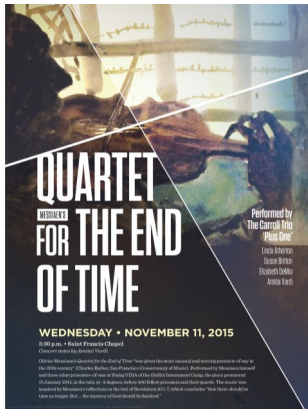


Illuminations

A Newsletter for the Graduate Program in
Theology and Religious Studies
at John Carroll University

Fall 2015

Upcoming Events!



Quartet for the End of Time

What does the “end of time” sound like? Come to St. Francis Chapel on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. to listen to Olivier Messiaen’s “Quartet for the End of Time,” which had perhaps the “most unusual and moving premiere in the 20th century” (Charles Barber, San Francisco Conservatory of Music). Performed by The Carroll Trio “Plus One,” the concert is sponsored by the Touhy Chair of Interreligious Studies and The Office of Liturgical Music and Musical Arts. The event is FREE and open to the public! For more information go to go.jcu.edu/touhy or call [216.397.4274](tel:216.397.4274)

Spiritual Jihad: A Path for the 21st Century?

Leading figures in Islamic Studies and interreligious dialogue will explore the theological roots, historical manifestations, and future possibilities of the important concept of Spiritual Jihad for Muslims, Christians and others.

A Nursi Chair Conference—November 13-14, 2015—Dolan Center for Science and Technology—Donahue Auditorium

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested.

For more information and to register, go to

<http://sites.jcu.edu/nursichair/2015/08/12/conference-on-spiritual-jihad/>

In case you missed it...



Check out the videos
of all four **Justice in the Family** lectures
at <http://sites.jcu.edu/family/>

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Meet our new TRS Graduate Students!

Courtney Drescher

Courtney serves as the full-time Youth Minister at Brecksville United Methodist Church, working with students in 6th-12th grade. She decided to begin the TRS MA program at JCU as a way to further her knowledge of theology and Biblical studies, so she could share that knowledge and information with her students. Courtney is especially interested in faith and religious development among adolescents and college-aged students, and hopes to eventually teach at the university level and /or work with campus ministries. During her free time, she enjoys traveling (especially to visit her fiancé in Tennessee), exercising, spending time with her three siblings and parents, and planning her wedding!

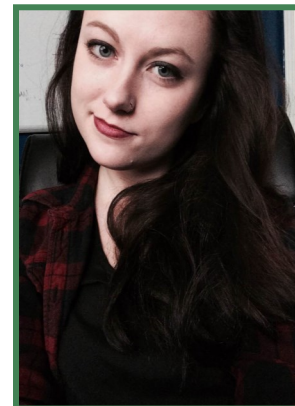


Eilis McCulloh

Eilis is a Sister of the Humility of Mary and is currently a novice. Her background is in refugee work. She came to the TRS MA program at JCU as part of her formation process and, also, from her desire to ground herself with a strong theological foundation for future work and ministry. Eilis is interested in the modern Catholic experience of church throughout the world.

Sarah Poronto

Sarah is in the 5 year BA/MA program, and is majoring in Theology and Religious Studies with minors in Catholic Studies and Latin at the undergraduate level. She started her graduate classes this fall. She works part time in the TRS Department and is a student liaison for CSSA where she is currently tutoring kindergartners at Marion Sterling School. Sarah plans to use her master's degree to teach theology in a Catholic Jesuit high school. She is also interested in becoming a knowledgeable, well-rounded Director of Religious Education in a Catholic parish.



Joseph Alto

Joseph is a native of Northeast Ohio, growing up in Lakewood. In 2014 he graduated from Hiram College where he doubled-majored in Religious Studies and Art History and minored in History. After taking a year off, he decided to apply to John Carroll to deepen his knowledge in Catholic theology and to further achieve his goal in becoming a teacher of Catholic theology at the high school or collegiate level. In addition to his studies, he is a Graduate Assistant in the department working with Dr. Paul Nietupski. His main interests in the field include contemporary Catholic issues, the effect of Greek philosophy on Catholic thought, and Catholic spirituality. In his now little free time, he enjoys a variety of outdoor activities. He is actually not a cat guy...



Kenneth Robinson Ken earned his undergraduate degree at JCU last May and stepped right into the MA program in Theology and Religious Studies. Upon completion of the MA program, he hopes to relocate to a warmer climate and continue his career in preaching in the Baptist tradition.

