

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

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**Alumni
Profile**



**William
Allen**

When I arrived at Stetson as a freshman from a small Florida town, I was about as green as they come. I brought with me a supple mind, but I could not have imagined all the things I would study and learn. One of the best things that happened to me was being plunged in over my head reading such diverse thinkers as William James, Mircea Eliade, Rudolph Otto, and Paul Tillich in my freshman year in the Department of Religion, as it was then called. That was only the beginning, but by starting off with challenging thinkers from the start, rather than as a junior or senior, I was able to go much farther in the depth and breadth of my undergraduate experience than I otherwise would have gone.

Those early experiences taught me that I did not need to be intimidated when I waded into a new and interdisciplinary field like bioethics with versatile and diverse intellectual methodologies and perspectives. In my career in bioethics, I am thrust into medical sub-specialties' grand rounds or intensive care units and have to be able to adapt what I have to contribute to their life worlds, moving from the perspective of the team of physicians to the existential life and death decision-making of the patient's loved ones. I must be facile in distinguishing the values at play that are hidden in the scientific and clinical rhetoric and distinguishing those aspects of medical decision-making that rightly belong to evidence based medical expertise from those aspects of the human condition about which each of us must be empowered to become our own best experts.

At various points in my career I have been fortunate enough to contribute not only to the learning of my medical students and physician colleagues in clinical cases, but also to shape public policy in areas such as the impact of genetic technologies on society or to draft legislative language of the Florida Statutes on withholding and withdrawal of life sustaining treatment. You might think that such matters are done only after much careful deliberation and reflection, but I have had to come up with such language with only minutes notice between legislative sessions. Of course, in such moments, having already spent a lot of time and effort in reflection on the issues brings some measure of informed consideration to the task, but the skills I learned at Stetson having to

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Thoughts from Dr. Queen-Sutherland

I just realized a shocking truth ~ I've been teaching for thirty years. Twenty-two of those years have been at Stetson with the rest spent early on in Europe. Those of us who find our way into teaching do so with a passion for one particular field or another. In Religious Studies, our interests sweep from the historical to linguistics, theology to sacred texts to ritual and belief. We are energized by a fascination with the religious tradi-

tions of the world and those in which we spent our childhood. Some of us teach courses that grow out of our specialties, the focus of our doctoral studies. Time and again, however, our research widens beyond the scope of our degrees to include the interests that develop over the course of our academic lives. That's what keeps each of us interested in the task at hand. We are at one and the same time student and teach-

er. A new line of inquiry drives us to chase beyond our academic comfort zone into new areas of research and teaching. Sometimes new course development is tied directly to curriculum needs such as the new first year seminars and junior seminars being offered in the department. *The Search for*



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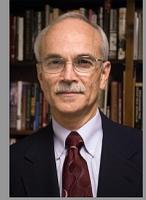
Chair Comments

One of the aspects of college life that I have always enjoyed, both when I was a student and now that I am a faculty member, is the rhythm of the academic calendar. Fall semester begins, then draws to a close with final exams after approximately fifteen weeks of classes. Then, after a holiday break, spring semester begins, runs its course, and then ends with final exams. Year after year the pattern continues. Every semester I get a chance to start over. On the one hand, that means that regardless of how difficult, or demanding, or even disappointing a class may be, I

know that it will be over when the semester ends. There's always an ending point. But, on the other hand, in a more positive vein, it also means that every semester is a fresh start, a chance to start over with new students in the classroom, an opportunity to try different teaching techniques, the possibility to explore new ideas, or perhaps the chance to look at old ideas in a new way. Each time I teach a course, regardless of how many times I have taught the same course before, it is a new experience because the students in the class are always changing, asking different questions, seeing things from a different perspective, helping me and their classmates learn some-

thing new about the subject.

As I write these words, summer is coming to an end; the start of a new semester looms. Once again, it's time to leave the past behind; time to be excited about the possibilities of learning, of exploring, of creating; time to join with students and professors to do something new, both in and out of the classroom. Whether you are a current student or an alumni, I hope that learning and expanding your mind continues to excite you.



