

**SPECIAL  
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**Alumni  
Profile**



**Penelope  
Brady**

I graduated from Stetson University in 1997 with a major in Religious Studies and a minor in Sociology. After Stetson, I enrolled in the Law and Religion program at Emory University, attending both the Candler School of Theology and Emory University School of Law. I received a Master of Theological Studies and a Doctor of Law in 2001 and began my career as an assistant district attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in New York on September 4, 2011. During my career, I have prosecuted a variety of cases including homicides, sexual assaults, narcotics, and child abuse.

When I began as a student at Stetson University, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my career or even what my major should be while I was there. After I took the required Introduction to the Bible course, taught by Dr. Musser, I was completely hooked on Religious Studies. Religious Studies, unlike other majors, allowed me to simultaneously study many varied subjects including archaeology, culture, ethics, texts, ancient language, and feminism. Studying a subject through many different lenses is also what I do as a lawyer prosecuting crimes. To present a case at trial, a prosecutor must look at all the evidence – witnesses, scientific tests, documents – from every point of view in order to get to the truth of what happened and present it in the most persuasive manner. I learned that by studying religion.

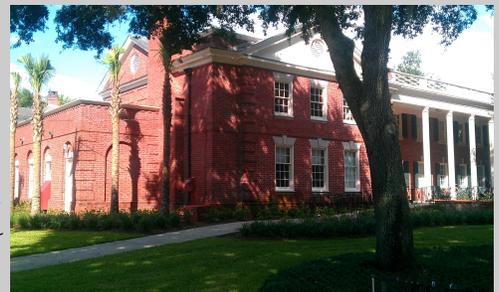
During all of my subsequent academic endeavors, I never had better professors than I did in the Religious Studies Department at Stetson University. Each one of them taught me skills that I use as a prosecutor. To this day, I still remember the challenging and tough questions Dr. Reddish would ask, forcing me to think quickly at a moment's notice. Being able to think on your feet is a necessary skill for the fast-paced nature of being a trial lawyer. Dr. Lucas opened my mind to other perspectives. Thinking about an issue from the opposite side's viewpoint is integral to knowing what your adversary will argue and being able to successfully counter that argument. I learned ethics from Dr. Sutherland, a foundation every lawyer should have. Dr. Queen-Sutherland was a role model for all professional women, and while she taught me Wisdom Literature from the Hebrew Bible, she taught me how to read between the lines and look for what is not obvious, an invaluable skill while investigating a case. Lastly, Dr. Musser's ability to make every class entertaining taught me how to "teach" a jury by explaining a case to them in a way that keeps them engaged and interested. The lessons I learned from all of them are essential to being a good lawyer and prepared me, more than anything else, for graduate school and law school.

When people laughingly ask me how a Religious Studies major became a lawyer, it is an easy question for me to answer. Majoring in Religious Studies at Stetson University gave me the skills I needed to succeed in my career. It was a logical path for me to take, and it is a path any future lawyer should consider.

**Allen Hall Landscaping**

If you haven't been on campus lately, you will be pleasantly surprised by a major change in landscaping on the grounds of Allen Hall and the whole Stetson University campus. This initiative is part of Stetson University's Master Plan to invest \$6.5 million to renew the landscaping and walkways on campus. Included in this plan is an upgrading of classrooms and the installation of energy-saving lighting. The improvements will support a new university goal to increase undergraduate enrollment. The Stetson Board of Trustees authorized the project earlier in the year. George Herbst, past vice president for finance at Stetson stated, "We need to increase our curb appeal. We want to entice people to explore the richness and depth of our academic programs. Our campus should reflect the quality of the education at Stetson."

Improvements in Allen Hall include new landscaping, a new auditorium ceiling and energy-efficient lighting; a new ceiling and energy-efficient lighting in classroom 201 (the Walker Room); and a handicapped-accessible entrance. Allen Hall will also receive a new roof in the near future. If you are on campus, perhaps during homecoming, we invite you to visit Allen Hall and see the improvements.



