

CIRCA

News from the University of Chicago Divinity School / Number Twenty

I regard myself as certainly the most fortunate dean in theological education and probably the most fortunate one on the University of Chicago campus. I work in the service of an institution with a great history and terrific prospects. Our dilemmas here are those of the rich (in the intellectual rather than the pecuniary sense): what can we do best, of the many things that we might do and that

need to be done? I serve a truly distinguished, brilliant, and collegial faculty; a student body that marries ability and resolve to an extraordinary degree; and I work with a staff that believes wholeheartedly in the School's mission, and shares actively in the shaping of it. I did not have a checklist of hopes when I took this job, but what I have discovered plainly exceeds what I might have conjured if I had.

What is our mission? We are devoted to understanding religion, and to preparing people for professional lives in teaching and in ministry. Our central commitment is to the claim that evidence and argument are essential components of serious conversation on any topic, but perhaps especially when the topic is religion. To the degree that we may be said to do so, we privilege religion out of the conviction that few, if any, dimensions of the human adventure have had, and continue to have, such comprehensive import. And we seek to address the paradox that this truth's corollary is the fact that, for all its ubiquity, religion is too rarely discussed with the kind of clarity and prescience that its importance merits.

It follows that to do our job well—to give religion its full due in the conversation—we need to be an institution that can talk about religion in a variety of ways. Here the organization of our curriculum helps. We need to be able to speak about religion as a *constructive* force, that is to say, as a set of ideas and principles that make fundamental claims about truth and the good life. We also need to be able to speak about religion as a *historical* entity, comprising, as it does, traditions of practice and belief that have shaped, and been shaped by, the political, the social, the geographical. Finally, we need to be able to speak about religion as a *cultural* phenomenon, as shaping and being shaped by art (literature, music, painting, architecture, etc.), by social structure, by the set of practices and forms of behavior that identify specific human communities.

I enumerate these dimensions of the study of religion to communicate something of the range of what can be done in Swift Hall. But I want quickly to add that the real magic of the School's work dwells not in its



consideration of these dimensions as separate, but precisely in its acknowledgement of their complementarity. All truly interesting academic work crosses boundaries, and this is acutely true of work in religion, which must engage the constructive, the historical, and the cultural dimensions of its subject to do it full justice. This creative cross-stitching is crucial for at least two reasons. First, religions are overt and explicit about their existential claims: it is impossible to study a religion well without experiencing its pull on you. Really to study a religion, to encounter it, means that the thing you study studies you in return. As the philosopher Emmanuel Levinas has put it: it returns your gaze. I know of no subject where this is so explicit as it is with religion. Second, those who teach religion and those who minister to people in churches must know how they themselves respond to this claim, this returning of the gaze, if they are going to excel at their chosen work. Ministry students, in my experience at Chicago, tend to grasp this more immediately than their counterparts in the doctoral program: you have to know what you yourself think about religion to engage it professionally.

In sum, then, the mission of the Divinity School is to produce scholarship that is fully attendant to religion as a manifold human phenomenon—scholarship that recognizes the capacity of religion to engage anyone existentially, whether one's response is utter embrace, revulsion, or—far more

common—something in between. And we propose to do this with rigorous adherence to the highest standards of evidence and argument, to ensure that the conversation about our responses to this multivalent, fascinating, and deeply complex dimension of human life is appropriately disciplined.

One of the ways we pursue and develop this mission is, of course, through the appointment of new faculty colleagues. This fall we welcome four new members to our ranks. You can read in this issue of *Circa* an interview with one of these, James Robinson, Assistant Professor of the History of Judaism. Joining Professor Robinson are Amy Hollywood, Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity; Jean-Luc Marion, John Nuveen Professor of the Philosophy of Religion and Theology; and Christian Wedemeyer, Assistant Professor of the History of Religions. A brief sketch of their work maps in interesting ways onto my description of the Divinity School and its mission.

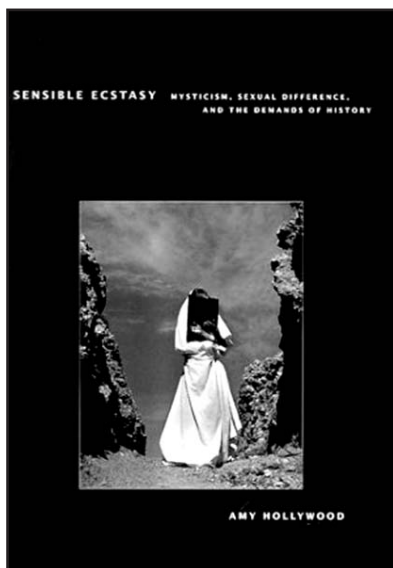
Hollywood, a scholar of medieval Christian thought and practice, and of gender in the study of religion, is an alumna of Chicago whose work marshals both classic historical methods and contemporary approaches (psychoanalysis, historiography) to think about the transmission of the Christian tradition among its classic thinkers, its neglected or lesser-known figures, and scholars who “recover” them.

Marion, who comes to us from the Sorbonne, is both the preeminent interpreter of the philosophy of René Descartes, and one of the most important and innovative philosophical theologians whose work addresses the question of God. His current project includes a sustained investigation of Augustine's theology, particularly as developed in *The City of God*.

Robinson, who has just completed doctoral work at Harvard under the supervision of the late Isadore Twersky and Bernard Septimus, focuses his work on medieval Jewish philosophy and exegesis, with special expertise in the Islamic East, in Spain and in France, and on the transmission of the classical heritage from the Islamic world to Christian Europe.

Continued on back page

Faculty Announcements



Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Hollywood Appointed Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity

Amy Hollywood has been appointed Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity in the Divinity School, having served previously as Associate Professor of Christian Thought at Dartmouth College. She received her M.A. in 1986 and her Ph.D. in 1991 from the Divinity School, and is a historian of Christian thought specializing in mysticism, with strong interests in feminist theory, psychoanalysis, and continental philosophy. Her first book, *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1995), is a study of the body and gender in late medieval Christian mysticism. It received the International

Congress of Medieval Studies' Otto Grundler Prize for the best book in medieval studies. Her second book, *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), deals with Georges Bataille, Simone de Beauvoir, Jacques Lacan, and Luce Irigaray and their fascination with excessive bodily and affective forms of Christian mysticism. Hollywood is currently working on two new projects: one focused on the thirteenth-century Dominican Margaret Ebner, the other on the nineteenth-century Carmelite Therese of Lisieux.

Mahmood Accepts Position at the University of California at Berkeley

Saba Mahmood, who joined the Divinity School faculty in 1998 as Assistant Professor of the History of Religions, has accepted an appointment in the Anthropology Department of the University of California at Berkeley.

Piñón Appointed Assistant Director of Field Education and Church Relations

Santiago O. Piñón, a Ph.D. student in Theology, has been appointed Assistant Director of Field Education and Church Relations in the Divinity School. He received his M.Div. from the Divinity School in 2001, and is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He brings fourteen years of ministry experience to the position, having served churches (both English- and Spanish-speaking) in a variety of capacities, including Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Youth Minister, and having worked at a social service agency. In addition, Piñón has taught classes at

Waukegan Community College and the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago. His theological interests concern the penal institution in Mexico and the United States.

Riesebrodt Promoted to Full Professor

During summer 2003, Martin Riesebrodt was promoted from Associate to full Professor of the Sociology of Religion in the Divinity School and the Department of Sociology.

Robinson Appointed Assistant Professor of the History of Judaism

James T. Robinson has been appointed Assistant Professor of the History of Judaism in the Divinity School, having taught previously at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. Read more about James Robinson in the interview on page 4.

