



Religious Studies at UNO

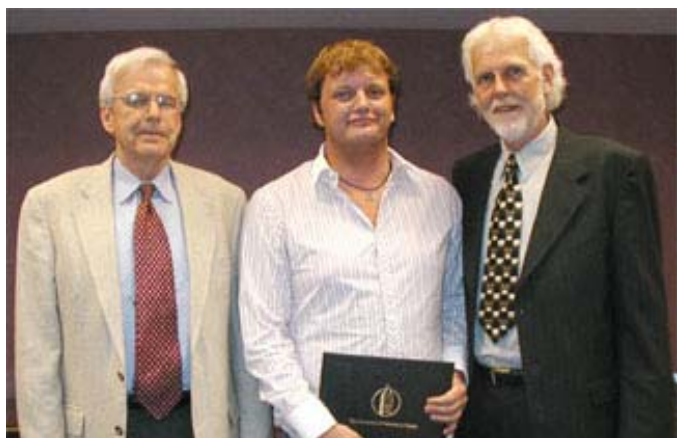
May 2005

Students and alumna recognized at Religious Studies Awards Banquet

Two scholarship winners, a distinguished alumna, religious studies honors students and graduating seniors were recognized at the 19 April Religious Studies Awards Banquet.



Todd Dagaanaar (center) with Michele Desmarais, left, and Mary Burke was named the Ron Burke Scholar for a second year.



Brett Toay (center) with Dean Shelton Hendricks (left) and Dale Stover was named the Ron Burke Memorial Scholar for the coming year.

Wendi Chiarbos Jensen (left) with Bill Blizek was recognized as the 2004-2005 Religious Studies Distinguished Alumna. Jensen, who graduated in



1996, took over the Bethsaida .

Excavation Project administration and served in that position until January when she returned to school to study elementary education.



Honors students Dawn Staszko (left) with Paul Allen Williams and Christian O'Connor with Pamela Jean Owens (right) were recognized during the program. Staszko is a religion major in the Division of Continuing Studies. O'Connor is a religion major in the College of Arts and Sciences.



Also recognized at the banquet were (from right) Nicole Strayer, a December 2004 graduate; Molly Helgesen, Janet McClearn, Joyce McCullough, May 2005 graduates; and Chriss Mountain, August 2005 graduate. Not pictured but also graduating were Amy Calvin, Robyn Charles, and Shannon Gourley, May 2005 graduates and Rae Licari, who will graduate in August.

Goldstein Lecture in October

Jerry Fowler will give the lecture at the 2005 Goldstein Lecture October 20 at 7:00 p.m. the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room on the UNO campus due to remodeling activities at the Alumni Center.

His lecture is titled, "Genocide Emergency Sudan: Who Will Survive Today?"

Fowler previously was legislative counsel for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, where he worked on a broad array of human rights issues, including international justice and refugee and asylum policy. His publications include the essay, "Out of that Darkness: Preventing Genocide in the 21st Century," in the 2nd edition of *Century of Genocide: Eyewitness Accounts and Critical Views* (Routledge, 2004). He also directed the short film *A Good Man in Hell: General Romeo Dallaire and the Rwanda Genocide*, taught at George Mason University Law School and George Washington University Law School, and has been a Scholar-in-Residence at American University's summer Human Rights Institute. He is a graduate of Stanford Law School and Princeton University. From 1983 to 1987, he was stationed in Germany as an officer in the United States Army. From 1993 to 1995, he served as Special Litigation Counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice.



Faculty Activities

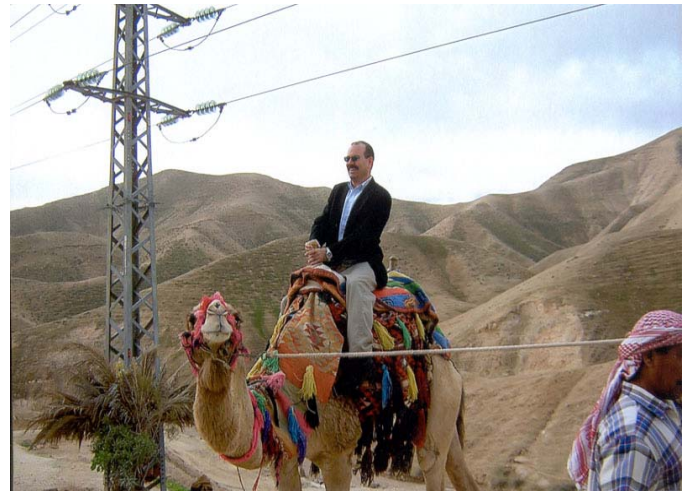
Michelle Desmarais was quoted in the March 20 edition of the *Omaha World-Herald*. The article discussed the popularity of Asian ghost stories in American cinema.

Guy Matalon was quoted in the March 5 edition of the *Lincoln Journal Star*. The article explored Kabbalah, a centuries-old form of Judaism.

Pamela Jean Owens was nominated for the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award in the Humanities and for the University Wide Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dale Stover has had an article of his translated into Swedish. The article, "Post-Colonial Sun Dancing at Wakpamni Lake:" appeared originally in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (December 2001). The translated version, *Soldansen vid Wakpamni Lake*, appeared in the *Nordameriaks Indianer* (volume 25: number 1).

Paul Williams was a panel participant of the 4 March town hall meeting to discuss "The Future of U.S. Foreign Relations with Africa: The Millennium Development Goals" and was listed in the Feb. 28 edition of the *Omaha World-Herald* along with other panel participants, David Chand, political science and Manfred Wogugu, black studies in an article about the town hall



Camel Rider

Paul Williams talks kindly to his camel during the UNO group's visit to Israel last December.

Bill Blizek presented a lecture titled "The Nominees for Religion and Film are...And the Oscar goes to..." March 22 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, Pa.). Also, Blizek served on the National Endowment for the Humanities this spring. As an NEH panelist, he helped judge Special Projects in Public Education grant proposals.

Rory Conces' review of Fatos Tarifa's *Culture, Ideology and Society* was reprinted in the on-line journal *Kakanien Revisited* in May and his review of Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir of Books* is being translated into Farsi and will be submitted for publication in an Iranian journal.

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