FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
WELCOME, DR. MONIKA RICE!

We are pleased to welcome Monika Rice, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies and Jewish-Christian Studies to Seton Hall University!

This Fall 2014 semester Dr. Rice is teaching the courses Catholic-Jewish Dialogue on the Holocaust: A Catholic Perspective and Modern Women of Faith. The latter is an online course that explores the lives and spiritualities of modern women who distinguished themselves by a radical response to a call of faith. Investigating internal journeys of women such as Edith Stein, Simone Weil, Dorothy Day, Raissa Maritain, Alice von Hildebrand and others, the course delves into the unique feminine and feminist response given by some prominent women within Christianity, as well as on the Christian/non-Christian “borders.”

Dr. Rice’s course, Catholic-Jewish Dialogue on the Holocaust, examines contemporary questions surrounding the following topics:

- Nazi ghettos
- "martyrs" and the Holocaust
- the papacy of Pius XII
- the Catholic rescue of Jews
- the baptism of Jewish children
- Catholic commemoration of the camps
- Holocaust-era manifestations of Christian anti-Semitism

Dr. Rice, a specialist in Holocaust studies, Catholic-Jewish relations, Polish-Jewish relations and the history of Polish Jews, earned her Ph.D. in Near-Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and her M.A. and B.A. in Ethnology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland. Her dissertation, First Encounters of Jewish Survivors with their Former Polish Neighbors in Post-War Accounts, compared early accounts of Jewish survivors collected by the Jewish Historical Committee in Poland with later accounts deposited in Yad Vashem. Analyzing Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, German and Russian sources, Dr. Rice investigated the possible extent of a change, over time and in different political circumstances, in Jewish perceptions of former Polish neighbors encountered immediately after the war.

Before teaching at Seton Hall University, Dr. Rice was a Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellow in Advanced Shoah Studies, an Albert Abramson Fellow in Holocaust Studies and a Ruth Ann and Nathan Perlmutter Fellow.

Her most recent publications include The ‘Gross Effect’: Polish-Jewish Historiography in Poland after “Neighbors” (The American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies, New Views: The Holocaust and Its Aftermath in Poland, January 2014) and the Book Review of “The Holocaust and Historical Methodology” (Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History 19, 136-140, August 2013).
Letter from the Director

Greetings! We have much to celebrate as another year and Fall semester comes to a close.

Once again we welcomed a diverse group of students into the Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program and look forward to the many contributions they will make during their time here. Mini-biographies of each may be found on page 7.

The JCST faculty, as always, have been busy teaching, publishing and lecturing. You can read what we’ve been up to on pages 4-5 and can also read about the retirement and impact the Reverend Dr. John Morley has had in our program and beyond on page 6. We will miss you and wish you well, Father John!

This issue’s alumni article was written by Mary Morrell, who graduated from the JCST program in 2003 and is the Managing Editor of The Monitor, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton. Learn what difference she had made and continues to make and why she says she feels equally at home in both church and synagogue on page 3.

Do turn to page 8 and learn about and plan to visit the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research digital archive, Jewish Life in Poland, and the exhibit, A Bible For Our Nation: American Bible Society, 1816-1830, which is currently on display at the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA).

Lastly, please save the date, April 14, 2015, for our annual Teachers Study Day, the details of which are provided on the last page. The event is free and open to the public so do plan to join us as we explore the theme, “Greeks and Jews under Nazi Occupation,” with Isaak and Diana Dostis.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! May God bless you and your families this wonderful season.

Warmly,

Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell
Director & Associate Professor
Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Seton Hall University
lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu
https://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/
https://twitter.com/fatherfrizzell

RECENT EVENTS

Hearing Jesus’ Parables through Jewish Ears

Amy-Jill Levine, Ph.D. was this year’s keynote speaker at the third Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf lecture, which was hosted by Seton Hall University on October 26, 2014.

Dr. Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences, delivered the lecture, Hearing Jesus’ Parables Through Jewish Ears. Dr. Levine discussed how contemporary interpretations of Jesus’ parables lose their original provocation and the genius of his teaching when they are not understood within their Jewish context.

Dr. Robbins-Wilf, for whom the lecture is named, is a long-time member of the Board of Trustees of the Sister Rose Thering Fund and has established an endowment to bring respected voices to Seton Hall University and the community at large.

