



# Old Main Chronicle

Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences

SPRING 2025

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## Editor's Notes

**Mark Waters, PhD**

**Professor of Religion**

**Chair: Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences**

I am grateful for your interest in the Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences at McMurry University. The semester and the year 2025 are off to a good start for the War Hawks. This edition of The Old Main Chronicle offers a taste of division activities for the coming year among other interesting topics.

The Rev. Taylor Smith '14 opens with a biblical reflection on "Care for the Widow, the Orphan, and the Foreigner." Taylor earned his degree in religion at McMurry and proceeded to Duke Divinity School for his MDiv. An Elder in the United Methodist Church, he now serves First UMC in The Colony, Texas. I saw his thoughtful reflections on Facebook and immediately knew that the article was worthy of wider distribution.

A new section to the newsletter, "Happenings," highlights three significant events. See the information herein about a career panel for sociologists (2/11), a speaker on careers in Criminology (3/3), and the Bennett-Wilson Lecture sponsored by the Department of Religion and Philosophy (3/18).

"Travelogue" is also new to this newsletter. In this section, you will learn of a spiritual formation pilgrimage in May to the ecumenical monastic community known as Taizé located near Lyon,

France. This pilgrimage is sponsored by McMurry Religious and Spiritual Life and led by Chaplain Ricky Harrison. In other travel news, Dr. Philip LeMasters' traveled recently to Toronto and Boston in his role as an Orthodox Priest.

"Faculty Projects," the next section, is intended to draw you into the world of our faculty. Here Dr. Aravind Mohan explains a powerful computer platform that he and international student Yordanos Alelework are creating thanks to a KIVA grant. His test case for building and utilizing the platform will compare Hindu, Christian, and Muslim religious texts at a significantly faster rate than is humanly possible. I am serving as a theological consultant for the project. I will analyze the texts that the platform identifies as similar utilizing comparative theology methodologies (not to be confused with comparative religion). Then our newest English faculty person, Lucas Cardona, invites readers to a weekly poetry class on Zoom that continues for nine weeks. Participants will write a poem per week.

The final two sections spotlight faculty and student accomplishments. This impressive array of achievements includes publications, presentations, projects, and future plans.

# ALUMNI CORNER

## Care for the Widow, the Orphan, and the Foreigner

Taylor Smith '14, MDiv  
Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, The Colony

Jesus was murdered by state-sanctioned capital punishment.

It's important to state it this way, because there is a rising majority of Christians who emphasize how Jesus' crucifixion saves us from sin while overlooking why he was sentenced to death in the first place. This same group often narrowly defines "sin" as personal moral failures, ignoring the communal dimension of sin: the failure to care for the poor, the powerless, and the oppressed. Sin is both: it's personal, like doing harm or intentionally not doing good. And it's communal, existing in systems and structures that perpetuate injustice and exploit the vulnerable.

Jesus was murdered by state-sanctioned capital punishment.

Why? Because he carried the mantle of the prophets who declared, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed" ([Psalm 82:3](#)). God's people were commanded to care for [the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner](#)—the most vulnerable among us—yet the systems of power ignored these commands. Jesus not only proclaimed this truth—he lived it. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and embraced the outcast.

So... Jesus was murdered by state-sanctioned capital punishment.

Because his ministry of compassion threatened the religious and political powers of his day. His life exposed their corruption, their obsession with power, and their indifference to human suffering. Jesus didn't just speak truth to power; he was truth in the face of power.

And it upset people then, just as it upsets people now.

Christian friends, if you're wondering, "What is the role of faith in today's political environment?" consider the words of the prophet Micah, which Jesus himself fulfilled: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" ([Micah 6:8](#)).

Faith looks like this: caring for the least among us. Living truth in the face of power. Sacrificing our comfort and privilege so that others might thrive. It means living the way Jesus lived—feeding the hungry, crossing boundaries, caring for the foreigner, and loving sacrificially so that others might see Christ through us.

This is the way of the cross that leads to death. But it's also the way to life.

