

THE FACULTY VOICE

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THE PROGRAM IN RELIGION AT HUNTER COLLEGE

By

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The Program in Religion at Hunter College is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive program in religious studies in the City University. We offer over sixty courses, including several courses in aspects of each of the major world religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism), as well as in the traditional religions of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, and in the archaic religions of Greece and the Ancient Near East. We also offer courses in various methodological approaches to the study of religions, and courses in specific issues in religion, such as faith and disbelief, religious experience, ethics, the meaning of love and sex, the meaning of death, women and religion, politics and religion, and religious ideas in literature.

The Program provides students with a thorough background in religious studies. Taught by specialists in religion and in other disciplines, about half of its courses are drawn from the ten departments and divisions participating in the Program: Anthropology, Black and Puerto Rican Studies, Chinese, Classics, English, Geography, Hebrew, History, Philosophy, and Sociology. Another thirty courses are taught by Program in Religion faculty. In all courses, religion is presented in a scholarly manner. No doctrinal bias is reflected.

One of the great strengths of the Program in Religion lies in the diversity of students at Hunter. We currently have about 500 students enrolled in our filled-to-overflowing REL-prefix courses and a like number in courses offered by the participating departments. Given that our offerings are inately multi-cultural, we take special pleasure in having students from all over the world, with different religious backgrounds, enroll in our courses. Often such students are learning about their own religious traditions in a serious academic manner for the first time. The cultural mix becomes particularly rewarding when people with diverse backgrounds encounter other traditions. We find that so much of religious study focuses on values, attitudes toward reality, and a wisdom born of life experience. Here we are especially grateful for our students who are senior citizens, whose insights are often most enlightening for the younger members of the class.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Program in Religion is the opportunity it affords students to understand the depth of religious concern, as well as the profound scope of its effect. Students become more aware of the ground and nature of their own attitudes toward reality when they encounter other traditions' ideas of time and space, ethics, psychology, and theology. A Buddhist's idea of the psyche suddenly ignites a student question about Western psychologies. A Trobriand

Islander's understanding of death may spark a Christian to better understand his own tradition. The benefits of such cross-cultural analyses are the basis for many of the intellectual delights in classes which examine one particular idea from different religious perspectives.

I love teaching—and particularly teaching religion, where the books are endlessly wiser than I am—and especially teaching at Hunter where the students are perennially the most interesting people I have ever met . . .

FUNDS FOR FACULTY-SPONSORED EVENTS

Since 1984, the Provost's Office has provided funds, through the Faculty Delegate Assembly, to support faculty-sponsored events, such as conferences, workshops, and similar events. This year, these funds have been drastically reduced.

Faculty are invited to apply for limited funding for their projects by writing a letter to the FDA Faculty Events Committee, Chaired by Professor Carolyn Sommerville. Most grants are expected to be less than \$400. This year faculty are encouraged to develop proposals of an interdisciplinary nature which promote community building in a multicultural environment.

Each proposal should include a description of the nature of the project, the date of the event, a detailed budget (including other funding sources if appropriate), a description of the expected audience, how the event will be publicized, and a description of the event's expected contribution to the Hunter College community.

So far this year, the committee has awarded funding for five faculty-sponsored events. It will continue to solicit proposals until the all funds are allocated.

Send proposals to Professor Carolyn Sommerville in the Political Science Department.

ANTHOLOGIES AND COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

Last spring, a Federal court ruling reaffirmed the need to obtain permission to use copyrighted materials in college course anthologies. In a lawsuit brought by eight publishers against Kinko's Graphics Corporation, Judge Constance Baker Motley of the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, ruled that businesses that commercially copy professor's collections of articles and excerpts without first obtaining permission violate the Copyright Act. Publishers now want to make these materials available more quickly to faculty and academicians. A booklet titled, Questions and Answers on Copyright for the Campus Community, which explains procedures for securing permission more promptly, is available upon request from The Association of American Publishers, 220 E. 23rd Street, New York, NY, 10010

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR HENRY F. JACKSON

A distinguished faculty colleague, Henry Jackson, Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies, died on August 15, 1991, after struggling in vain with an invidious illness. He was only 52 years old. During a memorial service, which was held at Hunter in his memory on October 31, one listened to speaker after speaker relate vignettes, events, and anecdotes which reflected the life, accomplishments, and achievements of Professor Jackson. He was a man of honor, a scholar, a respected teacher, and a good friend to many members of the Hunter community. But perhaps one might use his own words to reflect his true person . . . "I suppose that I was born a poet." We are diminished by his passing.