The Changing Relations between Christians and Jews

The Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies hosted its Twenty-First Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture on November 2, 2014 at Seton Hall University.

This year’s lecture featured speaker Robert L. Wilken, Ph.D., the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of History of Christianity (emeritus) at the University of Virginia. Dr. Wilken’s presentation, The Changing Relations between Christians and Jews, focused on the complex development of historical relations between Christians and Jews from the late 19th century through present times. He discussed the past contributions of the Institute’s founding director, Msgr. Oesterreicher, to Nostra Aetate as well as the alarming rise of anti-Semitism, Christian persecution and increased hostility toward Jews and Christians throughout the world.

You can view a video of Dr. Wilken’s presentation and the Q&A session that followed on the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies iTunes channel by clicking here.
Many years ago, one of my six sons, all of whom attended 12 years or more of Catholic school, walked in to the kitchen where I was cooking and asked, “What’s all this stuff about Jesus being a Jew?”

I was astonished that any Catholic child, especially my own, could come away from daily religious education and a home where both parents were parish religious educators, and not grasp that Jesus was Jewish.

Then again, this was the same son who challenged me to explain the value of studying history, a subject he disliked and struggled with in school. “It’s done. It’s over. What’s the point?” he proclaimed in defense of his immovable point of view that there was nothing to learn from studying the past.

Since then, in great part through my work in the Jewish-Christian Studies MA program, I have come to realize that his question about Jesus was a reflection, in part, of two of the missing pieces for many in their understanding of Jewish-Christian relations – a firm grasp of the interrelated history of both faiths and an experience of spiritual relationship.

For the Jew and the Christian, both history and spirituality have their roots in covenant – the relationship members of both faith traditions have with their one God and a relationship that should model all the relationships we have with each other.

My introduction to religious covenant came from the many Jewish students who were my friends through six years of junior and senior high school. I attended so many bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies during those years that I could recite the Shema in Hebrew by heart. I heard and felt in the sounds of the Torah being read and the prayers being intoned a profound connection to God and a deep desire to understand the Jewish faith.

For some reason I felt at home in the synagogue, as much as in the church, and when I finally had the opportunity to begin my studies at Seton Hall, the relevance of my early experiences and the answers to many of my questions unfolded.

From a new vantage point of increased knowledge and a growing understanding of the Jewish people, my work as a Catholic writer and editor has provided me the opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Jew, with the goal of bringing others to a new place of understanding and respect for the Jewish people.

Whenever possible, I have shared what I have learned in my writing, introducing readers to the wisdom of rabbis like Abraham Joshua Heschel, encouraging families to follow the Jewish tradition of integrating religious ritual and prayer into home life, told stories of Jewish burial customs or recalled the practice of offering blessings for every occasion, usually to hear back from readers, “I didn’t know that. That’s beautiful.”

In my prayer groups I’ve used Jewish prayers for healing, taught adult faith formation students about Teshuvah in a lesson on repentance, and introduced teen Confirmation students to the Torah and the Shema by having them make a mezuzah for their bedroom door. And in a difficult moment, I found myself called to challenge a pastor following his anti-Semitic homily during a funeral Mass near the Easter season. Lay people are not the only ones who sometimes need to be reminded of a simple yet profound teaching of Saint John Paul II: “Christians and Jews must be a blessing to each other in order to be a blessing to the world.”

I am grateful to Seton Hall, to Father Lawrence E. Frizzell and the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies for continuing a more than 60-year tradition of giving students like myself the tools and the support to become that blessing to the world, each in our own unique way.

Mary Morrell serves as managing editor of The Monitor, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton. She also served as associate editor and catechetical consultant for RENEW International after serving nine years as associate director of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen.
The Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.
Director & Associate Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Director, Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies

Father Frizzell recently attended two interfaith meetings in New York City: one sponsored by The Jewish Theological Seminary and the other by the National Council of Synagogues and the National Conference of Bishops. He also presented, “The Communion of Saints,” to the Good Shepherd Community on May 18, 2014. Additionally, he participated in the Catholic Biblical Association of America Annual Meeting at Providence College in Rhode Island on July 26-29 and was on an accreditation team for the New York State Office of College and University Evaluation of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, affiliated with Yeshiva University in New York City. This site visit took place on September 17, 2014.

