

Religious Studies

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I N T E R D I S C I P L I N A R Y S T U D I E S

From the Director

It has been invigorating for me that the second of my three-year appointment as Director of Religious Studies (RS) Program has coincided with a major both religious and literary milestone: the 400-anniversary of the first publication of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. As you will see in the "In Retrospect" section below, the Program did its part in the global commemorations of the KJV in Spring 2011. Don't worry if you missed out on some of those events: the "In Prospect" section below shows that we have a few more lined up for Autumn 2011.

Great thanks again to tireless Interdisciplinary Studies administrative team of JoAnn Miller and Delayne Graham; to our College of Liberal Arts Academic Advisor Dennis Bowling; to the faculty who teach the courses for our majors, minors, and really the large number of undergraduates from all over campus; and to the RS Steering Committee for their valuable work:

Andrew Buckser (ANTH)
Darren T. Dochuk (HIST)
Paul Draper (PHIL)
Jacqueline Mariña (PHIL)
Donald Mitchell (PHIL)
Thomas Ryba (PHIL)
Daniel Smith (PHIL)



Angelica Duran
Associate Professor, English and Comparative Literature
Director, Religious Studies

Our two newest committee members ensure the Program's interdisciplinary nature (by way of introduction, they are featured below). Interdisciplinarity has also been aided by the increased collaborations with other Programs and Departments. Especially exciting for research opportunities, public lectures, and sheer intellectual excitement in the upcoming academic year is the focus of the Diversity Resource Office on religious diversity (see <<http://www.purdue.edu/dro/>>).

I hope everyone reading this newsletter will contact me whenever they have a question or idea that can help continue the important work of the Religious Studies Program.

Sincerely,
Angelica Duran
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In Retrospect

Three strengths of the Purdue Religious Studies Programs are reflected in a number of 2010-2011 events that the Program spearheaded. Associated events co-coordinated with other Programs and Departments can be found on the "Past Events" section of the Religious Studies Events webpage:

Western Religions-Biblical Studies

Some may know that the Purdue Archives and Special Collections houses the Neil Armstrong and Amelia Earhart Archives. But this 400-year anniversary has given us the opportunity to spotlight Purdue's Bruce Rogers Collection (see <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/?page=rogers>), through class visits, increased research, and a special signing. Purdue splits the collection of this major printer and Purdue alum (1890) with the U.S. Library of Congress. During his visit to Purdue for a public lecture, class visits, and signing a copy for the Purdue Libraries of the 400-year anniversary edition of the King James Bible by Oxford University Press, Gordon Campbell (U of Leicester) was duly impressed by the Rogers Collection. In turn, his public lecture "The King James Bible: Listening and Reading" duly impressed the more than 120 audience members, many of whom stayed on for a light reception and the book signing of Campbell's *Bible: The Story of King James Version 1611-2011* (Oxford UP, 2010). The anniversary has occasioned fun too. Stuart Robertson's "Hebrew 121" and



Standing, LtoR: PU A & SC Librarian David Hovde, students Michael Kmiec, Caroline Johnson, Mallory Koestel, Chad Kiel, Jessie DeWeese (back), Kristie McManis, Andrew Blatt (back), Jinhee Kim, Amanda nading, Dwight Guth (back), Rebecca Tweedale, Laura Ades, Moira Croley, Sean Crye (back), Shannon Lapsley, Cathy Tanner, Patrick Cassidy, Chelsea Gohn, Marek Grylewicz, Lindsay Richardson, Professor Angelica Duran. Seated: Professor Gordon Campbell, 20 April 2011. Signing of the 400-year anniversary of PU A&SC copy of the King James Bible and *Bible, The Story of the King James Version, 1611-2011*. Purdue HSSE Library Swaim Room.

"Hebrew 221" courses joined forces with Angelica Duran's "English 463: The New Testament as Literature" to entertain and educate community members attending Purdue's annual Spring Fest (aka Bug Bowl) by reading sections of the Hebrew Bible in its original language and testing their Biblical knowledge through "KJV Jeopardy!" based on the popular game-show "Jeopardy!"

