Stein retirement

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students to the wide-ranging possibilities of the American religious imagination.

Steve's intellectual journey was unpredictable. In fact, one would imagine a more prosaic life from a young man born in Missouri to a military family, educated all over the Midwest, and sent to college at Concordia. And, although a classical undergraduate education — its insistence on mastery of biblical languages — prepared him in some ways for his life's work, he went to Yale to distance himself from religion narrowly conceived. At Yale, under the tutelage of Sydney Ahlstrom, Steve pursued a question about the sheer persistence of the apocalyptic dimension of religion: What kept certain believers on the edge of the end of the world? In a seminar on Jonathan Edwards, the religious genius behind the First Great Awakening in the 1740s, Steve was directed to the Edwards manuscript collection at the Beinecke Library. There he met a visiting scholar who warned him away from the manuscripts because Edwards's handwriting was excruciatingly difficult to read. That challenge led to Steve's semester project, a transcription of one of Edwards's manuscript notebooks; and his success, along with the relation of the text to the problem of apocalyptic energy, infected Steve. His dissertation and a major part of his life's work has been about Edwards's commentary on the Bible. He has published groundbreaking studies, including more than a dozen articles on Edwards, and has edited four volumes of the massive Yale edition of *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*. In a wider dimension, he has edited, along with Bernard McGinn and John Collins, *The Continuum History of Apocalypticism* (2003).

Steve's interest in millennial texts and prophecies as they refracted through American religious history into frightening and glorious visions of the future led him beyond Edwards to his magisterial study of the Shakers, *The Shaker Experience in America: A History of the United Society of Believers*, and from there to his most recent work on "Alternative American Religions and Communities of Dissent." His work on the Shakers was partly a geographical accident because of some engaging unpublished Shaker documents in the Lilly library. His book on the Shakers and his many articles gave Steve a wide popular audience since Shakers appeal to scholars and collectors interested in material culture, as well as to those fascinated by their counter-cultural religious values. As a member of the board of directors of the Shaker Museum and Library, Old Chatham, N.Y., he is able to

## Petry

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Well, last week I received a package from her. The cover note said (in very big caps) "You were right and I was wrong!" She had visited IU for the first time in decades, to speak to a friend's journalism class, and had returned to Washington with arts and real estate brochures for her husband, telling him that they could buy a place on Lake Monroe for holidays until they can leave their jobs and live in the area forever. She had also picked up copies for me, which were in the package.

This is the magic of Bloomington and IU. Somehow it remains as interesting as we remember. In fact, it's even better than we remember, because we've matured enough to appreciate some things we didn't know how to value at 19.

I knew such great professors in religious studies. I'll just single out Stephen Stein, who was my "major professor" (although I was an undergraduate), but I appreciated

apply his scholarly work to practical ends.

Simultaneous with his work on the Shakers, Steve has tracked the relentless energy of apocalyptic vision as it manifested itself in new American religions (Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses) and in recent new religious movements that tend to make headline news (the Branch Davidian community in Waco, Texas). Steve's involvement with new religious movements has informed his significant article "Religion/Religions in the United States: Changing Perspectives and Prospects" in the *Indiana Law Journal* (2002).

Steve, who was named Chancellor's Professor in 1995, has been exceptionally active in service to the department (chair for eight years) and American studies (director for three years), the university, and the profession, where, among other things, he served as president of the American Society of Church History (1994). He has been a member of several editorial boards, including the Yale University Edwards Project (since 1985), and co-edits the important series Religion in North America for Indiana University Press. Neither he nor anyone else can keep an accurate count of his book reviews, encyclopedia articles, or dictionary entries. His mentoring of graduate students in religious studies and in the history department is legendary in

all of the terrific people I studied with. Today, I wish I could go back and take every one of their courses again.

Steve Stein made my "big university" experience a personal one. He took individual interest in me and in other students I knew. We studied with him, worked with him, and had dinner with his family (his wife, Devonia, and his children were a



part of our lives too). He helped us find employment when we needed money. And he was both sincere and funny.

