Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman Joins UGA Department Of Religion As Anna And Jay Davis Professor Of Jewish Studies, Fall 2006

Pending Board of Regents approval, the Department of Religion is very delighted to announce the arrival of Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman to the University of Georgia, effective fall semester 2006. Dr. Friedman joins us as the first Ann and Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies. He is currently a faculty member at the University of California, San Diego. Where since 1994 he has held the position of Katzin Professor of Jewish Civilization. In addition, Dr. Friedman has served as Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, England; Visiting Scholar, Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, Oxford, England; Senior Fellow, American Schools of Oriental Research, Albright Institute of Archeological Research, Jerusalem; and the City of David Project, Excavations of Biblical Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University.

Dr. Friedman received his Th.D. in Hebrew Bible and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University (1978); Th.M. in Hebrew Bible from Harvard University (1974); M.H.L., Jewish Theological Seminary (1971), and B.A., University of Miami (1968). Our new faculty member is a winner of numerous awards and honors, including American Council of Learned Societies Fellow. A nationally and world renowned scholar, writer, and speaker, Dr. Friedman has published voluminously, including these books: The Exile and Biblical Narrative (Scholars Press, 1981); The Creation of Sacred Literature (University of California Press, 1981); The Poet and the Historian (Scholars Press, 1983); The Future of Biblical Studies: The Hebrew Scriptures (Scholars Press, 1987); Who Wrote the Bible? (Summit/Simon and Schuster, 1987, and other editions by other publishers since 1987); Disappearance of God (Little, Brown, 1995; other editions/publishers since 1995); The Hidden Face of God (HarperCollins, 1997); The Hidden Book in the Bible (HarperCollins, 1998, followed by other editions/publishers); Commentary on the Torah (HarperCollins, 2001/2003); and The Bible with Sources Revealed (HarperCollins, 2004).

The appointment of such a prestigious scholar as Dr. Richard Friedman is made possible by a very generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jay and Ann Davis of Atlanta. Mr. Davis is a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation and is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Distributing Company, Inc. The Davises, who are graduates of the University of Georgia, are nationally known leaders in Jewish education and are the founders of The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy, an accredited Reform Jewish Day School in Atlanta.

We would like to thank Dr. David Williams, Director of UGA Honors Program, Professor of Religion, and former Department Head, for his successful efforts in securing funding for the Davis Professorship.

Dr. Randy Sturman Joins The Department Of Religion As Lecturer

Pending Board of Regents approval, the Department of Religion is very delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Randy Linda Sturman as a Franklin College lecturer in Religion. Dr. Sturman will join us fall semester 2006. She will teach four courses a year with approximately half of them based in Religion and the other half based in other departments and academic units.

Currently, Dr. Sturman holds the post of Lecturer at the University of California, San Diego in the Department of Anthropology and Judaic Studies Program. She is also Adjunct Professor for California Western School of Law. She holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Anthropology from University of California, San Diego; J.D., University of Florida, College of Law; and B.A., from the University of Florida. She is a member of both the Florida and California Bar. She has served as an intern on the staff of Chief Justice Warren Burger and Congressman William Lehman; practiced law in Florida and California, in the area of medical malpractice litigation; and served as assistant district attorney in Miami, Florida.

Dr. Sturman has published one book, Six Lives of Jerusalem (Netherlands: Kluwer, 2000) and is working as co-author on a second, Israel and the Bible: Then and Now.

We welcome Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman and Dr. Randy Linda Sturman to University of Georgia and the Department of Religion.

Graduate Alumni and Student News

Maura Nelson (2005), a former part-time instructor in the Religion Department, will be joining the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, DC in January.

Jordan Rothacker (2005) won the Graduate Student Teacher Award in Spring 2005. This award is given by the Graduate School.

Kai Riedl, a current Religion graduate student, recently won a UGA Center for Humanities and Arts Research and Performance grant for $1000 to travel to Indonesia to further his research on Buddhism.

Bradford Downs (2003) was a hurricane Katrina victim. Brad was teaching for Loyola University in New Orleans and he lost everything. He is currently back in Athens and will be teaching as a part-time instructor for the department in Spring 2006.
FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Honerkamp has just had his work entitled *Lettres de Direction Spirituelle of Ibn Abbad de Ronda* (792/1390): *Collection Majeure* published by Dar el-Machreq in Beirut, Lebanon, May 2005. This work of over 550 pages is the study and critical edition of the correspondence of two well-known Islamic scholars of 14th century Merinide Fes, Morocco. Much of the research done of this book was carried out during Dr. Honerkamp’s many years in Morocco as a professor at the Qurawiyine University in Marrakech. This correspondence provides us with important insights into the social, political, and religious issues of the Muslim community in Morocco just prior to the reconquista of Muslim Spain. Dr. Honerkamp has also had two book chapters published: “Ibn ‘Abbad, modele de la Shadhiliyya,” and “A Biography of Abu al-Hasan al-Shadhili Dating from the fourteenth Century” in *La Shadhiliyya – Une Voie Soufie dans le Monde* (Paris: Maisonneuve & Larose, 2004). These papers were delivered to the UNESCO sponsored international conference in Alexandria, Egypt on the Shadhiliyya Sufi Brotherhood.

