

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION NEWSLETTER

A Note from the Chair

Professor Kevin Trainor

Greetings from 481 Main Street, and welcome to our annual newsletter. As you will see in the pages that follow, Religion faculty and students have had another very busy year. Department faculty traveled to Canada, Nigeria, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, the UK, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, South Africa, and Egypt, as well as numerous locations throughout the U.S., while pursuing their diverse research interests. And our senior majors this year undertook an ambitious set of research topics in the context of the department's Senior Seminar (REL201), many of them focused on aspects of American religion. The department also sponsored several campus lectures, including talks by international scholars from Nigeria and Japan.

For this year's newsletter we have significantly expanded our outreach to department alums, and have included brief reports from ten Religion majors who graduated from UVM over the past forty years, beginning with two 1971 graduates. Their stories provide a fascinating set of answers to that eternal question, frequently on the lips of the parents of our majors, "What can you do with a Religion major?" While it comes as no surprise that our graduates have gone on to do fulfilling and valuable work, it is nevertheless quite informative and inspiring to know some of the particulars, and to learn how Religion courses and faculty mentoring have contributed to that work. The department continues to explore ways to further the dialogue between current Religion students and our graduates, and we welcome your suggestions for how we might go about this more effectively. In the meantime, we're always happy to hear from our graduates, whether by e-mail or in person, and we encourage any of you who are in the neighborhood of 481 Main to drop by and say hello.



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Faculty News

Erica Andrus

In August 2010 Professor Andrus presented a paper entitled "Battlestar Galactica: Monotheism and the Debunking of the Clash of Civilizations in American Popular Culture" at the International Association for the History of Religions Congress in Toronto, Ontario. During the Spring 2011 semester she taught a course entitled "Religion, Film, and Television in the US." She is also developing a service-learning outreach program for local educators who are interested in learning about how to talk about religion in public schools. This will be part of her "Religion in America" course during Fall semester 2011. Students will collaborate on providing elementary and secondary school teachers with a variety of resources for teaching about religion, and also organize workshops for educators about how to facilitate classroom discussions about religious pluralism in America. She and her husband Erik continue operations of Boundbrook Farm and are currently researching two new initiatives: the viability of growing rice in Vermont as well as the possibility of producing sugar from beets on the farm for sale.

Thomas Borchert

Professor Borchert published two articles related to his research on Theravada Buddhism. The first,

entitled "Monastic Labor: Thinking about the Work of Monks in Contemporary Theravada Communities" appeared in March 2011 in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. The

second article, "The Abbot's New House: Thinking about how Religion Works among Buddhists and Minorities in Contemporary China," appeared in the *Journal of Church and State*. Professor Borchert organized an international conference on Theravada Buddhism under Colonialism while in Singapore, which included participants from eight different countries. During the Spring 2011 semester he taught a new seminar on religion and nationalism. He has also been busy assisting his kids with their preparations to attend the Odyssey of the Mind world competition over Memorial Day Weekend 2011.

Vicki Brennan

During the summer of 2010 Professor Brennan spent six weeks in Nigeria conducting research with gospel musicians and gospel music fans for her new research project on gospel music and Christian

publics in Nigeria. She also completed interviews with church musicians, choir members, and songwriters to supplement her research for her book project, *Singing the Same Song: Music, Religion and Civil Society in Nigeria*. In May 2010 she presented a paper entitled "To God be the Glory: Gospel Music and Public Christianity in Lagos" at the University of Birmingham

Professors at Work



Top: Prof. Brennan with Nigerian gospel musician Yinka Ayelele. Bottom: Yinka Ayelele performs with his band at a burial party in Isejirin, Nigeria.



Faculty News (continued)

(UK) Centre of West African Studies' Cadbury Conference. In April 2011 she was invited to speak at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia as part of their 30th Anniversary Symposium. Professor Brennan continues to teach her popular course on "Sacred Sounds" and during the Spring 2011 semester she taught the Religion Department's Senior Seminar for the first time.