Wedemeyer Appointed Assistant Professor of the History of Religions

Christian K. Wedemeyer has been appointed Assistant Professor of the History of Religions in the Divinity School, having taught previously at the University of Copenhagen. Wedemeyer received his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University. His scholarly work centers primarily on the history, literature, philosophy, and praxis of Indian and Tibetan Buddhism(s). Within this very general domain, the focus of his research has been the esoteric Buddhist traditions of the Mahayoga Tantras. His approach to the field of Buddhist Studies encourages a critical attention to issues of epistemology and ideology native to modern scholarly inquiry. He is

Visiting Faculty

Marc (Menachem) Hirshman is Visiting Professor of Hebrew Bible and the History of Judaism in the Divinity School for fall 2003. He is the Mandel Associate Professor in the Jewish Education Department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, having directed that institution's Melton Center for Jewish Education from 1999 to 2002. His research covers the rabbinic period in comparison to Christianity and Paganism in Late Antiquity. He has taught in the Department of Religion at Columbia University and in the Talmud Department at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1998, he was a Starr Fellow at Harvard University. Hirshman's publications include *A Rivalry of Genius: Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation in Late Antiquity* (Kibbutz Ha'Meuchad and SUNY Press) and, most recently, *Torah for the Entire World* (Kibbutz Ha'Meuchad). He is currently writing a book on central themes in education in classical rabbinic literature, explicating extended passages in the Talmud and Midrash that treat educational issues and comparing and contrasting these to Greco-Roman and Christian education. He is a member of the advisory board of *Harvard Theological Review*.

Benjamin Sommer is Visiting Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Divinity School for 2003–2004. He is Associate Professor of Religion at Northwestern University, where he serves as Director of the Program in Jewish Studies. He specializes in the history of Israelite religion, literary approaches to the Hebrew Bible, and biblical theology. He also studies the ancient Near Eastern context of biblical texts and interpretative strategies in midrash. Sommer's book, *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40–66*, was awarded the Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize by the American Academy for Jewish Research for the best first book published in 1998 concerning ancient and medieval Judaism. He is currently working on a new book, *Artifact or Scripture: The Jewish Bible between History and Theology*, and was recently appointed editor of the Jewish Publication Society's Bible Commentary series for the Book of Psalms.

Johannes (Hans) van der Ven is Visiting Professor of Moral Psychology, Moral Education, and Human Rights in the Divinity School for spring 2004. He

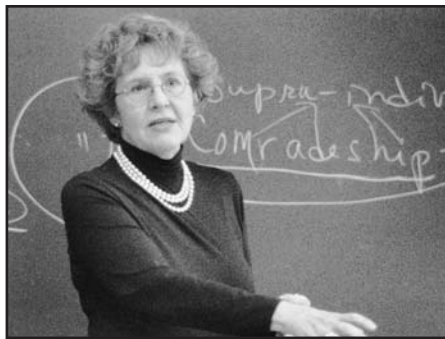
is Professor of Comparative Empirical Theology at the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands. He studies the relevance of empirical methodology for theology. In this field, he has published *Practical Theology: An Empirical Approach*. He conducts comparative empirical-theological research projects in various contexts (developed and developing countries) with regard to religious models of reality (referring to the belief in God, Jesus, guilt, salvation, theodicy) and models for reality (ethical and moral orientations, especially human rights). In this latter field, he has published *God Reinvented: A Theological Search in Texts and Tables*. Together with South African colleagues, he is completing a book, *Is There a God of Human Rights?* based on empirical research on the relationship between human rights attitudes and religious attitudes among South African youth. Van der Ven has applied insights from these projects of empirical-theological research in the fields of church development and moral education, especially in his books *Ecclesiology in Context*, *Education for Reflective Ministry*, and *Formation of the Moral Self*.

currently completing work on a text-critical study of one of the principal Indian works on esoteric praxis: Aryadeva's "Lamp which Integrates the Practices": *The Gradual Path of Vajrayana Buddhism according to the Esoteric Communion Noble Tradition* (Sanskrit and Tibetan editions, translation, and study). His work has appeared in *History of Religions*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *The Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, *Encyclopedia of Women and World Religions*, and *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*. Past courses include "Indo-Tibetan Tantric Traditions," "Indo-Tibetan Buddhism," "Buddhist Philosophy," "Buddhist Ethics," "Tibetan Auto/biography," and "The Politics of Representation: Methodology and Ideology in South Asian Studies."



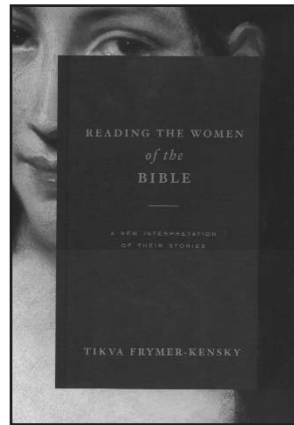
Frymer-Kensky Receives Koret Award
Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Professor of Hebrew Bible and the History of Judaism, won a 2002 Koret Jewish Book Award for her *Reading the Women of the Bible: A New Interpretation of Their Stories* (Schocken Books, 2002). The awards, created in cooperation with the New York-based National Foundation for Jewish Culture, are a critical fixture of Jewish literary and intellectual life.

Hollywood to Deliver Rockwell Lectures
Amy Hollywood, Professor of Theology and the History of Christianity, has been invited by the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies at Rice University to deliver one of their three Rockwell Lectures during the spring semester of 2004 on the theme, "Mary Magdalene through the Ages."



The Rockwell Lectures comprise the oldest lecture series at Rice, and are published in a series with Trinity Press International.

Press Honors Lincoln with Laing Prize
Bruce Lincoln, the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Religions, won the 2002 Gordon J. Laing Prize for his book *Theorizing Myth: Narrative, Ideology, and Scholarship* (University of Chicago Press, 1999). Awarded annually since 1963, the Laing Prize is given to a Chicago faculty member who has published the book that adds the greatest distinction to the University of Chicago Press and to the University. *Theorizing Myth* also received the American Academy of Religion's Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in 2000.



Davidson Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship
Arnold I. Davidson, Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, was awarded a 2003 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to conduct research on the history of the ideas of spiritual exercises and self-transformation. Guggenheim fellowships are awarded through annual competition to further the development of scholars and artists by assisting them to engage in research in any field of knowledge and creation in any of the arts, under the freest possible conditions.

Faculty Awards and Achievements

Elshtain Appointed Chair in Ethics at Library of Congress
Jean Bethke Elshtain, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, was named the second Carey McGuire Chair in Ethics at the Library of Congress for fall 2003. The first chair was held by John T. Noonan, Jr., a senior judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The chair was established to explore the history of America with special attention to the ethical dimensions of domestic economic, political, and social policies.

Wednesday Community Luncheons

Wednesday community luncheons are held at 12:00 noon in Swift Common Room. They cost \$4 at the door and must be reserved in advance by calling 773-702-8230, or by writing to [jqquijano@uchicago.edu](mailto:jquijano@uchicago.edu).

OCTOBER 1

Thomas Geoghegan, Attorney with Despres, Schwartz & Geoghegan and member of the Divinity School's Visiting Committee, will speak about labor law, a subject on which he has written several books and one play.

OCTOBER 8

Jason DeRose, Religion Reporter for WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio, and graduate of the Divinity School's M.Div. program, will speak about his experience on the job.

OCTOBER 15

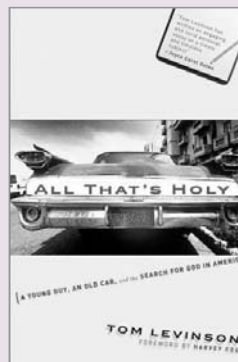
Michael Lieb, Professor of English and Research Professor of Humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Senior Research Fellow at the Martin Marty Center for 2003–2004, will present a paper entitled "Above Top Secret: The Nation of Islam and the Advent of the Mother Plane."

