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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

Anna Meeker and Eleanor Swensson

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Note from the Editors

Earlier this semester, we, the editors, met to discuss the essays that were submitted to the Denison Journal of Religion for this year. This task was a difficult one because of the high caliber of the submissions we received. After much deliberation, we came to a decision based on the quality of research and writing, diversity of opinion and method, and the goal of a balance within the discipline.

The essays by Caiti Schroering and Whitney Carpenter represent the different religious traditions studied within the department. Schroering's piece gives readers an insight into how Buddhism can provide a foundation for social change, while Carpenter's takes a creative look into how Jewish people were able to survive the Holocaust. Jacquelyn Fishburne's essay presents an interdisciplinary view of empire, religion, and art that we hope will spark thought about the uses of art, especially within the discipline of religious studies. The essay by Amanda Conley shows how, from a Christian perspective, social change can be based in and is a product of religion. Eleanor Swensson's essay on thanatology demonstrates the interdisciplinary research that often takes place in the Department of Religion, much like Fishburne's piece. Swensson's essay on thanatology also investigates the necessity of religion in complex issues such as the process of death. Each of these essays provides thoughtful analyses of issues that could be applicable to us today. Furthermore, we believe that these essays offer hope of a solution to the issues they present.

We were impressed by the quality of the submissions we received, but we feel that the particular essays included this year best exemplify the diversity and quality of research that comprise the Department of Religion.

Enjoy!

Anna Meeker, Senior Editor

Eleanor Swensson, Junior Editor

About the Contributors

Caiti Schroering graduated in May of 2009.

Whitney Carpenter graduated in May of 2009. She was a Religion major.

Jacquelyn Fishburne is currently a senior. She is a Studio Art major going for her BFA, with concentrations in Photography, Printmaking, and Ceramics.

Amanda Conley graduated in May of 2009. She was a double major in Religion and Economics. She is currently enrolled at Union Theological Seminary.

Eleanor Swensson is currently a junior. She is a double major in English and Religion.