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ZINETTA MCDONALD RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS AT UGA!

After working for UGA for 34 years, The Department of Religion’s Business Manager, Zinetta McDonald, is retiring officially July 1, 2010. Zinetta began working for the University of Georgia in 1976 as a student worker in the Honors Program. In 1977 she was hired as a full-time Clerk with the Honors Program and worked there till 1982. From 1980-82 Zinetta was a student in the Evening Classes program at UGA, but in the Summer of 1982 she quit the Honors Program to begin working on her degree fulltime. As a student, Zinetta worked for the Science Library in Current Periodicals 1982-83 and from 1983-85 she was the work-study student for the newly created Religion Department (begun in January 1984). Dr. George Howard was the department head and the faculty members were Dr. William Power, Dr. Robert Ayers, Dr. Shanta Ratnayaka, Dr. Anthony Nemetz, and Dr. William David. In 1985 Zinetta graduated from UGA with an AB in Philosophy and began working with the University System of Georgia’s Applicant Clearinghouse which is affiliated with the EEO office at UGA. She was there only one year, when she found out the then Business Manager for Religion was quitting and applied for the position. Since 1986 Zinetta has been working as the Business Manager for the Religion Department.

Zinetta says of her time with the department, “I have so enjoyed watching the department grow both in faculty and students. It has been most rewarding getting to know everyone, particularly the Masters degree students. I hope I was able to make their time in at the Religion Department a little less stressful and hope I was able to be of some help to them all. I consider them my other children. I’m only sorry I was not able to get to know more of the undergraduates, but those that I did connect with were a joy to know. I have also enjoyed getting to know the faculty and hope we will stay good friends. I have appreciated the comradery in the department and the respect shown me and the staff. I am very grateful to the department for everything they have done for me as well as everyone at the Dean’s office at the Franklin College for all their support and all those other great people around campus that helped me look good by doing their job so well.”

The entire Religion family of students, staff, and professors will sorely miss Zinetta. In countless ways she has been of tremendous assistance to all - not only in terms of her excellent skills and comprehensive knowledge of the Department and University, but also her positive attitude, cheery disposition, wise counsel, and listening ear. Whether one has been a new major enrolling in the program, a student seeking information about classes or instructors, a graduate student preparing for an M.A. thesis defense, or an instructor having problems with the computer - all have found Zinetta an indispensable asset. Dr. Wayne Coppins says, “‘Let’s ask Zinetta’ is a phrase that I’ve often employed since arriving in 2007. She’s been a great support to me, and we’ll all miss her friendly and effective way of making things work right or fixing them when they’ve gone wrong.” Dr. I. Simon Aderibigbe speaks for the entire Religion family when he sums up his impression of Zinetta as “a wonderfully efficient manager... a consummate personality in warmth, adept, and always on top of situations...I, in particular will miss her!” So shall we all. Thanks, Zinetta. The Department of Religion.

A retirement reception will be held before July. More information will be available at a later date. If interested in attending or sending your sentiments, please send an email to religion@uga.edu or call the department at 706-542-5356.

SHERMAN JACKSON AND HELEN RHEE TO SPEAK AT UGA

Dr. Helen Rhee, Westmont College
The Department of Religion together with the Institute for African American Studies received funding from the Franklin College’s Office of Inclusion and Diversity Leadership to sponsor Dr. Helen Rhee as a Franklin Visiting Scholar. Dr. Rhee, who teaches Christian History at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA, will be speaking on March 15 at 7:00 pm at the Miller Learning Center, room 150. Rhee will discuss wealth and poverty in the early church and how it affected larger issues of identity, including social class and its relation to the ideas of Christian salvation held by the rich and the poor.

Dr. Sherman Jackson, University of Michigan
As part of the Department of Religion’s George E. Howard Annual Lecture Series, Dr. Sherman Jackson will present a public lecture on Islamic Studies (title to be announced). The presentation will be on March 25, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the Miller Learning Center, room 101. Dr. Sherman is a professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

For More information please see http://www.uga.edu/religion/current_events.htm
Dr. Ibighobade Aderibigbe is going on a research trip to Salvador, Brazil on March 29-April 9, 2010 with funding from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute with support from the Department of Religion and the African Studies Institute. The Research is on the ritual language and practices of Candomble Tereiros in Salvador, Brazil. Dr. Aderibigbe attended the African Conference at the University of Texas-Austin March 26–28, 2009 and presented a paper: “Gender Roles and womanhood in Africa: Perpective of African Traditional Religion.” He contributed to the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability: The Spirit of Sustainability. The contribution is entitled: “Indigenous Traditions-Africa”, pp. 209-212.

