
THE HERALD

UGA Department of Religion
Fall 2003

Slater Joins Mercer's McAfee Faculty

Associate Professor Thomas B. Slater has accepted a New Testament position at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, Atlanta. At UGA Dr. Slater held joint appointments in Religion and the Institute for African American Studies. He first taught at UGA from 1988–1992 and then returned in 1995. Dr. Slater holds a Ph.D. from King's College, The University of London and is an ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church.

Elistratov Named Franklin Fellow

Dr. Rouslan Elistratov joined the Religion faculty as a Franklin Fellow in August 2003. A specialist in Philosophy of Religion and Theology, he holds a Ph.D. and MA from Claremont School of Theology (California).

The Franklin Fellows postdoctoral teaching fellowship program was established in 1999 by the Franklin College in cooperation with the Institute for Higher Education. Franklin Teaching Fellows are recruited nationally on the basis of the quality of their doctoral preparation and their potential to become excellent researchers.

New Native American Institute Proposed

The Department of Religion has submitted a proposal for a new Institute of Native American Studies at UGA. The Institute, unique in the Southeast, will administer a certificate program for undergraduate and graduate study of the indigenous peoples of the Americas (with special focus on the United States and the South).

Dr. Jace Weaver, who was hired from Yale University in 2002 to teach Native American religious traditions, drafted the proposal and will serve as the initial director. Though housed in Religion, the institute would draw upon faculty and other resources from across the University. Participants from Franklin College include professors in Anthropology, English, Geography, History, Music, Romance Languages, and Sociology. In addition, persons in the College of Education, Grady School of Journalism, and the Law School have agreed to participate.

According to Dr. Weaver, "Georgia has a group of faculty with expertise in Native Americans that would make other Native American Studies programs around the country envious. Our task is to bring them all together into a coordinated program. Given Georgia's prominence in Native American history, it is logical for UGA to have something like this institute. To have the only Native American Studies program in the Southeast will immediately put UGA on the map nationally in the discipline."



Department Office Renovated

The Department of Religion office recently received a new look after renovation work by UGA Building Maintenance.

Dropped ceiling tiles and new lighting panels were installed. Work to repaint the office and replace the worn carpeting is also scheduled.

The department office also utilized Room 210 following the departure of Dr. Tom Slater. The copy machine and department mailboxes, previously in Room 206, were moved into Room 210. The copy/mail room also has a small, comfortable seating area for faculty-graduate student use.

FACULTY NEWS

Assistant Professor Glenn Wallis has completed his book on the *Dhammapada*, a third century B.C.E. Buddhist text composed in Pali. Entitled *Verses on the Way: the Buddhist Dhammapada*, the book is scheduled for publication by Random House in January 2004. Dr. Wallis has several entries in press for the updated *Encyclopedia of Religion*, originally edited by Mircea Eliade (MacMillan Reference), and the *Encyclopedia of Holy People of the World* (ABC-CLIO Publications). An article titled "Advayavajra's Instructions on the *adikarma*" is in press (University of California) for a volume commemorating the late, renowned Buddhist scholar Masatoshi Nagatomi. An abbreviated form of this article was presented at the recent conference of the American Oriental Society in Nashville under the title "*Adikarma* as 'Primary Practice.'" Dr. Wallis is presently preparing an article on the Buddha's critique of theism.

In recent publication, **Professor Sandy Dwayne Martin** reports the following:

- Four articles: "American Colonization Society," "African Methodist Episcopal Church," "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church," and "Progressive National Baptist Convention" in the *Encyclopedia of Protestantism* (New York: Routledge, in press).
- Review, Bill J. Leonard, *Baptist Ways: A History*, published by Judson Press, in *Baptist Studies Bulletin*, September 2003 issue, on-line publication.
- "African American Christianity," *Encyclopedia of Religion an American Culture*, Volume 1 ed. by Gary Laderman and Luis Leon (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003), pp. 10-13.

He is also preparing a chapter on African American Baptists to be published in a book on Baptist history by Mercer University Press.

In August, he presented "Silver Bluff Baptist Church and George Liele: Examining the Question of Historical Priority of African American Congregations" and "Silver Bluff Baptist Church and George Liele: The Historical Significance and International Dimensions of the Rise of Black Christianity" for the National Association of Christian Educators in Nashville, TN. In September, he served as a presenter on one panel and moderator for another at the Second Baptist Classics in Early America (1700-1750) Seminar at Mercer University, Macon. In October he was selected from among 60 professors nominated by student residents of Russell Hall to speak as part of the Last Lecture Series at the UGA dormitory.

Dr. Martin is an invited speaker for the Heritage Day Program at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC in February 2004. And he is invited to participate at the Third Annual Baptist Classics Seminar scheduled for September 2004. He remains as Chair of the African American Religion Section for the American Academy of Religion/Southeastern Region.

Dr. Martin served as an outside reviewer for Tenure and/or Promotion Committees for Rice University, Chicago Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Theology in fall 2003. In UGA activities, he chaired the Franklin College Promotion and Tenure Committee for the Humanities and served as a member of the Graduate Faculty Appointment Committee for the Humanities.

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