

Bulletin

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

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Sommaire / Contents

2006-2007 Executive / Conseil exécutif 2006-2007	2
Mot du président / President's Update	3
Word from the Editor / Mot du rédacteur	4
Procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil / Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	5
Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle	9
Information concernant la conférence annuelle 2007 / Annual Conference 2007 Information	14
Call for Papers	14
Invitation à proposer une communication	16
Call for Papers - Slavoj Zizek and the Study of Religion: Appraisals and Criticism	19
Student Essay Contests / Concours d'essai pour étudiant et étudiante	20
Undergraduate Student Essay Contest	20
Concours d'essai pour étudiants et étudiantes du 1 ^{er} cycle	20
Graduate Student Essay Contest	21
Concours d'essai pour les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s	21
Information en provenance des membres / News and Notes from Members	22
Information des membres / Member Notes	22
Biographies of New Executive Members / Biographies des nouveaux membres du conseil exécutif	25
Nouvelles en provenance des départements / Departmental News	25
Offres d'emploi / Jobs	27
Du bureau des affaires étudiantes / From the Student Desk	28
Membership Form	30
Information concernant la façon de s'acquitter de la cotisation	31
Request for Participation / On sollicite votre participation	32

Editor / Rédacteur: Mark Chapman

Phone / tél: (519) 725-3726

Courriel / e-mail: mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

CSSR Website / Site web de la SCÉR: <http://www2.ccsr.ca/cssr/>

2006-2007 Executive / Conseil exécutif 2006-2007

President and Representative to the Corporation / Président et représentant à la corporation

Dr. Peter Beyer

Département d'études anciennes et de sciences des religions

Université d'Ottawa

70, rue Laurier est

Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5

Tél. (613) 562-5800 poste 1178

Télec. (613) 562-5991

Courriel: peter.beyer@uottawa.ca

Président sortant et comité de liberté académique et de sécurité d'emploi / Past-President and Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee

Dr. Leona Anderson

Department of Religious Studies

University of Regina

Regina, SK S4S 0A2

Ph: (306) 585-4580 fax: (306) 585-4815

Email: leona.anderson@uregina.ca

Secretary / Secrétaire

Dr. Christopher Brittain

Atlantic School of Theology

660 Francklyn Street

Halifax, NS B3H 3B5

Ph: (902) 496-7944

Email: cbrittain@astheology.ns.ca

Trésorier / Treasurer

Dr. Kenneth MacKendrick

Department of Religion

Fletcher Argue Bldg., Rm 331

University of Manitoba

Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Ph: (204) 474-6277

Email: mackendr@ms.umanitoba.ca

Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions

Dr. Mark Chapman

30 Carrier Drive, Suite 204
Toronto, ON M9W 5T7
Ph:(416) 679-8080
Email: mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

Conseillers / Members-at-Large

Alain Bouchard
Département des sciences humaines
Collège de Sainte-Foy
2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy
Québec (QC) G1V 1T3
Télec. (418) 659-4563
Courriel: Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca

Dr. Francis Landy
Dept of History and Classics
University of Alberta
2-28 Tory Building
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4
Email: francis.landy@ualberta.ca

Dr. Rubina Ramji
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Cape Breton University
1250 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, NS B1P 6L2
Ph: (902) 563-1264
E-mail: ruby.tuesday@sympatico.ca

Graduate Student Member-at-Large / Conseiller étudiant

Christopher D. Cutting
PhD Candidate
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Email: cddcutting@hotmail.com

Représentant à la SQÉR / SQÉR Representative

Alain Bouchard
Département des sciences humaines
Collège de Sainte-Foy
2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy
Québec (QC) G1V 1T3
Télec. (418) 659-4563
Courriel: Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) Representative / Représentant à la

Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines (FCSH)

Dr. David Seljak

St. Jerome's College

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON N2L 3G3

Ph.: (519) 884-8111 ext. 232

Fax: (519) 884-5759

Email: dseljak@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

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Mot du président / President's Update

It has always seemed to me that a prime responsibility of the president of an academic society such as the CSSR is to make sure that the association is in as good or better shape at the end of his/her mandate than it was at the beginning. Since assuming office at the end of this past year's Annual General Meeting in May, what has perhaps impressed me the most is just how easy or difficult fulfilling this responsibility is going to be; for the CSSR is in almost all respects in very good shape indeed.

Financially, we are on a sound footing, our membership numbers remain healthy, our annual meetings are stimulating and well-attended. Yet perhaps the best indicator of all is that the quality and dedication of the various members of our executive – all volunteers in positions that at various times involve a great deal of work with exceedingly few perquisites – is truly impressive, both as concerns those who have recently finished their mandates and those who are continuing. Those of us, such as myself, who are new in our positions will have done well if we simply match their performance over the coming years.

Toutefois, au cours des années qui viennent, nous ferons également face à des défis importants, et cela non seulement en ce qui concerne la continuation de notre situation actuelle. Au premier rang, à mon avis, il sera très important de rendre la société encore plus accueillante, plus stimulante et plus avantageuse pour nos membres qui sont des étudiant(e)s aux études supérieures. Sous ce titre, j'aimerais souligner deux questions plutôt concrètes. D'abord il faut que nous continuions d'encourager nos collègues de s'impliquer et d'assister aux conférences annuelles, surtout à ce qu'ils et qu'elles fassent des communications de leurs recherches, mais aussi en ce qui a trait à la nécessité d'établir et d'élargir leurs réseaux professionnels au Canada et dans la discipline des sciences des religions. En d'autres termes, la santé de la SCÉR et par ce biais de notre discipline au Canada est en partie reliée à la participation permanente et de préférence accrue des étudiant(e)s aux études supérieures dans cette association. Cela dit, il y a des barrières importantes à une telle participation auxquelles il faut continuer à s'adresser. Avant tout, les frais de voyage, d'inscription (même réduits), et d'hébergement dépassent assez souvent les moyens financiers à la disposition de nos étudiant(e)s. La société subventionne dans les limites de ses capacités ces coûts, mais il se peut que nous puissions y faire plus.

Unfortunately, no more than anyone else can I suggest a magic solution to this problem. The situation does, however, underscore the importance of other, seemingly more minor, programs and arrangements within the society. These include, above all, the student essay contests at the graduate and undergraduate

levels, the critical importance of our student representative on the executive, special sessions geared toward student needs at the annual conference, and even such seemingly minor factors as how much it costs for students to attend the annual CSSR dinner at the Congress meetings. In this regard, a small suggestion: if you are a reasonably well-heeled faculty member, consider not only encouraging your own students to attend and present, but, perhaps in conjunction with others like yourself, get together and take a two or three students out to dinner during the meetings. Five faculty members sponsoring three students need not create much of a burden if done with a little imagination! Not a big deal, to be sure, but as the saying goes, every little bit helps.

Peter Beyer
Président / President

Word from the Editor / Mot du rédacteur

As always there is much useful information packed into this edition of the *Bulletin*. You will find minutes from the Annual General Meeting in Toronto, the call for papers for next year's Annual Meeting in Toronto, a call for papers for those of you interested in the work of Slavoj Zizek, a description of the annual student essay contests, member and departmental news, job openings, and a note from the CSSR Student representative. You will also find brief biographies of the new executive members elected at the Annual General meeting.

