

Young Scholars 2005-2006 Complete Program

The 2005-06 participants in the Young Scholars in American Religion Program met October 12-15 for their final seminar in Indianapolis. Like their previous counterparts in the program, they used the final sessions to present research projects and critique one another's work.

The weekend included a special dinner with some of the Center's Faculty Research Fellows and a talk by George Marsden, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame.



George Marsden

Winner of multiple awards—including the Bancroft Prize, the Merle Curti Award, the Genovese Prize, and the Grawemeyer Award—for his recent biography of Jonathan Edwards, Marsden discussed his thoughts about the role of the public intellectual in American society.

Because the program encourages its participants to engage in public teaching beyond the walls of the classroom, Marsden's comments and the succeeding question and answer period proved a perfect ending for the participants' experience. He delineated the different types of public intellectuals, carving out a space for those who are primarily academics who speak to broader audiences. He advised people to begin by talking to their basic constituencies, including churches and community organizations. In time, after learning how to address those constituencies, one can write for their publications. This in turn prepares one for writing for even broader audiences. In all, he concluded, writing for the public is akin to being a good teacher: know your audience and speak to it.

The series of meetings was the final one not only for the 2005-06 class of Young Scholars, but for this iteration of the program that was funded by Lilly Endowment. In all, thirty-six early-career scholars completed the seminars, working with Ann Taves, Stephen Prothero, Peter Williams, Catherine Brekus, John Corrigan, and Judith Weisenfeld.

Philip Goff, director of the Center, commented on the program's remarkable success: "Over the years, ninety-four people have completed these seminars and gone on to be great teachers and scholars. Each of them is a leader in the field. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Pew Charitable Trusts and Lilly Endowment for their support. There is nothing comparable to this program in the breadth and depth of its influence in the study and teaching about religion in America."



Young Scholars in American Religion 2005-2006

Center Hosting Reception in Washington, D.C.

The Center will host a reception highlighting the work of centers and institutes that study religion in America at the annual meetings of the AAR/SBL this November in Washington, D.C. Organizations whose work will be featured include The Louisville Institute, The Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, the Boisi Center, and The Pluralism Project. All those attending the meetings are invited to drop by and learn more about these organizations and their fine work.

The reception is slated for Saturday, November 18, 2006, from 4-8 p.m. in Congressional B at the Renaissance Washington D.C., 999 Ninth Street NW. For more information about the organizations that will be represented at the reception, please see pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

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A Word from the Director

Things continue at a fast pace around the Center. With over forty research fellows now involved in different aspects of our work, the Center's calendar is full of interesting meetings about current research projects. Meanwhile, our public meetings continue to draw the interest of folks in the area.

Immediate upcoming events include: "Fathoming Jonestown" with novelist Annie Dawid (part of the "Spirit & Place Festival") in November and "Secularization and Reinhold Niebuhr in 1950s America" with Alan Petigny of the University of Florida in December. Further out, we will be hosting several authors for public talks, including Harry S. Stout of Yale University, author of *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War*. Later in the spring, the Center will co-host with the IUPUI Millennium Scholar of the Liberal Arts a conference entitled "Revisiting Black Gods of the Metropolis: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century."

I encourage you to keep abreast of the Center's activities through its website and join us at these events. They represent the heart of our purpose: research and public teaching.

Philip Goff

R&AC
RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE
A Journal of Interpretation

Upcoming Issue

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Forum: "How the Study of Religion and American Culture has Changed at Your Institution in the Past Decade," with contributions by Catherine L. Albanese, W. Clark Gilpin, Leigh E. Schmidt, and Tom Tweed

Donald Drakeman, "The Church Historians Who Made the First Amendment What It Is Today"

Jason Bivens, "Beautiful Women Dig Graves: Richard Baker-roshi, Imported Buddhism, and the Transmission of Ethics at the San Francisco Zen Center"

Matthew Bowman, "Sin, Spirituality, and Primitivism: The Theologies of the American Social Gospel"

Centers and Institutes Project 2006

The work of the following centers and institutes will be featured at the reception hosted by the Center at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature. The reception is slated for Saturday, November 18, 2006, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. in Congressional B of the Renaissance Washington D.C., 999 Ninth Street NW.