But this isn't just about Professor Stein. It's about a department that had a group of professors who treated their students this way. There was a culture in religious studies that empha-

sized personal contact and growth (as well as forgiveness for some of the stunts we pulled). This is what I'd like every student in the College to experience at IU — a personal experience that helps each person find what they can be, as well as excellent instruction and research.

its attention to detail, encouragement, and sustained involvement.

When asked about the most exciting or unexpected thing in his professional life, Steve said it was its coincidence with the burgeoning of the academic study of religion in a state university. In essence, religious studies and Steve have both grown into the interdisciplinary project that privileges no religion and is genuinely interested in a myriad of religious expressions.

Discussion about retirement plans brings two looks to his face. One is serious, the scholar who will continue to do what he is now doing, directing doctoral dissertations, staying active with the Shaker Museum, and beginning work on the *Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Edwards*. The other is smiling, the doting grandfather of Sahalie and Alexandra, the proud dad of Beth and Steve, and happy husband of Devonia. Twenty years ago, Steve and Devonia bought 80 acres in Greene County, spent years clearing a road, creating a meadow, clearing stumps, building (literally) a salt-box house, making a place for a pond, and generally enjoying "the land." It is easy to imagine him thinking about Edwards and other intellectual matters as he rides around on his mower, walks in the woods, floats on the pond with his grandchildren, and plays the role of the lucky adopted Hoosier.

## Study of religion is as lively as ever, especially at IU

I have recently finished reading Reza Aslan's new book *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. Not only do I recommend this book as a great read, but I also believe that it highlights the fact that religion is a highly influential — yet vastly contentious — force in global affairs today. The need to understand religion is, therefore, greater than ever. Aslan remarks in his book: "Considering how effortlessly religious dogma has become intertwined with political ideology since 9/11, how can we overcome the clash-of-monotheisms mentality that has so deeply entrenched itself in the modern world? Clearly, education and tolerance are essential. But what is most desperately needed is not so much a better appreciation of our neighbor's religion as a broader, more complete understanding of religion itself." I could not agree more; these are times of ideological religious warfare. To understand the tremendous struggle going on *within* almost every religious tradition today to define the nature of that tradition, one must grasp how religion functions in public life.

We are a nation at war. Religious studies as we recognize this discipline in the state universities today had its birth in the middle of another war. As a result of Supreme Court rulings in the mid-1960s, the academic study of religion became possible — even encouraged — for the first time in America's public institutions of higher education. Most departments of religious studies got their start in the late 1960s or early 1970s, a time of military and cultural conflict known as the Vietnam War. This is certainly true of religious studies at Indiana University, which began as a program in the late 1960s and became a department in the early 1970s. The last decade of the Vietnam War was a decisive period that both shaped the emerging field of religious studies and provided an occasion for this new discipline to play a significant role in democratic discourse. During this difficult time, religious studies departments across the country provided a vital voice for appreciating cultural differences, contributed to the critical examination of ethical and religious values in public life, and helped foster an appreciation for plurality and tolerance. My hope is that the academic discipline of religious studies can once again assume a prominent role in helping the nation think critically and productively about the conflicts going on both within and among religions in the world today. I anticipate that the Depart-



David Haberman

ment of Religious Studies here at Indiana University can continue to occupy a position of leadership in this challenging process. We are certainly well poised to do so. We have had a busy spring semester here at Sycamore Hall. I am pleased to announce that after conducting numerous on-campus interviews in January, February, March, and April, we have added three new faculty members to the department. **Dorothea Schulz**, who received her PhD from Yale University, joins us from the Free University in Berlin to fill our position in African religions. Trained in anthropology, Dorothea will bring to our department new approaches to the study of religion, as well as firsthand knowledge of the Islamic cultures of West Africa. **Lisa Sideris**, who received her PhD from our own Indiana University, has been hired for a position in religious ethics. Lisa joins us from McGill University in Montreal and will contribute her expertise on evolution and environmental ethics to the life of our department. **Chaya Halberstam**, who received her PhD from Yale University, specializes in biblical literature and rabbinic law that struggles to establish clear evidence in the face of human uncertainty. Chaya joins us from King's College at the University of London to fill our position in Hebrew Bible. We are pleased with the enthusiasm and expertise all three of these new faculty members will bring our department and are happy to welcome them into our community.