## Chair Comments

The 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years are sabbatical years for the Department of Religious Studies. Don't worry. This does not mean that the entire department is taking a break for two years, but it means that several members of the faculty have been awarded sabbatical leaves or are applying for sabbatical leaves. For the fall 2011 semester, Dr. Kandy Queen-Sutherland is on sabbatical, while Dr. Dixon Sutherland will have a sabbatical leave during

spring 2012. I have applied for a fall 2012 sabbatical, and Dr. Phillip Lucas and Dr. Greg Sapp have applied for spring 2013 sabbatical leaves. At Stetson, faculty are eligible to apply for a sabbatical after every six years of teaching. Faculty may apply for a one-semester sabbatical at full salary or a year-long sabbatical at half salary. Sabbaticals provide the time for faculty to engage in study of new materials, to pursue research, and to work on writing projects. Before a sabbatical is approved, the faculty member must have an academically sound and feasible research project pro-

posal. A successful sabbatical means that the faculty member returns to the classroom refreshed, invigorated, and with new insights and ideas to share with students. We are fortunate this year that Dr. Musser was willing to teach several classes in the department to help us maintain a strong curriculum while faculty are on leave.



Mitchell G. Reddish

“At the center of the religious life is a particular kind of joy...the promise of human difficulties embraced and overcome.”

The World's Religions by Huston Smith

## Books, Books & More Books

### Titles recommended as a must-read

Eric Felten, *Loyalty: The Vexing Virtue*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.

— Dr. Musser

Michelle Voss Roberts, *Dualities: A Theology of Difference*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.

— Dr. Taneja

Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *Democratizing Biblical Studies: Toward an Emancipatory Educational Space*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

— Dr. Sutherland

Tatiana de Rosnaly, *Sarah's Key*. St. Martin's Press, 2007.

— Rabbi Barry Altman

Thomas A. Tweed, *Crossing and Dwelling: A Theory of Religion*. Harvard University Press, 2008.

— Dr. Lucas

Warren St. John, *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*. Spiegel 7 Grau Trade Paperbacks, 2009.

— Dr. Sapp

Edited by John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism (Research Text)*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2010.

— Dr. Reddish



# Shriver Lectures

In 2000, a new lecture series was inaugurated at Stetson. The George H. Shriver Lectures: Religion in American History were established by Dr. Shriver, a Stetson alumnus, to bring to campus noted scholars to address the influence and significance of religion in the history and development of American society.

George Shriver, himself a historian of religion, spent the major part of his career in the history department at Georgia Southern University where he won awards both for his teaching and his research. The creation of this series on Religion in American History is a fulfill-

ment of one of Dr. Shriver's dreams and joins together two of his academic passions—religious studies and history. Jointly sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and the Department of History at Stetson, the Shriver Lectures are delivered every two years. In order that the lectures reach a wider audience than the Stetson community alone, the endowment provides for the publication of each lecture series as a hardback volume. The University of Georgia Press is the publisher of this series.

We have been fortunate to have some of the

leading scholars of religion or history to deliver these lectures on campus, including John Wilson, Martin Marty, Yvonne Haddad, Edward Larson, David Holmes, and James Turner. The lectures have covered a variety of topics, including Islam, creationism, the religion of the U.S. presidents, and the history of the academic study of religion in America. The next Shriver Lectures will be given on February 28 and 29, 2012, by Dr. Deborah Dash Moore of the University of Michigan. Her topic will deal with Judaism in American history.



## Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award

**This award was sponsored by the Office of Student Success. To be considered, a faculty member must be nominated for the award by a first-year student. The awards recognize faculty (and staff) who have gone above and beyond to support first-year students. Dr. Lucas was one of six people who received an award this year.**

## GRADUATE SCHOOL INSIGHTS

We asked a sampling of our alumni who attended graduate school after receiving their undergraduate degrees in Religious Studies about their experiences in graduate school. In choosing which schools they would apply to, our graduates considered many variables. The most common was finding schools that would meet their specific interests. John Mills wrote, "I was interested in law schools with a demonstrated commitment to serving the 'least of these.' I chose Cornell Law School because of its clinics for assisting death-sentenced prisoners and persons facing deportation." On the other hand, many graduates were persuaded by the scholarships they received. For one student getting accepted at the graduate school of her choice was a difficult process. She was declined by all eight theology graduate schools to which she applied; however, that did not deter her from going to graduate school. She reevaluated her interests and applied to art therapy programs and was accepted. She states, "I think in the end, my unique background with religious studies helped me get into the program." The overall responses of these alumni demonstrate that you have to look at many variables when deciding on a graduate school: interest, funding, faculty, location, and just the "gut feeling" you experience when visiting the school.

We next asked the alumni if they felt they were prepared for the coursework at graduate school. Most alumni agreed that the content, the research skills, and the writing skills they learned at Stetson were of significant benefit as preparation for graduate course work. Other useful skills that the students acquired at Stetson are described by our alumni themselves. Jessie Paquin, a student at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva, Israel wrote, "My studies at Stetson help me understand the importance of academics when dealing with issues such as religion, spirituality, politics, conflict, and environmental issues, among others, and they prepared me for the intense dialogues I had in graduate school." Christopher Girata stated, "I appreciate the attention the Stetson faculty gave to religion and religious ideas separate from the realm of personal faith. The distinction between

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## Religious Studies Outstanding Juniors and Seniors

**Congratulations to our Outstanding Students who were selected by the Religious Studies Department for the 2010-2011 Academic Year.**

**Seniors: Stacey Mann & Josie Warren**

**Juniors: Rachel Burnett, Will Livingston, & Taryn Moorhead**

## FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Reddish** and Dr. Queen-Sutherland led students on a travel course to Turkey and Greece from December 26, 2010, to January 12, 2011. Twenty people, in addition to Dr. Queen-Sutherland and Dr. Reddish, participated in the trip. The focus of the course was on archaeological and historical sites related to the Bible. On October 11, 2011, Dr. Reddish presented a lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls at the United Methodist Church in The Villages, Florida.

**Dr. Dixon Sutherland** has been busy. At the end of last academic year, 2011, he ended a 20-year tenure as Director of the Christian Ethics Institute and more than a decade with the Values Council. He was part of the 3-year study that resulted in the formation of the VC, and had the honor of serving in one or another role, out front and behind the scenes, to "make things happen." As part of the Institute, he also had the pleasure to arrange the notable "Stewart Lectures." He now returns to the classroom full time, which is, as most of you know, his first love. Dr. Sutherland has split his "Frontiers in Medical Ethics" into two seminars, turning one into a Junior Seminar on Bioethics, while the other one concentrates on "The Ethics of Mortality," that is, ethical decision-making at the "edges" of life and death. Dr. Sutherland will be on sabbatical leave in the spring semester, 2012. During that time, he will conduct research on a subject that has been his mentor since he first gave lectures on it in 1983: spatial hermeneutics and Christian theology.

**Dr. Greg Sapp** taught two classes during the fall and spring semesters—"Self and World" (a first-year seminar) and "Heretical Christianities" (a new course). He also taught "Religion and the Civil Rights Movement" during the summer and took the students on the summer civil rights tour of important sites in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia with Stetson's College of Law. He finished up his work chairing the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) committee with programs to be implemented for incoming students in the fall of 2011. In addition to the civil rights travel course, Dr. Sapp traveled to Chicago and Washington, DC for conferences and meetings and to China as part of the Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE). While in China, he co-led SVHE teaching workshops for faculty at three universities there. He also visited the site of a World War II Japanese internment camp that served as the basis for Langdon Gilkey's *Shantung Compound*. Dr. Sapp continued to serve as the academic advisor to the Bonner Program and as faculty advisor for the Student Coalition to End Homelessness.