Anne Clark

Professor Clark has been on sabbatical for this academic year. Most of her research time has been devoted to her new work on Dante, which began as a result of her participation in a summer seminar on Dante in Tuscany in 2009. This new direction in her research bore fruit in a conference paper comparing the visionary prophecy of Dante and Hildegard of Bingen, a twelfth-century nun whose visionary experience was the basis for her wide-ranging religious, scientific, and artistic works. Since this conference, Anne has expanded and revised the paper, "Teaching Dante as Visionary Prophet," and it has been accepted for publication in the journal *Pedagogy*. Another strand of her multi-threaded project is focused on the 13th-century reception of Hildegard's works, particularly the fate of Hildegard's last visionary work, the *Liber Divinorum Operum* (*Book of the Ways of God*). She has written a brief article on this text, and she will be returning to the Tuscan city of Lucca in June to

examine the magnificent 13th-century manuscript of the *Liber Divinorum Operum*. In November, she also presented a conference paper in Germany on the usefulness of the category of "attraction" for the analysis of religion. This paper, "Connecting Transcendent Attraction and Attractive Objects: The Case of Elisabeth of Schönau," analyzed the role of monastic musical ritual in constructing attraction to

God. Last summer, she spent five weeks in Sri Lanka and south India with Kevin and their son Andrew. Since she had just revised her Christianity survey course to include the early development of Christianity in India, her travel in Kerala was especially exciting. She also ended the summer as a participant in a three-day faculty seminar on neuroscience sponsored by the UVM Honors College, which was a great opportunity for non-scientists to learn about recent developments in neuroscience and consider how these perspectives might enable new insights in their own fields.

Cuong Mai

Professor Mai received a grant from the American Academy of Religion to conduct archival research at the Han Nom Institute in Hanoi, Vietnam in

summer 2011. He will focus on medieval Chinese and Vietnamese manuscripts related to the worship of the Vietnamese Buddhist goddess Quan Am (Guanyin, or Avalokiteshvara). Related to this, he will be offering a new upper-level course in fall 2011 entitled, "Women in Chinese Religions," which will focus on women's religious experiences, practices, and literary expressions that pertain especially to the worship of

Professors at Work



Top: Prof. Martin presents his research at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Bottom: Exterior view of the Bibliotheca.



Faculty News, (continued)

goddesses, spiritual cultivation traditions, and the practice of domestic rites in the Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist, and popular religious traditions of ancient and medieval China. Professor Mai will also present research papers at the Pure Land Studies Conference at Otani University in Kyoto, Japan in summer 2011, and the American Academy of Religion conference in San Francisco in fall 2011. In recognition of his excellence in the classroom, Professor Mai was awarded the 2011 Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award.

Luther Martin

After returning to Vermont in late December after a semester teaching at Masaryk University, Czech Republic, Professor Martin accepted an invitation to participate in a workshop in January on "The Ecology of Threat Detection", sponsored by the University of South Africa and held at Tilodi game park (north of Johannesburg). At this workshop, he presented the first draft of a paper on "The Ecology of Threat Detection and Precautionary Response from the Perspectives of Evolutionary Psychology and Historiography: The Case of the Roman Cults of Mithras." Subsequently, Professor Martin was invited to give a lecture in April at the Biblioteca Alexandrina –

the new Library of Alexandria, Egypt – where he continued his interest in Mithraism with a paper on "The (Surprising Absence of a) Mithras Cult in Roman Egypt." In September, he will give two presentations in Budapest at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Religion – but only *one* of these will deal with Mithraism! In the meantime, he is anxiously

awaiting the oft-postponed publication of his volume *Past Minds: Studies in Cognitive Historiography*, which he co-edited with [Jesper Sørensen](#), now scheduled for June.

Richard Sugarman

In 2010 Professor Sugarman gave a talk entitled "The Scandal of Heidegger and Levinas' Rehabilitation of Continental Philosophy" for the David Blitzer Memorial series at the Institute for Jewish Heritage at SUNY Buffalo. He also traveled to Toulouse, France to give the plenary lecture entitled "The End of Theodicy: The Thought of Levinas in the Aftermath of the Holocaust" at the Conference on the Jewish Thought of Emmanuel Levinas. He also presented his research at the 43rd Annual Conference for the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston.

Professor Sugarman is currently working on his book, *A Transcending Humanism: Emmanuel Levinas and the Jewish Bible*.

Professors at Work



Top: Prof. Trainor & Prof. Clark outside of a temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Bottom: At the "Cave of the Midday Rest" Buddhist pilgrimage site.



Faculty News, (continued)

Kabir Tambar

Professor Tambar's work led to a publication in the journal, *American Ethnologist*: "Iterations of Lament: Anachronism and Affect in a Shi'i Islamic Revival in Turkey." He also presented papers at the American Anthropological Association meetings in New Orleans, at a conference on Secularism and Islam at Stanford University, and at the Interdisciplinary Workshop for junior faculty at UVM. Professor Tambar also participated in a public panel at UVM on recent democratic uprisings in the Middle East. He continued teaching courses on religion and globalization, on Islam, and on theories and methods in the study of religion.