Eastern Religions

Religious Studies faculty and friends prepared for a campus visit in October 2010 by Arjia Rinpoche by participating in a book reading club, focused on his autobiography *Surviving the Dragon: A Tibetan Lama's Account of 40 Years under Chinese Rule*. In addition to his Public Lecture, "Building a Bridge between the Tibetans and Chinese," Rinpoche also guest lectured in Don Mitchell's class "PHIL 330/REL 230: Religions of the East" and participated in a number of community events. In her role as Director of Religious Studies, Angelica Duran was awarded a Purdue University-Tsinghua University Strategic Partnership Grant – Exploratory, with which she visited Beijing, China in July 2011 to meet with Tsinghua faculty and administrators, and consider mutual study abroad potentials. Be on the lookout for the planned Sino-American collaborations that we hope will emerge from that initial meeting. The founding Director of Religious

Studies and current Steering Committee member Don Mitchell has continued his long-term work in studying and fostering scholarly and practical links between the U.S. and Asia. Especially interesting is his work in creating a new Asia network of scholars teaching peace studies in conflict zones through the Indiana Center for Cultural Exchange (ICCE; <www.purdue.edu/cla/icce>). Four productive scholarly exchanges were conducted in 2008 and 2009, which led to a regional peace studies conference funded by the grant by the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies in 2010 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, attended by 30 University educators from the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal and China.

Science and Religion

As part of a 5-year Metanexus award, PI Thomas Ryba arranged for a Public Lecture, "Gaia Myth Today: Bad Science, Bad Mythology," by Robert A. Segal (U of Aberdeen) in October 2010. Faculty, staff, and friends interested in developing this dialogue are invited to especially consider how to contribute to Purdue "Water-faculty" (see <http://purdue.edu/discoverypark/water/people/faculty.php>) group, comprised primarily of committed engineering and science faculty.



Stuart Robertson and undergraduates from his Hebrew 122 and 221 courses, at Spring-Fest 2011.

Student News

In the 2010-2011 academic year, the Program averaged about 70 Religious Studies majors and minors. We get to give a hearty congratulations to 23 of them, our newly-minted Religious Studies alums:

Summer 2010

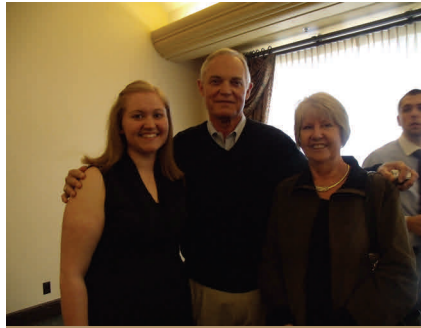
- Gianna Fiovanello (minor)
- Sungjin Lim (minor)
- Mikel Livingston (minor)

Autumn 2010

- Taylor Engle (minor)
- Lauren Grumes (minor)
- Kate Warner (minor)

Spring 2011

- Luis Balcazar (minor)
- Ruby Behringer (minor)
- Richard Bruins (minor)
- Stephanie Chambless (minor)
- Alexander Genovely (minor)
- Olivia Ghiselli (major)
- Shannon Giles (minor)
- Dwight Guth (minor)
- Emily Johnson (minor)
- Aswin Kumar (minor)
- Mary McCann (minor)
- Jacqueline McGlynn (minor)
- Zachary McNulty (major)
- Lori Muhlenkamp (major)
- Brittany Poe (major)
- Amy Taylor (minor)
- Benjamin Wood (minor)



Anne Charlton, Outstanding Senior—
Religious Studies minor, with proud grand-
parents Steve and Sue Charlton.



Brittany Poe, Outstanding Senior—Religious
Studies major.

Among the graduates are the 2011 recipients of the Outstanding Seniors Awards: Brittany Poe, Outstanding Senior-Religious Studies major; and Anne Charlton, Outstanding Senior-Religious Studies minor. While the high academic achievements and impressive extracurricular activities of all the Outstanding Senior nominees made the selection process difficult, they also proved encouraging indicators of the reputation, ranking, and self-assessments of the university and the program.

Religious Studies and Affiliates at Purdue

- Please visit the Purdue Religious Studies Program webpage at <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/religious-studies/>. We welcome your ideas or questions about the Program: just contact the Director.
- Please see the Purdue Jewish Studies Program webpage at <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/jewish-studies/>, the Center for Religion and Chinese Culture (<http://www.purdue.edu/crcs/>), the Confucius Institute (<http://tell.fl.purdue.edu/confucius/>), and the Diversity Resource Office (<http://www.purdue.edu/dro/>).
- For a list of Purdue student groups focused on religion, log onto the following webpage and click onto “Religious” in the “Browse by Category” tab: <http://www.getinvolved.purdue.edu/Community?action=getOrgBrowse&searchType=Contains&searchValue=&searchField=orgName&orderByField=name&sortOrder=0&firstResult=0&maxResults=25>.
- For a calendar of days of religious observance, search “Religious” on the Purdue Diversity Resource Office webpage: <http://www.purdue.edu/dro/>.

