



Religious Studies

Alumni Newsletter

Indiana University

Vol. 22, No. 2/Summer 2004

From the chair

Department reflects on another successful year

Small green leaves are now appearing on trees that have stood bare for the last few months and colorful flowers adorn the campus as spring returns to Bloomington. This is a season of growth, and this is certainly true of the Department of Religious Studies. I greet you as chair of



David Haberman

a department that continues to expand in many significant ways. Let me begin by saying that one rewarding area of growth has been in the increased communication with many of you, our alumni. We are delighted by this contact and welcome all of you to stay in touch with departmental activities and to share with us important events in your lives.

Our undergraduate program continues to thrive; this semester we set an all-time record with 260 majors. Eight of our majors have written honors theses. The Undergraduate Religious Studies Association has been very active this year. In addition to their regular meetings and functions, students traveled together on field trips with Professor Rebecca Manring to observe the Hindu celebration of Durga Puja in Louisville, Ky., with graduate student Sonja Spear to explore the religious landscape of historical Vincennes, Ind., and with graduate student Erik Hammerström to visit the Zen Center in Bloomington. They also organized a panel discussion titled "Faith and Politics: Election 2004," which brought together a law professor (Daniel O. Conkle specializes in First Amendment issues and religion and law), a lobbyist for the Jewish community

(Lindsey Mintz is the director of government affairs for the Jewish Community Relations Council), a specialist in Islamic politics and culture (Nazif Shahrani is chair and professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at IU), and a Christian minister (Rebecca Jiménez is director of the Center for University Ministry) to discuss the impact of religion on the political process in America today.

This panel discussion was recorded for the WFIU radio station and excerpts were aired on National Public Radio. A performance scheduled as an URSA event toward the end of this semester is titled "One Jew, One Arab, One Stage ... Two Very Funny Guys" and features a comedy team that focuses on raising multicultural awareness and understanding.

(continued on page 7)

IU Ethics Bowl team places first

Jan. 15, 2004, might seem just like another day, but for the members of the IU Ethics Bowl team, it was the day that began a month-and-a-half long period of study and debate — a period that ended with a National Championship.

"Joining the team, I really did not know what I was getting myself into. We all spent hours in formal practice and even more time alone composing logical ethical arguments. At the Nationals, it was gratifying to see how all of our hard work paid off. What a great feeling!" commented Libby Lewis, a graduating senior and Ethics Bowl team member.

The Ethics Bowl competition was a national event that drew teams from 40 different schools. On Jan. 15, each team was given a set of 13 cases to analyze and was charged with creating an ethical argument based on the case. The competition itself was held on Feb. 27, at the annual Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The IU team included seniors Jacob Fulk, religious studies; Libby Lewis,



Ethics Bowl team members James Bourke and Libby Lewis helped snag the 2004 national title.

religious studies, philosophy, and political science; Valerie Aquila, journalism and history; junior James Bourke, philosophy, political science, and an IMP major in nonviolence theory and practice; and freshman Khalil AbuGharbieh, religious studies, political science, and Near Eastern languages and cultures. The team was coached by religious studies graduate student Mark Wilson and was sponsored by the Poynter Center and its director, Richard Miller.

(continued on page 4)

Faculty News

This January, **David Brakke** traveled to the meeting of the American Society of Church History in Washington, where he appeared on a panel titled “From New Testament to Church History: Early Christian Studies and Disciplinary Boundaries.” In March, he appeared on a panel at Harvard Divinity School organized by former colleague Robert Orsi on “What is Gnosticism? A Conversation with Karen King.” There he was happy to see alumni Ken Fisher, BA’97, and Glenn Snyder, BA’98, and to meet entering doctoral student William Smith. In May, he spoke to the Bloomington Rotary Club (“Jesus’s Favorite Apostle: Ancient and Modern Stories of Mary Magdalene”), and he gave a paper at the meeting of the North American Patristics Society (“‘I Have Made Public the Struggle of the Monastic Life’: Reading the *Antirrheticus* of Evagrius Ponticus”). In June, he traveled to the quadrennial International Congress on Coptic Studies in Paris and delivered a plenary report, “Research in Egyptian Monasticism, 2000–2004.”

Robert F. Campany presented a paper by invitation at a conference at Cambridge University in England (April 1–2). The conference, whose proceedings will become a published volume of new scholarship, was

on the relationships between Chinese religions and food. He also presented an invited lecture at Swarthmore College this spring on the topic of the role of narrative in a particular strand of the tradition of Daoism in China. In January, he re-assumed editorship of the *Journal of Chinese Religions*, which, published at IU with the sponsorship of the East Asian Studies Center, is one of the premier journals in this field in the world. **Steve Bokenkamp** (adjunct faculty member in religious studies) and Campany are co-editors of *JCR*.

Jerome Copulsky earned his PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School this March. His dissertation is titled “Between Exile and Redemption: Political Theology and the Shaping of Modern Jewish Thought.” He has accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Virginia Tech and will begin teaching in their Department of Religious Studies this fall.

