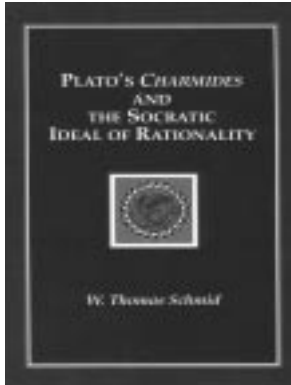




NEWSLETTER OF THE
Department of
Philosophy & Religion

Spring/Summer 1999

Four New Books



This academic year has been an extraordinarily fruitful in terms of scholarly work for the P&R faculty. One third of the faculty published books this year.

Dr. Tom Schmid's book, *Plato's Charmides and the Socratic Ideal of Rationality* interprets Plato's dialogue the *Charmides* as a microcosm of Socratic philosophy. He explores the the treatment of Socratic dialectic, the relation between it and self-knowledge, rationality, moral health,



the soul, and democracy.

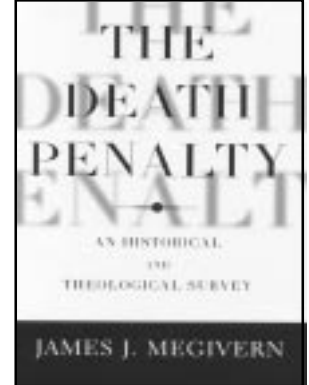
Dr. Walt Conser's book, *Sacred Spaces: Architecture and Religion in Historic Wilmington*, describes the historical development of churches in Wilmington. The book also offers nearly 100 images of these historic buildings.

Dr. Sam Murrell has edited, with others, the first scholarly anthology of Rastafarian movement. *Chanting Down Babylon* explores the Rastafari religion, culture, and politics in



Jamaica and in other parts of the African diaspora.

Dr. Jim Megivern's *The Death Penalty: An Historical and Theological Study*, offers a comprehensive history of the use of the death penalty in the West. He also concentrates on the debate over its use by Christian theologians and philosophers, and illustrates the inconsistencies in Western thinking on its merits.



Professor Emeritus Megivern . . .

Dr. Jim Megivern has been appointed Professor Emeritus. He came to UNCW in 1974 when the P&R department had only four faculty members. He was our chair from 1975 to 1992. Currently in his 25th year of service, he began his phased retirement last year.

In addition to teaching part-time for the department, Dr. Megivern will continue P&R's long tradition of public lectures to the community. He is organizing "Women in Religion" for UNCW's Division of Public Service and Extended Education.

Together with his wife **Marjorie**, he is currently working on a new book, *History of the American Council of the Blind*. It will be published next year to coincide with the Council's fortieth anniversary.

Of course his research and numerous presentations on capital punishment continue. For details about his book, see the preceding article. He also recently wrote the entry "Capital Punishment" for the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religion* and on August

13, 1999 will give the keynote address for the Amnesty International State Chapters' Presidents Workshop in Washington, D.C.





Greetings

Joe Wilson,
Chair

You have in your hands the first Philosophy and Religion newsletter — the result of hard work on the part of **Dr. Herbert Berg**, our editor, but also the result of the dedication of P&R faculty, staff, and students, for without them there would be no newsletter.

This has been my first year as chair

of the department, and I have benefited greatly from **Dr. Walter Conser**'s six year tenure as chair before me (and **Dr. Jim Megivern**'s twenty years before him). Drs. Megivern and Conser presented me with a collegial department that can boast of both the depth of its scholarship and the distinction of its teaching. This past year we conducted a national search for a professor of Early Christianity (to succeed Dr. Megivern), and are delighted to be able to hire **Dr. George Zervos**, who has contributed so much already to the

department. On the philosophy side, **Dr. Maurice Stanley** was promoted to the level of full-time lecturer. The department hopes to be able to make additional hires of new faculty in philosophy and in religious studies in the future.

Students and alumni: take a minute to write us (or email bergh@uncwil.edu) and tell us about yourself and your fellow students and alumni. Take a minute to phone, write, or email us to share your perspective on the value of an education grounded in the humanities.

Faculty News

Ferenc Altrichter was recognized as exemplary during this post-tenure review.

