Religious Studies turns 50!

Religious Studies alumni, former faculty, current students, and departmental friends from all over the country convened on the Bloomington campus October 16-17, 2015, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the department. More than seventy people came together for a weekend of reconnecting, reminiscing, and making new friends.

Celebrations kicked off Friday night with our inaugural Distinguished Alumni Lecture by Jason BeDuhn, the first PhD recipient of the Department (see his reflections on “Why Religious Studies” on pg. 8). His talk, “The Secret History of Early Christianity: Jesus - Paul - Marcion - Mani - Augustine”, was well received by the standing room only crowd at the Lilly Library. If you would like to watch the lecture for yourself it can be found on the religious studies website, http://indiana.edu/~relstud/news/lectures.

Once the serious work was out of the way it was time to party! Everyone was invited to join for food and festivities in the Lilly Library puzzle room. Photographs, syllabi, correspondence, and faculty publications from the last 50 years were on display for folks to reminisce. A “Who do you know?” selection of pictures helped us track down some long lost alum, and many hilarious, possibly even scandalous, tales were told.
Faculty win international and IU awards

Candy Brown has been named President-Elect of the American Society of Church History for 2016. The ASCH seeks to advance and deepen historical knowledge of Christianity in all periods and places, in every aspect of its expression—institutional, religious, and intellectual—as well as its manifold interrelationships with nations, cultures, and other religions. She also appeared in National Geographic TV’s “The Story of God” mini-series.

Heather Blair, Sarah Imhoff, and Jason Mokhtarian, together with faculty from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), were awarded an NEH grant to create course modules to introduce fifteen community college instructors to the religious traditions of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist communities in Indianapolis.

In his second year at the department Cooper Harriss could regularly be heard on the airwaves talking about influential American figures, such as Mohammed Ali and Zora Neale Hurston, and their impact on modern America. He was selected as a Young Scholar in American Religion by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, which mentors faculty as they embark on their academic careers.

Sarah Imhoff was awarded a New Frontiers of Creativity and Scholarship Grant to work toward the publication of her second book about the life of Jessie Sampter. Jessie Sampter was best known as the author of A Course on Zionism, which promoted Zionism to an American audience. Imhoff’s book will seek to understand how a queer, “crippled” woman became a leading voice of American Zionism, and why history largely overlooked her.

Michael Ing was named Scholar with the “Enhancing Life” Project through the University of Chicago, in collaboration with Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany. The project aims to explore the rich but widely unexamined dimension of human aspiration and social life, and increase knowledge so that life might be enriched. Ing will be looking at the issue of vulnerability in the context of early Confucian thought.

Patrick Michelson was awarded the 2015-16 IU Trustees Teaching Award. The award was established to honor individuals who have a positive impact on learning through the direct teaching of students, especially undergraduates. In addition to teaching a full load, Michelson just finished his book, Beyond the Monastery Walls: The Ascetic Revolution in Russian Orthodox Thought, 1814-1914.

Aaron Stalnaker received a Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholar Grant to work on his current book project, Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of Authority. He examines “classical Confucian conceptions of virtuous mastery and dependence to help disentangle different aspects of autonomy as an ideal, refine our understanding of authority relations, and thereby help us to better understand and evaluate hierarchical relationships.”

Winnifred Fallers Sullivan has been awarded, together with Elizabeth Shakman Hurd at Northwestern University, a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for a three-year collaborative research project (2016-2019) entitled “The Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad.” The project will examine the particular complex of religion, law, and politics at the dynamic pivot between the domestic and the international in the United States, at a time when the political role of religion is under renewed scrutiny, and
the nature and the role of the nation-state is under revision.

Congratulations to Sonia Velazquez on receiving a Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching, and Collaboration award!

Spearheaded by Cooper Harriss and Sonia Velazquez, the latest faculty members to join our department, added a new doctoral field, “Religion, Textuality, and Cultural Imagination”. It encourages students to interrogate imbrications of the category of religion in and through artifacts expressive of human cultural imagination—including but not limited to narrative, poetry, visual and material arts, music, film, drama, and other modes of performativity.

~ BOOK NEWS ~

Jason Mokhtarian’s book Rabbis, Sorcerers, Kings, and Priests was named finalist for a 2015 National Jewish Book award.

