College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Religious Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
ARTS & SCIENCES

February 14, 2005

Dear Colleagues in the Study of Religion:

The advising period for Interim, Summer, and Fall, 2005 begins March 7th and continues until the 23rd of March. This is a bit sooner than in the past, so please realize that it is not too early to start thinking about your future. You may make an appointment to meet with me during that time by reserving a slot on the sign-up sheet in the Religious Studies office, Manly 212. If you'd like to stop by at any other time before or after the advising period, my regular office hours are from 3-4:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Manly Hall, room 206. I'd like to suggest that you bring a Religious Studies Major or Minor form with you for advising, so we can compose a clear picture of where you stand in relation the departmental requirements appropriate to your catalogue year. These forms are available from the Religious Studies office on Ms. Donna Martin's desk or on the web at http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/degree.html.

Allow me the pleasure of reminding you about the remaining lectures presented by the department this spring and about the coming attractions in the fall. Our annual Aronov Lecture this year will feature world-renowned feminist and scholar of religion, Judith Plaskow, who, on March 3, 2005, will present her lecture "Developing a Critical Consciousness: A Feminist Approach to Religion." Religious Studies majors and minors are invited to meet with Dr. Plaskow and to discuss with her a brief article over lunch on the 3rd of March; please sign up in the Religious Studies office. The Department will also host an international conference called "The African Diaspora and the Study of Religion" on April 7 and 8, 2005. We have invited two nationally-known scholars—Moses Wilson from Pennsylvania State University and Eddie Glaude, Jr., from Princeton University—to give the major addresses. In addition, the conference will feature twelve national and international junior scholars from the fields of religious studies, African American Studies, Diaspora Studies, English, History, and American Studies. These scholars will be presenting papers on their recent academic work. If you are interested in helping us host this conference, please let me know. A brochure for the event has been designed by Religious Studies graduate Guy Cutting and should appear in early March for those interested in attending the conference. Note that a one-hour academic credit course is being offered to registered U of A students through New College. For more information about this conference, these events, and the next Aronov lecture in the fall featuring Vanderbilt University professor Amy-Jill Levine, please consult the Events section of the Religious Studies web page: http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/events.html.

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Honors Day is a celebration for THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS. This year we will recognize the work of Dr. Gabriele Fassbeck who has been our Visiting Assistant Professor of Second Temple and Christian Origins during the last two years. We also honor the accomplishments of all of our students in joyful anticipation of the end of another academic year. Please plan to attend the Religious Studies Honors Day reception on Friday, April 15th, in the early afternoon on the Manly mezzanine and in room 207. More details will be available soon. In addition to the general celebration we will also take some time to recognize our 2005-2006 Silverstein Fellows. They include:

Brandon Andrews
Kristin Bradbury
Andrew Elmore
Timothy Homan
Joshua McDonough
Brian Robbins
Samantha Sastre
Matthew Satcher
Christine Scott
Marianne Stanton

Congratulations to the Silverstein Fellows and all the best to everyone this semester!

During the academic year 2005-2006, Catherine Roach and I will be on sabbatical in Canada. We both have research projects we are pursuing; we will also be fine-tuning some of our existing courses and designing new ones. During this period the Department will be joined by a junior colleague who will be teaching a variety of fascinating courses—to be announced—in the coming fall and spring. Meanwhile Dr. Steven Jacobs will be handling the advising responsibilities for the year.

With best wishes to you for a rewarding semester and happiness in the coming year!

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Religious Studies Department Academic Advisor