Chen is excited about her fellowship, writing that there has been "very little previous research conducted on the topic of Islam in China. I feel very lucky to have this opportunity to study religion, particularly Islam, within my own native China.”

Sophia Paraschos, ’07, was awarded the Class of 1963 Fellowship. This fellowship awards two students up to $5000 each to pursue independent research in any field taught at Carleton. The fellowship encourages applicants to study "not just the geography, flora and fauna of a place, but its people and cultures.” This summer, Paraschos will travel to three rural villages in Greece in order to study the evolution of medical practices in the rapidly modernizing country. Paraschos, whose interest in Greece is informed by her Greek heritage, is fascinated by the intersection of biology and religion. Her fellowship, titled "Wise Women, Saints, and Doctors: The Coexistence of Medicine and Religion in Greece," will allow her to study how cultural, physical, and religious landscapes affect methods of healing. In the village of Zagori (northern Greece), in the Amari Valley (Crete) and on the island of Tinos, Paraschos will conduct interviews with trained doctors and folk healers to learn about the interaction between the two. She will focus particularly on women's health in the villages and on the role religion plays in medicine. Paraschos writes, "While religion and medicine often function similarly, their explicit intersection is important and infrequent. Through a study of traditional healing in Greece, many traditional healing practices are dying out. Paraschos hopes to observe, discuss, and record some of the remaining practices as well as to investigate the possible integration of traditional and modern practices. She will use connections she made while studying in Athens in the fall, and will be building upon current research on traditional village healing. Paraschos will return to Carleton with a better knowledge of "the valuable connection between modern medicine and traditional healing, how they coexist, and what each offers the other.”

Faculty Summer Reading Recommendations


(Recommended by Bardwell Smith)


(Recommended by Michael McNally)


(Recommended by Anne Patrick)


(Recommended by Lori Pearson)


-The Ender Quartet: Ender's Game, Speaker for the Dead, Xenocide, and Children of the Mind, by Orson Scott Card. (Starscape, 2002).

(Recommended by Roger Jackson)

Jessica Chen and Sophia Paraschos have each received Junior Fellowships for summer travel and study. Chen, received the Chang-Lan Fellowship, a grant of up to $5000 for students who wish to advance cultural understanding between the United States and China. This summer, she will travel to Xinjiang, the ancient capital of China where the Silk Road begins. She will then head west to visit several cities in the remote desert province of Xinjiang. She will end her work in Quanzhou, the Silk Road's ancient maritime port. During her travels, Chen will be documenting evidence of Islamic culture in two of China's ethnic minorities: the Hui and the Uyghur. Chen is excited at the chance to further her own religious studies and to raise awareness of China's religious diversity. "The Chinese people are often perceived as a homogenous ethnic group. Most people are not aware that there are at least 20 million Muslims living in China," writes Chen. "These people trace their Muslim identity back to 7th century Arab traders and missionaries who journeyed the Silk Road. My project will unveil ethnic neighborhoods, restaurants, and mosques of the Hui and Uyghur Chinese minorities.”

Senior's Comps Work

Marie Kim, "Lessons from Terror: A Discussion of the Need of Religious studies Perspectives on Al Qaeda.”

Paul Koeing, "Theologies of Depression: Modern Christian Encounters with Depression and Antidepressants.”

Michal Lemberg, "Redeeming Despair: A Look at the Concepts of Sin in the Writings of Existentialists Soren Kierkegaard and Paul Tillich.”

Kim Phillips, "Religious Differences in India: Conflict and Coexistence at Hindu and Muslim Shared Sacred Spaces.”

Jesse Sargent, "Embracing Diversity within Christian Tradition: Medieval Voices and Modern Challenges.”

Paul Koenig, "Theologies of Depression: Modern Christian Encounters with Depression and Antidepressants.”

Rob Stern, "Conservative Judaism and the Balance of Tradition and Modernity: A Case Study on the Permissibility of Homosexuality.”

Helen Terndrup, "Innocence and Apples: Evangelical Vegetarianism in Antebellum America.”

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Professor Michael McNally Returns to Teaching after Sabbatical

Professor Michael McNally returned to teaching this spring term after a nearly two year sabbatical made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society. McNally drafted a manuscript *Honoring Elders: Ojibwe Aging, Religion, and Authority.* The book springs from an idea in McNally’s first book, *Ojibwe Singers: Hymns, Grief and a Native Culture in Motion,* that he wished to explore in greater detail. The idea, as McNally writes in his book proposal, is that the Ojibwe “distinguish their ethnic identity in terms of a marked attention to the religious and cultural authority of elders,” and that eldership is a sophisticated tradition of religious authority that is almost completely overlooked in the history of sociology and religion. As McNally researched his first book, he was interested in the way in which Ojibwe elders continue to grow and explore as they age, and how they do so while living in a youth obsessed country. In *Honoring Elders,* McNally explores the Ojibwe traditions of eldership that demonstrate the belief in aging as a deeply religious process. He also explores the changing face of Ojibwe eldership and the resulting contradictions between ideals and practice in the community. McNally discusses the way in which the phrase “honor the elders” is not a cliche for the Ojibwe, but in fact describes an essential part of the Ojibwe worldview. Elders hold a sacred place in the natural cycle of life, with old age seen as a religious achievement. In the complex kinship system of the Ojibwe, elders are seen as “everyone’s relatives, everyone’s teachers, everyone’s responsibility,” and honoring elders “forms the infrastructure for Ojibwe religion.” Elders are responsible not only for remembering and keeping traditions, but also for “navigating new circumstances by improvising on the resources of a rich traditional past.”

McNally looks at Ojibwe eldership in history, focusing particularly on the reservation era, when many Ojibwe, influenced by missionaries, incorporated Protestant and Catholic traditions into their own, and again on the cultural resurgence of the 1960s and 1970s, when organizations like the American Indian Movement sought out elders for spiritual direction.

See McNally, p. 3

Junior Major
Winston Persaud
Selected Beinecke Applicant

Winston Persaud, ’07, has been selected as Carleton’s Beinecke Applicant. The Beinecke is an award that enables highly motivated students to pursue graduate work in the humanities, arts, or social sciences. Each scholar receives $2,000 immediately prior to entering graduate school and an additional $30,000 while attending graduate school. Persaud applied with an interest in going to graduate school in religion with “an eye towards theology.” He is now entered in the national contest for the Beinecke Scholarship, and will receive word from them in the spring.

Freshman Ryan McLaughlin to Participate in Notre Dame Seminar

Ryan McLaughlin, a freshman interested in religion has been chosen to participate in an undergraduate seminar at the Erasmus Institute at Notre Dame University this summer. Selected from a national pool, Ryan is one of 12 students chosen for the seminar in Catholic Intellectual Traditions, which is fully funded and includes a stipend of $500. The Erasmus Institute works to encourage a new generation of scholars interested in Catholic intellectual traditions. Joseph Wawrykow, Associate Professor in the Department of Theology at Notre Dame, will lead the class. The seminar will examine some of the principal themes in Catholicism through close reading and discussion.

Did You Know?

-- That the Bible has been translated into Klingon?
-- That one of the first mosques in America was built in Ross, North Dakota?
-- Parts of the Dead Sea Scrolls appeared for sale in the June 1, 1954 issue of the Wall Street Journal?

A young girl in Djenne, Mali holds wooden tablets used to practice Arabic script. Koranic school attendance is mandatory for children in Djenne, which was once a center of Islamic scholarship.