Winnifred Sullivan has been awarded the Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Analytical-Descriptive Studies for her book, A Ministry of Presence: Chaplaincy, Spiritual Care, and the Law. This award is given annually by the American Academy of Religion to, “honor works of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity, and importance; books that affect decisively how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted.”

Lisa Sideris’s work is the subject of a special issue of the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture. In this issue of JSRNC, ‘Contesting Consecrated Scientific Narratives in Religion and Environmental Ethics’, Sideris critiques efforts of religion scholars and others to consecrate scientific narratives of the evolution of the cosmos as sacred stories that provide universal meaning and ethical guidance. Readers will find Sideris’s original paper, “Science as Sacred Myth?” along with critics’ responses to it from a variety of disciplines, and Sideris’s subsequent reply to the critics.
Symposium, Conferences, Workshops and More!

This spring the faculty and students in the Department hosted three conferences, one symposium, and two workshops. Our Graduate Student Conference featured a nationally recognized speaker while our undergrads, for the first time, conceived of and hosted an Undergraduate Student Conference featuring papers carefully selected by the undergraduate steering committee. Below are some of the highlights of the events.

Graduate Student Conference

April 8-9, 2016, The 2016 IU Department of Religious Studies graduate student conference, Death, Dying, and the Undead: [Re]Envisioning Death and Religion, held April 8th and 9th, was a complete thrill! Keynote speaker Caitlin Doughty, founder of The Order of the Good Death and star of the YouTube series “Ask A Mortician”, presented, “Our Corpses, Ourselves,” as the kick-start to a weekend filled with fascinating conversations, discussing death and its intersections with religion. Five diverse panels showcased the work of graduate students and academics from programs across the nation, including presentations by our own graduate students Brian Hillman, Andrew Monteith, and Jonathan Sparks-Franklin. Everyone agreed it was the most successful Graduate Conference in recent memory.

Workshop on Holistic Approaches to the study of Early Islam and the Late Antique World

April 15-17, 2016, led by Professor R. Kevin Jaques, Jeremy Schott, amd Jason Mokhtarian, the Indiana University Working Group on the Study of the Late Antique and Early Muslim Period hosted a workshop that explored the intersections of the religions of the Late Antique and Early Muslim period (500-1000 CE). Starting with the premise that the rise of early Islam was neither a complete break from the late antique period, nor entirely derivative of earlier Christian and Jewish thought and practice, this workshop sought to more deeply explore the idea that Islam was a product of changes in late antique religion and culture, influenced especially by Roman, Byzantine, and Jewish communities in Arabia and along the Mediterranean coast. Scholars of late antique Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Mandaeanism, Buddhism and other religious communities were invited to IU to work together to map the landscapes of the late antique and early Muslim period.

Analyzing Arendt

Constance Furey and Sonia Velazquez led a weekly faculty and student reading group under the aegis of the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities. Together they tackled The Human Condition, a work by the political philosopher, Hannah Arendt, and hosted a two day symposium “Amor Mundi: Thinking Anew with Hannah Arendt” at the end of the spring semester. The symposium was Bloomington at its best: experts from around the country and new readers, including graduate students Jacob Boss and Brian Hillman and graduating seniors Hannah Murray and Rachel Carpenter, coming together to discuss Arendt’s thought in relationship to politics, poetry, and intellectual history.
On June 20-23, 2016, the IU Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, directed by Lisa Sideris, held its first international conference on the theme of Wonder and the Natural World on the IU Bloomington campus.

Keynote speaker David Abram addressed the topic of “Magic and the Machine: Notes on Technology and Animism in an Era of Ecological Wipe-Out.” The plenaries addressed a wide range of topics related to the theme of wonder: children’s nature spirituality, the wonder of invasive species, literary and cinematic explorations of wonder, deep time and evolutionary perspectives, and what it means to be human in the Anthropocene age. Chicago-based artist and photographer Judy Natal screened two short films from her project Another Storm is Coming and Bloomington-based writer and IU Professor Emeritus Scott Russell Sanders offered a reading from his current project Ordinary Wealth.

Conference-related events also included a tour of the wonders of the IU campus, led by IU Historian and history of science scholar James Capshew, and an exhibition at the Lilly Library on “Wonder and the Natural World.” The conference was a highly successful culmination of CSRES’s two-year theme on Wonder and the Natural World and it marks the end of Lisa Sideris’s term as the inaugural director of the Consortium.

