

## GODDARD TALK

**THE GODDARD CHAPEL NEWSLETTER**  
Tufts University

Volume 6, Issue 1  
Spring, 2008

### From The Chaplain

Happy 2008! I pray that it will be a blessed year for you and your loved ones.

The chaplaincy at Tufts has been receiving a considerable amount of media attention. Our new Interfaith Center opened first semester and had write-ups in The Boston Globe, The Tufts Journal, The Daily and soon in an architecture journal on building worship space. Our new Muslim Chaplain, Shareda Hosein, has also had many articles printed concerning her appointment. The Boston Globe, The Tufts Journal, and The Daily all did feature stories on her. As we go to print, a major article in the Sunday Magazine of The Washington Post is about to come out.

All our other chaplains are also doing their very best.

Rabbi Jeffrey Summit has been guiding the Pathways Project through its second year. This is a program to get Christians, Jewish, and Muslim students into conversation. This has been done with a grant from Homeland Security. Five universities/colleges are participating: Tufts, M. I. T., Brandeis, Wellesley, and the University of Maryland. A major conference is scheduled for March.

Our Catholic Chaplain, Ms. Ann Penick, completed her training as a Certified Mental Health Counselor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was also a featured speaker at the National meeting of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. She also helped the Catholic students of Tufts to

provide a much needed Giving Tree project for the young children of Saint Patrick's Grammar School in Roxbury with needed Christmas toys.

Our new Protestant Chaplain, Reverend Jeff VonWald, United Church of Christ, has been getting activities up and running. First semester highlights were a Protestant retreat, having the Protestant groups come together for a Thanksgiving dinner and reflection and a Lessons and Carols celebration.

Our Director of Music for Goddard Chapel, Dr. Janet Hunt, put together an outstanding noontime concert schedule of performances. She also put together a great Christmas Concert with many members of the Tufts

*Continued on Page 3*

[www.tuftsmarathonchallenge.com](http://www.tuftsmarathonchallenge.com) and clicking on "sponsor a runner;" his name will be listed.

Fr. Dave has been training with Coach Don Megerle since September, 2007. Fr. Dave has dropped from over 270 pounds down to 238 and still falling. He is now doing 200 meters in 61 seconds!

The President's Marathon Challenge helps raise money to support the health, nutrition, and fitness programs at Tufts University.

Please consider sponsoring Fr. Dave's run.

---

#### Special points of interest:

- *Marathon*  
See Page 1
- *Renewal of Marriage Vows*  
See Page 6

#### Inside this issue:

*Upcoming Chapel Events* 2

*Highlights of Goddard Chapel Forum* 3

#### SPONSOR THE CHAPLAIN

University Chaplain, Fr. Dave O'Leary, will be part of the President's Marathon Challenge this year. He is running the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 21st. You can help sponsor him by going to the website <http://www.tuftsmarathonchallenge.com>

## Upcoming Chapel Events

### CHAPLAIN'S TABLE—RELIGIONS AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

5 — 7 P. M., MacPhie Conference Room

January 31, The Reverend David M. O'Leary, S.T.L., D.Phil., University Chaplain  
"Introduction"

February 7, Buddhist Sangha, "How Does Mindfulness Practice Reflect Respect & Dignity?"

February 14, Baha'i Student Group, "Respect in Relationships"

February 21, Protestant Student Fellowship and Tufts Christian Fellowship, "Topic to be Announced"

February 28, Unitarian Universalists (TU3), "Topic to be Announced"

March 6, Hillel, "Topic to be Announced"

March 27, Shareda Hosein, Muslim Chaplain, "Respect for Women"

April 10, Muslim Student Association, "Topic To Be Announced"

April 17, Tufts Pathways Interfaith Initiative, "Topic To Be Announced"

April 24, Ann Penic, Catholic Chaplain, "Respect for the Environment"

### 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.

January 31, Janet Hunt, Organ  
Works by J. S. Bach, Gigout, Hindemith

February 14, Sarah Takagi, Piano

February 28, Jodi Hagen, Violin & Heinrich Christensen, Organ  
Works by Rheinberger and Hakim

March 13, To Be Announced

April 3, Christopher Scanlon, Trumpet  
Works for trumpet and organ

April 17, Mark DeVoto, Organ  
Works by J. S. Bach, Franck

April 24, Janet Hunt, Piano  
Works by Milhaud, Gershwin, Bolcom

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

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

#### 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, "Spiritual Foundations for Ethics in the Sciences"

### SERVICES

**Protestant Worship**  
Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

**Catholic Mass**  
Sundays, 10:00 p.m.

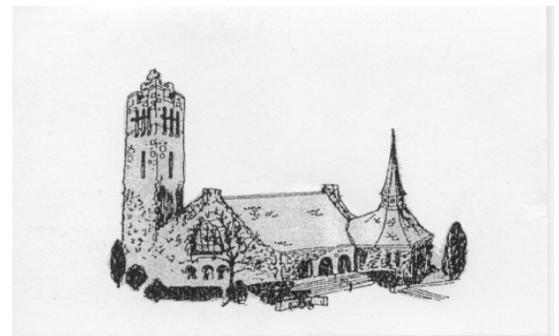
**Muslim**  
Interfaith Center  
Fridays, 1:00 p.m.

