

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Annual Departmental Report for 2008
Submitted by Mary Sirridge, Spring 2009

Administrative:

1. The proposal for a separate Religious Studies BA was refiled with the revisions required by the Board of Regents. However, REL had filed an updated curriculum, which had passed CAPPE and C&C at the Academic Affairs level;

- The proposal that was refiled incorporated the required revision per the recommendation of the Board of Regents. Thus
- The proposal submitted in accord with those recommendations of BOR found itself not in keeping with curriculum approved in the meantime by CAPPE and C&C, i.e., in keeping with no extant approved curriculum;
- and so the whole REL curriculum had to be resubmitted, this time in line with the BOR recommendations;
- And all the curriculum changes for Philosophy and Religious Studies, including changes to bring us in line with the new College requirements and reduction of the total number of hours in the major, were tabled by the Registrar's office pending the approval of the now delayed, but refiled, REL BA;
- The REL BA now falls under the moratorium on new programs. Confused? You should be. But the bottom line is that we are the only department in the College with the old requirements (6 hrs of history, 2 hrs. of lab attached to the science sequence, 9 hrs of social sciences distributed over two fields, no one of which may be history.)

2. The majority of work for the program review was completed in the end of fall semester, 2008.

3. The majority of work for re-submission of courses for GenEd status was completed in fall semester, 2008.

4. Mary Sirridge was on leave in Spring, 2008, and Gail Sutherland served as Interim Chairman of the department in Spring, 2008.

Faculty:

On Gail Sutherland's Watch

1. Stephen Finley (Rice University) was hired on a tenure track line in Religious Studies. He has (Spring, 2008) defended his dissertation and will pick up an appointment as assistant professor in Fall, 2009.

2. James Rocha (UCLA) was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in Philosophy starting in fall, 2009.

3. Michael Pasquier (Florida State) was hired as a tenure-track Religious Studies professor, but is spending this year at Harvard on a post-doc and is being replaced by Michael Gueno, who is ABD at Florida State.

Continuing ...

3. A search for a visiting assistant professor/instructor in philosophy was authorized for fall, 2009. This position now falls under the moratorium on new hires. We will try to get it authorized for spring, 2010, or Fall, 2010.

4. Paula Arai has been awarded an ATLAS grant, which has given her fall semester, 2008 off from teaching, and will continue into spring, 2009.

5. Jon Cogburn, who was still on leave in spring, 2008, returned to full time teaching in fall, 2009.

Courses, Curricula and Teaching

1. See "Administrative" above for progress in establishing the independent REL BA.

2. Ed Song and Ed Henderson taught in the University Honors Program in spring semester 2008.

3. REL offered REL 3004 (cross-listed with ANTH) Spring and Fall, 2008; REL 3786 (cross-listed with INTL) Spring and Fall, 2008; REL 3090 (cross-listed with CLST) Spring, 2008; and REL 4124 (cross-listed with AAAS 4124) in Fall, 2008; REL 2004 (Cross-listed with HEBR) in Fall, 2008.

4. Five MA's in philosophy were awarded in 2008.

Faculty research, publications and participation at academic conferences

- Jon Cogburn published *Philosophy Through Video Games* with Routledge.
- Francois Raffoul has published *Rethinking Facticity* with SUNY Press, and is Coeditor of *French Interpretations of Heidegger* with SUNY Press. Raffoul has also published five articles, and has given five conference presentations or invited lectures.
- Jeffrey Roland has published two articles and a review.
- Greg Schufreider has published two articles.
- Mary Sirridge gave a presentation at the 17th meeting of the European Symposium on Logic and Semantics.
- Edward Song gave two presentations at national meetings.
- Paula Arai has given five professional presentations.
- Delbert Burkett has given five presentations at national and international meetings.

- Charles Isbell has had a scholarly work re-issued, made one scholarly presentation, published one article, and published a more popular work, *Sermons From a Southern Rabbi*.
- Stephen Finley participated in a panel at Yale University.
- Husain Sarkar and Francois Raffoul were named "Rainmakers" of LSU

Funding

- Paula Arai has completed her first semester of ATLAS support.
- Delbert Burkett has been named the holder without title of the Senyaeve Professorship in New Testament
- Reem Meshal is Co-PI with Karl Roider of a grant from LEH for the teaching of Middle East and Ottoman history to Louisiana high school teachers (the grant has since been funded.)

Service to the University, the professions and the community

- Jon Cogburn has served as vice-president of the A&S Faculty Senate.
- Delbert Burkett has served as chair and secretary of the Academic Oversight Committee of the A&S Senate, as acting president of the A&S faculty senate in Fall, 2008, Senator at Large in the A&S Senate; member of the Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Programs of the LSU Faculty Senate; member of the Academic Oversight Committee of the A&S Senate.
- Greg Schufreider has served as Director of Graduate Studies in philosophy for 2008.
- Gail Sutherland has served as Assistant Chair (Fall, 2008) and Interim Chair (Spring, 2008) and Director of Religious Studies for 2008.
- Stuart Irvine serves as Undergraduate Advisor for Religious Studies.
- Mary Sirridge and Ed Henderson and Ian Crystal served as Undergraduate Advisors for philosophy in 2008
- Faculty reviewed numerous books and articles for publication, served on advisory boards, served as external referees in Promotion and Tenure cases at other universities, and served on PhD committees throughout LSU.