

## ILLUMINATIONS

### *Congratulations and Farewell to our graduating graduates!*



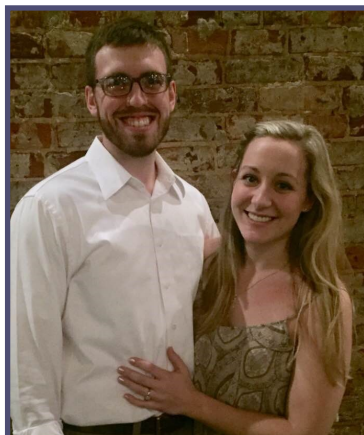
#### **Pam Chaney**

Pam is deeply grateful for the opportunity to study in the TRS and Counseling (Spiritual Wellness) departments of John Carroll University. Her classmates, professors, and JCU staff have challenged her, supported her, and expanded her understanding of theology and spiritual wellness and how both fit in the treatment of people with substance use disorders.



After graduation, Pam plans to expand her current practice of spiritual direction and chemical dependency counseling at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, along with other area centers housing homeless women. While researching her MA essay, Pam found that poor women in the area are chronically underserved as they rebuild their lives after being sexually trafficked, abused, and addicted. Pam recently facilitated the founding of MiddleWayMinistries.org to support additional programs and services for these women and their children. Pam is thankful for the Jesuit education she received to help her better live the mission of being a woman in service to others.

#### **Courtney Drescher**



Completing her MA in Theology in record time, Courtney is writing her MA Essay, cramming for her Oral Comps, planning her May wedding and packing up all of her belongings for her upcoming move to Tennessee with her new husband as he begins medical school. She hopes to find a Religious Studies or Youth Ministry adjunct position at a local college, but is open to wherever she is led! Courtney credits John Carroll with her desire to teach at the university level, and feels much more confident in her own personal faith beliefs as a result of many discussions

with professors and peers. Her graduate essay focuses on the absence of emerging adults within the American church, and presents a case study of the church where she presently works and how it can more effectively construct its youth and young adult ministry programs to attract emerging adults.

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## John Barrett



John enjoyed his experience so much in the Theology and Religious Studies department at JCU that he wanted to extend his time by completing a Master of Arts degree. As the first candidate for the joint BA/MA program in the department, he is glad he made the decision. It has allowed him to learn and grow alongside teachers and students who have proven to be excellent thinkers; it has encouraged him to develop his faith and expand his understanding of God; and it has allowed him to become a stronger reader, writer, and communicator. He will miss all of his colleagues dearly, but he knows that they will continue to learn and grow with one another in various ways.

John has been student teaching for Theology teachers at a local Catholic high school and hopes to find work teaching high school Theology in the Cleveland area after his graduation. This picture is from the trip

## Mary Coffey

Mary is amazed at the depth and breadth of the information garnered through the MA program in Theology, although paradoxically, she has more questions now than when she began the program proving that the more you know, the more you realize how little you know. She has been exposed to a variety of teaching styles and areas of expertise while taking graduate classes in the department over the last two years which will serve her well as she continues to develop her own approach to the many experiences that will come her way after graduation, including retreat work, teaching opportunities and a return to spiritual direction as a well-grounded and more knowledgeable spiritual director.

Mary has enjoyed being involved with the behind-the-scenes action by working as a Graduate Assistant in the TRS department, interacting with Kathy Merhar and many of the professors. It has been a wonderful and rich opportunity to take a deep dive into the complex and multi-layered subject of theology and, while time-consuming and demanding, Mary has savored every step of the journey.

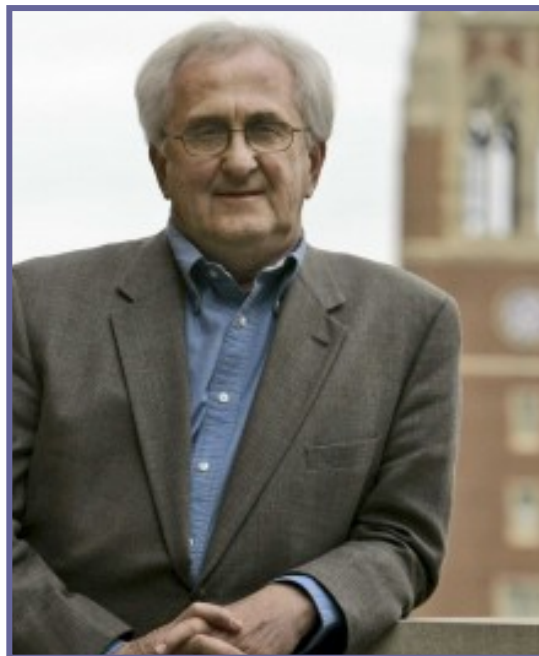


## Faculty news

### Fr. Donald Cozzens Retires

Last spring, Fr. Cozzens, our writer-in-residence, celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a priest. This spring, he will be celebrating his retirement from JCU after 14 years of teaching! He is looking forward to spending some time away from the classroom enjoying nature and the arts.

