THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Religious Studies
Box 870264
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0264

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tuscaloosa, AL
Permit 16

I'm pleased to welcome you to the second issue of our Department's annual newsletter. Since last writing this opening article, a number of noteworthy things have taken place, and I'd like to ensure that you are aware of some of the milestones that we've passed. As the Department's former Chair, Patrick Green, made plain in last year's newsletter, in the late 1990s we went through some significant changes. For instance, upon my arrival in August of 2001, all of the other faculty members were untenured, with the most senior having been on campus only since 1964. As the Department's former Chair, Professor Al Nelson, points out in this issue, “African Diaspora Culture Lectures” was held a series of Lectures. Joseph Campbell, Franklin Littell, Stanley Hopper, and Will Herberg gave presentations. I remember being told that we were going to publish them but it didn't happen. We did, however, make a commitment. I wrote a proposal to the Danforth Foundation and on the recommendation of our consultant, Professor Van Harvey, they gave us a grant. I also hired Leon Weinsberger. The other campus ministers were interested in us, but I was not interested in them. They were well-versed in the history and cultures of Tibet, which had been our Department since 2003 and had applied for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. I look forward to reporting on my good news in next year's newsletter.

As for other developments, there's simply too many things to list. Professors Schaeffer and his wife, Heather Swindler, had their second child, Max; Professor Gabriele Fassbeck (who this year completes her two-year position at Visiting Assistant Professor, funded through our Associate Endowment) led a student trip to Mobile to tour the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit; and Professor Joe Bettis released his third CD, Thaddeus Quince and the New Originals, entitled “The Winds” (released by Poster Continued on Page 2)

In this issue:
Welcome from Chair
Early Times
Our Professors
Books of Interest
Student Articles
Religion in Culture Lectures
Department Sponsoring African Diaspora Conference
Studying Religion in Culture
www.as.ua.edu/rel

Student Scholarships
Due to the generosity of donors, the Department is pleased that it can award scholarships to some of our students. Whereas the proceeds from the Udyses V. Goobyn Fund are used to support the activities of our student association, the proceeds from the Joseph Silverstein Scholarship Fund are awarded annually to Religious Studies majors and Judaeics students who have excelled in the past year. In 2003 the awards were either $1000 or $500 and were presented to Clay Ardogi, Kim Davis, Drew Elmore, Sera Fingerman, Peter von Herrmann, Catherine Howell, Mark Hopkins, John Parrish, Kathleen Penton, Samantha Sastre, Kyle Stephens, and Tom Taylor.

The 2004 recipients of the Silverstein Fellowship are: Kristen Brandley, Guy CoVien, Drew Elmore, Sera Fingerman, Katie Jo Greer, James Hopper, Josh McDonough, John Parrish, Kathleen Penton, Samantha Sastre, Matthew Satcher, and Tom Taylor.

And, just announced, the 2005 recipients of the Silverstein Fellowship are: Brandon Andrews, Kristen Brandley, Andrew Elmore, Timothy Harmon, Josh McDonough, Brian Roberts, Samantha Sastre, Catherine Scott, Matthew Satcher, and Marianne Stanton.

Their scholarships, along with a few other surprises, will be presented at the April 15, 2005, Honors Day Reception.

Amy Petersen Memorial Fund
Readers of last year's newsletter will already know about the unexpected death, in October 2003, of one of our most charming students, Amy Petersen, who is pursued here in a portrait painted by her mother, Jo Petersen, of Huntsville, AL. In the midst of grappling with their tragic loss, Amy's family contacted the Department to communicate their wish to establish a scholarship fund in her memory. Their hope is that it can either eventually fund a need-based student scholarship or a book buying endowment to enhance the holdings at Gorgias Library.

We invite you to consider making a tax-free donation, in whatever amount, to this or any of the other scholarship and endowment funds that they were at religious studies and to participate in the creation of a Department of Religious Studies. I was fresh from graduate school, full of academic arrogance, ego, and enthusiasm.

At the time, Religious Studies courses were taught by various campus ministers and listed in the Philosophy Department. The quality of the courses was mixed. Leon Weinsberger, who was a rabbi, and a Presbyterian Campus Minister whose name I have forgotten taught respectable courses with small enrollments. Other campus ministers taught courses that were noteworthy for their quality and for their very large enrollments. Iredell Jenkins was chair of the Philosophy Department, and he knew that this was not a good situation.

