AFTER MALCOLM PROJECT EVENT
SCORES WELL WITH GSU AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

In November 2013 the After Malcolm Project, a digital archive initiative at Georgia State, officially launched with a huge kick-off event. The evening featured a networking reception, kiosks for viewing the project and a keynote address by Dr. Sohail Daulatzai (University of Southern California). Students and many people from the local African American Muslim community poured into the GSU Welcome Center for the event.

Following the successful launch, the efforts of the research team co-directed by Dr. Barzegar and Dr. Bilal King (Morehouse College) has received significant recognition. Dr. Barzegar was invited to participate in an emerging scholarship workshop on Islam in America at Yale University. He presented on a rare set of newspapers belonging to the Islamic Party of North America (1970-1978) that were donated to the archive. Zaynab Ansari and Tom Laporte, both graduate students at GSU, travelled to Chicago and Houston in January in order conduct interviews and collect materials from donors. Ameer Muhammad, also of Georgia State, is completing a pilot documentary drawing upon the resources of the group. Finally, Jadaliyya, a highly respected online magazine affiliated with the Middle East Studies Association, will be featuring various aspects of the After Malcolm project throughout the 2014 spring semester.

As of this writing, we are still calculating the end-of-the-year contributions to the Undergraduate Scholarship fund. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GSUReligion) for official word. Many thanks to all of you who contributed, and remember--it’s not too late to make a contribution now! We need a minimum of $25,000 to establish the scholarship, but a gift can be made to this fund at any time. Additional tax-deductible contributions will increase the amount we are able to offer to a deserving Religious Studies major. Designate your gift to Fund ID#020143. For more information, contact Dr. Kathryn McClymond (kmcclymond@gsu.edu).

Welcome from Chair .........................2
Faculty Updates...............................3
News & Events...............................4-5
Faculty Projects.............................4
Student News.................................5
Giving ...........................................6

Inside this Issue:

Follow us on Facebook
Religious Studies at Georgia State University
Welcome from the Chair

Happy New Year! As we move into 2014 we are nearing the successful completion of our Undergraduate Scholarship Campaign! Many thanks to all the alumni and friends who supported this with gifts and pledges. It’s not too late to make your own contribution — soon we’ll be able to offer a Scholarship to a deserving undergraduate each year; offering a bit of financial support as well as public recognition of their academic excellence.

Department life continues to be busy. Mark your calendars for the following special events featuring faculty, students, and friends of the department:

- April 8: Annual Student Symposium, featuring student research as well as recognition of graduating undergraduates and graduate students
- TBA: Special visit from Dr. Catherine Albanese, Emeritus Professor, UC Santa Barbara and former President of the American Academy of the Religion (in cooperation with the AAR)
- April 23: “Religion, Ethics, and End-of-Life Care: A Conversation with Grady Hospital Medical Ethicist Jason Lesandrini”

This event features our 2013-14 Religion and Public Life Fellow, Jason Lesandrini, Medical Ethicist for Grady Health System. This year’s event is co-sponsored by the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, the Center for Ethics Student Forum, the Department of Gerontology, the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing & Health Professions, and the School of Public Health.

Come join us for these and other exciting events, and consider being a part of the Department life by joining our Alumni & Friends Advisory Board. Happy New Year!

Kathryn McClymond
Professor & Chair, Department of Religious Studies
Jonathan Herman:
Dr. Herman continues to make appearances discussing his book Taoism for Dummies (John Wiley & Sons). His chapter “Civil Discourse or Simple Discord? Competing Visions for Religion in the Public Schools” has just been published in Vincent Biondo and Andrew Fiala’s Civility, Religious Pluralism, and Education (Routledge Research in Religion and Education Series), and his chapter “Who Cares if the Qur’an is the World of God: W.C. Smith’s Charge to the Aspiring Public Intellectual” will appear next spring in Ellen Attken and Arvind Sharma’s Wilfred Cantwell Smith: The Scholar and His Legacy (SUNY Press). Dr. Herman is heartbroken that the Braves are apparently leaving Downtown Atlanta.