Fr. Cozzens believes he will miss JCU students and their down-to-earth goodness, their desire to achieve a bit of wisdom, as well as knowledge, and their sense of service and social justice. "And I know," he adds, "I will miss the 9pm Sunday Mass. I see the JCU community at its best then. I've been blessed with good colleagues who have made the years here both fun and challenging. I'll miss working with the Campus Ministry staff and the devilish group that gathers for lunch at the so-called "power table," according to Cozzens.



He remains grateful to Fr. Ed Glynn, the former president of JCU who invited him to join the Carroll faculty in the fall of 2002. "And I owe thanks to the chairs of the TRS department, the deans and academic vice-presidents I've served under. And a thousand thanks to Kathy Merhar, whose patience and good cheer amaze me." TRS Department Chair Dr. McGinn has invited Fr. Cozzens to teach part-time, so you may see him in the halls, researching in the library, or on the racquetball courts.

Enjoy the next new chapter in your life, Fr. Cozzens!

**Dr. Kelly** has returned from warmer climes where he was finishing up a new book on the secular



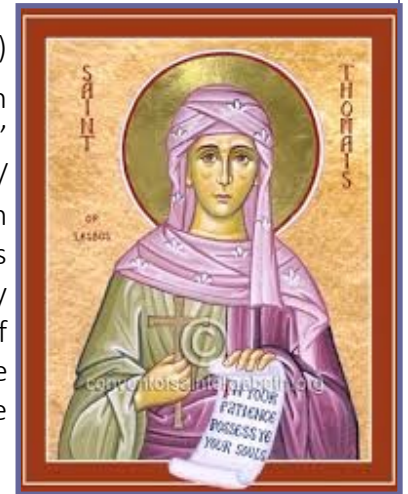
history of Christmas while on Grauel Faculty Research Fellowship this semester. He was a consultant for a BBC program on the Nativity in December, edited some entries for The Oxford Classical Dictionary, and wrote an article on "Krampus" for World Book Encyclopedia. For those of you who have never heard of Krampus, a character from ancient European folklore, it is a horned beast who punishes naughty children at Christmastime. Dr. Kelly will be the guest lecturer for the Augustine Lecture Series sponsored by the Institute of Catholic Studies. For more information on this April 7th lecture about the Irish and St. Augustine, see on page 7 of this issue.

**Dr. Lauritzen** was awarded a Grauel Faculty Research Fellowship for Fall 2016. His project, called "The Ethics of Operational Psychology" will develop an ethical framework for psychologists involved in national security work. The involvement of psychologists in enhanced interrogations at Guantanamo Bay deeply divided the profession of psychology. Many within the profession believe that any involvement of psychologists in national security work involves a violation of professional responsibility. He will be teaching a graduate level ethics class in the spring.

## Faculty news

**Dr. Hahnenberg** was awarded a Grauel Faculty Research Fellowship for Spring 2017. His project, "Make a Mess: Popular Agency and the Future of American Catholicism," asks: If all of the faithful are called to participate actively in the church's life and mission, how are we to account for the complex ways in which individuals navigate the various relationships, demands, opportunities, and limitations that define their social existence? Hahnenberg's hypothesis is that the sociological concept of agency can help address this question, offering a more realistic theology of the laity for the church. He will not be teaching any graduate-level classes in the 2016-2017 academic year.

**Dr. McGinn** attended the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) annual meeting in November 2015 and participated in a panel discussion on "Human Trafficking and the Bible: Linking the Past to the Present." You can find out more about the discussion at <http://www.sblstudents.org/2015-sbl-annual-meeting-sessions/#Trafficking>. In addition, Dr. McGinn participated in the SBL Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity session at the annual Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society meeting in mid-March 2016 and led a seminar discussion of "Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation and the Acts of Thecla." Graduate students Michael Younes and Deborah Zawlislan also attended the meeting with Dr. McGinn.



**Dr. Nietupski** along with Marie-Paule Hille, and Bianca Horlemann edited *Muslims in Amdo Tibetan Society: Multidisciplinary Approaches* (Lexington, 2015). It includes a chapter written by Dr. Nietupski entitled "Islam and Labrang Monastery: A Muslim Community in a Tibetan Buddhist Estate."

