

Religious Studies



Letter from the Chair

Dr. Kevin McCrudden

The spring semester commences with several items of good news to announce as well as new transitions to anticipate. Owing to the success of our FYS courses, our newly diversified course offerings, and timely luncheon/lecture events, I am happy to share with everyone that the Religious Studies major has grown to include 17 students! This is a nice complement to our numbers in the minor, which have always been consistently strong. As we look further down the road toward the conclusion of the regular academic year, two events stand out to me for their potential to shape our department in invigorating ways: our recent new curricula proposals that promise to revitalize both the major/minor and the graduate programs and the realization of the long anticipated move to our new home at the Humanities House at the end of May/early June.

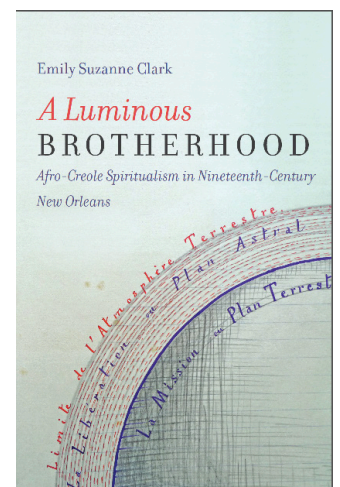


On a sadder note, we will unfortunately be saying goodbye to the incomparable Sr. Joy Milos, C.S.J., who retires at the end of this semester after 30 plus years of outstanding service to our department, the University, and the community. While we wish her well, we all want her to know that she will be deeply missed.

Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations, Dr. Clark!

Assistant Professor Emily Clark's book *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans* has won three awards since being published in fall 2016. It was the winner of the 2017 Francis B. Simkins Award from the Southern Historical Association for best first book in southern history in a two-year period; winner of the 2017 Michael Thomason Award from the Gulf South Historical Association for best book; and a 2017 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title from Choice Reviews (an honor bestowed on approximately 3% of academic books).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 26, 2018

Spring Flannery Lecture
"Cultivating Civic Kinship: A
Christian Ethic of Immigration"
Feat. Dr. Kristin Heyer
6 PM Hemmingson Center
Ballroom

March 1, 2018

Being Religious Interreligiously
Lecture Series
"Would There Be Christianity
Without Migration? Church as a
Community of Migrants"
Feat. Peter Cho Phan
5 PM Hemmingson Center
Ballroom

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Professor Kevin Brown

Professor Brown is a doctoral candidate in Systematic Theology at Boston College and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University. His research includes projects in ecclesiology, ecumenism, Christian spirituality, the theology of Sandra Schneiders, the theology of Jon Sobrino, and practical theology. His work has been published in *Visions of Hope: Emerging Theologians and the Future of the Church* (Orbis, 2013) and the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Professor Quan Tran, S.J.

Professor Tran is a Jesuit priest of the US West Province. He holds a Th.D. from Regis College, University of Toronto (2016), a Master of Theology (2009) and a Master of Divinity (2009) from Boston College. He had worked as a chaplain for law and graduate students at Gonzaga University once before (2009-2012). Returning to Gonzaga this time, he is a member of the Office of Mission and Ministry and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Religious Studies. His area of expertise is pragmatic and contextual theology, with emphases on Ignatian spirituality and inter-religious/cultural dialogue, especially with cultures that are influenced by Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. He is the author of some articles and books, most of which are in Vietnamese. Following Jesus the Master (Tp. Hồ Chí Minh: NXB Phương Đông, 2017), A Moment of Reflection (Tp. Hồ Chí Minh: NXB Phương Đông, 2016), "Entering Life to Find Christ" – *Đồng Hành Magazine* 02(2012), and "Wilderness – The Training Camp for Virtues" – *Đồng Hành Magazine* 03(2007) are examples.



Experience the Francis Youth Institute

June 24-30, 2018

Attention high school juniors and seniors: FYI 2018 is coming soon! Join us for a week of outdoor adventures, faith formation and prayer at Gonzaga University.

Visit us on Facebook: [facebook.com\FYIGonzaga](https://www.facebook.com/FYIGonzaga)
For more information, please contact Dr. Joe Mudd at mudd@gonzaga.edu.

Student Spotlight



Kim Griggs '18

Portland local, Kim Griggs is a Senior Religious Studies major with a concentration in religious pluralism. Looking back on her experience in the major she cherishes her interactions with professors, who she describes as an intelligent and invested group of people who have played a crucial role in propelling her forward in both her academics and faith. Kim had the opportunity to immerse herself in the culture and religious traditions of the Middle East through the study abroad program at the University of Jordan. Her trip was characterized by its immense educational and cultural value. Visits to various religious sites such as Mt. Nebo, the Red Sea and the Old City of Jerusalem were incredible ways to witness how ancient Biblical sites have evolved and persist as

symbols for contemporary society. The unsettling patriarchal culture proved to be a challenging norm to adjust to but Kim praises this experience as "an opportunity to hear a vast array of voices from different contexts and beliefs." Most enriching of this experience abroad was the chance to explore a variety of perspectives, in particular her roommate Lensa who is a practicing Muslim attending the University of Minnesota. Having the opportunity to exchange thoughtful dialogue about each of their religious experiences helped Kim gain an even deeper understanding of Islam. With her graduation date quickly approaching, Kim believes pursuing a degree in Religious Studies is important because it is so relevant to modern conversations and is a field that is actively combating ignorance and hatred in our society. Overall, her choice to major in Religious Studies has enhanced her heart for social justice, a mind for understanding, and a spirit for others.