Herb Berg's book *The Development of Exegesis in Early Islam* will be published by Curzon Press in Spring 2000. He also published an article in *Muslim World* entitled "Elijah Muhammad and the Qur'an" and received a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to continue his research on the Moorish Science Temple and the Nation of Islam.

Walt Conser, together with Anthony Janson of the Department of Art and Theatre, received an award from the North Carolina Humanities Council for the lecture series "Sacred Spaces: Religion and Architecture." This lecture series discussed Southern and European churches and ancient Greek, Japanese, and Mayan temples.

Candace Gauthier provided four Ethics Conferences for the Internal Medicine Residency Program and three Ethics Conferences for the Family Medicine Residency Program for the Coastal Area Health Education Center.

Don Habibi received the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. His book *John Stuart Mill and the Ethic of Human*

Growth will be published by Kluwer Academic Publishers. He also had his article "The Moral Dimensions of J.S. Mill's Colonialism" published by the *Journal of Social Philosophy* and participated in the roundtable discussion "Castaneda and Consciousness Studies" at the *Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness Conference* at Berkeley.

Stanley Maurice presented "The Geometry of Ethics" at the *World Conference of Philosophy* in Boston.

Jim McGowan received the Board of Trustees' Teaching Excellence Award, Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award, and the Outstanding Freshman Advising Award.

Jim Megivern presented "The Dynamics of the Death Penalty in the Modern South" at the *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion* at Chapel Hill.

Sam Murrell's article "Hermeneutics as Interpretation, Part II" was published by the *Caribbean Journal of Social Philosophy*. He also presented the papers "Hijacking and Reclaiming a People's Song: A Rastafarian Reading of Psalm 137" at the *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting* in Orlando; "The West as they Embodiment of Evil: Significations of Babylon in Rastafarian Thought" for the *North*

Carolina Religious Studies Association in Fayetteville; and "Wrestling the Message from the Messenger, Indigenization of the Bible in Afro-Caribbean Culture: Rastafari as Case Study" for the *African Americans and the Bible: Social-cultural formation and Sacred Text International Conference* in New York.

Tom Schmid presented a paper entitled "Socratic *Paideia* in the *Chamides' 20th World Congress of Philosophy* in Boston and was active in the 1898 Centennial Foundation.

Carol Thysell has had her manuscript entitled *The Pleasure of Discernment: Gender, Genre, and Allegorical Rhetoric in Marguerite de Navarre's Heptameron* accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. She also published an article "Unearthing the Treasure, Unknitting the Napkin: The Parable of the Talents as a Justification for Early Modern Women's Preaching" in the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Patricia Turrisi presented several papers: "Entrepreneurial Creation of High Quality Distributed Learning Courses" at the *Conference of the Association of General and Liberal Studies* in St. Louis; "Online Courses as Pedagogy Development Laboratories" at the *University of North Carolina Workshop on the Use*

of *Technology for Distance Education* in Raleigh; and "Integrating Academic and Professional Development in Graduate Education" at the *University of North Carolina Conference on Graduate Student Development* at Chapel Hill. She also received an award from the National Honors Council for the development of an Honors Program Resources Web Page.

Joe Wilson served as a panelist for a Special Program Session, The Educom Award Nominees: New Technologies in the Teaching of Religion at the *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting* in Orlando. He also presented two papers:

"Entrepreneurial Creation of High Quality Distributed Learning Courses" at the *Conference of the Association of General and Liberal Studies* in St. Louis; and "Tibetan Logic in Action" at the *UNC Greensboro Religious Studies Colloquium* in Greensboro.

George Zervos was appointed as assistant professor in Early Christianity.

Alumni News

Sheree Harell '85 is president of the Equality Mortgage Services, Inc, in Wilmington. **John Gulley '90** is in the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Arkansas. **John Borkholder '92** graduated from Hasting College Law School of the University of California and is now practicing law in San Francisco.

Deborah Heathcock '92 has very recently been ordained as an Episcopal priest. She has been assigned to Olympia, WA. **Rob Tripp '92** was until recently the Director of Greek Life at Johnson and Wales University.