If you have not yet renewed your 2006/2007 membership in the CSSR/SCÉR I would encourage you to do that. The various activities of the Society (e.g., running the annual meeting, publishing the *Bulletin*) are dependent on your membership dues. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website and are found at the end of every edition of the *Bulletin*. In recent years we have had a large number of people who want to give papers at our annual meeting but are not currently members. Please ensure that your membership is up to date when you submit an abstract for inclusion in our annual meeting. More of you than ever are taking the opportunity to list your academic activities in the *Bulletin*. This is very encouraging and is a sign of a flourishing society. Please continue to make use of the *Bulletin* to communicate your activities to your colleagues. You can use the form at the end of the *Bulletin* or send me an email with the information or publication(s) you would like included in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

The society maintains a mailing list that is used exclusively by our society to send you information about what the CSSR/SCÉR is doing or information that we think would be important to our members. If you are not currently receiving email from us and would like to be added to this mailing list please contact our recording secretary, Christopher Brittain, and request that your name be added to our list. We do not sell or rent out our membership list. Nor do we accept paid advertising of any kind. As an alternative to having a paper copy mailed to you, you can have the *Bulletin* emailed to you as a PDF file or you can be sent a notification that the *Bulletin* has been put up on our website. If you would like the *Bulletin* to be delivered to you by one of these methods please send me an email. As always I welcome your comments on how this publication can be of more use to you.

Mark Chapman
Rédacteur / Editor

Procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil / Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
York University, Toronto
Le mai 28, 2006 / May 28, 2006

Present: Leona Anderson, Kenneth MacKendrick, Mark Chapman, Alain Bouchard, Christopher Cutting, Rubina Ramji, André Couture, Christopher Brittain

Regrets: Darlene Juschka

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

2. Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

MOTION to approve: Rubina Ramji/Ken MacKendrick (carried)

3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 2005 meetings of the Executive Committee/ Adoption des procès-verbaux des réunions du conseil de mai 2005

MOTION to approve (carried)

4. Business Arising From the Minutes / Suivi aux procès-verbaux

none

5. Reports / Rapports

5.1 President / Présidente

L. Anderson reported on the recent arrangements made in preparation for the Annual Meeting, and welcomed the new members on the executive: Rubina Ramji, Alain Bouchard, and Chris Brittain.

5.2 Treasurer / Trésorier

MOTION to approve Treasurer's Report: K. MacKendrick/M. Chapman (carried)

K. MacKendrick circulated two copies of the annual Treasurer's Report – a fully detailed version, and a shorter version for general circulation at the AGM. This is in keeping with the practice of his predecessor, and is intended to facilitate clear communication of basic details to the membership.

The Treasurer's Report highlighted issues such as the following:

- The executive's practice of issuing travel grants for members to attend the AGM needs to be more closely monitored in the future, since this expenditure last year exceeded the funds we received from our SHRCC grant. This may eventually necessitate not fully funding applicants (as has been our practice in recent years).
- Given that his term expires in one year, K. MacKendrick recommended that an accountant be hired to ensure that the books are in order prior to handing them over to the next Treasurer.

Some questions of detail were fielded, including: the creation of a “travel (other)” budget line; and the question of where to locate advertising expenses (under “publications”).

2006-07 BUDGET

MOTION to approve: K. MacKendrick/Rubina Ramji (carried)

Following the presentation of the proposed budget, the executive discussed the current prize awards for the student essay contest (raised by R. Ramji and C. Cutting).

The award for a graduate essay was raised to \$500, and the first prize for the undergraduate essay context was raised to \$300. This was received as a friendly amendment to the budget (K. MacKendrick/C. Brittain) and was approved by the executive.

The question of the student essay contests closed with a discussion over how to best support the presentation of the winning papers. C. Cutting raised the possibility of having student presentations over a lunch. This issue should be discussed during the planning of next year’s annual meeting.

5.3 Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions

Motion to accept the Report: M.Chapman/K.MacKendrick (carried)

M. Chapman thanked A. Couture and D. Juschka for their service to the society, as they are now leaving the executive.

It was reported that the society currently has 254 members, which is up slightly from last year. It was noted that the increase was largely due to an increase in student memberships. There was speculation that one reason for this was that the conference location in Toronto.

A discussion developed over the question of requiring members to pay their society dues prior to being accepted on the conference schedule. The executive agreed that this was the expectation and that this policy should be made explicit on the call for papers.

M.Chapman reported that members appear to prefer faxing their membership forms and paying by credit card for making membership dues payments.

Some attention was given to a discussion of the *Bulletin*’s and the Website’s policy regarding personal publications and advertising. The executive reaffirmed the practice of excluding both of these, as both the *Bulletin* and website are intended to provide information and communications to the society membership. Although members are invited to suggest that web resources be added to the site, advertising and personal publications will not be posted. The final decision on this policy will rest officially with the CSSR President. It was also noted that the French version of the website still requires some editing and correction.

5.4 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

MOTION to accept: M.Chapman/C.Brittain (carried)

M. Chapman reported that two vacancies were opening on the executive: President and a Member-at-Large position. It was noted that next year the Treasurer's term will end.

The Nominations Committee tabled the following recommendations to fill the vacancies:

- President – Peter Beyer
- MAL – Francis Landy

It was noted that a previous decision on the part of the executive to expand the number of MAL by one required a notice of motion to be given at the Annual General meeting. If approved by the membership this position would be added in one year's time after a vote at the 2007 AGM.

5.5 2006 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2006

A. Bouchard reported that he had received 87 proposals, for a total of 116 papers. Of these, three were rejected, and ten others were withdrawn. The main challenge in dealing with submissions is that eighty percent of them are submitted at the last minute, and this caused problems with his email server. Special thanks were extended to D. Juschka and M.Chapman for their assistance.

The ensuing discussion covered the following issues:

- In response to a question about the number of papers being presented, A. Bouchard suggested that the society may have reached its maximum limit, as an extra day would be required to host more panels.
- It was recommended that next year the call for papers specify that email submissions be sent in Word .doc format. It was noted that submitting papers via the website would be desirable, but also expensive and complicated logistically.
- It was agreed that next year's meeting work within the parameters of 3 consecutive panels, and four rooms/day.

5.6 Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

MOTION to accept the reports: K.MacKendrick\C.Cutting

5.6.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest / Concours d'essai pour les étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle

Rubina Ramji reported that she had received 35 undergraduate submissions, and five from high school students. She reported the following winners:

- 1st prize: Hannah McGregor (Carleton): 'Word Made Flesh: A Study of Eucharistic Thought in the Fourth Gospel'
- 2nd prize: Ardith Bailey (UBC): 'This Mortal Body, These Mortal Flames'
- Runner Up: Mordecai Walfish (U King's College): 'Derrida's Jewish Penis: Looking Beneath the Foreskin of Jaques Derrida's Circumfession'

It was agreed that the winners be given free society membership for one year (membership form to be sent to the treasurer, expenses from the student contest account).

R. Ramji also reported on her attendance to a Canadian Federation conference (November 27-29, 2005). She observed that the consultation amounted to a presentation of Federation information, and not a dialogue with member organizations.