Father Frizzell also served as blind referee for a chapter in the forthcoming book, Turning to the World: Social Justice and the Common Good since Vatican II and wrote the following Book Reviews this year:


This Fall semester Father Frizzell is teaching three graduate courses: Christian-Jewish Encounter, Hebrew Bible Readings I and Peace and War: Biblical and Jewish Tradition.

Father also continues to Tweet daily @FatherFrizzell and to blog at http://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/. Be sure and check out the newest pages he’s added to his website/blog, Academic Study of the Bible and Online Biblical Hebrew Language Resources.

David M. Bossman, Ph.D.
Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Executive Director, Sister Rose Thering Fund

Dr. Bossman led the discussion following the New Jersey Film Festival’s screening of “The Jewish Cardinal” at the JCC Metrowest on September 12, 2014.

This Fall Dr. Bossman is teaching the two graduate courses, Values for a Pluralistic Society and Jewish-Christian Foundations for Social Service.

Dr. Bossman continues to serve as editor of the Biblical Theology Bulletin (BTB). The November 2014 issue of BTB (44:4) is now published and includes the following articles:

- “Creating Fictional Worlds: Peshat-Exegesis and Narrativity in Rashbam’s Commentary,” Victor H. Matthews, Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- “Jesus at Age 30: Further Evidence of Luke’s Portrait of a Priestly Jesus?” David Wenkel, Ph.D. (University of Aberdeen)
- “Eschatology of the Synoptic Jesus: Based on a Misinterpretation of Otherworld Experiences,” Heiner Schwenke, D.Phil. (University of Freiburg im Bresigau)

This issue may be accessed and purchased online at http://btb.sagepub.com/. Seton Hall students can access these and other Biblical Theology Bulletin articles online through the E-Journals tab on the University Libraries homepage at http://www.shu.edu/academics/libraries.
Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D.
Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair of Jewish-Christian Studies

Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill joined the North American Team of a joint project by Florida International University and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (VLJI) in Israel. This project aims to determine what impact Jews who are engaged in "New Age" spiritual practices have had on mainstream Jewish religious life in North America and Israel. You can earn more about this project here.

Larry Yudelson’s report, “An Orthodox scholar’s passage to India: Seton Hall professor helps builds bridges among Jews, Hindus,” made the front cover of the Jewish Standard on September 3, 2014. This article discusses Rabbi Brill’s sabbatical in India and how much of his teaching focused on Hindu-Jewish commonalities.

Additionally, this Fall semester Rabbi Brill is teaching the following two graduate courses:

- Medieval Jewish Thinkers
- Judaism and Other Religions

Rabbi also blogs regularly at https://kavanah.wordpress.com/ and you can follow him on Twitter @kavanah. You can also pick up his book, Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding, in paperback this month.

SPRING 2015 COURSE SCHEDULE
Master of Arts in Jewish-Christian Studies

Classes for the 2015 Spring semester will begin January 12.

If you haven’t already registered, please contact Jay Wolferman via email at Jay.Wolferman@shu.edu or via phone at 973.761.9751.

Here’s a list of classes that will be offered in the M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies Program:

JCST 6006 Hebrew Bible Readings II – Lawrence E. Frizzell, Wednesday 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
JCST 6011 Biblical Thought II: Paul and John – Lawrence E. Frizzell, Thursday 6:15 pm - 8:25 pm
JCST 6014 Lessons from the Holocaust: Trauma and Resilience – David Bossman, Wednesday 5:00 pm - 7:10 pm
JCST 6020 Jewish History I: Bible to Talmud – David Bossman, Tuesday 5:00 pm - 7:10 pm
JCST 6022 Judaism of Second Temple Period – Lawrence E. Frizzell, Monday 6:15 pm - 8:25 pm
JCST 7047 Philosphic Perspective of the Holocaust – Alan Brill, Tuesday 5:00 pm - 7:10 pm
JCST 7585 Special Topics: Comparative Study of Judaism and Christianity – Alan Brill, Monday 4:00 pm - 6:10 pm
JCST 9001 AA Thesis – Lawrence E. Frizzell, TBA
The Reverend John Morley, Ph.D. Retires

By Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell

The Reverend John Francis Morley, Ph.D. (New York University), has enjoyed a long teaching career at Seton Hall University and is now fully retired. After many years in administration and in the classroom he stopped teaching full time in 2006. However, he continued to be active until last semester by offering courses as an adjunct.