As it says in Ecclesiastes: "For everything there is a season ... a time to seek and a time to lose." Along with the announcement of new faculty additions, I must also sadly but proudly announce the retirement of **Steve Stein**, Chancellor's Professor of Religious Studies. Steve has served as a vital member of our department for 35 years. He has had a long and illustrious career as a leading scholar of American religious history, an immensely popular teacher, and a much beloved colleague. On April 7, former students and colleagues returned to Bloomington to join the IU community for a retirement celebration of Steve. He will be missed terribly as a regular inhabitant of Sycamore Hall, but we wish him well as he moves into his well-deserved retirement.

Next April, we will be celebrating the retirement of **Mary Jo Weaver**. Watch for further announcements of what promises to be a great event.

Current faculty members maintain their reputation for being exceedingly productive (see the "Faculty News" section on page 4 for details). In addition to regular teaching and service responsibilities, the faculty together has managed either to have published or had accepted for publication a dozen new books during the academic year just ending. This is something to applaud and good indication of the persistence of a high quality of excellence in the department. Although I do not have the space required to honor all faculty achievements, I do want to mention that this year's Trustees Teaching Award went to **Rob Campany** for the critical role he has played in training the department's graduate students in a wide range of theory and methods in our field.

We move into the fall semester with two new departmental officers. **Rob Campany** will assume responsibilities as our new director of graduate studies, and **Bert Harrill** will serve as our new director of undergraduate studies. Both bring promising visions and abilities to their respective positions. **David Brakke** steps down as DGS — a very demanding office — after serving in the position for five years. He has done quite well, our graduate program thriving under his leadership, and with his guidance we have commenced a substantial revision of the graduate program. Serving as DUS for two years, **Connie Furey** leaves the position to take up a one-year research position at Harvard University. Connie nurtured both our undergraduates and undergraduate affairs with care and attention during a transitional time. Much gratitude is due to David and Connie.

Our students continue to distinguish themselves. We graduated a large batch of religious studies undergraduate majors in May, with a significant number of them receiving recognition for their scholarly achievements and many being inducted into prestigious academic societies. We admitted eight new graduate students last semester: three into our master's program, and five into our doctoral program. **Jennifer Hart** led organizational efforts for the spring Graduate Student Symposium, which brought Lynn Schofield Clark from the University of Colorado to campus at the end of March to speak on "Pop Culture

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# Around the Department

## Faculty news

**David Brakke** delivered three invited lectures during the winter and spring. In December, he gave a lecture, called “The Monastic Prophet: Shenoute of Atripe as the Anti-Holy Man,” at an international seminar on “Foundations of Power and Conflicts of Authority in Late-Antique Monasticism” at the University of Turin in Italy. In January, he spoke on “The Reception of Greek and Roman Spiritual Traditions in Early Christian Monasticism” at a symposium on “The Reception of Antique Religion and Culture in Judaism and Christianity,” sponsored by the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He will co-edit the published proceedings of the symposium. In April, he gave the keynote lecture, titled “The Monastic Self and the Demonic Other: Gender and Satan in Late Ancient Egypt,” at IU’s Medieval Studies Symposium, which had as its theme “Self and Other in the Middle Ages.” His article “Nag Hammadi” appeared in the new second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Religion*.

**Rob Campany** delivered an invited lecture, titled “Narrating the Quest for

Transcendence in China, 320 B.C.–320 A.D.,” at Wittenberg University in February. In April, he was one of four invited speakers at a conference at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago honoring his graduate mentor, Professor Anthony C. Yu, on the occasion of Yu’s retirement. The talk was an experimental comparative application of Jonathan Z. Smith’s categories “locative” and “utopian” (as styles or modes of religion) to the case of early medieval China. In May, he spoke at two conferences at Harvard University. At the first, on the Eastern Jin Dynasty in China (A.D. 317–420), his talk was an interpretation of the religious thought of two early Eastern Jin thinkers, Ge Hong and Gan Bao. For the other conference, he made a comparison of Chinese and Western concepts of (and terms for) “religion” and verbs commonly used to name what we, in English, would describe as “religious” activity.