Spotlight on our Philosophy Faculty

While the activities and achievements of some of the Religious Studies faculty is covered in other areas, we spotlight just a few more from our Religious Studies faculty members whose home department is Philosophy.

- **Michael Bergmann** . Along with Patrick Kain (PHIL), Bergmann earned a 3-year grant (2010-2013) from the John Templeton Foundation on the topic of "Knowing in Religion and Morality" (<<http://www.knowinginreligionandmorality.com>>), through which he led a seminar at Purdue on June 8-24 for 15 advanced grad students and junior faculty from across the US and other countries on "Perceptual, Moral, and Religious Skepticism" (<<http://www.knowinginreligionandmorality.com/seminar.html>>), the purpose of which is to consider how best to respond to moral and religious skepticism and whether responses to perceptual skepticism can provide helpful models for responding to moral and religious skepticism. Bergmann is working on a book on this topic and the seminar is a chance for him to discuss the ideas for the book with others working on similar topics from a variety of perspectives.
- **Jeffrey Brower**. In 2011 alone, Brower has published "Matter, Form, and Individuation" in *The Oxford Handbook to Aquinas* and "Aristotelian Endurantism: A New Solution to the Problem of Temporary Intrinsic" in the journal *Mind*. He shared this and other research in a more intimate setting at two invited talks, "Aquinas on Material Objects" for the Purdue Center for Humanistic Studies and "Aquinas's Metaphysics of Material Objects: A New Form of Substratum Theory" at St. Louis University
- **Paul Draper**. For the 2010-2011 academic year, Draper was on leave at our neighboring University of Notre Dame, as fellow of the "Skeptical Theism Fellowship" of the Center for Philosophy of Religion. He did such a good job that he was awarded yet another Notre Dame fellowship in the upcoming year.
- **Dan Frank**. In addition to heading Purdue's Jewish Studies, Dan Frank has contributed to scholarly publication, through both his new membership on the Purdue University Press editorial board and through his own published research: "Jewish Perspectives on Natural Theology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology* (Oxford UP, forthcoming 2011); "Virtue, Happiness, and the Human Good." In *The Blackwell History of Philosophy in Medieval Islam, Judaism, and Christianity* (Blackwell, forthcoming 2012); "The Politics of Fear: Idolatry and Superstition in Maimonides and Spinoza." In *Judaic Sources and Western Thought: Jerusalem's Enduring Presence*, (Oxford UP, 2011); "Jewish Philosophical Theology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology* (Oxford UP, 2009); and "Divine Law and Human Practices." In *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: From Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge UP, 2009).
- **Jacqueline Mariña**. Mariña's *Transformation of the Self in the Thought of Friedrich Schleiermacher* (Oxford UP, 2008) received well-deserved accolades in the *Times Literary Supplement* (13 May 2011). Great encouragement, as she is now working on her next book-project, *Love of God and Neighbor and the Identity of the Person, which explores* how these two loves have been understood by key figures in the history of philosophy such as Augustine, Kierkegaard, Kant, Schleiermacher, and Levinas.

Spotlight on our Newest Members of the Steering Committee



Andrew "Andy" Buckser (B.A. Harvard, 1986; Ph.D. U.C. Berkeley, 1993) has been at Purdue since 1995. A cultural anthropologist, Buckser studies the effects of social change on religious systems and on understandings of illness. He has conducted much of his research in Denmark, where he has done fieldwork with a variety of religious groups. His recent work has turned to Indiana, where he conducts fieldwork and interviews among people with the neurological disorder known as Tourette Syndrome. In each of these settings, he has asked how changing cultural systems shape notions of self, and conversely, how individual struggles for self-identity influence the development of larger cultural models. His three published books are *Communities of Faith: Sectarianism, Identity, and Social Change on a Danish Island* (Berghahn 1996); *After the Rescue: Jewish Identity and Community in Contemporary Denmark* (Palgrave Macmillan 2003); and *The Anthropology of Religious Conversion* (Rowman and Littlefield 2003), edited with Stephen Glazier.