More new TRS Graduate Students!



Steve Rakic

Stevan is from Seven Hills, OH. He finished his undergrad at Cleveland State University with a Bachelor of Art degree in History, and many electives in religious studies. He took an interest in early Christian history and patristics during those elective courses. He chose JCU because of its academic excellence and because it does not put a large financial burden on graduate students in TRS. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue research in patristic theology.

Dr. Deborah Zawislan

Deborah is a 2008 graduate of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute and practices spiritual direction in a variety of settings. She decided to pursue a MA in Theology and Religious Studies because she became curious about the theological side of direction as well as about the spirituality of other faith traditions. Her professional experience includes working as an instructional designer, executive and leadership coach, and adjunct faculty at a number of area universities. Deborah is also an associate of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and has a growing desire to learn more about the new cosmology and eco-spirituality. Deborah works as a Graduate Assistant in the TRS department for Drs. Antus and Saritoprak.

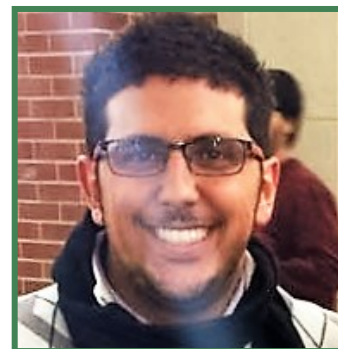


Raul Botha

Raul came from Romania with his family to find and fulfill their destiny here in America: to come alive and awaken life in others. In 2015, Raul graduated from the MBA program and Ignatian Spirituality Institute at JCU. He has also studied literature, theater, film and visual communication. He is excited to be in the MA program in Theology since this fulfills a profound desire of his - to expand his overall knowledge in the Bible and spirituality in general, so as to be better equipped for current and future spiritual direction and teaching opportunities. Raul is also a graduate assistant in the TRS department.

Michael Younes

Michael is a graduate assistant in the TRS department. He received his Bachelor of Art degree from JCU in Theology and Religious Studies last May. His focus is in biblical studies, mainly in the Hebrew Bible. He is fascinated with the cultures of the Ancient Near East that influenced the writers of the Hebrew Bible, as well as languages of the text. After the master's program, he plans to apply for a doctoral program and hopes to become a professor of Biblical Studies and the Ancient Near East.



Mark Bailey

Mark graduated from Cleveland State University in 2002 with majors in history, philosophy, and religious studies. He earned an Master of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio in 2010 with a specialization in biblical languages and texts. Believing that Catholics can be good scholars and good activists, he is a member of Cleveland Peace Action, the Northeast Ohio Coalition Against the War, and the Cleveland Interreligious Task Force on Central America, among numerous other social justice organizations. He has held various political offices and is opposed to US military action in the world but supports his son, a US soldier who has been deployed twice. He came to JCU to update his knowledge in religious studies and become a better peace/social justice activist.

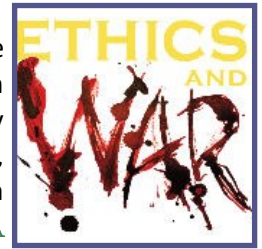
Plan Your Courses for Next Semester

But first: Check in with your advisor! Your advisors would love to talk with you to find out how things are going for you. Make an appointment before you choose your courses for next semester. Wonderful advice and encouragement might come from such a meeting! Besides this can put a personal face on your educational journey.

Upcoming Courses Spring '16

TRS 569: Just and Unjust Wars—Monday 6:30-9:15 Dr. Lauritzen

This course is an introduction to the ethical issues posed by the use of violence. In the West, one moral framework for assessing the use of violence is the just war tradition, which can be traced back at least to Augustine, and it has significantly shaped contemporary international law and military ethics. Examine the canonical text of the just war tradition, explore the evolution of the tradition, and investigate how contemporary terrorism challenges the tradition. **NB: This course satisfies the Religious Ethics requirement for MA students.**



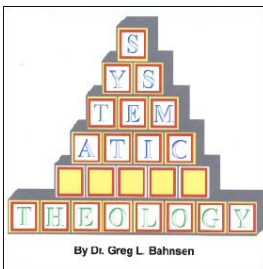
TRS 589: Teaching Theology and Religious Studies—Tuesdays 6:30-9:15 Drs. McGinn and Mark Storz



This course engages students in the theory and practice of teaching religion and theology to, with, and for adolescents and young adults, both in a public-school context and in the context of a religious community. We will explore the dynamics of human psychological, moral, intellectual, and faith development; strategies for engaged learning; the relationship between information and formation in religious education as well as first-amendment issues and best practices for public-school teaching of religion.

