

**Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Annual Departmental Report for 2009  
Submitted by Mary Sirridge, April 6, 2010**

**Administrative:**

1. With the 2010 catalog, we will finally have brought our degree requirements into line with those of the College: 27 hours required for the major, no more 6 hr. history requirement; the science sequence no longer requires 2 hrs. of lab attached to the science sequence; the GenEd requirement of 3 hrs. of social science at or above the 2000 level has been adopted. The process was completed in Fall semester, 2009. As of August, 2010 Philosophy majors will be able to switch their catalog year to 2010 and get the benefit of the change.
2. The program review was completed in spring semester, 2008. The committee report was received in June of 2008. The memorandum of agreement was received in fall semester, 2008. The departmental response has been handed in spring, 2009.
3. Re-submission of 23 departmental courses for GenEd status was completed in fall semester, 2008; in December, 2009 the department conducted its first assessment of outcomes in these courses. It cannot be said that this first round was a complete success.

**Faculty:**

**New**

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

**Continuing ...**

2. 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 when the moratorium lifts.
3. Paula Arai has been awarded an ATLAS grant, which gave her spring, 2009 off from teaching.
4. Jon Cogburn, who was still on leave in spring, 2008, returned to full time teaching in fall, 2009.
5. Michael Pasquier, who was on leave for 2008-2009 returned to campus teaching in fall, 2009.

**Courses, Curricula and Teaching**

1. Phil 2121 (Environmental Ethics) was approved at all levels and is scheduled for Fall semester, 2010. REL 2033 (American Religions) has been approved at the College level; REL 4035 (Women in Buddhism), PHIL 3062 (Introduction to Political Philosophy) and PHIL 3072 (Rawls) have all been submitted to CAPPE for a second approval, changes requested by C&C having been implemented.

2. Ed Song, Mary Sirridge, Delbert Burkett and Ed Henderson taught in the University Honors Program in spring semester 2009. Stephen Finley taught AAAS 3024.

3. Cross-listed courses:

REL offered REL 3004 (cross-listed with ANTH) Spring and Fall, 2009

REL 3786 (cross-listed with INTL) Spring and Fall, 2009

REL/PHIL 2028 was offered in Fall, 2009

4. Six MA's in philosophy were awarded in 2009.

5. Stephen Finley completed a summer institute for faculty interest in Communication Across the Curriculum. Michael Pasquier has applied for the institute for training in service learning.

### **Personnel actions and Status Changes**

- Stephen Finley's PhD was awarded by Rice University in spring, 2009, and he began the fall semester, 2009 as an assistant professor of religious studies with a joint appointment in AAAS ..
- Delbert Burkett has been recommended for promotion to full professor at the campus level.
- Francois Raffoul has been recommended for promotion to full professor at the campus level.
- Charles Isbell has been recommended for tenure and promotion to associate professor at the campus level.

### **Faculty research, publications and participation at academic conferences**

- Jon Cogburn's *Philosophy Through Video Games* with Routledge appeared in spring, 2009; he has published three papers, and has appeared in two on-line interviews in connection with the book.
- Francois Raffoul's *Rethinking Facticity* with SUNY Press, appeared in fall, 2009; he is co-editor of *French Interpretations of Heidegger* with SUNY Press. And he has accepted the editorship of the Continuum *Companion to Heidegger*. He has published numerous articles and made several presentations.
- Delbert Burkett's book *Rethinking the Gospel Sources Vol. 2: the Unity and Plurality of Q* appeared in summer, 2009 in the SBL monograph series. He has given four presentations at national and international meetings. He has accepted the editorship of the *Blackwell Companion to Jesus*.

- Paula Arai has a manuscript under review with University of Hawaii Press.
- Stephen Finley has a book manuscript under review with Oxford University Press
- Jeffrey Roland has published two articles.
- Mary Sirridge gave a presentation at the Cornell Summer Conference on Medieval Philosophy and published one article.
- Edward Song has published one article.

### **Funding**

- Paula Arai completed her second semester of ATLAS support in Spring, 2009.
- Reem Meshal was Co-PI with Karl Roider of a grant from LEH for the teaching of Middle East and Ottoman history to Louisiana high school teachers, summer, 2009.
- Delbert Burkett finished his first semester of ATLAS support in fall semester, 2009.

### **Service to the University, the professions and the community**

- 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.
- James Rocha serves on the CAPPE committee of the College.
- Greg Schufreider has served as Director of Graduate Studies in philosophy for 2009.
- Gail Sutherland has served as Assistant Chair (Spring, Fall, 2009) and Director of Religious Studies for 2009.
- Stuart Irvine has served as Undergraduate Advisor for Religious Studies.
- Mary Sirridge and Ed Henderson and Jon Cogburn 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.