

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPRING 2017

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## WELLSTAR M.A. FELLOWSHIP IN RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE

The Department of Religious Studies and WellStar Health System proudly announce the launch of the "WellStar M.A. Fellowship in Religion and Public Life." This Fellowship, which includes a \$12,000 annual stipend and a tuition waiver, supports a master-level student preparing for work in the health care professions with grounding in religion, ethics, and cultural literacy. The 2-year program includes graduate coursework in the Religious Studies Certificate in Nonprofit Management program; a 2-year practicum under the supervision of WellStar's Executive Director of Medical and Organizational Ethics, Dr. Jason Lesandrini; training in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Nonprofit Management & Social Enterprise program; and research assistant opportunities related to nonprofit organizations. The goal is to prepare M.A. students to be informed and experienced contributors to nonprofit national and international organizations.



The inaugural recipient is **Gayle Kruger**, a full-time student in the Masters of Religious Studies program. She holds a B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Medical Sociology from Kennesaw State University. In the spring of 2016, she was an intern in the Medical Organizational Ethics department within the WellStar Health System. This internship expanded her knowledge of the important role that religion and ethics play in the healthcare setting. Her research interests include the intersection of religion and healthcare, decision making for incapacitated patients, ethics at the end-of-life, and the use of simulations to train healthcare providers in ethics. She writes: "It is exciting to be in the Religious Studies program at Georgia State University and to be involved in the important work with the Ethics department at WellStar."

The WellStar Fellowship will be awarded annually. For further information, contact Dr. Kathryn McClymond, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

## NEW AAR PROGRAM UNIT DIRECTOR



Dr. Kathryn McClymond, Chair of Religious Studies, has been elected as Program Unit Director for American Academy of Religion.

The Program Unit Director serves a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. McClymond will represent the needs and interests of the Program Units to the Board of Directors, specifically keeping before the Board important matters regarding the Annual Meeting. The Program Unit Director also chairs the Program Committee. Dr. McClymond began her term January 2017.

## ELLEN LOGAN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Ellen Logan, Business Manager for Religious Studies and Philosophy, announced her plans to retire effective January 31, 2017. Having joined Georgia State in 1992, Ellen has been more than a business manager, offering advice to faculty, students, and staff with wisdom and wit. A celebration in her honor is set for Tuesday, January 31 from 4 pm to 6 pm in the 2nd floor conference room of 25 Park Place. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Felicia Thomas at [ftthomas@gsu.edu](mailto:ftthomas@gsu.edu).

There's going to be lots of time for toasts and memories at the farewell event, but in the meantime, here are some thoughts on Ellen:



*"When Ellen arrived at Georgia State, Religious Studies (such that it was) consisted of two faculty members, Steve Prothero and me. . . . Over the past twenty-two years, Ellen has not only seen us evolve from a small program to accomplished department, she has been a steadfast advocate, cheer leader and friend through the whole process. Religious Studies would not be where it is today without the contributions of Ellen Logan."*

– Tim Renick

## CHAIR'S LETTER

All,

Many exciting things are happening in Religious Studies, but I have to announce one impending loss. After decades of faithful and cheerful service to Religious Studies and Philosophy, Ellen Logan is stepping down from the Business Manager role to retire and see the world! While I'm happy for her (and I hope she sends lots of photos!), we will miss her very much. A joyful celebration of her career at GSU is in the works for spring semester, and I hope you will join us in remembering Ellen's many contributions to Religious Studies over the years. My own career at GSU would have been less rewarding without her presence.

*Kathryn McClymond*

Kathryn McClymond  
Professor & Chair  
Religious Studies  
AAR Program Unit Director

## ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Heather Abraham  
(BA '07, MA '08)

Greene Baranco  
(BA '04)

Suzanne Degnats  
(MA '13)

David Dreyer  
(BA '01)

Justin Howell  
(BA '97, MEd '03)

Derek Jackson  
(BA '97)

Mike Luttrell  
(BA '01)

Ndola Owuo-Hagood  
(BA '05, '08, MA '10)

Amna Shirazi  
(BA '97, JD '00)

Email Dr. McClymond if you would like to join the Alumni board at [kmcclymond@gsu.edu](mailto:kmcclymond@gsu.edu).

