Department kicks off
Devonia and Steve Stein Fellowship fund drive

The Department of Religious Studies together with alum Deborah Pettry has created the Devonia and Steve Stein Fellowship in the Study of American Religions to honor one of the Department’s most beloved teachers. Our goal is to raise $250,000 to establish a named fellowship for graduate students, specifically for the study of religion in America.

On Sept 6-7 we held our kick off event with former students, family and friends coming in from all over the nation to join in honoring Steve and Devonia. Deborah Pettry, Heather Maritano, and Nancy Hiller were our speakers Friday night. Each shared memories of the Steins and spoke about how this department laid the groundwork for them to explore diverse careers outside academia.

On Saturday morning three of Steve’s former students, Doug Winiarski, Steve Taysom and Holly Folk, all now teaching religion at other universities, presented talks on their current research and how it has been influenced by Steve’s academic mentoring. In the afternoon Steve gathered with a small group of people in the Lilly Library to examine some of the primary sources he used for his book on the Shaker movement in the US.

Fundraising in advance of the kick-off exceeded our expectations - giving us much to celebrate! - but we are still short of our goal. You can still donate to the Stein fund on our website, http://indiana.edu/~relstud/news/Stein, or by mailing in funds to the IU Foundation. For more information see the back page of this newsletter.

Undergraduate Scholarship program in honor of Mary Jo Weaver

We are honored to announce the Mary Jo Weaver Undergraduate Scholarship Program, named in honor of one of our most committed professors. This annual scholarship will go to two undergraduate students who demonstrate a strong academic interest in the study of religion. The award is named after Mary Jo Weaver who taught in the department from 1975-2006. She was dedicated to her students and continually worked to find new approaches to peak their interest in religious studies, making use of devices such as Star Trek episodes to encourage students to delve into more esoteric works like Freud, Marx and Geertz.

In her own words “My students are the creative bridge that made teaching fun and learning possible. Their questions shaped my work, their reactions contributed to my self-understanding, and their generosity of spirit continues to sustain me.” We are delighted to be able to offer this award in her name.
Department Hosts National Conference on the Study of Religion

From September 27 through 29, 2013, Indiana University Bloomington welcomed 75 scholars and students of religion to a conference entitled “Religious Studies 50 Years after Schempp: History, Institutions, Theory,” a weekend-long conversation on the legacy of the 1963 Abington v Schempp decision (374 U.S. 203). Although the Schempp decision concerned the teaching of religion in elementary schools, the ruling has been regarded as formative for the development of Religious Studies departments in public colleges and universities. Participants in the Schempp Conference engaged in lively discussions on law and religion, religion in public schools, methods and theories in the study of religion, and the history of the academic study of religion. Plenary speakers included scholar of religion and law Sarah Barringer Gordon, historian of South Asian religion Gerald J. Larson, and scholar of African American religion Charles Long. Fourteen scholars presented papers on the study of religion in public schools and universities. On Sunday, representatives from Religious Studies departments at state universities participated in an afternoon workshop. Initially conceived of by David Haberman and brought to fruition by Winnifred Sullivan with the help of Sarah Imhoff, the Schempp Conference provided an important opportunity to reflect on the institutional history of the academic study of religion.

-Sarah Dees and Joe Bartlett

BROWN

Candy Gunther Brown has been reaching out to communities beyond the campus of IU. In October she gave a talk on prayer and complementary and alternative medicine in conventional healthcare settings for hospital staff at the IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, in Muncie, IN as part of the Turner Conference on Faith and Medicine. She presented a lecture at the Poynter Center on ethical considerations in offering prayer or alternative medicine in clinical settings titled “Prayer and Alternative Medicine in Biomedical Healing Contexts: Ethical Considerations,” and a talk for IU’s Secular Alliance on alternative medicine and religious liberty, “Religion by any other name . . . : Alternative Medicine and Religious Liberty”. In November she guest taught an “Introduction to Religious Studies” class to five groups of seventh graders in Nashville, IN and used Skype to guest lecture for a seminar on global Pentecostalism at Claremont McKenna Graduate School.
HABERMAN RECEIVES GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

April 16, 2013 - David Haberman was among the five Indiana University Bloomington professors in the College of Arts and Sciences who received the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.

“This is an important and happy moment in the College,” said Larry Singell, executive dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “These fellowships will allow our accomplished scholars to pursue freely their research interests. This experience will advance their scholarship and benefit their colleagues and students. Thus, the impact of a Guggenheim is felt across multiple generations of scholars.”