Mitchell G. Reddish

"It is
the mark of
an
educated
mind
to be
able to
entertain
a thought
without
accepting it."
- Aristotle

Books, Books & More Books

Titles recommended as a must-read

Dan Ariely, *The Honest Truth About Dishonesty*.
Harper, 2012.
— Dr. Musser

Howard W. Stone, *How to Think Theologically*.
2nd edition, Fortress Press, 2006.
— Dr. Taneja

Karl Marlantes, *What It Is Like to Go to War*. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2011.
— Dr. Sutherland

Elie Wiesel, *The Sonderberg Case*. Alfred Knopf, 2010.
— Rabbi Barry Altman

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

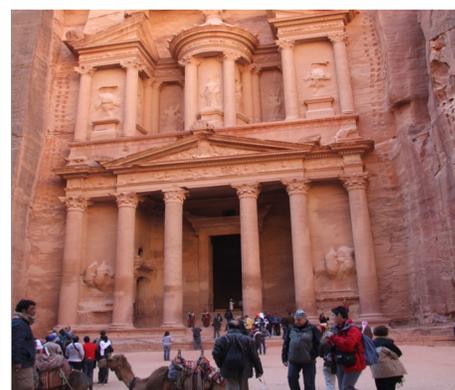
Andrew Young and Kabir Sehgal, *Walk in My Shoes: Conversations Between a Civil Rights Legend and His Godson on the Journey Ahead*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2010.
— Dr. Sapp

Jodi Magness, *Stone and Dung, Oil and Spit: Jewish Daily Life in the Time of Jesus*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2011.
— Dr. Reddish

The Nation Magazine, "According to *The Nation's* founding prospectus of 1865, "*The Nation* will not be the organ of any party, sect, or body. It will, on the contrary, make an earnest effort to bring to the discussion of political and social questions a really critical spirit, and to wage war upon the voices of violence, exaggeration and misrepresentation by which so much of the political writing of the day is marred."
— Dr. Queen-Sutherland



Egypt, Jordan and Israel



Travel to the Middle East From December 27, 2012, until January 12, 2013, Dr. Queen-Sutherland and Dr. Reddish will lead a travel course to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. The focus of the trip will be on archaeological sites and museums related to the ancient Near East, particularly sites with biblical relevance. In Egypt, the group will visit the pyramids at Giza, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of Queens at Luxor, and the temples of Karnak and Luxor. In Jordan, the group will travel to the spectacular site of ancient Petra, capital of the ancient Nabatean Kingdom (and the location of the closing scene in the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*). They will also visit Mt. Nebo, Machaerus (site of one of Herod's palaces and the place where John the Baptist was beheaded), the capital city of Amman, and the ruins of ancient Jerash. Crossing over into Israel, the travelers will spend two nights in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, from which they will visit Megiddo, Sepphoris, Caesarea Maritima, Nazareth, Capernaum, and enjoy a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. The group will then head south to Jerusalem, where they will spend several days, visiting various places in Jerusalem (the Old City, the Israel Museum, and the Mount of Olives), as well as Bethlehem, ancient Qumran, Masada, and Lachish. In addition to the extraordinary experience of traveling and visiting these ancient sites, the students will also earn academic credit for the course. Non-students are also welcome to join the group. For more information about the trip, please contact Dr. Mitchell Reddish at mreddish@stetson.edu. The cost of \$4788.00 includes all transportation costs (from DeLand), hotels, admission fees, visas, taxes, tips, breakfasts, and dinners. Deadline for registration is October 17, 2012.

Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award



This award is 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. One student wrote about Dr. Reddish: "He has gone above and beyond to help me with my major and made me feel comfortable in the Religious Studies department. I constantly send him emails with questions and he is always helpful. He is always happy to answer any question at any time and puts his students first. It is his kindness and his words of wisdom that helped me to get through my first semester at Stetson and he has become one of my favorite professors." Dr. Reddish was one of sixteen recipients to receive the award this year.