Constance Furey’s article “Intellects Inflamed in Christ: Women and Spiritualized Scholarship in Renaissance Catholicism” appeared in the January 2004 issue of *Journal of Religion*. On April 3, she presented at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in New York City, at a panel she co-organized with Jonathan

Sheehan, an early modernist in IU’s history department. The panel, like her recently completed manuscript, is titled “The Religious Republic of Letters,” and her paper is a piece of new research, titled “The Suffering Scholar and the Power of Praise.” She was elected to the steering committee of IU’s recently revived Renaissance Studies Program, along with colleagues from four other departments (English, history, French and Italian, and music). They are in the process of planning a series of lectures by visiting scholars for 2004–05. In April, she was awarded the Indiana University Trustees’ Teaching Award for excellence in the classroom. She is also enjoying her new tenure as director of undergraduate studies and continues to be impressed by the thoughtful and passionate students who are drawn to our program.

David Haberman traveled to India over the holiday break to attend the International Conference on World Peace, held at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India, from Dec. 29, 2003, through Jan. 2, 2004. There he delivered a plenary address titled “Gandhi and Deep Ecology” and a conference paper titled “River Goddess and Strategies for Environmental Action.” After the conference, he had an opportunity to visit the ancient temple towns and pilgrimage centers of Somnath and Dwaraka, both located on the west coast of Gujarat.

Haberman was a featured speaker for the annual Earth Month celebrations at California State University, Chico, this April, delivering a slide presentation and talk titled “YAMUNA: River of Love in an Age of Pollution.” He also spoke in several classes and student meetings on the role of religious studies in environmental considerations and on Gandhi and deep ecology. This spring, he published a revised second edition of *Ten Theories of Human Nature* (Oxford University Press) with co-author Leslie Stevenson of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

J. Albert Harrill recently published three articles: “Die Unterscheidung von ‘Theology’ und ‘Religious Studies’ in den USA: Chancen und Grenzen” (co-authored with David Brakke), in *Evangelische Aspekte: Zeitschrift der Evangelischen Akademikerschaft in Deutschland* 13.1 (2004); “Paul and Slavery,” in *Paul in the Greco-Roman World: A Handbook*, edited by J. Paul Sampley (Harrisburg, Penn.: Trinity Press International, 2003), 575–607; and “The Domestic Enemy: A Moral Polarity of Household Slaves in Early Christian Apologies and Martyrdoms,” in *Early*

(continued on page 3)

Staff News

Several IU alumni join Teach for America

Caroline Dowd-Higgins, academic adviser and communications specialist, has been selected to chair the Indiana University Teach for America Advisory Council, the first-ever TEA university council of its kind. IU Bloomington is the flagship campus to host this team of faculty and professional staff members who will serve as a permanent network of supporters for student nominations, recruitment campaigns, and extended support systems for IU alumni currently serving in the TEA Corps.

The Department of Religious Studies currently has eight alumni serving with TEA, and three more will enter the field this fall. As a department, we are committed to supporting them on their journey to serve as leaders in the effort to end educational inequality. The task is enormous and the council plans to offer support in the form of supply contributions from campus and community book drives and service-learning support from currently enrolled IU students who want to gain experience in the classroom. The wish list includes “adopt-a-



Teach for America Corps member Alison Wilkerson Brown instructs students in her Bronx, N.Y., classroom.

class” proposals between IU classes and TEA classrooms, with student/mentor pairings and a long-distance sponsor for new teachers who can reach out to IU faculty for support and guidance. Alison Wilkerson Brown, DEGREE/DATE, as pictured above in her Bronx, N.Y., classroom, has embraced the TEA experience and opted to sign for another year after her initial two-year contract expires this June.

Faculty news

(continued from page 2)

Christian Families in Context: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue, edited by David Balch and Carolyn Osiek (Religion, Marriage, and Family; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003), 231–54. Harrill also wrote the following scholarly publications: “The Roman Comic Parasite and the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-8),” a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2003; and “Early Christian Definitions of the Family in Light of the Greco-Roman Agricultural Manuals,” a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2003.

James G. Hart’s retirement is as busy as his pre-retirement days, but, of course, the stress is considerably less. Having a summer retreat on Lake Huron, it turns out, is better than Advil or aspirin. Perhaps the chief new preoccupation is jail reform. He goes to jail every Tuesday evening for “bible” (yes, you heard it right), and in preparation for that he is reading the Anchor commentaries. “I believe the inmates find it of great interest that Jesus was surrounded by revolutionaries and alleged terrorists, and that Judas Iscariot, a major player, had a right, from his revolutionary zealot perspective, to be pissed with the Lord. We had someone die in the jail from the use of a taser gun, an exemplification of technological progress being, as a rule, one step forward and two backward.”

Hart is at work on several committees that aim at getting rid of tasers. Using them implies one has adequate knowledge of the health condition of the “offender,” i.e., that he or she has no heart condition, is not diabetic, etc. Police almost never have this knowledge when the crisis surfaces.

Hart also has been active since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in IU’s Progressive Faculty Coalition that aims, through teach-ins, panels, and films, etc., to counter the tendencies toward 1984 as well as to call attention to the United States’ imperial adventures and the inevitable “blowback” from these follies. By the way, he recommends strongly Chalmer Johnson’s “Sorrows of Empire” and “Blowback.”

