

2122 Roswell Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28207
August 16, 1988

Professor Walter H. Capps
Department of Religious Studies
University of California
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93106

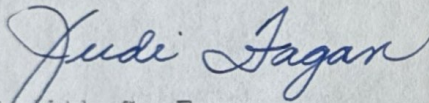
Dear Professor Capps:

For your information I am enclosing the announcement of our colloquium that was sent to the departments of religious studies within the state of North Carolina. I am also sending you a copy of Excursis, a publication of the graduate students of the department in Chapel Hill.

We are hoping to publish our colloquium proceedings in the next issue. Would you be willing to have a version of your presentation ready by the end of September for publication in Excursis?

I look forward to hearing your presentations both in Charlotte and in Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith C. Fagan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Judith C. Fagan



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

Department of Religious Studies

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
101 Saunders Hall 043 A
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

July 21, 1988

Dear Colleague:

On Saturday, September 17 a colloquium on "The Place of Religious Studies in the Academy" will be held at UNC-Chapel Hill. Walter H. Capps, professor of religious studies at the University of California-Santa Barbara, will give the keynote address. Additional presentation/discussion sessions will explore the unique situation (and problems) of religious studies in the academy.

Professor Capps, whose course on the Vietnam War was featured recently on "60 Minutes," is currently writing a book on the future of religious studies. Among other positions, he is former president of the Council for the Study of Religion, former (and current acting) Director of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and former national president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He has taught at Santa Barbara since 1964.

Among his books are The Monastic Impulse (1983), The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience (1982), Silent Fire: An Invitation to Western Mysticism (1978), and Seeing With a Native Eye: Essays on Native American Religion (1976). He holds Ph.D., M.A. and S.T.M. degrees from Yale University, a M.Div. from Augustana Theological Seminary, and a B.S. from Portland State University.

The colloquium will be held in Toy Lounge, which is on the fourth floor of Dey Hall on the UNCCH campus (map enclosed). We have consciously avoided scheduling the colloquium on a football weekend, so parking should not be too much of a problem.

If possible, participants should register ahead of time so that we can pre-plan such important logistics as the quantity of coffee and doughnuts to have on hand. A small registration fee of \$5.00 is requested to cover our incidental expenses.

We are trying to set a relatively informal tone for the colloquium. Presenters have been asked to keep their presentations short (about 10-15 minutes) to allow maximum time for discussion.

To register, or for more information, contact James R. Lewis, Department of Religious Studies, 101 Saunders Hall CB #3225, UNCCH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. After August 15, registrations and inquiries should be addressed to Lawrence Snyder at the above address.

Preliminary Program

10:30 - Registration. Coffee & Doughnuts.

11:00 - Keynote Address

Chair: Tomoko Masuzawa

Walter H. Capps, University of California at Santa Barbara

"Where is Religious Studies Going?"

12:15 - Break for Lunch

1:15-3:00 - Religious Studies as a Discipline

Chair: Lawrence Snyder

John A. Santucci, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Religious Studies and Social History: Complementary Methods"

Edward B. St. Clair, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"What is Religious about Religious Studies?"

T.B.A.

3:15-5:00 - Teaching Religious Studies

Chair: Lydia Hoyle

James J. Megivern, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

"Addressing the Problem of Sexism in the Intro to Religion Course"

Joanne P. Waghorne, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Peculiar Problems of Teaching Hinduism"

Jeffery C. Pugh, Elon College

"Is Anything There?: Can Religious Studies Be Taught Objectively?"

Preregistration

THE PLACE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN THE ACADEMY

Name _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Address _____

_____ \$5. registration fee enclosed.

August, 1988 Volume 1, Number 1

Excursus:

A Review of Religious Studies



Myth, History, and Tradition

Excursus: A Review of Religious Studies

Editor:

MARTY MINNER

Assistant Editor:

TIM ALLEN

Excursus is produced by the graduate students of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is intended to provide a forum for the broader academic community in the North Carolina region. Comment, critical response, and news items are invited. Send submissions to:

Excursus
Department of Religious Studies
101 Saunders Hall CB 3225
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

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"Joseph Smith Receiving the Plates."
Painting by Kenneth Riley.
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Role of Religious Studies is Topic of Fall Colloquium

"The Place of Religious Studies in the Academy" will be the topic of a regional colloquium September 17 at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Walter H. Capps, professor of religious studies at the University of California-Santa Barbara, will give the keynote address. Additional presentations will explore philosophical and practical problems in teaching religious studies. Topics under discussion include the following:

Is religious studies a discipline? Does it have a unique perspective to bring to bear on the phenomenon of religion?

Is the study of non-Western religions segregated from the study of Western traditions? If so, why? What can or what should be done about this split?

Can teachers justify challenging students to reflect on their religious faith? If not, isn't this an unavoidable consequence of teaching religion? If so, how should this challenge be presented?

Professor Capps, whose course on the Vietnam War was featured recently on "60 Minutes," is writing a book on the future of religious studies. He is former president of the Council for the Study of Religion, and has taught at Santa Barbara since 1964.

Among his books are *The Monastic Impulse* (1983), *The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience* (1982), *Silent Fire: An Invitation to Western Mysticism* (1978), and *Seeing With a Native Eye: Essays on Native American Religion* (1976). He holds the Ph.D. from Yale University and the M.Div. from Augustana Theological Seminary.

More information may be obtained from James R. Lewis, Department of Religious Studies, 101 Saunders Hall CB 3225, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Appointments in Chapel Hill

The fall semester will bring a new chairman and an ancient Mediterranean specialist for the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill.

John Van Seters, the James A. Gray Professor of Biblical Literature since 1977, will resume teaching full time after completing an eight-year term as chairman. His replacement will be Jack M. Sasson, who has taught biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies at UNC since 1966. During a one-year research sabbatical by Professor Sasson, James H. Sanford will be the interim chairman. He has taught at UNC since 1971 and specializes in history of religions and Far Eastern religions.

Bart D. Ehrman has been appointed assistant professor and this fall will teach courses in New Testament and Graeco-Roman religion. He has taught at Rutgers University since 1984, and received the Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Richard H. Seager, who received the Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1987, has received a one-year appointment to teach American religion and world religions. Brian B. Schmidt, who is completing his Ph.D. at Oxford University, will teach Hebrew and Old Testament for one year.

FORTHCOMING

Mac Linscott Ricketts, chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Louisburg College, has written *Mircea Eliade: The Romanian Roots, 1907-1945*, being published in two volumes by East European Monographs and distributed by Columbia University Press. Professor Ricketts is translator of three Eliade works being published by the Ohio State University Press as *Youth Without Youth* and *Other Novellas*, edited by Matei Calinescu. Ricketts is also editor and translator of the second volume of Eliade's autobiography, scheduled for September publication by the the University of Chicago Press.

Robert K. Gustafson, chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Pembroke State University, is writing *The Life and Times of James Woodrow*, a study of religion and science in the pre- and post-Civil War South as seen through the life of the uncle to President Woodrow Wilson. Woodrow occupied the first chair of science and religion at Columbia Theological Seminary, then in South Carolina, where his views on evolution led to his dismissal.