Religious Studies Outstanding Juniors and Seniors

Congratulations to our Outstanding Students who were selected by the Religious Studies Department for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Seniors: Rachel Burnett, Claire "Stubblefield" Helton, Will Livingston, and Taryn Moorhead

Juniors: Christopher Dell and Mahdiya Fazel

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Reddish took a group of students and other adults to London and Paris during Spring Break 2012, to visit the British Library, the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Louvre, and the Musee d'Orsay. The trip was an optional part of a semester-long course entitled "The Bible in Art and Artifact." At the end of spring semester he concluded a two-year term as chair of the Faculty Senate. During fall semester 2012, he has a sabbatical leave.

Dr. Dixon Sutherland continues to enjoy serving as director of the Edmunds Scholarship Program, which welcomes two new Edmunds Scholars this fall semester. He gave an invited lecture commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible for the Florida Humanities Council in Lake Worth, Florida, and peer reviewed a book manuscript for Prentice Hall Press and a proposed essay in the *Journal of Nanotechnology*. He supervised five Senior Research Projects (remember yours?!) and proudly watches all five enter graduate studies in law, forestry, and theology. During spring, 2012, Dr. Sutherland conducted a sabbatical research project on Christian theology and a spatial hermeneutic. This work continues to be slow and tedious, but a welcome reprieve from the routines of the office.

Dr. Greg Sapp in the spring of 2012 became the coeditor of the *International Journal of Religion and Sport*. Currently, he is working on a book on Religion and Sport that will serve as a textbook for courses taught on the subject. He visited Mercer University in Macon, GA, to prepare to host the Shurden Lectures at Stetson in 2013. He attended conferences in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Madison, NJ. He took students on the summer civil rights travel course with our College of Law visiting museums, sites, and civil rights leaders. He continued to serve on the Board of Directors for the Society for Values in Higher Education and began a three-year term as faculty liaison for Stetson's Alumni Board.

Dr. Kandy Queen-Sutherland was on sabbatical fall 2011. Her research and writing continues to focus on the Festival Scrolls of the Hebrew Bible. She is currently the president of the Board of Directors for The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia, a non-profit working to reduce hunger and homelessness in DeLand and surrounding areas for over 40 years.

Dr. Leena Taneja's article, "Resurrecting Braj: Engaged Vaishnavism as Environmental Theology" was published in the volume, *Engaged Hinduism: Service and Spiritual Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2012). She also presented the same paper at the American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional meeting in Atlanta, GA in March 2012.

Dr. Phillip Lucas traveled to India and Nepal this past winter. He filmed pilgrims and pilgrimage rites at five holy sites for Buddhists: Lumbini, Nepal, where the Buddha was born; Bodh Gaya, India, where he attained enlightenment; Sarnath, India, where the Buddha gave his first sermon; Vaishali, where the Buddha gave his final sermon and admitted women into the sangha (community) for the first time; and Kushinagar, where the Buddha passed into mahanirvana. He is currently editing a documentary film on Buddhist pilgrimage that will be used in his courses and made available for other educators. Dr. Lucas also published an article, "Not So Fast, Enlightened Ones," in *Mountain Path* journal, and had accepted for publication another article, "Neo-Advaita in America: Three Representative Teachers," in a forthcoming book, *Homegrown Gurus: From Hinduism in America to American Hinduism*, to be published by SUNY Press (2013).

Dr. Donald Musser in April 2012 officiated at the wedding of John Mills '04 and Shereen Katrak near Durham, NC. Stephen Mills, '08 served as Best Man. This summer he preached at the First Christian Church, Deland; Mosaic Unitarian Universalist Church, Orange City; and Community Unitarian Universalist Church, New Smyrna Beach. Dr. Musser wrote an essay, "Collision, Division, Conversation: When Mormon Scholars and Christian Theologians Talk," in *Mormonism at the Crossroads of Philosophy and Theology: Essays in Honor of David L. Paulsen*, a volume that honors David L. Paulsen, a philosopher at Brigham Young University. In May 2012 at the National Conference on Medicine & Religion, Dr. Musser presented his paper "Illness As Vocation: Living With Cancer." Dr. Musser currently is working on a project for Westminster John Knox Press that involves publishing seven volumes of *Feasting on the Gospels*. For each biblical text the volume will provide essays from four different perspectives. Dr. Musser is writing the theological perspective essays for Luke 7:1-10, Luke 7:11-17, and Luke 7:18-23.