Haberman’s research interests include South Asian religious traditions and, more recently, the intersection of religion and ecology. His interests have led him to serve on the advisory board of the Forum on Religion and Ecology based at the Yale University School for Forestry and Environmental Studies. He plans to use his fellowship to work on a book focused on the worship of Mount Govardhan, one of the most distinguishing features of the sacred landscape of Braj, the region in northern India associated primary with Krishna.

-NIU News Room

Nur Amali Ibrahim is a new addition to our department. He came to Indiana University by way of a Ph.D at the Department of Anthropology, New York University, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. His book manuscript, based on ethnographic research conducted in Indonesia, examines the formation of competing Muslim publics, Islamists and liberals, and traces how the field of national politics is constituted through the micropolitics of religious pedagogy. Professor Ibrahim holds a joint appointment in the Department of International Studies. (See his review of the Schempp Conference on pg 2 of this newsletter)

Thanks to a grant from the College Arts and Humanities Institute, and a sabbatical set for spring 2014, Rebecca J. Manring has been hard at work on the preliminary translation of the 17th century Bengali epic poet Rupram’s Dharma Mangala. The epic weaves a tale of what happens to those who fail to worship the Bengali god Dharma, and in the process presents a fascinating view of life for people in all social strata of that part of the Indian subcontinent in the late pre-colonial period.

In September Richard Miller ran a workshop on Ethics across the Curriculum for scholars at Southern Methodist University in Taos, NM. He also published “Justice, Reason, and Luck in Rationing Lifesaving Medical Resources,” Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal 96.3 (2013): 315-332. In March 2014 he will deliver the Maloney Lectures at Davidson College.


Congratulations to Richard Nance and Stephen Selka who were made Associate Professors this year.

Seth Perry arrived from Seattle this fall to join the Religious Studies faculty as visiting assistant Professor of American Religion. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School last year with a dissertation entitled, “The Endless Making of Many Books: Bibles and Religious Authority in America, 1780-1850.” His research interests include print culture, scriptures in American religious history, and the creation of individual religious authority. His writing has appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Religion Dispatches, Sightings, the edited collection, Gods of the River: Religion and Culture along the Mississippi, and American Periodicals (forthcoming 2014). Since coming to IU, Perry has been working on two articles, one on the careers of early-national
evangelicals Peggy and Lorenzo Dow, and another on Joseph Smith’s use of Bibles. He has particularly enjoyed introducing students to the reading room at the Lilly Library as part of their semester-long research projects.

Our director of graduate studies, Aaron Stalnaker, was awarded the IU Trustees’ teaching award for the second time in May, recognizing his excellence in teaching, especially at the undergraduate level. He was also awarded grants from the IU College Arts and Humanities Institute, as well as the Vice President for Research (declined), for his current book project Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of Authority. In October of 2013 he oversaw the Wabash conference on graduate pedagogy. (Read more about the Wabash workshop on pg 5 of this newsletter.) Two pieces he wrote for the International Encyclopedia of Ethics (Wiley Blackwell) came out in 2013, on “Comparative Religious Ethics,” and the early Confucian figure “Xunzi.” “Confucianism, Democracy, and the Virtue of Deference” will come out in December in Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy. This fall he was for the first time in his career able to teach a graduate seminar on his main area of study, comparative religious ethics, which he says has “been delightful”.

Jeremy Schott is also new to the department this year coming to Bloomington from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. 2013 sees the publication of Eusebius of Caesarea: Tradition and Innovations, co-edited by Aaron Johnson and Jeremy Schott, (see sidebar) to which he also contributed an article. He served as guest editor for, and contributed an article to, a special issue of the Journal of Early Christian Studies (Fall 2013) on “Origenist Textualities.” Jeremy spends his free time investigating Bloomington’s diners and low-brow cuisine (with many hours spent in Mother Bear’s). Good thing he is also an avid cyclist!

In May, Lisa Sideris was a keynote speaker at the European Forum for the Study of Religion and the Environment in Sigtuna, Sweden. In June, she gave a lecture at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, in response to a week-long discussion among scientists and religion scholars of “Our Elegant Universe”.

