



# e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

## RENEW FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014 TODAY!

[Renew](#) your 2014 AAR membership! Make sure your access remains uninterrupted to all your member benefits, including print and online access to *JAAR*, *Religious Studies News*, and reduced registration rates at the Annual Meeting. Renew your membership for calendar year 2014 at [www.aarweb.org/join2014](http://www.aarweb.org/join2014). Keep an eye on your mailbox and inbox for important news about your 2014 membership.

## AAR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Are you an AAR member who is passionate about your profession and guild? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm? Do you think AAR membership is an important part of your professional life? If so, the AAR is looking for you!

AAR is developing a grassroots Ambassador program to help get information out to people about the study of religion and AAR programs. We want to give Ambassadors the tools to effectively educate and inspire people to get the most out of their AAR membership.

The program will be launched in stages with ambassadors being a point of contact for the AAR in your department or professional space.

Ambassadors may choose to do any of the following activities:

- Positively represent the AAR.
- Be a point of contact for information (brochures, pamphlets, etc.) to display and place in common areas of your department or

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professional space.

- Act as a resource for current AAR members and prospective members.
- Lead a short presentation to students and/or faculty about the program and services the AAR provides and encourage AAR membership. AAR will provide you with some helpful guidelines and materials on how to make this happen.
- Do you have an idea? What would you like to do? Let us know by sending it to Aislinn Jones at [ajones@aarweb.org](mailto:ajones@aarweb.org).

Being an AAR Ambassador is a great way to volunteer within *your* schedule. You can build new connections and learn more about the AAR.

**Requirements:** The tenure of the ambassador position is from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. Current AAR membership is required. No travel and minimal impact on your time is required — we just want your enthusiasm and willingness to serve!

Help us spread the word about the AAR by applying to be an ambassador in your area. Apply [online](#) today.

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## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

### Register Today!

November will be here before you know it! [Register](#) for the Annual Meeting today.

### THATCamp: Technology Camp at Annual Meeting

If you are interested in how technology is changing—or can change—the work of religious studies scholars, then we invite you to attend the AAR's first ever [THATCamp](#)!

THATCamp stands for "The Humanities and Technology Camp."

THATCamps are "unconferences," which means the sessions are built around hands-on workshops and collaborative working groups rather than formal presentations. Participants are encouraged to propose sessions they would like to attend in advance of the meeting on the THATCamp blog. Topics we could cover include academic blogging, social media in the classroom, social media in religion, digital research methods, web-based class projects, online publishing, and countless others.

Sessions largely take four formats.

- In **Talk Sessions** offer the chance to do a group discussion around a

topic or question.

- In **Make Sessions**, someone leads a small group in a hands-on collaborative working session with the aim actually making something--software, best practices document, a syllabus, etc.
- In **Teach Sessions**, an individual leads a hands-on workshop on a specific skill or software tool.
- In **Play Sessions**, literally anything goes. You suggest literally playing a game, or spending some quality time with one or more.

THATCamp AAR will be **Friday, November 22** from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

THATCamp is free, but a separate registration is required to ensure we have adequate space. For more information, please see the THATCamp AAR's website at: <http://aar2013.thatcamp.org>.

### **Women's Mentoring Luncheon — Registration Is Open!**

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and the Women's Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon on Sunday, November 24, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Traci West, Ellen Armour, and Rebecca Todd Peters; see [here](#) for a full list of confirmed mentors. 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.

**Making your air travel reservations?** AAR has arranged for travel discounts with several airlines and a car rental company. Visit the AAR [web site](#) for the discount codes.

There is lots of information about local transportation, discounts, and other items to make your travel to the Annual Meeting easier. Please see the [AAR web site](#).

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### **Call for Papers: AAR Teaching Religious Studies Series, "Teaching Interreligious Encounters"**

There is a projected new volume in the AAR's Teaching Religious Studies book series on teaching interreligious encounters. This volume will consist of essays addressing various facets, practical and theoretical, of teaching across multiple religious traditions, including Comparative Theology and

Theologies of Religious Pluralism. The essays need not utilize the scholarship of teaching and learning and research on pedagogy, but such proposals are especially welcome. The contributions may run anywhere along the gamut of teaching as knowing (content) to sustained reflection on the practice of teaching CT and TRP. To read more about this opportunity, including the information on how to submit a proposal, please [click here](#).

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### **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, 2013**.

### **2013–2014 International Dissertation Research Grants**

The 2013–2014 International Dissertation Research Grants applications process is [open](#). These annual grants, designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.

**Deadline: December 1, 2013.**

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### **IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Are you interested in the latest happenings in the field of religion? Would you like to post an announcement of an event, award competition, or other news of importance in the field? [In the Field](#) is your resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education, published online by the AAR.

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### **ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues**

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 [Status of Women in the Profession web page](#) and issues of [Religious Studies News](#).

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## **ASK THE DIVA**

If you are experiencing issues of special concern to LGBTIQ scholars of religion, the Diva can help! What questions do you have about graduate school, career development, teaching, etc.? Questions can be submitted anonymously through an [online form](#). Members of the LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee will respond. Your confidentiality is assured; the answers can be e-mailed to you privately if you wish. With your permission, the questions and answers will be posted anonymously in [Religious Studies News](#).

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## **CORRECTION TO AUGUST E-BULLETIN**

AAR's Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion was mistakenly abbreviated to "Award for Excellence in Religion" in the listing of book award winners. The correct and full name of the award is the AAR Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. We apologize for this error.

## **AAR MEMBER NOTES**

### **Awards and Accomplishments**

[Nicholas Piediscalzi](#), Wright State University, Emeritus

Awarded the first Lifetime Distinguished Service Award from the American Educational Research Council's Special Interest Group on Religion and Education. The award was presented at the Council's 2013 annual meeting in San Francisco.

Kent L. Brintnall, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Named the Bonnie E. Cone Early Career Professor in Teaching at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

### **Books and Major Publications**

[David Gordon Wilson](#), University of Edinburgh

*Redefining Shamanisms: Spiritualist Mediums and other Traditional Shamans as Apprenticeship Outcomes*. Bloomsbury (Advances in Religious Studies).

George R. Elder, Hunter College, CUNY

*The Snake and the Rope: A Jungian View of Hinduism*. Indianapolis: Dog Ear Publishing, 2012.

Christopher Moreman, California State University, East Bay  
*The Spiritualist Movement: Speaking with the Dead in America and around the World*. 3 volumes, Praeger, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-313-39947-3

Louis Komjathy, University of San Diego  
*The Daoist Tradition: An Introduction*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013. ISBN: 1441168737.

[Anthony M.J. Maranise](#), Christian Brothers University  
"The Sport Chaplain: Adding a Game Face to the Many Faces of Chaplaincy," *Inside Homeland Security Journal*, Spring 2014.

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Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones! [Submit your Member Note online](#).

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