



Visiting Professor: Inés Talamantez

Carleton College has created an endowment fund to allow several special visiting professorships each year. For Spring Term of 2005, Inés

Talamantez will be filling one of these positions as the Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religion. Professor Talamantez was born in



New Mexico but soon moved with her family to California. Her mother was Chicano, and her father was a Mescalero Apache labor organizer. She went on to start her own family and raised seven children before obtaining a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC San Diego.

Professor Talamantez has taught at UC Santa Barbara for nineteen years as an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and has been recognized as Affiliate Faculty to the Program in Women's Studies and Latin American and Iberian Studies. She has also taught at Dartmouth, Wellesley, and Harvard University where she received a prestigious Bunting Fellowship. It was at

See Talamantez, p.2

Anniversary Celebration

Remember 1955? It was the year that Disneyland opened, Martin Luther King, Jr. led the Montgomery bus boycott, the Lawrence Welk Show and Lassie debuted on television, "Rock Around the Clock" was a hit song, and... the Carleton Religion Department was formed! To celebrate our 50th anniversary, we have planned some special events to honor our founders and the ways in which we've grown over half a century. So, save the date of **January 14, 2006**, as the department's 50th anniversary celebration! More details will follow in next fall's edition of NumeNews.

Senior Comps Talks

As their time at Carleton draws to a close, the members of the class of 2005 present a series of spring term talks to share the results of their comps studies. A list of the presentations follows.

Michelle Guittar, "Richard Baker-Roshi and Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche: Skillful Means or Abuse of Power?"

Nick Getzendanner, "Who is 'I?': William James and the Buddha on the Nature of the Self"

Hazel Troost, "The Hallajian Legend"

Sarah Gettie Burks, "Kabir: Hindu-Muslim Unifier or Critic of Normative Religion"

See Comps, p. 3

Talamantez, continued from p. 1

UC Santa Barbara, however, that Professor Talamantez founded the first and only Ph.D. program in Native American Religious Traditions. She has ensured that the program maintains a strong focus on scholarship that is accountable to the peoples being studied, and that it remains grounded in native lingual traditions. She is fluent in Nahautl, Navajo, and Apache. She has spent the past twenty-five years constructing a manuscript, *Becoming: Introducing Apache Girls to the World of Spiritual and Cultural Values*. She is currently focusing on the Women's Initiation Ceremony that is an important rite of passage and central community ritual for the Apache. It represents the renewal of the world.

Professor Talamantez is teaching two courses at Carleton this term. *Native Traditions of the Southwest* explores the evolving philosophies and meaning behind ritual practices and language in the spiritual lives of indigenous cultures of the American Southwest. Her second course is entitled *Religion and Ecology*. It deals with the impact of colonization on indigenous peoples and delves into questions of sustainability, decolonization, values, and media influences on the understanding of self and interaction with the nature.



Alumni Experiences: Jeffrey Doten

An young ha sae yo? I'm writing this on the side of a dusty highway somewhere between Anlong Veng, a small town north of Siem Reap, Cambodia, and Preah Vihear, an 11th century temple near the Thai border. Truthfully, calling it a highway is misleading. I prefer to think of it as an area with an unnatural lack of large trees, snakes, and landmines that happens to connect the temple site with the world. In these terms, ten kilometers per hour is encouraging rather than disappointing. Two years after leaving Northfield, it feels like two weeks, and I must ask myself how I got here.

After graduation, I took some time off to relax and then started working for a potter in Minnesota. I really enjoyed learning his trade, but I discovered that I will never, ever have the patience to accomplish anything working in clay. After several months building kilns breaking expensive vases, I decided to try my luck abroad.

With one path eliminated (two if you count sleeping on my parents' couch for days on end) and many to go, I found myself in South Korea in no time flat, and was in love with the place upon arrival. I did the easy thing at first and got a job teaching English in Seoul at a cram school, a public school, and in people's homes as a private tutor. I also wrote and edited for the Korea Junior Times, an English language newspaper aimed at students. I have a new appreciation for teaching now and regret having giving my own teachers a hard time when I was young. Despite some difficulties, I got mostly positive feedback

See Experiences, p. 4

Comps, continued from p. 1

Nick Lienesch, "Global Economy, Global Religion: The Vision and Influence of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International"

Kayla McGrady, "Contemporary Catholic Exorcism as Spiritual Healing: Examining the Excorcee in Light of William James' Concept of Sick Soul"

Ambrosia Mosby, "Rigoberta's Testimony: A Key in Understanding Indigenous Perspective on Christianity"

Aaron Ban, "Three Views of Magic in the Gospel of Mark"