OCTOBER 22

The Dean's Forum on Tikva Frymer-Kensky's *Reading the Women of the Bible: A New Interpretation of Their Stories* (Schocken Books, 2002), which won a Koret Jewish Book Award in 2002. The forum will feature a discussion between the author and Anthony C. Yu, Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Religion and Literature in the Divinity School.

OCTOBER 29

Duel Richardson, Director of Neighborhood Relations/Educational Programs in the University's Office of Community Affairs, and **Pam Bozeman-Evans**, Director of the University's Community Service Center, will speak about their programs and how students can get involved.



NOVEMBER 5

Mark Strand, Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor of Social Thought at the University of Chicago and recipient of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, will read and discuss his current work.

NOVEMBER 12

Tom Levinson, a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and a student in the University's Law School, will discuss his new book, *All That's Holy: A Young Guy, an Old Car, and the Search for God in America* (Jossey-Bass, September 2003).

NOVEMBER 19

Richard A. Rosengarten, Dean and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature in the Divinity School, will present "The Catholic Sophocles: Violence and Visionary Religion in the Fiction of Flannery O'Connor."

DECEMBER 3

Issa Boulos, Palestinian-born composer, oud player, and teacher, will perform original music, ranging from Middle Eastern compositions to jazz.

For calendar updates, please consult the Divinity School's website at <http://divinity.uchicago.edu/whatsnew/wednesdays.html>.

An Interview with James T. Robinson

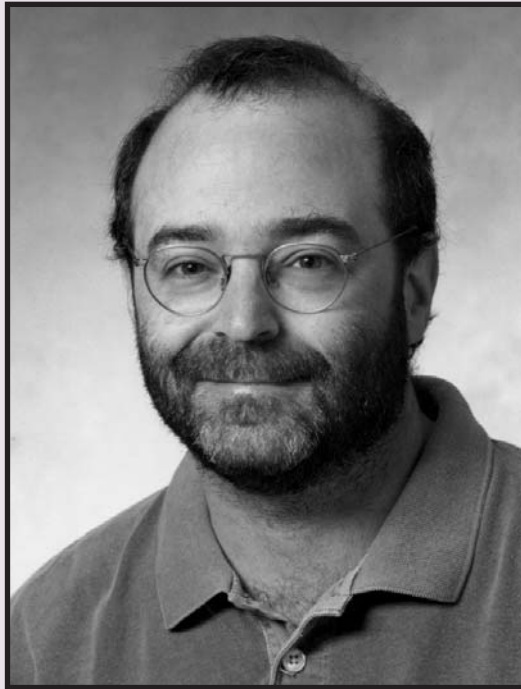
JAMES ROBINSON joined the Divinity School faculty this fall as Assistant Professor of the History of Judaism. He earned his M.Phil. from Oxford University in Modern Jewish Studies in 1990, and his M.A. (1996) and Ph.D. (2002) from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. He spent the past three years teaching at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

CIRCA: What are your fields of academic interest?

JTR: My main fields of interest are medieval Jewish philosophy and exegesis, which I study in the broader context of medieval intellectual and cultural history. The Islamic East, Spain, and southern France are my main geographical areas of interest, but what engages my imagination most fully is the medieval Mediterranean in general, where classical science and philosophy were translated, absorbed, and disputed as they moved from east to west and north to south, from the Islamic world to Latin Christendom.

CIRCA: Tell us a little about your background, and what led you into the study of medieval Jewish history and thought.

JTR: Many years ago, as an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, I studied mathematics, but was always very interested in philosophy and religion. When I finished my B.A., I decided to work my way to general philosophy through studying Jewish philosophy. Soon after beginning a postgraduate degree in Jewish Studies, I fell in love with Hebrew and modern Jewish philosophy and history in particular, first at Oxford and later at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. When I began my Ph.D. studies at Harvard, I had intended to continue to study modern Jewish history and thought, but this initial plan was quickly changed by my relationship with two extraordinary teachers: the late Isadore Twersky and Bernard Septimus. Their command of medieval history and philosophy, their vast erudition and real love for classical Jewish literature and thought moved me and inspired me in many ways. I felt I had found exactly what I was looking for, immediately changed my main focus to the medieval period, and have since devoted myself to studying the great texts of the Middle Ages, striving to follow the model of my teachers. I recognized early on in my studies the importance of looking at Judaism in relation to the surrounding cultures, and have striven not only to master the texts themselves but also to understand fully the contexts from which they emerged, both Jewish and non-Jewish. This led to my study of Islamic and Christian, as well as Jewish, philosophy and exegesis, a “three-fold cord” that is never really broken.



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CIRCA: What projects are you currently working on, and how do these fit into your longer-term research agenda?

JTR: I am currently preparing my doctoral dissertation for publication. It consists of three books: a critical edition, an English translation, and a historical-philosophical analysis of Samuel Ibn Tibbon’s commentary on Ecclesiastes, which was a seminal work of Maimonidean philosophy and exegesis. My research on Ibn Tibbon’s commentary is itself the first part of a larger study of the history of Ecclesiastes exegesis, and of philosophical exegesis in general, in Hebrew and Judaeo-Arabic. The examination of these important, but underappreciated, sources of history and philosophy, many of which remain in manuscript form, will focus on method and style as well as on the way in which certain biblical books, especially Genesis, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Psalms, and the works attributed to Solomon—the philosopher’s

Bible—served as the perfect conduit for the introduction of science and philosophy into classical Judaism.

Ibn Tibbon is not only a central figure in the history of exegesis but in the translation of Arabic works into Hebrew and in the development of a Maimonidean scientific culture. Two projects I am now beginning—a study of the transmission in Hebrew of Averroes’ treatises on immortality and a history of medieval Jewish texts on translation theory—focus on these other aspects of his life and work. I find the research into translation theory particularly interesting, for it connects with a subject of great contemporary concern in both philosophy and literature. This interplay between modern and ancient or medieval, while sometimes complex and potentially misleading, can add extra nuance to the study of any subject and provide a meaningful entranceway into the thinking of the past. It is often useful and frequently instructive to move from what is familiar to what is not, from the common notions of contemporary thought to the rich insights of the past.

CIRCA: How do you think your work will contribute to the field of medieval Jewish history and thought? Do you think it will also have an impact outside this field?

JTR: We are living in a very exciting time for the study of medieval Judaism. Decades of textual and literary research have made available many of the basic texts and historical resources. The parallel study of Islam and Christianity, as well as the philosophy and literature of late antiquity, together with the development of powerful tools of historical and literary analysis, have made it possible to explore certain themes and problems with greater sophistication than ever before conceived. What I hope to do in my own research is to apply these tools to an underappreciated source of history and thought: medieval exegesis in general, and philosophical exegesis in particular. These texts, which require knowledge of so many different disciplines—history of science and philosophy, cultural and intellectual history, literature and rhetoric, and hermeneutical theory—provide a perfect test case for exploring larger issues relating to the interaction between religion and science, to the complex interplay between tradition and change, between authority and innovation. Through

Continued on back page

Autumn and Winter Events

Hans Küng Lecture

Tuesday, September 30
5:00 p.m., Rockefeller Chapel

The Divinity School and Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company are cosponsoring a lecture by world-renowned theologian Hans Küng on the occasion of the publication of the first volume of his autobiography, *My Struggle for Freedom*. Küng is President of the Global Ethic Foundation (Germany/Switzerland), having served, until 1996, as Professor of Ecumenical Theology and Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research at the University of Tübingen. Tightly woven with many of the most significant movements and moments in twentieth-century Christian history, his fascinating life story provides a valuable window into the developments of contemporary theology and church life around the world.