Kevin Trainor

Professor Trainor's article, "Teaching Buddhism from a Comparative Perspective," appeared in the Fall 2010 edition of *Education About Asia*. He also gave a lecture entitled, "Recreating an Ancient Attraction: The Buddha's Cave and the Sixteen

Pilgrimage Sites in Sri Lanka," at the annual Dynamics in the History of Religions conference of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, on Modes and Models of Religious Attraction. He also spent five weeks during the summer of 2010 in Sri Lanka to begin his new research project on Sri Lankan Buddhist pilgrimage sites, especially the "Cave of the Midday Rest." During Spring 2011 he taught his "Ritualization" course, which included an assignment that brought students to the Fleming Museum to view objects normally kept in storage and to analyze the museum as a ritualized space. Professor Trainor also continues to serve on the board of the Friends of Indian Music and Dance.

Our Staff

Fran Keppler

Fran Keppler has been the Administrative Assistant to the Religion Department since 2005. From answering student questions, to her many administrative responsibilities, Fran is a central part of the Department's success. Thank you Fran!

Special Events & Lectures



Department Picnic

The Department held its annual picnic on September 21, 2010. Students and faculty mingled and discussed their plans for the new academic year while enjoying hamburgers, hotdogs and other delicious treats!

On March 4, 2011 the department hosted **Professor Makoto Hayashi**, Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Aichi Gakuin University. Professor Hayashi presented a talk entitled "Max Müller's Influence on Japanese Religious Studies."

Professor Angie Heo from Barnard College gave a lecture entitled "When Dreams Become Dangerous: The Limits of Tradition and Egyptian State Repression" on March 14, 2011.

Dr. Harrison Adeniyi from Lagos State University, Nigeria visited the department on April 18, 2011. He presented a lecture on "Personal Name Constructions as a Representation of African Worldview: A Study of Edo and Yoruba Personal Names."

Student News



Members of the Spring, 2011 Senior Seminar (l-r): Front: Jillian Ward, Professor Brennan, Elizabeth Nelson. Back: Adam Butterfield, Mac Esters, Jessica Davis, Sophie Cassel, Dan Witte, Allison Brisart, Carmen Solari

This spring students in the Senior Seminar undertook intensive research projects on a number of fascinating topics:

Allison Brisart, "Secrecy and Fluid Power: Santeria on the Internet"

Adam Butterfield, "Spirituality in Modern Medicine: Legitimizing the 'Spirit'"

Sophie Cassel, "God in My Cereal Box: Protestant Food Ethics in the American Marketplace"

Jessica Davis, "Fundamentalism in the Nation of Islam: Implications for Community Continuation and Compliance"

Mac Esters, "Dolla Dolla Bill Y' All: Wu-Tang Slang – Religious Rhymes or Multiplatinum Money-Makers?"

Elizabeth Nelson, "The Gender Reform Impulse of American Transcendentalism"

Carmen Solari, "'If my words did glow': The Presence and Function of Religion in the Grateful Dead's Work"

Jillian Ward, "Teaching Young Buddhists: The Role of Literature in Shaping an American Buddhism"

Dan Witte, "Roshi Sex Scandals: The Abuse of Positions of Power in Modern American Zen Buddhism"

Congratulations to all!



Students, Parents, and Faculty mingle at the Department's Graduation Reception during Commencement.

Outstanding Senior Major Award



This year the Department's Outstanding Senior Major Award was presented to two graduating students, Jessica Davis and Brendan Dempsey. Congratulations to both of them for all of their hard work and dedication to their studies. We wish them the best of luck in the future!

Jessica Davis graduated summa cum laude from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in religion and a minor in Asian Studies. She is from Unadilla, New York, and plans to return to New York following graduation. A major highlight of Jessica's academic career was the semester she spent in Nanjing, China, studying Mandarin and Chinese culture. Throughout her academic career Jessica has worked closely with Professors Vicki Brennan and Thomas Borchert. Her senior seminar research project focused on the relationship between an African American Muslim organization, the Nation of Islam, and its relationship to mainstream American culture. This project was a new interest for Jessica, having focused heavily on Asian religions, but furthered her concentration on the relationship between religion and the surrounding social context. In the future Jessica has a sincere desire to work with children especially in culturally diverse environments where she can nurture and encourage acceptance of their differences.