- Lisa Sideris

Invocations is an academic journal and online interactive platform for critical religious discourse. It was founded by Rachel Carpenter and Sarah Kissel as a high quality publication by and for undergraduates. Furnished by undergraduate contributions, it provides an opportunity for Indiana University students to engage across the traditional boundaries of specified fields of study and participate in interdisciplinary conversations on topics with a divine common denominator. It features an array of short articles, ethnographic reviews, creative works, and community response, the collection of which aims to foster a rewardingly interactive intellectual experience.

Editors Rachel Carpenter and Sarah Kissel welcome submissions of all sorts. New content is published on the first of every month. Like Invocations on Facebook and follow on Twitter (@invocations_RS) for publications and news. Visit invocationsiu.wordpress.com for more information!
**Graduate Students**

**Abby Kulisz** won the Outstanding Graduate Student Essay Prize at the North American Patristics Society, for her paper “Identity and Ambiguity in Christian-Muslim Exchanges on the Trinity.”

**Hannah Garvey** won 1st place in the Theta Alpha Kappa Graduate Fellowship Awards. These awards are presented annually by the Religious Studies national honor society.

Our PhD candidates are funded by the department during their time here working on coursework, but as they begin writing their dissertation many apply for additional outside funding. **Kristin Francoeur** and **Christine Libby** were awarded College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2015-16, and **Ossama Abdelgawwad** and **Kristin Francoeur** for 2016-17.

**Emily Stratton** was awarded a West African Research Association (WARA) Fellowship to spend her summer researching in Ghana. Read more about her work on the following page.

**Travis Cooper** presented research projects at both the American Academy of Religion conference in Atlanta and a graduate symposium at the University of Chicago. The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion has offered to publish his article, “Emerging, Emergent, Emergence: Boundary Maintenance, Definition Construction, and Legitimation Strategies in the Establishment of a Post-Evangelical Subculture.”

This year **Allison Darmody** survived her first year of PhD coursework and assisted in the planning of the annual graduate student conference. Over the summer she returned to Japan to begin preliminary research on protective charms, votive tablets, and other paraphernalia sold at temples in the Tokyo-Yokohama-Kamakura area.

---

**Undergraduate Students**

**Sarah Biggs** is a senior majoring in Religious Studies, Anthropology, and Psychology with a language certificate in Bosnian-Serbo-Croatian. She is interested in the growing religiosity and social activism in former Yugoslavia.

This summer **Annie Brackemyre** worked at a newspaper in Uganda, reporting on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She had travelled abroad to China and London with other IU programs, but this particular experience as a reporter gave her access to a foreign culture that was out of reach in her previous study abroad experiences. Read more on our website.

While spending the spring semester studying in Rome, **Sarah Kissel** interned as an editorial assistant at The International Spectator, a global politics journal published by the Istituto Affari Internazionali, and served as a student body rep to the Rome program director.

**Hannah Murray** published two research pieces in Invocations and three creative works in Canvas magazine this year. As president of URSA, she co-organized the first Undergraduate Symposium. After graduating in 2016 she will work in Chicago as a Teach for America corps member.

During his time at IU 2016 graduate **Archie Patterson** played saxophone with IU Soul Revue, was accepted into Phi Theta Sigma National Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, sung with Voices of Hope, and tutored students in chemistry for the Hudson and Holland Scholars Program. In the summer of 2014, he studied abroad in Chile and shadowed an ophthalmologist. After graduation he will enroll at IU Northwest for an MBA.
Undergraduate Achievement

HONORS ESSAY WINNER

GALLAGHER ESSAY WINNER
Rachel Carpenter won the Gallagher Essay Contest with her paper entitled, “Pulling the Self Together in The Passion According to G.H.”

GRADUATE ESSAY CONTEST
Brian Hillman was honored for his paper, “Messianism in the Wake of Zionism and the Six-Day War in the Thought of Rabbi Zvi Yehudah Kook and Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum.”

