



NEWSLETTER OF THE
Department of
Philosophy & Religion

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Fall 2001 / Spring 2002

Plaza Named in Honor of Dr. Shinn

Dr. Gerald Shinn, professor emeritus was honored on November 6, 2002 with a dedication of a plaza named in his honor. The Shinn Plaza is located beside the International House and Honors Scholars Residence Hall, across from Wagoner Hall. The gazebo combines elements that are symbolic of Dr. Shinn's discipline.

Dr. Shinn taught at the department from 1967 to 1995. He came to UNCW when it was still called Wilmington College, after receiving his Ph.D. from Duke University in Mediaeval Church History in 1964. Once here, he won numerous teaching awards: Outstanding Teacher of the Year at UNCW in 1970, UNCW Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award for 1980-81, Professor of the Year Award (Silver Medal) from the Council for



The Shinn Plaza.

Advancement and Support of Education in Washington, D.C., the UNCW Student Government Association Teaching Award 1988-

1989, and the UNCW Distinguished Teaching Professorship 1992-1995. Most significantly, Dr. Shinn received the O. Max Gardner Award in 1994. It is given to honor faculty who have "made the greatest contributions to the welfare of the human race." It is the highest faculty honor bestowed by the UNC Board of Governors and he remains UNCW's only recipient of the award.

In addition to serving the university, Dr. Shinn has also been recognized for his service to the local, national, and international community. For example, he helped establish The Albert Schweitzer International Prizes, create the UNCW Museum of World Cultures, the North Carolina Living Treasure Program, the National Living Treasure Program, and the North Carolina Educational, Historical and Scientific Foundation.



Dr. Gerald Shinn at the dedication.

Scholarship Fund in Honor of Carol Thysell



Dr. Carol Thysell.

Dr. Carol L. Thysell died at the age of 51 on May 19, 2001 after a courageous and determined two and a half year fight against ovarian cancer. She is survived by her husband, the **Reverend Mark A. Opgrand**, her mother, her sister, her brothers, and many dear friends.

Carol Thysell was an associate professor and taught courses in scriptures of world religions, women and religion, and religion and literature. She graduated with a B.A. in English Literature from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in 1972, a M.A. in English Literature from North Dakota State University in 1979, a M.Div. from Yale Divinity

School in 1984, and a Ph.D. in Religion and Literature from the University of Chicago in 1995. She came to UNCW in 1995 and was actively involved in the Women's Studies Minor and the Masters of Liberal Studies. She quickly became a very popular teacher among her students and well-respected by all of her colleagues.

Her primary area of research was the religious writings of women in sixteenth century Europe. She is the author of *The Pleasure of Discernment: Marguerite de Navarre as Theologian* published by Oxford University Press in 2000.

To commemorate her life, the

Department of Philosophy and Religion has created a scholarship in Carol Thysell's name. This scholarship will be awarded beginning in the 2002-2003 academic year. It will be awarded annually to a student in the department who demonstrates academic excellence. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please use the form on page 3.

Her colleagues and students in the department continue to miss her. She was our teacher, our colleague, and our friend. This scholarship will help us keep the joy she brought us alive.



Dr. Carol Thysell's husband Mark Opgrand presents Joe Wilson with a \$5000 donation from Ravi Kothare for the scholarship in her name.

Faculty News

Dr. Walt Conser gave the opening address, entitled "Diversity and Its Limits," to the "Religion in America" conference in the Netherlands.

Dr. Candace Gauthier presented a session on Institutional Review Board analysis of research in the non-clinical setting at the U.S. Office of Human Research Protection conference in

is vital to the success of the department. If you would like to regain contact with your fellow graduates, we would be happy to publish your email address.

Majors

Three majors joined the ranks of P&R alumni in Fall 2001: **Ryan Bell, Adam Murray, and Kelly Slade**. They will be joined by fourteen more in Spring 2002: **Joshua Bohlen, Thomas Bridges, Stacy Cecil, James Cox III, Jennifer Denis, George Dunn, Charles Fraune, Evian Patterson, Dennis Dohrman, Krista Powell, Daniel Rayburn Reeves, Luke Richey, Hilary Snow, and Amanda St. Hilaire**. Congratulations graduates.

Shane Oakley, a philosophy major, presented a paper entitled "Biological Regularities, Natural Kinds, and Molecular Biology" at the joint

meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society and the South Carolina Philosophical Society in Charleston, SC.

The P&R Society has been quite active. It has held three informal social gathers for students and faculty. All P&R majors, minors, faculty, alumni, and anyone else who is interested is welcome to attend all meetings. For more information please e-mail **Evian Patterson** at eep3366@uncwil.edu.

Contacting Us

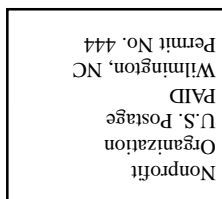
If you would like to see what a particular faculty member is up to, one of the best ways is to check out our many web pages. Most of these pages contain course, professional, and often some personal information. Of course, our email addresses can also be found there. So, please check us out at the following URLs:
<http://www.uncwil.edu/p&r> (for the

department)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/bergh>
(for Herb Berg)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/gauthierc> (for Candace Gauthier)
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(for George Zervos)

By the way, the archive of the department's newsletters can be found at:

<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/bergh/newsletters.htm>
If for some reason you didn't get your newsletter, you can always get it there.

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