Brendan Dempsey graduated summa cum laude from the College of Arts and Sciences where he majored in Religion and Classics. He is from Milton, Vermont. This spring he defended his honors thesis entitled "Satan, Sea, and the Son of Man: The Combat Myth and Apocalyptic Battle in the Gospel of Mark." His immediate future plans are to work in the Burlington area, write an epic poem, and to work his way through a massive stack of books that he has not had time to read in the last four years. He intends to move to Jerusalem in February 2012 to work on revising his thesis for publication. In the future Brendan will apply to graduate school, where he hopes to study Christian origins and ancient apocalypticism.



Alumni News

Suzanne Fageol (1971)

Since she graduated from UVM Suzanne has taught as an Episcopal priest and an interspiritual spiritual director in Africa and Europe for 25 years.



She is also trained as a craniosacral therapist, mediator and life coach. Currently she does somatic trauma release work along with craniosacral and spiritual direction. She teaches a class via Skype with art therapists in Japan who are working in the Sendai area after the tsunami. She also works with Veterans locally as a volunteer. She is currently working on a book about somatic empathy and trauma release work as applied to the field of spiritual direction.

Suzanne writes: "I loved my time in the religion dept. at UVM. That time stimulated all my thinking and catalyzed everything I did in my life subsequently. My deep love of the study of history of religions took me to Africa, to interfaith studies, to working interspiritually and to delving deeply into the spirituality and psychology of humanity. My heart-felt thanks to Luther Martin, Bob Gussner, Bill Paden, Allan Andrews, and Al Sadler for inspiring me."

Katie Herzog (1971)

Katie followed her degree from the University of Vermont with obtaining the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Harvard Divinity School in 1975. She followed that up with a year in Philadelphia at a joint program between Harvard and the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute where she was trained in family therapy. She spent the next 15 years as a psychology professor, and started the psychology of women program at the Graduate School of Lesley College. In 1989 she shifted to management consulting with a specialty in diversity. After being senior vice president at Ibis Consulting Group for six years,



she founded Eastern Point Consulting Group in 1995 where she continues to provide consultation and training to senior management globally. Information about Eastern Point can be found at www.eastpt.com.

Katie writes: "I greatly enjoyed my time in the Department of Religion at UVM, and remember working with Professor Paden in particular. It was challenging finding a way to pursue the study of phenomenology and existentialism after leaving UVM. I felt that the courses at UVM were innovative, well taught, and allowed students to stretch their thinking in exciting ways."

Alan Bugbee (1973)

Since graduating from UVM, Alan went on and did graduate work. He completed the Master of Arts in Education in Rehabilitation Counseling and the Master of Public Administration at George Washington University in Washington, DC. He studied Educational Psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in their doctoral program for a year (becoming licensed as a School Psychological Examiner in Missouri along the way). He also got a Ph.D. in Educational Research Methodology from the University of Pittsburgh. Since then, he has been on the faculty of three colleges and universities, appointed as a director, vice-president, dean, and is currently president of a consulting company. He has been married for 30 years. He met his wife, Pam, in Washington, DC, where she worked for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. He's lived in at least 10 states, plus the District of Columbia. He and his wife currently live in Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Alan writes "I remember my studies in Religion at UVM very well. I particular remember my courses with Bill Paden (who was my advisor for several years. As I recall, Bill retired a while back), Luther Martin (who was my advisor when Bill was on sabbatical. I was also a Teaching Assistant for him.), and Rich Sugarman (he was associate director at the Experimental Program and lived in Coolidge Hall, as did I. At that point, he was finishing his doctorate and was on the Philosophy faculty. I took

Alumni News, (continued)

independent study with him my senior year.) All great guys and excellent teachers. I think the course that I remember most was Religion in America, which Luther taught. I also remember the Fairytales seminar very well. I think that Luther and Bob Brenneman co-taught it, although I could be wrong about that. These were great courses. The other faculty I remember in the program were Bob Gussner, Stan Yarian, Allan Andrews, and Bob Brenneman."

Rabbi Major (ret.) Fishel (Philip) Jacobs (1979)



Rabbi Jacobs with an Israeli inmate.

