

**Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Annual Departmental Report for the Year 2007
Submitted by Mary Sirridge, Spring 2008**

Faculty:

The department began the 2007 calendar year with five full professors, six associate professors, five assistant professors, two full time instructors, and six adjunct instructors. Changes to be noted include:

- Paula Arai joined the Religious Studies faculty in fall 2007 as an associate professor.
- Rodger Payne was department chair during Spring 2007 but left LSU to assume a job at UNC Asheville. He was succeeded by Mary Sirridge who served as chair during fall 2007.
- Husain Sarkar received an Atlas grant and did not teach for the entire year.
- Francois Raffoul received an Atlas Grant and did not teach for the entire year.
- Emil Badici joined the Philosophy faculty as a full time instructor in fall 2007.
- Madhuri Yadlapati went from adjunct to full time instructor starting in fall 2007.
- Jeff Roland underwent his three-year review and was reappointed.
- Ian Crystal took over from Greg Schufreider as assistant chair for the Philosophy section.
- Gail Hinich Sutherland took over from Delbert Burkett as assistant chair for the Religious Studies section.
- Charles Isbell took a third-year leave from his teaching duties in fall 2007.
- Jon Cogburn has been on research leave last semester and this one.
- Alison Denham was a visiting member of the Philosophy faculty during spring 2007.
- Jorn Sonderholm was a full time instructor during spring 2007 but not during the fall.
- Camille Bradstreet was an adjunct instructor in Religious Studies during spring 2007.

Courses, curricula, and teaching:

- Delbert Burkett received the Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Honors College.
- During spring 2007, the Philosophy faculty offered one course, PHIL 4011, that is crosslisted with Linguistics.
- During fall 2007, the Philosophy faculty offered PHIL 3090 which is crosslisted with German and PHIL 4944 which is crosslisted with Religious Studies.
- Mary Sirridge taught in the Honors program during spring 2007.
- During the spring 2007, the Religious Studies faculty taught REL 2004 which is crosslisted with Hebrew.
- During the fall 2007, the Religious Studies faculty taught REL 4125 which was crosslisted with History.
- New courses added to departmental offerings during 2007 were REL 4301, Theories of Religion; REL 3030, Topics in Mysticism; REL 4850, Buddhist Psychology; PHIL 2745, Knowledge and Reality; and PHIL 2053, Honors History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.
- Numerous members of the faculty offered independent study sections.
- One M.A. student successfully completed his program.

Faculty research, publications, and participation in academic conferences

- Seven articles were accepted for publication. Four articles appeared in publication. One book appeared in publication. One paperback version of a previously published work appeared in publication. One translated book appeared in publication.
- Edward Henderson presented an invited talk at a conference in September 2007 in Oriel College Oxford.
- Francois Raffoul gave seven (!) invited talks at conferences and panels.
- Husain Sarkar delivered two invited lectures at the LSU Collegium for Science and Religion.
- Delbert Burkett presented a paper at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Vienna, Austria. He was also invited to participate in a discussion at the national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

- Stuart Irvine hosted and directed a Seminar in the Hebrew Bible at LSU.

Funding:

- Stuart Irvine received the DAAD Faculty Research Grant to travel to Munich.
- Gail Hinich Sutherland received a seed grant from the American Academy of Religion to study "The Religion Major and Liberal Education".
- John Whittaker still receives funding from the Metanexus foundation which funds the Collegium for Science and Religion.
- Francois Raffoul received an ATLAS grant for 2006-7.
- Edward Henderson was appointed Seynaeve Professor in Christian Studies.
- Husain Sarkar received the ATLAS grant for 2006-7.

Service to the University, the profession, and the community:

- Paula Arai served as a jury member at the American Academy of Religion to choose the "Best First Book in the History of Religions." She served as the cochair of Japanese Religions Group at the American Academy of Religions. She was also invited to be an evaluator for the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships.
- Gail Hinich Sutherland organized three faculty searches within Religious Studies.
- While serving as assistant chair of the department, she also became the director of Asian Studies and served on the coordinating council of Women's and Gender Studies. She continues to work toward the reinstatement of the B.A. in Religious Studies.
- John Whittaker served as associate editor for the International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion.
- Delbert Burkett was appointed to an ad hoc committee of the University Senate on interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs, as well as serving as senator at large.
- Stuart Irvine continues to serve as undergraduate advisor in Religious Studies.
- Reem Meshal served on the selection committee for a joint hire in International Studies and Foreign Languages for a position in Arabic Language and Literature. She also served on a search committee for the Department of History for a position in Russian history.

- Francois Raffoul served as an evaluator for the Chateaubriand Fellowship (a grant offered by the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. for grad. Students in the humanities).
- Husain Sarkar was invited to serve on the panel of LEADERSHIP LSU.
- Greg Schufreider continues to serve as director of graduate studies in Philosophy.
- Faculty refereed six books and articles for publication and reviewed one book.