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Graduate Student Retreat March 4

Dear Graduate Student Colleagues,

I am pleased to report to you that we have set a date for the first, GTS-sponsored, day-long retreat—Saturday, March 4. It will run from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the “Creek House,” a property nearby campus that the University has set aside for such events. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Our theme is “Prayer in Lent,” with special reference to Christian unity in St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. The day will be structured by several periods of prayer (morning and evening), and by times for individual reflection (reading, praying, walks, etc., as people wish), interspersed with two, thirty minute presentations. The first presentation will be a reflective reading of themes in Ephesians; the second will gather practical reflections on prayer in Lent.

As I see it, this is a special opportunity for two reasons.

1. The day will be entirely student-led and student-attended. Here, then, is a chance to spend time together in a relaxed atmosphere, with a view to mutual inquiry and encouragement. This happens far too little in our department. Further, students from all the graduate programs (MTS, MDiv, PhD) are invited, and so will have a chance to enjoy one another’s company.

2. Evagrius famously said that a theologian is one who prays truly. Prayer, by this reckoning, must be at the heart of our common enterprise. How well do we practice this discipline, however—of prayerful study? Indeed, what is it, even? Surely it is not that, by dint of our

(Continued on page 3)

“Academic Freedom and the Catholic Character”

Last month University President John Jenkins addressed Notre Dame faculty and students on the issue of the relationship between the Catholic character that is central to Notre Dame’s identity and the academic freedom that is necessary for its integrity as a university. Specifically, Father Jenkins suggested that any event “which either is or appears to be in name or content” contrary to “the fundamental values of a Catholic university” should be prohibited at Notre Dame.

Father Jenkins has called for an open dialogue and exchange of ideas on this issue, and the discussion is already in full swing. The text and video of Fr. Jenkins’s address have been posted on the Presidential website (<http://president.nd.edu/academic-freedom/>). There are also links to specially-designed feedback forms that you can use to email your com-

ments, all of which Fr. Jenkins has promised to read.

On a broader level, the Graduate Student Union (the University-wide body representing graduate students) is considering whether to issue a statement in response to Fr. Jenkins. A first draft of the statement has been posted on the GSU website (<http://www.gsu.nd.edu/>). At this point, the statement does not take a strong position but expresses concern and asks for clarification regarding ambiguities in Fr. Jenkins’s address as to precisely what types of events might be disallowed. The statement will be discussed at a special GSU meeting open to all graduate students, which will be held on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30 pm in the McNeill room at LaFortune. —MZ

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*The next GTS Bulletin
comes out Mar 6.*

*Send submissions to
beaton.6@nd.edu*

by Mar 2.

Transitions and Accolades

TRANSITIONS

If you have any announcements regarding births, marriages, illnesses, or deaths, please send an email to rreyes@nd.edu so that they might be included in the next issue.

Daniel (PhD-CJA) and **Sarah Smith** received their firstborn son, Ezra James Smith, on 26 October 2005. Eleanor Catherine Thomas was born to **Sam (PhD CJA)** and **Christiana Thomas** on 31 December 2005, and, according to Sam, will be baking bread very soon. **Kevin (MTS)** and **Danielle Haley** and **Lenny** and **Lisa (MDiv) DeLorenzo** also welcomed their first children into the world in early January: Jacob William Haley and Caleb Elijah DeLorenzo.

Margaret Brinkmeier, 88, is gravely ill, has been recommended to our prayers by **Mary Margaret Hoden (PhD – LS)**. Mary Margaret asks that we ask for a happy and peaceful death for her mother.

Rudy Reyes Jr. (PhD – HC) asks that we pray for the repose of the soul of William J. Meyer, a dear and close friend of his family, who was born into eternal life this past week.

ACCOLADES

If you have any announcements regarding professional accomplishments, please send an email to rreyes@nd.edu so that they might be included in the next issue.

Congratulations to **Paul Martens, Ph.D. (MT `05)** who has received a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Also, felicitations to all those who presented papers at the recent meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature in late November.

Finally, we extend our best wishes and prayerful support to those who will be sitting their candidacy examinations in mid-March: **Todd Hanneken** and **Andy Teeter (CJA)**; **Kimberly Belcher** and **Nick Russo (LS)**; **Anselma Dolcich-Ashley** and **James Helmer (MT)**; **Ernesto Valiente (ST)**; and **Ken Garcia, Daria Lucas, and Scott Moringello (HC)**. —RR

Professional Organizations: AJS

The Association of Jewish Studies (<http://www.brandeis.edu/ajs/>) held its 37th annual conference December 18-20 in Washington D.C. The conference was the largest yet, with approximately 1000 scholars in attendance. The plenary address was given by former U.S. Middle East negotiator, Ambassador Dennis Ross.

