

FACULTY NOTES AND NEWS

by Kimberly Bauser '09 M.Div.

JOEL BADEN has completed his first year as a faculty member at YDS and enjoyed teaching advanced Hebrew along with other courses in Pentateuchal criticism. His doctoral dissertation, *J, E, and the Redaction of the Pentateuch*, is currently under review for publication at Oxford University Press, while in the meantime his article “The Weyiqtol and the Volitive Sequence” was published in *Vetus Testamentum*. He also presented the paper “Law and the Purpose of the P Narrative” at the 2007 annual meeting of the International Society of Biblical Literature in Vienna.

TERESA BERGER, who made the switch from professor of theology to professor of liturgical studies upon her arrival at YDS, has since been working on a number of projects including an interactive multimedia CD-ROM entitled *Ocean*



Teresa Berger

Psalms: Meditations, Stories, Prayers, Songs and Blessings from the Sea (MysticWaters Media, 2008), co-produced with Lorna Collinridge, and *Worship in Women's Hands: A Video Documentary* (FireStreamMedia, 2007), co-produced with Carol Thomson. She has presented the Ocean Psalms project at several conferences and events. Also in 2008, Berger received Yale's A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grant. In February, she presented the paper “Veni

Creator Spiritus: The Elusive Real Presence of the Spirit in the Catholic Tradition” as part of the Institute of Sacred Music Liturgy Conference, and, in June, she delivered lectures at the Catholic faculty of two universities in Austria and was interviewed on Radiofabrik Salzburg.

ADELA YARBRO COLLINS's article, “The Historical Jesus: Then and Now,” appeared in *Reflections: Between Babel and Beatitude: The Bible in the 21st Century* (Spring 2008); “The Discourse in Parables in Mark 4” appeared in *Hermeneutik der Gleichnisse Jesu: Methodische Neuansätze zum Verstehen urchristlicher Parabeltexte* (Mohr Siebeck, 2008); “The Messiah as Son of God in the Synoptic Gospels” in *The Messiah in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Fortress, 2007); and “The Secret Son of Man in the Parables of Enoch and the Gospel of Mark” in *Enoch and the Messiah Son of Man*

(Eerdmans, 2007). Collins also has a number of forthcoming works including, most notably, her book *King and Messiah as Son of God* (Eerdmans), which was co-authored with John J. Collins. Collins presented papers at numerous events and conferences and received the Best of Biblical Archaeology Review Award for her work “Satan's Throne: Revelations from Revelation.” In July, Collins was elected deputy president-elect (for 2008-2009) of the Society of New Testament Studies at the Society's meeting in Lund, Sweden.

JOHN J. COLLINS served this year as president of the New England Regional Society of Biblical Literature. In addition, a conference on The Other in Second Temple Judaism was held in his honor at Amherst College in April of 2008. He participated in conferences in Bloomington, IN; Leuven; Groningen; Vienna; Aix en Provence; Jerusalem and Rome, lecturing primarily on Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Collins also participated in a panel on inter-religious dialogue in Fresno, CA, where he spoke about violence and the apocalypse. He continues to edit the *Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplements* (Brill), *The Dictionary of Early Judaism* (Eerdmans), and the *Oxford Handbook of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Together with Adela Yarbro Collins, he was guest editor of the issue of *Reflections*, which appeared in spring 2008, *Between Babel and Beatitude: The Bible in the 21st Century*.

JAN HOLTON worked in 2008 in the remote town of Bor in southern Sudan for her Lilly Theological Research project, *Strangers in a Land Called Home: Faith and Survival in Southern Sudan*. Since the signing of a 2005 peace accord that ended a 20-year civil war, Sudanese who had spent decades living in refugee camps began the long return to their homeland. Holton uses pastoral theology to examine how faith, often the only resource available to these refugees, helps mitigate the difficult psychological stresses of trauma, illness, and insecurity. An excerpt from her field notes reads, “I am trying to reconcile these kind and generous Dinka I have come to know with the ones who attacked the Doctors Without Borders compound eight months ago and killed patients from the long hated Murle tribe. Or, the Dinka who will walk four hours to a doctor while carrying someone who has fallen ill and the Dinka soldiers who hunted down and killed their own driver after he caused an accident with the truck they were riding in. True, they claim that the Murle were holding a Dinka woman at the hospital who had been abducted and many of the soldiers in the overturned truck were seriously injured...but still. This is a land of difficult rules. Perhaps, the



Jan Holton

kindness, generosity, and rage-filled killing are all true, honest, and, somehow, share the same space in their hearts. Perhaps, they are not meant to be reconciled at all.

