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Front Matter

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The content of the Journal shall be academic discourse which promotes and illuminates community dialogue. Appropriate topics of submission include but are not limited to the secular critique of religion, inter religious dialogue, the interpretation of sacred texts, the interaction of religion and society, the validation of ethical discernment, and issues of race, gender, and class.

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Note from the Editor

Founded five years ago by a collaboration of students and faculty, *The Denison Journal of Religion* is produced once a year to showcase the wide range of scholarship taking place within the religion department. The variety of articles also reflects the diverse interests of students who were challenged to think in new ways and connect the issues of religious studies with other interests and concerns both through classes and independent projects.

It is my hope that the submissions chosen for this year will not only continue the journal's tradition of excellence, but will also promote an ongoing discussion of the relevance of religious studies for the present day. In addition to representing the array of work being done within the department, I chose topics that I felt are important for students today. Issues of environmental preservation, social justice, and religious pluralism appear alongside essays on film and biblical studies.

About the Contributors

Rachel Wise '06 is a Senior English major from Harrison, Ohio. Her academic interests include: English (British and American modernists particularly, as well as postmodernists), religion (specifically how Christianity shapes public discourse and lent itself to specific American institutions/structures), and history (particularly the Civil War and American women's history).

Annette Thornburg '05 graduated this year with a double major in English and Religion. Currently she is a summer reading instructor for the Institute of Reading Development. Her plans for the future, however, are as of now still up in the air.

Stephen Grosse graduated summa cum laude from Denison last spring ('05) with a B.A. His major was religion and pre-medicine. He is currently working as a paramedic in Ann Arbor and plans to start medical school next year. His interests include backpacking, golf, and reading. At Denison he was a firefighter/paramedic for Granville Fire Department, worked as a student writer in the office of public affairs and was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa.

Gretchen Roeck '05 graduated with a major in Religion. She is currently attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Aaron Bestic '07 is a Junior double majoring in Political Science and Religion. He hopes to go into a Law career. His hometown is Canfield, Ohio and he enjoys reading books on history.

Amanda Vajskop '05 graduated and is currently working both as a contributing editor at the Summit County Women's Journal and as an agent of social change. She plans to attend Seminary in the fall.

Emily Teitelbaum '05 graduated this past May. Her major at Denison was Psychology with a minor in Religion. She plans to take the year off and work in Columbus and then attend graduate school in either counseling, social work, or possibly divinity school. Other interests are playing tennis, anything outdoors, volunteering, and working with children.

Josh Clark '06 is a senior psychology major, religion minor. He plans on attending graduate school for psychology, but would like to travel and get some experience in the field. He enjoys traveling, watching sports, reading, spending time with friends, and playing ultimate frisbee.