



Ron Burke Scholarship

Department of
Philosophy and Religion



Department of Philosophy and Religion
ASH 205
University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182-0265

Application for the Ron Burke Scholarship:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Major/College: _____

Class Standing (Junior/senior): _____

Attach an 800-1200 word essay and submit to Religious Studies, ASH 205, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 6001 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68182-0265.

Ron Burke Scholarship

Scholarship Criteria

Award:

\$2500 per academic year

Deadline for Application:

28 February each year

1. Religious Studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2. Junior or senior class standing (junior standing requires 58 credit hours)
3. Write an 800 - 1200 word essay expressing deep love and passion towards pursuing a career in religious studies.

Awarded:

April each year

Scholarship Administered By:

Religious Studies at UNO

The Man For Whom The Scholarship Is Named

Dr. Ronald R. Burke was a Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and co-editor of *The Journal of Religion and Film*. Born in Harlan, Iowa, schooled at the Jesuit Creighton Prep in Omaha, he received his B.A. in philosophy and M.A. in theology from the University of Notre Dame (1966, 1968), and an M. Phil. and Ph.D. from Yale University (1970, 1974).

After taking a tenure-track position at UNO (1971), he founded the Roman Catholic Modernism Group in the American Academy of Religion (1976), and remained on its Board of Directors until his death. He was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to spend twelve months studying the history of religious studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, working with Walter Capps and Ninian Smart (1978-79). The time in California led to initiating the introductory world religions class at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

He became an associate professor in 1977. He was promoted to full professor in 1981.



1944 -2002

In 1985, he was named a "Fellow" of the UNO graduate faculty.

Winning another NEH grant in 1992, Ron spent the summer at the University of California at Berkeley, working under Claude Welch on nineteenth century theology in Europe and the United States. This led to him editing the book *John Henry Newman: Theology and Reform* (New York: Garland, 1992). He also contributed

an important interdisciplinary work on the personality of John Henry Newman for Gerard Magill's *Personality and Belief* (New York: Lanham, 1994).

Ron received a combination of grants and released time with which to initiate the new electronic *Journal of Religion and Film*. This work both intensified his appreciation for "filmic" learning and widened his sense of religion. He saw the basic and unifying questions which structure all religions to be those of how to cope with life, human yearnings, and how to confront death. Such questions are addressed not only in traditional religions, but in religions without traditional notions of God and without a "supernatural" dimension. Most pertinently, the questions are involved in a variety of contemporary films.

Ron came from a close, Roman Catholic family of seven children, raised in both rural and urban cultures. He and his wife, Mary, raised two daughters, Rebecca and Katie. Before his death from cancer on April 5 2002, he endowed the Ron Burke Scholarship.