A Conversation in Divinity with W. Clark Gilpin

Thursday, October 2
5:30 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street, Southwest Meeting Room

"Action Proportioned to Nature: Solitude in the Career of Ralph Waldo Emerson" by W. Clark Gilpin, the Margaret E. Burton Professor of the History of Christianity and Theology in the Divinity School and the College, and Director of the Martin Marty Center. Professor Gilpin's current research explores the history of a pervasive assumption in American religion, namely, the notion that individuals are most likely to encounter God or the Absolute when they are in solitude. In this "conversation," he will discuss the crucial role of the orator and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson in the development of this assumption and describe the role of solitude in Emerson's distinctive form of social criticism. *Conversations in Divinity*, a quarterly series, is free and open to the public. To register, or for more information, contact Molly Bartlett at 773-702-8248, or at mbartlet@uchicago.edu.

Women and American Religion: Reimagining the Past

Wednesday, October 8–Friday, October 10
Swift Hall

From October 8 to 10, more than forty historians will gather in Swift Hall to share their research on the history of women and religion in America. For more information, see page 6, or go to <http://womenandreligion.uchicago.edu>.

Alumni Events with Dean Rosengarten

Wednesday, October 22
Seattle, Washington

Thursday, October 23
San Francisco, California

Richard A. Rosengarten, Dean and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature in the Divinity School, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Christian Sophocles: Flannery O'Connor and the Religious Uses of Violence" at these events for Divinity School alumni. Renowned for combining a stark vision of human behavior with a rich religiosity, Flannery O'Connor (1924–64) wrote stories in which the most intense moments of revelation are inextricably yoked with acts of violence. This "conversation" will explore that fact with explicit reference to



SAVE THE DATE!

Divinity School Reunion

Thursday, April 29–Saturday, May 1
Swift Hall

The Divinity School reunion will take place from April 29 to May 1, 2004, at Swift Hall. Events will include the annual Alumnus of the Year Address, faculty and student panels, and an alumni dinner. Please save the date and look for details in the spring issue of *Circa* and on our website at <http://divinity.uchicago.edu/alumni/events.html>.

the stories and to Thomas Merton's judgment that O'Connor, like the greatest of Greek tragedians, was a consummate artist whose vision of the relationship between human and divine never flinched. For more detailed information on this event, go to <http://divinity.uchicago.edu/alumni/alumni.html>.

Humanity before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Ethics

Tuesday, October 21–Thursday, October 23
Swift Lecture Hall

From October 21 to 23, the Divinity School will bring together a group of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic scholars—philosophers, theologians, ethicists, and legal thinkers—for the 2003 D. R. Sharpe Lectures, entitled "Humanity before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Ethics." For more information, see page 6, or go to <http://sharpelectures.uchicago.edu>.

A Lecture by Jehu Hanciles

Thursday, November 6
4:00 p.m., Swift Lecture Hall

Jehu Hanciles is Associate Professor of Mission History and Globalization at the School of World Mission of Fuller Theological Seminary. He has published widely in the areas of African Christianity and Missions. Title TBA.

For calendar updates, please check the Divinity School's website at <http://divinity.uchicago.edu>.

Conference on Religion and the Democratic Prospect

Thursday, November 6–Friday, November 7
Time and location TBA

This will be the first in a series of four conferences hosted by the Martin Marty Center's new project on Religion and the Democratic Prospect. Franklin Gamwell, W. Clark Gilpin, Kristin Van Heyningen, and Douglas Sturm will present papers, abstracts of which can be found at <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/research/religion.shtml>. See page 6 for more details about this project.

Wabash Center Lecture in the Arts of Pedagogy

Thursday, November 13
4:00 p.m., Swift Lecture Hall

"Make-Believe: Teaching Religion and Being Religious" by Paul J. Griffiths, Schmitt Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This lecture is part of the Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion. See page 7 for more details.

AAR/SBL Reception

Sunday, November 23
9:00–11:00 p.m., Hilton Atlanta and Towers, Salon E, Atlanta, Georgia

All Divinity School alumni and friends are invited to a reception at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society for Biblical Literature (SBL), to be held this year in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, contact Molly Bartlett, Associate Dean for External Relations, at 773-702-8248, or at mbartlet@uchicago.edu. We look forward to seeing you there!

A Conversation in Divinity with Dean Rosengarten

Thursday, January 22
5:30 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street, Southwest Meeting Room

"The Christian Sophocles: Flannery O'Connor and the Religious Uses of Violence" by Dean Richard A. Rosengarten. (See description under Alumni Events, above.) *Conversations in Divinity*, a quarterly series, is free and open to the public. To register, or for more information, contact Molly Bartlett at 773-702-8248, or at mbartlet@uchicago.edu.

Violence and the Latino Reality

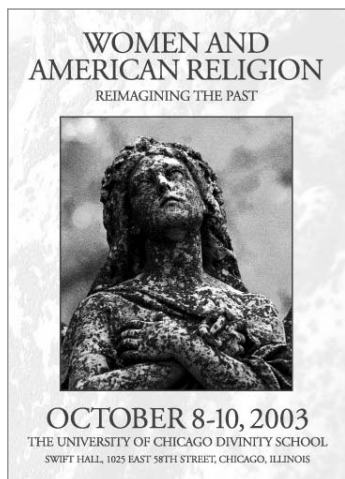
Wednesday, February 18–Thursday, February 19
Swift Lecture Hall

From February 18 to 19, the Divinity School will host the regional meeting conference of the Hispanic Theological Initiative, entitled "Violence and the Latino Reality." Conference speakers will include Ada Maria Isasi-Díaz (Drew University) and William Schweiker (University of Chicago). Further details will be announced on the Divinity School's website later this fall.

Wabash Arts of Teaching Panel

Friday, February 20
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Swift Lecture Hall

The Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion will hold a one-day conference entitled "The Teacher and Religion," which will examine both the legal and pedagogical relationships of the teacher to religion. See detailed description on page 7.



Martin Marty Center News and Events

THE MARTIN MARTY CENTER builds on a long-standing conviction of the Divinity School that the best and most innovative scholarship in religion emerges from sustained dialogue with the wider society. In all of its projects, the Center ought to serve as a robust “circulatory system” that strengthens and extends scholarly inquiry by moving it through faculty, student, and public bodies of deliberation.

—W. Clark Gilpin, *Director of the Martin Marty Center*



Religion and the Democratic Prospect

Those committed to democracy have abiding reason to seek clarity about the perils and possibilities that, in a given time and place, define the future of government by the people. They may also have special reason to do so at the beginning of a new millennium, in a nation and world marked by unprecedented interdependence and forms of vulnerability. Last spring, the Martin Marty Center discussed launching a sustained common inquiry into the present prospects for democracy, with emphasis on its problems and possibilities and the relation of both to religious beliefs and practices.

The core working group of this venture will consist of thirteen faculty members from the Divinity School and other University Departments (Daniel Brudney, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Franklin I. Gamwell, W. Clark Gilpin, Larry Greenfield, Omar McRoberts, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Joseph Pettit, Richard A. Rosengarten, William Schweiker, Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, and Kathryn Tanner) and nine doctoral students from the Divinity School (Catherine Adcock, Barbra Barnett, Francisco Benzoni, Kenneth Bigger, Jerome Copulsky, Michael Kessler, Erik Owens, Noah Salomon, and Kristin D. Van Heyningen). Their activities will center on planning and participating in a series of four small conferences, one each during the autumn and spring quarters of the next two academic years. The first conference is scheduled to take place from November 6 to 7, 2003, the second from May 6 to 7, 2004. At each conference, approximately three

papers, typically, but not necessarily, offered by members of the core group, including its student participants, will be presented for discussion. The core group will also meet during the winter quarter of each year, perhaps to discuss an important recent book related to the defining topic.