**McM**  
Student  
ALUMNI  
NETWORK

## CAREER PANEL

*for Social Sciences*

Students had the opportunity to connect with alumni in the social sciences and gain insider advice, inspiration, and valuable connections to jumpstart their career!

## HAPPENINGS

### Career Panel for Social Sciences

A career panel for social scientists was held on February 11 featuring McMurry alumni. The target audience was McMurry students who anticipate a career in the social sciences. Alumni panelists were Arimy Beasley '02, Christina Martinez '19, Abby McElroy '24, Alaisha Montanez '11, and Kaitlyn Thompson '20.

## Careers in Criminology Featuring Ms. Kirkwood Montique March 3, 7:00 p.m., The Mabee Room



Ms. Kirkwood Montique will be discussing her career experiences and her insights into law enforcement after a stellar career serving in this profession. Montique is a native Texan and retired Chief U.S. Probation Officer in the Eastern District of Texas. She was the first African American and female to hold this position. Myra is a graduate of North Texas State University with a BA in Political Science, and Prairie View A&M University with a MA in Sociology, both with honors.

Montique was a 3rd grade teacher for two years in the Beaumont Independent School District, a Texas State Parole Officer for 5 years as the 1st location monitoring officer, and in 1994 began employment with the United States Probation Office in the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division. In 2002, she was promoted to Supervising U.S. Probation Officer and transferred to the Plano office, where she was also promoted to Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer in 2014-2018, as the 1st African American and female to hold this position.

## Bennett-Wilson Lecture Series Dr. Willie James Jennings March 18, 7:30 p.m., Matthews Auditorium

At the invitation of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Dr. Willie James Jennings, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University Divinity School, will deliver a Bennett-Wilson Lecture entitled, "Who are My People: Revolutionary Belonging in the Book of Acts" on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Matthews Auditorium.

Dr Jennings' many publications include *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, widely considered one of the most influential books in contemporary theology. His volume *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*, won the 2020 book of the year award from Publisher's Weekly. Dr. Jennings has been invited to deliver a number of prestigious lectures at Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Vanderbilt, and other institutions in recent years.

With a deep commitment to theological education and the life of the church, Dr. Jennings challenges and inspires his readers and students to think critically and live faithfully. Dr. Jennings was a classmate of Dr. Phil LeMasters in the Graduate Program in Theology and Ethics at Duke University. Dr. Jennings taught on the faculty of Duke Divinity School before moving to Yale.



# TRAVELOGUE

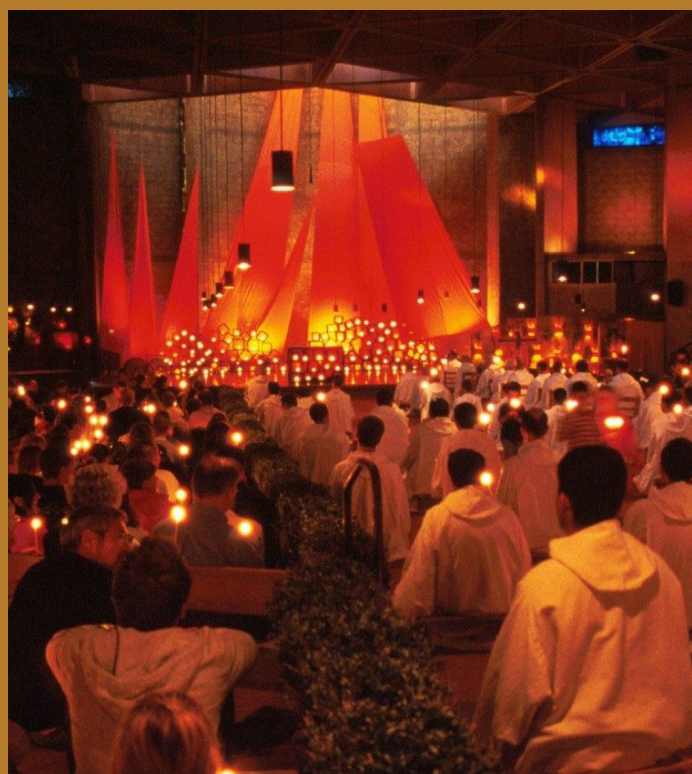
## 2025 Spiritual Formation Pilgrimage Taizé, France