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

“Jews, Race, America” Symposium

On October 6-7, Indiana University hosted scholars from across the country and across departments who work at the cutting edge of inquiry into ideas about race and Jewish Studies in the United States. The “Jews, Race, America” Symposium, sponsored by the Borns Jewish Studies Program and CRRRES, and convened by IU faculty member Sarah Imhoff, provided the forum for these scholars to consider what critical thinking about race can say to Jewish Studies. Each of the presentations demonstrated the instability and contingency of Jewish identity. In the wake of the Holocaust, Jews and other Americans have been particularly concerned about applying the idea of race to Jews. However, this disavowal has disguised the ways that ideas about race still deeply structure some aspect of Jewish identity. Contemporary popular and professional conversations about race in the U.S. rarely addresses Jewish identity. “Jews, Race, America” brought together scholars who are currently pushing this boundary, and the symposium began to develop a shared language for the future research in the area of critical race theory and Jewish Studies.

Wabash report

On October 11-12, the department hosted a conference for doctoral alumni to return to IU and reflect on how faculty had prepared them to teach at the college level. The goal was to share ideas and experiences in order to refine our graduate pedagogical training for current and future graduate students. Carole Barnsley (teaching at Transylvania University), Geoffrey Goble (Depauw), Erik Hammerstrom (Pacific Lutheran), Jennifer Hart (Stanford), Nicole Karapanagiotis (Georgia Southern), Jeremy Rapport (College of Wooster), Nicole Willock (University of Denver), and Mark Wilson (Villanova) were all able to attend. Several IU faculty participated in the whole conference, and the rest of the current faculty and graduate students gathered for a final panel discussion and reception, which was a very pleasant reunion for all concerned. The conference was funded through a generous grant from the Wabash Center, which will continue to support this sort of reflection and reform for the department in the future.

-Professor Aaron Stalnaker

A VIEW FROM THE GOLDEN HORN

Visiting Professor Wendy Wiseman reports on this year’s upheaval in Istanbul, where she taught for four years.

Five months ago, the massive social movement known as “Gezi” began as a protest against the planned destruction of Gezi Park in Istanbul’s Taksim Square. Out of a group of environmentalists trying to save the last green space in the heart of Istanbul, the protest grew to well over 1,000,000 in Istanbul alone, and spread to almost all cities in Turkey; not for the sake of a single park, but for the right to inhabit public spaces, and to protest their destruction, free from intimidation and terror by an increasingly authoritarian government. Nothing like this had happened in Turkey before: coalitions of the most disparate groups, from nationalists to anti-capitalist Muslims to LGBT groups, engaged in peaceful collective resistance against the authoritarianism of the ruling party, the moderate-Islamic AKP. As the state unleashed its police with shocking brutality, the protesters maintained their commitment to non-violence and progressive action.

Those transfiguring days have lost some of their glow in the wake of retributive acts of repression by the government. But even with attacks on independent media (Turkey imprisons more journalists than any other country), intellectuals, NGOs, and unions, Gezi does yet live; the driving forces behind the protests were university students and young professionals, and they aren’t going anywhere. Gezi transformed a young, urban population into visionaries of what an open society based on respect and shared public space might look like; it was a social revolution that shattered a long-standing fear of the state, in the very exposure of its callous brutality against its citizens. The future of Gezi is in the confidence it inspired and the 2.5 million who actively participated can never go back. I am honored to have witnessed the dream of a new Turkey, a model of globally savvy progressive politics.
Jacob Boss is in his first semester at IU, returning to the academy after five years in the workforce. He won a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship in summer 2013 and studied Hindi at the South Asian Summer Language Institute at University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is interested in new religious movements of South Asian origin in America, transnational gurus, and religion & ecology.

Kate Netzler Burch is currently working on her dissertation in religions of the Americas. She is examining the construction of public religious identities through an analysis of the discourse surrounding the evangelical Christian environmental movement. During the spring semester, she is excited to be teaching a course on religious metaphors in American politics and bringing critical thinking skills to the masses. In other news, she has almost finished knitting her first real sweater.

MA candidate Michael Butcher is interested in Central Asia in antiquity and the early medieval period - its history, cultures, religious environment and languages. More specifically, his research centers on how the presence of Hellenistic and Central Asian peoples affected the development and spread of Buddhism. He comes to IU from CSU Chico, California, where he studied history and religious studies. As an added bonus, as a result of his early Sanskrit teacher’s whimsy, he can recite parts of Shakespeare in Sanskrit.

Layli Carsey is new to the department, though not to IU, having just completed her MA in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures here at Bloomington. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Islamic studies with a focus on Medieval Islamic intellectual history.


New MA candidate Caren Crossen is interested in Islamic studies. She completed her undergraduate work at Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan. She misses her a dog, Dieter, a toy rat terrier who still lives in Michigan.

