

Newslink

State Notes

New South Wales

Australian National University

Religious units for advanced years within the Asian Studies department continue to attract many students. The semester unit Islam in Asia (taught by Tony Johns and tutored by Peter Riddell) had 50 enrolments in 1991. The Qur'an in Translation, a semester unit taught and tutored by Johns, had 30 students. Dr A D Street's semester unit, Arabic Literature in Translation - which has significant religious content, attracted 12.

In 1992 a new full year first year unit, Islam: history and institutions, will be offered by Dr Street and Professor Johns, and is expected to attract at least 50 students.

Tony Johns
Asian Studies

University of New England, Armidale

Alan Black of Sociology has returned from study leave in UK and America. Alan has been promoted to Associate Professor during his absence.

A new Lectureship in Studies in Religion has been created within the Philosophy Department. Roland Boer (BD, MTh Sydney, almost completed PhD McGill) has been appointed with the task of preparing two first year one semester units - one on Religious Experience and one on ways of studying Religion - for 1992.

Peter Hobson
Social, Cultural and Curriculum Studies

Queensland

University of Queensland

Richard Hutch has been promoted to Reader in the Department of Studies in

Religion and was elected to continue as Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts. He became an Australian citizen in November. Richard represents the Academic Staff Asso-

ciation on the Board of Directors of the Campus Kindergarten. Since mid 1991 he has convened the Brisbane Biography Group within the Queensland Writers' Centre.

Ian Gillman retires mid-1992 but will be Acting Head of Department in 1st semester while Philip Almond has a semester free from teaching and administrative duties. Michael Lattke will be on study leave in Germany in 1st semester. Ross Reat who has been on study leave in 2nd semester 1991, will take long service leave for 1st semester 1992. Ed Conrad attended the 1991 society of Biblical Literature conference in Kansas City and responded to papers.

The Department is looking forward to a surge in enrolments for 1992 as the Government's decision to extend AUSTUDY benefits to theological students will en-

able funding of a five year joint BA/BTheol to be taught part by the University and part by the Theological Colleges.

A three year term appointment in Primal Religions will commence in 2nd semester 1992. The appointment is still to be decided.

Richard Hutch

Women's Caucus - Brisbane Branch

The Women's Caucus, led by Deb Selway, invited all women interested in the study of religion to meet for a Christmas social event and is organising regular meetings with guest speakers. Women interested in being involved can contact Lynn-Marie Lewis on 893 0698.

South Australia

University of South Australia

Dr Norman Habel and Dr Basil Moore have been granted Professorships in the

new University and Dr Robert Crotty an Associate Professorship.

Norm Habel

Victoria

La Trobe University

During August and September 1991 John Painter was on leave in Europe. His new book on the Gospel of John has just been published by T & T Clarke in Edinburgh. In 1991 he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Paul Rule was on leave in America and China and Greg Horsley in Europe. Visiting Professor Eric Osborne will be

delivering a series of lectures at the Pittsburg Theological Seminary from March-May 1992. Postgraduate numbers continue to expand and the new MA by coursework comes on stream in 1992.

Greg Bailey
Religious Studies

New Zealand News

from the Yana

University of Canterbury

Paul Harrison left on November 13 to take up his three months' fellowship at the International Institute of Buddhist Studies in Tokyo. During his absence Colin Brown was acting subject coordinator in Religious Studies.

Bill Shepard continues to enjoy his peripatetic sabbatical: speaking at a conference in Tehran organised by the Institute for Political and International Studies; visiting past students and Islamic schools in Malaysia; lecturing at Georgetown University in Washington, DC and attending the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America. He hopes to be back in NZ in June after wandering through UK, France and various countries in the Muslim world.

Massey University

The Massey department of Religious Studies hopes to introduce a full BA(Hons)/MA programme for 1993. The following papers are being considered: Mysticism in World Religions Inter-religious Dialogue Prophecy and Prophetic Movements Phenomenological Study of Selected Texts

along with options for Special Topics, related papers from other disciplines, and a research exercise or mini-thesis.

Plans to open a second campus at Albany offer great opportunities for Religious Studies, initially with the

appointment of a local tutor and later with a full-time position.

Peter Donovan is looking for anyone interested in assisting or offering information for a research project on **Religious Experience in Inter-Faith Contexts**. Write to Peter if you have any suggestions.