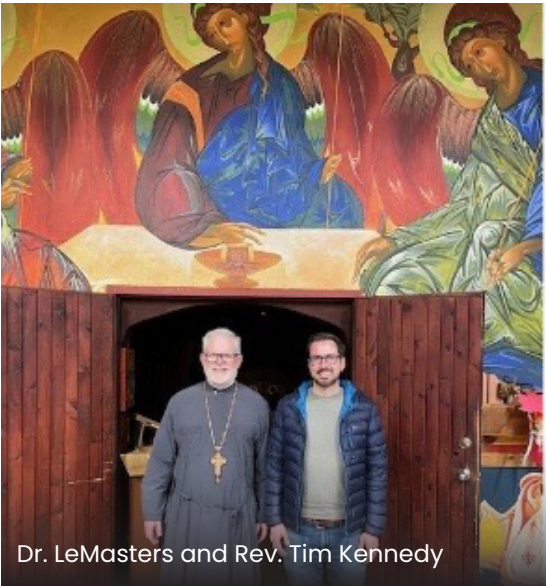
**Rev. Ricky Harrison, MDiv**  
**Director of Religious and Spiritual Life and University Chaplain**

In May 2025 McMurry University Religious & Spiritual Life will lead a unique student travel opportunity to the Burgundy Region of France where students will spend a week living in the ecumenical monastic community known as Taizé. This community, located in a little village outside Lyon, was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger with a radical commitment to foster peace and reconciliation in a violently divided world. In the early years, this small community of brothers was a haven for Jewish refugees of the holocaust and a place of ministry to German prisoners of war. Since then, the community has become a sacred pilgrimage site for young people from around the world. Each year over 100,000 young people make pilgrimage to Taizé for prayer, Bible study, sharing groups, and communal work led by the monastic brothers. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the Christ-like spirit of kindness, simplicity, and reconciliation.

In addition to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for deep spiritual formation in an immersive environment, this trip will also include an opportunity for study & course credit through the McMurry University Department of Religion. Following our week at Taizé students will spend two days in Lyon, the third-largest city in France, touring the 12th Century Saint Jean Baptiste Cathedral and 19th Century Basilica of Notre-Dame, along with exploring the city for shopping, food, and other cultural site visits.

For additional information on how to make gifts to support participating students, please contact me via email ([harrison.ricky@mcm.edu](mailto:harrison.ricky@mcm.edu)) or phone (325-793-4775). I would welcome the opportunity to visit further about this opportunity with you or your congregation anytime.





Dr. LeMasters and Rev. Tim Kennedy



Baptist-Orthodox Dialogue

## Toronto and Boston

**Philip LeMasters, PhD**  
**Professor of Religion**  
**Director of the Honors Program**

In late October, I went to Toronto to give a series of talks on Christian ethics at St. John the Compassionate Orthodox Mission. While there, I had the opportunity to visit with the Rev. Tim Kennedy, a McMurry Religion alumnus who served as our campus chaplain from 2004-2014. Tim is now a minister in the United Church of Canada and works full time in campus ministry at the University of Toronto.

In early December, I went to Boston to participate in a two-day Baptist-Orthodox dialogue meeting at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The discussion centered on “Family life: Sexuality and the Role of Women” with For the Life of the World: Towards a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church, a recent social teaching document from the Patriarchate of Constantinople, as our point of reference. Scholars from Duke, Gardner-Webb, Boston College, and Exeter (UK) also attended in-person with others participating remotely from Europe.



## FACULTY PROJECTS

### Interfaith Informatics

**Aravind Mohan, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor of Computer Science**

In a world increasingly interconnected, religious misunderstandings remain a challenge. Reducing these misunderstandings is the vision behind Interfaith Informatics. It is an interdisciplinary project that uses technology to bridge gaps between religious communities. The initiative is a collaboration between McMurry University’s Computer Science and Religion departments, led by Dr. Mark Waters from the Department of Religion and me from the Department of Computer Science. Dr. Waters focuses on using the tool for research in comparative theology, while I lead the development of the tool using computer science principles and methods. This project has received the

prestigious KIVA Award for its innovation and impact. It has also been accepted for presentation at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR 2025) and the Texas Academy of Science (TAS 2025). These recognitions highlight the significance of this preliminary work.

