

# AAR Member News

## ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION AND HOUSING

### Registration and Housing Is Open! Early Bird Rates Through May 19!



[Register](#) today to receive the best price on the Annual Meeting! The 2016 member rate is deeply discounted. Annual Meeting registration rates increase on **May 19, 11:59 pm EST**, so lock in the savings today.

## MENTORING FOR UNDERREPRESENTED PERSONS IN THE PROFESSION

The American Academy of Religion announces the continuation of a program to assist in the mentoring of underrepresented groups. The program is an initiative of the four standing committees of the AAR:



- [Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Queer Persons in the Profession \(LGBTIQ\)](#)
- [Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession \(PWD\)](#)
- [Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession \(REM\)](#)
- [Status of Women in the Profession \(SWP\)](#)

Thirty-five applicants 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 **May 15, 2016**. Notification of program acceptance will be sent by **June 1, 2016**.

## CALL FOR COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Each year, members of the American Academy of Religion are invited to [nominate](#) persons to fill open positions on AAR Standing



Committees, Task Forces, and Juries. Members may nominate themselves. All nominees must be members in good standing of the AAR.

There are open positions on the following groups for service beginning **January 1, 2017**:

- [Academic Relations Committee](#)
- [American Lectures in the History of Religions](#)
- [Book Awards Juries](#)
- [International Connections Committee](#)
- [Public Understanding of Religion Committee](#)
- [Religion and the Arts Award Jury](#)
- [Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Queer Persons in the Profession](#)
- [Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee](#)
- [Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Committee](#)
- [Theological Education Committee](#)

Additional information on the nominations process, including the application, is available on the [AAR website](#).

**Nominations must be received by June 1, 2016.** Please submit your nomination(s) [here](#).

Please contact Elizabeth Hardcastle at [ehardcastle@aarweb.org](mailto:ehardcastle@aarweb.org) with any questions.

### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

Regional Development Grants provide funds for special projects within the regions to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members.

Workshops, special programs, training events and other innovative

regional projects may be funded through this source. Generally, grants

funded fall into two categories: seed funding to begin an ongoing regional

initiative, or one-time funds for special projects. Visit the [AAR website](#) for information and to

see grant winning proposals from prior years. Grants will not exceed \$4,000.



**Deadlines June 1:** Grant proposals due to [Regional Coordinators](#)

**July 1:** Regional Coordinators forward grants to Regions Committee

**August 15:** Regional grant awards announced

### **AAR/OUP BOOK SERIES EDITORS NEEDED**

Apply today! The AAR Publications Committee seeks two book editors, one for the [Academy](#)

[Series](#) and one for the [Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series](#). Both series are sponsored by the American Academy of Religion and published in cooperation with Oxford University Press. For more information, please see [here](#). The deadline to apply is **June 1, 2016**.

### **CALL FOR PERSONAL NARRATIVE BLOG POSTS**

The [AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee \(SWP\)](#) is particularly interested in querying the “values” associated with models of work/life balance. We are inviting blogs that discuss what women in the academy consider to be “values” for themselves.

Accepted posts will be published in the [Guide for the Guild](#) feature of [Religious Studies News](#). The Guide for the Guild supplies a mixtures of stories about, strategies of, policies for, and critical reflections upon the different challenges that face varying individuals as they navigate their jobs, careers, diverse institutions, various “families,” different communities, and their own self-care.

Please submit your blog to Aislinn Jones at [ajones@aarweb.org](mailto:ajones@aarweb.org) by **June 1, 2016**. Your blog may be edited and returned to you for authorial review in the fall, with the goal of it being posted in the [Guide for the Guild](#) by **January 1, 2017**.

### **"RECOVERY" 12-STEP SUPPORT MEETINGS**

AAR is currently seeking active members to help coordinate a new gathering at the Annual Meeting geared specifically toward recovering alcoholics, addicts, codependents, and other members of like-minded communities. Responsibilities will include helping to set up and schedule the meetings, as well as helping to provide a welcoming space for open discussion on various topics related to recovery. These meetings will not be officially affiliated with AA or NA but will simply seek to create space for those who desire a clean and sober conference, and for any others who would benefit from such a gathering. If you are interested in being a part of this important initiative, please contact Kathleen McMahan, [kcmcmahan@aarweb.org](mailto:kcmcmahan@aarweb.org), or Andrew Smith, [professor.andy.smith@gmail.com](mailto:professor.andy.smith@gmail.com).

### **2016 REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Support your region and plan to attend [your regional meeting](#).

Open registrations:

[Eastern International](#)

Deadline: **May 7**

[Pacific Northwest](#)

Early Bird Deadline: **April 19**

## IN THE FIELD

### Apply for a Fulbright-Nehru Grant

Be a part of the largest U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program in the world! The Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships offer great flexibility, affiliation assistance, dependent tuition allowance and settling in support. For complete details on grants, benefits and downloadable application material please visit [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org). Deadline: **August 1, 2016**.

Want to know more about events, calls, and other opportunities in the field of religion? AAR's [In the Field](#) is an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education. Check it out!

## ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues



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

## MEMBER NOTES

### Books and Major Publications

William Paden, University of Vermont

*New Patterns for Comparative Religion: Passages to an Evolutionary Perspective*, Scientific Studies of Religion: Inquiry and Explanation Series, Bloomsbury Academic, 2016.

Elizabeth Perez, Dartmouth College

*Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions*, New York University Press, 2016.

[Tom Schwanda](#), Wheaton College

*Emergence of Evangelical Spirituality In the Age of Edwards, Newton and Whitefield*, Classics of Western Spirituality Series, Paulist Press, 2016.

### Career Transitions

[Monica A. Coleman](#), Claremont School of Theology

By resolution of the Board of Trustees of Claremont School of Theology, Coleman was

promoted to the rank of Full Professor. She is the first African American woman full professor in the history of the institution.

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