Dr. Russell Kirkland has published an entry on “Taoist Political Thought” in the new Encyclopedia of Political Theory (SAGE Publications), and a Chinese-language version of his Daoism and Ecology chapter on “Responsible Non-Action in a Natural World” (in Daojiao yu shengtai: yuzhou jingguan de neizai zhi dao (Jiangsu Educational Press), 2008). He peer-reviewed two book manuscripts for Wiley-Blackwell, three for Routledge, and articles for the Journal of Chinese Religions and the Journal of Daoist Studies. He also remains Vice-President of the Society for the Study of Chinese Religions, and the primary China editor for Religious Studies Review. At UGA he remains the Undergraduate Coordinator of the Religion Department; the Moderator of UGA’s chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa (the national Honors Society for Theology and Religious Studies); and a member of the steering committee of the Native American Studies Institute.

Dr. Wayne Coppins is enjoying teaching his upper level class on the Gospels and his introductory course on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. His book, The Interpretation of Freedom in the Letters of Paul, was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2009. Building upon his presentation at the Departmental Colloquium, he is scheduled to present a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature regional conference in Atlanta in March 2010 on “Paul’s Juxtaposition of Freedom and Positive Servitude in 1 Cor 9.19 and Its Reception by Martin Luther and Gerhard Ebeling.” He continues to participate in the Lilly Teaching Fellows Program at UGA. He and his wife Ingie are very much enjoying their daughter Sophia who was born on August 10, 2009.

Dr. William Power attended the Society for Philosophy annual meeting in Claremont, California, February 25-27, 2010. As a member of the Associates, which oversee the management of the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, he meets each year with the Board to discuss the status of the Journal and various editorial matters. He was also on the program as a respondent to a paper. On March the 19, 2010 he will present a paper for a colloquium in the Philosophy Department entitled “Existential Faith and Biblical Philosophy.”

Dr. Sandy Martin has published one article for Baptist Today and has two articles in press, including one on religion and the Civil Rights Movement to appear in the third volume of three volume-set of the Cambridge History of Religions in the Americas. In October 2009 Dr. Martin presided over a session and presented a paper on the “Global Context for the Rise and Growth of African American Baptists” for the Pruitt Memorial Symposium held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the emergence of the Baptist tradition. Last spring 2009 Dr. Martin served as an external reviewer of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Louisiana State University. Dr. Martin is very grateful to, and elated that, the departmental faculty overwhelmingly recommended to Dean Garnett S. Stokes of Franklin College Arts and Sciences that he be reappointed as head for another three-year term.

Dr. Carolyn Medine had two publications this past year: “Nathan A. Scott, Jr.: Word and the Practice of Hope,” in Mystic Chords of Memory: The Legacy of Rev. Nathan A. Scott, Jr.” Christianity and Literature 59:1 (Autumn 2009): 121-125 and “Freedom and Identity in Zora Neale Hurston’s Moses Man of the Mountain.” Approaches to Teaching Zora Neale Hurston, Ed. John Lowe. MLA Publications, 2009. 105-119. Dr. Medine was invited to lecture at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas and at St. Rose College, in Albany, NY. She also continued her work for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion as a staff member for the Mid-Career Colloquy.

Dr. Kenneth Honerkamp attended three international conferences as an invited lecturer. In January 2009 he was in Cairo at the Al-Azhar and the West: Bridges of Dialogue Conference hosted by The World Association For Al-Azhar Graduates. This conference was hosted by the world renown Al-Azhar University to discuss pedagogy as a shared field of enquiry for professors on Islamic studies. In September of 2009 Dr. Honerkamp responded to an invitation from His Majesty, Muhammad VI of Morocco to deliver a public lecture before the King on the topic of “The Sufi Roots of Islamic Ethical Discourse drawn from the teachings of the Moroccan Sufi Master Ibn Abbad of Ronda (m. 1490).” The King of Morocco invites scholars from all over the world on the occasion of the month of Ramadan this placed Dr. Honerkamp in the company of some of the most renowned scholars of Islam in the world and the raised the visibility of UGA onto the international scene where scholarship on Islamic topics is concerned. Dr. Honerkamp also had the opportunity to meet His Majesty and express his appreciation for the invitation. Dr. Honerkamp was also invited to lecture at the Second International Sidi Chikr World Meetings of Tassawuf Affiliates, hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Islamic Affairs, there he gave a public lecture on the Importance of Trans-Order Sufi Understanding, in a time when Sufism offers the Islamic world an alternative to Islamic fundamentalist thought. Nationally Dr. Honerkamp was in Berkeley California, at the Zaytuna Institute Summer Intensive Arabic Program for a lecture on the importance of Islamic orisons and invocations as a means of maintaining the Arabic students have invested so much time and energy into learning. In addition to the lectures that Dr. Honerkamp wrote and presented in 2009, he also had eleven articles published across a broad spectrum of topics, in both English and Arabic; he published in Iran, Germany, Spain and the USA.