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GRADUATES
We wish the best to our 2015-16 graduates
Anne Brackemyre (Undergraduate)
Rachel Carpenter (Undergraduate)
Olivia DeClark (Undergraduate)
Corrinne Leader (Undergraduate)
Hannah Murray (Undergraduate)
Archie Patterson (Undergraduate)
Parker Stahl (Undergraduate)
Rachel Wilson (Undergraduate)
Jen Kash (Masters)
Christine Libby (PhD)

~ ALUMNI NEWS ~

Ellyn Church (’11) landed an internship during her last year at IU working on the Emmy winning documentary Medora, which was shot just south-east of Bloomington in the small town of Medora. She was Associate Producer and 2nd Camera. She had been working in and studying film and video since high school, but her work on the film officially launched her into a career in video production and documentary filmmaking. For the past year and a half she has worked for LAI Video in Washington, DC as a producer and project manager.

Elizabeth Molleston (’14) graduated with a double major in Spanish and Religious Studies. She spent the last two years after graduating completing a Master’s Program in Secondary Education while concurrently teaching Spanish in an inner city Catholic high school. She recently moved back to Indiana and accepted a job as a middle school Spanish teacher in an independent school called the Orchard School.

After graduating from IU with a degree in Religious Studies and Sociology, Natalie Oliner (’12) went on to earn a Master’s degree in Higher Education. She now works in student and academic affairs as an Academic Counselor for Engineering Students at University of Louisville.

Sarah Wilensky (’11) worked for a Senator for a year in DC- then went to law school at Columbia. She is finishing up a one year clerkship with a federal judge in Manhattan, and then she’ll be traveling in Spain and Morocco before starting work at Covington and Burling–a large law firm. She is also a registered yoga teacher.

Departmental Scholarship Winners

Undergraduates Sarah Kissel and Hannah Murray have been awarded Mary Jo Weaver Scholarships. The Mary Jo Weaver Undergraduate Scholarship Program is intended to provide ongoing support for up to two years in the amount of $500 per year to one or two Religious Studies majors. Funds are available so long as awardees continue as Religious Studies majors and maintain GPAs of 3.5 in RS courses, and 3.0 overall.

This year’s Devonia and Steve Stein Fellowship in the Study of American Religions was given to Emily Stratton for her work on churches in Ghana with a sole Charismatic leader and the culture of scandal that surrounds them. She looks to complicate questions of religious authenticity and challenge scholarly taxonomies; push back against current scholarly analyses of relationships between American evangelicalism and African Pentecostalism; and contribute to building a more holistic understanding of relationships between globalization, Pentecostalism, economics, and gender in urban Africa.
“Diversify, Diversify, Diversify!”

Religious Studies major Abby Matt sat down with alum Jason BeDuhn (PhD, 1995) to talk about what it is to be a Professor of Religious Studies.

AM: What led you to comparative studies of religion?
JB: My interest in the comparative study of religions has been motivated from the beginning by an interest in human culture, and how religion is a component of culture that gives people an overall context of meaning and purpose within which other choices and circumstances are dealt with.

AM: What do you know now that you wish you would have known earlier? How is your job as a professor different from what you previously expected?
JB: College and university teaching involves all sorts of things besides teaching and discussing the things that really interest you. It involves lots of bureaucratic busy work, committee meetings, university projects, and an increasingly unsustainable workload. As a grad student, I looked forward to a profession that had three months off from daily responsibilities in the summer; I didn’t realize that you had to work pretty much around the clock, late into the night, during the school year. So, contrary to public perception, college professors work just as many hours a year as any 9-to-5 employee, but it’s all concentrated in a 9-month period. Finding time in all that for the research component of one’s profession is a real challenge.

AM: What is the most satisfying aspect about being a professor or even just studying religion?
JB: I’m in it for the research, and get the most satisfaction from that. Teaching is what I do to fund the research, but it’s also good for research in crucial ways. Research can be very specialized, and no one will read it unless you connect it to broader questions in the field, and teaching helps you remember that larger context of your work. It helps you figure out how to connect and communicate what you know, and how to convey the importance of what you have discovered. And the questions and connections students bring forward help to stimulate my thinking, and lead me to new ways to look at the material I work on.

AM: Tell me about one of your greatest accomplishments regarding religious studies.
JB: So far, what I think I’ve managed to do is get Manichaeism (a dualistic religious movement founded in Persia in the 3rd century C.E.) included at the table in discussions of the history of world religions and comparative studies of religion. It isn’t left out the way it was when I started.