Kim Brinson '94 is in the History and Philosophy of Science Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins University. **Kathy Alstrin '95** teaches at the Helen Alice Higgins Montessori School in Wilmington. **Samuel J. Randall IV '95** completed his law degree at California Western University in San Diego and has opened a law practice in Wilmington, NC. **Philip Feiner**

'95 went to Wake Forest Law School. **Catherine Sexton Knepper '95** graduated with a Masters degree from the School of Theology at Boston University in 1998. **Gina Gambony '96** is working on her teaching certificate at UNCW. **Scott Ramey '96** has been accepted into the graduate program at Texas A&M. **Samantheo Marcellus '98** is doing graduate work at North Carolina A&T University. **Deirdre Britt '99** will be entering Duke Divinity School in the Fall. **Jay Guthrie '99** will be entering the M.B.A. program at UNCW in the Fall.

We know that we have missed many of you in this update. We are eager to hear about your academic and career accomplishments. After all, you are our best measure of program, and the best examples for our current students of the benefits of being a Philosophy and Religion major. So please stay in touch and keep us up to date on your lives. A lifelong relationship with our alumni is vital to the success of the department.

Alumni! We want to hear from you!

Name: _____
 Dr./Mr./Ms./Mrs./Miss First Middle (Maiden) Last Suffix
 Address: _____
 Street/PO Box City State Zip
 Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____ Email: _____
 Employer: _____ Position: _____
 Address: _____
 Street/PO Box City State Zip
 Graduation Date: _____ Major: _____
 News for the next newsletter: _____

You can also update your information or send us news for our next newsletter by emailing alumnews@uncwil.edu or fill out the form at www.uncwil.edu/alumni/keepintouch.html

I want to support the UNCW Department of Philosophy & Religion

Please consider a donation in support of UNCW's P&R department. Your gift will help supply equipment for classrooms, support student services and extracurricular activities as well as provide needed scholarship support for students. Your help and generosity will allow us to continue to provide a meaningful education for Philosophy and Religion students.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Make check payable to UNCW)

Return to: Advancement Services
 The University of North Carolina at Wilmington
 601 South College Road
 Wilmington, NC 28403-3297

Credit Card Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MC exp. date _____
Card number _____	
Name on Card _____	
Signature _____	



Majors . . .

Kathryn Cole '99 successfully defended her Honors thesis "Journeys in American Writing" this year. It focuses on the philosophy of William James and Walker Percy. Her advisor was **Dr. Patricia Turrisi**.

Crystal Lubinsky and **Danny Reeves** are assisting **Dr. George Zervos** with the study and computerization of the manuscripts of the *Protevangeliu[m] of James*. **Matt Lazin**, also working with Dr. Zervos, is helping him develop components of his Greek Language Studies program on the web.

The Web . . .

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 as a whole)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/bergh> (for Herb Berg)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/gauthierc> (for Candace Gauthier)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/stanley> (for Maurice Stanley)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/thyselle> (for Carol Thysell)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/turrisip> (for Patricia Turrisi)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/wilsonj> (for Joe Wilson)
<http://www.uncwil.edu/people/zervosg> (for George Zervos)

Announcements

This year's B. Frank Hall lecture will be "The Muse of Public Memory: the Making of Black and White Memories in the South, from the Civil War to the present" by **Fitzhugh Brundage**, Chair, Department of History, University of Florida, author of *Under Sentence of Death: Lynching in the*

South (UNC Press, 1998). Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Morton Auditorium.

Dr. Don Habibi will offer "Philosophy and Film" as part of the new minor in Film Studies. The theme for this course will be political ideology and film and will explore several major aspects of the relationships between people and power. The course will study such ideologies as liberalism, communism, and fascism, and explore how their political agendas have been expressed in great motion pictures. We are especially fortunate to have the participation of **Mr. Frank Capra Jr.**, the president of Screen Gems Studios. The course will be offered on Tuesday evenings during Fall 1999.

Dr. Sam Murrell will be leading another exciting UNCW Summer Program in Barbados during the 2000 Summer Session II. The course will examine Caribbean religions and cultures. There will be an open house in September or contact us for a brochure.

350 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$150.92 or \$0.43 per copy (G.S. 143-170.1).

Address Service Requested

Department of Philosophy & Religion
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403