5.6.2 Graduate Essay Contest / Concours d'essai pour les étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle

Darlene Juschka received nine submission for the Graduate essay competition. She reported the following winner:

- Brian Carwana (WLU): 'The Institute of Canadian Values conference: How the Canadian Religious Right Adopts Secularism to fight Secularism'.
- Special mention was extended to Paul Josse (Alberta) and Tristan Sturm (Carlton).

5.8 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses (CCSR)

The executive were informed of the following developments:

- For the journal *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, Francis Landy is now English essays editor, and Anne Marie Dalton is editor of English book reviews.
- The CCSR has also achieved good financial health, after a few difficult years.

5.9 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)

A. Bouchard (président de la SQÉR) informed the executive of current ongoing changes within the Quebec public school system with regard to the teaching of religion. Religious studies is being moved from Primary to the end of secondary education. SQÉR is working with the government to help prepare teachers for this change (as most schools operate out of theological backgrounds and need to shift to a religious studies approach). A website to provide teachers with information about non-Christian religions, etc., is being developed.

5.10 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) / Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales (FCSH)

Nothing to report

5.11 CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR

Don Eldershaw is working to get the *Bulletin* into HTML format, but this is proving to be difficult (due to charts, etc.)

6. Local arrangements rep Congress 2006

Tony Michaels was not present, but he was thanked for his efforts and his efficient organization. The executive agreed to send him official thanks.

7. Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

C. Cutting reported on some initiatives he is considering:

- Establishing a student liaison with the AAR
- Encouraging each university department to establish a student liaison to the CSSR
- The expense of the Annual Dinner expensive was discussed, as students have expressed the concern that it is prohibitive. The executive discussed establishing a student plate price for next year's dinner.

8. Other business / Varia

L. Anderson informed the executive that the bid to host the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) in Toronto in 2010 had been accepted. The CSSR had joined with NAASR and other groups to sponsor the bid. The CSSR will now need to determine how it wants to support this conference, and the executive was informed about a planning meeting on 30 May during the conference. L. Anderson is on the steering committee involved with the planning. A presentation by Donald Wiebe will occur during the AGM.

9. Adjournment/Ajournement

MOTION: L.Anderson/C.Brittain (**carried**)

Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle York University, Toronto Le 28 mai 2006 / May 28, 2006

Present: Leona Anderson, Christopher Brittain, Alain Bouchard, Mark Chapman, André Couture, Christopher Cutting, Darlene Juschka, Kenneth MacKendrick, Rubina Ramji, Patricia Dold, Aaron Hughes, Francis Landy, Michael Stoeber, Ron Neufeldt, David Feltmate, Randi Warne, Paul Bramadat, Donald Wiebe, Alison Marshall, Edward Chung, Peter Beyer, Chris Klassen, Mandy Furney, Alec Soucy, Terry Woo, Brian Clarke, Veronique Tomaszewski-Ramses, David Seljak, Paul Bowlby.

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

2. Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

MOTION to approve: Ron Newfeldt/Randy Warne

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2005 meeting of the Annual General Meeting / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2005

MOTION to approve: Randy Warne/Patricia Dold

Item 7 was corrected to clarify that the MAL positions involve no specific designations (by CSSR Constitution).

4. Business Arising from the Minutes / Suivi au procès-verbal

n/a

5. Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada Representative / Représentant de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales

The membership were addressed by two representatives of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation: Kel Morin-Parsons, and Jean-Claude Guédon. They informed the assembly of the current activities and initiatives of the Federation, emphasizing the following:

- The development of a database that records the activities of member organizations, who will periodically be asked to submit information
- Making available preliminary guides for 2007 (also in French)
- Meeting next year – Sunday, May 27th to Wednesday, May 30th
- Information about the Federation available at: www.fedecan.ca
- In June 2006, the Federation will report with the SHRCC on its understanding of the present state of large scale research in the humanities. The results of this study will be made available by the Federation in the future.
- The membership were informed about a Women-in-equity Network, and of a mentoring session on May 30 (3:30-5 pm). The CSSR was asked to identify a contact person for this network.
- The Federation is also involved in education advocacy, particularly in the area of university funding.
- It is also aiming to seek funding support for scholarly publications – aiming at a \$500,000 funding increase (185 titles at \$8000 each).

One issue in particular was raised by the Federation representatives:

OPEN ACCESS

Prof. Guédon described this as a burning issue for the Federation. It involves attention to the tension between the desire to widely distribute academic research, and the concern to respect copyright. The Federation endorses Open Access, while highlighting two options, and hoping to support such initiatives: a) getting journals and other sources to change their business plans (making materials available online, etc); b) encouraging authors to ‘self-archive’ and reissue research in alternative forms.

6. Reports/Rapports

a) President / Présidente

L. Anderson welcomed the membership, and noted with appreciation the level of attendance. She thanked Alain Bouchard, Darlene Juschka, and Tony Michaels for their work in organizing the annual meeting. She highlighted the following items in the work of the current executive:

- An ongoing effort to respond to concerns of Graduate students
- The response of the meeting organizers to last year’s suggestion that the annual general meeting be held during its own time slot to avoid conflicts.
- Ongoing developments on the website. Special thanks were addressed to Don Eldershaw and Mark Chapman for their work on this.
- The bid to host the IAHR (International Association for the History of Religions) in Toronto in 2010 (with other organizations like CSR, NASSR, etc.) has been accepted. This will be an important item on the CSSR’s agenda over the next few years.

- Special thanks were extended to Darlene Juschka and Rubina Ramji for their work on the student essay competitions

Following her presentation, a question was addressed to the President from the membership. In response to the comment that the executive is seeking to become increasingly accessible for Graduate students. She was asked why the Annual dinner is so inaccessible to students, due to the price of admission.

After explaining the reasons for the cost of the Dinner, considerable discussion followed. It was agreed that students would be charged \$20.00 this year, and that next year the executive would seek to offset the cost of the dinner for students (see Treasurer's Report below).

b) Treasurer / Trésorier

MOTION to approve the treasurer's report: Paul Bowlby/ Patricia Dold

K. MacKendrick presented the Treasurer's Report for the year. It was accepted by the membership following a question about the possibility of investing in GICs.

The Treasurer then presented a proposed 2006-07 budget.

MOTION to approve the budget: Ken MacKendrick/Francis Landy (carried)

An amendment to the budget, recommended by the executive, was noted – regarding increasing expenses for the essay contest (an increase of \$300.00).

A second amendment was proposed during the discussion. The total proposed surplus was reduced, in order to identify some funds to partially subsidized the annual dinner for graduate students (12 individuals- \$20 each = \$270.00 total).

MOTION to approve: Amendment Moved by: Randy Warne/Veronique Mashefsky (carried)

c) Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions

MOTION to approve: Mark Chapman/ Ken MacKendrick

M. Chapman reported that membership was up slightly from the previous year. He speculated that this might be in part due to the fact that a meeting in Toronto draws more people. He reported that the executive is exploring online options to support registration through Wilfred Laurier Press. This option would facilitate membership subscriptions and renewals.

d) 2006 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2006

A. Bouchard reported that the CSSR received 116 paper proposals this year. Three of these were rejected, and ten proposal were eventually withdrawn. He thanked Darlene Juschka in particular for her assistance in organizing the panels, and making arrangements with the Federation.

In the discussion which followed the report, three items were highlighted.