Notre Dame was represented with papers presented by Mary Rose D'Angelo (Prophetic

License and Family Values: Engendering Early Christian Prophecy) and Robin Darling Young (Prophecy in Early Christian Dreams: Hermas, Perpetua, and the Pearl in the Depths). Todd Hanneken (CJA 3rd year) attended.

Student membership costs \$35 and the 2006 conference will be held December 17-19 in San Diego, CA. —TRH

R U N F O R O F F I C E

The Graduate Student Union represents you to the University and decides how to spend your student activity fee. Think you can do better? Consider running for one of several stipended offices. The offices are not as hotly contested as you might think. Look for an email from the GSU about an information session in late February or contact one of your GTS representatives to the GSU, Todd Hanneken and Molly Zahn. —TRH

Around South Bend

A newcomer to the downtown scene is the **Chicory Café**, a New Orleans-style coffee house just down the street from (and quite a bit nicer than) the Chocolate Café. Chicory has all your standard coffees and teas, plus a small selection of soups, salads, and po'boy sandwiches. If you're in the mood for something sweet, try the gelato—or even better, the beignets, a French pastry that has been described as a “miniature funnel cake.” Open till 6 on weekdays; till 10 (with live music) on Saturdays. 105 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend.

Right around the corner from the Chicory Café you'll discover a more established South Bend gem: **City-Wide Liquors**. If you're tired of the beer and wine fare available at Martin's, head to City-Wide for a large and interesting selection. There's lots of off-the-beaten-path bottled beer (even 6-packs of Point Beer, from my home town!), a wide variety of wines, and an impressive array of single-malt Scotches and other liquor. 109 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend; also 3825 N. Grape Rd., 1108 W. 8th St., and 305 Bittersweet in Mishawaka.

Macri's Italian Bakery offers a full Italian bakery as well as a variety of deli sandwiches. You'll find it at 214 N. Niles Ave, if you drive south from campus on Eddy and take a right on LaSalle and a left on N. Niles. There is plenty of seating for those who are looking for lunch or a light dinner. If you live downtown, it's also a great place to stop to grab a muffin and coffee on the way to campus!

—REB and MZ

In Our Department...

HC and LS Joint Colloquium

Jorgen Feulner (Vienna), Guest Lecturer

Thur., 2 Mar., 4:30 p.m., 117 DeBartolo

GTS Retreat (see page 1)

Sat., 4 Mar., 9:00 a.m., Creek House

LS Faculty and Student Meeting

Wed., 8 Mar., 4:30 p.m., 134 Malloy

MTS Colloquium

Wed., 8 Mar., 4:30 p.m., 116 Pasquerilla

Around the University...

Community Service: An Ethical Imperative

Thurs., 16 Feb., 12:30 p.m., Giovanini Commons, COBA

Carol Ann Mooney, President, Saint Mary's College

Stupeur et tremblements (Fear and Trembling)

Thurs., 16 Feb., 7:00 p.m., Browning Cinema, DPAC

Introductory Lecture by Prof. Frédérique Chevillot, University of Denver; Sponsored by Nanovic Institute

GSU Mardi Gras Party

Tues., 28 Feb., 11:00 p.m., Madison Oyster Bar

150 Free Tickets at LaFun; Appetizers served.

—RR

Basement Computer Lab

The Graduate Theological Society and the Department have been working to improve the computer lab in the basement of Malloy. Currently there are two brand new computers, one Macintosh and one Windows. Additionally, a Linux kiosk is available for basic functionality for the web and OpenOffice. The computers allow free printing to the printer in the lab and/or the faster one at the end of the hall. Swipe your ND ID card to get in.

—TRH

Intramurals

Always in the hunt for the Ultimate Glory, a number of theology students have again formed an Ultimate Frisbee intramural team. The team, widely referred to as "The God Squad," was spotted dominating the Frisbee pitch in the Loftus Center last week. When asked how the competition went, one player was quoted as saying, "yea, both teams came out and played hard, but it was pretty clear whose side God was on." The God Squad will look continue their winning ways in the Loftus Center over the next two weeks, continually showing undergraduates the power of "The Squad." To cheer the squad onto victory, come to the Loftus Center at 10:15 pm Monday. The following game will be announced at a later date. —TB

Special Thanks to the Endowed Chairs for sponsoring the GTS Christmas Party!

(“Retreat” Continued from page 1)

own effort—thinking really hard—we may arrive, finally, at God, or truth or freedom. For God is unspeakably different from us, literally beyond whatever we may foolishly imagine (Isa 55.8-9). “What then are we to say about these things?” (Rom 8.31). Perhaps just this: that “no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (Isa 64.4/1 Cor 2.9). So that love of God is the primal intellectual act, the condition for all that would follow when it comes to theology: because this is how it is with prayer. In this case, knowledge and holiness are joined; and the hope of the graduate student is pinned to the appeal of the apostle: “to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual—reasonable, logical (*logikon*)—worship” (Rom 12.1).