Besides these preoccupations, Hart has continued his lifelong love of phenomenology, publishing essays on Aristotle, Edith Stein, Karl Jaspers, etc., and co-editing the second Festschrift for Robert Sokolowski. At present, he is facing an albatross, a long overdue translation of a work of Husserl,

and is dabbling on a book in the phenomenology of religion, to which a marvelous group of students were subjected first semester of this year.

R. Kevin Jaques recently published an article, “Fuzlur Rahman: Prophecy, the Qur’an, and Islamic Reform,” in *Studies in Contemporary Islam*. The article looks at the theory of prophecy developed by the Pakistani Muslim thinker who also taught at the University of Chicago for 20 years. Jaques also received a grant from the School of Education, in conjunction with their Civil Societies Project, to do research in Sumatra in May and June. Jaques will work on a number of ethnographic projects, especially related to developing ideas of orthopraxy as defined by prayer styles. It is assumed that prayer styles

are largely the same the world over. He will test this theory by comparing prayer styles in Indonesia (three sites), the United States, England, and Egypt. He also received the al-Mutawa Visiting Research Fellowship to the Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford



University (October 2004 through July 2005), where he will work on the use of rhetoric in medieval Muslim biography. Jaques is also an alternate for an NEH and a State Department fellowship for archival research in Egypt (summer 2005 and summer 2006).

Rebecca J. Manring has been on pre-tenure teaching leave this semester and has been making very good use of the time. She spent the month of January in Kolkata. It had been three years since her last visit, and from the standpoint of maintaining language proficiency alone, the trip was somewhat overdue. So, in addition to simply roaming around and talking with as many different sorts of people as she could manage, to get in lots of language practice, she was able to spend time in the manuscript library of Calcutta University poring over a couple of unpublished texts, both called “Mirabai’s Notebook.” Once she had laboriously copied them both out by hand (permission to either photocopy or photograph manuscripts is rarely possible) and spent the requisite time deciphering the coded language of the rituals the texts describe, she was able to complete an article on Bengali perspectives on Mirabai for an edited volume based on an international conference on Mirabai in which she participated in the fall of 2002.

In November, she served as respondent

on a panel on the poet Kabir, at the annual meeting of the AAR in Atlanta. Since returning from India, Manring has participated in an LCTL (Less Commonly-Taught Languages)/South Asia workshop at UC–Berkeley, where she met with other Hindi teachers, as well as teachers of Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu, to share common problems and solutions; and attended the annual meeting of SAMP (South Asia Microforms Project) at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, in San Diego.

This summer, she’ll be teaching R153 in the first summer session and “The Goddess Constrained” in IU’s Mini University in June. Meanwhile, she’s developing a new course, Medieval Devotional Literatures of India (in translation), which will be jointly offered by the India Studies Program, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Department of Comparative Literature in the fall 2004 semester. As most of her research deals with the medieval period, she is particularly excited about being able to work with students on this material.

Richard B. Miller was appointed director of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions in summer of 2003. He published *Children, Ethics, and Modern Medicine* (Indiana

(continued on page 9)

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 and 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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Libby Lewis addresses students at Founders Day reception

Libby Lewis eloquently delivered the following remarks at the 2004 Founders Day Ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 28, to an enthusiastic crowd at the IU Assembly Hall. Lewis majored in religious studies, philosophy, and political science and also earned a certificate in the Liberal Arts Management Program. She was a Wells Scholar and a Phi Beta Kappa member and served two terms as the director of the Debates and Issues Committee of the Union Board. She and her fellow IU teammates won first place at the 2004 Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competition in Cincinnati, Ohio. Lewis graduated in May 2004 with highest distinction and will begin her studies at the IU School of Law this July.

While studying abroad in London this summer, I got an unexpected e-mail from IU religious studies Professor Richard Miller. He had just been in Britain and wanted to recommend an adventure — a coastal walk from St. Ives to the “quaint hamlet” of Zennor. Professor Miller had called the path “easy and inspiring.” My friend Eric and I figured that if he could do it, we certainly could. We left at 4

p.m., expecting to arrive in Zennor by 6 p.m., have dinner, and walk back before sunset. We were wrong. Hours later, Professor Miller’s “easy and inspiring walk” had become, Eric’s “You know, we could always sleep here in the bushes.” For me, that wasn’t an option. The cliff was scary enough, but I was sure the roving wild dogs would get us in the night. Completely unprepared for such an expedition, we were hungry, lost, and exhausted before finally arriving in Zennor at 2 a.m. The hike, like so many things in life, was not what we had expected; but, it brought us more than we could have hoped for.

Coming into college, we all have expectations. Although Eric and I were unprepared for our hike this summer, you can equip yourself before and during the collegiate journey.

On your academic journey, you will need advice from others. I encourage you to find your own Professor Miller, a mentor who will inspire you to have your own great, unexpected adventures. It wasn’t until Professor Miller’s office hours a year ago that I even considered adding another major. But, true to form, he inspired me to do something new.

