

GODDARD TALK

THE GODDARD CHAPEL NEWSLETTER
Tufts University

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From The Chaplain

Greetings! Our biggest news is the completion of the TUFTS NEW INTER-FAITH CENTER at 58 Winthrop Street, Medford. Many people have been following the progress of the renovations over the summer months. Karla Johnson of J. Stewart Roberts Associates was the Principal Architect and Paul Flynn from Facilities was the project manager. This beautifully renovated building will be the location for our Catholic, Muslim, and Protestant chaplains. This will be the primary site for the weekly Muslim prayers on Fridays at 1:00 PM. The Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, and other student religious organizations will also be making use of the building. The two-story glass front of the Inter-Faith Center

CHAPLAINCY INTERN CHRISTINA PEI-FANG SHU

Christina Shu is a second-year Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School. She graduated in 2006 from Stanford University with a BA in Religious Studies, focusing in comparative studies of Buddhism and Christianity. Before coming to Tufts she worked for a year at Harvard University's Pluralism Project, researching religious diversity and interfaith activity in both America and other coun-

tries. This past summer she finished a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in her hometown of San Diego, California during which she worked as a chaplain with the mentally ill and homeless population. She is both a Unitarian Universalist and a practicing Buddhist. Her current interests include comparative religion, interfaith studies and interfaith dialogue, chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, and women in religion. She seeks to explore questions such as: How can we compare Chris-

makes for a very attractive addition to the Medford Hillside area. Please do plan to see this new addition to the chaplaincy when you are on campus. An open house will take place in the fall; dates are being checked as we go to print.

I would like to say a word of thanks to Reverend Barbara Asinger and Imam Nouredine Hawat for their very faithful years of service as our Protestant and Muslim Chaplains. They will be moving on to other ministry positions over the summer. As we go to print, the new Protestant and Muslim Chaplains are being formally appointed. Please check our web site to see their names and full bios.

This is a very exciting time for

the Chaplaincy at Tufts. Please know of my willingness to be of service to you, your family, organization or group. It is just a matter of scheduling.

Pax et Lux,

Reverend David M. O'Leary
S.T.L., D.Phil
University Chaplain & Senior
Lecturer in Comparative Religions & Medical Ethics



Special points of interest:

- *New Interfaith Center*
See Page 5
- *Renewal of Marriage Vows*
See Page 6

Inside this issue:

<i>Chaplaincy Intern</i>	1
<i>Upcoming Chapel Events</i>	2
<i>Dr. Janet Hunt, Music Director</i>	3
<i>Summer Reflections by Michelle Paison</i>	3
<i>Thank God It's Thursday by Vincent Miccio</i>	4
<i>Building Bridges Between Religious and Cultural Groups</i>	5

Upcoming Chapel Events

CHAPLAIN'S TABLE—RELIGIONS AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

5 — 7 P. M., MacPhie Conference Room

September 27, The Reverend David M. O'Leary, S.T.L., D.Phil., University Chaplain "Overview of Series"

October 4, Ben Tousley, Storyteller and Musician, "Do I Have to be One Religion—Can I Call Myself More Than One Thing?"

October 11, Shai Fuxman & Najiba Akbar, Pathways Project, "Inter-Religious Dialogue on College Campus: Why Does It Matter?"

October 18, Dan Perell, Fletcher '10, "The Oneness of God and the Multitude of Religions"

October 25, Christina Pei-Fang Shu, Chaplaincy Intern, Harvard Divinity School, "Approaches to Buddhist-Christian Dialogue"

November 1, Larry Lowenthal, Executive Director Boston Chapter, American Jewish Committee, "A Jewish Perspective on Dialogue with Christians and Muslims—20 Years of Specific Challenges and Tangible Satisfactions"

November 8, The Venerable Tsunmala (Sue Macy), Kurukulla Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies, "The Role of Prayer in Tibetan Buddhism"

November 15, Protestant Chaplain, Topic To Be Announced

November 29, Muslim Chaplain, Topic To Be Announced

NOONTIME CONCERTS AT GODDARD CHAPEL

Concerts will be held on the dates listed below at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call chapel office (617) 627-3427.