Dr. Alan Godlas took 17 students on the UGA Maymester in Morocco program Summer 2009. In addition to having classes in Marrakech (“Islam and Islamic Culture in Morocco,” “Moroccan Dialectical Arabic,” “Intercultural Dialogue,” the students traveled into the High Atlas mountains to the fortress of Tinmal; to Sufi Oasis town of Tamagrout (where among the highlights was a visit to the 800 year-old Chellah gardens and necropolis and the Oudayah Casbah) and Salee (home of the famous Salee Rovers). The group also traveled to the ancient city of Fes, which is also a world heritage site, because it has been preserved in much the same state as been since its founding in the 9th century. In addition to exploring the city they were also able to attend a session of the Fes sacred music festival. Dr. Godlas is the advisor of Six Fulbright “Foreign Language Teaching Assistants” instructors of Persian, Indonesian, Bengali, Urdu, Pashto, and Turkish (2009-10). They are paid by the Institute for International Education (New York) on behalf of the Fulbright program. Dr. Godlas reports one Book chapter: “Reconciling the Study of Islam and Modern Psychology” in B. Guiderdoni, Islam, Reason and Peace: Views of Western Muslim Scholars (in press). And a Peer reviewed article: “Building Bridges: Cross disciplinary collaboration between family therapy and Islamic studies” in collaboration with Kelly S. Kennedy, Jerry Gale, and M. L. Parker. Journal of Muslim Mental Health (accepted, in press). He also delivered several papers at National, International and Religion Scholarly Conferences: “Molla Fanari and the Misbah al-uns: The Commentator and The Perfect Man.” Keynote Address, International Molla Fanari Symposium, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, December 4-6, 2009. “Islamic Resources for Emotionally Intelligent Dialogue,” Al-Azhar and the West: The Scope and Governing Principles of Dialogue”, Cairo, Egypt, 28-30 June, 2009. “Bringing the West and Islam by Creating Self-Understanding: The Study of Islam, Hermeneutics, and the Necessity of Enhancing Emotional Intelligence,” Al-Azhar and the West: Bridges of Dialogue, Cairo, Egypt, January 3-5, 2009. “Understanding Islamic Resources for Enhancing Emotional Intelligence,” American Association of Muslim Social Scientists, Charlotte, NC, Sept., 2009. “Understanding Islam: A workshop for university professors,” Kennesaw State University, October 30, 2009. Dr. Godlas served as an external reviewer for the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Review 2009-10 and is a Member of the Editorial Board. Insights, a Quarterly journal published by the International Islamic University, Islamabad.
ALUMNI NEWS

David McDuffie (MA, 06) is a new father. His son was born on Jan. 18th. His wife Jennie and the baby, named Aidan Charles, are both doing well!

Karen Schwerin (MA, 09), currently at Brandeis in Boston, presented a paper at SAMLA (South Atlantic Modern Language Association) and she will chair the panel at next year’s SAMLA.

Jenny Schwartzberg (MA, 07) is working on an MA in Modern European History at UGA, and will be graduating this spring. She will be continuing her graduate education at a yet to be determined school for a PhD in History.

Kate Daley-Bailey (MA, 04) has been teaching religious studies at Georgia State University for the last two years. She will be presenting this march at the regional AAR meeting (SECSOR) and has contributed to a collection of critical essays on Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird.

Kai Riedl (MA, 06) has completed a music series documenting traditional Indonesian music called Javasounds (www.javasounds.org) and set up a non-profit called Sound Compass (www.soundcompass.org) that is developing a new economic model for traditional musicians in 3rd world countries. Kai also teaches a class at local yoga studios in Athens entitled “The Basics of Eastern Philosophy and How To Make Them Coextensive in Our Lives”.