Rabbi Barry Altman this past summer conducted Sabbath services and conducted lectures on Judaica in Venice, Italy, Dubrovnik, Croatia and Corfu, Greece. He also was keynote speaker at the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Camp Coleman, Cleveland, GA. Coleman is the regional youth camp for Reform Jewish Congregations of the southeast.



Rachel Burnett Wins Sam R. Marks Prize in Religion

During the Spring 2012 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 Rachel Burnett from Lake Placid, Florida, for her essay entitled, "That Son of Man: Form and Function in Apocalyptic Literature." Rachel is pursuing a masters in Forestry and Environmental Resources with an assistantship at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. This past summer she had an eight week Fire Ecology internship in Tallahassee, FL.



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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

Alumni News

Rachel Burnett '12 is pursuing a masters in Forestry and Environmental Resources with an assistantship at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. This past summer she had an eight week Fire Ecology internship in Tallahassee, FL. — Kaitlin Feldman '12 is pursuing a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in social policy at American University, Washington, DC. — Amanda Iannotti '12 is pursuing a Masters in Clinical Psychology at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Arlington, VA. — William Livingston '12 is pursuing a Masters of Theological Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. — Chase Long '12 is a officer candidate for the United States Marine Corps. — Anne Moore '12 is a producer (salesperson) for Brown and Brown Insurance Company, Daytona Beach, FL. — Alexandria Mucci '12 is pursuing a Masters of Science in Student Affairs Counseling at Syracuse University, New York, NY. — Alyssa Pickles '12 is attending law school at Stetson Law School, St. Petersburg, FL. — James Shenko '12 is pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. — Hannah Tennyson '12 is currently teaching elementary through middle school in Busan, South Korea. Her teaching was sponsored by the Oedae Language Institute. — Angela Deluca '11 will be teaching second grade at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Jacksonville, FL this fall. — Claire (Stubblefield) Helton '11 is pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Truett Theological Seminary, Waco, TX. On January 7, 2012 Claire married Zachary Helton at the First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL.

— Mary Salfer-Hobbs '11 is pursuing a Masters of Theological Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. — Robert Echevarria '10 received his Masters of Theological Studies with a Religion, Ethics, and Politics concentration from Harvard Divinity School in May 2012. — Kasey Cox '09 received her Masters of Divinity degree and a certificate in Religion and Conflict Transformation from Boston University School of Theology on May 20, 2012. She is currently working part-time as Program Coordinator of Boston University School of Theology's Religion and Conflict Transformation Program. — William Krolick '09 is a technical writer, marketing writer, and works on new product research and development at Inscribe in Woburn, MA. — Griffin Lyon '09 received his Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Florida Graduate School's College of Education SITE Program in May 2012. This fall he will be working for Duval County Public Schools in Florida. — Ryan Lynch '09 received his Master of Letters in Middle Eastern History and Culture from the University of St. Andrews, October 2010. He also received his Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford, June 2012. He will be working on his Doctor of Philosophy in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford this fall. He married Jackie Matias '09 on October 1, 2010. — Lori-Jene Brazier '08 received her Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School on May 11, 2012. — Paul Gloersen '06 is currently

working as the Development Manager for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for the Orlando Florida Area. — Luis Rodriguez Jr. '06 is working as Worship pastor at Georgianna United Methodist Church in Merritt Island, FL. — Jennifer "Tyre" Lancaster '05 on February 23, 2012 gave birth to a baby girl, Evelyn Mae Lancaster. — Daniel Puchalla '05 was ordained to the sacred order of deacons on November 27, 2011 at The Church of St. Paul & the Redeemer in Chicago, IL. — John Mills '04 was married to Shereen Katrak on April 28, 2012. Dr. Musser officiated at the ceremony. — Adam Schwarz '03 accepted a position at Florida Atlantic University as Assistant Director for Residential Life over the First Year Area of campus. — Teresa Schwarz '03 received her Masters of Art in English from Middlebury University in Vermont. — Kristyn Sommers Moore '03 received her Master's in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling with a certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy. She is currently working as a therapist in a group practice.