September 27
October 4
October 11
October 25

November 8

November 29

There will be another concert. Date to be announced later.

GODDARD CHAPEL FORUM ON RELIGION AND SCIENCE, FALL, 2007 AND SPRING 2008

All lectures take place at 6:00p.m.

Wednesday, October 3—

Professor Paul Waldau, The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts "Science on Animals, Religion on Animals"

Wednesday, November 7—

Professor Martin Nowak, Program for Evolutionary Dynamics, Harvard University "God and Evolution"

Wednesday, December 5—

Assistant Professor Kirk Wegter-McNelly, Theology Department, Boston University School of Theology, "Quantum Entanglement: Theological Reflections on Relationality in Modern Physics"

Wednesday, February 6—

Professor Gary Goldstein, Department of Physics, Tufts, "Science and Nature"

Wednesday, March 5—

Professor Emeritus Gordon D. Kaufman, Harvard Divinity School, "A Religious Interpretation of the Emergence of New Realities: Creativity as God"

Wednesday, April 2—

Reverend James W. Skehan, S.J., 2008 Russell Lecturer, Professor & Director Emeritus, Weston Observatory, Department of Geology and Geophysics, "How Religion and Science Meet in Teilhard de Chardin"

SERVICES

Protestant Worship
Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Mass
Sundays, 10:00 p.m.

Prof. Paul Waldau, The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts

"Science on Animals, Religion on Animals"

*Wednesday, October 3,
6:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel*



THE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN WELCOMES DR. JANET HUNT AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

In July, Dr. Janet Hunt joined the Goddard Chapel staff as organist and director of the Thursday Noontime Concert Series. A native of Dallas, Dr. Hunt has degrees in organ and harpsichord from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Southern Methodist University, and University of North Texas. She holds the Fellowship certificate from the American Guild of Organists. She was a finalist in several prestigious competitions, including two appearances each in the Bodky Competition for Early Music (Boston) and the Prix Andre Marchal Organ Competition in Biarritz, France. She has recorded two compact discs of organ music by Cesar Franck and Louis Vierne on the Cavaille-Coll-inspired Jaeckel organ at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Duluth, Minnesota.

Dr. Hunt moved to Boston in January, 2005 to become the Director of Music at St. John's Seminary in Brighton. Prior to this she was the Organist and Director of Music at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Augusta, Georgia.

Dr. Hunt looks forward to becoming part of the Tufts community, and is especially enthusiastic about overseeing Goddard Chapel's concert series. She anticipates providing a rich variety of classical music programs for the community's enjoyment and enrichment. She will play on two of these programs herself this fall, once as a solo organist and a second time in partnership with her brother, Leslie, a professional flutist.

In addition to being "absolutely rabid" about classical music, Dr. Hunt is seriously addicted to figure skating. When not practicing keyboards, she can be found working on her moves in the field patterns at local ice rinks.

SUMMER REFLECTIONS by MICHELLE PAISSON

Michelle is currently an A&S senior double majoring in Comparative Religion and Middle Eastern Studies. She spent a semester at the University of Cairo.

It is a unique experience to approach religion from a personal perspective. This past summer I worked with Reverend David O'Leary on a project that focuses on the five major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. It is Fr. O'Leary's goal to document, for the everyday reader, what each faith says about the seven Noahitic commandments which call for respect for life, marriage, sex, family, property, reputation, and freedom of worship. Through interviewing both monastics and lay people within each of the five religions, I caught a glimpse into the individual's personal approach to their faith as opposed to strictly engaging in the religion's doctrine which I study within my courses. A common denominator within each religion, and each individual, is the focus around dignity and respect for all people. A pluralistic society maintains cohesion only when its members exercise their freedom with sensitivity towards others. Fr. O'Leary's project aims to document how this is done within each faith, elaborating upon the cooperation among faiths which is possible through mutual understanding of religious traditions.

Studying abroad in Egypt has enabled me to experience one of these traditions, Islam, firsthand while living in Cairo. I arrived in Egypt in late August, just in time to experience the hottest days of the North African summer. Fortunately, I had several weeks before my classes began at the American University in Cairo to become acclimated to both the climate and the city. On one of our many death-defying cab rides (in Cairo if there are three painted lanes, you will find at least six cars squeezed into the width of the road), our cab driver graciously pointed out several noteworthy streets and landmarks. "And on your right, the Nile, *Insha-Allah* (God willing)." God willing? Will the Nile not be on our right tomorrow? Of course it will be, but only if God wills it...