They tried to use a year for a year and they were not successful in creating a separate Religious Studies Department and asked me to chair it. I was promoted to Associate Professor, and my annual salary was raised from $7,000 to $14,000. I was also given tenure, a decision that I suspect many administrators and faculty members later came to regret. To the Department we held a series of Lectures. Joseph Campbell, Franklin Littell, Stanley Hopper, and Will Herberg gave presentations. I remember being told that we were going to publish them but it didn't happen. We did, however, make a commitment. I wrote a proposal to the Danforth Foundation and on the recommendation of our consultant, Professor Van Harvey, they gave us a grant. I hired an old friend, Pat Green, and I also hired Leon Weinsberger. The other campus ministers were interested in us, but I was not interested in them. They were well-versed in the history and cultures of Tibet, which had been our Department since 2003 and had applied for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. I look forward to reporting on my good news in next year's newsletter.

As for other developments, there's simply too many things to list. Professors Schaeffer and his wife, Heather Swindler, had their second child, Max; Professor Gabriele Fassbeck (who this year completes her two-year position at Visiting Assistant Professor, funded through our Associate Endowment) led a student trip to Mobile to tour the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit; and Professor Joe Bettis released his third CD, Thaddeus Quince and the New Originals, entitled “The Winds” (released by Poster Continued on Page 2).
I expected a black hulk, breathing fire and smoke. I had not been in Tuscaloosa long before I heard...
Religious Studies and Religious Vocation

Religious studies? Your major was religious studies? Telling someone what my college major was was often greeted with a blank stare. Of course, the immediate follow-up question was usually “Why religious studies?” Religion is a dynamic subject, and I enjoy learning the particulars of the different faiths. It is a sensitive topic to broach with most people. Therefore, I welcome inquiries about my liberal arts education because they give me an opportunity to discuss religion and my choice of it as my major.

I was one of those who was raised Hindu or discuss early Jewish/Christian separations with a Jewish friend. Understanding the different religions practiced by my friends has allowed me to get to know them better as people and relate to them in a new way.

With my degree in Religious Studies, I hope to work towards ecumenical causes and understanding between various religions. Though America has been called “the melting pot” of culture, I think we have a responsibility to foster an environment where a student can develop and be passionate about their faith.

The following report from Dr. Doty indicates, his travel and publication schedule has been active as well. Anyway, things don’t always work out like we plan. Though I was accepted to all of them, my dream schools were all a bit too pricey for me. When an unexpected scholarship letter came from the University of Alabama, I chose to accept it out of financial concern for the unprecedented “malfunction” to MTV music videos to the neo-burlesque movement to stripper aerobics classes at your nearby gym.

It was published in January in *Spring: A Journal of Storytelling, Symbolism, and the Rhetoric of Religion* (University Press of Kentucky).这部书在夏天出版，销售了近4000册。其中一章的主题是“神话的生存力”，讨论了神话在不同文化中的持久性，以及神话如何能够为人们提供对世界的解释和理解。在这一章中，Dr. Doty探讨了神话如何能够跨越时间和文化界限，继续影响着人们的思维方式和行为模式。他指出，神话不仅仅是娱乐，它们还具有教育和启发作用，可以帮助人们理解自己的身份和文化认同。

Anyway, things don’t always work out like we plan. Though I was accepted to all of them, my dream schools were all a bit too pricey for me. When an unexpected scholarship letter came from the University of Alabama, I chose to accept it out of financial concern for the unprecedented “malfunction” to MTV music videos to the neo-burlesque movement to stripper aerobics classes at your nearby gym.

It was published in January in *Spring: A Journal of Storytelling, Symbolism, and the Rhetoric of Religion* (University Press of Kentucky).这部书在夏天出版，销售了近4000册。其中一章的主题是“神话的生存力”，讨论了神话在不同文化中的持久性，以及神话如何能够为人们提供对世界的解释和理解。在这一章中，Dr. Doty探讨了神话如何能够跨越时间和文化界限，继续影响着人们的思维方式和行为模式。他指出，神话不仅仅是娱乐，它们还具有教育和启发作用，可以帮助人们理解自己的身份和文化认同。
Prof. Bartrop is a Research Fellow in the Faculty of God and Moral Reasoning, in the Fall of 2003. Classes, including his Blount Dr. Catherine Roach’s earlier in the week, Prof. Bartrop guest lectured to such topics as the sociology of religion and theories of religion, myth, and ritual, he edited two book series for Equinox Publishers London, UK—one devoted to original works in social theory and the other an anthology of secondary works on the same theme. More information on these two book series can be found at the publisher’s web site: http://www.equinoxpub.com/homemain.asp.