#### The Project and Its Importance

Interfaith Informatics is a web platform designed to foster understanding among religious communities. Religious conflicts often arise from limited perspectives and lack of awareness. These gaps fuel stereotypes and hinder collaboration.

The platform bridges these divides by exploring religious perspectives on various topics. It highlights differences and commonalities, encouraging mutual respect and reducing prejudice.

This initiative addresses a critical need in today's globalized society. It helps people understand diverse faiths and fosters religious literacy. For example, users can explore how different religions view issues such as forgiveness, environmental care, and charity. These insights encourage empathy and create a deeper appreciation of shared values. By doing so, the platform has the potential to promote harmony and collaboration among communities.

### Approach to Solving the Problem:

The project uses advanced technology and interdisciplinary methods. Development is planned in three phases:

1. **Data Collection and Preprocessing:** Sacred texts from major religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism are gathered. The data is cleaned and prepared for analysis. Religious scholars ensure the dataset is accurate and contextually meaningful. Each text is carefully curated to reflect the teachings and sentiments of the respective faiths. Modern de facto principles and methods in Computer Science, such as Big Data and Cloud Computing, leverage tools like Apache, PHP, MySQL, Amazon AWS, and OpenStack Cloud platforms for storing, accessing, processing, and displaying datasets in the tool.
2. **Platform Development:** Two main features are implemented:
  - » **Sentiment Analysis:** The platform utilizes natural language processing (NLP), artificial intelligence, and machine learning techniques to analyze sacred texts and assess sentiments on various topics. Users can explore themes such as forgiveness, charity, and environmental care among diverse religious texts through this advanced analysis.
  - » **Comparison Tool:** This feature compares the perspectives of two religions on a chosen topic, clearly highlighting similarities and differences using various topic modeling algorithms and artificial intelligence. It helps users identify common ground and areas of divergence, fostering a balanced understanding.

3. **Testing and Launch:** The platform undergoes rigorous testing to ensure usability and accuracy, incorporating feedback from academics, religious leaders, and community groups. Once finalized, the platform is launched, and findings from the project are published in academic venues to promote further research in interfaith studies. Additionally, Dr. Waters will use the tool to conduct theological research, advancing the field of religious studies.

The project prioritizes accessibility and user-friendliness. The interface is simple, allowing users from diverse backgrounds to navigate it easily. Advanced algorithms work in the background to ensure accurate and meaningful results.

### Broader Impact on Society

The potential impact of Interfaith Informatics is significant. The platform serves as a resource for multiple groups:

- » **Educational Institutions:** Universities can use it in courses on religion, ethics, and communication. It fosters critical thinking and empathy among students. By integrating this tool into the curriculum, educators can offer a hands-on approach to interfaith understanding.
- » **Religious Leaders and Organizations:** Insights from the platform facilitate informed dialogue and collaboration. Leaders can use the tool to identify shared values and address contentious issues with respect and understanding.
- » **General Public:** Individuals can gain nuanced perspectives on faiths, challenging stereotypes and promoting tolerance. The platform fosters a sense of global citizenship by enabling users to explore diverse beliefs and values.

The project aligns with McMurry University's mission to prepare students for a global society. Students involved in the project gain valuable technical and cultural skills. They learn how interdisciplinary collaboration can address real-world challenges, equipping them for their future careers. Religious tensions often lead to conflicts, both local and global. By promoting understanding, Interfaith Informatics contributes to peace-building efforts. It provides a pathway for communities to engage in meaningful dialogue, reducing the potential for conflict.



## Academic Recognition and Student Contributions

The project's acceptance at NCUR 2025 and TAS 2025 highlights its interdisciplinary value and innovation. These prestigious platforms provide an opportunity to showcase the project's impact and gather feedback from experts.

