

February 16, 2004

Dear Students:

As you may know, the Religious Studies Department has decided to consolidate and concentrate its academic advising in the hope of better helping all majors, double-majors, and minors through the labyrinth of college and university requirements to successful (and timely) completion of degree. I feel fortunate to have been appointed the Department's academic adviser for the next three years. This will give me an opportunity to get to know all of you and in a setting somewhat different from the classroom. I look forward to working with you in the coming months and years.

The advising period for Interim-Summer-and-Fall semesters, 2004, begins March 15 and continues until March 26th. You can make an appointment to meet with me during that time by reserving a slot on the sign-up sheet in the Religious Studies office. If you'd like to stop by at any other time before or after Advising period, my regular Religious Studies office hours are from 3-4:30 on Tuesdays in Manly Hall, room 206.

In addition to this opportunity for advising, let me remind you about a couple of upcoming lectures presented by the department.

On Wednesday, February 25, from 2-3:30 in Manly 207, Herman Waetjen will lecture on "Power Plays in the Gospel of Mark." A discussion will follow Dr. Waetjen's talk. Herman Waetjen has a long and distinguished career as a teacher of New Testament at the San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, California). He has written extensively on all of the gospels, notably the book *A Reordering of Power: A Socio-Political Reading of Mark's Gospel* (1989). The Events section of the Religious Studies web page will direct you to further information about Dr. Waetjen: <http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/events.html>.

Then, on Wednesday, March 17 (what better way to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day?), from 2-4 in Manly 207, Dr. Gabriele Fassbeck, Visiting Assistant Professor of Ancient Judaism/Christian Origins here in the Religious Studies Department, will deliver a lecture entitled "Endogamy Saves, or How to Keep the Demon Out of Your Wedding Bed: The Book of Tobit as an Early Jewish Test Case." A reception featuring excellent food and inspired company will follow the lecture. For more information, please consult the Events section mentioned above and Gabriele's faculty page: <http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/fassbeck.html>.

Finally, Honors Day is a time to recognize the accomplishments of all of our students and to celebrate (proleptically, that is, in joyful anticipation) the end of another academic year. Please plan to attend the Religious Studies Honors Day reception on Friday, April 16, in the early afternoon on the Manly

mezzanine. In addition to the general celebration we will also take some time to honor our 2004-2005 Silverstein Fellows. They include:

Kristin Bradbury	Joshua M. McDonough
Guy Cutting	John W. Parrish
Andrew Elmore	Kathleen Penton
Shera Fingerman	Samatha J. Sastre
Katie Jo Greer	Matthew Satcher
James M. Harrington	Thomas Taylor

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

Sincerely,

Ted Trost  
REL Undergraduate Advisor