AM: What advice do you have to undergraduate religious studies students?
JB: In terms of a career, religious studies is a relatively small, highly competitive field. Not every college or university has a religious studies program that might employ you; but they all have history programs and psychology programs, and so on. So if you’re thinking about an academic career, double-up religious studies with another field. Get a master’s degree in something that nicely complements religious studies, and that gives you options for a Ph.D. that might incorporate both, which in turn gives you more career choices. But of course religious studies applies in all sorts of professions other than academics: in governmental and NGO work, in business, in journalism, in psychology and social work. The list goes on and on. You have lots of options for applying your religious studies B.A., and shouldn’t think that it’s academics or nothing.

JASON BEDUHN

RELIGIOUS STUDIES JOINS THE DIGITAL AGE

Join the IU Religious Studies Alumni facebook page!
Religious Studies at Indiana received the Trustees’ stamp of approval to become a department in 1971. But to tell the full story, we have to start in 1910. That year, Bloomington pastor Joseph Todd founded a Bible chair and began teaching non-credit courses about religion to university students. By 1917, he had given up his pastoral duties and dedicated himself to teaching full time and renamed his project “The Indiana School of Religion.” Todd directed the School of Religion, which sat nestled among university buildings, until 1952. When Douglas Rae, another local pastor, succeeded Todd that year, he approached Indiana University’s College of Arts and Sciences with a proposition: they should have an academic program in religion, and his School of Religion could offer courses toward it. Already existing courses in anthropology, classics, English, philosophy, and others would be included if they had sufficient content related to religion. School of Religion classes in Old Testament, New Testament, and World Religions, despite their official place outside of the university, would also count toward the program. In 1953, IU’s administration agreed, and the Program in Comparative Religion was born.

But the School of Religion was not part of the university. For many faculty, this was a good thing because the arrangement upheld the distance between Protestant doctrine and higher education. But for others like D.J. Bowden at the School of Religion, it was regrettable that Religious Studies didn’t have a secure institutional position. As the program grew—and it grew quickly, proving popular among students—both the School of Religion and departments within the College of Arts and Sciences added course offerings. The School hired more faculty, some with PhDs. As the 1950s continued, with the growing popularity of the School’s courses, the academic credentials of its faculty, and the commitment of Bowden and others to integrate the School’s academic offerings into the College, the question of the place of religious studies at the university became pressing. In 1961, the College asked the executive committee of the Program in Comparative Religion to consider a question: What might it look like if the university had a religious studies program? Philosophy professor and executive committee member Henry Veatch, Dean of the Graduate School John Ashton, and their fellow committee members all agreed that IU should have a Religious Studies program. But a handful of faculty members not on the committee dissented. The issue was, in the words of Veatch, “a hot potato.” Occasionally heads butted, details and requirements were disputed, more reports were called for, and committees changed members, but religious studies was slowly becoming part of the university. In 1961, the university had offered a joint appointment to a School of Religion faculty hire, and in 1963, the College sought a full-time director of the Program and approved an undergraduate minor in Comparative Religion.

It was no surprise, then, when the faculty supported the committee’s recommendations in 1963. That summer, Supreme Court Justice Thomas Clark wrote in the *Schempp* decision about bible reading in public schools: “One’s education is not complete without a study of comparative religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization.” (for more about the historic *Abington S v. Schempp* case and how it changed the course of religious studies in the US visit our website and read about the IU *Schempp* Conference, 2013)
Ashton, Bowden, and others were delighted to see one of their own sentiments in the mouth of a Supreme Court justice. Ashton quoted him to assure the faculty of the rightness of its decision; Bowden quoted him in his final letter to Indiana School of Religion donors, dated Christmas Eve 1964, which thanked them for all their past support and informed them that the university had officially taken over the School’s courses and the finances. The Indiana School of Religion closed, and the College set about building its academic Program in the Study of Religion.

By the time the executive committee had completed its plan and the faculty and trustees had approved it, the College had already hired the inaugural chair of Religious Studies, William May. The program grew quickly. In its first five years, enrollment jumped from about 500 students each semester to nearly 2,000. A Master of Arts program started in 1968. Student interest and growing class sizes demanded the hiring of more faculty. While growth and popularity were a source of pride, they came with a few growing pains. In particular, the faculty had ongoing discussions about the place of theology in the program. Was it a valid form of Religious Studies, or did it belong in private colleges and seminaries? Clearly confessional modes of instruction were never appropriate, but did any theological inquiry have a place at IU? There were no simple answers, but ongoing reflection on the faculty’s own part and the growing field of religious studies quickly became a tradition that continues to today.