Alan Wolfe, Director
Erik Owens, Assistant Director
Susan Richard, Administrative Assistant

The goal of the Boisi Center is to create opportunities where a community of scholars, policy makers, media and religious leaders in the Boston area and nationally can connect in conversations and scholarly reflection around issues at the intersection of religion and American public life. The hope is that such conversations can help to clarify the moral and normative consequences of public policies in ways that can help us to maintain the common good, while respecting our growing religious diversity.



Diana L. Eck, Director
Kathryn Lohre, Assistant Director
Grove Harris, Managing Director
Elinor Pierce, Senior Researcher

The Pluralism Project: World Religions in America is a decade-long research project, with current funding from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, to engage students in studying the new religious diversity in the United States. We explore particularly the communities and religious traditions of Asia and the Middle East that have become woven into the religious fabric of the United States in the past twenty-five years. The overall aims of the Pluralism Project are:

1. To document and better understand the changing contours of American religious demography, focusing especially on those cities and towns where the new plurality has been most evident and discerning the ways in which this plurality is both visible and invisible in American public life.
2. To study the religious communities themselves—their temples, mosques, gurudwaras and retreat centers, their informal networks and emerging institutions, their forms of adaptation and religious education in the American context, their encounter with the other religious traditions of our common society, and their encounter with civic institutions.
3. To explore the ramifications and implications of America's new plurality through case studies of particular cities and towns, looking at the response of Christian and Jewish communities to their new neighbors; the development of interfaith councils and networks; the new theological and pastoral questions that emerge from the pluralistic context; and the recasting of traditional church-state issues in a wider context.
4. To discern, in light of this work, the emerging meanings of religious "pluralism," both for religious communities and for public institutions, and to consider the real challenges and opportunities of a public commitment to pluralism in the light of the new religious contours of America.

Our work includes the research of our nationwide network of affiliate researchers, the "Religious Diversity News" searchable database of summaries available online at www.pluralism.org, the "Directory of Religious Centers" which includes web links and center profiles including photographs, outreach to teachers, conferences on Women's Networks in Multi-Religious America, and research reports by our staff and student research associates.

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Jim Lewis, Director
Suzanne Case, Administrative Secretary
Keri Leichty, Administrative Secretary

Supported since 1990 by grants from Lilly Endowment to Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, the Louisville Institute shares the Endowment's concern with the quality of American religious life and the importance of excellent pastoral leadership. The distinctive mission of the Louisville Institute is to enrich the religious life of American Christians and to encourage the revitalization of their institutions by bringing together those who lead religious institutions with those who study them, so that the work of each might inform and strengthen the work of the other.

The Louisville Institute believes that, in order to strengthen pastoral leadership, it is essential for pastors to have access to the richest understanding that the academy has to offer. In turn, we believe that scholars will more adequately assist the churches if they have more substantive and sustained contact with pastoral leaders. The Louisville Institute conducts its work through a coordinated program of grantmaking and convening.

1) We make grants to academics, pastors and other religious leaders, academic institutions, church bodies, and selected other non-profit organizations. The Louisville Institute offers funding through six competitive grant programs, including: Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders, Christian Faith and Life, Religious Institutions, Dissertation Fellowship, First Book Grant Program for Minority Scholars, and a new Pastoral Leadership Grant Program. Preference is given to projects that deal with one of our three priority issues: Christian faith and life, pastoral leadership, and religious institutions. The Louisville Institute also offers a General Grant Program that provides modest grant support to a limited number of individual and collaborative projects on current program priorities.

2) We convene invitational consultations and other opportunities for conversation among religious leaders and academic researchers around particular topics of interest.



Paul B. Rasor, Joan and Macon Brock Director and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Ann P. Shappell, Assistant to the Director

The Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College is an academic initiative committed to fostering and deepening our understanding of religious freedom in our increasingly diverse world. Combining the resources of the College and the wider community, the Center provides a vehicle for interdisciplinary study and a forum for interfaith dialogue. The Mission of the Center is:

- Education: to provide students with an informed understanding of religious freedom as a basic human right;
- Scholarship: to engage in sustained study of the legal, social and theological conditions of religious freedom;
- Engagement: to combat religious intolerance by constructively engaging our society's broad religious pluralism.