What academic adventures are waiting for you? Allow yourself to be inspired, changed, and broadened by those around you.

Your mentors and peers, however, don’t have all the answers. On our hike, no matter how often I asked, “How much farther? Where do we go now? What should we do?” Eric couldn’t answer. On the academic journey, you will need courage to go forward,

especially when, as an IU student, you encounter boundless possibilities. Should I study abroad? Add business to my religious studies major? Learn German, or Arabic? Don’t let yourself be confined by someone else’s “right path.” Pursue your intellectual path with passion.

As you create your own path, you will experience

times of hardship and uncertainty. On the path to Zennor, I wanted to turn back: Dark. Cold. Lost. Afraid. But what I would have missed had I quit. Eric turned to me: “A meteor shower! Look up, Libs.”

I hadn’t known what I was capable of until tested. I urge you, don’t limit yourself to what feels safe: Take the class from the great professor, even if it is hard. Embrace the uncertain — because that’s where you’ll discover more about yourself and the world.

You are being recognized today because you’ve already achieved so much. Don’t stop now. Accept others’ advice, persevere, but have the courage to make it your own. My message from Zennor: Challenge your expectations and surprise yourself.



Libby Lewis

Ethics Bowl

(continued from page 1)

Miller was delighted with the team: “Our students were fabulous! The Ethics Bowl is a grueling contest, with three matches in the morning, an afternoon break, and then single elimination rounds starting at 6:30 p.m. and going until about 11 p.m. The final match is played out before hundreds of scholars of ethics from across the country, all assembled in a huge auditorium. Our team was superbly prepared. They discussed their views of this year’s cases for six weeks before the contest, and they devoted about 20 hours during the last week to sharpening and elaborating their positions. I learned a great deal from listening to them and raising questions about their ideas. There is always an element of surprise at the competition, because no one knows in advance which cases will be chosen or what the focal question to be debated will be. Mark Wilson was a brilliant teacher and coach, and I couldn’t be prouder of all of them.”

Valerie Aquila said, “Overall, it was a great experience. The learning process that went on with six highly motivated people in a room discussing the cases was about as fascinating as any class I’ve had at IU.”

After six weeks of preparation, during which the team spent anywhere between six and 20 hours a week working on their cases, the team was proud to take home a first-place win, IU’s first in the competition.

“After two years of being on the Ethics Bowl team, I feel like my moral thinking has developed tremendously. Working on these cases challenged me to engage difficult moral problems, and I benefited a great deal from working with my brilliant teammates, our outstanding coach, Mark Wilson, and Professor Miller. Though the victory was a wonderful culmination, the preparation we do stands as a good in itself,” James Bourke said.

— Valerie Aquila

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Undergraduate news

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, at the College of William and Mary. Since then, Phi Beta Kappa has evolved to become the nation's leading advocate for the liberal arts and sciences education at the undergraduate level. Phi Beta Kappa elects more than 15,000 new members a year from 262 chapters across the United States, and IU supports a strong chapter here on campus. **Anna Edwards, Justin L. Van Alstyne, Elizabeth Ashland Lewis, James Thad Shelton, Leah Nahmias, and Bikran Singh Malhi** earned membership in the prestigious academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa this fall. **Abigail Crisman, Heather Holmes, Ryan Moore, and Katherine Pohl** were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this spring.

Theta Alpha Kappa

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. Several of our extraordinary students were inducted into IU's chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa this year, including: **Cody Craig, Abigail Crisman, Katie Diggins, Heather Holmes, Matt Lawrence, Craig Luekens, Emily Malinovsky, Shawn Mercer, David Mere, James (Thad) Shelton, Kara Smith, Eric Haruki Swanson, and Laura Walda.**

This year we had an all-time high of eight students completing **senior theses projects**, which earned them an honors notation in religious studies. They are: **Abigail Crisman, Katie Pohl, Laura Walda, Justin Van Alstyne, Mike Chapuran, Jake Fulk, Kara Smith, and Bret Chandler.**

Other news

Beverley G. Carson received recognition from IU at Founders' Day for high academic achievement. Next winter she will student teach in India as part of the School of Education's cultural immersion project. She hopes to add to her studies about Hinduism and Indian literature, which she pursued under professors Haberman and Manring at IU. She will perform a service project in India as well.

K. Amanda Carlston has been accepted into the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program. She will be leaving this summer to spend a year in Japan as an assistant English teacher in the Japanese Public School Corp. JET is a program run by the Japanese government, and Carlston is very excited about this opportunity. She has also

been accepted into the Indiana University East Asian Languages and Cultures master's program for 2005, and after her year in Japan she will be returning to Bloomington to finish her graduate education.

Bret Chandler was awarded a South Indiana Conference United Methodist Church Summer Internship. He wrote an honors thesis titled "The Task of Theology," which concerns the need and use of dogmatics in theology as a service to defining, understanding, and proclaiming the Christian faith anew for each new situation. He was accepted to the Duke University Divinity School and University of Chicago Divinity School master's degree programs with handsome scholarships and will be attending the University of Chicago this fall.