**Dr. Kandy Queen-Sutherland** is on sabbatical for the fall 2011 semester. She is currently working on the completion of a commentary on Ruth, Esther, Lamentations, and Song of Songs.

**Dr. Leena Taneja** gave a lecture at The University of Central Florida on "Siva and Krishna: Dance and Culture" in fall 2010. Dr. Taneja also delivered a public lecture at the Symposium of Interdisciplinary Writing and Research at Daytona State College entitled, "Polyvalent Sacred Space: Experiencing the Holy Mountain of Govardhan" in spring 2011. She and her husband welcomed the birth of their second child, Ajay Pabbathi, on April 25th, 2011. Dr. Taneja is on a leave of absence in the fall 2011 semester.

**Dr. Phillip Lucas** has had two articles accepted for publication this year. They are "The Ramana Maharshi Effect: When a Movement is not a Movement," and "When a Movement is Not a Movement: Ramana Maharshi and Neo-Advaita in America." The first article will be published in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*. The second (a version of the first), will be published in *Gurus in America* (State University of New York Press). He has also had his article, "Not So Fast, Awakened Ones: Neo-Advaitin Gurus and their Detractors," accepted for publication in *Mountain Path*, a journal published by Ramanashram in India. Dr. Lucas taught in the Innsbruck Summer program again this year and took his students to visit the splendid baroque cathedral of St. James and the rococo masterpiece, Wilten Basilica, both in Innsbruck. The group also visited the Ice Man exhibit in Bolzano Italy and the wonders of Venice.

**Dr. Donald Musser** is teaching new courses during the 2011-2012 academic year, including The Dynamics of Faith, Spiritual Progressives, and Faith and Reason. In addition, he continues to fish and farm.

**Rabbi Barry Altman** met with the Reform Jewish Community and Congregation of Saint Petersburg, Russia, in June. He met with leaders and gave a training seminar in adult Jewish Education development. He also conducted services.



### Taryn Moorhead Wins Sam R. Marks Prize in Religion

During the Spring 2011 Academic Honors Convocation, Dr. Mitchell Reddish, Professor and Chair of Religious Studies, announced the winner of the Sam R. Marks Prize in Religion to be Taryn Moorhead from Altamonte Springs, Florida, for her essay entitled, "Lamentations 4:1-11." Taryn is scheduled to graduate in Spring 2012 with a major in Religious Studies and minor in Russian Studies. She will be applying to graduate schools this fall.



## Stetson University

Religious Studies Department  
421 N. Woodland Blvd.  
Unit 8354  
DeLand, FL 32723  
Phone: 386-822-8930  
Fax: 386-822-8936  
Editors: Dr. Phillip Lucas and  
Mrs. Lisa Guenther

Welcome to the Stetson University Department of Religious Studies. Our mission is to help students explore the role of religion in shaping human cultures through the study of sacred texts, languages, ethics, beliefs, rituals, spiritual methods, and the history of religious traditions.

Website: [www.stetson.edu/artsci/religion](http://www.stetson.edu/artsci/religion)

## Alumni News

**Ann Fabian '11** is pursuing a masters in Library and Information Science at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. — **Duncan Jerrett '11** is pursuing an M.Div. degree at McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA. — **Angela Malinowski '11** is pursuing an M.Div. at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. — **Stacey Mann '11** is pursuing a Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in Religion, Ethics, & Politics at Harvard University, Boston, MA. — **Mary Salfer-Hobbs '11** is pursuing a masters in Non-profit Organizations at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL. — **Alicia McClain '10** is pursuing a masters in Youth Development Leadership at Clemson University, Clemson, SC. — **Sarah Bunton '09** is engaged to Justin Lauer and is planning a January 28, 2012, wedding. — **Stephanie Champagne '09** is Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Orange City United Methodist Church, Orange City, FL, and is Office Assistant in the Youth Department for the Florida Conference of Seventh Day Adventist. She married Charles Thomas Parks '09 on July 31, 2011. — **Kasey Cox '09** will be interning with Peace First, an organization that teaches conflict transformation skills to grade-schoolers and hopes to graduate from Boston University School of Theology with an M.Div. degree and a certificate in Religion and Conflict Transformation in May of 2012. — **Jesse Paquin '09** received a masters degree in Middle East Studies at Ben Gurion University, Israel, and is pursuing a career as a photojournalist. He is engaged to an Israeli woman, Ortal, and they hope to be married in Winter 2012. — **Charles**