- It was noted that it would be helpful next year if the Special Paper presentation did not conflict with any other panel session.
- R. Warne observed how helpful it was to have a special 'meeting room' set aside for members to meet together.
- The membership were alerted that conference organizers now required quite early deadlines for catering and Audio-visual arrangements. In future call for papers, therefore, firm deadlines for AV requests should be highlighted.

e) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

M. Chapman offered special thanks to A. Couture and D. Juschka for their assistance.

It was reported that there were two openings available on the executive. The Nominations committee offered the following nominations to these positions:

Peter Beyer – President

Francis Landy – Member at Large

The floor was opened for further nominations. None were offered.

MOTION to approve: Brian Clarke/Paul Bramadat (carried)

A NOTICE OF MOTION for next year's AGM was tabled. It recommended adding one Member-at-Large position on the executive (article 5 item D). This issue will be raised at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

f) Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

Rubina Ramji reported that she had received 35 undergraduate submissions, and 5 from high school students. She reported the following winners:

- 1st prize: Hannah McGregor (Carleton): 'Word Made Flesh: A Study of Eucharistic Thought in the Fourth Gospel'
- 2nd prize: Ardith Bailey (UBC): 'This Mortal Body, These Mortal Flames'
- Runner Up: Mordecai Walfish (U King's College): 'Derrida's Jewish Penis: Looking Beneath the Foreskin of Jaques Derrida's Circumfession'.

Darlene Juschka reported that she received nine submission for the Graduate essay competition. She reported the following winner:

- Brian Carwana (WLU): 'The Institute of Canadian Values conference: How the Canadian Religious Right Adopts Secularism to fight Secularism'.
- Special mention was extended to Paul Josse (Alberta) and Tristan Sturm (Carlton).

g) CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR & *The Bulletin*

M. Chapman reported on the ongoing progress of the CSSR. Website. He highlighted the current policy regarding the website - that it was not to be used for advertisements or posting individual publications.

M. Chapman noted that steps are being taken to post the *Bulletin* on the website in html format. He also stated that the *Bulletin* would be distributed in the future via email and in PDF format on the website. This would save postage cost. Preference of delivery will be specified on the membership form.

A question was raised regarding the possibility of posting the membership list on the website, and of other means of promoting interaction between members? The membership was assured that numerous options are being explored by the executive. Members email addresses will not be displayed on the website in a machine readable format.

h) Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses

Peter Beyer informed the membership that the annual meeting of the Corporation would be held the following day. He confirmed that it was now in solid financial shape (with a surplus of about \$170,000), and that the journal *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* was now caught up to the 2006 issues.

i) Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)

A. Bouchard reported two items in particular from the SQÉR:

- The government of Quebec is currently changing how religion is taught in public schools, moving it from Primary school to Secondary. The SQÉR is working with the government to help prepare teachers for this development (as most schools have operated out of a theological background and teachers now need to shift to a religious studies perspective).
- It was noted that the CSSR needs to augment the number of French presentations at its annual meeting.

j) Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

C. Cutting reported on his activities on the executive on behalf of students. He noted developments in the awarding of student essay awards, and his initiative of hosting lunch panels on professional development for students over the last three years (this year on how to get published). He also mentioned a number of creative ideas he has for the future, including a CSSR student representative liaison to the AAR

8. Other Business/ Varia

a. The IAHR: Donald Wiebe addressed the membership, to inform them about the 2010 IAHR conference being hosted in Toronto, which the CSSR is involved in sponsoring. He invited the members to a planning meeting the following day, and he raised the issue of the need for financial support for the conference. Sponsoring societies are responsible for assistance. He identified a goal of assisting 100 scholars from developing countries with housing, and between 20-50 individuals with their travel expenses. A number of questions were directed to Prof. Wiebe about specific expenses and obligations. He clarified that, at this stage, the CSSR did not face any specific financial obligations, but that he hoped the society would be able to commit some resources to support the conference.

b. Francis Landy informed the membership that the University of Alberta (Edmonton) was drafting a

proposal for a PhD programme, and he hoped the members would support this initiative and inform potential students.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:11 pm.

Information concernant la conférence annuelle 2007 / Annual Conference 2007

Information

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

Call for Papers

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

Annual Conference

The Program Committee invites submissions for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, May 27 – May 30 2007.

The Board of the Federation has adopted the following as the major theme for Congress 2007:

Bridging Communities: Making public knowledge – Making knowledge public.

Scholarly and public communities are becoming increasingly connected. All are navigating the complexities of globalization, genetic innovation, medical advances, digital culture, national identities. Our hope is that this Congress will shed light on the roles, responsibilities and intentions of humanists and social scientists in the evolving relationship between the academy and the public.

Within this over-arching theme and through various academic and cultural events on campus, Congress 2007 will place special emphasis on women, equity issues, Saskatchewan's Aboriginal heritage, and partnerships with Aboriginal Peoples.

The Board of the Federation encourages associations to adopt this theme and to develop sessions related to the topic within their own programs.

We also seek to encourage papers that deal with religious traditions that have recently been under-represented at the CSSR annual meetings, including **Judaism, Islam, Taoism and Confucianism**. As always, the CSSR welcomes papers and proposals on all aspects of religion, from various academic perspectives.

The deadline for all submissions (special papers and abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables) is **January 12, 2007**. Abstracts are to be no more than 150 words. Those greatly exceeding this limit

will not be printed in the program.

Individuals must be members to have their papers accepted into the program, and for panels, at least one participant should be a member.

Chaired sessions are an integral part of an effective program. Please indicate if you would be willing to chair a session at the annual meeting.

Completed special papers, abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables, are to be sent to:

Alain Bouchard
 Département des sciences humaines
 Collège de Sainte-Foy
 2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy
 Québec, QC G1V 1T3
 Fax: (418) 659-4563
cssr.program@videotron.ca

** Please include the following information with your submission: last name, first name, institutional affiliation, abstract, audiovisual need, mailing address, phone number(s), fax number, and e-mail address. Submission via email attachment is preferred.

Submissions for the CSSR Annual Meeting may be of four types.

a. Special Papers

In order to effect a more full discussion of complete studies by Society members, blocks of time may be set aside for the presentation of, responses to, and discussion of “special” or “major” papers. A special paper may be grounded in a special field, but it should address matters important to all students of religion. In order to be considered, a complete version of the paper together with an abstract is to be submitted by **January 12, 2007**.

b. Regular Papers

The Committee invites proposals for presentations of works in progress and shorter scholarly papers for presentation. Normally, the time for actual delivery is twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussion. A 150 (maximum) word abstract should be submitted by **January 12, 2007**. All audio-visual needs must be clearly noted with your initial submission. Abstracts should include some background to the topic you are proposing, a statement of methodology and an indication of your argument.

c. Panels

The Committee encourages proposals for panels, workshops and seminars. The organizer is responsible for setting the topic and involving the participants in a maximum three hour block of time (two sessions of an hour and a half each). An abstract(s) as above, together with the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, audio-visual needs, and the name of a chair (who should not be making a

presentation) is to be submitted by **January 12, 2007**. Panel organizers should submit both the panel abstract and the individual paper abstracts as one package. Panel organizers are expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Program Chair.