In what ways has the academy neglected Africa and its humanities more broadly? Co-sponsored include the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts & Sciences, African American Studies, Capstone International Program, External Degree, the Honors College, New College, Student Affairs, and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. The conference investigates such questions as: What contribution to our knowledge of religion as an aspect of human culture can be made by the study of African history and its contemporary societies?

Among Prof. Bartrop’s publications are (with Samuel Toten, Steven Jacobs and Henry Huttenbach) A Dictionary of Genocide.

It is a tradition that, at the conclusion of our public lectures, we present our guest with a framed poster advertising the lecture. In 2004, Dr. Trost continued to work on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art: Cultures and the Environment. Her manuscript on exotic dance, Tumble It (Oxford: Routledge, 2003), which was co-edited with Caroline Jones Medine of the University of Birmingham, explores the ways in which dance and dance performance are understood. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art: Cultures and the Environment. Her manuscript on exotic dance, Tumble It (Oxford: Routledge, 2003), which was co-edited with Caroline Jones Medine of the University of Birmingham, explores the ways in which dance and dance performance are understood. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art: Cultures and the Environment.

T his is a double major in REL and Philosophy—won the Alabama Philosophical Society’s 2004 Student Essay Competition for submission to the Journal for the Study of Judaism. He is also a contributing member of the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library (www.tbdl.org) and the Pinatubo Project of the Tibet and Himalayan Jewish Population Group at the American Academy of Religion (www.uasb.edu/tah). In 2004, he gave a keynote address at Harvard University, the University of Virginia, University of British Columbia in Canada, and University of London in England.

During lunch, REL majors and minors, along with interested faculty and staff, were invited to discuss with Prof. Ingersoll her recently published public lecture. “Religious Pluralism in New York, 1947: A Double Mind,” published in the Spring 2004 issue of Religion, Culture, and Social Change, examines the question of how American Jews understood Concept of Judaism and the contribution of “the Jew” to modern American culture. Dr. Trost is the author of a new book, entitled Post-Shoah Dialogues: Re-thinking Our Texts To-wards a New Ethic. She has been a Schuman Fellow (2003-2004) of the German Marshall Fund and has been a Visiting Scholar at the Institut für Musik und Kunst in Berlin, Germany. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands, and has been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. She has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Leiden, Netherlands.

Dr. Dr. Catherine Roach teaches courses in the areas of ethics, gender, and popular culture. She has been teaching this course this year on “Gender and Moral Reasoning” and an intro-ductory course on the history of female mystics on the theme of “The Problem of Evil.” In her cross-appointments in New Col-lege, she taught environmental ethics and, in part-nership with a local organic farm co-op, a hands-on course in sustainable farming. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art Cultures and the Environment. Her manuscript on exotic dance, Tumble It (Oxford: Routledge, 2003), which was co-edited with Caroline Jones Medine of the University of Birmingham, explores the ways in which dance and dance performance are understood. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art: Cultures and the Environment.

In 2004, she and Dr. Marie Griffin of Princeton University proposed that a new book project on “Religion and Sexuality” be created as part of our annual professional conference, the American Academy of Religion. Their proposal was accepted, and Drs. Roach and Griffin were named co-chairs of this new program unit for 2005-2007.

Dr. Dr. Catherine Roach teaches courses in the areas of ethics, gender, and popular culture. She has been teaching this course this year on “Gender and Moral Reasoning” and an intro-ductory course on the history of female mystics on the theme of “The Problem of Evil.” In her cross-appointments in New Col-lege, she taught environmental ethics and, in part-nership with a local organic farm co-op, a hands-on course in sustainable farming. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art Cultures and the Environment. Her manuscript on exotic dance, Tumble It (Oxford: Routledge, 2003), which was co-edited with Caroline Jones Medine of the University of Birmingham, explores the ways in which dance and dance performance are understood. She has a chapter on advertising imagery forthcoming in the anthology Art: Cultures and the Environment.

In 2004, she and Dr. Marie Griffin of Princeton University proposed that a new book project on “Religion and Sexuality” be created as part of our annual professional conference, the American Academy of Religion. Their proposal was accepted, and Drs. Roach and Griffin were named co-chairs of this new program unit for 2005-2007.