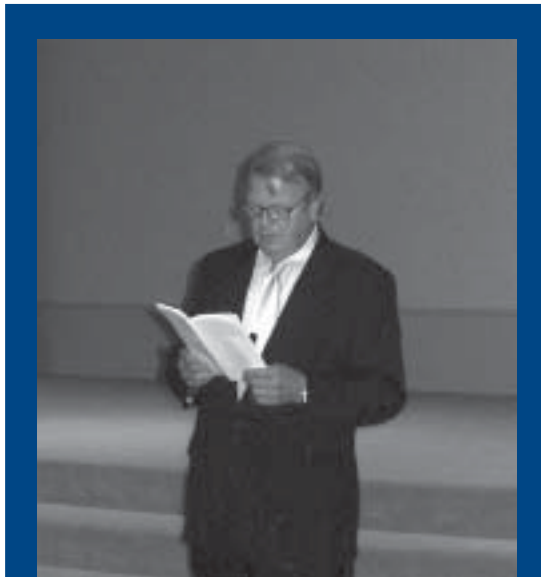


Garry Wills Inaugurates New Series about Public Intellectuals

Garry Wills opened a new lecture series on the role of the public intellectual in American society, speaking at University Place Conference Center Auditorium on the campus of IUPUI on Saturday, October 18, 2003. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Lincoln at Gettysburg* as well as two National Book Awards, Wills drew a crowd interested in his understanding of recent developments in religion and politics in the United States.

The purpose of the new lecture series is twofold. First, to bring public attention to an important component of American culture through an open lecture; and, second, to address the growing need for scholars to begin teaching beyond the walls of the classroom, that is, to engage a wider public in the issues. To that end, Wills met with the 2003-04 Young Scholars in American Religion Program participants earlier in the afternoon. There, everyone discussed the importance of public teaching and the different means to achieve success in that area. The round-table discussion was followed by a reception and dinner at the new Indi-

ana State Museum, and finally the public lecture at IUPUI in the evening.



Garry Wills speaks at IUPUI on the role of the public intellectual

“Garry Wills was chosen as the first speaker in the series because of his deep commitment to both public teaching and life-long learning,” said Philip Goff, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. “Moreover, in any current discussion of the public intellectual’s role in American life, the name Garry Wills is among the first to come to mind.”

The audience enjoyed the evening lecture, as Wills argued for a return to an eighteenth-century sense of engagement with the world around us, characterized by both passion and disinterest. Reminding the audience that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence for “a candid world,” Wills pointed to a lost sense of openness and fairness in

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Center to Host Reception at AAR in Atlanta

The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture will host a reception at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November highlighting the work of six centers and institutes studying religion in the United States: the McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion (Loyola University Chicago); the Center on Religion and Democracy (University of Virginia); The Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life (Trinity College); the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion (Emory University); the Institute for the Study of American Religion; and the Law and Religion Program (Emory University). Those attending the meeting who are interested in visiting with the directors of these six centers and institutes and learning about their work are cordially invited to stop by the Cobb-Clayton Room of the Hilton Atlanta & Towers on Saturday, November 22, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (Please see pages 4-9 of this newsletter for further information about the organizations that will be represented at the reception.)

A Word from the Director

Philip Goff

This issue of the Newsletter brings news of changes in personnel at *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, which has been produced here at the Center since 1990. The death of Rowland A. “Tony” Sherrill on May 31, 2003, ended the remarkable tenure of the final co-founder of that publication. But his contributions to the work of this Center go far beyond that.

Tony Sherrill joined the faculty at IUPUI in 1973 with a joint appointment in Religious Studies and English. After gaining tenure, he was elected chair of Religious Studies, a position he held for seventeen of the next twenty-three years. During that time, he helped build a nationally known department and significantly contributed to the development of one of the leading urban universities in the country.

Tony had a talent for looking ahead, peering around the corner to see the next great intellectual challenge that lay ahead. With his colleague, Jan Shipps, he helped to organize several key national conferences in Indianapolis on religion in American culture. The result, by 1989, was the founding of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, and, in 1990, the creation of the journal.

Over the years, working closely with Conrad Cherry, the director of the Center, Jan Shipps, and Amanda Porterfield—all co-editors of the journal—Tony helped to shape the contours of the field through research projects and the journal. He took great pride in the fact that the discussions of “de-centering” American religious studies were initiated here and eventually became the rallying cry for a field in need of re-thinking.