Darren Dochuk joined Purdue as an Assistant Professor of History in 2005, as a newly-minted Ph.D. from the neighboring University of Notre Dame, and earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2011. Dochuk's uses the classroom and his publishing to deepen ongoing conversations about the role of religion—especially evangelical Protestantism—in modern political culture. Besides offering a variety of courses on post-1930s America in which the history of religion figures prominently, he regularly teaches an upper-level course titled "Religion, Politics, and Society in Modern U.S. History." Dochuk's first book, *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism* (Norton, 2011), is based on his award-winning dissertation and has already garnered positive reviews in *Time*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and *Christian Century*. He has also co-edited a collection of essays called *Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place, and Region* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011). Dochuk's current book project is tentatively titled *Anointed With Oil: God and Black Gold in Modern America*. It employs grassroots sources, church and corporate archives, and the personal records of powerful industrialists to chart evangelical Protestantism's longstanding (and politically significant) relationship with the petroleum industry.



In Prospect

Teaching

In addition to continuing to offer its regular spate of popular courses, the Program was successful in its first proposal to the University Honors Program (UHP) for what we hope will become regular course offerings that highlight major religious events and topics. Continuing Lecturer Stuart Robertson is scheduled to teach a course in the UHP entitled "The Evolution of the Bible and Its Revolutionary Effects." The course takes advantage of and contributes to the continuing attention to the 400-year anniversary of the King James Bible and of Robertson's great expertise. In addition to being the touchstone for the popularity of his courses in Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, and Foreign Languages & Literature, he is in the final stages of his most recent publication, *Josephus on the Tabernacle* (Brill, forthcoming).

Another bit of encouraging news is that the College of Liberal Arts Deans Office was able to approve our request for Teaching Assistant. This well-appreciated funding will enable us to provide half support for the Autumn 2011 TA for "REL200: Introduction to Religious Studies" Bing Yan, with her home program of Comparative Literature collaborating to provide the other half support; and half support for a Spring 2012 TA, for which we will join forces with the Philosophy Department to develop the teaching expertise of one of its graduate students.

Events, 2011-2012

The most updated listing of Religious Studies events can be found on our "Events" webpage at <<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/religious-studies/>>. You can receive updates by signing up for the "Friends of Religious Studies e-distribution list by emailing <duran0@purdue.edu>. Here are just a few things in the works. Mark your calendars...now!

Saturday, September 10, 2011

5:00-7:30 p.m., Home of Director of Religious Studies, Angelica Duran
Greet, Meet, and Eat for RS faculty, staff, majors, minors, and friends
Co-sponsored by Religious Studies and the Religious Studies Student Association

Thursday-Friday, September 22-24, 2011

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Stewart Center 202
Purdue Renaissance Comparative Prose Conference
Some highlights:
- Thursday, 9:30-10:20 a.m., Opening remarks by Ronald Corthell (PU-Calumet)
- Friday, 9:30-10:20 a.m., Keynote "'A Voice Crying in the Wilderness': The King James Bible and Native America" by Scott Stevens (Chicago Newberry Library-Indigenous Studies Center)
- Friday, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Performance of the Book of Mark by Purdue Theater members
Co-sponsored by Religious Studies, Comparative Literature, Medieval & Renaissance Studies, History, the PU Libraries, and the DRO/DiversiKey.

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

7:30-8:30 p.m., Stewart Center 202
The 4th Annual Larry Axel Memorial Lecture in Religion, "The King James Bible and the U.S. Populace"
Public lecture by Mark Noll (Notre Dame-History)
Co-sponsored by Religious Studies and Jewish Studies

Nominations

Letters of nomination and self-nomination from Purdue-WL faculty are currently being accepted until September 30, 2011 for the position of Director of the Religious Studies Program for the period June 1, 2012-May 30, 2015. Letters should be emailed as attachments to <duran0@purdue.edu> or campus-mailed to DURAN/ENGL/HEAV. For more information about the position, please contact Angelica Duran or any of the Steering Committee members.

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/religious-studies/>

Purdue-gift

Online giving to Purdue

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http://www.purdue.edu/UDO/pages/how_to/egift.html

Click on "Make a Gift", choose "Other" from a drop-down menu, then type in "Religious Studies", enter some information about yourself, submit your payment information, and the transaction is completed through Purdue's secure server. Make your gift now in three easy steps. It takes just a few minutes.