Rabbi Jacobs writes: "My memories of being a Religion major at UVM are all wonderful. They range from stimulating discussions in the 'religion' building to the, now, iconic, Professor Paden and readings about American Indian belief besides ancient Aztec lore. For me, though, Professor Sugarman, my once academic-adviser, has become a lifetime-adviser and confidant over the ensuing thirty years. Following my graduation, 1979, and entering rabbinic school in Israel, Sugarman was rooting. Subsequently, it was Sugarman who penned the best blurb for the memoir describing my thirteen years working as an officer and chaplain in the Israel Prison Service. Finally, as I've published book after book on practical Talmudic law "the Professor" is the first one to review manuscript drafts before publication. Looking back on a marvelous career and personal life, I highly

recommend the Religion Dept. at U.V.M. Because, for some of us, it's more than about memories. It affects our entire life."

Heather Munro Prescott (1985)

After graduating from UVM Heather went to Cornell University where she received her M.A. (1989) and Ph.D. (1994) in Science & Technology Studies. She currently is a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University. She is the author of *Student Bodies: The Impact of Student Health on American Society and Medicine* and the award-winning "A Doctor of Their Own": *The History of Adolescent Medicine*. Her most recent book, *The Morning After: A History of Emergency Contraception in the United States*, was published this spring by Rutgers University Press. *The Morning After* tells the story of emergency contraception in America from the 1960s to the present day and, more importantly, it tells the story of the women who have used it. Side-stepping simplistic readings of these women as either radical feminist trailblazers or guinea pigs for the pharmaceutical industry, Prescott offers a portrait of how ordinary women participated in the development and popularization of emergency contraception, bringing a groundbreaking technology into the mainstream with the potential to radically alter reproductive health practices.

Heather writes: "As to your question about the most memorable time in the department, that would have to be the semester that Michel Foucault was a visiting scholar (I think that was Fall 1983). Although most of the material went over my head at the time the ideas were very important to my pursuing the history of medicine as a subfield in history. It also makes for excellent dinner party conversation among fellow academics! I would also add that I was inspired to be an academic by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the



**Alumni News,
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faculty in the department -- I remember saying to Bill Paden something along the lines of, wow they pay you to read books?! Of course I'm very grateful to Bill's support and advice as an advisor while I was a student and beyond."

Tom Baggott (1991)

Tom writes: "Following my graduation with a Religion major I returned to UVM to pursue a Masters in History. It always seemed that I was really studying history when I was a Religion major, but then when I got half way into my MA in history it felt like I was studying religion. I left my MA program-- all that I had left to finish was my thesis (not finishing is my only regret in life, thus far)-- to focus on my music booking agency when I realized I was not interested in moving from school to school in pursuit of fleeting dreams of a tenured position at a university. I am a partner in a storied, mid-sized, Manhattan-based artists management company and I run a booking agency that focuses on developing up-and-coming talent. I have been in the music business for 23 years now, having begun this line of work while still at UVM as an undergraduate. I have been focused on this career exclusively since 1996."

He adds, "My time spent studying religion at UVM essentially laid the groundwork for my professional life, as much of my time is spent studying cultural changes and their impact on the music business, then seeking to determine whether an artist has "it" and if "it" will resonate with an ever-changing marketplace of audiences. This isn't too far off the mark when compared to the study of religion and culture. The countless hours of debate and discourse helped me to become a keen observer of trends and nuanced changes in audiences how people relate to ideas and art. My studies helped me to become an articulate and effective advocate for a position or an argument, while providing me with the essential understanding that other positions also have great merit and need to be thoroughly explored before they are discarded or synthesized through their conflict with my own perspective. I have taken a phenomenological and dialectical approach to everything I do, and the training in the scholarly

approach to religion has been more useful in my career as an artist manager and salesperson for artists and their art than one may imagine."

Stephen Berkwitz (1991)

Stephen went on to do a Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara before being hired in the Department of Religious Studies at Missouri State University. He published a revised version of his dissertation on the Sri Lankan Buddhist chronicles under the title of *Buddhist History in the Vernacular: The Power of the Past in Late Medieval Sri Lanka* (Brill, 2004). He teaches courses on World Religions, Buddhism, Religion and Colonialism, and South Asian Religions to undergraduate and Master's students. He is currently finishing a book on early modern Sinhala Buddhist poetry during the Portuguese colonial period in early modern Sri Lanka. His study of Religion at UVM with faculty such as William Paden and Anne Clark was a direct and positive influence on his pursuit of an academic career in the field. He found himself "ahead of the curve" upon entering graduate study thanks to the instruction and guidance of the faculty at UVM. And since that time, he has benefited greatly from conversations with Kevin Trainor on Sri Lankan Buddhism. He has fond memories of his classes and of visiting with the faculty and Ruth Kurtz at 481 Main Street.

