
NumeNews

Newsletter of the Carleton College Department of Religion

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Back in 1955, Ian Barbour was the college's first appointment in its newly created Department of Religion. At that time, Sunday chapel services were still mandatory, and, not surprisingly, the curriculum of the new department was largely Christian. Only four courses (two semesters each!) were offered:

Mankind, The Testaments, Contemporary The Development you could say since then. Fifty faculty of seven religious traditions Tibetan and Zen American and



The Religions of Old and New Classical and Christian Thought, and of Christianity. I guess we've come a long way years later we are a with expertise in including Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Native American

religions, and, of course, Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. In the years since, more than 540 Carls have graduated with majors in Religion. Some have gone on to careers in the academic study of religion or in the ministry, but many more have pursued careers in education, law, medicine, social service, business and the non-profit sector. We have much to commemorate and be proud of!

Come Celebrate!

We hope you will join us on Saturday, January 14, 2006 as we honor our founder, Ian Barbour, and other emeriti faculty—David Maitland, Bardwell Smith and Richard Crouter—and recall the highpoints in the history of the Department. The events that day will include

- A panel of alumni who will speak on "the role of religious studies in the liberal arts curriculum"
- A display of memorabilia from the Department's fabled history
- An opportunity to reconnect with former faculty members and get acquainted with those who have joined the Department more recently
- A festive dinner with entertainment
- The announcement of a new prize to be given annually to outstanding members of the senior class

So, don't miss it! Though you may be reading this electronically, a copy of the "NumeNews" will be mailed to you with a registration form for the celebration events. Please complete it and return it to:

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Patrick's Historical Spanish Odyssey

Recently Anne E. Patrick, the William H. Laird Professor of Religion and the Liberal Arts, traveled to Spain to attend a bioethics conference and visit places of historic interest concerning Jews, Christians, and Muslims in that country. After taking part in the August 24-27 meeting of the European Society for the Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care in Barcelona, which dealt with the ethical implications of emerging medical technologies, she visited Granada, Seville, Córdoba, Madrid, Toledo, Avila, and Segovia.

Some of the photos she took are now on display in the department lounge, including ones from the Mosque-Cathedral in Córdoba, which combines Muslim and Christian architecture, and the Sinagoga del Tránsito in Toledo, which is decorated in the Mudéjar style. In Barcelona and Andalusia she explored neighborhoods where Sephardic Jews had thrived prior to 1492, and in Granada she visited a contemporary mosque in the Albiacín district, toured the Alhambra, and took part in vespers with the cloistered nuns at the monastery of Saint Jerome. In Córdoba, the city of Maimonides and Averroës, and also in Toledo, she saw evidence of the cooperation that obtained among Muslim, Jewish, and Christian scholars during the medieval period, and in Avila she learned more about the Christian mystics, Saints Teresa and John of the Cross. Professor Patrick believes that this opportunity to experience the diverse religious heritage of Spain and to wrestle with bioethical issues ranging from "The

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Off Campus Faculty Research Steams Ahead

This term, four of the department's familiar faces are notably absent from the classroom. Roger Jackson, Michael McNally, and Paula Arai are each on leave and pursuing separate research projects.

Professor **Roger Jackson** is on sabbatical for the fall term, finishing up a major collaborative translation project of which he is general editor: the first full English version of "The Crystal Mirror," Thukten Chökyi Nyima's early nineteenth century Tibetan history of Asian religions, one of the first surveys of Asian religions written by an Asian author. Roger is also working on "Lamp So Bright," a translation and analysis on some Tibetan meditation texts of the Great Seal (Mahamudra) tradition.

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Anne Patrick with a statue of Maimonides, a 12th century Jewish rabbi, physician, and philosopher.

Carleton Welcomes New Professors: Barbara Reed & Jeanne Kilde



Kilde



Reed

Jeanne Kilde, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, was born and raised in western Wisconsin and received her BA and MA in English at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. She resided in Minneapolis during graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, where she obtained a Ph.D. in American Studies. Kilde later lived in Ohio and Indiana before moving back to St. Paul, where she currently resides.

Kilde is teaching a survey history of Christian space from the early Christian period to the present with a focus on the changing construction of power relationships among clergy and laity.

Kilde's current academic endeavors include a scholarly study to discover how understandings of gender are created through the processes of defining religious space. She recently published an article on how Mary Baker Eddy used the construction of two churches in Boston to articulate her theology of a dual-gendered god and to consolidate her leadership of the Christian Science church in gendered terms. A third project that is currently underway is the construction of a

scholarly history of Macalester College, focusing on the changing religious character of the Presbyterian institution from its beginnings through the 20th century.

Kilde says she chose Carleton because of its "fabulous religious studies department and wonderful students!"

She has also been "married for ages", is trying to revive my "long-ignored" piano-playing skills, and enjoys lap swimming and long walks on the Twin Cities parkway system.

Barbara Reed, Visiting Professor of Religion, grew up in New Mexico. She completed her graduate work on Chinese religion at the University of Iowa, National Taiwan Normal University, and Chinese Culture University. She has lived in Taiwan for about three years and visits often—considering it a second home.

Reed's current project focuses on the social ethics of contemporary Chinese Buddhist leaders: Master Shengyan who fled the communists in China and now leads Buddhist centers in Taiwan and New York, Ven. Zhengyan who is a Taiwanese nun who founded the Compassion Relief Association, and several lay Buddhist leaders. She is also researching Asian American Buddhist women.

Reed has been teaching courses on East Asian religions at St. Olaf College for twenty-two years now and was pleased to have the opportunity to teach a course at Carleton on Chinese religions while Paula Arai took leave.

Reed's hobbies are related to East Asian cultures. Her favorite activity is to travel through East Asia to visit temples. In Northfield, she loves watching Chinese movies, especially Hong Kong movies, starring Jet Li. She recently began watching Bollywood movies and considers herself to be a film fanatic.

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Future of Medicine" to "Cloning" and "Organ Transplantation" will influence her courses in various ways. She has, for example, decided to include a unit on biomedical ethics in her Contemporary Catholic Theology course this winter. On October 11 she and another participant in the Barcelona meeting, Dr. Carol A. Tauer from the University of Minnesota Center for Biomedical Ethics, gave a panel presentation in the Library Athenaeum on "Bioethics and Emerging Medical Technologies: A Report from Europe."

Recent Travel Results in New Exhibit

The Department display case has been filled with the photographic results of students and professors recent trips abroad. Included are pieces from Professor Anne Patrick's travel in Spain and student photographs from France, England, Ireland, Nevada, New Zealand, China, India, and Nepal. Feel free to stop by the department on the third floor of Leighton Hall to view the photographs and brief descriptions of their origin.

Useless Fact

The loftiest minaret in the world is a part of the Great Hassan II Masjid in Casablanca, Morocco. It scrapes the sky at a height of 200m and was constructed for \$513.5 million.



Research, Continued from p. 2

Michael McNally continues his research sabbatical writing Honoring Elders: Ojibwe Aging, Authority, and Religion. Given his work on the religious and cultural freedom claims by Native American communities, he also was invited to attend an October roundtable discussion "The Future of Religious Freedom in America" sponsored by the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center.

Paula Arai is on sabbatical fall and winter terms and is finishing up her book on Zen Buddhist laywomen's healing rituals, entitled *Healing Zen*.

Special thanks to Anne E. Patrick, Louis Newman and Jill Tollefson for their contributions to this issue.



An aerial photograph of campus as trees begin to take on their autumnal coloring.