Congratulations to Sarah Dees, Religious Studies doctoral student, on her receipt of the 2013 Lieber Memorial Teaching Associate Award for distinguished teaching! The Award, started in 1961, is presented each year to outstanding teachers among the university’s graduate students. Over the summer she presented a paper at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. This fall she will continue to work on her dissertation with the support of a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Kristin Francoeur, Ph.D. student in Religions of South Asia, served as co-organizer of the Schempp conference from March–September 2013 (see Schempp article on pg 2). Since September 2013, she has been a language fellow at the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) in Lucknow, India studying Urdu to complement her previous language work in Hindi. She was also awarded the AIIS Junior Research Fellowship for her dissertation fieldwork in Lucknow and New Delhi. She will work with NGOs that deal with issues surrounding gender, sexuality, and non-heteronormativity in order to assess the impact of agencies’ recent imperatives that incorporate religious considerations into activities designed to “empower” the communities they benefit.

Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger is a Ph.D. candidate in the departments of Religious Studies and English. She is currently completing her dissertation on fourteenth-century visionary literature in England, with the assistance of a dissertation-completion fellowship from IU’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Amy Hirschtick is in Jaipur, India, having spent the last academic year there studying Hindi and
where she is currently conducting her dissertation research through funding by a Fulbright-Hays DDRA grant. She is examining the religious anxieties and satisfactions at play in the Hindu worship of statues (murtis, pratimas, vigrahas) as forms of the deity Krishna. She is interested in how north Indian Krishnaite religions negotiate the so-called “idol anxieties” of worshiping an inanimate and (sometimes) human-constructed material deity.

Bharat Ranganathan is currently a Graduate Fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study where he will be teaching a mini-seminar titled, “On the Concept of ‘Religious Ethics.’” He is wrapping up writing his dissertation “Religious Ethics and Obligations to Others” under the supervision of Richard Miller. This academic year he will give presentations at the American Academy of Religion, Harvard Divinity School, Notre Dame, and the Society of Christian Ethics.

Dale Spicer is a new MA student at the department. Before coming to IU he was at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he completed two BA degrees; one in History, the second in Middle Eastern and North African Studies. His major field of study is Islam, primarily interested in Islamic law, the history of Islam, and intersections between religion and other human concerns, such as law, education, politics, or economics. He is currently working on two projects: an investigation and analysis of Qur’anic attitudes toward wealth, poverty, and God’s providence; and an analysis of al-Ghazali’s comparative methodology in a small selection of his writings.

Emily Stratton is also a new face to Religious Studies at IU. She joins the department’s Ph.D. program from the University of Kansas where she completed her MA in Religious Studies with a minor in African Studies. She focuses upon contemporary trends in world Christianity, with particular interest in African pentecostalism. Apart from coursework, she is currently working with fellow student Joe Bartlett to organize the

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Diane Fruchtmant was awarded an American Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The American Fellowships, AAUW’s oldest and largest funding program, support women scholars who are completing doctoral dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research, or finishing research for publication. Diane feels extremely honored to have been selected to join their ranks, and will use her American Fellowship to fund her final year of dissertation-writing.

Diane’s paper, “Paulinus and the Living Martyr: Making Martyrs in the Nolan Countryside,” won a “NAPS Outstanding Student Paper Prize” at the North American Patristics Society annual meeting in Chicago in May. The paper, which represents an argument from Diane’s dissertation, explores the way that Paulinus of Nola (353-431) depicted St. Felix as a martyr despite the saint’s death in peaceful old age, long after the threat of persecution had passed. She argues that Paulinus’ treatment of Felix as a martyr is not only central to Paulinus’ own spirituality, but also to his hopes for other Christians: Paulinus hoped to make martyrdom accessible to his contemporaries by offering Felix as a role model, making it possible for them to become martyrs, too.

In September Diane received the 2013 Andrea S. McRobbie Graduate Fellowship in Medieval History from the Medieval Studies Institute at IU. The fellowship was established by the McRobbie family in 2007 in memory of the late Andrea McRobbie, who had a great interest in medieval history. The award is intended to support an advanced graduate student engaged in scholarship in medieval history, specifically some aspect of its social history or some theme in medieval social history related to its art, philosophy or literature.