October 23rd marked the end of Ramadan in Egypt. During the month of

Ramadan the typically overcrowded streets were relatively calm from sun-up to sun-down while the Muslims of Cairo fasted. Celebrating Ramadan in an Arab country was interesting because Muslim or non-Muslim you experienced the holiday in one way or another whether it be the overall kindness on the streets (as food would be offered to every passerby at *Iftar*, the breaking of fast), or the unique experience of every *single* restaurant being closed—most until sunset and others for the entire month. Ramadan lanterns filled the shops and a generally jovial spirit filled the air (that is after sundown when everyone had eaten.) You would think that after witnessing a culture which "smokes like a chimney" quit smoking—cold turkey—for an entire month, nothing would shock you. However, everyday instances still surprise me. In early November my flat mates and I went to a large, westernized, mall in a district directly outside of Cairo on a Friday, the Muslim holy day. At around noon the shops began to lower their gates and turn off the store lights. Attempting to skirt under several half-closed entrances, we were completely oblivious to the fact that the stores were closing for one of the five daily calls to prayer. The entire seven-story mall was taking a break for their employees to observe mid-afternoon prayer.

Although Egypt is a secular society, one finds herself overwhelmed by the presence of Islam in every-day life. A frequent answer to the common question, "How are you?" is often met with *al-hamd-u-lillah* (Thanks be to God). The influence of Islam within the Arabic language proves that in order to truly understand a culture and its people, you must become familiar with its religion. By knowing the religion, you can understand what the culture holds as sacred. Educating ourselves on these issues permits the development of tolerant opinions towards individuals of all spiritual and faith paths. This is why as a double-major in Comparative Religion and Middle Eastern Studies, two things have been completely critical to my education. My experience living within the Arab world and the research that I conducted with Reverend David O'Leary this past summer both focus on the individual's perception of his or her religion, opposed to the written doctrines of the faith. I am extremely excited to return to Tufts to take classes that will add substance and knowledge to what I have experienced over this past year. There is still so much to learn, *Insha-Allah*...

**“THANK GOD IT’S THURSDAY!” —
SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE
CHAPLAIN’S TABLE**
by Vincent Miccio

Vinny is a 2003 Tufts graduate and 2007 graduate of Tufts Post-Doctorate, Pre-Med Program. He’s planning on applying to medical school for the fall of 2008.

Each day Tufts students pass hundreds of flyers, chalkings, and posters advertising everything from Thai cooking lessons to pantomime performances. Amongst this vast sea of student activities propaganda, however, is one advertisement unlike the rest. It sits humbly in the announcement board outside Goddard Chapel, right where downhill ends and uphill begins. The announcement reads: “The Chaplain’s Table, Dewick MacPhie Conference Room — Thursday 5-7 p.m.”

The simplicity of the announcement is a little daunting. “The Chaplain’s Table?” What is it? Do you sit around a table and pray with the Chaplain? Do you have to know about religion or be able to recite religious doctrine off the top of your head? While the Chaplain’s Table involves none of these things, it still takes a bit of bravery and some curiosity to finally make the trip down to Dewick.

I first made the trip as a freshman in the fall of 1999; and, yes, I was nervous for the first 10 minutes, but I soon felt right at home. I still remember the first talk. It was given by Prof. Gary Leupp and was entitled something like, “Buddhism in a Degenerate Time.” Prof. Leupp’s talk, like a good class, kept me engaged and left me thinking all the way back to my dorm. From that first meeting onward, I attended every Chaplain’s Table that I could until the time of my graduation in 2003. And while we didn’t pray, while we didn’t do anything specifically “religious,” the Chaplain’s Table always seemed to offer me a spiritual respite from the busy world of the Tufts student.