**Connie Furey**, having recently received a Women’s Studies in Religion Fellowship from Harvard University, will spend the 2005–06 school year in Cambridge working on her next book project, tentatively titled *Religious Relationships in Devotional Poetry: Gender, Genre, and Renaissance Christianity*. As part of the fellowship, she will also teach a related course at Harvard Divinity School. Last summer, she received an IU Summer Faculty Fellowship to complete the revision on her current book, titled *Erasmus, Contarini, and the Religious Republic of Letters* (Cambridge University Press), which is scheduled to appear in September. She also taught a version of her course The Body and the Word: Ritual and Belief in Christianity as an Intensive Freshman Seminar last August. (The IFS program was highlighted in *Time* magazine

in 2001 as one of the reasons Indiana University was named its College of the Year among research institutions.) In the fall, she presented a paper on “Invective and Exposure in Early Modern Christianity” at the 16th-Century Studies Conference and then explored the other side of the coin in a paper titled “‘Like unto Christ’: Sanctifying Praise in Early Modern Christianity,” which she presented at the American Society of Church History in January. She continues to serve on the Renaissance Studies Steering Committee and coordinates an early modern reading group with IU faculty from English, history, and French.

**David Haberman** delivered the opening presentation for a conference on “Performing Ecstasy,” held at Swarthmore College in October 2004. The title of his presentation was “Intoxicated by the Sound of Krishna’s Flute: The Life and Poetry of Rasakhan.” He traveled to India in December and January to begin research for a new book project that involves a study of tree shrines in northern India. His book *River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India* has been accepted for publication by the University of California Press.

**J. Albert Harrill** has been appointed an adjunct professor in Jewish studies and in history. He has also been appointed unit chair of the Early Christian Families Group, Society of Biblical Literature, and seminar co-chair of the Graeco-Roman World of the New Testament, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (International Society of New Testament Studies). He has been chosen as an external book manuscript reviewer for Brown Judaic Studies (Scholar’s Press) and has a book, *Slaves in the New Testament: Literary, Social, and Moral Dimensions*, due out this fall. He presented “Pliny’s Reference to the Christian Ministrae (Ep. 10.96) and Emperor Worship in City Wards” at the general meeting of the North American Patristics Society in Chicago in June. Also recently, he was named director of the IU Ancient Studies Program.

**R. Kevin Jacques’s** new book, *‘He Died in Prison and in Chains’: Authority, Conflict, and the Transmission of Diversity in Medieval Islamic Law*, is being published. The book looks at how eschatological expectations following the Mongol invasion and the outbreak of plagues shaped juridical understandings of the development and decline of Islamic law in the 15th century. He is currently on research leave as the

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## Religious Studies

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## From the chair

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Meets Pop Religion.” The two-day symposium provided graduate students in the department an opportunity to exchange ideas with each other and Professor Clark about religion and contemporary mass media.

Things are as lively as ever around the department. I close with our usual — but sincere — invitation for all of you to stay in touch with the department and to feel free to participate in any of our activities that interest you.

— David Haberman

## Faculty news

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al-Muttawa Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University. He recently gave a lecture to the Oxford Society for Law and Religion on “The Murder of Najm al-Din Ibn Hijji: The Relationship Between Political and Judicial Authority in Early Circassian Mamluk Syria.”

**Nancy Levene’s** book *Spinoza’s Revelation: Religion, Democracy, and Reason* (Cambridge University Press) came out in September. Last winter, she delivered a paper, called “Nothing More Natural Than Culture: Vico and the Secular,” at the American Academy of Religion’s conference in San Antonio and completed an essay, titled “The Fall of Eden: Reasons and Reasoning in the Bible and the Talmud,” to appear in *Philosophy Today* this year. This summer, she is writing a brief programmatic essay for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* on current debates in the study of religion and continuing to work on her second book project on desire and work.