Dr. Sandy Dwayne Martin during 2005 delivered a keynote address on Virginia Black Baptists and the African missions movement for a missions conference held a Second Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia; spoke about James Walker Hood and the civil rights movement for an NEH sponsored program at James Walker Hood Eason Civil Rights Museum in Tallahassee, Florida; gave an address on African missions and one on James Walker Hood for Bainbridge College-supported programs in Bainbridge, Georgia; and served as panel moderator and presenter for sessions of the Fourth Baptist Classics Seminar held at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia. He also has a book chapter on the historical roots of National Baptists and an encyclopedia article on William W. Colley in press; is developing a booklet on African American Baptist origins; and continues to work on a text on African American religious history.

Jace Weaver recently completed his tenth book, “American Indian Literary Nationalism” (co-authored with Craig Womack and Robert Warrior, under contract to the University of New Mexico). In October and November, he was an invited speaker at Villanova University, Universite Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand, France, and the University of Aarhus in Aarhus, Denmark.

Glenn Wallis has just completed a book treating the primary teachings of the Buddha. The book, tentatively titled, *The Buddhist Tapestry: Reading the Suttas*, includes fresh translations (from the Pali language) of sixteen suttas, or dialogues, detailed commentary, and an extensive interpretive introductory essay. This book will be published by Random House’s Modern Library series in early 2006. Wallis has also been invited by Routledge Publishers to write an extensive biography of the Buddha. This book is now under negotiation. Wallis’ article “The Buddha Counsels a Thist: A Reading of the *Tevijjasutta (Dighanikaya 13)*” is presently under consideration at the journal *Religion*. This article explores the grounds on which the Buddha dismisses the notion (any and all notions) of supernatural agency. Wallis continues to do research on the theory and application of the ancient Buddhist meditation practice known as anapanasatibhavana, or cultivating present-moment awareness by means of the breath. He is particularly interested in the interface between this practice and cognitive theory.

WASBASH Grant Awarded

Dr. Carolyn Medine received a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., to mentor two graduate students as they began teaching their own courses in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The grant is for the year 2005-2006. Dr. Medine also co-edited a book, *Teaching African American Religion*, with Theodore Trost of the University of Alabama. The book was issued by Oxford University Press in June 2005.

Gandhi Conference

Dr. Carolyn Medine and a group of our present and former students attended the second annual Gandhi Conference on Nonviolence in Memphis, TN, October 14-15. The group presented a panel on narrative, self cultivation and peace. The panel was enthusiastically received by conference attendees. Carolyn Medine and John Randolph LeBlanc of the University of Texas at Tyler, M.A. candidate Amy Flynn, and former M.A. students, Lia Mallini and Kate Daley-Bailey made up the panel. The group also visited Graceland before returning to Athens. This panel will be presented again at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion meeting in March in Atlanta in the Arts, Literature and Religion section. There, Jordan Rothacker, another of the department’s former students, will also join the panel.

Studies Abroad in Vietnam

For the first time Dr. Jace Weaver (Religion) along with Dr. Robert Galen (Public Health), Dr. Marsha Black (Environmental Health Science) and Dr. Carol Cotton (Health and Behavior) will be spending Maymester 2006 in Vietnam. The program will study the history and culture of this ancient but rapidly developing country; learn about its foreign policy, safety, public health and environmental issues; see its natural wonders and its national treasures; visit Hanoi (once known as the Paris of the East); and dine on its unique and delicious cuisine. Courses will be taught by both UGA professors and faculty from Vietnamese universities.

Studies Abroad in Europe

Dr. Jace Weaver will again be teaching RELI 4640/6640 (Anthropology of Religion) and RELI 4900 (The Religious Heritage of the West) along with Dr. Ervan Garrison of Anthropology who will be offering ANTH 3290 (Prehistory of Europe) for a Studies Abroad experience in France, Spain and Switzerland. The trip will include exploration of prehistoric Roman, Christian, and Jewish sites in Spain and Switzerland, including the Alhambra, Seville, Cordoba, Firbourg, and Mont Vully. Optional weekend trips to Paris and to Burgundy as well.
The Department of Religion with the UGA Office of International Education hosted the third Maymester in Morocco from May 12th to June 8th. Dr. Honerkamp (a twenty-year resident of Morocco) headed the program hosted at the American Language Center of Marrakech, the Red City, of southern Morocco.