TRS 551: The Silk Roads: Religion, Art, and Politics on the International Trade Routes of East, Central, and South Asia—Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:45 Dr. Neitupski

This course will take an interdisciplinary approach, beginning with Art History and Theology and Religious Studies, and will include perspectives drawn from political science, economics, sociology, and history. We will use case studies that evidence the exchange of ideas along the Silk Road. The objective is to understand how local communities met and tolerated differences for mutual benefit, and how they sought to exchange material goods, religious beliefs, and diplomatic agreements. Religions to be covered include Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Manicheanism. **NB: Class can be taken as a graduate level course with permission from Dr. McGinn. It satisfies the world religion requirement for MA students.**



TRS 430: Intro to Systematic Theology—Thursdays 6:30-9:15 Dr. Antus

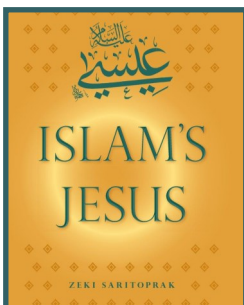
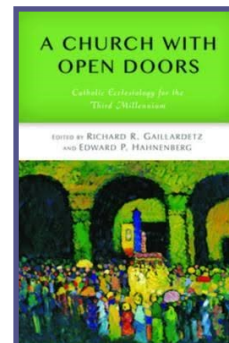
This course is an introduction to Catholic systematic theology. It will examine several key concepts (revelation, faith, scripture, tradition, community, the human person, and method) and then explore how these concepts play out in a few significant theologians from the pre-modern, modern, and postmodern periods. Beginning with the assumption that all theology is contextual, the course will locate these thinkers within their different historical and cultural worlds. **NB: This is a required course for MA students, and ideally should be taken before any other systematic theology course.**

TRS 309/ML 101: Intensive Course in Hebrew Language—Spring Break—2/29-3/4 8:30am—5:00pm Dr. McGinn

Introductory level intensive five-day course in modern and biblical Hebrew. **Class can be taken as a graduate level course with permission from Dr. McGinn.**

Faculty News and Highlights:

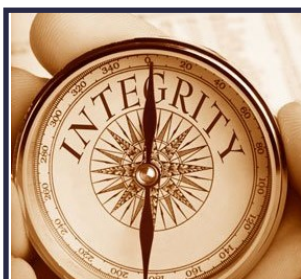
“A Church which ‘goes forth’ is a Church whose doors are open.” - Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*. The Pope’s quote inspired *A Church With Open Doors: Catholic Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium*, edited by **Dr. Edward Hahnenberg** and Richard Gaillardetz and published this year. The collection of papers in honor of the ecclesiological legacy of Thomas F. O’Meara, explores the ways the church opens its doors to welcome in the faithful and to go out in ministry to serve those outside the church. Dr. Hahnenberg’s contribution to the collection is called “Learning from Experience: Attention to Anomalies in a Theology of Ministry.”



Jesus is a prominent figure in the Quran, a fact that might come as a surprise to Christians. **Dr. Zeki Saritoprak** spoke to WKAR Public Media at Michigan State University on Monday, September 28, 2015, about the position Christ holds in the Muslim faith and his book, *Islam’s Jesus*. Saritoprak thinks the shared belief in Jesus could help Muslims and Christians better understand one another.

Listen to the interview here: <http://wkar.org/post/islamic-scholar-visits-el-discuss-prominence-jesus-quran#stream/0>

On September 10 and 11, 2015, **Dr. Paul Nietupski**, **Dr. Sheila McGinn**, CSSA staff member J.P. Grauly, and students Emily Williams and Jackie Swinerton attended the 5th Annual President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge National Gathering. The conference was held at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The focus of the event was to gather various members of academia to share insights and best practices of interfaith cooperation. For the first time, the conference incorporated a global component which offered new challenges and perspectives on what it means to have interfaith action in contexts very different than that of the United States. Started as an initiative of the Obama administration, the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge has called higher education to prioritize the need for deeper understanding and inclusivity for students of all faiths and no faith while working together to better our communities. The information gathered from this conference will be incorporated into the interfaith mission of the TRS department and JCU.



