

Religious Studies



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2, 2017

Fall Flannery Lecture
Feat. Fr. Daniel Groody,
C.S.C., Ph.D., Assoc. Professor,
University of Notre Dame
6:00 pm Hemmingson Center
Ballroom

February 26, 2018

Spring Flannery Lecture
Feat. Dr. Kristin Heyer, Professor,
Boston College
6:00 pm Hemmingson Center
Ballroom

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Faculty Spotlight

Welcome New Faculty!



Dr. Gloria (I-Ling) Chien

Growing up in Taiwan, Dr. Gloria (I-Ling) Chien became fascinated by how Eastern religions shape people's lives. Attracted by Buddhist meditation practice, Dr. Chien attended an academic program at Dharma Drum Mountain (DDM), an international Chinese Chan institution. After graduating from DDM, Dr. Chien received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a concentration in Tibetan Lojong compassion meditation from U.Va. She went on to teach at Virginia Commonwealth University. Now, she has joined the Religious Studies Department at Gonzaga. During this semester,

she looks forward to teaching her favorite course, Buddhism. Dr. Chien believes that studying religions allows students to explore what has been an essential influence on people's well-being from ancient times to the present. She thinks that positive emotions, particularly compassion, a desire to relieve others' suffering, is an important virtue promoted by diverse religions. As a prospective Cognitive-Based Compassion Training (CBCT) instructor, Dr. Chien plans to lead CBCT courses in the Gonzaga community. She will employ CBCT to promote practitioners' emotional well-being and increase their ethical concerns towards others.

Prof. Megan McCabe

Before joining the Gonzaga Religious Studies department, Professor Megan McCabe received a B.A. in theology and art history from Fordham University, an MTS (Master's of Theological Studies) in moral theology from the University of Notre Dame, and is finishing her Ph.D. from Boston College in Theological Ethics. She became interested in theology as early as high school and now questions of moral responsibility and suffering in Christian communities drive her interest in the field of religious studies.



Specializing in Catholic Moral Theology and Feminist Theologies, Professor McCabe will teach Feminist Christian Doctrine and Feminist Theologies in her first year at Gonzaga. Her current research focuses on the problem of campus rape culture and strives to diagnose this culture as a structure of sin which all members of the community are participating to uphold and hand on. In the future, she hopes to teach courses that center on the place of suffering in human life and what a moral response to these problems ought to look like.

FALL
17

Gonzaga-in-Israel

A reflection from Janine Warrington '17



Ten students alongside Rabbi Dr. Elizabeth Goldstein and Dr. Tracy Simmons spent four weeks all around Israel/Palestine. We started in Jerusalem, traveling to the desert, through the West Bank, to the Sea of Galilee, and ending in Tel Aviv. During our second week in Jerusalem, we had the opportunity to attend a "cooking class" in the home of a Palestinian family. We ended up spending hours breaking the Ramadan fast with this family and

the American Jews who rent rooms from them. Passing rice and yogurt sauce around the plastic table set up outside, we spoke across language barriers, listened to celebrations in the streets, and sang happy birthday to the family's three-year-old daughter. In the midst of a divisive and conflicted world, this was a beautiful, unitive experience and one of my fondest memories of our time in Israel.

We took two classes during our time abroad – a course in Judaism and in emerging media (journalism). These two classes complemented each other and the experiences we had while traveling. More than anything else, I've come away with a deeper understanding of the many political and



social conflicts in the area and an appreciation for how complicated it is. It is not a black and white, Israel versus Palestine situation. There are lots of shades of grey. For example, the Bedouin people of the Negev are facing relocation within Israel – a situation that has great effect for a lot of people, but that doesn't get covered in the news. It ended up being the people – the Palestinian family that welcomed us into their home for dinner, the Bedouin man who told us about his struggles, the American Jew living in Jerusalem who befriended us, the pilgrims praying and weeping at the Western Wall, the 200,000+ individuals who we celebrated with at the Tel Aviv pride parade – that demonstrated the broken and beautiful nature of Israel. These people are sacred, and I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from them.



Alumni Spotlight

Nathan Gallinat '15

Nathan majored in History and Political Science with a Religious Studies minor at Gonzaga University. He took three of Prof. Shannon Dunn's courses, his favorite professor. However, his favorite course was Christian Divinity taught by Sr. Joy Milos, C.S.J. He loved the interactive nature of the class and visiting the different churches. Following graduation, he began to pursue his Juris Doctorate at Notre Dame University. Nathan is now interning in London with the Islington Law Center with their Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit. He will return to NDU in the Spring and is looking forward to graduation in May 2018.

Looking to the future, Nathan hopes to obtain a legal job pertaining to environmental law. Eventually he would love to create his own non-profit for teenage foster youth. Nathan believes that GU has taught him what it means to care for others. He states that this quote from the Talmud (paraphrased from Schindler's List) encapsulates the value system Gonzaga helped instill in him and his classmates: "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire."

In Loving Memory

Fr. Robert Egan, S.J.

This past summer the Department of Religious Studies learned the sad the news that Robert J. Egan, S.J., (B.S., M.A. from Loyola University, Chicago; M. Div. from the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago; Ph.D. in Theology from Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley) passed away on July 21 at the age of 74, at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, CA. Bob served as a member of the faculty beginning in 1984 as an Instructor in the Religious Studies Department, and worked part-time as the Assistant to the Academic Vice President. He left the university in 1988 to work on his dissertation. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Fr. Egan returned to the Gonzaga community in 1993 as faculty in the Religious Studies Department and served as a member of both the Pontifical Faculty and staff at St. Michael's Institute. In May 2009, Fr.

Egan suffered from a stroke and was placed on medical leave. He was later missioned to the infirmary at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos.

