



Fostering Excellence In the Study of Religion

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Friends:

Greetings from the American Academy of Religion! I hope this missive finds you well and enjoying summer pursuits. This month's E-bulletin contains several items of note. On the Annual Meeting front, registration for the Employment Center is now open for both candidates and employers. Furthermore, this month's E-bulletin also contains information about our research grants, Excellence in Teaching award, upcoming features of *Religious Studies News*, and a Wabash Center teaching workshop.

One last item of note: If you visit the [AAR website](#), you will notice that we've made a few changes to our home page. These are interim updates that have been instituted for increased navigability and ease of use. AAR has retained a technology team to completely redesign the website. We are excited about this project and can't wait to share the new website with you once it's complete!

With every good wish in this summer season, and with thanks for your participation in the work of our Academy, I remain

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack Fitzmier'.

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

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Account Information

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Annual Meeting Program Book

Check out the [Online Annual Meeting Program Book!](#) The print *Program Planner* will be mailed to you in early September, and the *Program Book* will be included in the tote bag at the Annual Meetings, which will be available onsite in the registration area of the Moscone Center West in San Francisco.

Annual Meeting Registration and Housing

AAR Annual Meeting [Registration and Housing](#) is now open! You must be registered to secure housing. "Early Bird" registration rates are in effect until **August 31, 2011**.

Registration Open for the Employment Center at the Annual Meetings

Preregistration for the Employment Center, sponsored by the AAR and SBL, is currently [open for candidates](#) through the Annual Meeting registration system. [Preregistration for employers](#) is currently open through the AAR and SBL advertisement submission websites. The deadline to preregister for both candidates and employers is **October 24, 2011**. Register early to receive full benefits.

Women's Mentoring Luncheon

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Task Force, and the Women's Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon on Sunday, November 23, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Judith Plaskow, Traci West, Namsoon Kang, and Katie Cannon. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued. The lunch costs \$10 per person; sorry, no refunds. Registration is limited to 100. [Click here to register.](#)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop

The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion is offering a workshop on Friday, November 18, 1:00–5:00 PM, on designing an introductory course syllabus. The introductory course sits at the nexus of multiple concerns and demands. For example, as a general education course, it must teach skills (and in some places to a diverse audience). But as an introduction to a dimension of the field of religious studies or biblical studies (or whatever area it is "introducing") it must either entice new majors, functioning to offer "tidbits" of larger subjects, or set the foundations for work in a field. This workshop will examine the introductory course in its multiplicity through the common element of all courses: the syllabus. The syllabus will allow us to ask a variety of questions about contextual demands of institution, guild, departmental, and personal goals. Participants will be required to bring a syllabus from

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an introductory course they are currently teaching or TA-ing (or from an introductory course they would like to teach). For more information, contact Paul Myhre, Associate Director, Wabash Center, at 800-655-7117 or myhrep@wabash.edu.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Each year the AAR awards grants of up to \$5,000 for individual and collaborative research projects. The research grants [online submission system](#) is now open. All applicants must apply online; paper applications will not be accepted. The deadline to apply for a 2011 grant is **August 1, 2011**. For additional information, see <http://www.aarweb.org/programs/grants>.

AAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Teaching and Learning Committee seeks nominations for the AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominations of winners of campus awards, or any other awards, are encouraged. Procedures for the nomination process are outlined on the [AAR website](#). The deadline for nominations is **October 1, 2011**.

ACADEMIC ABBY

Do you have a question about life in academe that you are at a loss to answer by yourself but don't feel you can approach your colleagues with it? [Ask Academic Abby!](#) Academic Abby is able to answer questions large and small, from dealing with faculty dilemmas, to tenure issues, to work/life balance troubles. Questions can be submitted anonymously through an [online form](#). Members of the AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee will respond to each question received. The question and answer will be posted on the [SWP web page](#) and issues of [Religious Studies News](#).

AAR MEMBER NOTES

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones! Announcements can include awards (e.g., research, grant funding, and teaching), quotes or appearances in the news media, memorials, career transitions (e.g., promotions, appointments, and leaves), new books, and miscellaneous items of interest. We want to hear about it! Member Notes will be published in [Religious Studies News](#). You can [submit your Member Note online](#).