**Ms. Megan Wilson-Reitz** published "The Paradox of the Feminist Religious Radical: What Kind of Extremists Will We Be?" in *Teaching Women's Studies in Conservative Contexts: Perspectives for an Inclusive Dialogue*, edited by Cantice Green (Routledge, 2016).

## Other Department News:

\*Celebrate TRS scholars at the [Celebration of Scholarship](#) on Tuesday, April 14 at 2:00 in the Dolan Auditorium! Join us for lunch (open to the JCU community) in the O'Connell Reading Room and hear

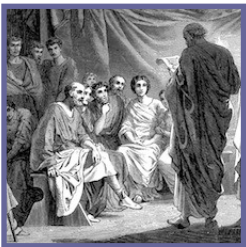
**Dr. Saritoprak** discuss Islam Spirituality at noon. Stay to listen to Pam Chaney and Mary Coffey as they each give a short presentation on their MA Essays from 2:-3:15. Full details and reservation information is found at <http://sites.jcu.edu/celebration/pages/2016-schedule/>. Pam's presentation is called "Go and See: Creating Community, Not Clients in Mark 6:34-44." Mary's presentation is called "Praying with Images: Encountering God through Creative Expression." Come and see!

## Plan Your Courses for Next Semester

**But first:** Check in with your advisor! Your advisors would love to talk with you for about a half hour on 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 at JCU.

Summer 2016 Registration now open  
Fall 2016 Registration opens April 1, 2016

## Upcoming Courses Summer 2016:



**TRS 529: Early Christian Theology & Liturgy**—MTWRF, 8:15-12:30pm, 5/16/16-5/27/16 (Dr. Kelly): This course will deal with the interrelation between theology and liturgy in Early Christianity, that is, the period between the New Testament and the sixth century. This course will focus on the liturgical literature and practices and their theological background and will involve readings in primary and secondary sources, class discussions, viewing videos, slides, and student classroom presentations.

**TRS 549: Shi'ism—The "Other" Islam**—Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 1:00pm-3:45pm, 5/16/16/-6/16/2016 (Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald) Archbishop Fitzgerald, former Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, returns to JCU to teach this class on Shi'ism. Who are the Shi'a? What are their particular beliefs and practices? What has brought about this division in the world of Islam? Is any attempt being made to bring about the unity of all Muslims? Is there any dialogue between Shi'ite Muslims and Christians?



**TRS 509: Experiencing 1st-Century Christianity: 1 Corinthians by Simulation**—Wednesdays, 8:30am-5:00pm, 6/20/16-7/21/16 (Dr. McGinn): Create a scene in Corinth by engaging in live action role-playing and see the moral and spiritual dilemmas come alive in reaction to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Through the lens of Corinthians in the late 50s, you will understand the social implications and the dramas involved in growing a church with diverse believers—insights that are as applicable today as they were 2000 years ago.

## Fall 2016:

**TRS 420: The Rise of Christianity**—Mondays, 6:30-9:15pm (Dr. Kelly):

Look for more details on this course covering the church patriarchs in the upcoming course description flyer showing up in your inbox soon!

## Fall 2016 courses, continued

### TRS 400: Engaging Biblical Scriptures—Intro to Biblical Interpretation—Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15pm (Dr. McGinn):



This Introduction to scholarly approaches will help you understand the Bible by exploring exegesis, interpretation, and contemporary application of scriptural texts. Focus on the canonicity and the authority of scripture; authenticity, pseudonymity, epistolography; and the methods of form criticism, source criticism, literary and rhetorical criticism, reader-response criticism, textual criticism, redaction history, social history, feminist hermeneutics, queer theory, and theological reflection. Learn how to apply these methods to biblical interpretation, with various biblical texts providing the “case studies” for discussion.

### TRS 519: Theologies of Judaism—Wednesdays, 6:30-9:15pm (Rabbi Oppenheimer):

Look for more details on this all new course in the upcoming course description flyer showing up in your inbox soon!



### TRS 499: Constructing Religious Identity—Thursdays, 6:30-9:15pm (Dr. Tobey):

What does it mean to “be religious,” and how do people come to be that way? Taking as its premise the notion that religious people are not born but are made according to



context-specific norms, this course is an examination of the various processes of religious socialization by which religious identities are constructed, maintained, transformed, and sometimes discarded. Working through several contemporary case studies, we will analyze the various ways people learn how to be religious (or spiritual, or not religious) according to a particular group's expectations, and we will engage theoretical issues of identity and boundaries as they pertain to religious groups and religious people.