**Shaul Magid** delivered four invited lectures last fall: “Performative Imagination: The Ritual of Reading in the Lurianic Text *Pri Etz Hayyim*” at the AJS Conference in December; “Can We Save Ourselves If We Abandon the Other: Re-Thinking Jewish Responsibility in the Diaspora” at “Nishma: A Day of Learning on Judaism and Social Justice” at Spertus College in Chicago in October; “Charisma Talking: *Lashon Ha-Kodesh* as the Language of the Zaddik in *Likkutei MoHaRan* 1:19” at the 25th annual Gale Lecture, a symposium on “Charisma in Jewish Mysticism,” at the University of Texas at Austin in October; and “The Monk and the Rabbi and the Meaning of This Hour: Thomas Merton and Abraham Heschel on War and Nonviolence” at Iona College in October. At the Faculty Colloquium for Jewish Studies at IU, he delivered a talk titled “Are We Heretics? Should We Be?: Reflections on Jewish Studies in the 21st Century.” He also gave three lectures during a Shabbaton at Aitz

Hayim Synagogue in Highland Park, Ill., in March: “Liberation into Exile: A Diasporic Reading of the Exodus”; “The Meaning of This Hour: Thinking About Nonviolence and the Secularization of Religion in this Time of War”; and “Whose Isaac Is This Anyway?: The Akedah, Passover, and the Myth of ‘Abrahamic Religions.’” His article on “Jewish Renewal” for the new edition of the *Encyclopedia of Religion* appeared this winter. His article “Rainbow Hasidism in America — the Maturation of Jewish Renewal — A Review Essay,” appeared in *The Reconstructionist* (spring 2004): 34–60; “Is Egalitarianism Heresy: Re-Thinking Gender on the Margins of Judaism” appeared in *Nashim* 8 (fall 2004): 89–129; and “The Politics of (un)Conversion: The ‘Mixed Multitude’ (*erev rav*) as Conversos in Rabbi Hayyim Vital’s *Etz Ha-Da’at Tov*” will appear in *Jewish Quarterly Review* in the fall.

**Rebecca J. Manning’s** first book, *Reconstructing Tradition: Advaita Acarya and Gaudiya Vaisnavism at the Cusp of the 20th Century*, was published in June by Columbia University Press. Her second book, *The Glory of Advaita: A Case Study in Hagiography*, is under review by a major press. In January, she presented the first paper on her new project to the South Asia Faculty Seminar at the University of Chicago.

**John McRae’s** book *Seeing Through Zen* (University of California, 2003) is being translated into Japanese, and he is working to arrange a Chinese edition. He has recently had a book proposal accepted for a textbook, titled *East Asian Buddhism: A Survey*, to come out from Routledge. It is an integrated historical survey of Buddhism in East Asia.

**Richard B. Miller** continues to direct the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions. He received a College Arts and Humanities Institute Fellowship in fall 2004 to continue work on a project titled *9/11, War, and Moral Memory*. He presented “On Practical Ethics” at the Scholarly Communications Institute, sponsored by the Council on Information Resources and Mellon Foundation, at the University of Virginia in June 2004 and participated in a debate on “*A Jus ad Bellum* Applied: The Iraq War,” with Jean Bethke Elshtain, at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in November 2004. Miller’s work was the focus of a critical book discussion (*Children, Ethics, and Modern Medicine*) at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics in January, at which he presented “On Medicine, Culture, and Children’s Basic Interests: A Reply to Three Critics.” He presented “Teaching Ethics in the (Modern) University,” the keynote address at the Teaching

Research Ethics Workshop, in May 2004 at Indiana University.

**Aaron Stalnaker** is revising the manuscript for his first book, *Overcoming Our Evil: Human Nature and Spiritual Exercises in Xunzi and Augustine*, to come out with Georgetown University Press in the Moral Traditions Series, edited by James Keenan, in 2006. He also had two articles published last year: “Spiritual Exercises and the Grace of God: Paradoxes of Personal Formation in Augustine” in the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 24.2 (fall/winter 2004), pp. 137–170, and “Comparative Religious Ethics and the Problem of ‘Human Nature’” in the *Journal of Religious Ethics* 33.2 (summer 2005). He also wrote the article on Xunzi for the new edition of the *Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York: Macmillan, 2005) and gave a talk for IU’s East Asian Colloquium Series, titled “Ritual and the ‘Mode of Subjection’ in Xunzi, with Comparative Observations,” in March.

