

# AAR Speaking of Students

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## NOTE FROM KRISTY SLOMINSKI, STUDENT DIRECTOR

As a current Atlanta resident, I am happy that many of you are coming to visit my city as you attend the Annual Meeting in November! A few tips:



- Unless you have a special side trip in mind, you probably don't need to rent a car. The MARTA's red and yellow lines go north from the airport to Peachtree Center Station, near some of the hotels. There are many food options near the hotels. If you are looking for a unique tourist spot, I'd recommend making a reservation at the Westin's Sundial restaurant for lunch (because it is cheaper than their dinner options) or a drink at their bar. The Sundial is 70+ stories high and spins so that you can see the city.
- Check out our many [Especially for Students programs](#), including our Student Welcome and Business Meeting, Student Lounge Roundtables on professional development topics, our panel on "Dehumanized vs. Holistic Scholars: How Academia Impacts Our Lives," and, if you are an undergraduate, our workshops that will be held off-site at Georgia State University's religious studies department.
- On October 15, sign up for the [Have a Cup of Coffee on the AAR](#) mentoring opportunity. Spaces are limited for this chance to have an informal coffee chat with a scholar during the Annual Meeting.
- If you are on the job market, please register for the [Employment Center](#). This year it is

free, allows you to post your CV and message search committees, and, most importantly, gives the AAR a clearer picture about who is on the job market.

As I finish my two-year term as your student representative on the national board, I would love to hear from you with any concerns, questions, or comments. You are also encouraged to contact your regional Student Director. Our contact information can be found here: [www.aarweb.org/about/graduate-student-committee](http://www.aarweb.org/about/graduate-student-committee). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE**

The Graduate Student Committee (GSC) is excited to offer a wide range of programs exclusively for graduate students at this year's Annual AAR/SBL Meeting in Atlanta. Please see the [attached flyer](#) and share it with your colleagues.

### **MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**



#### **Mentoring for Underrepresented Persons in the Profession - DEADLINE IS THIS THURSDAY!**

AAR continues its [mentoring program serving underrepresented professionals](#); a new cohort will commence November 2015 at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Thirty-five doctoral students, non-tenured (i.e., pre-tenure, adjunct, contract, or hybrid administrator/faculty) faculty, and/or post-doctoral fellows will be matched with participating scholars who will serve as mentors for a period of one year.

You may apply for the mentoring program by completing [this online form](#). The deadline for mentoring applications is **October 15, 2015**. Notification of program acceptance will be sent by **November 5, 2015**.

### **Women's Mentoring Luncheon at the Annual Meeting**

**ONLY 30 SPACES REMAIN!** Each year, the Status of Women in the Profession and the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Committees organizes a luncheon during the Annual Meeting. Several mid-career and senior AAR scholars gather with newer and emerging scholars in the field to discuss pertinent issues like choosing an adviser, getting published, contract negotiation, and the challenge of balancing work and personal commitments. The lunch is cosponsored with the Women's Caucus. [Pre-registration is required](#) and the lunch costs \$13. Sorry, no refunds.

A list of the mentors and more information on the Mentoring Lunch is available on the [registration page](#).

**[Have a Cup of Coffee on the AAR Mentoring Program](#)**

Meet with a mentor to have an hour-long chat at the Annual Meeting - [coffee is on the AAR](#). This is your chance to meet with AAR leaders from the Board of Directors, Committees, and Program Units, among other groups. The sign up for mentoring time slots will open on October 15. Slots are limited and are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Find out how an hour with an experienced mentor can make the difference!



### REGIONAL STUDENT DIRECTOR INTRODUCTIONS



Francisca Ireland-Verwoerd, NEEMAR

Cisca was born and raised in the Netherlands, has lived in five countries, and now resides near Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband and son. She is a PhD student in practical theology at Boston University, with concentrations in church and society (art and theology). She is also an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, and likes to find common ground with people from different cultures and other faith communities. She likes to preach, teach, write, and make art and also loves to explore new places, cook, read, or watch a good story, and zone out with a jigsaw or Sudoku puzzle.

### REGIONAL AAR CALL FOR PAPERS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- [Southwest Region](#) – **October 15, 2015**
- [Mid-Atlantic Region](#) – **December 18, 2015**
- [Upper Midwest Region](#) – **December 20, 2015**
- [Eastern International Region](#) – **February 15, 2016**
- [Pacific Northwest Region](#) – **February 15, 2016**

### PEDAGOGICAL RESOURCE

Now used in religion and other courses around the country, *The Monastic Project* is an individual and experiential exploration of the monastic path and contemplative disciplines. The *Project* has now been tested by various professors in a variety of religion and other courses and refined to ensure that it accomplishes the stated goal, can be done in the context of the student's campus life, and minimizes the amount of time required by the instructor to implement. The *Project* has been reviewed in *Teaching Theology and Religion* (April 2009), discussed in many AAR and other forums, and recommended by Matthew Fox and others. While not an explicit goal of the *Project*, many participants report results transformative beyond religious experience, such as improved mental and physical health, clarification of life goals and purpose, improved relationships, increased awareness, and better sleep. To quickly determine whether or not *The Monastic Project* could be useful for one of your courses, please email Dr. Calvin Mercer, [mercerc@ecu.edu](mailto:mercerc@ecu.edu), for the free *Manual for Instructors*. In about 10–15 minutes, you can look at three small sections of the *Manual*

and decide if the *Project* will work for your classes.

### **FACEBOOK PAGES FOR STUDENT MEMBERS**

Our [Student Members and Friends of the American Academy of Religion](#) Facebook page is available for all members and friends of the AAR. Members can post calls for papers, job listings, requests for more information, forthcoming publications, and more.

You can also stay connected with students and events in your region by "liking" your regional Facebook page:

- [Student Members of the AAR EIR](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Midwest Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR New England-Maritime Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Pacific Northwest Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR and SBL Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Southeast Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Upper Midwest Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Western Region](#)
- [American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Region](#)