Students have played a critical role in this initiative. Yordanos Ayelework, a senior student in the Department of Computer Science, has been instrumental in the technical development of the platform under my mentorship. By blending technical skills with insights from religious studies, students gain hands-on experience that prepares them for academic and professional growth. This project underscores the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing societal challenges.

## A Testament to Innovation

Dr. Waters and I have each received the 2025 KIVA Award for our respective contributions to Interfaith Informatics. This recognition validates the project's potential to create positive societal change. Dr. Waters' work focuses on using the tool to conduct research in comparative theology, while my efforts center on designing and developing the platform

using advanced computer science methods. The award highlights the value of our collaboration and the broader impact of the project. Winning the KIVA Award is a milestone that reinforces the importance of interdisciplinary research. It also provides a platform to showcase the project's vision and opens doors for future collaborations and funding opportunities.

## Conclusion

Interfaith Informatics demonstrates how technology can address societal challenges. It fosters dialogue and empathy among diverse faiths by combining computer science with religious studies. The platform's educational and societal implications are significant, bridging divides and celebrating shared values. Through informed dialogue, this initiative paves the way for a more inclusive and empathetic world. The project's preliminary work is a meaningful step toward interfaith harmony. By addressing the root causes of religious misunderstandings, Interfaith Informatics contributes to a brighter future. It inspires hope, fosters collaboration, and promotes peace. With innovation and empathy at its core, this project aims to build a world where differences are celebrated, and common ground is cherished.

# Poetic Pedagogy

## Lucas Cardona, MFA Visiting Assistant Professor of English

On Friday February 28th I'll be hosting a free, online poetry workshop for [Write Wilmington](#), a public writing initiative started by Sayantani Dasgupta, an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at University of North Carolina Wilmington, where I received my Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Poetry. Professor Dasgupta began organizing virtual writing sessions during the Pandemic, as a way for people to stay connected, build literary community, and carve out time to get creative in quarantine.

The initiative has grown substantially in popularity since its inception, attracting attendees from around the country and world. While the series continues to be organized by grad students and instructors at UNCW's creative writing department, an impressive roster of esteemed authors and poets from across the country have been invited to lead the weekly sessions.

Building off last season's theme of *Nine Stories*, the Spring 2025 theme is *Nine Poems*. The hour-long sessions are held via Zoom on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (EST). Each session is led by a single instructor who will provide prompt(s) for attendees. It's free to register and anyone, regardless of age or vocation, is welcome to attend.

Topaz Winters—artist, poet, essayist, and editor-in-chief of *Half Mystic Press*—will lead the first session on February 6th. Winters' poetry collection *So, Stranger* won the Button Short Form Contest and was published by Button Poetry (2022), an independent publisher based in Minneapolis. Her poetry, fiction, & nonfiction (per her website) have been published in a variety of literary magazines, including *American Poetry Review*, *Foglifter*, & *Passages North*, profiled in *Vogue*, *The Straits Times*, & *The Business Times*, & performed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Centre for

Fiction, & the Singapore Writers Festival.

My friend and thesis adviser, the brilliant Dr. Melissa Crowe, whose poetry collection *LO* was selected by Brenda Shaughnessy for the Iowa Poetry Prize in 2023 and published by University of Iowa Press, will host the final session on April 18th.

More information can be found at Write Wilmington's webpage on UNCW's website.

"Our hope is that by the end of the season, attendees would have written nine different poems and thereby taken a step toward putting together a poetry collection of their own. Even if you are a prose writer, we encourage you to take advantage of this season's sessions! Thinking about figurative language, voice, line breaks, and brevity is advantageous for every writer."