Pete Franklin, "Two Choices, and a World to Apply Them To: The Role of Outgroups in the Left Behind Series and the Construction of American Evangelical Identity"

Will Holley, "Liberator or Oppressor: Exploring the Black Church and Homosexuality"

Jeremiah Pangan, "Aikido: Ritualization of 'No-Mind'"

David Lamont, "Minority Buddhists and Race Relations in the Elite Convert American Buddhist Environment: Creating a New Space for Dharma"

Lexi Gelperin, "Distilling Creationism out of Creation Science: Religion and Science Dance Together at the Grand Canyon"

Bill Wischstadt, "Closer to God: Identity and the Life of Holiness in the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus"

Nick Kasparek, "Hinduism on Pleasure Island: Understanding American Hindus' Negotiations of identity as a Continuation of Attempts at Hindu Identity throughout Modern Indian History"

Beyond Carleton: The Future of the Class of '05

This year's graduating religion majors divulge their plans for next year and beyond...

Pete Franklin will be participating in a ministry internship with the Moravian church following graduation. Next fall, he will be traveling to Sri Lanka on a Fulbright scholarship.

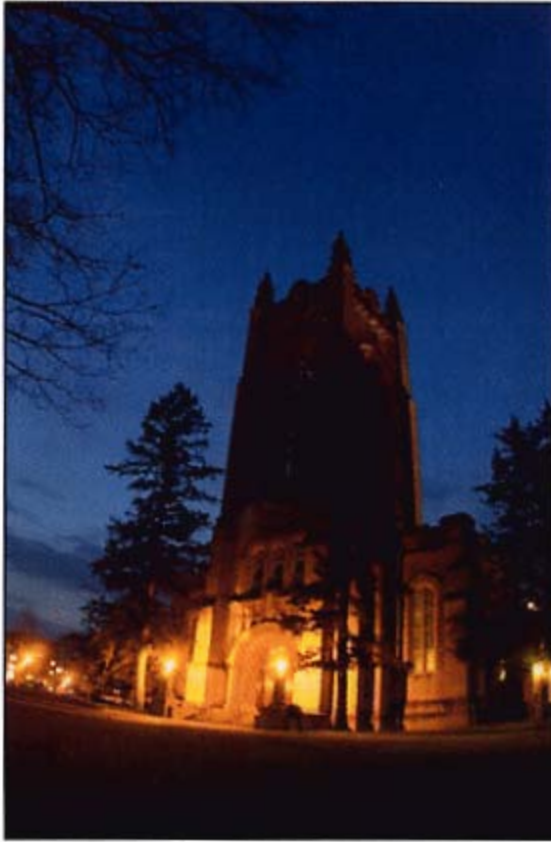
A new husband, house, and cat await **Kayla McGrady** after graduation. She hopes to revive a writing career that produced two published novels during high school.

Michelle Guittar will be attending the University of Chicago next year to work on her M.A. in Religious Studies.

Nick Lienesch will be moving to Washington D.C. where he hopes to get a job with a political non-profit or interest group. He is particularly interested in some of the faith-based interest groups and church organizations with offices in the area.

Sarah Gettie Burks will be training camp counselors in Bloomington, Indiana immediately following graduation. She will then depart for Sri Lanka to serve as an ISLE Program Assistant for five months while helping with tsunami relief projects. During the next year, Sarah plans to marry her fiancée and attend the Meadville-Lombard Seminary to become a Unitarian Universalist minister.

See Beyond, p. 4



Beyond, continued from p. 2

Lexi Gelperin will move home to Princeton in June and is currently considering many interesting paths for her future. In August she will be volunteering at a National Park on San Juan Island and possibly relocating to the West coast.

Through the initial twenty-seven months following graduation, **Nick Kasperek** will be teaching collegiate level English courses in China with the Peace Corps. He may go on to do graduate work, though he has no definite plans.

Useless Fact

The Bible is both the world's best-selling and most shoplifted book.

Alumni, continued from p. 3

from my students and their parents. I dedicated myself to learning as much of the language as I could and climbing mountains. It is a tough language, but I learned enough to communicate on a limited basis. Teaching elementary students who do not understand everything you say is downright exhausting. So much so, indeed, that I decided to move on. With several more options crossed off the list, I hopped on a plane bound for Saigon. Cambodia and Vietnam both offer challenges, and I plan to see some sights, do some volunteering around Southeast Asia, and think about what direction I want to take with my life when I get back to the states.

So, to answer my question, I did not end up on the side of this road because it fits into a master plan. I got here by trial and elimination. My hope is that with each dead end I get closer to something that suits me. That, my friends, is progress.

Special thanks go to Jeffrey Doten, Michael McNally, Inés Talamantez., and Jill Tollefson