Dr. Paul Lauritzen participated in a newspaper headline-worthy workshop in September which discussed the ethical practice of operational psychology. This topic became relevant following the controversy surrounding the roles of psychologists in national security interrogations, and the need to focus on the use by psychologists of psychological skills and principles to support military and intelligence operations. Participants in the workshop agreed on a consensus statement of basic principles. Two of the principles are reproduced below, to provide a sense of the points at issue. The full statement can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/EOPW-Statement1>.

- The ethical *acceptability* of any particular action to be undertaken by operational psychologists must be evaluated independently of the purported *effectiveness* of the proposed technique or operation. The fact that a particular action is considered necessary or has been determined to have been successful with respect to the mission does not thereby make it ethical for psychologists.
- The ethical practice of psychology in every domain requires mechanisms for ethical *monitoring and accountability* by other professional psychologists and for ethics consultation and support. To be effective these mechanisms must be independent of chain-of-command pressures and must exhibit a degree of transparency and public accountability consistent with human rights standards. The development of comprehensive oversight, accountability, and consultation mechanisms for psychologists practicing in operational contexts is thus essential.

More Faculty News:

In addition, **Dr. Lauritzen** presented a paper entitled “Ethics, Mitochondrial Transfer, and the Teleology of the Body” at Symposium on Ethics, Theology, and the Limits of Ethics at Princeton University in April, 2015.

Dr. Joseph Kelly has been working on a new book on a secular account of the feast of Christmas and has rewritten an entry for the upcoming revised edition of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* to be published by Oxford University Press. He will be on JCU Grauel Faculty Fellowship for spring semester 2016.

Dr. Paul Nietupski received the **Lucrezia Culicchia Award for Teaching Excellence, John Carroll University, 2015**. Congratulations!! He was on a JCU Grauel Faculty Fellowship for spring semester 2015 and traveled to India in the summer with partial support from the Kahl Endowment for Internationalizing the Curriculum.

He had several essays published in 2015:

- ◆ “Islam and Labrang Monastery: A Muslim Community in a Tibetan Buddhist Estate.” In *Muslims in Amdo Tibetan Society: Multidisciplinary Approaches*. Edited by Marie-Paule Hille, Bianca Horlemann, and Paul K. Nietupski, 135-152. Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.
- ◆ “The World According to Belmang Paṅḍita: Belmang Könchok Gyaltsan Palzangpo (1764-1853).” In *In Vimalakīrti’s House: A Festschrift in Honor of Robert A.F. Thurman on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday*. Edited by Christian K. Wedemeyer, John D. Dunne, and Thomas F. Yarnall, 275-288. New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies at Columbia University, 2015.
- ◆ “Understanding Sovereignty in Amdo.” In *Trails of the Tibetan Tradition: Papers for Elliot Sperling*. Edited by Roberto Vitali, with assistance from Gedun Rabsal and Nicole Willock, 217-232. Dharamshala (H.P.), India: Amnye Machen Institute, 2014.
- ◆ “Tenpe Gyaltsen: The Fifth Jamyang Zhepa.” in *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism Through the Lives of Practitioners*. Edited by Todd Lewis, 193-200. Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons, 2014.

Dr. Paul Nietupski presented a paper entitled “Guṇaprabha, the Vinayasūtra, and the changes in Buddhist monastic beliefs and practices in 7th-8th century India,” at the XVIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, 21 August 2014. In March 2015, **Dr. Paul Nietupski** presented a paper entitled “Amdo politics and religion—Guan Yun Chang,” at the Columbia University Collaborative Reading Workshop on Tibetan Buddhist Networking in the 18th century: Lives and Letters.



Dates to Remember: Spring 2016 Registration is now open!

Due Dates for Spring Graduation (5/22/2016)

- ◆ **November 23, 2015:** Graduation Application
- ◆ **April 4, 2016:** Thesis, essay, or project due.
- ◆ **April 11, 2016:** Comps deadline

Due Dates for Summer Graduation (8/31/2016)

- ◆ **February 15, 2016:** Graduation Application
- ◆ **July 25, 2016:** Thesis, essay, or project due
- ◆ **August 1, 2016:** Comps deadline



Check us out on the web:
go.jcu.edu/trs

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The Department of Theology and Religious Studies at John Carroll University

Graduate Program in Theology and Religious Studies

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies, with roots in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition, shares the mission of John Carroll University to reflect the value system of the Gospels. In particular, the Jesuit spirit brings to education a rationality balanced by human affection, an esteem for the individual as a unique person, training in discerning choice, openness to change, and a quest for God's greater glory in the use of the world's goods. The department offers courses that span a wide range of theological and religious thought and provide a context for ecumenical dialogue and study.