**Stephen Stein** is serving as one of three editors for *Religion and American Culture*, a journal devoted to the scholarly discussion of the nature, terms, and dynamics of religion in America. He lectured at the Kirkpatrick Historians Seminar, sponsored by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, held at Pleasant Hill, Ky., in June, on the topic “‘Taking up the Full Cross’: The Shaker Challenge to the Western ‘Christians.’” On June 25, he lectured on the topic “‘Glad Tidings’ from the East: Bicentennial Reflections on the Shaker Invasion of the West” at the annual “Cane Ridge Day” at the site of the historic Cane Ridge meetinghouse in Kentucky. In July, he participated as a guest lecturer in the NEH seminar, convened by Mormon scholars Richard Bushman and Grant Underwood, at Brigham Young University. He has also accepted an invitation to serve as a historical adviser for the Council for America’s First Freedom, which is planning a First Freedom Center to be erected in Richmond, Va., on the site where Thomas Jefferson’s “Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom” was signed in 1786. Plans are under way for the construction of a major interpretive center dealing with the religion clauses of the First Amendment.

**Steve Weitzman’s** book *Surviving Sacrilege: Cultural Persistence in Jewish Antiquity* is forthcoming from Harvard University Press this year. He has also had recent publications in the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. He is especially proud that IU has restored the IU-Tel Beth Shemesh archaeology program, which is taking six IU students to Israel this summer to help excavate an important Iron Age city associated with the biblical hero Samson.

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# Student Notes

## Graduate news

**Carole Barnsley** (PhD candidate) has been selected to participate in a special workshop on pedagogy for graduate students, “Integrating Islam into the Undergraduate Curriculum,” sponsored by the Asia, Islam, and Modernity Symposium at the University of Washington. Her participation is fully funded by the University of Washington.

**Patton Burchett** (MA student) received a Summer International Enhancement Grant from the IU Office of International Programs and Office of Research and the University Graduate School, which he is using for a study tour in India this summer.

**Richa Pauranik Clements** (PhD candidate) was awarded the Greenburg Albee Fellowship and a Dissertation-Year Research Fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2005–06. Her dissertation is titled “Social Lives of Religious Symbols in Brajbhasha Poetry, Rajput Paintings, and Hindi Cinema.”

**Taylor Halverson** (PhD student) presented a paper, “Josephus and 1 Maccabees: Redecorating the Narrative,” at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Antonio in November 2004. His attendance was aided by a travel grant from the College of Arts and Sciences. Halverson is now co-chair of the “Teaching the Bible” section of the Midwest Regional SBL. His paper “Instructional Design Theories for Distance Education” was accepted for presentation at the international meeting of the Association of Educational Communications and Technology in Orlando, Fla., in October.

**Mark King** (PhD candidate) was selected to have his biography published in *The Chancellor’s List 2004–2005*.

**Cuong Mai** (PhD candidate) was awarded the Shinshu Otani-ha Fellowship for Pure Land Studies from the Eastern Buddhist Society, which is based at Otani University in Kyoto, Japan.

**Ellen Muehlberger** (PhD candi-



*Undergraduate Ben Huffman, left, and chair Professor David Haberman befriend “URSA” the Bear, a.k.a. Jeremy Watt, of the Undergraduate Religious Studies Association.*

date) presented her paper “Ambivalence About ‘the Angelic Life’: Evidence from Shenoute’s *Fourth Canon*” at the annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society in Chicago in June. Muehlberger has had two papers accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Philadelphia in November: “How to Avoid Gossip: Angelic Appearances and Heresy in the Ascetic Literature of Egypt” and “A New Source of Scripture in John Chrysostom’s *Homilies on Matthew*.” This summer, she began work as the editorial assistant for the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, whose editorial office is moving to IU.

**Erin Plunkett** (MA student) has been appointed a lecturer at the École des hautes études commerciales in Paris for the 2005–06 academic year.

**Stephen Taysom** (PhD candidate) has had his article “Continuity in 19th-Century Mormon Boundary Maintenance: Three Case Studies” accepted for publication by

the *Western Historical Quarterly*, the premier journal for the study of the American West.

**Nicole Willock** (PhD student) was awarded a FLAS fellowship by the Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center for 2005–06. She also received a summer predissertation travel grant from the IU Office of International Programs and the Office of Research and University Graduate School, which she is using to travel to Amdo, Tibet, this summer.