Continued on page 8>
Kristy Nabhan-Warren, ’01 was an undergraduate major in Religious Studies at IU graduating in 1992. She earned her MA in Religious Studies from Arizona State University in 1994. She returned to IU and received her Ph.D. in 2001 (advisor Robert Orsi). She taught at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois for ten years (2002-2012) and since the fall 2012 she has worked at The University of Iowa where she is the inaugural V.O. and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Chair in Catholic Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. She is also the new Director of Graduate Studies for the department. Her second book, The Cursillo Movement in America: Catholics, Protestants, and Fourth-Day Spirituality was published this fall by The University of North Carolina Press. She has been married to the historian Stephen A. Warren (BA 1992, Ph.D. in History, 2000) for 19 years and they have three children: Cormac (10), Declan (7) and Josie (4).

ONE OF OUR OWN HONORED BY IU

The Department of Religious Studies is pleased to have one of our own back working with the department.

William E. Smith III earned his Ph.D. from IU in 2010 studying late medieval and early modern Christianity with Constance Furey. After graduation Will was hired by IU as the undergraduate advisor for Religious Studies and Philosophy. Since then he has added advising for India Studies and American Studies to his plate. In 2013 he also began to advise students in the College’s Exploratory Program. He now advises more than 300 students a year. In 2013 Smith was nominated by his students for, and won, the prestigious Advisor of the Year award for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Will continues to be active in scholarly publishing with both “Christian Monogamy, What’s That?” in the Journal of Theology and Sexuality and “Anne Wentworth’s Apocalyptic Marriages: Bigamy, Subjectivity, and Religious Conflict” in Marriage in Premodern Europe, ed. Jacqueline Murray released in 2012. In Spring 2015 his article on Heloise and Abelard and Christiana of Markyate will appear in the edited volume Queer Christianities (NYU Press). He continues his advising work outside the university as well, volunteering with ACA Volunteers of Monroe County to help people understand their options under the new health care laws, and previously did ESL tutoring through the Monroe County Public Library’s ViTAL program.
URSA kicks off another great year

Buoyed by many new energetic members, URSA organized the most successful Welcome Back Party in years (and we have the pictures to prove it!). Animated by a game based on professors’ names, wide-ranging conversations abounded about the study of religion, undergraduate life, and fun facts about professors.

Since then URSA has hosted three movie nights and three faculty lunches that have helped new and visiting faculty integrate into undergraduate life. These dynamic meetings prompted thoughtful discussions around such themes as impermanence, redemption, and the craft of biblical storytelling.

URSA is busy planning to expand its offerings in the spring. Currently they are preparing a panel discussion around ethics, the environment and the permaculture movement. The panel will likely feature Professor Lisa Sideris as well as others, including a permaculture practitioner/spokesperson.

– Will Smith, Advisor

**UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT**

David Bloom founded “God in the Box” at IU, an initiative based on Nathan Lang’s documentary film, “God in the Box,” which explores what God looks like and means to Americans today. As founder and president of Better Together at IU, an interfaith student organization that unites people of all belief systems through service, he currently holds a yearlong fellowship with the Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core.

After founding the Undergraduate Journal of Jewish Studies, David received the Palmer-Brandon Prize in the Humanities, awarded to undergraduates who are considered to rank in the top 1% of their discipline. He is currently writing an honors thesis on the conception of personhood in ancient Israel as portrayed by Genesis 2:7.

David aspires to become a rabbi, and he also seeks a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies. In the future, he hopes to establish a think-tank that unites clergy, student leaders, and religious studies scholars to change public discourse on religion.

-David Bloom

**Undergraduate achievement**

Junior David Bloom was awarded the Palmer-Brandon Prize in the Humanities for 2013-2014 by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kristin Riebsomer was selected as a recipient of a 2013 Intensive Writing Prize for her essay, “The History of the Historical Jesus: From Salvation to Desecration.”

Rafal Swiatkowski was selected from a pool of more than 50 candidates to receive the Abel Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2013-2014 academic year through the Senior Scholarship Competition.

Andrew Sweet won the undergraduate honors thesis award for his thesis, “By the Gift and Power of God: Joseph Smith as Translator and the Origins of Mormon Theology.”

**GALLAGHER ESSAY WINNER**

David Bloom won the 2013 Gallagher Essay Contest with his outstanding paper entitled “The Creation Theme in 4QBerakhot.”

**PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES**

Sarah Babb
David Bloom
Harini Garram
Hannah Garvey

**DECEMBER GRADUATES**

We wish the best to our December graduates

Johnny Coppins
Garrett Fitzgerald
Nolan Hart
Rachael Weaver

Rachel Weaver writes-

“I am currently job hunting, focusing mainly on libraries, museums, and education. I am also working as an intern at a local historical site. Looking back at my time at IU, I’m glad I transferred here my Junior year because of the sheer amount of opportunities IU offers to its students. My previous university did not have a Religious Studies program, and here, I was lucky enough to enjoy all the classes I’ve taken from the Department. URSA movie nights were also a highlight! I am leaving IU on a high note, having spent my last college semester studying abroad in England.”
D. J. Bowden and the Indiana School of Religion

It all began with a letter, and a death.

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

My father, D.J. Bowden was Director of the Indiana School of Religion when it became the Department of Religious Studies at IU in the late 1960s. He passed away some years ago leaving a number of the books that he had used in his scholarly work and teaching at the School of Religion. Would your department... be interested in adding them to your collection?

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Bowden

And so began a study into the history of the department and an exploration of the life and career of D. J. Bowden, a man who was pivotal in the formation of the department we know today.

Bowden’s first love was mechanical engineering but shortly after college graduation he realized that this career was not for him. In the depths of the Great Depression he applied to Yale Divinity and received his Doctorate in 1937. From 1935-1946 he served as chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Elon College. During World War II, due to a shortage of faculty, he taught courses in religious studies, but also math and mechanical engineering!

In 1953, after 18 years at Elon, a good friend convinced him to move to Bloomington to become Director of the newly formed Indiana School of Religion. This school was independent of IU offering noncredit classes to IU students as well as evening and weekend classes at local Protestant churches. The school was funded by local churches, companies and foundations. By 1957 the school was working with IU to offer some credit courses and its enrollment was up from 123 to 351. By 1963, the school had ballooned to 464 students and offered ten credit classes through IU.

The 1963 Supreme Court ruling in Abington v Schempp (see the article on Schempp on pg. 2 of this newsletter) paved the way for publicly funded institutions to create departments of Religious Studies. In 1967, with Bowden at the helm, the Indiana School of Religion was absorbed into the College of Arts and Sciences to become the new Department of Religion at IU. Though Bowden was crucial in the formation of the department, the University chose not to offer him a tenured teaching position and so, shortly after the incorporation of the school into the university, Bowden left the department for other work within IU.

Bowden left a powerful legacy. His diligent fundraising efforts on behalf of the School became an endowment to the newly formed department. As emeritus professor Stephen Stein said, “That endowment makes possible a range of qualitative activity...which otherwise would never

Bowden continued on pg 11 >
Fall Lecture series brings in international speakers

This fall the department had two speakers present lectures and meet with students. **Nandini Chatterjee**, Lecturer in History at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, gave a well researched talk on “Hindu city and just empire: Ali Ibrahim Khan as judge in early colonial Banaras”. She delved into the religious politics of a Muslim judge in a predominantly Hindu city in northern India in the early years of British domination.

In late September **Anne Régent-Susini**, Associate Professor in University Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, presented a lecture on “Hobos, Saints, Superstars: Roman Catholic Preachers in early modern France”. It dealt with the “golden age” of preaching, the extraordinary popularity of missionaries and court preachers and the symbolic status of the preacher.

Notes from the field

When my family was in Kyoto this last year, my daughter went to a public kindergarten. Every day the kids played outside, wearing matching yellow hats so that they looked like little ducklings. The kids would stomp around singing:

(sung to the tune of “Funiculi, Funicula”)

Demons’ underpants are good underpants.
(They’re so strong! They’re so strong!)
Form the skins of tigers they are made.
(They’re so strong! They’re so strong!)
Though you wear them for five years, they won’t tear.
(They’re so strong! They’re so strong!)
Though you wear them for ten years, they won’t tear.
(They’re so strong! They’re so strong!)
Let’s all put them on! Demons’ underpants.
Let’s all put them on! Demons’ underpants.
You and me, grandma and grandpa: let’s all put on demons’ underpants!

I think probably everybody in Japan knows this, and when you start singing it, everyone just joins in, sometimes pantomiming putting on underpants, to general hilarity. I can’t imagine that happening in the US, though I guess I can hope...

-Heather Blair

~ DEPARTMENTAL HISTORY ~

> Bowden continued from pg 10

be possible...student awards, faculty research, faculty appointments, etc. It would be impossible to overstate the critical importance those funds have played to [the department’s] history.”

As our department nears its 50th anniversary we are honored to be reminded of Bowden and his impact on the department. His books on the recently cleared shelves in our departmental library serve as a tangible link to that past. Please come in and check them out the next time you come to visit.
Religious Studies Alumni Newsletter

Published by the Department of Religious Studies to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

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