# **Denison Journal of Religion**

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### **Front Matter**

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# The Denison Journal of Religion

THE DENISON JOURNAL of RELIGION

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

Daniel McCready and Mimi Mendez de Leon

# **Faculty Editorial Board**

John Cort John Jackson Jonathan Moore K. Christine Pae Harold Van Broekhoven David Woodyard

And a special thanks to

Sandra Mead and Erin Lennon, Academic Administrative Assistants
for all that they have done to make this publication possible

# **About the Contributors**

**Taylor Klassman** is currently a senior, majoring in both Religion and English. Her work for this current journal has been awarded the prized essay.

**Joshua Rager** is currently a senior. He is a Religion major with a minor in Chemistry.

**Carly Matas** is currently a senior, majoring in both Religion and Women's Studies.

Jessica Ann Began graduated in May of 2012 with a degree in Religion and Economics.

Mimi Mendez de Leon is currently a junior, majoring in both Religion and English.

### Note from the Editors

Students in the religion department write frequently and in great volume, it is a process that is rewarding at times, and at others Promethean; rendering our accomplishments lusterless and rote. This publication is a chance to freeze time, showcase those student who's work, the product of dogged research and meditation, has been outstanding and might have very well been overlooked as new students arrive and the torrent of papers continues. The past few months have been spent reading, vetting and proofing viable contributions, reimagining the Journal in years to come, as well as its role in the department and the University. Under the patient and fruitful guidance of Harold Van Broekhoven, the tireless efforts of Sandra Mead and the constant support and suggestions from the faculty, we have arrived at a showcase of what summers, semesters, and years of research can mold and whittle. Our task, as editors, has been to find a balance in religious scholarship, a balance between the monographic and the politicized. This annual prides itself on keeping religious thought relevant, but also being true to the rigorous exegesis that has sometimes rendered this discipline ineffectual to the average reader. The result is a combination of pieces that deal with contemporary social issues, but do not skimp on the hard stuff, if you will. This year we have awarded Taylor Klassman's analysis of the Song of Songs as the prized essay. Ms. Klassman's past work has been in the journal before, including an excerpt from her research during her Woodyard Summer Scholar post, "Reconciliation & Resistance: Negotiating the Social & Theological Polarity Between God & Gay". She consistently demonstrates an originality and cogency that exceeds our expectations. Please enjoy this year's issue of the Denison Journal of Religion.

Regards,
Daniel McCready, Senior Editor
Mimi Mendes de Leon, Junior Editor