Each semester the group agrees on a different overarching theme. Themes have ranged from “Religion and War,” “Religion and Environment,” to “Religion and Entertainment.” Once the theme is

decided, the Chaplain’s office then asks knowledgeable speakers to come and present topics based on that theme. This past semester’s “Mystics, Prophets, and Activists” theme featured speakers that lectured on activists advancing the cause of spirituality in the LGBT community, Pakistani women’s own perception of Islam, the myriad effects of Joseph Kony’s “Lord’s Resistance Army” northern Uganda, etc. The Chaplain’s office and the Chaplaincy Interns always organize a great group of speakers who put a personal spin on the theme and keep everyone eager to hear the next speaker in the lineup.

The crowd that the Chaplain’s Table attracts is as diverse as the speakers themselves. Apart from the traditional religion and philosophy majors, the Chaplain’s Table is also very popular with Math, Economics, Science, and Peace and Justice Studies majors. It is not rare to see the talk populated by people from all over the world and from all corners of the Tufts campus. Whether a freshman, senior, grad student, professor, or staff, the Chaplain’s Table has something for everybody. To this day I am amazed at the genius of the Chaplain’s Table. First implemented in 1983 by the former Chaplain of Tufts, the Rev. Scotty McLennan, the Chaplain’s Table has three basic goals: to provide good speakers, good food, and good discussion. It really is that simple, and it really is one of the best kept secrets at Tufts. Join us for a Thursday night dinner sometime!

SERVICES

Friday:

1:00 p.m. Muslim, The Interfaith Center

6:00 p.m. Jewish, Reform and Conservative Hillel Center

Sunday - Goddard Chapel:

7:00 p.m. Protestant Worship

10:00 p.m. Catholic Mass

Buddhist, Hindu, and Orthodox worship during the week—times to be determined.

Check out our new web site at www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy. We are very pleased to be one of the first sites to use the new University image, settings, and designs. Many thanks to Teresa Loftin for all her help and work.

PATHWAYS—BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL GROUPS ON CAMPUS

College campuses in America today are among the most diverse places on earth. It is here that students from all different religions, racial and ethnic backgrounds, social classes, and worldviews come together to live and learn in a community. However, these communities can remain as likeminded individuals band together. Here, at Tufts, there is an initiative that aims to ensure that religious and cultural differences are discussed and celebrated, rather than used as barriers to divide us. The Pathways project—funded through a federal grant—initiated its activities last year with the mission to promote tolerance and understanding across religious and cultural groups on campus. Last year's activities included two dialogue seminars, a weekend retreat, and Tufts' first Interfaith Awareness Week.

This coming year, Pathways will continue to further its mission by bringing back successful programming from last year, as well as offering new programs. Pathways will continue to offer two dialogue seminars through the Experimental College. In the fall, Pathways will offer a new seminar called *The Power of Narrative: Exploring the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict through Literature and Film*. This seminar, offered for full credit during the fall, will explore how narrative informs and shapes the views of the different characters in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the spring, we will offer once more the seminar entitled *Pathways to Faith: Religious Pluralism Dialogue*. Unlike last year, this seminar will also be offered for full credit. Both seminars will bring speakers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to continue our dialogue.

In addition, Pathways will launch a year-long discussion series. Each month Pathways will invite a speaker or a group of speakers to engage in conversations with the Tufts community on different topics concerning religion and faith. Topics include: Religion and the Media, Women in Religion, Faith and Heal-

ing, and Religion on the Campaign Trail. Pathways will also screen two films during the year and invite their directors/producers to join us for a conversation about their films.

Finally, Pathways is working with student groups from the four other campuses that received the federal grant—Brandeis, MIT, University of Maryland, and Wellesley—to plan a major inter-campus conference in the Boston area that will address the role of Interfaith Dialogue on college campuses.

To find out more about Pathways events come visit our website at www.tuftspathways.org.



The new Interfaith Center located at 58 Winthrop Street is scheduled to open in August, 2007. An open house will be announced in early fall.

Tufts University

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**RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE
VOWS!**

**EVERY 1ST SATURDAY OF THE
MONTH 9 A. M.— 12 NOON**

**(EXCEPT MAY, WHICH WILL
BE MAY 18TH)**

**CALL GODDARD CHAPEL TO
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS** ♡

(617) 627-3427

We're on the Web!
www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy

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