After his theological studies at the University of Louvain, he was ordained to the Catholic priesthood on July 1, 1962. After working in St. Mary’s Parish, Elizabeth, NJ, he came to the University’s Religious Studies Department in 1967. While teaching he began doctoral studies at New York University in 1968 entering the program in Jewish Studies (Hebrew Culture and Education). He completed his doctoral dissertation under the guidance of Professor Nathan H. Winter in 1979. He made extensive use of the major collection of documents from the Vatican archives edited by Robert Graham and Pierre Blet and published in 11 volumes (the last in two large parts) from 1939-1943, as well as many other sources. The fact that the period covered ended in 1943 limited the extent of his work. Vatican Diplomacy and the Jews during the Holocaust, 1939-1943 was published by Ktav in 1980.

From his early days at Seton Hall Father Morley was involved actively in the work of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, collaborating with Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher in a number of projects and serving on the Advisory Board of the Institute to the present day.

Father Morley introduced four courses into the Religious Studies program for undergraduates: Jewish Beliefs and Practices (Fall 1971), Jewish Religions and Ethics (Fall 1972), Jewish-Christian Relations (Spring 1977) and the Holocaust (Fall 1974) so that many students would have an introduction to Judaism and the history of the Jewish people. This included visits to a local synagogue for daily morning prayer, special lectures and other events.

In September 1990 the biennial meeting sponsored by the International Liaison Committee (composed of the Holy See’s Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations) took place in Prague, within ten months of the liberation of the Czech people from Communism. Father Morley gave a paper, “Historical Reflections on the Shoah,” which was read and discussed by participants, many of whom came from countries of Eastern and Southern Europe.

During the next decade the Holy See drew upon Father Morley’s expertise on several occasions, especially when Edward Cardinal Cassidy organized a study team of three Jewish and three Catholic scholars to study the Vatican archival texts edited by R. Graham and P. Blet. Meetings took place in the United States and in Europe and their findings were presented in Rome on October 26, 2000 to Cardinal Cassidy, President of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

In preparation for the Jubilee of 2000, the Holy See had two intra-ecclesial colloquia on The Roots of Anti-Judaism in the Christian Environment and on the Inquisition. Father Morley’s presentation, “The Roots of Anti-Judaism in the Christian Context: Modern Times,” at the first of these meetings of sixty scholars in Vatican City from October 30 – November 1, 1997 was published by the Vatican Press in 2000.

At Seton Hall during the years 1983-1992 and 1996-1999 Father Morley’s attention was focused on his administrative role, and he taught the Religious Studies course on the Holocaust as an adjunct (Fall 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004); in these years he taught this course in the Jewish-Christian Studies M.A. program as well.

Father Morley’s contributions to Seton Hall Community and to Christian-Jewish relations go far beyond the parameters of this brief sketch. We wish Father Morley many years of active service in the priestly ministry and in research projects related to understanding between Catholics and Jews!
Father Julius Moses Eyyazo is a priest of the Kafanchan Diocese in the Ecclesiastical province of Kaduna in Nigeria. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from St. Thomas Aquinas’ Major Seminary in Makurd, Nigeria and his Bachelor’s degree in Sacred Theology from St. Augustine’s Major Seminary in Jos, Nigeria. Father Julius has matriculated into the JCST program in order to enrich his knowledge about the Jewish people. His ultimate goal is to share the knowledge and lessons he learns in the JCST program with his fellow Nigerians and to “awaken and inspire the younger generation” into transforming their country into “a place where the humanity of everyone is cherished and where nobody’s suffering is tolerated.”

Antoinette Gissubel is the new Graduate Assistant for the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies. Antoinette, who is from Hackettstown, NJ, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Seton Hall University. While in the JCST program, she intends to focus her studies on various peacemaking efforts and their foundations in the Catholic and Jewish traditions and to research how they compare and contrast to such models as the “just war” theory. Upon graduation, Antoinette hopes to work toward helping to “find peaceful resolutions to conflicts all around the world and alleviate the circumstances that generate and fuel violence, such as poverty.”

Kevin McNulty is the Assistant Headmaster at Seton Hall Preparatory School and an Adjunct Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Montclair State University. Kevin received his Bachelor’s in Religious Studies and History with a minor in Philosophy and Political Science from Iona College. He also holds two graduate degrees: a Master of Arts in History with a specialty in Medieval Church and Reform from Fordham University and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Iona College. Kevin entered the JCST program to study the biblical scriptures in their original languages and to deepen his understanding of Second Temple Judaism so that he may “foster a greater appreciation for how Judaism formed Christianity” and “promote a deeper understanding among Christian students of their sister faith.”

