



PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY NEWS UPDATE

February 2008

Forthcoming on the web at: <http://www.uncw.edu/par/>

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

GRADUATES (Fall 07)

- PHILOSOPHY Concentration: **Laura E. Horton, Lacey R. Morris, Jonathan B. Morton, Anna M. Prestipino, Samona L. Taylor**
- RELIGION Concentration: **David Baldwin, Keith E. Barnhardt, P. Ryan Christmas, Kristopher M. Cottle, Amanda D. Harvey (also ANT), Mary E. McPherson, Lauren M. Vinoski**
- Pictures from the fall graduation ceremonies are posted on the PAR website and the glass case in the main hallway.
- Graduates who walked at PAR ceremony: **David Baldwin, Kristopher M. Cottle, Laura E. Horton, Lacey R. Morris, Jonathan B. Morton, Anna M. Prestipino, Samona L. Taylor, Lauren M. Vinoski**
- Attending faculty: **Drs. Altrichter, Berg, Conser, Eshleman, Gauthier, Murrell, Schmid, Turrisi, White, Zervos**



David



Kris



Laura



Jonathan



Lacey



Anna



Samona



Lauren

STUDENT SCHOLARS

- **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED 2007-2008**
 - Charles Long and Sankey Blanton Awards – **Josh Bolick**
 - Jim Megivern and Carol Thysell Awards – **Mary von Aue**
 - John. J. Wilson Award – **Grant Breuer**
- **PAR OUTSTANDING MINORITY STUDENT AWARD, 2007-2008: GISSETTE RODRIGUEZ**



- **Gissette** with \$125 Book Certificate, awarded at Nov dept meeting:

- **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- **Meredith Bumbarger**, "Tobit as Comedy," North Carolina Religious Studies Association, Fayetteville State University, Oct 08
- **Laura Frank**, "The Layered Heavens: Buddhist and Christian Gnostic Creation Stories," accepted for AAR/SBL SE, Atlanta, Mar 09

- **CHANCELLOR'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** in Fall 07 (A's in all classes):

- **Jamie Brummitt**
- **Michael Gilliss**
- **Kim Joyce**
- **Lacey Morris**
- **Mary von Aue**



- **PAR HONORS 499** in Fall 07 Spring 08

- **Meredith Bailey Bumbarger** congratulated by mentor Dr. Murrell, defended her thesis "The Book of Tobit: A Comparative Analysis of Intentional Comedy From a Modern Reader's Perspective" successfully in December. Congratulations, Meredith!
- **Jamie Brummitt, Laura Frank** in S08 with Dr. Pasulka

- **PAR 491 DIS students** in Spring 2008

- **Mary von Aue, Allison Tuszynski** with Dr. Berg
- **Akshay Menon** with Dr. Durham
- **Grant Breuer** with Dr. Habibi
- **Brittany Andrews** with Dr. Murrell
- **Sandra Campbell, Alex Elfner, Michael Gillis** with Dr. Pasulka
- **Brandon Tinklenberg** with Dr. Turrisi
- **Ryan Vincent Conti** with Dr. White
- **Michael Gillis, Nicole Nasrallah, James Stalvey, Mark Xanthos** with Dr. Zervos

- **PAR DIS 591** Lauren Vinoski with Dr. Durham

FACULTY RECOGNIZED (by graduating seniors in December 2007)

- **Drs. Altrichter, Berg, Burgh, Gauthier, Habibi, McGowan, Schmid, Stanley, Zervos**



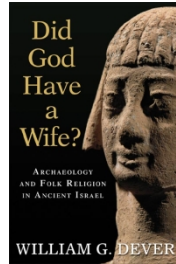
FACULTY PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY – SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS!

- **Walt Conser** received the NC Society of Historians' Ethel W. Twiford Religious History Book Award for his *Coat of Many Colors: Religion and Society along the Cape Fear River of North Carolina* (Kentucky, 2006). Congratulations, Walt!
- **Matt Eshleman** received a Cahill Award for his proposal to study Foucault's ethics with Dr. Larry Jost of the University of Cincinnati this summer, and also was in a select group to receive a CAS Summer Research Initiative. Congratulations, Matt!
- **Scott James** received a CTE Summer Teaching Award for his proposal to develop a S09 HON 210 class connecting cognitive psychology, ethics, and evolutionary biology. Congratulations, Scott!
- **Patricia Turrisi** received a CAS Summer Curriculum Development Initiative for her proposal to develop the Philosophical Writing class. Congratulations, Patty!
- **Heath White** was recommended for reappointment as Assistant Professor with a unanimous vote of support by his colleagues. Congratulations, Heath!