We ask alumni to visit our website at 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 lguenth@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 1 –ALUMNI PROFILE

think on my feet when questioned by O.L. Walker or Rollin Armour or Lewis Myers had given me the confidence to respond swiftly with reasoned advice that I was willing to stand on.

Most people with whom I have worked in legal and public policy contexts presume that the skills I bring to those efforts come from my legal education. While that certainly helps, things I learned at Stetson in religious studies helped me grasp the essence of Anglo-American law before I ever dreamed of going to law school. The law is case based, or in ethical terms, casuistic. General principles are adapted, interpreted, and applied to actual real world cases and controversies. I learned about interpreting foundational, culturally salient documents and applying them to real world cases by learning to translate and to interpret western sacred texts, which I began at Stetson with Ernest Cadman Colwell's koine Greek class and the study of how Hebrew, Jewish, and Christian traditions grew and were adapted to changing cultural milieus over the centuries.

Some of the events and institutions that brought bioethics into being were contemporaneous with my years at Stetson, like *Roe v. Wade*, the revelation of the scandalous Tuskegee Syphilis Study, the Asilomar Conference, and the founding of the Hastings Center and the Kennedy Institute. I could not imagine when reading about those things while a religion major at Stetson from 1970-74 that I would ever be in a position to be a part of those endeavors or to make a contribution. But the education Stetson gave me during those years afforded me a basis for following my bliss into a career that keeps on giving me opportunities to remain fascinated with, and engaged in what I love. And I remain grateful for it.

The 2013 Shurden Lectures at Stetson University

The Shurden Lectures were established by Dr. Walter B. Shurden and Dr. Kay W. Shurden of Macon, Georgia, through a gift to the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. The Shurden Lecturers embody a commitment to religious freedom and the separation of church and state. The lectures are held at Mercer University every three years and at another seminary, college or university the other years.

Stetson University is happy to be selected as the site for the 2013 Shurden Lectures to be held on April 9 and 10, 2013, featuring Brent Walker, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., and Stetson College of Law graduate. He will deliver three lectures over the course of the two days on our DeLand Campus. More details regarding the 2013 lectures can be found on the Stetson University calendar in the spring of 2013. Past lecturers include Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. James M. Dunn, Dr. Charles G. Adams, and Dr. Randall Balmer.

Theta Alpha Kappa 2012

Theta Alpha Kappa is a national honor society for professors and students of religious studies/theology. Four new members joined Stetson's Alpha Gamma Omicron chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa on April 12th; **Mahdiya Fazel**, majoring in Religious Studies and Psychology; **Christopher Dell**, majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Spanish; **Kiara John**, majoring in Religious Studies and Psychology; **Jessica Allen**, majoring in English and Religious Studies. To date, Theta Alpha Kappa chapter Alpha Gamma Omicron, has inducted 116 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, Mahdiya Fazel, Christopher Dell, Kiara John, and Dr. Mitchell Reddish. Not Pictured: Jessica Allen

Continued from page 1—THOUGHTS FROM DR. QUEEN-SUTHERLAND

Wisdom (Queen-Sutherland), *Self and World* (Sapp), *The Dynamics of Friendship* (Musser), and *Sick Religion vs. Healthy Religion* (Lucas) are titles of courses offered for entering students. *Frontiers in Bioethics* (Sutherland), *In Search of Jesus* (Reddish), and *Wickedness, Suffering and Pain: The Bain of Evil* (Musser) are topics for juniors.

Kandy Queen-Sutherland, Sam R Marks Professor of Religion