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

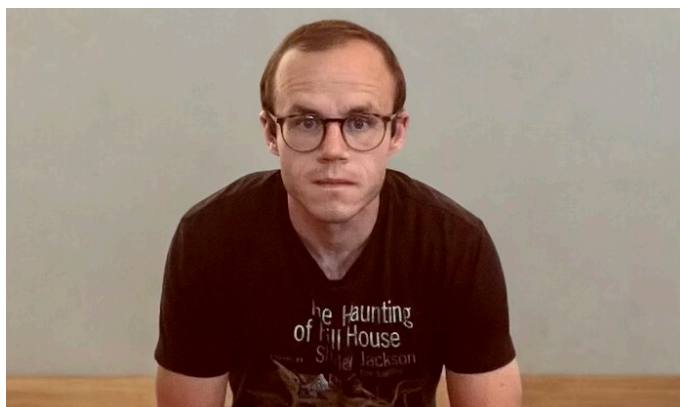


### Tina Bertrand, PhD Professor of Political Science

- **Presentation:** Dr. Tina L. Bertrand will present "The UN's Alliance of Civilizations Comes of Age: An Assessment of its Educational Programming in Fostering Democratic Principles," at the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) 2025 Conference in Las Vegas.
- **Sam Taylor Fellowship:** Dr. Bertrand was awarded a Sam Taylor Fellowship for research on the UN Alliance of Civilizations progress on its 20th anniversary. The monies will be used to travel to New York to research the Alliance's archives and interview NGOs that have partnered with the Alliance on education reform in majority-Muslim countries.

### Gretchen Bullock, ABD Visiting Instructor of History

- **Presentation:** A portion of her dissertation "Beyond the Gridiron: Exploring the Artistic Roots and Enduring Influences of the HBCU Marching Aesthetic," will be presented at the 2025 American Society for Music Conference in Tacoma, Washington.



### Lucas Cardona, MFA Visiting Assistant Professor of English

- **Publications:**
  - "The Streetsweeper" (prose poem) has been published in *The Greensboro Review* (Issue 116, Fall 2024).
  - "Laura" has been published in *The Shore* (Issue 24, Winter 2024), an online poetry publication.
  - "Phonemes" (poem) is forthcoming in *The Threepenny Review*.

## Paul Fabrizio, PhD Professor of Political Science

- Fabrizio gave the commencement speech at McMurry's 2024 December Convocation.
- He wrapped up Season 1 of the Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences' Podcast, McMurry Minds with an interview with then-university president Dr. Sandra S. Harper.



## Jerry Hollingsworth, PhD Professor of Sociology

- **Presentation:** Hollingsworth will present "The History of Tribal Law Enforcement in Indian Country," at the Southwestern Social Science Association 2025 Conference in Las Vegas.
- **Sam Taylor Fellowship:** Hollingsworth was awarded a Sam Taylor Fellowship for research on the early history of law enforcement in Native America. This research will continue in Arizona with the Navajo and surrounding tribal areas, such as the Hopi, the Zuni and other Pueblo Tribes.



## Philip LeMasters, PhD Professor of Religion

- **Publications**
  - "Eschatological Tension and Transfiguration: Guroian as an Exemplar of Orthodox Christian Ethics in America." Forthcoming as a chapter in *A Chorus of Faith: A Festschrift in Honor of Vigen Guorian*, Carrie Fredrick Frost, ed. (Wipf & Stock Publishers, Forthcoming 2025)
  - Review of Stephen M. Meawad, *Beyond Virtue Ethics: A Contemporary Ethic of Ancient Spiritual Struggle*. *The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*. (Forthcoming 2025)
  - Review of Luke Bretherton, *A Primer in Christian Ethics: Christ and the Struggle to Live Well*. *Studies in Christian Ethics*. (Forthcoming 2025)
  - My book *Sex and Salvation* should be published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press within the next several months.
- **Activities**
  - In October, 2024, he gave a series of talks on Christian ethics at St. John the Compassionate Orthodox Mission in Toronto and also led a



seminar discussion with faculty and graduate students at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto.

- In December, he presented at a meeting on Baptist-Orthodox Dialogue at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, MA.
- In November, he attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.



## Jori Sechrist, PhD Professor of Sociology

- **Recognized** in October of 2024 as a “Transfer Champion” by a current McMurry University transfer student and the STEM Student Success Center. A Transfer Champion supports increases feelings of belonging, and help transfer students acclimate to McMurry.
- **Named President** of the Southwestern Sociological Association.