I have a Religious Studies degree, and I’m proud of it!

Lucas Smalldon (2012) reflects on what it means to be a Religious Studies major

When I got to IU in Fall ’08, the majors to choose from (let alone the never-ending list of classes) intimidated me. After much thought, I chose to pursue Religious Studies. People used to ask me what I planned to do with my Religious Studies degree. I’m still a little bemused by that question. Is a degree something with which one must “do something” as a direct extension of those courses and that material? No. I have a Religious Studies degree, and I’m proud of it.

As a personal identity, I shed religion at a very young age. But here’s the thing—religion is interesting. Throughout human history it has been our primary vehicle to explore chief identity questions and construct ethical architectures.

In class, professors forced my mind to fold and furrow over complex philosophical, historical, literary, and ethical material. I had the chance to read some of the most transformative and influential texts in human history. All the absorption, reflection, and discussion that characterized my experiences in the Religious Studies classroom have dramatically enhanced my capacity to think, write, and speak (to work, in other words).

It’s often said to teachers, “How can you expect your students to get excited about this material unless you’re excited?” Well, the same rule applies to students. If you want to maximize the benefits of your education, don’t choose a subject because it reveals a clear path toward a fat bank account or a window-rich corner office. Instead, choose something that ignites a fire in your mind. Choose a subject adorned with a gushing faucet of questions to cleanse and enrich your intellect. For me, Religious Studies has opened doors. And with each open door, I see ten new ones to explore. That’s the excitement of education at work, and when it happens that way, it’s one of the best feelings in the world.
Saturday was a chance for returning alumni to connect with this generation’s religious studies undergrads. Our alumni were invited to share their experiences with some of our current undergraduate students in a panel titled, “Where a Religious Studies degree can take YOU”. Religious Studies/Independent major senior Rachel Carpenter had this to say about the event.

“In my experience, one of the most comforting things that can be given to a senior—slowly, and yet so quickly—I am nearing graduation—is the model of incredibly capacious possibility.

I don’t mean “possibility” like that referenced in the well-meant but abstract “The world is your oyster” aphorism, intimidating in its unknowability. Instead, I mean “possibility” as exhibited by a panel of people, each with highly unique lives, who left the department of religious studies at Indiana University Bloomington to pursue different careers and experiences. There were certainly repetitions across the board of occupational focuses—lawyers, teachers, and writers were among the most prevalent. But there were also business professionals, entrepreneurs, academic publishing editors, craftspeople, newly minted alumni still seeking some direction, and a whole array of others spanning generations and interests.

Discussion opened with questions such as “How has your religious studies degree affected your life?” In all cases, the answer was similar: the degree had taught them critical thinking, compassion, and a willingness to try to understand other people—all of which extended beyond their undergraduate experiences to shape their lives. The opportunity to see a group of people in the flesh who exemplify this vast possibility was the true benefit of the alumni panel.

It’s incredible to see the community I’ve grown to love sitting alongside its “extended family.” There was a pervading sense of warmth and welcoming amongst the alumni members. I can very much affirm that “reunion” happened in the truest sense.”

Saturday afternoon our newly minted Alumni Board met. The Alumni Board is made up of five alumni, one from each of the last five decades, who feel that their experiences as religious studies students had a major and formative impact on their lives. They are tasked with helping the department become more involved in the lives of our alumni.

One of the things that came out of the meeting was the idea of setting up an alumni database of alumni who would be willing to serve as mentors to current students as they contemplate what direction to take in their own lives. If you are interested in being involved in this project please send us an email, deptsec@indiana.edu.
We welcome your help

To donate online, we have our very own “give now” button, which is located on the giving information page on our website:

www.indiana.edu/~relstud/giving/

This button will take you directly to an online form through the IU Foundation, earmarked for the Religion Education Fund.

To send a check:

If you wish to send a contribution via check, please make the check out to:

IU Foundation
Memo: Religion Education Fund or Stein Fund

Mail your contribution to:

Indiana University Foundation
P. O. Box 6460
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6460

Thank you for supporting the Department of Religious Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University.