FACULTY PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY – RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Herb Berg**
 - "Revisionist' *Tafsīr*," The Qur'an: Text, Interpretation & Translation Conference, University of London, Nov 8, 2007
 - "Covering the Dead: How al-Jazeera and CNN Used Images of War Casualties," College Day, UNCW, Oct 27, 2007
 - "The Qur'an, Drew Ali, and Elijah Muhammad," Cornell University, Oct 23, 2007
 - Panelist, "Revolution in Iran," *Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi*, New Hanover Public Library, Sep 27, 2007
 - Panelist, "Responses to *The Kite Runner*," as part of Synergy: UNCW's Common Reading Experience, Oct 16, 2007
- **Teddy Burgh**
 - "Rocks, Dirt, Broken Pots, and Stuff" College Day, Oct 2007
 - "Listening to the Artifacts: Music Culture in Ancient Israel/Palestine," ECU, Nov 2007
 - "Virtual Studies of the Past" ASOR, San Diego, Nov 2007
 - "Is God Funky or What?" A Discussion of Perceptions of God in Popular Music" AAR/SBL, Nov 2007
- **Walt Conser**
 - Led discussion of *Coat of Many Colors* for the "Prologue Book Club," WHQR and the *Star-News*, Jan 8, 2008
 - Interviewed by Andy Scherr, WWAY-TV on "Religion in the Cape Fear Region—Past, Present, Future," Jan 08
 - "Order in the Court: Controversies over Separation of Church and State," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Nov 2007
- **Jeffrey Durham**
 - "Irreversibility and Emptiness: Salvific Certitude and Textual Action in the Ashta-Sahasrika-Prajnaparamita" accepted for American Oriental Society, Chicago S09.
- **Matt Eshleman**
 - "Beauvoir and Sartre on Freedom, Intersubjectivity and Normative Justification", Beauvoir and Sartre: The Riddle of Influence, (Indiana, 2008)
 - "Sartre on Human Reality: 'that which is what it is not and is not what it is'" accepted for North American Sartre Society conference, April 08
 - Panelist, "Ethics in the 21st Century," Nov 2008, Public Service and Extended Education
- **Candace Gauthier**
 - Moderator, Ethics panel, 2nd Annual McArtor Symposium: "The Extremely Premature Neonate," NHRMC, Oct 19, 2007
- **Don Habibi**
 - "Happiness: philosophy meets neuroscience," New York Psychiatric Institute (Columbia University), Jan 28, 2008
 - "Religion and Technology" and "Facing New Biological Technology: Cloning, Bionics and Robotics," Fall 08, UNCW Public Service and Extended Education
 - Panelist, "Ethics in the 21st Century," Nov 2008, Public Service and Extended Education
- **Eva Kort**
 - "What, after all, is leadership? 'Leadership' and Plural Action" accepted, *Leadership Quarterly*
- **Sam Murrell**
 - "Afro-American Freemasonry in Slavery & Segregation," ASAALH, Charlotte, Oct 3-5
 - "A Black Woman's Songs, Biblical Religion and Sexual Intimacy" NCRSA, FSU, Oct 08
 - "Satyagraha & Ahimsa, Mahatma Gandhi's Weapons of Moral & Political Power," *Thinking About Religion* 7, Fall/Winter 2007-8
- **Diana Pasulka**
 - "A Communion of Little Saints: Child Hagiographies of the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, Fall 2007

- **Thomas Schmid**
 - "Evolution and Ethics" Super Saturday, Nov 3, Public Service and Extended Education
- **Patricia Turrisi**
 - Panelist, "Ethics in the 21st Century," Nov 2008, Public Service and Extended Education
- **Heath White**
 - "Moral Dilemmas in Contemporary Life" College Day, College Day UNCW, Oct 27, 2007
 - Commentator on E. Kleist, "Rationality and Other Values," APA, Dec 29, 2007
- **George Zervos**
 - Respondent to S. Shoemaker, "Apocrypha and Liturgy: the Six Books Dormition Apocryphon," SBL, San Diego, Nov, 2007



B. Frank Hall lecture **NEW**

- **Dr. William G. Dever, "Did God Have a Wife? The Goddess Asherah and Folk vs. State Religion in Ancient Israel," Morton 100, Tuesday, April 1, 2008.** Dr. Dever, one of America's most well-regarded biblical archaeologists, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Arizona from 1975 to 2002, is now Distinguished Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, Lycoming College, Williamsport PA. He is author of such books as *What did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?* (2001), *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come from?* (2003) and *Did God Have a Wife?* (2005).