## Undergraduate news

At the annual Honors Day celebration the department recognizes outstanding student achievements. This year, seven religious studies majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa. (Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, at the College of William and Mary. Since then, it has evolved to become the nation’s leading advocate for liberal arts

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## Announcing

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*easy*  
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# Alumni Notebook

## 1970s

**Pat Davis**, BA'75, has joined the Dallas office of the law firm Jackson Walker as an associate in the litigation section. Her expertise is in civil litigation, primarily in the areas of intellectual property and labor and employment. She earned a PhD and master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

**James H. Borman**, BA'78, ACJSt'78, is pursuing a master of arts in teaching with a concentration in special education at National-Louis University. He lives in Highwood, Ill., and can be reached at jimborman@comcast.net.

## 1980s

**Mark G. Boyer**, MA'81, has published his 27th book, *Reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary* (Liturgical Press, 2005), which provides reflections on the four series of mysteries of the rosary: joyful mysteries, mysteries of light, sorrowful mysteries, and glorious mysteries. He is founding pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Nixa, Mo., and a part-time faculty member in the religious studies department at Southwest Missouri State University. The Springfield, Mo., resident can be reached at Boyer50@msn.com.

## Coming Soon!

*Look for a profile of Elizabeth Agnew, IU religious studies alumna and professor of religious studies at Ball State University, in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.*

**Christopher A. Smith**, BA'83, ACJSt'83, was one of 50 U.S. civilians selected to participate in the Department of Defense's Joint Civilian Orientation Conference in September 2004. They visited Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard military bases in Japan, Korea, Guam, and Singapore to gain "a better understanding of the missions and goals of our Armed Forces," he writes. The Lafayette, Calif., resident is director, capital markets, and vice president for Science Applications International Corp.

## 1990s

**Kristy Nabhan-Warren**, BA'92, PhD'01, is in her third year of a tenure-track position at Augustana College (Rock Island, Ill.). She and her husband, Steve, welcomed their first child, Cormac Nabhan-Warren, in September 2003. Nabhan-Warren was named a 2005-06 Young Scholar in American Religion by the Center for the

Study of Religion and American Culture at IUPUI. Her book *The Virgin of El Barrio: Catholic Evangelizing and Mexican American Activism* was published by NYU Press in March. It is the third book in the press's Qualitative Studies in Religion Series.

**Philip N. Eskew III**, BA'97, MLS'03, is a reference assistant at the Monroe County (Ind.) Public Library and an adjunct lecturer at the School of Library and Information Science at IU Bloomington.

**Ryan J. Otten**, BA'98, MD'04, writes, "I graduated from the IU School of Medicine in May 2004 and am now in an anesthesiology residency at IU." He lives in Indianapolis and can be reached at rjotten@iupui.edu.

**Jared A. Hershenson**, BS'99, ACJSt'99, writes, "My son, Samuel, was born on Jan. 12, 2004. I graduated from Washington University (St. Louis) School of Medicine in May 2004. I'm doing my medical residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore."

## Student notes

*(continued from page 6)*

and sciences education at the undergraduate level.) **Brandon Ward**, **Craig Luekens**, and **Eric Charles** earned membership in the prestigious academic honor society in the fall. **Laura Ertmer**, **Jason Wallace**, **Carrie Fitzsimmons**, and **Cody Craig** were inducted in the spring.

The 2005 **Ethics Bowl** team continued what is now a tradition of excellence for IU. Religious studies majors **Emma Young**, **Ryan Funk**, and **Khalil Abu Gharbieh** were joined on the team by **Megan Robb** and **James Bourke**. They worked under the direction of coach Melissa Seymour, a doctoral student in philosophy.

"The talent in this cohort is stunning," says Professor **Richard Miller**. "The team received 15 extremely complex cases in January and had six weeks to stake out their positions, develop their reasons, and memorize their arguments. Their



*Displaying their trophy are IU Ethics Bowl team members, back row, from left, Khalil Abu Gharbieh, Ryan Funk, James Bourke, and faculty sponsor Professor Richard Miller, and front row, from left, coach Melissa Seymour, Megan Robb, and Emma Young.*

thinking modeled the ideal of Socratic and collaborative learning. At the competition in February, they were poised, articulate,

knowledgeable, and well-prepared. They represent the best of this university, and I am proud to be their sponsor."

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