### TRS 451: Pilgrimage—Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:45pm (Dr. Nietupski):

This course will use the phenomena of pilgrimage as a unifying theme in the study of global religions. It will isolate and define the theme of pilgrimage and consider it as a perspective on spirit, mind, and body, as a method for internal development, and as one of many manifestations of religious life. The course will use case studies and relevant art objects as points of departure for investigations of symbols, rituals, myths, and doctrines associated with pilgrimage.



## Upcoming Events: Tuohy Lecture Series 2016

### Contemplating Contemplation: A Psychological Perspective on Mindfulness, Gratitude, and Ignatian Spiritual Practices

Tuesday, April 6, 2016—7:30 pm-Donahue Auditorium



Join Dr. Anthony Ahrens, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at American University in Washington D.C. as he shares with us recent research on mindfulness practices which are designed to draw nonjudgmental attention to the present moment. The lecture will also focus on research results on gratitude, and some possible ties of psychology to Ignatian spiritual practices. Psychology has learned by contemplating the contemplative practices focused on attention to the present and on gratitude. What might psychology learn from contemplating the contemplative practices of other traditions, such as Ignatian Spirituality?

### The Augustine Lecture: Augustine and the Irish

Thursday, April 7, 2016—7:30pm

D.J. Lombardo Student Center—LSC Conference Room

The great North African theologian Augustine of Hippo (354-430) created the doctrine of Original Sin that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit, the entire human race was condemned to hell for all eternity except for some few predestined individuals who received divine grace, and human nature was corrupted that there was no possibility of natural goodness.

All the churches of Western Europe accepted this teaching – except for one. The Irish alone insisted on the possibility of natural goodness and opposed Augustinian predestination. Dr. Joseph Kelly will explain for a general audience why and how the Irish did this, defending the possibility of natural goodness and the salvation of many.



## More Upcoming Lectures in the Tuohy Series:

### Art, Ritual and Sacred Space on the Silk Road

Wednesday, April 13, 2016-7:30 pm-Donahue Auditorium.

Listen to Dr. Qiang Ning, Chu-Niblack Associate Professor in Asian Art at Connecticut College in New London, CT as he fascinates us with the secrets of mythical rituals on death, divinity, food, wealth, and political legitimacy by examining the 12th century painting, sculpture and architecture remaining in a newly discovered artificial cave in the Chinese northwestern desert. The interplay of art, religion, and politics is discussed in the context of cultural exchanges between the Tangut nation (Xixia), Tibet and Song dynasty China.



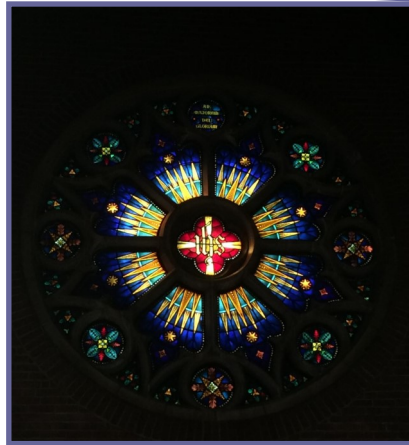
### Remembering the Divine: Devotional Music of South Asia

Wednesday, April 20th—7:30pm—Donahue Auditorium



India's rich tradition of devotional music has spanned the centuries, gaining popularity in the West. In ancient Vedic and tantric cosmogonies vibration is the source of all life and is the root of consciousness. The *Bhakti* movement was open to all and utilized music as a central method for spiritual development. India's unique tradition of devotional music, which encompasses musicians such as Amir Khusrau, poet—saints like Kabir Das, and the Vishnava movement with its message of tolerance and the immanence of the divine, have continue relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.





**Due Dates to Remember**

**Summer, 2016 Graduation**

- ◆ **February 15, 2016:** Application Deadline  
Late application fee: \$25
- ◆ **July 25, 2016:** Thesis or Essay Deadline
- ◆ **August 1, 2016:** Oral Comprehension Test Deadline

**Winter, 2016 Graduation**

- ◆ **July 13, 2016:** Application Deadline
- ◆ **November 21, 2016:** Thesis or Essay Deadline
- ◆ **November 28, 2016:** Oral Comprehension Test Deadline

**Spring, 2017 Graduation**

- ◆ **November 28, 2016:** Application Deadline
- ◆ **April 10, 2017:** Thesis or Essay Deadline
- ◆ **April 17, 2017:** Oral Comprehension Test

The Department of Theology  
and Religious Studies  
at John Carroll University

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.

Check us out on the web:  
[go.jcu.edu/trs](http://go.jcu.edu/trs)

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