

Humanities Faculty Report 2006-07

Faculty

Book Publications:

- Gary De Krey, History, Restoration and Revolution in Britain: A Political History of the Era of Charles II and the Glorious Revolution (Palgrave Macmillan).
- Anantanand Rambachan, Religion, The Advaita World View: God, World and Humanity (SUNY).
- Michael Fitzgerald, History, Splendid Failure: Postwar Reconstruction in the American South (Ivan R. Dee).
- Judy Kutulas, History, The American Civil Liberties Union and the Transformation of American Liberalism (University of North Carolina Press).
- Karen Marsalek (ed.), Bring Furth the Pagants: Essays in Early English Drama (University of Toronto Press).
- Anantanand Rambachan, Wisdom Teachings from The Hindu Upanishads and Wisdom Teachings from the Hindu Bhagavadgita (Infinity Publishing).
- Mary Anderson, Gustaf Wingren and the Swedish Luther Renaissance (Peter Lang).
- Karen Cherewatuk, English, Marriage, Adultery, and Inheritance in Malory's Morte Darthur (Boydell and Brewer).
- Philip Stoltzfus, Religion, Theology as Performance: Music, Aesthetic and God in Western Thought (T. & T. Clark).

Articles, Chapters, Presentations, Papers, Conferences, Professional Offices, Committee Assignments, Editorial Positions: too numerous to mention.

Promotion:

- Margaret Odell, Religion, to Professor.
- Corliss Swain, Philosophy, to Professor.
- Mary Titus, English, to Professor.

Tenure Track Hires:

- Geoffrey Gorham, Philosophy, in philosophy of science.

Tenure Track Searches approved:

- Romance Languages, for a position in Spanish.
- Religion, for a position in Judaism (re-issued approval).
- English, for a position in creative writing, (poetry).

Sabbaticals:

- Gordon Marino, Philosophy.

- Steven Hahn, History.
- Edward Langerak, Philosophy.
- William Poehlmann, Religion.
- Wendy Allen, Romance Languages.
- Joan Hepburn, English.

Appointments

- Diana Postlethwaite, English, began her term as the Boldt Professor.
- James Farrell, History, was a 2006-07 Lilly Fellow at the College.
- John Barbour, Religion, continued as the Martin Marty Regents Chair In Religion and the Academy.
- Karen Achberger, German, and DeAne Lagerquist, Religion, completed terms as chairs of their departments.
- Anant Rambachan was appointed the new chair of Religion; Karl Fink was appointed the new chair of German; Mary Steen, James Farrell, and Corliss Swain accepted new terms as chairs of English, History and Philosophy, respectively; Irina Walter was reappointed the Director of the FLAC program for 2007-08.

Retirements:

- James Heynen, English.

Grants:

- Christopher Brunelle, Classics, received a summer curricular grant for 2007 from the College; Anthony Ruud, Philosophy, received an individual summer grant.
- Mark Allister, English, received a Fulbright Fellowship to Romania.
- Steven Reece, Classics, received an ACM FaCE grant.
- Colin Wells, English, received a Faculty Development released time grant.
- Richard DeRocher, English, received a NEH Fellowship.
- During 2006-07 Jeanine Grenberg used her Millicent C McIntosh Fellowship to work on a book project.
- Mary Trull, English, was a Lilly Teaching Fellow at the College.
- Carol Holly, English, was named a Lilly Vocational Scholar for 2007-08.

Curricular Developments:

- Humanities Faculty continue to teach the lion's share of GE-counting courses at the College, as they are busy in support of the faculty committees and duties, and the IGS Faculty. In particular, students take most of their courses supporting FYW, WRI, BTS-B, BTS-T, HWC, and EIN, and much of their courses for ALS-L, MCS-D and MCS-G in the Humanities Faculty.

- Romance Languages continued to implement a new Spanish major, with the revision of several courses and the offering of two new ones.
- Religion continued discussions of the revision of the religion major and added two new courses and a new “ideas and methods” course, “What is Religion?”
- Romance Languages revised its system for departmental distinction.
- The GEC recertified courses in religion for BTS-T credit.
- The German Department completed a comprehensive study of its international education programs, authored by Karl Fink.

Notes:

- Gary Stansell, Religion, delivered the Honor’s Day convocation address: “(De-)Constructing Honor.”
- Richard DuRocher, English, delivered a Mellby Lecture, “Why Milton Matters.”
- Anne Groton, Classics, received the Gertrude Hilleboe Award from the College’s Residential Life division.
- Humanities departments and the Boldt Chair supported the screening of the film, “Inch’Allah Dimanche” (April 22 and 24, 2006).
- Eric Lund, Religion, continued as Director of International and Off-campus Studies.
- Jenny Dunning, English, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.
- Leon Narvaez and a group of faculty from Romance Languages directed the spring program, “Expressing Who We are Through Language,” of the 2006-07 theme year, Global Citizenship and the Liberal Arts.
- Mary Cisar, Romance Languages, continued as Registrar and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Timothy Howe, History and Ancient Studies, and senior student Emilie Heltsley won a Magnus the good award to design a medieval warfare seminar.
- Lectures sponsored by departments and the faculty: Carol Klee, University of Minnesota, “Spanish in the United States: How Is It Changing and Why? Language Contact, Identity, Citizenship, and Language Change” (February 13, 2007); Jorge Garcia, SUNY-Buffalo, “Hispanic/Latino Identity and Linguistic Labels” (March 1, 2007); Sarah Buchanan, University of Minnesota-Morris, “Tracing Spaces: Muslim Women in France—The Case of Yamina Benguigui’s “Inch’Allah Dimanche” (April 25, 2007); Garrett Fagan, Pennsylvania State University, “The Lure of the Roman Arena: Comparative and Psychological Perspectives” (March 18, 2007, sponsored also by the Society of Ancient History); Sarah Morris, UCLA, “Isaac and Iphigenia: Human