Beyond the discussions themselves, the immediate aim of the project is to develop a set of scholarly papers that would be submitted to the *Journal of Religion* for publication, one of which would appear in each of several successive issues, so that together they constitute a continuing series on the topic. The participants also hope that the work pursued might have some importance for the larger public, perhaps especially religious communities. Having initially offered an essay to the scholarly community, some or all of the authors might then be encouraged to re-present their argument in an article directed to a wider audience, for submission to an appropriate journal.

If you have questions or would like to see brief descriptions of the papers proposed by project participants, go to <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/research/religion.shtml>.



Fall Conferences

This fall, the Martin Marty Center will host two public conferences in the month of October. The first, “**Women and American Religion: Reimagining the Past**,” will take place from October 8 to 10 in Swift Hall. It will bring together more than forty historians to share their research on the history of women and religion in America. Speakers will introduce conference participants to a group of fascinating women who have been largely absent in narratives of American religious history, including “witches,” evangelical slaves, Mormon wives, Native American converts, Protestant health reformers, Catholic sisters, African American performers, women rabbis, and feminist theologians. Most important, speakers will ask larger questions about what difference it makes to include women’s stories in our narratives of American religious history, and why women’s history matters. The conference is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more information, go to the conference website at <http://womenandreligion.uchicago.edu>, or call Judith Lawrence at 773-702-8233.

The second conference, the 2003 D. R. Sharpe Lectures, entitled “**Humanity before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Ethics**,” will take place from October 21 to 23 in Swift Hall. It will bring together a group of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic scholars—philosophers, theologians, ethicists, and legal thinkers—to examine anew the shared ways in which the three monotheistic faiths in the Abrahamic tradition conceive the idea of humanity before God, and how each contributes to contemporary understandings of fundamental claims about the inalienable sanctity and dignity of human life. Invited speakers will reflect on

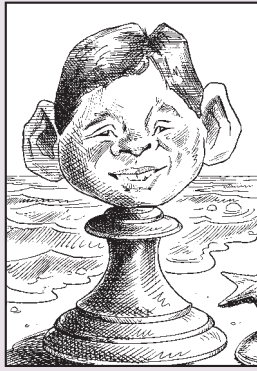


and explore three dimensions of the complex idea of human life in connection to the image-of-God motif in Genesis or the theme of vice-regency in the Qur’an: (1) the distinctiveness of human being; (2) natural and embodied life; and (3) the social, political, and cultural dimensions of life. The conference will feature a keynote address by Hilary Putnam, Cogan University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University; a closing keynote address by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, University Professor at George Washington University; and lectures by prominent Jewish, Islamic, and Christian scholars. The conference is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. For more information, go to the conference website at <http://sharpelectures.uchicago.edu>.

The Religion and Culture Web Forum

The Martin Marty Center has appointed Seth Perry the new Religion and Culture Web Forum editor. A second-year M.A. student in the Divinity School, Perry succeeds Shannon Mason, who resigned from the position upon her graduation from the M.A. program in June 2003. Perry brings considerable prior writing and editing experience to the job, having served, most recently, as a news clerk for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in Washington D.C.

Over the summer, the Web Forum featured a commentary by Marshall Sahlins, the Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and the Social Sciences in the University of Chicago, which appeared in *Criterion* 42:1 (winter 2003). The commentary, entitled "The Iconization of Elián Gonzalez: The Making of National History by Family Melodrama," explores the wide range of



religious, social, and political issues which arose around the boy known in Miami as a "miracle child" and in Havana as a "boy martyr." Campbell McGrath of Florida International University and Stephan Palmié of the University of Chicago offered fascinating responses to Professor Sahlins's remarks. The public is welcome to post its insights on this topic on the Forum's website at <http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/webforum>.

In 2003–2004, the Forum hopes to continue offering its readership a rich variety of compelling studies at the crossroads of religion and culture. Please visit the Forum website to engage in the following discussions:

September

"Treating the First Amendment as a Theological Statement" by Thomas J. Curry, Bishop and Episcopal Vicar for the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region.

October

"Theological Humanism from a Christian Perspective" by William Schweiker, Professor of Theological Ethics in the Divinity School. This commentary is being offered in conjunction with the D. R. Sharpe Lectures, "Humanity before God: Contemporary Faces of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Ethics," to be held from October 21 to 23 in Swift Hall. See page 6 for more details.

November

"Violence and Visionary Religion in Flannery O'Connor" by Richard A. Rosengarten, Dean and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature in the Divinity School.

December

"'Religion': Just Another Modern Western Construction?" by Martin Riesebrodt, Professor of Sociology in the Divinity School.

January

"Black Theology: The Notion of Culture Revisited" by Dwight N. Hopkins, Associate Professor of Theology in the Divinity School.

Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion

This will mark the third and final year of the Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion, which will spend 2003–2004 considering the theme, "Religion and Religious Studies." It is fair to assume that both teachers and students have some prior associations with the subject matter of religion. Forum participants will consider what teachers and students do with these once they enter the classroom.

On November 13, 2003, Paul J. Griffiths, Arthur J. Schmitt Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will give the Wabash Center Lecture, entitled "Make-Believe: Teaching Religion and Being Religious." The lecture will take place at 4:00 p.m. in Swift Lecture Hall, followed by a reception in the Common Room. All are welcome to attend.

On February 20, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Forum will hold a one-day conference entitled "The Teacher and Religion." This conference will examine both



the legal and pedagogical relationship of the teacher to religion. It will invite speakers who hold a variety of stances and will ask how their positions play out in practice in their classrooms. This conference is also open to the public.

A central feature of the Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion is the opportunity it provides for graduate students at the Divinity School to consider pedagogy as an important part of their lives as scholars.

Each year it selects ten graduate students as Wabash Fellows. The fellows for 2003–2004 will include **Jonathan Ebel** (History of Christianity), **Peder Jothén** (Ethics), **Cabell King** (Theology), **Kaitlin Magoon** (Theology), **Scott Richard** (History of Religions), **Benjamin Sax** (History of Judaism), **Lea Schweitz** (Philosophy of Religion), **Marsaura Shukla** (Theology), **David Simmons** (Religion and Literature), and **Alicia Turner** (History of Religions). In addition to meetings throughout the year in conjunction with the Wabash Center Lecture and the conference, the fellows will meet several times in the spring quarter in a workshop entitled "Integrating Student Experience in the Classroom." Since undergraduates also enter the classroom with a wide range of beliefs, ideas, and definitions of what religion is and what their own connections to it are, this workshop will explore the extent to which these positions represent problems or opportunities for the instructor.

Martin Marty Center Fellows

This year's Martin Marty Center Fellows comprise a vigorously interdisciplinary group of Dissertation Fellows, who are writing on religion in the Divinity School or other departments of the University of Chicago, and Senior Research Fellows, who are in residence at the Marty Center while on sabbatical leave from their own universities. The group will meet regularly throughout the year in the Marty Center Seminar, the goal of which is to generate careful and insightful scholarship that deploys conceptual tools and interpretive methods to advance thought within a discipline in the study of religion, and to provoke

new work at the intersection of disciplines. In 2003–2004, the Seminar will be divided into two groups: one led by Professors William Schweiker and Catherine Brekus, the other by Professors W. Clark Gilpin and Christian Wedemeyer.