ALUMNI NEWS

February's focus alumnus is



- **Catherine Sexton Knepper, 1998,** says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty from Iowa, where she lives with her 17 month old son James and husband (a philosopher at Drake University). After leaving UNCW, Catherine earned two masters, in Theology from Boston University, and in Creative Writing from Iowa State University. She works for the Editorial Board, and is writing a novel. For more on Catherine's literary and creative interests, see <http://www.editorialdepartment.com/content/view/85/115/>; for some of her thoughts on writing see <http://www.editorialdepartment.com/content/view/516/439/>.
- Please remember to **update your email** if you change it, as well as **send in any info you want posted to schmidt@uncw.edu**. The PAR Alumni connection will only work if the Alumni connect! In the future, I will send the quarterly report blind copy to all alumni recipients.
- **ALUMNI updates***
 - **Karl Amelchenko, 2006,** is at Wake Forest Law School. Karl is at amelkj6@law.wfu.edu 910.352.9044
 - **Paul Atkinson, 2003,** is developing his musical career. See www.paulatkinsonmusic.com or www.myspace.com/paulatkinsonmusic. His latest EP, *Music for the Journey*, is at www.cdbaby.com. 704-641-1705. Email: fanreach@reverbnation.com.

- **Robert Barnes**, 2003, double major HST and GLS grad, has been appointed adjunct professor of History at Central Carolina Community College.
- **Cynthia Bell**, 2005, says hello and reminds everyone "It's up to you!" to make your own life.
- **Gordon Blanchard**, 2005, says hello. Gordon, manager and planner for Kellogg Supply Co. in eastern NC, stopped in to visit PAR faculty in September.
- **Leon Buchanan**, 2006, began the Masters of Divinity program at Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC. leonsbuchanan@hotmail.com.
- **NEW Kathryn Cole Bunthoff**, says hello to all her friends. Updated address: 3033 Coral Park Drive Cincinnati, OH 45211.
- **Everett Caldwell**, 2006, is in the M.A. program in New Testament Studies, Harding University, Memphis TN. You can reach Everett at ecaldwe1@harding.edu.
- **Michelle Clark**, 2006, is in the program in Holocaust Studies at U. of Texas Dallas.
- **Kathryn Cole** (see Kathryn Cole Bunthoff above)
- **Jane Crutchfield**, 2003, says hello to all her friends from Denver. Janey was our Alumni in Focus in March. Contact at 1625 S. Birch St, apt. 70, Denver CO 80222, 720-201-8877.
- **Charles Davis, Jr.**, 1997, says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty.
- **Keith Diener, JD, LLM**, 2003, finished his M.A. and LL.M. at George Washington, and is now a member of the NC and Virginia bar. Visit him at 6216 Rose Hill Dr., Apt. #2B, Alexandria VA 22310, cell phone 404-664-4271. Email: kdiener1@law.gwu.edu.
- **Kevin English**, 1988 says hello to fellow graduates and faculty. Kevin is currently a senior account manager at Eplus technology, inc. in Raleigh, NC.
- **Whitney Fautleroy**, 2006, served as the Interim Youth director at Winterpark Presbyterian Church.
- **Emily Elizabeth Gallimore**, 2007, is attending Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte Campus) for the Master of Divinity program.
- **NEW Lauren Griffith**, 2006, 2nd year in UNCW MBA program, District Managers assistant for the Walgreen company. She is looking for a qualified recent UNCW grad to replace herself in May, 40 hours a week 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Lauren has a career goal of becoming a corporate human resources director. "Quite a stretch from PAR, but all those ethics courses put me on the right track!"
- **NEW Loretta Grady**, 1985, says hello to classmates and faculty, and wishes a special "Be Well" to Dr. Shinn.
- **Amy Robbins Guthrie**, 2004, had an art showing with her husband Brandon, "The Several Eyes of Fragmented Light," at the Ann Flack Boseman Gallery, Oct 25-Nov 14 in the Warwick Center.
- **NEW Mike Hargett**, 1976, says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty. Mike owns and manages Hargett Realty and Development, here in Wilmington, 18 S. Water St, 28401, 254.0509.
- **Catherine Inglesby**, 2003, began the Psychology of Religion Master's Degree Program at Heythrop College, UK this past fall. email: dolmadakia@gmail.com.
- **Mark Jeffords**, 1973 double major PAR/Biology, a pilot with US Air, reports birth of his and Cindy's first grandchild (congrats!), Joshua, born 12.20.05.