d. Roundtables

The Roundtable format usually focuses on a particular issue, book, or the body of work of an individual. It consists of four (or more) short presentations followed by discussion, both with the roundtable members and audience members. As with the panel, the organizer is responsible for submitting an abstract for the Roundtable which includes the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, equipment needs, and chair (who may also be a participant).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. *The CSSR strongly discourages panel presentations of more than three papers as it inhibits discussion. Presentations of more than 3 papers should use the Roundtable format.*
2. *Requests to present on specific dates MUST accompany the initial proposal.*
3. *Joint proposals (two societies combining their efforts) should be submitted to both societies for approval.*
4. *Acceptance of proposals will be done via e-mail, and Panel/Roundtable organizers will be responsible for informing their presenters. Members who require a 'hard copy' acceptance of their proposal for funding purposes may request one from the Program Chair.*
5. *Multiple presentations are not permitted. However, a participant is permitted to present both a regular paper/panel presentation and a roundtable presentation.*

Invitation à proposer une communication

**La Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion (SCÉR)
Conférence annuelle, 2007**

Le comité de programme de la Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion vous invite à lui envoyer des propositions de communication pour sa prochaine conférence annuelle qui se tiendra sur le campus de l'Université de la Saskatchewan à Saskatoon, du 27 mai au 30 mai 2007, dans le cadre du 76^e Congrès des sciences humaines.

Comme thème principal du congrès de 2007, le Conseil de la Fédération a adopté :

Créer des ponts : des communautés de savoir à un savoir public.

Les collectivités érudites et publiques deviennent de plus en plus interreliées. Toutes naviguent dans les méandres de la mondialisation, de l'innovation génétique, des poussées médicales, de la culture

numérique et des identités nationales. Nous espérons que ce congrès mettra en lumière les rôles, responsabilités et intentions des chercheurs en sciences humaines et en sciences sociales dans le contexte de l'évolution du rapport entre les milieux universitaire et public.

Suivant ce thème dominant et grâce à diverses activités universitaires et culturelles sur le campus, le Congrès 2007 insistera sur les femmes, les questions d'équité, le patrimoine des Autochtones de la Saskatchewan et les partenariats avec les populations indigènes. La Fédération encourage donc les différentes sociétés à proposer ce thème à leurs membres et à promouvoir à ce sujet des sessions à l'intérieur de leur programme.

Nous souhaitons vivement recevoir des communications traitant de traditions religieuses jusqu'ici sous-représentées à nos réunions annuelles, comme par exemple **le judaïsme, l'islam, le taoïsme et le confucianisme**. Vous noterez que, conformément à sa politique habituelle, la SCÉR accepte des propositions de communication portant sur *n'importe quel aspect de la religion, mais uniquement à visée académique.*

La date limite pour soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) de toutes les propositions (conférence, communication ordinaire, séminaire ou atelier, table ronde) est le **12 janvier 2007**. Les résumés qui dépasseront largement la limite de 150 mots, ne seront pas publiés dans le programme.

Vous devez être membre de la Société pour proposer une communication et dans le cas d'un séminaire ou d'une table ronde, un des participants doit être membre. Nous avons grand besoin de personnes qui accepteraient de présider l'une ou l'autre session de cette rencontre, veuillez nous indiquer si vous êtes disposé à le faire.

Vous voudrez bien envoyer le texte complet de votre proposition de conférence, le résumé de votre communication, d'un séminaire ou d'une table ronde à :

Alain Bouchard
Département des sciences humaines
Collège de Sainte-Foy
2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy
Québec, Qc G1V 1T3
Fax: (418) 659-4563
cssr.program@videotron.ca

** Nous vous encourageons à envoyer votre proposition en document attaché par courrier électronique. Avec toute proposition, veuillez inclure les informations suivantes : Nom, prénom, affiliation institutionnelle, résumé, besoin en audio-visuel, adresse postale, numéro(s) de téléphone, de télécopieur, courrier électronique.

Quatre types de propositions sont recevables lors de ce congrès :

a. La conférence :

Afin de permettre un débat plus en profondeur concernant des recherches d'envergure réalisées par nos membres, des périodes peuvent être réservées à la présentation de communications plus longues avec répondants et discussion. Bien qu'appuyé sur une expertise précise, ce type de communication devrait éviter une trop grande spécialisation et déboucher sur des questions générales susceptibles d'intéresser une plus large audience. Pour qu'une telle conférence puisse être organisée, il faut que le texte complet de la conférence nous soit soumis avant le **12 janvier 2007**, de même qu'un résumé de cette conférence.

b. La communication ordinaire :

Le comité vous invite à proposer une brève communication faisant état de travaux en voie de réalisation ou portant sur tout autre sujet spécialisé. L'exposé est normalement de vingt minutes, et est suivi de dix minutes de questions et discussions. Il faut à cet effet soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) avant le **12 janvier 2007**. Ce résumé doit préciser le thème abordé, inclure des éléments de méthodologie et donner une première idée de votre argumentation. Vous devez immédiatement signaler si vous aurez besoin d'appareils audio-visuels.

c. Le séminaire ou l'atelier :

Le comité encourage à faire des propositions de séminaires, d'ateliers, etc. À de telles activités, on alloue au maximum trois heures, soit deux sessions d'une heure et demie. C'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de tels séminaires de décider de son thème, de choisir et de contacter ceux ou celles qui y participeront. C'est à lui ou elle à soumettre avant le **12 janvier 2007** un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels de chacun des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui ne devrait pas normalement faire de communication). La personne qui organise cette activité doit soumettre ensemble le résumé global et les résumés provenant de chacun et chacune des membres du groupe. C'est à cette personne d'assurer la coordination entre les membres du séminaire et le président du comité du programme.

d. La table ronde :

Le format de table ronde est habituellement réservé à une question particulière, à un livre ou à l'œuvre d'un auteur. Il consiste en quatre présentations (ou davantage), suivies de discussions entre les membres de la table ronde autant qu'avec l'audience. Comme pour le séminaire, c'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de soumettre un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui peut lui-même participer à la table ronde).

REMARQUES IMPORTANTES :

1. *La SCÉR n'encourage pas les séminaires ou ateliers de plus de trois communications, car ils ne laissent pas suffisamment de temps à la discussion. Les présentations de plus de trois communications devraient plutôt utiliser le format de « table ronde ».*
2. *Le comité accepte d'analyser une demande de communication faite à une journée précise, à la condition expresse que cette demande accompagne la proposition initiale.*
3. *Toute proposition de communication conjointe (i.e. impliquant la participation de membres de deux sociétés) doit être soumise et approuvée par les deux sociétés concernées.*
4. *Les personnes dont les propositions de communication sont acceptées sont avisées par courrier électronique, mais ce sont les personnes en charge de séminaire ou de table ronde qui sont*

responsables d'aviser les membres de leur groupe. Toute personne ayant besoin d'une lettre officielle d'acceptation de sa communication, en raison de subventions par exemple, n'ont qu'à le demander au président du comité.