Nadia Latif:
Dr. Latif developed a proposal for a book examining Palestinian refugees’ conception of home. She is currently working on the book manuscript. Her article entitled: “It is obligatory: Gender, Digital Media, and Consumption in a Palestinian Refugee Camp” is being reviewed for publication. She is also working on a research project examining YouTube videos of perpetrators documenting their acts of violence in the Syrian war. The project considers perpetrators’ motivations in documenting and disseminating potentially incriminating evidence. It also looks at YouTube viewers’ desire to consume such violent images. As department Program Committee Chair, she organized a number of faculty brown bag talks.

Kathryn McClymond:
Dr. McClymond presented a paper at the November AAR on Department programmatic developments in recent years, highlighting in particular the M.A. with a concentration in Nonprofit Management, which will be offered beginning in Fall 2014. She also discussed the Religion and Public Life Fellow Program, which is now in its third year, as well as the efforts of our Alumni Board. The session was sponsored by the Academic Relations committee of the AAR. Kathryn also submitted two chapters at the end of 2013. One is a co-authored chapter with Tony Lemieux (Communication) entitled “Moral Injury: A Case Study in Religion and Violence” for an edited volume, Faith, War and Violence. The other is a chapter on Sacrifice for the Ashgate Research Companion to Anthropology.

Monique Moultrie:
Dr. Monique Moultrie will participate in several conferences. In January, she will present on a panel entitled “Black Pedagogy, Black Power: Being Black, Teaching Black” during the 2014 Society of Christian Ethics Conference in Seattle, WA. At the end of January, she will attend a Leadership Summit for the American Academy of Religion. In March, she will present her research on black LGBT religious leaders at Emory University’s “Whose Beloved Community? Black Civil and LGBT Rights” conference.

Louis Ruprecht:
Dr. Ruprecht was invited to deliver a paper on the Future of the Humanities at the Modern Greek Studies Association on November 15, then returned to Atlanta to speak at the Lindsey Street Baptist Church on November 17, the date selected by the community as Kathryn Johnston Memorial Day. He organized a panel on teacher-student solidarity for the American Academy of Religion’s Teaching and Learning section, in which GSU’s former Visiting Instructor, Wesley Barker, participated. He returned to the Vatican Library in December to complete the revision of two documentary essays that the Apostolic Library will publish in its own imprint, the “Studi e Testi” series. His newest book, “Classics at the Dawn of the Museum Era: The Life and Times of Antoine Chrysostome Quatremere de Quincy (1755-1849),” is scheduled for release in January by the Palgrave Macmillan Press.

Tim Renick in China
Vice Provost Tim Renick is touring China with GSU President Mark Becker. He shared the following photos that highlight 8000 warrior figures crafted over 3,000 years ago and scattered over many acres as part of an emperor’s tomb, intended to protect the emperor in the afterlife.
In 2013, Dr. Kathryn McClymond and Dr. David Bell founded the Moral Injury Project (the Project) for the purpose of preventing, identifying, and treating Moral Injury as a distinct form of PTSD in military personnel.

Throughout history, American soldiers have been confronted with moral and ethical challenges. Modern warfare and the recent counterinsurgency goals of the military amplify these challenges. Moral injury can occur when a soldier fails to prevent, bears witness to, or perpetrates an act that transgresses deeply held moral beliefs and expectations resulting in long-term, emotional, psychological, behavioral, spiritual, and social injury. Although there has been some research on the consequences of acts that lead to moral injury, the prevention and lasting impact of these experiences has not been sufficiently addressed. Scholars in the Religious Studies Department, as experts in a wide variety of individual and societal religious and ethical worldviews, are positioned to address the concerns posed by moral injury to service personnel who represent a broad variety of religious and cultural backgrounds.

The Project is currently conducting ongoing research into moral injury of US military personnel and research into military training and military systems that deal with these issues. The goal is to facilitate training methods and the implementation of an overarching framework to guide chaplains and others in helping prevent moral injury when possible, and to help soldiers heal from moral trauma. The Project has applied for a grant from the US Army to support this work into the future.