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Mary M. Keys

Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame

Michael Lieb

Professor of English and Research Professor of Humanities in the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago

DISSERTATION FELLOWS

Laurie A. Brink, O.P., *Biblical Studies*

David Zachariah Flanagin, *History of Christianity*

Sarah Hammerschlag, *Philosophy of Religion*

Ellen Haskell, *History of Judaism*

Patrick A. Hatcher, *History of Religions*

Kevin Jung, *Ethics*

Sharon Lea Mattila, *Biblical Studies*

Melanie O'Hara, *Ethics*

Karen Park-Koenig, *History of Christianity*

William Eric Vandever, *History of Religions*

William D. Wood, *Theology*

William Wright, *Theology*

News from the Alumni Council

One of the central images in the sacred cartography of Mircea Eliade is the *axis mundi*—a concept that I associate in particular ways with Swift Hall. For each time that I return to the heart of the Quadrangle, enter Swift's lobby, and turn toward the elevator, I sense somehow that I am surely at *the center*, if not of the universe, at least of the University. This was my experience again in early May as I boarded the elevator with several other alumni to rise to the ethereal space of the Lecture Hall. There we joined students, faculty, and other alumni for the annual lecture by the *Alumnus of the Year*. This year, William LaFleur (Ph.D. '73) engaged us with his presentation, "Buddhism, Ethics, and Heuristic Fear."

In conjunction with the featured lecture and celebration of alumni accomplishments, the Alumni Council held its annual spring meeting. As usual, members of the Council discussed ways to rekindle alumni appreciation of the Divinity School and to promote its programs. Three topics dominated our atten-

tion: the Divinity School's challenge and progress in the capital campaign, the vision of the ministry program, and the prospects for a Divinity School reunion in 2004.

Within the billion-dollar fundraising initiative of the University, the Divinity School has projected an ambitious capital campaign goal of \$16 million dollars. This amount far exceeds the totals of previous Divinity School fundraising efforts, yet its targets for support of students, faculty, programs, and facilities are clearly needed. The promising news about the progress on the Divinity School's campaign is that half of the funds have been raised.

While Council members discussed the competing appeals of scholarly, social, environmental, and political advocacy organizations, we learned that alumni at times assume that the Divinity School, because of its prominence and prestige, does not need financial support like that solicited by undergraduate institutions struggling for recognition and survival. Yet, when we



reaffirm the significance of the School in shaping our professional characters and careers, we can be motivated to give more generously to support the current students, whose academic and ministerial identities are being crafted at Swift Hall.

To address the ways in which the Divinity School stimulates ministerial education, Dean Rosengarten introduced Cynthia Lindner (D.Min. '99), the new Director of Ministry Studies. Speaking to both the challenges and opportunities for the Divinity School's ministerial students, her report about students' engagements and



Enrollment

This fall, the Divinity School enrolled 73 entering degree candidates (3 A.M.R.S., 44 M.A., 13 M.Div., 13 Ph.D.), bringing the Divinity School's total enrollment to 332 students for the 2003–2004 academic year.

Graduation and Placement

During 2002–2003, 62 students graduated from the Divinity School in one of the University's quarterly convocations: 28 M.A., 14 M.Div., 20 Ph.D. (See list of graduates below.)

For the 2003–2004 academic year, 11 students and graduates have accepted tenure-track appointments, 6 have accepted term appointments, 2 have secured postdoctoral fellowships, and 2 have secured non-academic appointments.

Convocations

AUTUMN 2002

- **M.A.**
Maura Campanelli
Michelle G. Dassinger
Robert C. Fisher
John F. Frye
Ronald A. Stover
- **Ph.D.**
Craig A. Forney
History of Christianity
Loren D. Lybarger
Psychology and Sociology of Religion
Lisa Boccia Salter
Ethics
Kerry M. Tupper
Theology

SOME OF OUR PH.D. GRADUATES are available for appointment. Their resumes can be accessed online at http://divinity.uchicago.edu/resumebook/resumebook_2003_04/index.html.

WINTER 2003

- **M.A.**
Susan Barker Yeley
- **M.Div.**
John William Vest
- **Ph.D.**
Michael Gordon Epperson
Philosophy of Religion
Deborah Flemister Mullen
History of Christianity
Clare Komoroske
Rothschild
Biblical Studies
Rebecca Schorsch
History of Judaism

SPRING 2003

- **A.M.R.S.**
Anthony H. DeJarnette
Seunghee Yie
- **M.A.**
Robert P. Baird
Kristel A. Clayville
Brian H. Collins
Andrew M. DeJohn
Courtney E. Fitzsimmons
Benjamin R. Helphand
Jeffrey I. Israel
Anant Kishore
Todd C. Larkin
Shannon M. Mason
Steven M. McFarland
Kendra M. Meyer
Sarah R. Miller
Alexandra R. Mudd
Wayne J. Munsch
Tara L. Murphy
Eloise V. Nelson
David Riihimaki
Robert C. Saler
M. Isabel Schechter
Jennifer M. Schuberth
Isaac Tekie

■ M.Div.

- David C. Albertson
Brandon D. Cline
Patricia A. Duncan
Martin J. Essig
Jon W. Foreman
Raymond K. Greenfield
Sarah C. Jay
Jennifer H. Kottler
Amy E. Lignitz
Teresa H. Owens
Kerry E. Waller
Lydia N. Wittman

■ Ph.D.

- Francisco J. Benzoni
Ethics
Jonathan Moore
History of Christianity

SUMMER 2003

- **M.Div.**
Randi Sider-Rose
- **Ph.D.**
Matthew G. Condon
Religion and Literature
John Francis Dowling
Theology
Jonathan Charles Gold
Philosophy of Religion
Deborah Ann Green
History of Judaism
Mieke Rae Holkeboer
Theology
Gregory Bruce Johnson
Religion and Literature
Laura Suzanne Lieber
History of Judaism
Yuki Miyamoto
Ethics
Kevin J. Wanner
History of Religions
Richard Scott Weiss
History of Religions

accomplishments in ministry was impressive, and her excitement was contagious.

One of the ways to stay connected to alumni and to the Divinity School itself is through a periodic reunion celebration. For many of the Divinity School's alumni, the annual meeting of the AAR/SBL provides such an occasion. However, the needs to include all alumni, to recognize the accomplishments of the *Alumnus* or *Alumna* of the Year, and to celebrate the Divinity School itself suggest that an on-campus reunion is well merited. So we will launch this effort at the end of April 2004, when the Divinity School reunion will be held in conjunction with the presentation of the annual lecture by the *Alumnus* or *Alumna* of the Year.

The Council's meeting concluded with expressions of appreciation to its retiring members: Linda-Marie Delloff, Bud Heckman, Emilie Townes, and Jim Wind. And I am pleased to announce that Jaime Polson (who received a dual M.A./M.Div. with the School of Social Service Administration in 2002), Larry Sullivan (M.A. '79, Ph.D. '81), Doug Jacobsen (M.A. '77, Ph.D. '83), and Carol Anderson (M.A. '82, Ph.D. '94) are beginning new terms of service on the Council.

As we seek to recognize and celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of alumni, we all have an opportunity to nominate alumni and Divinity School faculty for various University awards. If you know of alumni or faculty who deserve recognition

for service to a profession, a community, the University, or to society, please nominate them for one of the U of C Alumni Awards by October 15, 2003. For more information, please check the website: <http://www.alumni.uchicago.edu/awards.html>. Nominations are now being solicited for the following categories: the Alumni Medal, the Alumni Service Medal, the Alumni Service Citation, the Young Alumni Service Citation, the Public Service Citation, the Professional Achievement Citation, and the Norman Maclean Faculty Award (for U of C faculty).