The Center is concerned with the critical First Amendment issues of free exercise and church-state separation, including the role of religion in public and political life, as well as the larger political, social and religious contexts within which these issues arise. The Center offers interdisciplinary courses, supports faculty research and cross-department faculty cooperation, sponsors scholarly conferences and symposia of national scope, and offers a forum where people of different faith traditions (or none) can come together for respectful dialogue and mutual understanding. The Center does not advocate any particular political or religious perspective.

Research Fellows Research Fellows Research Fellows

Since the advent of departments of Religious Studies in state universities during the 1960s, Indiana has been a leader in the field. By the 1980s, the number of scholars at Indiana University Bloomington and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis studying aspects of American religion made IU a leader in that sub-field as well. The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture exists because of this wealth of expertise. Beginning in this issue of the Newsletter, we hope to highlight the work of our Faculty Research Fellows, each of whom is making extraordinary contributions to the study of religion in American culture.

David M. Craig

David M. Craig is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Adjunct Professor of Philanthropic Studies at IUPUI. He received a B.A. in Politics from Oberlin College, an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion (religion, ethics and politics) from Princeton University. He joined the IUPUI faculty in 2000 after a two-year teaching fellowship at Villanova University. His first book, *John Ruskin and the Ethics of Consumption* (University of Virginia), recovers this Victorian critic's religious, aesthetic, political and economic thought as an alternative critique of industrial capitalism and a viable ethics of consumption for today. Working primarily in western religious and secular traditions of ethics, Craig has served six years on the Ethics Section Steering Committee of the American Academy of Religion.

Turning from the history of religious ethics to its relevance to contemporary moral debates, Craig is working on two book projects. The first is a study of American political discourse, focused on religious and ritual forms of reasoning in public arguments from the Civil Rights era to the same-sex marriage controversy. This project challenges liberal theorists who restrict public arguments to secular appeals. It also questions the reluctance of progressives to defend normative accounts of desire. As in the Civil Rights era, divisive social issues must be debated where many people live—in the religious and civic rites that construct the social boundaries and attitudes that

help define and maintain the accepted purposes of society's institutions. Craig's second study examines another potential resource for contemporary debates, the internal conversations of Catholic and Jewish health care systems. Among the largest recipients of government funds for basic services, these nonprofits offer a test case of the wisdom of ceding public problems to religious organizations. This project examines whether these organizations' commitments to their mission and values have helped expand health care access. It asks whether these internal moral debates might contribute to meaningful public debates about health care reform.



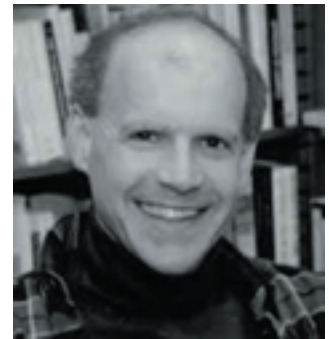
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Edward T. Linenthal

Edward T. Linenthal is professor of history, adjunct professor of religious studies, and editor of the *Journal of American History* at Indiana University. Previously, he was the Edward M. Penson Professor of Religion and American Culture and Chancellor's Public Scholar at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and also a long-time consultant for the National Park Service.

Linenthal has been a Sloan Research Fellow in the Arms Control and Defense Policy Program at MIT, where he did the research for his first book, *Symbolic Defense: The Cultural Significance of the Strategic Defense Initiative*. He has also written *Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battlefields*; *Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum*; and *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory*. He has co-edited *A Shuddering Dawn: Religious Studies in the Nuclear Age*, with Ira Chernus; *American Sacred Space*, with David Chidester; and *History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past*, with Tom Engelhardt. Linenthal worked for the National Park Service during the 50th anniversary ceremonies at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, and delivered the commemorative address at the memorial in 1994. He has appeared on ABC's "Nightline," PBS's "News Hour with Jim Lehrer," and on CBS and NBC evening news. He lectures widely throughout the country, is a

frequent commentator for various media outlets, and has taught at the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Program. He now serves on the federal advisory commission for the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.