**Thomas Parks '09** married Stephanie Champagne '09 on July 31, 2011. — **Lori-Jene Braizer '08** is interning at Saint Thomas Health, Nashville, TN, while working toward her M.Div. at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. — **Alicia Hickman '08** received an MTS at Vanderbilt Divinity School on May 13, 2011, Nashville, TN. Alicia hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Caribbean Literature. — **Gabriel-Maroun Shibly '08** received a Masters of Business Administration at Stetson University in 2009 and is employed at Hoyman Dobson CPAs, Melbourne, FL. — **Christina Mixon '08** received an M.Div. at Vanderbilt Divinity School on May 13, 2011, Nashville, TN. — **Ansley (Faulkner) Alfano '07** is a Community Match Support Specialist for the Big Brother Big Sisters, Jacksonville, FL, and on September 19, 2011, had a baby girl, Emily Elizabeth Alfano. — **Adriene (Zedick) Tribble '06** is Associate Professor of Humanities at Valencia College, Winter Park and Lake Nona Campuses, Orlando, FL. — **Jamie Haskins '06** is Chaplain, Director of Spiritual Life, and Instructor of Religious Studies at Westminster College in Fulton, MO. — **Jennifer (Tyre) Lancaster '05** is working on her Ph.D. in Ethics at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. — **Ken Matthews '05** is training to be a monk with Ven. Thubten Chodron of the Sravasti Abbey in Newport, WA. — **Robert Oliver '05** is Catering Supervisor for Sodexo U.S.A. at Stetson University, DeLand, FL. — **Wesley Sun '05** was ordained a minister in the American Baptist Churches in the USA on February

27, 2011, at Hyde Park Union Church, Chicago, IL. He is currently employed as the Director of the Gilead Ministry, Hyde Park Union Church, Chicago, IL. — **John R. Mills '04** opened his own law offices, Law Offices of John R. Mills, Durham, NC. — **Jonathan Bailey '03** is chaplain for the 4th Battalion 1st Special Forces Group at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state. — **Teresa Schwartz '03** announced the arrival of a son, Akylis Schwarz Maciano, on June 14, 2011. — **Kristyn Sommers Moore '03** married James Moore on November 27, 2010; Dr. Kandy Queen-Sutherland performed the ceremony. — **Andrew Meit '84** is working with The Siddur Project ([www.opensiddur.org](http://www.opensiddur.org)) in restoring Jewish documents and has submitted a good-bye prayer for children who have lost a parent in remembrance of his mother's death June '11. — **Luis G. Pedraja '84** is Vice-President of Academic Affairs/Provost at Antioch University, Los Angeles, CA. — **William Allen '74** married Mary Sue Rister on June 25, 2011, in Melrose, FL. The service was performed by Dr. Donald Musser. Jeffrey Tyson '81 was also in attendance.

We ask alumni to visit our website at [www.stetson.edu/artsci/religion](http://www.stetson.edu/artsci/religion) and to click on the alumni questionnaire located on our home page and fill it out and send it to us at: 421 North Woodland Blvd. Unit 8354, DeLand, FL 32723, or you may e-mail the questionnaire to [lguenther@stetson.edu](mailto:lguenther@stetson.edu). We would love to hear how you are doing, including marriages, children, career moves, graduate work, or anything else you might wish to share. Also please contact Mrs. Guenther, Administrative Specialist II, for any corrections to the Alumni News. We can't wait to hear from you!



