

Faculty Shorts

James Cutsinger

In May Dr. Cutsinger once again took a class to St. Anthony's Orthodox Monastery in Arizona as part of his Maymester course, "Mysteries of the Christian East".



In August, as the Mungo Professor, he gave the keynote address at USC's New Student Convocation, and in October he delivered the Frederick Sheffer Memorial Lecture at Colorado College on the topic "Worded Light, Illumined Word: Patterns of the Glory". The lecture marked the opening of an exhibit of prints from The Saint John's Bible, the first fully handwritten, illuminated, monumental Bible to be commissioned since the invention of the printing press.

Dr. Cutsinger recently completed his most ambitious Schuon project to date: *Splendor of the True: A Frithjof Schuon Reader*. With chapters culled from Schuon's twenty-three books and representing the full range of his work, this new anthology features a fresh translation and extensive editor's notes, samples of Schuon's poetry and artwork, and letters and other previously unpublished materials. *Splendor of the True* is currently in production with SUNY Press.

Kevin Lewis

Kevin Lewis is frequently asked by various news outlets for commentary on current societal issues. This spring a local Columbia station interviewed him about his



perceptions of the impact that the murder of Osama Bin Laden would have on world cultures and Americans in particular.

Kevin has had a number of interviews and talks on the topic of his latest book: "Lonesome: The Spiritual Meaning

of American Solitude." Jack Kuenzie, with WIS TV, did a video interview with him, and he was invited to participate in a panel discussion of his book and of the work of Edward Hopper at the South Carolina Book Fair, held in May of 2011.

Kevin was on a Talkback panel at the Nickelodean art film theater in June 2011 for the film "I Am." This non-fiction film poses two practical and provocative questions: What's wrong with our world, and what can we do to make it better? Featuring an array of interviews with a variety of thinkers and doers, the film challenges preconceptions about human behavior while simultaneously celebrating the indomitable human spirit. Kevin was a responder to the film along with Jemme Stewart, of the Carolina Psychotherapy Center and City Yoga, and Agnes Norfleet from Shandon Presbyterian Church.

Stephanie Mitchem

Stephanie's work as Chair has consumed a great deal of her time, especially as we work to rebuild the department. However, she still managed to

submit four essays for publication and is working on her next book. She is serving as co-chair of the Religion, Medicine, and Healing section of the American Academy of Religion, and was invited to present a paper, "Religious Intimacies," in June 2011 at the Conference on Gender, Religion, and Human Rights in Linköping, Sweden. She is preparing her most recent essay, on American politics and religion, for submission; and the essay, "Black American Women and the Gift of Embodied Spirituality" has been accepted for publication. Her articles, "To Make the World Home: Rosemary Radford Ruether and Ecofeminist Theology" and "Pluralism in African American Religious Life" have been accepted for inclusion in forthcoming volumes from Oxford University Press.



Erin Roberts

Erin Roberts worked with the history department in November developing a

conference on "Constructing Christianity," and has been working with other religious studies faculty developing the first annual Religious Studies department



lectureship and workshop seminar, which will be held in February of 2012.

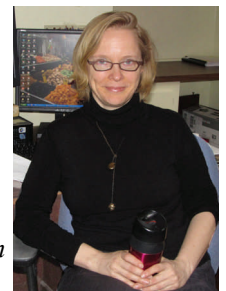
At the annual conference of the Society of Biblical literature she was invited by the Redefining Christian Origins work group to give a talk. The paper was called: "Cognitive Aspects of Social Practice in Matthew's Gospel." She has also been invited for a lecture at Columbia University's Center for the Ancient Mediterranean at the end of January where she will present a paper: "Constructing a Christian Concept of Sin."

In May of 2011, Dr. Roberts advised an honors student who won 1st place in the Humanities division at Discovery Day for her thesis presentation. Roberts is currently teaching a newly developed religious studies course called "Imagining Jesus from Antiquity to the Present," and is also teaching a course for USC's philosophy department on Hellenistic Philosophy.

Katja Vehlow

Katja Vehlow had quite a busy 2011. In April, she attended a conference in Phoenix, Arizona for the Medieval Academy. A few months later, in June, she visited the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York for research purposes. The following month she was in Israel, continuing her research at the National Library in Jerusalem.

Her book *Dorot Olam [Generations of the Ages: Critical Edition and Translation of Abraham Ibn Daud World Chronical]* has



been completed and is currently awaiting publication. Dr. Vehlow has begun research for her new book which will explore hermaphrodites in Medieval Hebrew Texts.