On numerous occasions Tony told visitors that among his greatest pleasures in his very fruitful career, which included numerous books, articles, and presentations, was his work with the journal. For three years I witnessed his sheer joy at editors’ meetings as he talked about the latest submissions he’d read or brought up new ideas for the Forum section of the journal. He loved to read and talk about the intersections of religion and American culture, and thus made an incomparable editor for a journal dedicated to that topic.

Readers can be assured that the new “team” of co-editors will remain committed to the task of producing the top publication in the field dedicated to the study of religion and American culture. We owe Tony Sherrill nothing less.

New Editors at *Religion and American Culture*

Beginning January 2004, there will be several new people involved in the publication of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. Stephen Stein and Peter Williams will join Philip Goff as co-editors, and Rachel Wheeler will join the team as associate editor. Thomas J. Davis will remain as the journal’s managing editor.

Stephen Stein is the Chancellor’s Professor of American Religious History at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Shaker Experience in America: A History of the United Society of Believers* and *The Writings of Jonathan Edwards: Text, Context, Interpretation*. Peter Williams is Distinguished Professor of Comparative Religion and American Studies at Miami University. His publications include *America’s Religions: From the Origins to the Twenty-First Century* and *Houses of God: Region, Religion and Architecture in the United States*. Rachel Wheeler recently joined the faculty as advanced assistant professor at IUPUI from her previous post at Lewis and Clark College. Her work analyzes the interaction among Native Americans and Euro-American missions, comparing the experiences of Puritans and Moravians. She has published in *Religion and American Culture* and *Church History*, and is completing a book.

Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture

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Thomas J. Davis
Program Coordinator
Rebecca Vasko
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Sharon Mack
Project Assistants
Adam Neddo
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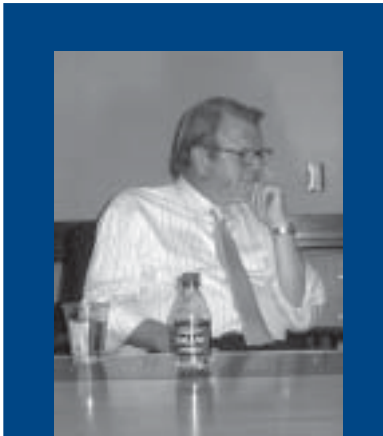
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public debate. Forty-five minutes of questions followed as the audience took the talk in various directions, including discussion of church-state relations, education, foreign policy, and the future of the papacy. These conversations continued in less formal ways during a reception that followed.

“The best lecture-plus-Q&A I have attended in more than a decade,” said Christian Kloesel, chair of the English department in the IU School of Liberal Arts. “If the lecture was clear and persuasive, the Q&A’s demonstrated an impressive and very pleasant public intellectual in action; for no matter what political, legal, social, religious, or cultural event or issue was raised, Wills was up to the task. He reconfirmed, without actually saying so, that being intellectual—public or otherwise—remains a virtue that more of us would do well to try to attain.”



Garry Wills meets with the Young Scholars 03-04 in the Boardroom of the Indiana State Museum prior to his lecture

These are issues near and dear to Wills’ heart, as evidenced by his numerous books read by both academic specialists and an engaged public. Such books include *Saint Augustine*, *Papal Sin*, *Why I am a Catholic*, *Confessions of a Conservative*, *The Kennedy Imprisonment*, *Reagan’s America*, *Under God*, and *John Wayne’s America*, among many others.

“Religion and American Culture is to be congratulated for inaugurating what promises to be a stimulating series of public lectures on important issues regarding American society,” said Nathan Houser, professor of philosophy and director of IUPUI’s new Institute for American Thought. “It was a great beginning and, with the discussion that followed, demonstrated how eager we are for open public debate on complex social and political issues. It really was a great pleasure listening to someone of Wills’ stature and intelligence holding forth before such a large crowd at IUPUI, and on topics that get very short shrift in local media.”

The afternoon session with the Young Scholars proved equally useful. “The time spent with Garry Wills seemed to lessen the intimidation factor that we all feel as new scholars with regard to ‘going public,’” said Robert Brown of James Madison University, “and no doubt will encourage many of us to think more broadly and ambitiously about our role in the public square.”