5. *On ne permet pas à la même personne de présenter plusieurs communications ordinaires. Cependant, il est permis de présenter à la fois une communication ordinaire et une communication à un séminaire ou à une table ronde.*

Call for Papers - Slavoj Zizek and the Study of Religion: Appraisals and Criticism

Since the publication of *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (Verso, 1989) Slavoj Zizek has emerged as “one of the world’s leading cultural critics.” As a philosopher with an irrepressible interest in psychoanalysis, he has enjoined his readership to intervene in the political domain with a disregard for “any form of correctness but the inherent correctness of theory itself” (SIC, Duke University Press), use Marx and Lacan to detonate a “dynamic freedom that enables us to question the very presuppositions of the circuit of Capital” (Wo Es War, Verso), as well as short circuit the interpreted text to bring to light its “disavowed presuppositions and consequences (Short Circuits, MIT Press). Since 1999, with the publication of *The Ticklish Subject* (Verso) Zizek has increasingly turned his attention to the relation between ideology critique, religion, and political theology, albeit through what appears to be a series of rather extraordinary detours. Some of his most recent books, including the *The Fragile Absolute; or, Why is the Christian Legacy Worth Fighting For?* (Verso, 2000), *On Belief* (Routledge, 2001), and *The Puppet and the Dwarf: The Perverse Core of Christianity* (MIT Press, 2003) along with two anthologies, *Theology and the Political: The New Debate* (Duke University Press, 2005) and *The Neighbor: Three Inquires in Political Theology* (University of Chicago Press, 2005) have all made religious and theological topics part of their purview. While this is not completely new within his corpus, his attempt to develop a “material theology” in the form of social theory has allowed Zizek to engage with a variety of philosophical and theological positions that at first glance may appear to be rather a rather odd conglomeration of perspectives (from defenders of a new theological orthodoxy to secular Habermasians).

With this call for papers I am soliciting appraisals and criticisms of Slavoj Zizek’s writings on religion and theology to be presented as a panel at the Saskatoon meeting. I would also welcome proposals for round-table discussions and books reviews.

If interested, please contact me as soon as possible or submit an abstract of your paper via email prior to the end of December 2006.

Please direct inquires to:
 Kenneth G. MacKendrick
 Department of Religion
 University of Manitoba

Student Essay Contests / Concours d'essai pour étudiant et étudiante

Undergraduate Student Essay Contest

Subject: Any topic in the general field of religious studies

Length: 10-15 pages, typed and double-spaced

Eligibility: Any undergraduate currently registered in a Canadian university or college

Prize: 1st prize: \$300 / 2nd prize: \$100

Deadline: One copy of the completed essay, with the accompanying letter, must be submitted no later than April 18, 2007

Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a religious studies course. Essays must be accompanied by a letter from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department, indicating that the student is an undergraduate in good standing in that university or college.

Students entering the contest should send a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay, and a letter of certification, to

Dr. Francis Landy
Dept of History and Classics
University of Alberta
2-28 Tory Building
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4
Email: francis.landy@ualberta.ca

Concours d'essai pour étudiants et étudiantes du 1^{er} cycle

Sujet: Un thème relevant du domaine des sciences religieuses

Longueur: 10 à 15 pages dactylographiées, double interligne

Éligibilité: Toute personne inscrite dans un programme du premier cycle dans une université ou un collège canadien

Prix: 1^{er} prix: 300\$ / 2^e prix: 100\$

Échéance: La rédaction et l'attestation d'inscription doivent être reçues au plus tard le 18 avril 2007.

Les rédactions présentées dans le cadre du concours peuvent avoir été rédigées en vue de répondre aux exigences d'un cours de sciences religieuses. Une attestation d'inscription, rédigée par un professeur de département des sciences religieuses de l'institution, doit accompagner la rédaction.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Francis Landy
Dept of History and Classics
University of Alberta
2-28 Tory Building
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4
Email: francis.landy@ualberta.ca

Graduate Student Essay Contest

The Graduate contest is open to all graduate students (Masters and PhD).

Subject: A theme in the general field of religious studies.

Language: English or French

Length: 3000-5000 words

Eligibility: Full-time M.A. or PhD student status in a Canadian university.

Prize: \$500

Deadline: 15 March 2007

The winner will be invited to read her/his paper at the next annual meeting. Submissions must include the full mailing address of the candidate and a letter from the chairperson of the department certifying the degree and programme status of the candidate.

Students entering the contest should send a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay and a letter of certification, to:

Dr. Leona Anderson
Department of Religious Studies
University of Regina
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
Email: leona.anderson@uregina.ca

Concours d'essai pour les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s

Le concours d'essai est ouvert à tous les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s (maîtrise ou doctorat).

Sujet: Un thème relevant du champ général des sciences religieuses.

Langue: anglais ou français

Longueur: 3000-5000 mots

Personne éligible: Tout étudiant présentement inscrit à temps plein dans un programme de maîtrise ou de doctorat dans une université ou un collège canadien.

Prix: \$500

Échéance: 15 mars 2007

Le gagnant ou la gagnante sera invité(e) à présenter son texte à la prochaine réunion annuelle. Les essais doivent être accompagnés d'une lettre rédigée par le directeur ou la directrice du programme de l'institution attestant que leur auteur est bien un étudiant ou une étudiante présentement inscrit(e) à temps plein dans un programme d'études supérieures.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Leona Anderson
Department of Religious Studies
University of Regina
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
Email: leona.anderson@uregina.ca

Information en provenance des membres / News and Notes from Members

Information des membres / Member Notes

Beyer, Peter (Ottawa)

Religions in Global Society. London: Routledge, 2006.

Coward, Harold (Victoria)

Harold Coward continues as an Emeritus Research Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria. His most recent book *The Perfectibility of Human Nature in Eastern and Western Thought* has been accepted for publication by SUNY Press. It will come out in 2007.

His current research is on "The position of animals in the major religions with respect to the treatment of animals in agriculture"—especially when genetic modification (e.g. cloning or transgenics) is involved. This relates to two current Centre projects: the first on the impact of genetic engineering on the ability of believers to follow dietary requirements: *Acceptable Genes?* to be published by SUNY in 2007; the second project focuses on "Ethical issues in animal biotechnology with implications for public policy."

Davy, Barbara Jane (Concordia)

Introduction to Pagan Studies. Alta Mira Press, 2006.

The ISBN is 0-7591-0819-6, and it can be ordered through this website: <http://www.altamirapress.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=%5ED B/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=0759108196>, which also has some reviews.

Foltz, Richard (Concordia)

Richard Foltz has been appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at Concordia University. His latest book, *Animals in Islamic Tradition and Muslim Cultures*, was published by Oneworld in 2006.

Michael W. Higgins (St. Thomas)

As of July 1, 2006, Michael W. Higgins steps down as President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo, Ontario to assume new responsibilities as President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He was at St. Jerome's for 24 years and was cross-appointed to the Departments of Religious Studies and English. He will be similarly cross-appointed at St. Thomas.

Higgins published *Stalking The Holy* (House of Anansi) in 2006; a CBC IDEAS series of the same time was aired in the Spring. In addition, he gave the 2006 Anthony Jordan Lectures at Newman College, Edmonton and a keynote at the Henri Nouwen Conference at the University of Toronto in May, 2006.