I look forward to seeing many of you (Jn 11.16)! Please register no later than February 24 by contacting Rhodora Beaton (beaton.6@nd.edu). Bring along your Bibles, and a journal for reflection. —CW, on behalf of the planning committee

Symposium in Honor of VanderKam, Mar 5-6

Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Sea Scrolls. A Symposium in Honor of James C. VanderKam. March 5-6, 2006. McKenna Hall.

Scholars, friends and students will gather for a short symposium consisting of papers, informal conversation, and a reception celebrating Jim's 60th birthday. The program is as follows. If you would like more information, or would like to register to attend the symposium, please contact Sam Thomas at stthomas3@nd.edu or 217-5493.

Sunday, March 5

4:30pm Welcome and Introduction, Gary A. Anderson (University of Notre Dame)

4:45 "The Unfinished Scroll: The End of the Temple Scroll," Lawrence Schiffman (New York University)

5:30 "Decoration, Debauchery and Destruction: Reflections on 1 Enoch 8 in Light of 4QEnb," Kelley Coblenz Bautch (St. Edward's University)

6:00 Dinner – Donor's Room, Morris Inn
8:00 Keynote: "A Holy House for Aaron: The Aims of the Yahad," John J. Collins (Yale University)

9:00 Wine & Cheese Reception – Lobby, McKenna Hall

Monday, March 6

8:30 – 10:00am Graduate Student Papers
"Scripts, Scrolls and Textual Communities: A New Model for Reading the Serekh Versions," Alison Schofield (University of Denver)

"The 'Mystery' Community: Raz in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Revisited," Sam Thomas (University of Notre Dame)

"Geography As an Evaluative Tool in the Genesis Apocryphon," Dan Machiela (University of Notre Dame)

10:00 Break – Lobby, McKenna Hall

10:30 "What Happened to the Laws? The Treatment of Legal Material in 4QRe-worked Pentateuch," Moshe Bernstein (Yeshiva University)

11:15 "The Community of the Community Hymns," Angela Kim (Duquesne University)

11:45 "Pseudonymity and Exemplarity: The Case of 4Ezra," Hindy Najman (University of Toronto)

12:30pm Lunch – Donor's Room, Morris Inn

1:30 "Qumran Self-Identity and the Eschatological Restoration of Israel," John Bergsma (Franciscan University of Steubenville)

2:00 "Whose Scripture? Whose Community? Reflections on the Dead Sea Scrolls Then and Now," Rob Kugler (Lewis & Clark College)

2:45 "Methodological Reflections on Determining Scriptural Status in First Century Judaism," Eugene Ulrich (University of Notre Dame)

3:15-3:30 Conclusion of Symposium

**SPECIAL THANKS TO SAM THOMAS
FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!**

Visiting Scholars: Jamie Phelps, O.P.

Professor Jamie T. Phelps, O.P. is currently visiting from Xavier University of Louisiana, where she serves as Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (ICBS). Although the circumstances of her arrival here in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina were less than desirable, Prof. Phelps is enjoying the hospitality extended by both the department and the university at large. She appreciates the fact that students at ND "seem to grasp that it is important to get to know about the diverse cultural groups that make up the contemporary church in the United States and the global community, if the church is really going to play a constructive role in our global society." Prof. Phelps is currently teaching a graduate level seminar entitled "Black Catholic Theology in Dialogue" and is preparing for the Summer Session of the ICBS which will be

hosted on the Notre Dame campus this summer.

Despite serious flood damage, Prof. Phelps' home university of Xavier was able to re-open on January 15th with 3,000 of the regular 4,100 undergraduates in attendance. Prof. Phelps informs us that 60% of current undergraduates major in biology pre-med, while others complete the D.Pharm degree offered at Xavier and move on to careers in pharmacy. We're sure that their theology majors end up with lucrative careers as well! Xavier itself was founded in 1929 by Sr. Katherine Drexel during the time of educational segregation. It is one of several Historically Black Colleges and Universities established during this time period.

The ICBS was founded in 1980 at Xavier University, and offers an interdisciplinary MA in Theology as well as continuing edu-

cation courses for laity, priests, deacons, women and men religious and cross-cultural missionaries who serve or wish to participate in the US Black Catholic community. (www.xula.edu/IBCS/)

Prof. Phelps specializes in ecclesiology with an emphasis on inculturation. Current research is in the area of communion ecclesiology and the relationship between liberation and communion. Recent publications include: "Liberation for Communion: The Church's Justice Mission in an Unjust Society," and "Black Religious Traditions and Human Rights: Theological and Historical Perspectives." She has also recently co-edited "Stamped in the Image of God, African Americans as God's Image in Black, American Catholic Identities: A Documentary History."

Prof. Phelps can best be reached at jphelps@nd.edu. —MT and REB