INTRODUCING RABBI JUDY BRAZEN

Shalom! I am Rabbi Judy Brazen, the new Jewish chaplain here at Hunter College. I am appreciative of this opportunity to introduce myself and to inform you of some of the services that are provided for the Jewish community on campus by B'nai Brith Hillel.

My role at Hunter is to reach out to individuals who express interest in identifying with a Jewish community on campus and to make Jewish choices accessible to them. I advise the B'nai Brith Hillel club, and in that capacity serve as a resource for promoting educational, social, religious, and cultural activities on campus. While this is the first communication I have had with many of the faculty, you should know that Hunter Hillel events began in September. We have already enjoyed a year-initiating Shabbat dinner at the Brookdale campus and gather weekly for a "lunch-n-learn" series every Wednesday afternoon.

My office is located in the Roosevelt House, just a few blocks away from the campus. There we also have a Jewish library and a student lounge. I am available to the college community for pastoral and spiritual counselling as the need arises. I welcome your assistance and encourage you to call me at 734-2600.

CUNY ACADEMY FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

The Academy for the Humanities and Sciences is an all-CUNY organization devoted to furthering the intellectual interests of the faculty. The Academy regularly sponsors lively and informative programs on timely topics, such as a forthcoming conference on December 6, titled "One University Many Cultures," which will be held at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Membership in the Academy also provides opportunity for faculty to meet and dialogue with colleagues at other branches of the university system.

Yearly dues are minimal. For a membership application or for more information contact Prof. Mildred Kuner, English, 772-5201, or Prof. Alfred Bennick, Physics and Astronomy, 772-4203.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1991-92 PROMOTION SCHEDULE-Faculty nominations for promotion and requests for individual consideration should be forwarded to the Personnel and Budget Committee of your Department/School beginning November 25, and no later than December 6, 1991. An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, with supporting documentation, should be maintained in your personnel file.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS-Two important lunchtime seminars, dealing with stress as a part of life, sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program:

Thursday, Nov. 14-Stress Management Techniques

Thursday, Nov. 21-Stress Management Workshop

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK-The Department of Geology and Geography is participating in the fifth national Geography Awareness Week from December 2-6 with a line-up of activities open to the entire Hunter community. Highlights include:

Monday, Dec. 2-Poster Presentation of Geographical Themes-10 Floor HN

Tuesday, Dec. 3-Global Warming: A Spectrum of Views-1700E, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 4-Awareness Day Lecture by Dr. Herman Jenkins-1040HN, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 5-Women in the Geosciences-1040HN, 1:15 p.m.

The FDA Faculty Events Committee recently approved a funding proposal to partially support this event.

MAMMOGRAPHY MOBILE UNIT-Benefits Officer, Kathie Stanton, advises all faculty that a number of slots are still open for the medical mobile unit breast cancer screenings scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 14, and Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Hunter College. To take advantage of this life-saving service, faculty are advised to call 772-4512 immediately.

FACULTY FOR OPEN INQUIRY-Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 4:15 p.m. in room 1543HW.

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING-The second General Faculty Meeting for this academic year will be held on Wednesday, December 18, in Room 709W. All faculty, full-time, substitute, and part-time are encouraged to attend.

THE FACULTY VOICE is produced by the Office of the General Faculty and the Faculty Delegate Assembly. We would like to encourage a more active exchange of ideas, news, views, and opinions among our faculty. Write us letters, and send us information and articles which you would like to have included in forthcoming issues. Let us hear from you!