Michael Chapuran received an invitation from the Peace Corps to Panama this June to work with environmental health of indigenous people for two years. He wrote a senior honors thesis that deals with the differences between the original message of Shinran and the way it is interpreted by the Buddhist Churches of America today, 800 years later.

Abigail Crisman received a Fulbright Award to study in India and has been accepted to the AIIS advanced Hindi language program in Jaipur. She is currently an alternate for a fellowship and has an internship this summer with the state department in Kathmandu. She was recently inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Theta Alpha Kappa. She wrote her senior honors thesis on women in Indian films. Crisman is also the vice president of the IU Ultimate Frisbee Club. She graduated with high distinction this May.

Dawn Crothers, a senior religious studies and political science major who graduated in May, was awarded the Graduate Opportunity Fellowship from UCLA, which will cover full tuition and fees plus a \$12,000/year stipend. This summer, Crothers plans to study Arabic at the American University of Beirut for six weeks.

Jacob Fulk was accepted with handsome scholarships to all three law schools to which he applied. He has chosen to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has turned down offers from IU and the College of William and Mary. This winter, Fulk traveled to India for two weeks on a grant to "get lost" and eventually pursue research for his religious studies honors thesis on linga myth. He has served on the IU Ethics Bowl team for three years and helped the team finish as runner-up in 2003 and earn the National Championship title in 2004. Fulk has been an active URSA member for three years

and served as a moderator for the successful Faith & Politics: Election 2004 event this April. He graduated this May with high distinction after only three years on campus.

Libby Lewis is a Wells Scholar and a Phi Beta Kappa member with a triple major in religious studies, philosophy, and political science. She also earned a certificate in the Liberal Arts Management Program and was chosen by IU President Adam Herbert to deliver a speech at the Founders' Day ceremony this February, representing the entire population of IU undergraduates. Lewis served for two consecutive terms as the director of the Debates and Issues Committee for the IU Union Board. She studied abroad in Freiburg, Germany, and London, England, and this spring, she served on the IU Ethics Bowl team, which placed first in the National Collegiate Ethics Bowl competition. She graduated this May with highest distinction and will begin her studies at the IU School of Law in July.

JW Malenkos received a Blakemore Freedman Foundation fellowship to study advanced professional Japanese at the Inter-University Center in Yokohama next year. He will begin his studies at the IU School of Medicine the following year.

Kate Mercer is a Wells Scholar, a Phi Beta Kappa, and a Theta Alpha Kappa honor society member. She served on the IU Student Foundation Steering Committee and was one of six people who executed "IU Sing 2004: Big City Beat," which was a show unprecedented in diversity (acts included Army ROTC, Hong Kong Students Association, Collins, Teter/Wright, Read/Forest/Willkie, as well as Greek acts). She is also the recipient of the IU Foundation President's Award. Mercer has an unblemished perfect 4.0 GPA and has earned majors in religious studies and chemistry with a minor in biology. She will begin her studies in medical school this fall and has been accepted at IU, Emory, and Georgetown University. She received a merit scholarship to IU School of Medicine but is still deliberating her final school choice.

Leah Nahmias was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year and was accepted into the highly competitive and prestigious Teach for America Corps. She will begin teaching in Charlotte, N.C., this fall.

Rachel Schonwald is the 2004-05 recipient of the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Scholarship.

Kara Joy Smith has been accepted to the master of divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary for the 2004-05 academic year, with a full-tuition scholar-

(continued on page 6)

April Graduate Student Symposium focuses on students, visiting scholar

This year's Graduate Student Association Symposium centered around a visit by the University of New Hampshire's David Frankfurter, a scholar known both for his expertise in late antique religion in Egypt and his ability to speak about popular religion across cultures. Frankfurter, winner of the American Academy of Religion's prize for excellence in the study of religion, delivered the keynote address, "Spaces of Crisis, Locations of Destruction: Violent Christianization in Late Antique Egypt," to an audience of 45, including undergraduate and graduate students from several departments, as well as religious studies and fine arts faculty members. The discussion after his talk continued over dinner with several of those in attendance.

The second day of the symposium

focused on students: Frankfurter spent the morning with the graduate student section of David Brakke's course on Western Monasticism, and the afternoon at a panel of papers by religious studies graduate students on images and asceticism. **Rhonda Baird, Nicole Karapanagiotis, and Erik Hamnerstrom** presented their work, initiating a discussion of the use of images as representation of religious practice in eastern traditions.

Special thanks go to **David Brakke**, for agreeing to have his class participate in the symposium; **Jennifer Hart**, for officially opening the symposium and providing an introduction of Frankfurter's work before his lecture; and to **Aimee Hamilton-Schwartz** for acting as the student panel moderator.

— *Ellen Muehlberger*

Undergraduates

(continued from page 5)

ship and a grant that covers half of her housing expenses. She will be starting this July in the intensive language program to study Greek. She plans to graduate in 2007 and to be ordained as a pulpit minister in the Presbyterian Church. She wrote an honors thesis this spring that examines gender in the trials of Anne Hutchinson. She argues that it was clear Hutchinson was not a feminist, but it is also clear that Hutchinson's life, trial, and banishment from Boston in the 17th century has been a powerful catalyst for later women who desire to claim more power within the Christian church. She examined these facts using the trial documents as well as the writings of and about Mary Dyer, a 17th-century Quaker who befriended Hutchinson and was eventually executed by the Puritan church for religious heresy.