University of Otago

An era has ended at Otago with the retirement of Associate Professor Albert Moore. Appointed as sole lecturer in Religious Studies in 1966, he saw the department grow to its present strength of three staff members, with courses from first year through to PhD. As of December a replacement had still not been appointed, and in 1992 his place will be filled by Adrienne Wyatt who has recently completed her PhD in the department.

University of Waikato

Managed entry factors meant a drop in courses offered above Part I this year, but in round figures 140 students enrolled for two Part I courses, including 10 in the Rotorua distance education class. 12 students completed the new Part II paper - Religions in China and Japan.

The decision of the School of Humanities to locate the next Fellow in the field of Religious Studies is good news. An appointment, to be taken up for a period of 12 months beginning July 1992, is currently advertised.

It is worth noting that a second full-time appointment in Religious Studies is ranked third in the Humanities' priorities and hopefully will be advertised during 1992.

Volume II of the series Waikato Studies in Religion, *Encounters with Judaism: Jewish studies in a non-Jewish world* edited by Samuel Rodin, will be out shortly.

Bryan Gilling is currently putting the finishing touches to the editing of Volume III, an issue on the theme of fundamentalism.

The first completed higher degree thesis, for the MPhil degree, has been submitted and there is one part-time doctoral candidate enrolled.

Other Groups News

The Multifaith Association of South Australia

This association arose from two sources. Its main members and founders are the members of the Three Faiths Tours set up in South Australia's sesqui-centennial year 1986. The actual start came about as a result of the Office of Multicultural Affairs within the Prime Minister's department during the Bicentennial Year of NSW's foundation.

The group of Buddhism, Christian and Jewish people who set up the Three Faiths Tours, under the inspiration of Jim Houston of the Multifaith Centre in Melbourne, called a half-day seminar in April 1988. Following the April seminar, a meeting was held in May at which the nucleus of the MFASA was formed. These meetings were subsidised by the Federal Government through the Office of Multicultural Affairs as part of the government's consultation process for finding an Agenda for Multicultural Australia. It was the intention to further a process which was already taking place of greater understanding and appreciation of each other's faiths, beliefs and practices.

During the remainder of 1988 an interim committee met on a monthly basis while a subcommittee met separately to

draw up a constitution. After much to-ing and fro-ing the Constitution passed between the two committees until a final copy was ready in October to send out to the various faiths for their consideration, comments and amendment.

The members of the Association at this time were Baha'i, Buddhism, Christian (South Australian Council of Churches), Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Koori (observers), Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Sai Baba, Sir Chi Moy and Sikh (observers - joined May 1991).

Following the adoption of the Constitution, an AGM was held in March 1989 and the interim committee ratified. The Association continued to meet on a two monthly basis. The main initiatives for 1989 were further work on a Multifaith Calendar and a revamping of the hotel and tourist brochures with time and place of services of various faiths.

Following the 1990 AGM we again discussed the Associations aims and decided to implement some of the educational objectives. Working through the University Chaplains, two Christian/Islamic presentations, with Jeff Foale (Christian) and the Turkish Imam speak-

ing, were made to 100 Adelaide' students and 50 Flinders' students. We also presented a multifaith service with all member faiths taking part.

The possibility of a Multifaith Service on World Religions Day in 1992 is being explored.

Further information is available from Karl Quinn, 27 Hallett St, Adelaide 5000.

Karl Quinn
MFASA

Australian Conferences

4th International Aegean Conference April 1992

University of Tasmania

Theme: Aegean Bronze Age Iconography: Shaping a Methodology

Contact: Janice Crowley, University of Tasmania, Hobart 5001

9th Biennial Asian Studies Conference. July 6-9 1992

UNE

Armidale

Contact: Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Department of Economic History, University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351.

West-East Philosophy Conference 5-12 July 1992

Brisbane

In conjunction with the Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) annual conference, the Philosophy East-West group in Honolulu will in part sponsor the West-East sessions. Four prominent philosophers from North America and other parts of the world (Asia, NZ, UK) will also be participating.

Religion, Reason and Nature in Early Modern Europe

Flinders University Adelaide

July 22-25, 1992

Conference sponsored by The Centre for British Studies, Adelaide and The His-

tory of Ideas Program, Australian National University

Contact: Dr Robert Crocker, Discipline of History, School of Social Sciences, Flinders University of South Australia, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide, 5001

Religion in the Ancient World (the Near East, Greece, Rome and Christianity)

1-3 July 1993, University of New England

Contact: Matthew Dillon or Dr Lynda Garland, Department of Classical and Ancient History, University of New England, Armidale 2351. Phone: 067 73 2555

AASR !!!