**Jewish**  
Hillel Center  
Fridays, 6:00 p.m.

*Reverend James W. Skehan,  
S.J., 2008 Russell Lecturer*

*"Spiritual Foundations for  
Ethics in the Sciences"*

*Wednesday, April 2,  
6:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel*



*Continued from Page 1*

community taking part. Please try to attend one of the upcoming Thursday concerts this coming semester. Besides ministry and teaching here at Tufts, I have been asked to be a visiting panel member of “Talking Religion” on WRKO radio show. I am also working on 10 shows for broadcast/podcast on “Church-State Issues” for Catholic TV.

Please know of my willingness to be of service to you and your loved ones. I would be happy to give a presentation to your group or organization. And as always, you are warmly invited to all the upcoming programs here at Goddard Chapel.

Pax et Lux,

♥

Reverend David M. O’Leary

S.T.L., D.Phil

University Chaplain & Senior Lecturer in Religion & Medical Ethics

## **GODDARD CHAPEL FORUM ON RELIGION & SCIENCE**

First semester also Professor Martin Nowak, Program for Evolutionary Dynamics of Harvard University give his address on “[God and Evolution](#).” What follows is an attempt to recreate his main points.

Professor Nowak gave a very brief overview of the origin of life, chemistry generates “monomers” that give birth to “polymers” and some “polymers” can reproduce. Evolution is all about reproduction. Evolution is reproduction with mistakes, such as mutations. Evolution is about reproduction at different rates; this is selection.

**RELIGION**, like language, is a human universal. Evolution has given rise to people with religion. There is no human civilization that has not discovered religion. Religion cannot be suppressed.

Professor Martin Nowak continues by asking a question, “What is the tension between evolution and Christianity?” There are three challenging perspectives: Creationism, Intelligent Design, and Scientific Atheism. In Professor Nowak’s opinion, each perspective can be rejected for scientific and theological reasons.

**CREATIONISM**, states evolution is wrong. Creationism states that the world is 6,000 years old and that the Book of Genesis is a scientific account of historical events.

This is incorrect science. It is contrary to classical Christian theology, for example see the Doctrine of Analogy by Thomas Aquinas. Finally, the Holy Scriptures should be seen as a library of books of faith, not as historical documents.

**INTELLIGENT DESIGN**, states that evolution is largely correct but some structures are so “complicated” that they could not have evolved. God must occasionally jump in to help.

This is just weak science. There is no evidence that any existing biological structure is too complicated for evolution. This is also weak theology. God is “sometimes here and sometimes away.”

**SCIENTIFIC ATHEISM** states that science offers all that is needed for understanding the world. It states that science demonstrates there is no need for religion. It also states that science shows that religious ideas are false or absurd. And finally, it states that the world would be better without religion.

Professor Nowak claims that the God concept of a well formulated theology is more sophisticated than what is rejected by most scientists. Science is no replacement for religion. And finally, Scientific Atheism goes beyond an immediate interpretation of scientific results and is itself a meta-physical statement!

So who is God? “...a fathomless ocean of being from whom all things originated.” “...beside God there is no second.” “...beyond God there is no other.” Moses Maimonides (1135—1204)

The God of Classical Christian Theology is... Not an object in the universe, not caught in the flow of time, created the world “ex nihilo”, is all loving, all knowing, omni present, is Creator and sustainer of the universe; is that without which there would be nothing (the ultimate cause for all that exists). Augustine (354—430)

This God does not require empirical confirmation. There exists no scientific procedure that could prove the existence of God. The existence of God is the primary theological axiom from which everything else must be derived. And let us remember that mathematical theorems do not need scientific

test either! They simply exist!

**“An atemporal God lifts an entire trajectory of the world (=Weltenlauf) into existence.”**

**“God does not play dice.”**

**“Our ultimate purpose is to generate love.”**

**“The laws of chemistry and physics determine what can evolve, but only God knows the correct calculation.”**

Science is no replacement for religion for we as a human people are interested in many questions which are not scientific. Question like: What is the purpose of my life? Where do I come from? Where will I go?

Religions and Spiritual Paths are not “bad.” The basic intentions of all world religions and faith paths are overwhelmingly “good.”

Both religion and science can perform an analysis of human suffering and offer guidance for improvement. Christian theology, consistent with science, is committed to “universal love” and “universal forgiveness.”

There should be proper interaction between science and religion. Scientists can study the evolution and psychology of religious behavior. Scientists can work with theologians to correct inappropriate views of the world. Scientists should admit that science does not provide evidence against a “well-formulated” theology. Religion for its part should not oppose scientific progress. Science and religion are two essential components in the (Faustian) search for truth. Ignoring either one is an impoverished approach.

Evolution is no problem for religion. Evolution describes the fundamental laws of nature according to which God chooses to unfold life. Evolution poses as little a problem for religion as gravity (or other forces of physics). God is that without which there would be no evolution at all. Intelligent life is inherently unstable, so religion and science should work together in order to improve its stability.

Religion is rational optimism (HOPE).

Only religion gives ultimate purpose. Faith is Blessed Hope.

Even as a scientist I am free to assume the best possible world that makes perfect sense.

## **Tufts University**

*University Chaplaincy  
Goddard Chapel  
Three The Green  
Medford, MA 02155*

*Phone: (617) 627-3427  
Fax: (617) 627-2447*

*Chaplaincy Staff  
Linda Karpowich, Chaplaincy Coordinator  
Edith Stead, Secretary*

**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](http://www.tufts.edu/chaplaincy)**

---

Tufts University  
Goddard Chapel  
3 The Green  
Medford, MA 02155