## DR. MOULTRIE WINS DEAN'S EARLY CAREER AWARD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



The Dean's Early Career Award reflects the College's recognition of outstanding faculty who provide excellent education to GSU students and conduct cutting edge research. Members of the College's Board of Visitors and other donors have contributed to the Dean's Early Career Award. As part of the award, Dr. Moultrie will receive a professional development stipend, and her work will be featured in various venues. For example, Dr. Moultrie will be honored at the annual Dean's Early Career Award celebration, which highlights faculty achievements.

Dr. Moultrie's scholarly pursuits include projects in sexual ethics, African American religious traditions, and gender and sexuality studies. She spent last year on academic leave at Harvard University as a Ford Foundation postdoctoral fellow. Her current project is a book manuscript focused on African American televangelism and women's sexual agency. She has spent a summer as a Cross Currents/ Auburn Theological Seminary

Research Colloquium Fellow, and she is a consultant for the National Institutes of Health and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender-Religious Archives Network. She is a co-editor of the recently published *A Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A to Z*, 2nd edition (Palgrave Macmillan). Recent publications also include "Interrogating the Passionate and Pious: Televangelism and Black Women's Sexuality," in *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches* (Columbia University Press). Her most recent publication is "After the Thrill is Gone: Married to the Holy Spirit but Still Sleeping Alone," *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 33 (2011): 237-253. Dr. Moultrie is also the recipient of a Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop award, and she co-chairs the American Academy of Religion and Sexuality unit.





## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pizza Dates

Join us for biweekly pizza and discussion in the department's lounge and conference room  
 12:20 - 1:00 PM  
 January 24  
 February 7  
 February 21  
 March 7  
 March 21  
 April 4  
 April 18

### Brown Bag Discussion

Join us for biweekly brown bag discussion in the department's lounge and conference room  
 12:20 - 1:00 PM  
 January 31  
 February 14  
 March 28  
 April 11

### Religion & Public Life Event: Religion, Race, & Reconciliation

March 7  
 Full day calendar TBA  
 Rialto Center for the Arts

LET'S GET SOCIAL  
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## Class of 2016 Congratulations, Graduates!



### FACULTY UPDATES

#### Jon Herman

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 Director of Undergraduate Studies  
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Dr. Herman's article "The One Gave Birth to the Two: Revisiting Martin Buber's Encounters with Chinese Religion" was published this fall in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* online. He also hosted a four-part "Introduction to Daoism" series on that Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network, which aired during Spring and Summer months.

#### Kathryn McClymond

Professor, Chair  
 kmcclymond@gsu.edu

In Fall 2016, Dr. McClymond published "Fascination of Sacrifice" in *Sacrifice in Modernity: Community, Ritual, Identity* (Brill) and a review of *Religion, Food, & Eating in North America in Material Religion* (vol. 12, no. 4, December 2016). She is also an investigator on a research project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), "Reparative Justice and Moral Injury among Post-Deployment Soldiers" (Co-PIs: Andrew I. Cohen and Jennifer Samp).

#### Brett Esaki Slominski

Associate Chair  
 besaki@gsu.edu

Dr. Slominski was awarded an American Academy of Religion (AAR) Individual Research Grant. This grant is to support research for a book chapter titled, "Grace Lee Bogg's Spirituality of Sustainability."

### STUDENT EXCELLENCE

MA candidate **Pedro Alvarado's** essay, "Pittsburgh Piety: A Century of Symbolism" was accepted for publication in the *Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance* (CAATP).

MA candidate **Stefani Sarabia's** company (Flite 13 Publishing) published *The Book of the Dead: A Guide To Afterlife Survival* by Mark Kerman.

### ALUMNI UPDATE

Rachel Blume (MA '11) graduated from the South Texas College of Law-Houston in May 2016. She moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to continue the family practice at Blume & Blume Attorneys at Law. Rachel is set to take the Alabama Bar Exam in February.