Anisa Mehdi is an Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist, writer and filmmaker specializing in religion and cultural affairs with a focus on Islam and interfaith issues. She also teaches documentary film in the Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University. Anisa holds a Master’s Degree in Journalism from Columbia University and a Bachelor’s degree (cum laude) in Spanish Language and Literature from Wellesley College. Her latest film will premier on PBS nationwide on December 23, 2014 at 9 p.m. as part of the series, Sacred Journeys with Bruce Feiler. Anisa is taking JCST courses because, as she states, “an important part of my professional development is to deepen my knowledge and understanding of religions and practitioners” and “Father Frizzell’s class on War and Peace is particularly timely and stimulating.”

Terry Schoback is a New Jersey native who holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Seton Hall University. A former Information Technology Auditor, she now teaches adults enrolled in a community job readiness program. Terry matriculated into the JCST program to find answers to the “many questions about Jewish-Christian topics” that arose during her undergraduate studies, and she plans to instill the lessons she learns to her future students.
ART COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS & ARCHIVES

Jewish Life in Poland

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research digital archive, *Jewish Life in Poland*, presents highlights from more than 70 of its archival collections. These collections center on Polish Jewry during the period between the two world wars. The only American collection that was saved from the destruction of the Holocaust, it contains thousands of manuscripts, posters and photographs and includes online exhibitions and photo, audio, video and map galleries as well as the background essay, *Polish Jewry: A Chronology.*

The digital archive, though impressive, contains only a fraction of the Polish materials in the YIVO Archives, which includes more than 1900 record groups, such as the personal papers of individuals prominent in Polish Jewish politics, communal life, the arts, and other resources on Polish Jewish history. Visit the online Guide to the YIVO Archives for a complete listing of YIVO’s collections or explore specific research topics at the Center for Jewish History.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is located at 15 West 16th Street in New York City. Please note the collections described on the YIVO website are available in their reading room and only by appointment with the Chief Archivist. Collections which are in very poor or fragile condition may be viewed at the discretion of the YIVO Archives. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact archives@yivo.cjh.org or call 212.246.6080.

A Bible For Our Nation at the Museum of Biblical Art


Concentrating on the founding and early years of the *American Bible Society* (ABS) as a national organization, items that will be on display include the following copies of the first Scriptures published by ABS and copies of the earliest books to enter the ABS Library:

- the first Bible dating from November 1816
- the first Scripture in a native American language (1-3 John in Delaware, 1818)
- the first Scripture in an indigenous language of Latin America (Luke, 1829)
- the first Bibles in Spanish, French and German

The exhibit will also include an impressive collection of bibles that were donated to ABS by the organization’s Founding Fathers such as:

- the London Polyglot of 1655-57, an eight-volume set that was presented in 1818 by nineteen ABS Managers on the initiative of John Pintaed
- a 1595 Geneva Bible presented by Elias Boudinot in 1817
- a Latin Bible published in 1476 and presented by Divie Bethune in 1821, the first incunabulum acquired by the Library
- the Polyglot New Testament published in Nuremberg in 1599 and donated by Richard Varick in 1819
- the first Scripture published by the *British and Foreign Bible Society* (John in Mohawk, 1804).

The Museum of Biblical Art is located at 1865 Broadway at 61st Street near Columbus Circle and the Lincoln Center and is the only scholarly museum in the United States that concentrates solely on art and the Bible.
Upcoming Event

- **April 14, 2015 - Seton Hall University**

**Teachers Study Day**

The theme of the 2015 Teachers Study Day is “Greeks and Jews under Nazi Occupation” and will feature presentations by Isaak and Diana Dostis, founders of Act I Presentations, a theater group that “promotes a ‘sliver of hope’ that people don’t stand by while violence is committed.”

The JCST Graduate Program designed its annual Teachers Study Day to assist New Jersey educators in the development of expertise in the area of Holocaust and Genocide education. The study day meets the New Jersey mandate for K-12 education about the Holocaust and genocide and offers five professional development credit hours to participating educators.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by emailing Lawrence Frizzell at Lawrence.Frizzell@shu.edu or calling 973.761.9751.