Others agreed. Julie Byrne, of Texas Christian University, saw the significance of the afternoon. “Having a ‘public intellectual’ component of the YSAR weekend really took things to another level. Garry Wills got us all talking about if and how we contribute, even under constraints as junior scholars, our intellectual training toward the common good,” she said. Meanwhile, David Yamane, of Notre Dame University, clearly caught the spirit of the meeting. “The discussion Garry Wills’ talk generated in our group continued well into the night. He even managed to get an anti-clericalist to defend the Pope! Now that is interesting conversation.”

Getting new scholars to think fresh their roles in a changing society is a good idea, especially as the role of higher education is developing along with a new economy. The series, made possible by support from Lilly Endowment, will continue when author Richard Rodriguez will speak at IUPUI on the same topic on October 16, 2004. Meantime, you can hear the Garry Wills lecture in its entirety at: www.broadcast.iu.edu.



Khyati Joshi and Kathleen Flake listen as Garry Wills responds to a question



Garry Wills, Robert Brown, and Ann Taves visit during the reception at the Indiana State Museum



McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion

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Randal Hepner, Project Manager for Religion, Immigration and Civil Society in Chicago
Katrina Hoop, Administrative Assistant
Nori Henk, Research Assistant

The McNamara Center supports scholarly activities in the social study of religion and inquiry from any disciplinary perspective that examines religion as a social phenomenon. The Center was established in 1998 by Loyola's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, with support from Loyola's College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School. The McNamara Center houses faculty research projects and grants, supports graduate students working on dissertations, and sponsors a variety of special events. Current research projects include Religion, Immigration and Civil Society in Chicago (funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts), Enhancing Access to Culturally Competent Health Care for Buddhist and Hindu Patients (funded by the Donors Forum), and The Church Next Door (funded by the Louisville Institute). Recurrent special events include the Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities (a quarterly seminar) and an annual Sociology of Religion Lecture Series open to the university and the public. The McNamara Center invites interested Loyola faculty and graduate students to become Associates of the Center. Faculty Associates and Student Associates comprise an ongoing intellectual community sharing interests in the social study of religion. They participate in periodic brown bag lunches to discuss their research interests and activities. They have access to research space and resources, as available.



Center on Religion and Democracy

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James Hunter, Executive Director
Joe Davis, Co-Director
Steve Jones, Associate Director
Suellen Hill, Fiscal Administrator
Heather Connelly, Events Coordinator
Nicole Martin, Receptionist

The Center on Religion and Democracy is a politically non-partisan research center at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, committed to addressing the complex relationship between religion and democratic culture.

Although the Center's principal goal will always be the pursuit of knowledge through objective, non-partisan scholarship, such a quest should hardly be merely academic. It is our commitment to help bridge the gap between theory and practice, to make the critical insights and resources of this center available to everyone concerned with the challenges of the day.

More than 100 organizations deal with some aspect of the relationship between religion and politics in the United States. But of those organizations, nearly all are politically partisan, protecting one flank or another in the culture war. Only one or two academically based organizations study the broad role of religion in American political life. Therefore, despite the critical importance of these issues, the Center stands very nearly alone in pursuit of their study.

The Center's aim is to provide timely and empirically grounded scholarship that stimulates public learning, strengthens public policy considerations, and helps religious communities themselves re-envision a constructive role in the public square of democracy. The scholarship of the Center is pursued along a disciplined, two-year academic cycle of research, engagement, and dissemination. Each cycle focuses on one important component of the larger relationship between religion and democratic life.



The Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life

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The Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life was established at Trinity College in 1996 to advance knowledge and understanding of the varied roles that religious movements, institutions, and ideas play in the contemporary world; to explore challenges posed by religious pluralism and tensions between religious and secular values; and to examine the influence of religion on politics, civic culture, family life, gender roles, and other issues in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Non-sectarian and non-partisan, the Center sponsors public lectures, organizes conferences and workshops, contributes to the liberal arts curriculum, and supports the publication and dissemination of materials for both academic and general audiences. Its initiatives are designed to foster discussion of religion in public life both within the campus community and among various external publics.

The Center publishes *Religion in the News*, a thrice-yearly magazine that covers media reporting of religion, as part of its program on religion and the news media. *Religion in the News* circulates to religion scholars and to journalists at every daily newspaper in the country as well as at news operations in the 40 largest media markets, news magazines, and journals of opinion.