Nancy M. Robertson

Nancy Marie Robertson is Associate Professor of History in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. She directs the Women's Studies Program and holds adjunct appointments in Philanthropic Studies and American Studies. Her study, *Christian Sisterhood, Race Relations, and the YWCA, 1906-46*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

Robertson holds an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College and earned her Ph.D. from New York University in 1997. Prior to her arrival at IUPUI in 1999, she was active as a public historian, including serving as the Associate Director for the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives and as Assistant Director of the Margaret Sanger Papers Project.

Robertson argues that the Young Women's Christian Association provided a unique venue for women to respond to American race relations because it was a major national women's organization with substantial numbers of white and black members. Women of both races employed "Christian sisterhood" to legitimize their activism even as they offered competing understandings of the idea and struggled over the role of black women and girls in the organization and the larger society. Although the YWCA was segregated at the local level in both the South and the North, African-American women were able to effectively challenge white women over racial

policies and practices and moved the organization towards desegregation.

Her current research interests include an examination of the "women's departments" found in American banks at the turn of the 20th century. The departments were one of the few places where professional women gained employment in banks, but the emphasis was on the significance for female customers. The treasurers of women's associations, including missionary societies, were invited to bring their accounts to these departments for special treatment from an understanding woman. Dr. Robertson is also beginning work on a project on "Christian citizenship," a construct employed by women in groups like the YWCA following ratification of the 19th Amendment, exploring whether it offered a more corporate vision of citizenship than that offered by groups like the League of Women Voters.

Robertson serves on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Women's History Association and is active with the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians.



Scott Seay

Scott Seay is Assistant Professor of Church history at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) in Indianapolis. He received a B.A. from Wabash College, an M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, an M.Div. from CTS, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in American religious history from Vanderbilt University. In addition to his education, he also is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has significant experience in parish ministry.

Seay has published two articles, over forty entries in the forthcoming *Westminster Dictionary of Women and American Religion* and other similar resources, and a number of critical book reviews. He currently has two books under contract. The first is entitled *The Election Preaching of the New Divinity Men*. It is an edited volume of seventeen election sermons preached by some of the followers of Jonathan Edwards in early national New England. In the critical introduction, he claims that, "Taken together, these sermons articulate a clear theo-political vision unique to the New Divinity Men, and one that made an important contribution to the political debates animating early national New England." His second book, *Hanging Between Heaven and Earth*, is an exhaustive investigation of the theology of capital crime and its punishment in colonial and early national New England. Both books should be published in 2007.



Most recently, the editors of *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement* (Eerdman's, 2004) have asked Seay to join them as the managing editor of an innovative project to be published in 2012: a global and inclusive narrative history of the Stone-Campbell Movement. With fourteen professional historians making contributions, this new history will tell the whole story of the Movement in such a way that its historic emphasis on Christian unity is the main theme. Moreover, it will be a global story, one that recognizes the origins of the Movement in the United States and celebrates its growth throughout the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and several other religious bodies trace their origins to the Stone-Campbell Movement.

In addition to his research and teaching, Professor Seay preaches regularly in churches throughout central Indiana.

Patricia Wittberg

Patricia Wittberg is Professor of Sociology in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, and an adjunct member of IUPUI's Philanthropic Studies faculty. She edits the *Review of Religious Research*, the official journal of the Religious Research Association. She recently (March 2006) completed *From Piety to Professionalism and Back? Transformations in Organized Religious Virtuosity*, a study of how disengaging from their schools and hospitals has affected the groups of Catholic and Protestant churchwomen that once sponsored, funded, and ran these organizations.

Wittberg holds a B.A. in History from the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati (1970), and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago (1982). She joined the IUPUI faculty in 1990 after previous appointments at Fordham University (New York) and the College of Wooster (Ohio).

In addition to her recent book, Wittberg is the author of three other books, several book chapters, and numerous articles on changes in religious organizations, especially Roman Catholic orders of nuns. She is currently working with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), a research arm of Georgetown University, compiling a directory of over 150 new Catholic religious orders and lay movements in the United States.