Justin Van Alstyne completed a senior honors thesis that examines 1Corinthians 13 to determine if it is an interpolation. It focuses on how 1Cor 13 differs from the undeniably Pauline corpus in three areas (grammar, style, and ideology) and concludes by showing how these differences parallel changes taking place in the early church (circa 100 C.E.). He suggests that these changes taking place in the early church precipitated a need for the church fathers to modify Paul's stance on charismatic leaders, which ultimately led to the alteration of Paul's work (1Corinthians).

Van Alstyne was accepted into the 2004 Teach for America Corps and will begin teaching in New Orleans this fall. After his two year TEA contract, he plans to attend law school to pursue dual degrees in law and a master's in divinity.

Laura Walda received a prestigious Indiana Governor's Fellowship for 2004–05. She graduated in May with a triple major in religious studies, philosophy, and political science. She completed an honors thesis that is an examination of former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's relationship with the Religious Right during his Congressional tenure.

Jacqueline Walker received the Louise (Hess) Miller Scholarship for \$3,500 through the School of Journalism at a scholarship ceremony on April 4. In May, she took a two-week trip to China with a group of 80 other students from the United States. This trip was the Mission on Archaeology and Anthropology, sponsored by International Missions and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. It not only provides great tourist opportunities but also allows students to attend lectures and work at an archaeological tomb dig in China. Particularly interesting for a religious studies student, the group will be spending a few days at various Buddhist sites, including the Leshan Giant Buddha and the Baoguo Temple. Walker also will be interning at *Guideposts for Kids Online* and *Guideposts for Teens Magazine* this summer in Chesterton, Ind.

Graduate news

Glenn Zuber successfully defended his dissertation, titled "White Religion: Protestant Nationalism, Civic Masonry, and the Rise of the KKK, 1915–1930," on March 31. Professor Mary Jo Weaver was the chair of his research committee.

Cuong Mai was awarded an \$800 doctoral student grant-in-aid of research award this spring. The Graduate School offers this support to help cover expenses associated with dissertation research. Mai will travel to mainland China this summer to pursue research on his dissertation, titled "The Pure Land in the West: Configurations of Mainstream and Specialized Amitabha Cults As Seen in Medieval Chinese Scholasticism, Hagiography, Inscriptions, and Mortuary Texts."

Stephen Taysom has been awarded a \$1,000 research/travel grant by the Charles Redd Center for Western American History at Brigham Young University for work on a project on 19th-century Mormon boundary maintenance.

Ethan Lindsay enjoyed his time in Japan while he participated in the eight-month course for researchers and postgraduate students at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute in Kansai, Japan. He received a generous grant from the Japan Foundation to pursue this course. Lindsay has been offered a five-year fellowship/scholarship at Stanford, a prestigious four-year Global Scholars fellowship at UCLA, a five-year University Fellowship at Princeton, and a five-year fellowship at Harvard to pursue a PhD in Japanese/Buddhist Studies. He has decided to take Princeton up on their handsome offer.

Ellen K. Muehlberger was a reader for the Medieval Studies Symposium's medieval languages showcase, "Bar Hebraeus' Candelabra of the Sanctuary and the Rationality of Angels: A Short Reading in Syriac," this March. She served as chair for the spring Religious Studies Graduate Student Symposium. In May, she presented a paper at the North American Patristics Society, titled "How Do Angels Speak? Diadochus of Photice's Vision and the Voice of Angels."

Tiffany Hodge has received full funding to participate in the American Institute of Indian Studies' Bengali program in Calcutta next year. She's also been funded for both the South Asian Summer Language Institute in Madison and the AIIS summer language program in Calcutta and is currently deciding which to accept.

Nicole Karapanagiotis has received full funding to participate in the American Institute of Indian Studies Hindi program next year.

Chair

(continued from page 1)

Our undergraduate majors continue to receive a wide range of distinguished awards and are accepted in prestigious graduate programs. We are proud of Abigail Crisman, for example, who recently received a Fulbright Award to study political aspects of women's religious lives in India next year. Also noteworthy, the 2004 Indiana University Ethics Bowl team won the National Title for the annual competition held by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference. The team, which featured three of our majors, was coached by religious studies doctoral student Mark Wilson and sponsored by Professor Richard Miller.

Although our graduate program is not large, our graduate students continue to distinguish themselves. It has recently come to my attention that our graduates have published nine books over the past nine years, with more in the pipeline. This is a remarkable achievement for a program of our size. Look for further word on this in a future issue of the newsletter. Glenn Zuber completed all requirements for the PhD this March by successfully defending his dissertation titled "White Religion: Protestant Nationalism, Civic Masonry, and the Rise of the KKK, 1915-1930." Cuong Mai will travel to China this summer to complete work on his dissertation titled "The Pure Land in the West: Configurations of Mainstream and Specialized Amitabha Cults as Seen in Medieval Chinese Scholasticism, Hagiography, Inscriptions, and Mortuary Texts." Tiffany Hodge received full funding to study Bengali in the American Institute of Indian Studies in Calcutta next year, and Nicole Karapanagiotis was awarded an American Institute of Indian Studies fellowship to study third-year Hindi in Jaipur, India, next year.