Sacrifice in Antiquity” (April 23, 2007); Terrence Fretheim, Luther Seminary (sponsored with TAK); alumna Emily Rapp read from her book, Poster Child (support from the Ditmanson Fund); Carol Donalan, Carleton, presented a two-day film residency (March 14-15, 2007), as did Phillip Lopate (April 26-27, 2007); fiction writers Paul Shepherd, Baker Lawley and Jim Heynen, gave readings during the academic year; Hallgrim Berg presented a Norwegian Folkdance Workshop; Nigel S. Roberts, “Norwegian Politics from a New Zealand Perspective”; Susan Carlson, director, “Keeping It Real: Staging Ibsen and Other Theater Classics”; Magne Supphellen, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, “Corporate Social Responsibility: The Fundamentals, the Findings, and the Norwegian Experience.”

- In October, Galen Strawson, University of Reading and CUNY, delivered the 2006-07 Belgum Lectures in philosophy of the topic of “Episodic Ethics.”
- The Religion Department and Parent and Alumni Affairs office sponsored a reception for 80 St. Olaf graduates at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature (Washington DC, November 20, 2006).
- Director Ali Selim presented a screening of his film “Sweetland,” while Younghi Yang presented “Dear Pyongyang” in April.

Humanities Faculty:

- Dean James May appointed a task force on the future of film studies at St. Olaf in January; Boldt Professor Diana Postlethwaite, English, has been chairing the work of the group.
- Humanities Faculty members continue to serve important roles in the College’s international and off-campus teaching and advising.
- Douglas Schuurman, Religion, and Geoffrey Gorham, Philosophy, were the Humanities Faculty representatives to the task force designing a Science Conversation program.
- The World Languages Center completed its move to new quarters in Rolvaag Library; among new projects this year was research into and purchase of the WIMBA language-learning system.

Students:

- Emily Heltsley was awarded a Magnus the Good Award (with Prof. Timothy Howe, History) to design a medieval warfare seminar.
- Humanities Departments awarded departmental distinction to 22 from the Class of 2007.
- Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics honor society, initiated fifteen students during the spring of 2007. Four classics students received national prizes in contests sponsored by the society.
- Five of the eight St. Olaf students who received 2007 Fulbright Fellowships were “graduates” of the Great Conversation Program.

- Jennifer Starkey, Joshua Swenson, and Elizabeth Beerman, Classics majors, each received an Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.
- Nathaniel T. Hopkins, Andrea J. Horbinski and Anne Torkelson edited the 2006-07 The Reed, a student-published journal of existentialist philosophy.
- Peter Moench was selected the 2007 Rand Scholar at the College.
- During 2006-0718 students were elected to Tau Alpha Kappa, the national honorary society in religious studies.
- More and more humanities students have been involved in summer programs of undergraduate research: Holly Browskowski and Kayla Rasmussen received “Groomis Grants” from the Classics Department;
- Language departments continued their successful programs of conversation tables. Classics invited four outside guests during the year.
- 18 students of Latin presented an eight-performance tour of the annual Latin play, this year Plautus’ Menaechmi in a 25 year tradition.
- Benjamin Heidgerken won the Junia Prize for best distinction project in Religion.
- Seniors Allison Quam and Nathan Hopkins won O.E. Ringstad Prizes for best essay in philosophy.
- 40 students completed nine Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum courses this year; 10 students received the FLAC Certification.

Overview:

Space concerns: A discussion concerning future occupants for the space of the old science center prompted a campus-wide conversation about future facilities needs and locations. The discussion often turned on future locations for the Humanities Faculty, since it is decentralized among many buildings and many have assumed some or all of the departments or programs would occupy a remodeled old science in the next years. The discussions, at times tense and defensive, have been fruitful and have allowed opportunities for departments to think about the identity of the humanities at the College and appropriate adjacencies. At this time, nothing has been settled and the Faculty will begin the fall of 2007 with public conversations about space. The most pressing Humanities concern is the integration of the language departments, on the one hand, and the block of departments--English-History-Philosophy-Religion--on the other. But the concern to integrate two wings of the Faculty meets resistance from tradition and various limits of space and size; further complicating the issue are methodological differences within the humanities areas which inform how departments think of preferred adjacencies.

Enrollment: The Humanities Faculty continues to feel heavy enrollment pressures, because the departments and programs of the Faculty teach the lion’s share of General Education in a time of tightly managed enrollments. Indeed the pressure of the last years have increased, due to the success of the campaign to increase the number of under-20 classes on campus. Since 2006 the effort to drop all FOL-counting courses to

the under-20 size has put added pressure on language departments' efforts to deliver quality majors, and on classroom and office space. In some areas, adding small classes has made for more difficulty in adequate staffing.

Cumulative weariness: For years the College has been cutting corners on budgets and pressing more students into fewer classes in an effort to contain costs. Meanwhile the expectations for classroom performance, scholarly attainment and non-classroom work have risen. There is a frenetic weariness to the faculty: note the list of published books, consider the many in progress, note the size of Humanities' classes, and a host of human factors, and one knows why we are a tired faculty.

Not reporting: Great Conversation, World Languages Center

Charles A. Wilson
Associate Dean for the Humanities.
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