Currently the Center is engaged in a project, "Religion by Region," that will offer the first integrated assessment of the role of religion in the public life of the different regions of the United States. The project, which will result in the publication of nine volumes covering all 50 states, is supported by Lilly Endowment.



Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion

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Eliza Ellison, Director of Projects and Research
Anita Mann, Director of Business and Finance
Amy Wheeler, Project Associate and Assistant Editor

The Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion at Emory University was established in the fall of 2000, on the strength of a generous five-year grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and with matching funds and endowment support from Emory University.

The center is designed to stimulate and support advanced research and education on religious themes. The center focuses on the religious dimensions of professional, scientific, and humane learning and on the power and plasticity of religion as a set of norms and habits, ideas and institutions, methods and practices. Interdisciplinary and inter-religious in orientation, the center sponsors research fellowships, faculty seminars, cross-listed courses, scholarly projects and publications, and public lectures and conferences.

The current project of the center is on the theme "Sex, Marriage and Family and the Religions of the Book," which culminated in an international conference on the Emory campus on March 27-29, 2003, involving 80 speakers and 750 participants. This project will yield 29 volumes over the next three years.

In August, 2003, the center will commence a new three-year project on "Religion and Children in Law, Theology, and the Humanities." This project will lift up the religious sources and dimensions of such complex issues as conception, contraception, and cloning; moral, emotional, and spiritual formation; child abuse, poverty, and illegitimacy, and much more. This project will be led by Martin E. Marty and John Witte, and involve 22 senior Fellows from the Emory campus. It, too, will yield a series of public forums and publications and a major conference in 2006.



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The Institute for the Study of American Religion was founded in 1969 to study the spectrum of religious organizations then functioning in the United States. It soon expanded its concerns to include Canada and in the 1990s Europe, and more recently the world. It has also become part of an international network of centers focusing research on new religious movements that includes INFORM (London), CESNUR (Turin) and the Hong Kong Institute for Culture, Commerce and Religion.

ISAR has been responsible for the publication of some 250 books and monographs, including *The Encyclopedia of American Religions* (1979, 7th edition, 2002), *The Encyclopedia of African-American Religion* (1993), and the four-volume *Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Belief and Practice* (2002).

ISAR works closely with Davidson Library at the University of California-Santa Barbara. In 1985, when ISAR relocated to California, it placed its 50,000-volume collection in the Library where it has become the American Religions Collection (ARC). ISAR has continued to grow ARC (adding more than 10,000 volumes over the succeeding years). The collection has been catalogued and may be accessed on-line. ISAR's Director operates as a consultant to the ARC.

Among its current projects, ISAR is currently organizing a project with Chinese scholars to study "The Future of Religion in China," the first session being held Sept. 12-14, 2002, in Beijing, and is cooperating with the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies and Religion in Berkeley, California, to produce an Encyclopedia of Homosexuality and Religion in America.



Law and Religion Program

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The Law and Religion Program at Emory University is designed to explore the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the interaction of legal and religious ideas and methods. Established in 1982, the program provides students and faculty with unique forms and forums of interdisciplinary study. The Law and Religion Program features (1) five joint-degree programs; (2) a dozen cross-listed courses; (3) public lectures, colloquia, and conferences; (4) a visiting fellows program; (5) three book series; and (6) ongoing research projects. The Program is ecumenical and comparative in perspective, with emphasis on the religious traditions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, and the legal traditions of the Atlantic continents.

With funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Ford Foundation, the Lilly Endowment for the Humanities, and other benefactors, the Program has directed a series of multi-year projects, each yielding public forums and publications, on: Christianity and Democracy in Global Context; Religious Human Rights in Global Perspective; The Problem and Promise of Proselytism in the New World Order; International and Comparative Religious Liberty; Cultural Transformation in Africa; Women and Land in Africa; Islamic Family in Comparative Perspective; Islamic Philanthropy; Law and Human Nature; The Teachings of Modern Christianity; Jewish Law, Religion, and Family; Affordable Housing and Community Development; The Lost Decalogue; and Law, Religion, and the Protestant Tradition.

Leaders in the Field Address Changes in Their Thinking in Winter '04 *Religion & American Culture*

The Winter 2004 issue of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* offers its readers an array of articles that illustrate the interesting and complex ways in which religion and American culture interact, as well as a highly engaging FORUM.