Sincerely,

Joe Price, President

Student Fellowships and Grants 2003–2004



DIVINITY SCHOOL PRIZES

J. Coert Rylaardsam Prize

Noah Salomon
History of Religions

John Gray Rhind Award

Sarah C. Jay
M.Div. program
Teresa H. Owens
M.Div. program

Milo P. Jewett Prize

Laurena Brink
Biblical Studies
Meira Kensky
Biblical Studies
Jeffrey Jay
Biblical Studies

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Committee on South Asian Studies Grants

Cassie Adcock
History of Religions
Kristin Bloomer
Theology
Jacob Carbine
History of Religions
Anthony Cerulli
History of Religions
Brian H. Collins
History of Religions
Laura Desmond
History of Religions
Shubha Pathak
History of Religions
Ajay Rao
History of Religions
Scott Richard
History of Religions
Alicia Turner
History of Religions

Doolittle Fellowships

Claudia Bergmann
Biblical Studies
Anthony Cerulli
History of Religions
Adam Darlage
History of Christianity
Daniel Kynaston
Theology
Karen Park-Koenig
History of Christianity
Nelson Tebbe
Anthropology and Sociology of Religion

Human Rights Internship Grant

Noah Salomon
History of Religions (Sudan)

Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine Fellowship

Ryan Boynton
Philosophy of Religion

Overseas Dissertation Research Grants

Nelson Tebbe
Psychology and Sociology of Religion
Caroline Tolton
History of Christianity

Shalom Hartman Traveling Fellowship

Jane Kanarek
History of Judaism

William Rainey Harper Dissertation Fellowships

Catherine Adcock
History of Religions
Michael Skerker
Ethics

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

Thomas A. Borchert
History of Religions
David Clairmont
Ethics

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Fellowships (summer)

Ryan Coyne
Theology
Sarah Hammerschlag
Philosophy of Religion

Diocese of Maryland Fellowship

Arthur Callaghan
M.Div. program

Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Laura Jean Torgerson
M.Div. program

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Fellowships

Nancy Arnison
Theology
Claudia Bergmann
Biblical Studies

Peder Jøthen
Ethics

Elizabeth Musselman
Theology

Bruce Rittenhouse
Ethics

Roger Willis
Theology

Courtney Wilder
Theology

Fondation Eugène Bersier/Global Ministries Fellowships

William A. Wright
Theology
Bernard C. Dorsey
Theology

Foreign Language Enhancement Program Fellowships

Erik Davis
History of Religions
Scott Richard
History of Religions
Timothy Tasker
M.A. program
Alicia Marie Turner
History of Religions

Fulbright (Institute of International Education) Fellowship

Aimee Burant
Theology (Germany)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

Erik Davis
History of Religions (Cambodia)

Fund for Theological Education (FTE) Doctoral Fellowships

Warren Chain
Ethics
Bernard C. Dorsey
Theology

Fund for Theological Education Expanding Horizons Doctoral Fellowship

Warren Chain
Ethics

Gerondelis Foundation Tuition Grant

Antonios Finitsis
Biblical Studies

Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program (ICEOP) Fellowships

Michelle Mustonen
History of Religions
Elizabeth Perez
History of Religions
Illya Davis
Theology

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship

Benjamin Schonthal
M.A. program

Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture Dissertation Fellowship

Jonathan Ebel
History of Christianity

Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Dissertation Fellowships

John Carlson
Ethics

Melanie O'Hara
Ethics
Erik Owens
Ethics

National Resource (Title IV or FLAS) Fellowships (summer 2003)

Anthony Elia
History of Christianity (Czech)
Anne Gepford
M.A. program (Nepali)
Adrian Guiu
M.A. program (Russian)
Amanda Huffer
M.A. program (Hindi)
Alexs Thompson
M.A. program (Arabic)
Grant Upson
M.A. program (Tamil)

National Resource (Title IV or FLAS) Fellowships (academic year 2003–2004)

Tracie Guy
History of Judaism (Hebrew)
Amanda Huffer
M.A. program (Hindi)
Christian Brian Hummel
M.A. program (Serbo-Croatian)
Leigh Janiak
M.A. program (Hebrew)
Jeremy Morse
M.A. program (Hindi)
Aaron Rester
History of Religions (Hindi)
Sunit Singh
M.A. program (Urdu)
Timothy Tasker
M.A. program (Chinese)
Grant Upson
M.A. program (Tamil)
Pesach Weinstein
History of Religions (Bengali)

Rooks Fellowship

Paul Robeson Ford
M.Div. program

United Methodist Church Fellowship

Erika Tritle
M.Div. program

Gifts to the Divinity School 2002–2003

At the midpoint of the University's capital campaign, the Chicago Initiative, the Divinity School has raised about \$8 million, representing half of its campaign goal. We—the Divinity School community—now face the challenge of raising another \$8 million.

As you may recall, our capital campaign goals are simple:

- Increase student financial assistance
- Increase faculty support
- Build research and programs
- Bring Swift Hall into the twenty-first century
- Increase participation in annual giving

On a bright note, our annual fund—the Fund for the Divinity School—did enjoy increased participation this year; more alumni and friends made a gift in support of the School during fiscal year 2003 than in the previous year. Why is this important? Participation in annual giving sends a clear message to successive alumni and prospective donors that the School is a worthy recipient of their philanthropy. In addition, the establishment of a base of annual donors allows the administration to project more accurately the amount of unrestricted funds

that will be available to apply wherever the need is greatest, ensuring that future generations of students will enjoy the richest possible educational experiences. This year, the annual fund raised \$174,000.

We are grateful for the generosity of annual fund donors. We also are grateful for the unstinting support of donors who contribute to specific areas of need. The School received over \$1 million in gifts for “restricted” funds, including a payment of \$25,000 of a two-year pledge of \$50,000 to the Nathan and Charlotte Scott Dissertation Fund from Robert L. and Sheila R. Berner, a \$50,000 payment on their \$500,000 ten-year pledge to the Martin Marty Center at the Divinity School from Norman and Lynn Lear, over \$43,000 divided between the Fund for the Divinity School and the Martin Marty Center Fund from Marjorie Lindsey and John Shedd Reed, and over \$31,000 toward a four-year



\$100,000 pledge to the Rolland Walter Schloerb Fellowship Fund from Robert G. and Mary Wegner Schloerb.

We also received nearly \$870,000 in bequests, including \$690,000 from the estate of alumnus James F. Maclear for the James Fulton Scholarship Fund, \$118,000 from the estate of Helen Kotas Hirsch for the Rolland Walter Schloerb Fellowship Fund, and \$50,000 from the estate of Roberta M. Farmer for the School's general fund. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our alumni and friends and the continued philanthropy of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Inc., and the Chapin-May Foundation of Illinois. Many thanks for your support of the School.



The Harper Society

The Divinity School and the University of Chicago join in honoring the following 2002–2003 Harper Society members: **Robert L. and Sheila R. Berner, Norman and Lynn Lear, Marjorie Lindsey and John Shedd Reed, Robert G.* and Mary Wegner Schloerb.** The Harper Society, established several years ago by the University, recognizes the generosity of donors whose annual gifts are equal to or above \$25,000. The Divinity School community is deeply grateful for the philanthropy of its Harper Society members, whose gifts provide much-needed support.