In 2013, project team members attended the Presbyterian Military Chaplains Conference at Montreat Conference Center in NC and training sessions for psychologists and chaplains at the Atlanta Veterans Administration. Dr. McClymond, in concert with Dr. Tony Lemieux of the Communications Department, is co-writing a chapter for a book to be published by Transactions Publishing entitled “Moral Injury: A Case Study in Religion and Violence.” Dr. David Bell presented his paper; “Moral Identity and Moral Injury: how Faith Development Factors into the Experience of Trauma During and After Deployment” at the SSSR conference in October, 2013, and his paper “Conflict, Cognition, and Moral Injury: Understanding Religious Attachments and Cognitive Dissonance as Concatenate Factors in the Experience of Moral Trauma” at the AAR conference in November, 2013. In 2014, the team will continue its research and plan for a symposium on Moral Injury.

If you want to find out more about the Moral Injury Project, please contact Dr. McClymond or Dr. Bell.

-Suzanne Degnats, MA ’13

New MA Program with Concentration in Non-Profit Management
Expected Launch: Fall 2014

The Department is pleased to announce that beginning in Fall 2014 it will begin to offer an MA in Religious Studies with a Concentration in Nonprofit Management. Students enrolled in the program will develop expertise in thinking critically about religion as a factor in contemporary public life, and they will receive training from the Andrew Young School of Public Policy Studies via their Department of Public Management and Policy, graduating with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Social Enterprise. To find out more, contact Dr. Molly Bassett, Director of Graduate Studies.
CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2013 GRADUATES

RELIGIOUS MAJORS WHO GRADUATED ARE:
Kyle Buck
David Condo
Steven Ginn
Annie Gomes
Nicholas Nesmith
Todd Sehhat

MA STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED ARE:
Suzanne Degnats
Frank Miele

Baldwin’s Go Tell It On The Mountain in Interpretive Dance:
Masters student creates original dance piece

MA student Karli Robinson-Myers created an interpretive dance centered on the “threshing floor scene” in James Baldwin’s landmark novel Go Tell It on the Mountain. The piece was developed as part of her work in the Department’s “Religion and Literature” course. To see the video of Robinson-Myers’s dance, visit the department’s Facebook page.

STUDENT NEWS

STUDY ABROAD COURSE, MAY 12-30, 2014
Pilgrimage Sites in Europe

Our department will be offering its third study abroad program this May. Dr. David Bell will be teaching Pilgrimage (RELS 4290/6290, 3 credit hours) on location at two pilgrimage sites in Europe: Lourdes in southern France and the island of Iona in northwestern Scotland. The trip also includes short stays in Edinburgh and Paris.

Drawing over a million pilgrims a year, Lourdes is located in the south of France along the Pyrenees Mountains. From here, students will be able to study the real world experience of pilgrimage, as well as explore the centuries old sites in this historic town. Students will then travel to the remote island of Iona on the western coast of Scotland. A stunning location for a pilgrimage site, Iona is home to a 1400-year-old monastery with a spiritual community that focuses on both contemplative practice and social justice issues.

We would love for you to come on this trip! Our previous two trips went very well and this year promises to be even better. How can you go? First send Dr. Bell an email stating your interest (davidbell@gsu.edu), and take one of the study abroad brochures in the department. You can start an application at GSU’s study abroad website: http://www.study-abroad.gsu.edu/. See you in Europe!