Hussain, Amir (Loyola Marymount)

Amir Hussain (Department of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles) has published a new book, *Oil and Water: Two Faiths, One God* (Kelowna: Wood Lake Books, 2006). It is an introduction to Islam and Muslims for a North American audience. It is also a good introduction to interfaith dialogue among Muslims and Christians. More information about the book can be found on Amir's web page: <http://bellarmine.lmu.edu/theology/amir/>

Marcotte, Roxanne D. (Brandon)

"The Relation between Freedom and Religion: An Iranian Discussion," *Australian Religion Studies Review*, 18.1 (2005): 49-67

"Egyptian Islamists and the Status of Muslim Women Question," *Journal for the Study of Religions & Ideologies*, 11 (2005): 71-81 (available online)

"Identity, Power, and the Islamist Discourse on Women: An Exploration of Islamism and Gender Issues in Egypt," in *Islam in World Politics*, eds. Nelly Lahoud, Anthony H. Johns and Allan Patience (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2005): 67-92.

"What Might an Islamist Gender Discourse Look Like?," *Australian Religion Studies Review*, 19.2 (2006) (forthcoming).

Marcotte, Roxanne D. (Brandon) and Gery Dueck (Brandon)

This is an announcement of the completion of SSHRC funded research by Alison R. Marshall, Associate Professor, Religion (principal investigator) and Gery Dueck, Associate Professor, Computer Science (co-investigator), Brandon University.

The Lingji virtual temple project is now complete and can be found at <http://lingji.brandonu.ca>.

The completed interactive virtual temple (Lingji.brandonu.ca) contains Daoist, Buddhist, and Confucian imagery and designs. There are also gods displayed within the temple from the various different temples that Lingji visit. The site also includes publications on the Lingji, as well as researched articles about the different gods who appear in the temple, the temple architecture, wall art and temples in cyberspace.

In addition to including images of different types of temples and their gods, the virtual temple also displays clips of fieldwork footage of Lingji performances and interviews. Each of the clips is displayed randomly and is generated by a database at the bottom of the temple screen. Clips are generated based on the god whose image is displayed at the time the on-line user enters the temple. New clips are generated each time a user clicks on a particular clip. These clips are generated based on keywords that have been assigned to each of the clips. For instance, clicking on a clip that has been given the keywords Lingji, fire dance, and jitong will generate clips that are related to that clip.

Now that the virtual temple is complete we are collecting data to investigate whether virtual users feel that they are responding in a spiritual way to the images and video clips generated in the temple.

Please note that the virtual temple part of the site does not currently run on Macintosh computers.

Sharify-Funk, Meena (Waterloo), Abdul Aziz Said and Mohammed Abu-Nimer (eds)
Contemporary Islam: Dynamic, not Static. London: Routledge Publishers, 2006.

“Islamic interpretation is easily among the most controversial subjects in contemporary scholarship and social commentary. Both in the Islamic world and in the West, interpreting Islam has become a ‘cottage industry.’ The ranks of interpreters are incredibly diverse, including not only a wide range of Muslim scholars, activists and traditionalists, but also foreign policy experts, government officials, journalists and religious leaders. Everyone, it seems, has become a stakeholder in the future of Islam.

Starting with the assumption that the contentious pluralism of contemporary Islamic thought contains the hidden promise of a new and dynamic synthesis, *Contemporary Islam* explores the hermeneutical as well as practical bases for creative responses to some of the most crucial issues facing Muslims: political participation, democracy, human rights, terrorism, nonviolence, peacemaking and intercultural dialogue. By assembling the voices of a remarkably distinguished

group of scholars, this volume provides a compelling model for bridging the gaps that plague Islamic interpreters—gaps between ideals and realities, between traditional and modern interpretive sciences, and between the ‘House of Islam’(dar al-Islam) and the Western Political world.”

Biographies of New Executive Members / Biographies des nouveaux membres du conseil exécutif

Dr. Peter Beyer (President and Representative to the Corporation / Président et représentant à la corporation)

Peter Beyer has been professor of religious studies at the University of Ottawa since 1995, before which he held various positions at the University of Toronto between 1983 and 1995. His primary research interests are in sociological theory of religion, religion and globalization, religion in Canada, and religion in the context of global migration. Major publications include *Religion and Globalization* (Sage, 1994), *Religion in the Process of Globalization* (ed., Ergon, 2001), and *Religions in Global Society* (Routledge, 2006). He is currently completing a multi-year qualitative research project on the religious expression of second generation Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu immigrants in Canada. He first became a member of the CSSR/SCÉR in 1978. He served as vice-president and then president of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion between 2001 and 2006.

Dr. Francis Landy (Conseillers / Members-at-Large)

Francis Landy is a professor in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta, cross-appointed to the interdisciplinary program in Religious Studies. His major area of research is Hebrew Bible; he also teaches courses in Judaism and theory and method in the study of religion. Most of his work has been in the poetic books of the Hebrew Bible (Song of Songs, Hosea, Isaiah), though he has also published literary analyses of biblical narrative. He has published three books, and about sixty articles.

He is currently editor of *Studies in Religion*, and graduate coordinator for Religious Studies at the University of Alberta.

Nouvelles en provenance des départements / Departmental News

Brandon University

Dr. Kurt L. Noll joins the Department of Religion at Brandon University after teaching at several institutions in the United States. Among other publications, Noll is the author of a textbook used by many university and seminary professors for introductory and intermediate courses on ancient Israel and the Hebrew Bible. The textbook is titled *Canaan and Israel in Antiquity: An Introduction* and was published by Sheffield Academic Press/Continuum. Noll’s primary areas of research include historical and literary studies related to the biblical Former Prophets and the history of Canaanite and Israelite religions. He is writing an encyclopedia entry on ancient

Canaanite religion for a forthcoming on-line journal published by Blackwell Publishing Ltd. Noll presented a paper at the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies conference this May. The CSBS paper, "Is the Book of Kings Deuteronomistic? And is it a History?" evaluates recent research on ancient historiography and the light it sheds on the debate surrounding the genre of 1-2 Kings.

Concordia University, Department of Religion

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Religion currently has 11 full-time faculty members, one ETA (extended term appointment) and three LTAs (limited term appointments). The department is very fortunate to hold two endowed Chairs – one is a Chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies (with an Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies) held by Dr. Norman Ravvin and one is a Chair in Hindu Studies held by Dr. T.S. Rukmani. One of our faculty members, Dr. Frederick Bird, holds a Canada Research Chair in Comparative Ethics.

NEW HIRES/DEPARTURES

Dr. Richard Foltz was hired to fill our tenure track position whose area of expertise is Islam – specifically Iranian studies. Dr. Foltz also focuses on environmental ethics in religion with Islam in particular.

Last year we hired a new tenure track member in East Asian Religions – Dr. Marc des Jardins. Dr. des Jardins' area of specialization is Asian Buddhism with a focus on Chinese religions.

Our new LTA in Hinduism is Dr. Robert Menzies and our LTA in Judaism is Dr. Sonia Zylberberg. We were also happy to renew the contract of our LTA in Christianity - Dr. Marc Lalonde.

We were sad to see three members leave our department. Dr. Jack Lightstone has gone on to become President of Brock University; Dr. Philip Harland has gone on to teach at York University and Dr. Steven Lindquist has now secured a tenure track position in Texas.

RESEARCH GRANTS/BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Lynda Clarke is part of a team that received a \$15,000 grant from the Federal Government's Status of Women for a book that she co-authored with P. Cross Primer of Canadian and Muslim Law.