## Jeff Scott, MSW Director of the Servant Leadership Program

- **Presentation:** “An Empirical Method Aligning Faculty and Peer Leader FYS Expectations,” Annual Conference for the First Year Experience, February 2025 in New Orleans, LA.



## David Wahl, PhD Assistant Professor of Sociology

- **Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS):**
  - **Presentation:** “Identities in Internal Conversations”
  - **Presentation:** “Negotiating Shared Symbols in Sex Trafficking”
  - **Panelist:** 21st Century Symbolic Interactionism
- **Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA)**  
**Presentation:** “Was I Trafficked?” A Disconnect of Shared Meanings in the Adult Film Industry
- **Guest speaker** for the Big Country Human Trafficking Coalition (BCHTC) on Feb 11 at the Community Foundation of Abilene from 11-1. The topic is Dr. Wahl’s research on sex trafficking research.



- **Book Chapter:** Schweingruber, David and David Wahl, “Investigating the Interactionist Minded Self” Essential Issues in Symbolic Interaction.
- **Journal Articles:**
  - “The Development of Sexual Selfhood in Mead’s Play and Games” in Sexualities.
  - “Sexual Psychological Preparedness” in Sexual Health and STIs.



## Mark Waters, PhD Professor of Religion

- **Book Chapter:** Waters, Mark. "Amipotence: A Middle Way between Theodicy and Antitheodicy." In *Amipotence: Expansion and Application*, edited by Brandon Brown et al., Vol. 2, 235-241. Grasmere, Idaho: SacraSage Press, 2025.
- **Board of Trustees:** Waters was elected last month to the Board of Trustees of the Jesse C. Fletcher Theological Seminary in San Antonio. The seminary has Baptist roots, but the Board desires ecumenical reach and representation. Waters is Episcopalian.
- **Theological Consultant for KIVA Grant:** Waters is serving as a theological consultant to Dr. Aravind Mohan in Computer Science for Mohan's KIVA grant to create a computer platform supporting interfaith research. Mohan and his student assistant, Yordanos Ayelework (Computer Science major and Religion minor), are creating a computer platform that analyzes texts from multiple religions at a much faster pace than is humanly possible. Waters will assist with choices related to up-front data entry followed by utilizing comparative theology to test the platform in the analysis of Hindu, Christian, and Islamic texts.
- **KIVA Grant:** Waters will use a separate KIVA grant to construct comparative and constructive theological proposals arising from selected Hindu, Christian and Islamic texts using Aravind's computer platform. The anticipated paper and conference presentation resulting from the research is tentatively entitled, "Real or Imagined Correlation: Christian Sacramental Theology and the Immanence of God in the Vedanta Schools of Hinduism and Islamic Mysticism."
- **Award:** Recognized as Outstanding Faculty of the Year for 2024.

## Annette Wren, PhD Assistant Professor of English

- **Book Chapter:** 'Gladstone is our dog': Examining the Evolution of Homosociality to Bromance through Dialogue," in *ReFocus: The American Director Series* from Edinburgh University Press. According to the Edinburgh UP, this series "aims to produce new critical volumes from an interdisciplinary perspective which bring influential, yet neglected, American directors to the attention of a new audience of scholars and students in both Film Studies and American Studies."



# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Rev. Brett Banks '18:

Religion and Philosophy alumnus published his first book, *Sacred Visions: How You Can Meet Jesus in Your Imagination*, founded on the Gospel readings for Year C in the Lectionary.

### Luke Mendez '24:

Mendez, a Christian Ministry major, completed his honors thesis under the supervision of Drs. Waters, Stewart, and Schneller and graduated with honors. He is discerning a call to the Episcopal priesthood and will start seminary in the fall.

### Garrison Shin,

Current student Garrison Shin – a Sumner Fellow – interned with Texas Representative Stan Lambert in fall 2024.

### Ashley Titus '07:

Political Science alumna Ashley Titus successfully defended her dissertation at Texas Christian University on January 27, 2025.



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