-Dr. David Bell

CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

The GSU Center for Hellenic Studies selected “Cosmopolitan Hellenism” as its theme for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Center received generous grants from AHEPA, CENCIA, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for a two day event Celebrating the Poetry of Constantine Cavafy, in recognition of UNESCO’s declaration of 2013 as the Year of Cavafy, and for a two day visit by Greek filmmaker, Maria Iliou, who attended multiple screenings of her award-winning documentary, “Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City, 1900-1922.” With funds generated by ticket sales from that event, the Center will host a student paper contest on themes related to the destruction of the city of Smyrna/Izmir in 1922. The winning paper will receive a cash prize and will be posted on the Center’s website, www.cas.gsu.edu/hellenic_center

The Presidency of the European Union will return to Greece in January 2014, and so the Center, working with the Greek Consulate of Atlanta, will host a two day event, “Greece and Europe in Myth and History,” on February 17-18, 2014. The Center’s proposal to host the 2015 meetings of the Modern Greek Studies Association at GSU was formally approved by the MGSA in December 2013.

-Dr. Louis Ruprecht
Program Director

MA student Karli Robinson-Myers created an interpretive dance centered on the “threshing floor scene” in James Baldwin’s landmark novel Go Tell It on the Mountain. The piece was developed as part of her work in the Department’s “Religion and Literature” course. To see the video of Robinson-Myers’s dance, visit the department’s Facebook page.

Images courtesy of Karli Robinson-Myers
Greetings from the Religious Studies Student Forum! The Forum is excited to be announcing that we will be sponsoring some great events this spring semester including the annual Student Symposium in April, a meet-and-greet gathering with the new faculty applicants in January, and hopefully, a t-shirt contest in time for for the Major Fair this semester where interested students can meet with some of the Forum’s own to discuss the many benefits of becoming a Religious Studies major! The Forum will also be heavily involved with the upcoming SECSOR conference being held here in Atlanta in March. We are looking forward to this upcoming semester and would love to welcome anyone who is interested in joining the Forum and contributing in any way. To those who are interested, please contact Grace Rivenbark (grivenbark1@student.gsu.edu) or Tami Kennedy (tkennedy10@student.gsu.edu). Also, look out for our new page on OrgSync where we will be keeping you all updated on our events!

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Have you been recently promoted, accepted a new position, or worked on an interesting project either personally or professionally? We want to hear from you. Send your news to Felicia Thomas, fthomas@gsu.edu

Greetings from the Religious Studies Student Forum! The Forum is excited to be announcing that we will be sponsoring some great events this spring semester including the annual Student Symposium in April, a meet-and-greet gathering with the new faculty applicants in January, and hopefully, a t-shirt contest in time for for the Major Fair this semester where interested students can meet with some of the Forum’s own to discuss the many benefits of becoming a Religious Studies major! The Forum will also be heavily involved with the upcoming SECSOR conference being held here in Atlanta in March. We are looking forward to this upcoming semester and would love to welcome anyone who is interested in joining the Forum and contributing in any way. To those who are interested, please contact Grace Rivenbark (grivenbark1@student.gsu.edu) or Tami Kennedy (tkennedy10@student.gsu.edu). Also, look out for our new page on OrgSync where we will be keeping you all updated on our events!

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Have you been recently promoted, accepted a new position, or worked on an interesting project either personally or professionally? We want to hear from you. Send your news to Felicia Thomas, fthomas@gsu.edu

www.gsu.edu/religion

GIVING TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Our faculty are receiving national recognition for the quality of their research and the excellence of their teaching, and our students are taking a place on the national stage - presenting papers at the national religious studies conference, receiving prestigious scholarships, and finding new ways to connect their learning with the world around them.

Financial gifts can:

• Endow an undergraduate scholarship
• Enhance public programming
• Make unique educational experiences possible, such as: student research opportunities, the Religion and Public Life Program, etc.

For more information and ways to make a gift, please visit www.gsu.edu/religion and click on the “Alumni and Friends” tab.

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Heather Abraham - BA ’07, MA ’09
Grené Baranco - BA ’04
David Dreyer - BA’01
Lori Feig-Sandoval - BA ’82
Derek Jackson - BA ‘97
Amna Shirazi - BA ’97, JD ’00
Betty Woodman - MA ’03

Joining the alumni board is easy, and it’s a great way to give back to the department. To find out about joining our alumni board, contact Kathryn McClymond at kmcclymond@gsu.edu