JEREMY HULTIN delivered two papers at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in San Diego, “Bourdieu Reads Jude: Approaching the Epistle of Jude through Pierre Bourdieu’s Language and Symbolic Power” and “Jude and Enoch: From Tertullian to Jacob of Edessa on Jude’s Citation of 1 Enoch,” both of which will be included in forthcoming books published by T & T Clark. In 2008, Hultin’s dissertation, *The Ethics of Obscene Speech in Early Christianity and Its Environment*, was published by Brill. He also served as the faculty advisor for the Divinity School’s Yale Committee for Social Justice.

With appointments at both the Divinity School and the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, **WILLIS JENKINS** continues to inhabit the intersection of religion and ecology in both his teaching and writing. At the American Academy of Religion’s annual meeting, he presented the

paper “Christian Environmental Ethics Forty Years after Lynn White: The Historic Roots of a Theological Crisis,” and as part of the Overseas Ministries Study Center’s winter conference, he spoke about “Ecological Missiology: Sustaining Mission in an Era of Environmental Crises.” His articles “The Moral Assignment of Our Time: Reclaiming Nature and Grace for Theological Ethics,” “Missiology in Environmental Context: Tasks for an Ecology of Mission,” and three “Theological Perspective” essays are forthcoming in the *National Council of Churches Anthology*, the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research and Feasting on the Word: Lectionary Commentary Series, Vol. VII* (Westminster John Knox) respectively. Jenkins is also acting as guest editor for a special issue of *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture and Ecology*.

DONALD KIRKHAM has been appointed a United Methodist member of the Episcopal/United Methodist Dialog in the New York Area. The dialog is a response to the interim eucharistic sharing between the two denominations.

JAIME LARA published a new book, *Christian Texts for Aztecs: Art and Liturgy in Colonial Mexico* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2008). The front page of the *Times Literary Supplement* in July called Lara’s book “a superb study...through an exhaustive range of catechetical texts.” He also published “Christian Cannibalism and Human(e) Sacrifice: The Passion in the Conversion of the

Aztecs” in *Perspectives on the Passion* (Continuum, 2008). In February, March, and April he was on sabbatical in Cuzco, Peru, researching for two more books on the early evangelization of the Incas and on apocalyptic themes in Andean religious paintings. In May he spoke in Mexico at a conference on urban planning as sacred architecture. In the spring 2009 semester, he and Peter Hawkins will co-teach a course on the passion in literature and the visual arts.

Over the past year, **KEN MINKEMA**, who is the executive editor of The Works of Jonathan Edwards Online and a member of the Jonathan Edwards Center, published “Jonathan Edwards élete és pályája: az egyén és a társadalom” in *Amerika Teológusa: Bevezetés Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758 Gondolkodásába* (Hermeneutikai Kutatóközpont, 2008), which will be printed in English as “Jonathan Edwards’s Life and Career: Society and Self,” in the forthcoming *Jonathan Edwards for the General Reader* (Oxford University Press). He also



Jaime Lara

published “The Private Edwards: Jonathan Edwards’s Personal Writings,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Edwards* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). Minkema delivered a paper entitled “Jonathan Edwards and the End of the World” at a conference on “Jonathan Edwards and the Environment,” held at Northampton, MA, in October 2007, and served on the organizing committee for “Religion and Violence in Early America,” sponsored by the Omohundro Institute for

Early American History and Culture at Yale University in April 2008. He was also appointed to serve on the publications committee of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the advisory board of the Massachusetts Congregational Church Records Project (Congregational Library, Boston), and the advisory board of the George Whitefield Letters Project.