Thanks to the excellent and generous work of Ellen Muehlberger, the department's Graduate Student Association's annual graduate symposium was a huge success. On April 1, David Frankfurter, a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire who focuses on the Christianization of local religions in antiquity, was invited to speak for this event; his lecture was titled "Spaces of Crisis, Locations of Destruction: Violent Christianization in Late Antique Egypt." The following day, graduate students Rhonda Baird, Nicole Karapanagiotis, and Erik Hammerström delivered academic papers to a gathered audience, with Professor Frankfurter acting as a respondent. We recently admitted 12 new

graduate students into the department: seven into the MA. program and five into the PhD program.

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the faculty. (I may actually survive my first year as chair!) I am happy to report that professors David Brakke, Robert Company, John McRae, and Jan Nattier were all promoted to the rank of full professor this year. Of our four searches I can report that two have reached a successful conclusion with the hire of Nancy Levene for our position in modern Western religious thought and Shaul Magid for the Schottenstein Chair in Modern Judaism. Levene received a PhD from Harvard University in 2000 and comes to us after teaching for three years at Williams College. Her most recent publication is *Spinoza's Revelation: Religion, Democracy, and Reason* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004). Magid received a PhD from Brandies University in 1994 and comes to us from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where he has been serving as chair of the Department of Jewish Philosophy. His most recent publication is *Hasidism on the Margin: Reconciliation, Antinomianism, and Messianism in Izbica and Radzin Hasidism* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003). We welcome them into our community with great

enthusiasm. We are still in process with our other two searches in African religions and religious ethics, but are hopeful that we will continue to add distinguished and exciting faculty to our department.

Our regular faculty continue to be very active teachers and highly productive scholars; you can read about them in the "Faculty News" section on page 2 of this newsletter. For the sake of highlight, however, I do want to announce this year's winner of the Trustees' Teaching Award. It is Connie Furey, who is a challenging and popular teacher. She is currently serving us well as the department's director of undergraduate studies and has just had her book *The Religious Republic of Letters: Scholarship and Salvation in Catholicism, 1500-1550* accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press.

We brought this academic year to conclusion with our annual Honors Day Celebration on April 22 to recognize the department's many achievements, and we hosted our annual graduation party in the atrium of the IU Art Museum on May 8 to celebrate the department's graduates and their families. Please know that you are all welcome to join us for departmental functions at any time. We look forward to hearing from you!

— David Haberman



2004 marks the 150th birthday of the IU Alumni Association.

All eight IU campuses, alumni clubs around the world, constituent societies, and affiliate groups will be hosting events to commemorate the anniversary. Show your IU pride by becoming a member during this special year of celebration! Join or renew today and stay connected to IU.

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Alumni profile: Sheila Lalwani documents experiences in India

Sheila B. Lalwani majored in religious studies and journalism and graduated with honors in 2002. Last year, she received the Ross Hazeltine Traveling Scholarship to tour India. She documented the work non-government organizations (NGOs) were doing to boost education and literacy among the poor. She wrote about her experiences in India and the effect studying religion at IU had on her travels.

When I selected religious studies for my major, I was getting a bargain.

Of course, I learned about religion and ethics from a historical perspective. However, religious studies is an interdisciplinary field. That meant that I received training in history, politics, and culture, while I developed my writing skills. For a journalist, that's all invaluable.

I enrolled in several classes that paved the way for a successful project in India. Some of those classes included Professor Gerald Larson's Passage to India, Professor Ann Mongoven's Comparative Religious Ethics, and Professor S. Alexander's Introduction to

Islam. These courses offered me unique

insights into the world and also provided a scope in which to study and analyze them.

I spent almost four months in India as a journalist. I used that time to learn as much as possible about illiteracy and efforts to

boost education among the poor. I could

undertake this project, thanks to the Ross Hazeltine Traveling Scholarship, which I received from the School of Journalism in 2002.

To do this project, I researched U.S.-based organizations such as the Association for India's Development, Child Relief and You, Asha for Education, and the India Literacy Project for my work. These groups continue to support literacy, education, and other causes in India. Illiteracy is defined as being unable to read or write in any language. About 370,000,000 million people in India fell into this category, according to the Public Report on Basic Education published in 1999.

Government statistics placed India's overall literacy rate at 65 percent in 2001. That marked a significant improvement from previous decades and underscored the long road ahead.

Study after study has linked illiteracy to other social ills, like poor female health, and, of course, poverty. Studies have found that school-going children were more likely to grow into adults who value education.

The Indian government guarantees children the right to an education up to the age of 14, but millions do not go to school. They begin working as early as six by doing such work as shining shoes, selling food, and, of course, begging on the streets.