Michael Ward (MA, 09) is now working on a PhD in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia and he got married in 2009.

Yunus Abdallah Wesley (Schwein) (MA, 07) is in his second year of a PhD program at Emory. He is presenting the paper “Heresiography as Historiography: The ‘Salimiyaa Theses’ in Hanbali Polemics” at the spring meeting of SERMEISS, the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar, at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, March 19-21.

Lia Mallini Bertelson (MA, 05) has been teaching Spanish and taking care of their son who was born last February.

Violaine Meziere (MA, 05) is in a Phd program in France at the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) studying sociology of religions. Her Dissertation deals with the use of machines in new tech-nospiritualities, basically she is studying how the Raclian Movments (with the RMX2010), the Church of Scientology (with the electrometer) and the Aetherius Society (with the radionic devices) all use machines in their faith and how that use influences their beliefs or gives rise to a different set of beliefs and a different set of social codes. Vie is also a freelance translator (English, French, Spanish), translating mainly screenplays of independent movies.

Julia Blue Singh (MA, 97, JD, Duke) is a lawyer with Gray, Layton, Kersh in Gastonia, NC. She does corporate transaction work (mainly mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance). After UGA, she went to law school at Duke, then practiced in New York City and London. Julia along with her husband and daughter (3) settled back in Gastonia last year.

Christopher Poe (BA/MA, 09) is currently in his first year at Duke University Law School.

Beth Lawson (MA, 04) and her husband, Kime Lawson (MA, 02), have been in Philadelphia since leaving UGA. Beth is now the National Student Director of the American Academy of Religion and also one of two Mid-Atlantic Region AAR student representatives. She is currently preparing for her exams and working on her dissertation research on Jewish conversion in America at Temple University’s PhD program in Religion. Beth is also an adjunct in the same department and affiliated with the Women’s Studies Department. In addition, she is head of the department’s Graduate Student Association. Kime just passed his comprehensive examinations at Temple University in the History Department’s PhD Program.

Crystal Aycock Bowne (MA, 09) is an adjunct instructor at Arkansas Tech University, and also an AmeriCorps member working on a heritage farmstead.

Katie Wood Peters (MA, 94; Emory PhD, 01) is an instructor at John Carroll University in Cleveland OH. She is under contract with Oxford University Press for a college-level Humanities textbook due out in 2012.

Christie Bamford (MA, 01) received her PhD in Developmental Psychology last year at the University of California, Davis. She also recently had a first authored publication in her field’s top journal which came out January 2010: Bamford, C., & Lagattuta, K. H. (2010), “A New Look at Children’s Understanding of Mind and Emotion: The Case of Prayer,” Developmental Psychology, 46(1), 78-92.

Dr. John Colson (M.A., 93, EdD, 97) is the Vice President of Student Services at Grossmont College in El Cajon, California, where he has served since 2006. He oversees a robust program of student services for the campus of 20,000 students located ten miles from San Diego. His wife Angela (Administrative Assistant II Religion Department 94-97) has been teaching music for twelve years and now teaches private lessons from home in San Diego.

Art Linton (MA, 91) is working at Emory University in Atlanta, GA as a study abroad advisor and computer geek for CIPA (Center for International Programs Abroad @ Emory). He advises for Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France, and handles the webpage and database information. Art does several other websites at Emory too. Though not teaching now, Art did teach World Religion at Emory for four years. He has gotten back into his music in the last several years with one CD already released, “Enemy Lines” and has a new CD, “Time Heals All” that is available on iTunes.

Carl W. Willis, M.D (BA, 82, MDiv, Wake Forest, 85) has been working in the Child Welfare field for over 23 years and 30 years in ministry. He currently is the East Tennessee Regional Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes.

Brad Downs (MA, 03) has been pursuing his music career. He plays with the band “Brad Downs and the Poor Bastard Souls” (http://www.braddownsmusic.com/). Brad and the band have a CD available entitled “Winter Breathing.”

Jason Jonathan Eaglen (MA, 06) was promoted to be Chairperson of the Theology Department at St. Pius X Catholic High School in Atlanta, GA, beginning in the 2009-10 school year. He also teaches courses in Church History, Basics of Catholicism, and Social Justice.

Kevin Patrick McAuliff (MA, 86) is now the environmental contact for the Northwestern Georgia Regional Commission. He spends much of the summer analyzing the sources of fecal coliform in streams in Whitfield and Murray Counties. His big project is saving Civil War sites in Whitfield County and putting together a fifteen-county greenspace plan.