The Dean's Circle

Ernest Cadman Colwell Fellows \$10,000 +

Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
Mrs. Jerald C. Brauer in memory of Jerald C. Brauer and William N. Weaver
Mr. C. Russell and Mrs. Florence F. Cox
Estate of Hannah Jane Dennison in memory of Rev. Henry H. Dennison
Mrs. Margaret C. Fallers
Mr. Oliver Nicklin
Mr. John S. Nuveen, Nuveen Benevolent Trust
Mr. Stephen S. Peterson

Shirley Jackson Case Fellows \$5,000–\$9,999

Chapin-May Foundation of Illinois
North Shore Baptist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Martin E. Marty
Dr. John R. Phillips in memory of William N. Weaver
Mr. Richard P. and Mrs. Ella D. Strubel

* Baptist Theological Union Trustee

Shailer Mathews Fellows \$2,500–\$4,999

Ms. Mary Lou and Mr. Thomas R. Brous
Dr. Robert W. Carton
Mr. John C. and Mrs. Jane B. Colman
Mr. Donald G. Coxe
The Donnelley Foundation
Rev. Nina Herrmann and Mr. James Donnelley
Mr. James L. Foorman
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Mr. Daniel R. Murray
Mr. William N. Weaver, Jr., in memory of William N. Weaver and Jerald C. Brauer

Eri B. Hulbert Fellows \$1,000–\$2,499

Accenture Foundation
Barclays Global Investors in memory of Victoria Waters
Mr. Stephen Stewart Bowen
Dr. Lisa G. Sowle Cahill
Mr. Daniel T. Carroll
Ms. Lisa A. Cavallari in memory of Victoria Waters
Mr. Allan and Ms. Cheryl Patric Cox
Mr. Robert W. and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Crowe
Dayton Foundation Depository

Ms. Alexandra C. Earle
Dr. Ralph H. Elliott
Ms. Emily Huggins Fine
Rev. Carlson Gerdau
Mr. W. Clark Gilpin
Mr. Larry L. Greenfield *
Mr. Robert A. and Mrs. Janet W. Helman
International Business Machines Corporation
Mrs. Patricia E. Kauffman
Mrs. Evelyn M. Kitagawa
Mr. Charles W. Lake, Jr., Lake Family Foundation
Mrs. Edward H. Levi
Mr. Scott R. Martin
Mr. Craig S. Miller in memory of Frances Marian Estes
Mr. Paul C. Pribbenow and Ms. Abigail Crampton Pribbenow
Dr. Erroll F. Rhodes
Rockford College in honor of Martin E. Marty
Mr. Hoken S. and Mrs. Frances C. Seki
Mr. David John Smith
Mr. Barry and Mrs. Winnifred Sullivan
Mr. Ivan Noah Uldall
Mrs. Barbara Kirchick and Mr. Michael William Urbut
Mr. Robert K. Wilson-Black
Mr. Ralph C. and Suzanne C. Wood, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony C. Yu

For more information on giving opportunities and volunteering for the Divinity School, contact Molly Bartlett by phone at 773-702-8248, or email her at mbartlet@uchicago.edu.

The Honor Roll

Midway Club \$500-\$999

Mr. Warren L. Batts
Rabbi Herbert Bronstein
Mr. Frank B. B. Brown
Dr. Don S. and Mrs.
Carol L. Browning
Prof. Richard Clarence Bush, Jr.
Ms. Anne E. Carr
Mr. Tim Child
Mr. Jun Ki Chung
Hon. Richard D. Cudahy and
Dr. Janet Cudahy
Mr. Jonathan D. Day
R. R. Donnelley & Sons
Company
Fidelity Investments
Charitable Gift Fund
Mr. Richard M. Franklin
Dr. Robert Charles Fuller
Mr. V. David and Mrs. Sonia
Hutchins Garrison
Mr. Donald A. Gillies *
Hon. Joan B. Gottschall
Mr. Mark Alan
Granquist, Ph.D.
Mr. Robert M. Grant
Mr. John B. Hillman
Rev. Susan B. W. Johnson *
Mr. Thomas E. Lanctot
Mrs. Glen A. Lloyd
Mr. David W. and Mrs. Jill
Carlotta Maher
Mr. G. Michael McCrossin
Ms. Geraldine S. and
Mr. F. Richard Meyer
Mr. William Dana Northcut *
Ms. Mary Cone O'Riley
Mr. Peter J. Paris
Rev. David B. Parke
Mr. Samuel C. Pearson, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Edward H. Piper
Dr. Joseph Llewellyn Price II
Dr. Jill Raitt
Dr. John W. Reed *
Mr. Richard Alan Rosengarten
Mr. John M. Schloerb *
Mr. David P. Schmidt and
Ms. Norma Michalski
Estate of Emaroy June Smith
Dr. Douglas E. and Mrs.
Margie A. Sturm
Mr. Mark G. Toulouse, Ph.D.
Mr. David Jon Van
Houten, Ph.D.
Mr. Alfred and Mrs. Joan W.
Ward in honor of Susan and
Peter Marty's marriage

Scholars Club \$250-\$499

Rt. Rev. William Black
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Letter from the Dean, *continued from page 1*

Wedemeyer is a scholar of Buddhism who works primarily in Tantric materials but takes as his province the genesis and early development of Buddhism in what is now known as South Asia. In addition to devoting considerable philological expertise to the translation and production of scholarly editions, he is a historian of scholarship on Buddhism and of the development of modern theories of religion.

Another way we promote the School's mission is, of course, through students. I make bold to claim that ours is the strongest cohort in the country, and this is more than mere decanal bragging. Our students claimed two Javits Fellowships and two Newcombe Dissertation Fellowships for the coming year, figures that would delight many research uni-



versities as a total yield in such competitions. Perhaps more reliable as an index of fealty to, and extension of, our mission, Chicago doctoral graduates accept appointments to faculties that reflect the full spectrum of the study of religion in American higher education: liberal arts colleges, state universities, research

universities, and theological seminaries. Ministry graduates are robustly represented in new placements to congregational ministry but also in agencies of social service and ecclesial government across the nation. Every commencement serves to remind those of us who hang our working hats in Swift Hall that Chicago's mission is expressed not simply through what happens in these halls, but integrally through the work of our alums. It is through their efforts, as much as any, that Chicago can bid fair to perpetuate traditions of excellence that shape how religion is understood in an ever more complex world.

RICHARD A. ROSENGARTEN
Dean

Interview with Robinson, *continued from page 4*

the careful study of individual texts and personalities, always connecting with larger issues of concern, I hope that this literature will help me to create a model for studying medieval subjects not only in Judaism and Jewish philosophy, but in philosophy and culture more generally. I think Gershom Scholem, perhaps more than anyone, showed how the careful study of one particular cultural phenomenon, even one that is considered a marginal aspect of a marginal religion, can create a new way of looking at all religious phenomena. I think this is something to which we should all aspire.

CIRCA: What courses do you plan to offer in the Divinity School this year?

JTR: This fall, I will teach a history of Jewish philosophy in the Middle Ages, which will examine the most important Jewish thinkers and problems from the ninth to the fifteenth century. In the winter quarter, I plan to offer a text seminar on Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*, and in the spring, another text seminar on medieval commentaries on Ecclesiastes, which will require the reading of printed Hebrew texts as well as manuscripts. During the spring quarter, I will also teach, with Hans-Josef Klauck, "Introduction to Historical Studies in Religion." Topics on which I might offer courses in the future include the following: Aspects of Genre and Literary



Left: Moses Maimonides

Commentaries on Genesis, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Daniel; Eschatology in Medieval Jewish Thought; Averroes and Gersonides on Intellect and Immortality; Medieval Theories of Translation; Ethical Writings of Maimonides; Jewish Sufism and Neoplatonism.

CIRCA: What are you most excited about in coming to the Divinity School?

JTR: In the course of this interview I hope I have sufficiently emphasized the importance of two central tenets in my work: historical context and interdisciplinary study. I can think of no better place to develop these than the Divinity School, where the different religions are studied in such close proximity, and where innovative research is encouraged so openly. But more important than the institution itself are the individuals that constitute it, and what I am most excited about is working with fellow scholars and students who, based on my experience thus far, have shown greater interest in various fields of research and more perspicuity in question-asking than I have yet encountered anywhere. What I am really looking forward to, therefore, as I eagerly await the beginning of the school year, is the promise of stimulating conversation with my colleagues and challenging interchange with my students.

I am most excited about working with fellow scholars and students who, based on my experience thus far, have shown greater interest in various fields of research and more perspicuity in question-asking than I have yet encountered anywhere.

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