My work carries a positive message. I want to show others the heroes who are

the ones to shatter generations of illiteracy. For example, I tell people about meeting Mukta Mondal, a 23-year-old from Delhi. She might not have had the chance to go to school, if not for Deepalaya, an NGO in Delhi that provides formal education to slum children. Not only did she finish her schooling and go to college, she came back as a teacher.

Groups and children are engaged in various types of education, such as formal, informal and alternative education. The development work being done is on a grassroots level, but it is inspiring nonetheless. "We realized there are thousands of people in need of help," Victor Baniswar said.

Baniswar and his wife Rajashri started Voluntary Organization in Community Enterprise in 1991. They wanted to reach out to vulnerable street children in Mumbai. I visited a VOICE school that operates in a slum. I watched as several dozen uniformed children squeezed into a room about an eighth of the size of most American classrooms. They didn't have electricity, or many school supplies, but, the kids learned.

I've come back from my travels and am more aware of the

importance of journalism and its role in society. I hope to submit articles to various publications about illiteracy in India and continue informing

"I want to show others the heroes who are the ones to shatter generations of illiteracy."

people about the need to support education efforts in India. Boosting education and literacy in India will take generations, but I know it can and *must* happen.

When I declared religious studies as my major, I selected it because it fit in with my goal of learning as much about the world as possible. I didn't expect that in the bargain, I'd be able to use my education to help others reach theirs. Perhaps that's the ultimate payback.



Sheila Lalwani



Sheila Lalwani

Mukta Mondal, 23, checks her student's homework at the Deepalaya School in south Delhi. Deepalaya provides formal education for slum children.

Alumni Notebook

1970s

Rev. Canon George A. Hill III, BA'72, and his wife, Amy Edgeworth Hill, BME'73, recently helped celebrate the wedding of their son, George A. Hill IV, EX. Rev. Hill lives in Cincinnati where he serves as rector for St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.

Sharon Linzey, MA'79, MA'82, PhD'84, is professor and chair of the sociology/social work department at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore.

1990s

Kelley N. Coblentz Bautch, BA'91, finished her first year as assistant professor of religious studies at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. She and her husband, Richard, celebrated the birth of their first child, James Bernard, on November 24 2002 and can be reached at kcoblent@bach.helios.nd.edu.

Jason BeDuhn, PhD'95, associate professor and department chair at Northern Arizona University, is among this year's winners of Guggenheim fellowships. His project will study Augustine's Manichaeism and the invention of western Christianity. BeDuhn was one of our first PhDs, and we can be justifiably proud of his accomplishments (which include the AAR's prize for best first book on the history of religions).

Faculty news

(continued from page 3)

University Press, 2003). Recently he participated in an "Author Meets Critics" session at the annual meeting of the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics, focusing on *Children, Ethics, and Modern Medicine*, and at that same conference orchestrated a panel on the theme of "Democracy and Dissent," which was the focal theme for the inaugural Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellowship sponsored by the Poynter Center this year. That panel included professors Ann Mongoven and Jeff Wasserstrom from IU.

Miller also sponsored and worked with the 2004 Ethics Bowl team, which won the national championship and has worked on several forthcoming publications, one on "rules," another on the place of cultural studies in religious ethics.

David H. Smith has been a Visiting Professor of Bioethics at Yale University for the year and completed an introduction and afterword for a collection of essays called *Doing Good: Moral Obstacles and Opportunities*, which IU Press will publish later this year.

Stephen Stein conducted a daylong seminar this February for the guides and interpreters at Shakerstown at Pleasant Hill, Ky., focusing on the religious thought and practices of the Shakers. The presentation ranged across the history and contemporary

situation of the Shakers as well as the challenges facing those who attempt to explain the tradition to contemporary Americans who visit the historic village.

Stein continues to serve as a member of the board of directors of the Shaker Museum and Library at Old Chatham, N.Y. The museum has taken over control and administration of a portion of the historic Shaker site at Mount Lebanon, N.Y., which once was the location of the Central Ministry. Plans are under way for the design and construction of a new state-of-the-art museum facility at the site.

Stein also took part in an international conference held at Emory University in Atlanta from March 4 to March 6 on the theme of "Pietism in Two Worlds: Transmissions of Dissent in Germany and North America, 1680–1820." He was part of a closing roundtable discussion on "Pietism in the Atlantic World."

Steve Weitzman began this year as the Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies and the director of the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program. He has several articles forthcoming: "Plotting Antiochus' Persecution" in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*; "King David's Spin Doctors" in *Prooftexts*; and "Josephus on How to Survive Martyrdom" in the *Journal of Jewish Studies*. His book *Surviving Sacrilege: Culture Persistence in Jewish Antiquity* will be published by Harvard University Press in 2005.

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Today, the Indiana University Alumni Association serves more than 450,000 living graduates around the globe. Along with providing programs that raise tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, creating commencement ceremonies that make lifelong memories, and welcoming alumni back through Homecoming and a variety of other special events, the IUAA connects alumni to each other, and to their alma mater, through clubs, travel, learning experiences, and many other rewarding opportunities.

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