For the FORUM, we invited our contributors to think back on their careers and reflect upon how their minds have changed over the course of time. More specifically, we asked our authors—Catherine L. Albanese, Vine Deloria, Jr., Robert Ellwood, Andrew Greeley, and John F. Wilson—all of whom are distinctive in terms of their scholarly work, to trace their development as thinkers in regard to the specific religious traditions they have written about and then to place the changes in their thought within the larger context of the field of American religious studies. We think you will find their reflections rich reading, indeed.

In “The ‘Christianization’ of Israel and Jews in 1950s America,” Michele Mart explores how Jews, in the American imagination, were swept up in a postwar ecumenical tide of “Judeo-Christian” values and identity, and how those cultural trends were extended to the newly formed State of Israel. The article examines how the American image of Jews, Israelis, and Middle Eastern politics was reframed in the early 1950s to reflect popular ideas of religious identity and discusses the rise of the popular understanding that “Judeo-Christian” values shaped American culture and politics.

Pamela Klassen, in “The Robes of Womanhood: Dress and Authenticity among African American Methodist Women in the Nineteenth Century,” analyzes the ways nineteenth-century African American Methodist women turned to dress as a tool to communicate religious and political messages. Relying primarily on autobiographical and journalistic writings, as well as accounts from AME publications and other church documents, the essay also draws on the work of historians of African American women and historians of dress and material culture.

Finally, “‘Race’ Speech-‘Culture’ Speech-‘Soul’ Speech: The Brief Career of Social-Science Language in American Religion during the Fascist Era,” by Anne C. Rose, examines how, beginning in the 1920s, American religious liberals borrowed language from the social sciences to describe the social experience of religion in terms of acquired traits rather than using long-standing biological models of society. But the social-science terminology set the stage for its own subversion. The article ends by suggesting that word use can be seen as a sensitive meter of religious transformation.

R&AC

RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE
A Journal of Interpretation

Upcoming Issue

**FORUM: How I Have Changed My Mind,
with contributions by
Catherine L. Albanese, Vine Deloria, Jr., Robert Ellwood,
Andrew Greeley, and
John F. Wilson**

**“The Christianization’ of Israel and Jews in 1950s America,”
by Michele Mart**

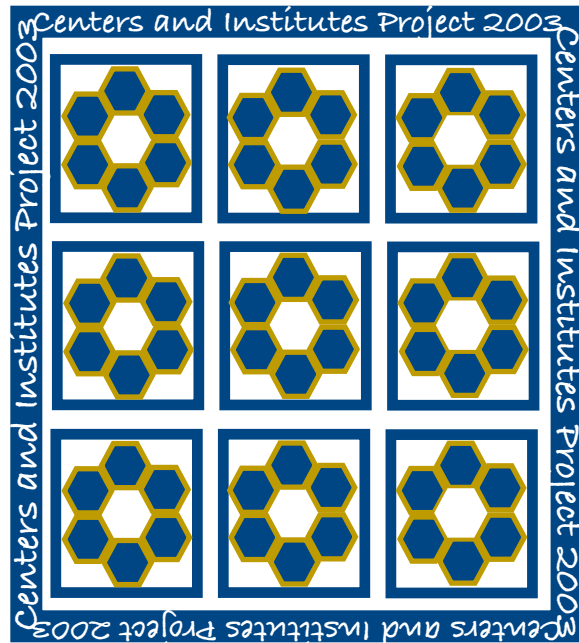
“The Robes of Womanhood: Dress and Authenticity among African American Methodist Women in the Nineteenth Century,” by Pamela Klassen

“‘Race’ Speech-‘Culture’ Speech-‘Soul’ Speech: The Brief Career of Social Science Language in American Religion during the Fascist Era,” by Anne C. Rose

Submission Guidelines

Address all manuscripts and editorial correspondence to Thomas J. Davis, Managing Editor, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Cavanaugh Hall 341, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. All manuscript submissions, four copies of each typescript, should conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Typescripts should be 25-35 pages in length.

The 2003 Centers and Institutes
Project booklet is now available



To obtain a free copy of the booklet, a directory of over 30 organizations currently engaged in the study of religion in the U.S., please contact the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at raac@iupui.edu, or by calling 317-274-8409.

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