

# Denison Journal of Religion

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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 submissions 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.

### **Student Editors**

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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 reflect the diverse interests of students challenged by their many interests to connect their religious studies with concerns from their lives, classes and independent projects.

It is our hope that the articles selected for this years Journal will continue the tradition of excellence, but also promote continued discussion of the relevance of religious studies today. In addition to providing examples of the array of work done in the department, we chose articles that are important and affect students today. Essays on social justice and religious pluralism appear alongside an article about the current Presidential Administration.

# About the Contributors

**Gitanjali Bakshi** graduated in May of 2006 with a major in religion. Her essay was an integral part of her senior research with Professor Van Broekhoven. Together they designed a comparative religious study between Hindu and Christian narrative. Gitanjali says, “The experience has definitely deepened my understanding of the Christian tradition and in turn has expanded my knowledge about Hinduism as well. I feel that it is necessary to utilize comparative skills in today’s global and transnational world and it is my intention to work for organizations that foster religious tolerance and cultural diversity.

**Josh Clark** graduated in the class of ‘06 with a major in psychology and a minor in religion. He is currently working and doing some traveling before he enters graduate school for psychology. His essay is a revised entry from the religion department comprehensive exam and so reflects thoughts on several religion courses taken throughout his time at Denison.

**Lauren Clark** is a 2006 graduate who earned a double major in communication and religion. Her submission to the journal is an excerpt from her senior honors thesis, “The Rhetoric of the War on Terror: George W. Bush’s Transformation of the Jeremiad.” Lauren will begin working for the Democratic caucus in the Ohio State Legislature this November.

**Megan Henricks** ‘08 is a sophomore pursuing a double major in philosophy and religion. In her study of religion, she is primarily interested in the way that religious belief functions in human consciousness and in the intersection of philosophy and religion. Megan’s submission is a final paper for an Honors Seminar entitled “Empire: Is America the New Rome?”, and it represents a combination of both of her disciplines to address the issue of United States imperialism.

**Leigh Rogers** is a 2006 graduate from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was a religion major at Denison, and her submission comes from her senior honors thesis titled: “Secular Messages in Religious Settings: A Theological Critique of Rod Parsley’s Political Agenda.” In the fall Leigh will be attending Union Theological Seminary in New York, NY to pursue a Masters in Theology.

**Cora Walsh** graduated in 2006 with a B.S. in biology and a minor in vocal music performance. Next year she will be moving to the UK to pursue a Master’s in Health, Community and Development at the London School of Economics. “AIDS and Empire: Setting the Conditions of a Pandemic” drew ams largely on her inter-departmental senior honors project, “HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa: Determining Successful Prevention Strategies,” advised by Dr. Kent Maynard (Anthropology) and Dr. Christine Weingart (Biology). Eventually, Cora hopes to combine further studies in public health and medicine to work with issues of community health in sub-Sa-