

NumeNews

Newsletter of the Carleton College Department of Religion

Vol.2, No.1 Fall Term

Welcome to David Hollenberg

David Hollenberg is our new visiting instructor in religion. He comes to Carleton having taught Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, from where he will receive his Ph.D. this spring. He has studied and conducted research as a student at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, The American University in Cairo, and St. Cross College in Oxford University, and as a visiting researcher in Yemen, Israel, Jordan, and India. David is currently researching doctrinal



developments in the formative period of early Isma'ilism, a tenth-century Shi'ite heresy that would serve as the basis for the Fatimid empire based in Cairo. He is focusing on a history of prophets composed by the tenth century missionary Ja'far ibn Mansur al-Yaman that incorporates Neoplatonic philosophy, and stories culled from the Hebrew Bible and Gospels in rendering the lives of the prophets. His article based on this research, "Disrobing judges with veiled truths: A Torah interpretation of the Tamar Judah story in service of the Fatimid mission" was published by the journal RELIGION last spring. This year, David will teach a course on classical Islamic political thought, an introductory course on Islam and Judaism, the life of the Prophet in history and memory, and a course on Shi'ism.

Religion and Politics

With both politics and religion each being prominent issues in the 2004 Presidential race, the display in the religion department lounge showcases the effect these social forces have on one another in the religious tradition of the United States and abroad. It is our hope that the exhibit will encourage

See Politics, p. 2



Religion 322 Field Trip!

Professor Anne Patrick was able to take five students from her Gender and God Talk seminar to Minneapolis on October 1 to hear Elizabeth A. Johnson of Fordham University give two talks at the Basilica of St. Mary at

See Field Trip! p. 2

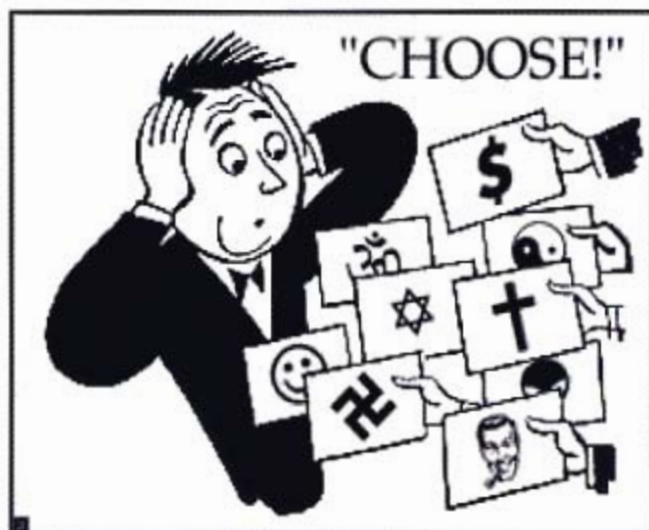
Religion Majors Participate in Off-Campus Studies

Micah Lemons '06 is currently studying Italian and Italian Studies in Siena. She is living with a host family there and is enjoying the experience immensely. While she is not taking any religion classes, she is trying to soak up the local "religious flavor (distinctly Catholic as you might imagine)." Micah describes the people as lovely and unpretentious and wouldn't mind staying there to avoid another Minnesota winter.

Lexi Gelperin '05 spent last spring in London studying Victorian literature and contemporary theater with the Carleton English seminar. During weekends and mid-term break she had the opportunity to travel around Europe to Edinburgh, Dublin, Canterbury, Durham, Newcastle, Venice, Florence, and Rome and made a point of seeing as many cathedrals as possible. In Rome, she visited the basilica of Saint Cecilia, and learned more about the gruesome tale of her death. This summer she traveled around California with the American Studies "Visions of California" seminar. Lexi had spiritual experiences of a different sort as she contemplated the meaning of life-after-graduation. She advises that both off-campus programs were incredibly rewarding, and that she would "strongly encourage" fellow majors to travel with at least one Carleton off-campus program. "Exploring the world is an excellent opportunity to get away from the familiar and do some soul searching."