Megan Lane (MA, 08) is working toward and M.Ed in Higher Education Administration at North Carolina State University, concentrating in Student Affairs. She is also currently working with the student-run organizations on campus. Megan hopes to work with students in religious and/or academic services when she graduates in 2011.

Kelly Williams (MA, 08) is in her second year of a PhD in American Religious History at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. She is presenting a paper, “Divine Discipline: The Making of the Oneida Community Membership,” at the 2010 meeting of SECSOR (Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion) in Atlanta, GA.

Jonathan Vinson (MA, 99) has worked for 9 years for a non-profit out of Gainesville, GA called Center Point. They offer mentor, substance abuse prevention, and counseling services, along with classes in religion. Jonathan is in charge of the religious education program.

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Friends of the Department of Religion

The Department of Religion would appreciate very much your support of its teaching and research endeavors. Please donate to the Department of Religion Fund and help our program with graduate student fellowships, student travel, guest speakers and other expenses.

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If you have any questions you may contact Zinetta McDonald at (706) 542-3716 or email religion@uga.edu.

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I am sorry that I am unable to lend financial support at the present time, but please feel free to keep me informed about the department’s activities and to contact me in the future for possible support.

AFASREL10
Alumni News (continued from page 3)

Aaron McCurrie (MA 98) attended the University of St. Andrews (in St Andrews, Scotland) 2008-2009 and earned an M.Litt. in Theological Interpretation of Scripture, studying under Dr. Grant MacAskill and Dr. Bruce Lonergan.

Megan Summers (MA 07) is in her third year as an Upper Division religion teacher at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Florida. She teaches survey courses in Western Religions, Eastern Religions, and Ethics. Megan is also the Head Cheerleading coach as well as the faculty advisor to the student newspaper.

Matt Long (MA 07) took a part-time teaching position for ESOL students at the YWCA in Cincinnati. Since that time, he has become a full-time instructor of Math and Language and was recently promoted to Assistant Literacy Coordinator. In his spare time, Matt has continued writing and has contributed a number of articles to various publications: one chapter of Islamic Practices for a textbook, three articles to an encyclopedia on Islam in America, and two articles for an encyclopedia on Political Islam published by Princeton. He is currently working on an article for a book on Islam and Disability. In 2009 Matt was accepted to a PhD program in Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto, but decided to continue teaching, writing, and researching independently. He hopes to find the opportunity to teach Islam and religion at a local high school or community college. And not least, Matt will be getting married this June.

Matthew Enis (MA 99) moved to New York shortly after finishing his MA degree, and for the past 10 years, has been working there in business/trade journalism as a reporter and editor. He recently started working toward a Masters of Library and Information Science degree at Queens College (CUNY). Matt is hoping he can ultimately use the Religion MA and the MLIS degree to start a career in a university library system.

Bryan Gallant (MA 07) has been busy traveling and speaking locally, nationally, and internationally. He has recently started a non-profit group, Faith Partnerships International, and a personal blog about his interfaith partnership work, ServingtheSubmitted.com.

Dan Marcec (MA,08 ) is currently in Atlanta working as the Editor of Association Publications for a small publishing company called France Publications. Currently he is the sole editor/designer of three separate magazines, all of which cover the news & views of professional associations: “AAHOA Lodging Business,” the official magazine of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association; “OWNER,” the official magazine of the International Association of Holiday Inns (IAHI); “The Atlanta Lawyer”, the official publication of the Atlanta Bar Association.

UNDERGRAD TO PRESENT AT SECSOR

Current Undergraduate Religion Major, Drew Lewis, has had his paper, “‘And the World Was Changed’: The Nephilim and Watchers in Wider Mythological Context,” accepted for presentation at the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) meeting in Atlanta on March 5-7, 2010.

We are always looking for information concerning our alumni and their activities. Please send any news and updates to religion@uga.edu. We love hearing from you.
Oct. 2009: The Institute of Native American Studies and the College of Public Health presented a lecture by Dean Seneca entitled “Raising Awareness of American Indian and Alaska Native Health Issues.” Dean Seneca, a member of the Seneca Nation, is a Native public health specialist with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. This lecture explored problems with persistent and continuing disparities in health outcomes between different racial and ethnic groups. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people suffer the highest health disparities at a much higher rate than any other racial/ethnic group in the country. Seneca points to the need for more health professionals who have an understanding of the cultural norms to promote health within the native community, for revisiting traditional contributions to medicine, and for encouraging Native people to be health practitioners. His talk outlined crucial public health issues and how students play an integral role in developing and implementing public health interventions in their community.