- **NEW Jennifer Kasprzycki**, 1996, lives and paints in Hawaii. Jennifer says that her study of religion had a great influence on her and on her painting which she describes as "Communion with the Divine and the Self." See her website at <http://jenniferkasprzycki.com/bio.html> and artist statement at <http://jenniferkasprzycki.com/>.
- **Will Klinger**, 2005, double major with Anthropology, completed his MA in Public Archaeology at the University of South Florida. He sends his best to all his classmates, and special regards to Drs. McGowan, Murrell and Berg. willklinger@gmail.com.

- **Catherine Sexton Knepper**, 2002, says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty from Iowa, where she lives with her 17 month old son James and husband (a philosopher at Drake University), works for the Editorial Board, and is writing.
- **Robert Landry**, 2005 says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty.
- **Thomas W. Lee**, 1974 says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty.
- **Crystal Lubinsky**, 2000, is beginning the Ph.D. program in Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Edinburgh email address: s0782895@sms.ed.ac.uk. Some quotes from her note: ... research is going, going, going, going... my 'prev school' paper used as a chapter in the dissertation, no edits needed My supervisor called it 'very thorough.' Am learning German with Manton's book *Intro to Theological German*. The first sentence is *Ich bin Gott!* ("I am God.") Went to the Roslyn chapel this past Sat. Hope this message meets you all well.
- **Joe Manley**, 1989 says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty. Joe is working at New Hanover Hospital as a CT Technologist. Email: Joe.Manley@nhhn.org.
- **David Massey**, 2006, has taken a full time position in the UNCW admissions office (congrats!). His new email is masseyd@uncw.edu.
- **James Miller**, 2006, says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty.
- **Evian E. Patterson** 2002, is a Program Assistant, Center for International Training, Academy for Educational Development, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 884-8192, epatterson@aed.org; www.aed.org
- **Christopher "Chip" Perry** 2006 wishes the best to everyone! Chip is living now at 639 Bay Harbor Dr. Hampstead, NC 28443 (910) 352-0296.
- **Charles Ponton**, 1982, says hello to all the PAR grads. Charlie is head of Charles E. Ponton Realty (WWW.Pontonrealty.com) in Wilmington, and he and his wife Wanda have two young boys, Noah and Caleb.
- **Kevin Quinn**, 1994, reports he is doing well, had a successful career in IT working for a software development firm, and is now getting his M.A. in English at Auburn University. Recalls especially fondly Dr. Turrisi and Dr. McGowan.
- **Eric Reaves**, 2006, stopped in the PAR office to say hello on Sep 21, and says hello to old friends and classmates.
- **Amy Robbins**, see **Amy Robbins Guthrie**, above.
- **Michael Runkle**, 2006, reported last year on his success at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, CA. Email: runklemichael@yahoo.com. Michael stopped in to visit PAR faculty in September
- **Matt Sayball**, 2006 is at Virginia Tech in the Philosophy M.A. program, and reports that he is doing well and continuing his studies in philosophy of language and logic.
- **Amanda Schoonover**, minor 2005, is pursuing a Master's degree in biology, and says hello to old friends and faculty.
- **Andy Sleet**, 2005, is still going strong in the film business in LA. "I miss my friends back in Wilmington but each day brings new adventures and possibilities." 1616 N. Normandie Ave., Apt.400 Los Angeles, CA 90027. 323 / 898-6364.
- **Andrea Smaxwell**, 2006, reports she and Mike Runkle are both continuing to do well in law school, she at the Golden Gate School of Law in San Francisco, Michael in San Diego. Congrats, Andrea and Michael! Email: andrea.smaxwell@gmail.com.
- **Joel Smith**, 1985 says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty. MA in Philosophy UVa. Lives in Kinston, NC. Enjoys reading philosophy, pottery, novels of Pratchett, Buddhism and disc golf. <http://www.m3web.com>
- **NEW** **Jason Warnick**, 2004, says hello to classmates and faculty.
- **Margaret Lee Wilkins**, 2006, is working for Young Life of Randolph County. She wishes everyone well. Contact via Young Life, P.O Box 1182, Asheboro, NC 27204. (336) 629-7323.
- **Jeff Wunsch**, 2005, says hello to old friends, classmates and faculty, and reports he is doing well with his job, house, and "half a pilot's license."