Politics, continued from p. 1

thought and discussion concerning the influence of religious belief on politics. It includes journal articles, examples of art, cartoons, books, and a papier-mache political doll from Japan. Please stop by and take a look!



Field Trip! continued from p. 1

the workshop entitled "The Mystery of God in Our Time." Johnson's first lecture was on "The Triune God - Another Name for Love," while her second talk was on "The Community of Friends of God and Prophets." Christians from a variety of denominations and students from Hamline, Gustavus Adolphus, and St. Catherine's were in attendance.



Faculty Research

Paula Arai spent a few weeks in Japan doing field research for two books. One is about a Japanese Buddhist Painter, Iwasaki Tsuneo, and the other is about the Japanese Goddess of Compassion. She then went to Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the international Conference on Buddhist Women. She delivered the keynote address to over 1200 delegates from various parts of the world, complete with simultaneous translators and headsets to choose the language in which they wanted to hear the address. Then she went to New York to another international conference where there was a gathering of Zen Buddhist scholars. There she delivered a paper on how the teachings of Zen Master Dogen (13th c. Japan) are used by Japanese women to empower themselves. Upon returning to Northfield, she enjoyed designing a new freshman seminar, "A Buddhist Christian Conversation".

Louis Newman is currently working on a project on the concept of repentance in Judaism. His goal is to elucidate the several dimensions of repentance (ethical, psychological, religious) as these are discussed in Jewish sources, tracing the various theories of repentance as they have

developed over time. He plans to pay some attention, as well, to comparable discussions in Christian and Islamic sources, and in contemporary psychological literature related to regret, remorse, and reconciliation.

Anne E. Patrick has recently returned from a sabbatical during which she worked on the volume *Conscience in Context: Vocation, Virtue, and History*, which will be published by Continuum International. She will soon travel to Uppsala, Sweden, to give a paper on "Interpreting Multicultural Identities: The Contribution of David Henry Hwang's Golden Child" during the conference of the international Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, October 22-24. The theme of this conference is "The Challenge of Pluralism-the Power of Interpretation."

Lori Pearson's book, *The Future of the Study of Religion* (Brill, 2004), co-edited with Slavica Jakelic (University of Virginia), appeared in June. This book brings together diverse voices in religious studies for a conversation about the proper objects, goals, and methods for the study of religion in the twenty-first century.

See Research, p. 4

Sarah Burks Wins Mikaso Hane Prize

Sarah Burks '05 captured the Mikaso Hanes prize which is presented for an exemplary submission to the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA). Burks presented her paper entitled "The Man with the 'Fro: Satya Sai Baba in Sri Lanka" at the MCAA on October 3, in St. Paul. The paper was a reflection on an independent study she completed while abroad in Sri Lanka during the fall of 2004.

Alumni News

Amy Carr '89 received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in March 2004. She teaches in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL.



Research, continued from p. 3

Topics include: religion and globalization, the future of comparative studies, the shape of gender studies in religion, and the relation between religious and theological studies. This past summer, Lori conducted research along with religion major Helen Terndrup ('06) on a number of topics related to Lori's new course, "Christianity, the Bible, and Slavery." Currently, Lori is revising and expanding her doctoral dissertation on German theologian Ernst Troeltsch (1865-1923). It will be published in the Harvard Theological Studies Series (through Harvard University Press) next year.

Roger Jackson is in the process of editing a major collaborative translation (with Geshe Sopa, Ann Chavez, and others) of Tuken Chokyi Nyima's early nineteenth century Tibetan history of Asian religions, *The Crystal Mirror*, an eloquent exposition that shows sources and assertions of all doctrinal systems. He is also giving monthly lectures at Gyuto Wheel of Dharma Monastery in Columbia Heights, on Shantideva's classic Indian Buddhist poem, "Entering the Bodhisattva Way."

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this issue of the NumeNews a success.

Your help is much appreciated.