Laura Mattison (2004)

Immediately after she graduated from UVM Laura joined the Peace Corps and served in the Fiji Islands for two and half years. She notes that this was both a rewarding and isolating experience. She traveled in South East Asia for quite some time after that and through a variety of experiences abroad, she decided to go back to school for environmental studies. She almost went back to UVM, but Brown University gave her a full scholarship and a TA position that she couldn't refuse. They also gave her a grant to go back to India so that she could study fishing communities along the coast of Kerala. It was lovely work, but when she finished, she followed an impulse to live in the American north-west for a while. Laura was able to get a fellowship through NOAA to do cartography along the Oregon coast. According to

**Alumni News,
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her "It's stunning land here, but I of course miss my family and friends in New England, so I would like to return someday soon and maybe go back to school for a PhD."

Of her time at UVM Laura writes: "I remember my studies of Religion at UVM with increased fondness with each passing year. Most notably of course, Professor Sugarman and Professor Paden. One of the ways that I used to read phenomenology was by putting a blanket over my head and reading Levinas by flashlight. William James, thankfully, was much more forgiving and I could read him sitting upright. Phenomenology and the study of religion permeates everything I do, although it's likely to appear unrelated. There's a deep and abiding commitment to the Other that drives most of my major life choices and without that sense of mystery, I'm sure I would not have cared much for travel or the environment. It's my foundation and outlook where I would otherwise be floating in a sea of meaningless choices and personal interactions."

Marisa Westheimer (2006)

Marissa currently lives in NYC. She moved to the city to get her Masters in International Affairs, which she completed last May. While pursuing her degree she spent a summer working for UNICEF in Ethiopia. She notes, "It was fascinating to visit the churches throughout the country, especially the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela that were built in the 1300s. Although my own studies at UVM were focused mostly on Buddhism, it was really interesting to learn about the Christianity in Ethiopia." Since completing her MA she has been working for EngenderHealth, a non-profit committed to improving health in the developing world. She specifically works on Maternal Health issues as part of the Maternal Health Task Force. In regards to this work, Marisa observes, "While much of my work does not directly deal with religious issues, this spring I am looking forward to participating in a policy discussion that will focus on the intersection of religion and maternal health. The meeting will take place in DC and will bring together leaders from various religions and maternal health experts to determine how religion

can play a role in improving the health of mothers."



A photo of St. George's Church in Lalibela, Ethiopia taken by Marisa Westheimer

Marisa also writes, "It seems hard to believe that it has been 5 years since I graduated, but I haven't forgotten the professors and classes that gave so much to me during my time at UVM. There are too many fond memories to list, and I feel privileged to have studied with Prof. Paden, Prof. Martin, Prof. Trainor, and Prof. Sugarman. I feel so grateful to have been a part of the Religion Department community at UVM!"

Luella Strattner (2007)

Luella completed a Masters of Theological Studies at the Harvard Divinity School in June of 2010. Then she spent the summer at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Pune, India, studying Sanskrit. She is currently employed at an ashram in NY, where she develops content for teaching/learning events, promotions, and their website.

Says Luella: "What I remember most fondly about my time at UVM was the sense of community in the Religion Department. The professors were accessible, very friendly, and inspiring. Prof. Paden, for me, was the crown jewel of the stellar faculty that taught during my time there."

Stay Up to Date!

Wondering about upcoming lectures and events? Want to see what new courses are being offered in the Department of Religion? Find out the latest news about the Department of Religion at the University of Vermont by checking out our website:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~religion/>

Support Undergraduate Research!

The Department invites donations in honor of William E. Paden in support of undergraduate research in Religion at the University of Vermont. Donations to this fund will be used to help students attend conferences and to defray costs associated with student presentations. If you are interested in making a contribution please write a check to the University of Vermont Department of Religion. Checks should be mailed to:

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Keep in Touch!

Now it's your turn! We want to hear from you. Please get in touch, by phone, mail, or email, and tell us about you and your family, your latest successes, career changes, and travels. We look forward to publishing alumni updates in future issues. Submit your news via email to religion@uvm.edu or by regular mail to Department of Religion, University of Vermont, 481 Main Street, Burlington, VT

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