Six students from UGA went on excursions to the far South, the Wadi Draa (the largest oasis in the world) and the Sahara Desert. There were also visits to the cities of Casablanca, Rabat, and an extended stay in Fes, with excursions to the villages and souks of the High Atlas Mountains. The students all stayed with Moroccan families and had immersion experiences in Arabic and Muslim culture. Everyone who went came back, in one student’s words, “a changed person.” The core courses offered during the program were: RELI 4310— Islam and Islamic Culture in Morocco (4 credits) and ARAB 4000/6000 – Survival Moroccan Dialectical Arabic (4 credits).

Maymester in Morocco

Institute of Native American

The Institute of Native American Studies’ Inaugural Lecture Series continues through February. The series brings four Native leaders from a variety of fields of achievement to campus to discuss what “A Traditional Future” might look for contemporary Indians. The series began on Sept. 8 with UGA alumnus Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. It continued on October 11 with internationally known Cheyenne artist Edgar Heap of Birds. Both spoke to more than 200 people. On November 15, Choctaw historian Homer Noley of the Claremont School of Theology spoke. The series is scheduled to conclude on February 21, when Andrea Smith, who was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work on violence against women, will come to campus. All INAS events are open to the public. For more details see www.uga.edu/inas.

New Staff Member

The Departmental office has added a new full-time staff position. Ms. Kimbley Scott has joined the department as an Administrative Assistant II. Ms. Scott will be taking over the duties of receptionist and will serve the department as the Sectioning Officer. She will also be in charge of departmental publications and faculty evaluations.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Part-time instructor and Religion Master Program Alumna (2005), Jordan A. Rothacker spends his non-academic time as contributing editor for several magazines. One of which, International Wristwatch (iW), takes him all over the world. Last July found Mr. Rothacker in Japan on the invitation of Seiko to do a factory tour (as found in the October issue of iW).

In October, Mr. Rothacker covered the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, of which Swiss watch company Parmigiani Fleurier was the official watch sponsor. This photo was taken by Mr. Rothacker the day he took flight over Albuquerque courtesy of Parmigiani. What more is in store for Mr. Rothacker?
Would you Like to Promote the Academic Study of Religion?

Contributions in support of the Religion department are diligently sought and accepted. A very small development fund exists for our department. We need your UGA donation, designated for Religion department, to make it grow. Contributions are tax deductible. Mail your designated contribution to: ARCH Foundation, Foundation Building, Gift Receiving Department, 394 South Milledge Avenue, Suite100, Athens, GA 30602. To donate by credit card online, go to www.UGA.EDU/EXTERNALAFFAIRS/development.html then click online gift by credit card and select Franklin College Arts & Sciences and Religion for Academic unit and Department. Donors of gifts of $35 or more will receive two publications: The Franklin Chronicle and The Georgia Magazine. Please contact the Franklin College Development office at (706) 542-1168 for additional information.

Please Designate Religion

FACULTY AND STAFF DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

Dr. Alan Godlas, Associate Professor, Islam, Quranic & Hadith Studies, Arabic & Persian, Sufism
Dr. Kenneth Honerkamp, Assistant Professor, Arabic, Islamic texts, Sharish, North African Sufism
Dr. Russell Kirkland, Associate Professor, Asian Religions, Taoism, Chinese and Japanese Religions
Dr. Sandy D. Martin, Professor and Department Head, History of Christianity, American & African American Religious History
Dr. Carolyn J. Medine, Associate Professor, Religion & Literature, African American Religions & Lit., Religious Theory & Thought, Women’s Spirituality & Writings
Dr. William L. Power, Professor, Historical, Systematic & Philosophical Theology, Philosophy of Religion
Dr. Glenn Wallis, Assistant Professor, Indian Religions, Buddhism & Hinduism
Dr. Jace Weaver, Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute for Native American Studies, Native American Cultures & Religious Traditions
Dr. David D. Williams, Professor and Director of the UGA Honor Program, Judaism, Hebrew, Hebrew Bible
Dr. Rouslan Elistratov, Assistant Professor and Franklin Fellow, Philosophy of Religions and Theology
Dr. Elizabeth LaRocca-Pitts, Lecturer, Old Testament and New Testament Studies
Mrs. Zinetta McDonald, Business Manager I
Ms. Kimbley Scott, Administrative Assistant II

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Religion
Peabody Hall
Athens, GA 30602-1625