Nov. 2009: Dr. Richard Allen, a policy analyst with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a former United States Marine, gave a talk, “Revitalizing the Cherokee Nation” that looked at issues affecting the revitalization of the Cherokee Nation, including state-recognized tribes and the splitting of the Cherokee into three federally-recognized tribes (the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, and the United Keetoowah Band).

Jan. 2010: The Institute sponsored a Vox Reading by Orlando White at CINE in Athens, GA. Orlando White is from Tl’kan, Arizona. He is Din (Navajo) of the Naaneeshtzhi Tbaah (Zuni Waters Edge Clan) and born for the Naakai Dine (Mexican Clan). He holds a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an MFA from Brown University. His poems have appeared in Bombay Gin, The Kenyon Review, Salt Hill Journal, Sentence: A Journal of Prose Poetics, Talking Stick Native Arts Quarterly and elsewhere. He teaches at Din College and lives in Tsaile, Arizona. Bone Light (Red Hen Press) is his first book.

Feb. 2010: Southeastern Indians Through Time: Land, Geography and Environment Conference. The Institute of Native American Studies at UGA hosted a conference on the Native peoples of what is today the Southeastern United States in Athens, GA, February 19–20, 2010. Cheyenne-Arapaho filmmaker Chris Eyre was a featured guest. He showed and discussed his documentary “The Trail of Tears,” part of the series We Shall Remain on PBS American Experience. Also present at the conference

April 8-9, 2010: Sixth Annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. For more information, visit the UNCP website: http://www.uncp.edu/ais/news/ or contact Aleisha Cummings at alesia.cummings@uncp.edu

May 21-23, 2010: Second Annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. The American Indian Studies at The University of Arizona will host the 2nd annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Meeting. The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) is a scholarly organization that was founded in 2008 and which now has over 500 members from North American, South America, Hawai’i, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Europe, Asia, and several Pacific Island nations. Two meetings led up to the creation of NAISA as a professional association: Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, Norman hosted the first organizing meeting in May of 2007, and the Institute of Native American Studies at the University of Georgia hosted the second, founding meeting in April of 2008. NAISA was incorporated in May 2009, and the May 21-23, 2009 meeting at the University of Minnesota constituted the first annual meeting of NAISA. See the conference website for details: http://naisa.ais.arizona.edu/

www.institutefonnativeamericanstudies.com

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION FACULTY AND STAFF

Bibigbolade Aderibigbe, Assistant Professor (Univ. of Ibadan, Nigeria) African Traditional Religions
Haider Bhuian, Lecturer (University of Manitoba, Canada) Arabic Language
Wayne Coppins, Assistant Professor (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge) New Testament Studies
Ruslan Elistratov, Lecturer (University of Claremont) Philosophy of Religion and Theology
Richard Elliott Friedman, Ann and Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies (Harvard) Hebrew Language and Literature, Jewish Studies
Alan Godlas, Associate Professor (University of California, Berkeley) Islam, Quranic Hadith Studies, Arabic & Persian, Sufism
Kenneth Honerkamp, Associate Professor (Aix-en-Provence, France) Arabic, Islam texts, Shariah (Islamic Law), North African Sufism
Russell Kirkland, Professor (Indiana University) Asian Religions, Taoism, Chinese and Japan Religious
Beth LaRocca-Pitts, Lecturer (University of Claremont) Old Testament
Sandy D. Martin, Professor and Department Head (Columbia University) History of Christianity, American and African American Religious History
Carolyn Jones Medine, Associate Professor (University of Virginia) Religion and Literature, African American Religions and Literature, Religious Theory and Thought, Woman’s Spirituality and Writing
William L. Power, Professor (Emory) Historical, Systematic, and Philosophical Theology, Philosophy of Religion
Jace Weaver, Professor and Director of the Institute of Native American Studies (Union Theological Seminary) Native American Cultures and Religious Traditions, Eschatology, Apocalypticism
David S. Williams, Professor and Director of Honors Program (Hebrew Union College) Judaism, Hebrew, Interreligious Literature, Hebrew Bible
Zinetta McDonald, Business Manager I
Kimbley Scott, Administrative Assistant II