## Continued from page 3 –GRADUATE

religion as an expression of faith and religion as a cultural/philosophical engine best prepared me to engage in the highest level of academic study.”

After graduate school these alumni choose such disparate careers as university professor, Episcopal priest, lawyer who represents indigent persons at every stage of criminal litigation, and non-profit peace work and/or mediation. One alumnus, Emily (Snyder) Fulmer, stated that she wanted “to work as a lay leader in faith communities to help them embrace social justice causes and be active in their communities.”

We then wanted to know what the Department of Religious Studies could change in the curriculum to prepare students for graduate work. One alumnus suggested that a summer internship is beneficial to have on your resume/application and would be great job-related experience for acquiring a position. Another comment was that students need to learn more about ways that religious studies can be used in careers that do not involve working directly for a church. Some students would like to see some specialized tracks like pastoral care, youth ministry, service ministry, or campus ministry. John Mills noted, “Law school required a depth of understanding that was new to me. Even if a particular reading assignment there was not very long, the expected level of familiarity with the material was very high. Raising that expectation in Stetson’s classes would have been beneficial.” Many students did not list any improvements, but said that the professors were great mentors and helpful in the application process.

Our last question solicited tips for students who are in the process of applying for graduate school. Emily (Snyder) Fulmer stated that she was really glad that she decided to take a year off before graduate school. “I felt more mature, more prepared, and more certain that I wanted to go back to school and why.” She also said that “I realized after I got to graduate school that it’s pretty silly to think that what you want when you apply is going to stay the same the whole time you are there. You will learn more, gain new interests, and follow a professor that will help you make that choice! If you do know what you want, go for it!” Kasey Cox noted, “Take the GRE the summer before your senior year – you don’t want to have to juggle senior research and the GRE. Visit the graduate schools you are interested in attending. Show what you are passionate about in your statement of purpose on your applications. Take advantage of an out-of-the-classroom internship.” Adriene (Zedick) Tribble observed, “Give yourself plenty of time to work on the applications. Killer recommendation letters are important – foster good relationships with your college professors, meet with them often, and share your graduate school aspirations, so that when they sit down to write your letter, they really know you. Don’t be afraid to ask for (more) money after you are accepted to their program.” Christopher Girata said, “Take advantage of the personal relationships and attention that the Stetson faculty provides. They are willing to share their stories with you, stories that will be highly valuable to you as you begin your own journey, and that is a very generous gift indeed!” Amy Bucciarelli wrote, “Never undermine the power that the undergraduate degree will have even if you end up in an unrelated field, because those words ‘Religious Studies’ have been the reason I was chosen for several jobs over other people.” Lastly, I leave you with a quote from John Mills who sums up the whole process of graduate school: “Do what you love and fight for what you care about!”

## Theta Alpha Kappa 2011

Theta Alpha Kappa is a national honor society for professors and students of religious studies/theology. Eight new members joined Stetson’s Alpha Gamma Omicron chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa on April 14th; **Taryn Moorhead**, majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Russian Studies; **Claire Stubblefield**, majoring in Religious Studies and English; **Anne Moore**, majoring in Political Science with minors in Religious Studies and Philosophy; **Will Livingston**, majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Women and Gender Studies; **Rachel Burnett**, majoring in Biology and Religious Studies with a minor in Psychology; **James Shenko**, majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Philosophy; **Alyssa Pickles**, majoring in English and Religious Studies; and **Timothy Roberts**, majoring in Biology with minors in French and Religious Studies. To date, Theta Alpha Kappa, chapter Alpha Gamma Omicron, has inducted 112 students. The chapter was started in 1996. To learn more about Theta Alpha Kappa, go to the national website at <http://thetaalphakappa.net>.



Dr. Leena Taneja, Taryn Moorhead, Claire Stubblefield, Anne Moore, Will Livingston, Rachel Burnett, James Shenko, and Dr. Mitchell Reddish. Not Pictured: Alyssa Pickles and Timothy Roberts.