Dr. Richard Foltz has had his new book *Animals in Islamic Tradition and Muslim Cultures* (Oneworld 2006) was sold out and has gone into second printing.

Dr. Marc Lalonde's new book *From Critical Theology to a Critical Theory of Religious Insight: Essays in Contemporary Religious Thought* has been accepted for publication by Peter Lang, NY.

Dr. Michael Oppenheim's book *Jewish Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Narrating the Interhuman* will be available shortly.

Dr. Leslie Orr has a three year SSHRC research grant (2004-07) for her project "Disruption, Destruction and Restoration: Memory and the Politics of Religion in Medieval South India". Dr. Orr is also a co-investigator with Dr. Katherine Young (McGill) of an SSHRC research grant for their project "Singing, Strumming, Drumming, Dancing: Performers as Symbols of Identity in the Social and Religious Histories of South India."

Dr. Donald Boisvert just received a SSHRC research grant for his project: "Virgins, Vital Fluids and the Vatican: Catholic Sainthood and the Forging of Adolescent Sexuality".

UPCOMING POSITION/EVENTS

We are currently advertising two tenure-track positions – one in Hinduism and one in either Late Antique Judaism or Early Christianities. Please see our website for more information. <http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/employment/index.php?f=detail&TTA=128>

We are in the process of a very exciting initiative – the creation of an Institute of Iranian Studies here at Concordia University. We hope to start a fundraising campaign shortly.

Offres d'emploi / Jobs

Concordia University, Department of Religion

We are currently advertising two tenure-track positions – one in Hinduism and one in either Late Antique Judaism or Early Christianities. Please see our website for more information. <http://artsandscience1.concordia.ca/employment/index.php?f=detail&TTA=128>

University of Regina, Department of Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies invites applications for a one-year term position at the Assistant Professor or Lecturer level effective 1 July 2007.

Applicants should have a PhD or be near completion, and show clear evidence of excellence in both teaching and research. Duties of the successful candidate include teaching in the area of Buddhist studies as well as introductory courses in religious studies; research; and participation in departmental activities.

Review of applications will begin on 1 December 2006. Applicants should submit a letter of application accompanied by a curriculum vitae and, if available, student evaluations. Please arrange for the forwarding of official transcripts and three letters of reference to: Dr Thomas Chase, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4S 0A2,

Fax (306) 585-5368. Please note that email applications will not be accepted.

For more information on the Faculty of Arts, please refer to www.uregina.ca/arts/

Academic enquiries may be addressed to: Dr L. Anderson, Head, Department of Religious Studies; phone: (306) 585-4580; email: leona.anderson@uregina.ca

University of Victoria, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society
2007-08 Visiting Research Fellowships (Non-Stipendiary)

The CSRS invites applications for up to five positions available to scholars wishing to conduct a sabbatical or post-retirement term of study at the University of Victoria.

Topics: Scholarly study of religion in relation to any and all aspects of society and culture, both contemporary and historical. Applications from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome.

Eligibility: Scholars of established reputation; emeritus scholars; younger scholars holding a doctorate for at least two years. Canadian and international applicants are equally encouraged.

Value: Office space in the scenic Sedgewick building; a congenial retreat setting; university privileges; enhanced opportunities for research networking and development.

Deadline: 31 January 2007

For more information, visit www.csrs.uvic.ca

Du bureau des affaires étudiantes / From the Student Desk

CSSR Graduate Student Representative Bulletin Report September 2006

A hearty **welcome back** to another exciting year of graduate and undergraduate school to all students out there! I sincerely wish you all a fun and successful academic year!

A deep thank-you to all students who participated in this year's **CSSR conference** in May. It was a huge success, and I was fortunate enough to be able to sit in on a number of sessions in which students presented. All the student papers I was able to listen to were top-notch, which says a lot about the quality of our students and the quality of their academic mentors and programs.

I would like to enthusiastically encourage students to submit applications to present at this year's

upcoming conference in **May 2007** to be held at the University of Saskatchewan. The deadline as usual is in January, and the call for papers will be posted on the CSSR website. Once again, the CSSR continues to have a good trough of money collected from SSHRC over the years that can be used by students for travel expenses if you present a paper. So please do not overlook this conference on account of funding concerns.

The **student lunch session** at this year's conference on getting published in the field of religious studies was a great success and plenty 'o' free pizza was had by all. Our panelists all took somewhat different positions on the issue, which made for a stimulating conversation. Many thanks to our panelists and to those students able to make it out to the session.

This will be **my last year as the CSSR Graduate Student Representative**. In the May 2007 Congress the society will vote in a new rep. If you or anyone you know is interested in the position please send nominations to Mark Chapman our Membership Secretary at MChapman@auc-nuc.ca. This position is a great experience and looks great on a CV.

I would encourage all students to become members of the CSSR and enjoy member benefits: present at the CSSR conference, receive a year subscription to *Studies in Religion*, the premier journal of the study of religion published in Canada, and be an active member of a lively body of scholars deeply involved in the study of religion in Canada and abroad.

I have created **a list of liaison contacts** with most graduate programs in Canada in an attempt to keep in contact with Canadian students. A number of you may have received emails from me this past year as a result. If you are a graduate student and did not hear from me please email me and I will make sure I get your institution on my contact list pronto.

And finally a reminder that the deadline for submission to the **student essay contests** for both graduate and under-graduate students will be coming up in early spring 2006, so think about using the papers you are writing right now as potential submissions. The winners receive cash prizes, and although we are happily seeing an increase in the number of papers submitted each year there is still plenty of room for friendly competition. So please submit! If you win it looks good on a CV and is a great opportunity to present your work.

I wish everyone a fantastic year. I look forward to making contact with you over this coming year and building a network of Canadian students interested in religion. I also look forward to meeting as many of you who can attend the 2007 CSSR conference at the University of Saskatchewan next year. All the best.

Christopher Cutting
CSSR Graduate Student Representative
ccutting@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca

Membership Form

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

Please use this form in forwarding your membership fees, whether a new membership or a renewal.

Your membership pays your annual CSSR dues, CFH dues, and (unless you are an associate member) a subscription to *Studies in Religion*. In addition, your membership entitles you to receive the bi-annual *Bulletin* of the Society and to submit papers to the Programme Committee for consideration for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It does not cover your registration fee for the Annual Meeting. **Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Wilfrid Laurier University Press."**

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**Information concernant la façon de s'acquitter de la cotisation
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Prière d'utiliser ce formulaire pour vous acquitter de votre cotisation même s'il s'agit d'un renouvellement. Votre cotisation couvre vos droits d'adhésion à la SCÉR, à la FCÉH, et (à moins que vous ne soyez membre associé) un abonnement à la revue *Sciences religieuses*. En plus, cette cotisation vous permet de recevoir le *Bulletin* bisannuel de la Société et de soumettre des textes au Comité de programme pour une présentation lors de la réunion annuelle. Il faut toutefois noter que cela n'inclut pas les frais d'inscription au congrès annuel. **Veillez libeller votre chèque ou mandat à l'ordre de: "Wilfrid Laurier University Press."**

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 Wilfrid Laurier University Press
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**On demande aux nouveaux membres d'envoyer
 une copie à:**

Mark D. Chapman
 30 Carrier Drive, Suite 204
 Toronto, ON M9W 5T7
mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

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