2-5 July 1993, University of New England, Armidale

Contact: Prof Alan Black, Sociology, UNE 2351

Australian Association for Byzantine Studies: Eighth Conference

2-4 July 1993, Armidale

Theme: Conformity and Non-Conformity in Byzantium

Contact : see Lynda Garland UNE above

Ancient History in a Modern University

July 8-13 1993, Macquarie University

Papers in the areas: Ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece and Rome (inc Early Christianity and Late Antiquity

Contact: Dr Alanna Nobbs or Dr
Bruce Harris
Ancient History Document Research Centre,
Macquarie U 2109
Tel: 02 805 7512 Fax: 02 805 8892

Call for Papers: Pre-registration with
title is due by May 31st, 1992. Submission
of abstract is January 7th, 1993.

Correspondence Address: Secretariat
IXth World Sanskrit Conference
Division of Religious Studies
La Trobe University
Bundoora 3083
Victoria, Australia
Tel: 61-3-479 2343
Fax: 61-3-478 5814

IXth World Sanskrit Conference
International Association for Sanskrit
Studies
January 10 - 16, 1994
Venue: International House, University
of Melbourne

Overseas Conferences Coming Up !

IAHR Regional Conference
6-10 April, 1992
Beijing, China

Conference themes:

1. Foreign Religions and Chinese Culture
2. Modernisation and religion.

Contact: Chinese Association for Religious
Studies
Institute for the Study of World Religions
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
5 Jiannei Street
Beijing, China.
or Michael Pye, Secretary General IAHR,
Lancaster University (See IAHR News)

Religious Minorities; The State; Where
do we go from here?/ Europe and the
World

For information contact: Dr Grace
Davie, Department of Sociology, Amory
Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4
4RJ; Dr Kim Knott, Department of Theology
and Religious Studies, The University,
Leeds, LS2 9JT; Professor Kenneth
Medhurst, Department of European Studies,
The University, Bradford, BD7 1DP

British Sociological Association
Sociology of Religion Study Group
British Association for the Study of
Religions
Political Science Association: Religion
and Politics Section
Joint Conference
St Mary's College Twickenham
8-11 April 1992

Theme: Religion in the Common European
Home

Five plenary sessions: Unity and Diversity;
Europe's intellectual roots/
Europe's theological tradition; Europe's

**Network for the Study of Implicit
Religion**

Denton Conference
8-19 May 1992

Denton Hall, Ilkley, nr. Bradford
Contact: Edward Bailey, The Rectory,
58 High St, Winterbourne, Bristol BS17
1JQ

Marriage in Scripture, Canon Law,
family ethics, feminism, the Dynamics
of covenant relationships, conflict
resolution

28-31 May, 1992
Allentown PA

Contact: Pierre Hegy, Sociology, Adelphi
University, Garden City, NY 11530

Methodology in the Study of Religion

June 22-24, 1992

Aarhus University, Denmark

Each day of the conference will be devoted to the examination of the relationship of the study of religion with one of either the social, textual or historical sciences.

Contact: Armin W Geertz, Hovedbygningen, Aarhus University, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

Association for the Sociology of Religion
1992 Annual Meeting
August 18-20
Pittsburg, PA

Theme: Religion and the Reconstruction of Society

Contact: H. Wesley Perkins, Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456

Conference on Hispanic American Catholics: Cultural Identity & Social/Religious Integration

During the ASR meeting in Pittsburg

Contact: Pierre Hegy - see Marriage above.

New Zealand Association for the Study of Religion

1992 Conference - 27-30 August

Wellington College of Education, Karori

\$NZ200 - registration and full board

Contact: Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington. PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ

Association for Humanist Sociology - 1992 Meeting

October 22-25, Portland, Maine

Theme: Dispelling Myths - Seeking a Just World Order

Contact: Jill Bystydzienski, Sociology, Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 1992 Annual Meeting

Washington, D.C.

November 6-8

Theme: Religion and Power

Contact: Nancy Nason-Clark, Department of Sociology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A3

Religious Research Association 1992 Annual Meeting

Washington D.C.

November 6-8

Theme: Religion Through Narrative

Contact: Alan K Mock, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

1993 Annual Meeting

29-31 October

Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact: Anna Davidson, Pierce Hall #193, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Religious Research Association 1993 Annual Meeting

29-31 October

Raleigh, NC

Contact: Ms Lorraine d'Antonio, Marist Hall (Room 108), Catholic University of America, Washington DC 20064