In calendar year 2007 **SALLY PROMEY** was on a research leave with a Guggenheim Fellowship. The fellowship supported work on one of her current book projects, a volume titled *Religion in Plain View: The Public Aesthetics of American Belief*; she expects to complete the project in 2010. Promey also wrote a successful proposal to the Henry Luce Foundation for the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion at Yale University. In spring 2008 she arranged the exhibition of “Visual Exegesis: Religious Images by African American Artists from the Jean and Robert E. Steele Collection” for the Institute of Sacred Music, which opened in April. Finally, Promey participated in the faculty seminar of the Women, Religion, and Globalization project (also Luce funded). Though she was not an author of this proposal (a project conceived by Professors Serene Jones, Cheryl Doss, and Laura Wexler), she has assumed Serene Jones’s appointment as the third principal investigator for 2008-2009.

CAROLYN J. SHARP was awarded tenure in May 2008. She is the first woman to be tenured in Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures in the history of Yale Divinity School. Sharp first arrived on campus in 1991 as a student. She remembers vividly her first Hebrew exegesis class, on

Genesis, with Robert Wilson. Wilson’s erudition and the beauty of the Hebrew language were chief factors in inspiring her to advanced study of the Bible. Sharp also studied with patristics scholar Rowan Greer and Old Testament scholar Brevard Childs. Greer’s gentleness and spiritual humility were formative for Sharp’s understanding of the role of the theological educator, and Childs’s intellectual courage was an inspiration to Sharp as she sought to develop her own scholarly voice. Forthcoming books by Sharp are *Irony and Meaning in the Hebrew Bible* (Indiana University Press) and *Old Testament Prophets for Today* (Westminster John Knox). She is currently working on two book projects, *Wrestle This Word: Old Testament Studies and the Christian Believer* and *Living Countertestimony: Interviews with Walter Brueggemann*, both for Westminster John Knox. Sharp serves on steering committees for the Writing/Reading Jeremiah group and the Israelite Prophetic Literature section of the Society of Biblical Literature, leads a weekly electronic forum for Bible study, coordinates adult education at St. Thomas’s Church in New Haven, and is in a discernment process toward holy orders in the Episcopal Church.

YOLANDA Y. SMITH was promoted to Associate Professor of Christian Education. She lectured for the Religious Studies Lecture Series at Misericordia University, Scranton, PA, and the African American Religious

Experience class at Loyola University, Chicago. She presented papers for the Association of Practical Theology’s spring Biennial meeting at St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, and the Religious Education Association annual meeting in Boston. She coordinated and participated in “What Will You Do for Peace? A Ritual for the 9-11 Peace Story Quilt” in Marquand



Carolyn J. Sharp

Chapel and conducted a Youth Leaders Retreat for the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut at Camp Wightman. Smith is currently serving on the religious education/scholars subcommittee of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. Her recent publications include “The Table: Christian Education as Performative Art,” in *Religious Education*

(May-June 2008); “Womanist Theology: Empowering Black Women through Christian Education,” in *Black Theology* (2008); “The Bible in Song: Reclaiming African American Spirituals,” in *Reflections: Between Babel and Beatitude: The Bible in the 21st Century* (Spring 2008); and “‘Wade in the Water’: A History of Christian Education in the African American Church,” in *The AME Church Review* (October-December 2007). She continues to work in collaboration with Moses N. Moore, Jr. on the project, “‘Been in the Storm So Long’: Yale Divinity School and the Black Ministry: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Black Theological Education.”

In October 2007, **BRYAN SPINKS** lectured at St. Chad’s College of Durham

University on the trinity in worship, and later, in February, he convened the second Yale Liturgy Conference, “The Spirit in Worship and Worship in the Spirit.” Spinks was the celebrant and preacher at St. Peter and St. Paul Black Notley in Essex, UK in November and April following the death of their rector. He also advised the BBC concerning a broadcast on Tudor Church furnishings.

NORA TUBBS TISDALE edited with Thomas G. Long the book *Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice: A New Approach to Homiletical Pedagogy* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), a collection of preachers’ writings on the need for radical change in how Christian preaching is taught. Tisdale participated as an Adult Forum Speaker at the First Presbyterian Church in Guilford, CT, in February 2008. In May she preached for the closing communion service at the “Reclaiming the Text” Conference in Montreat, NC, the worship service at Union-PSCE’s presidential inauguration in Richmond, VA, and the graduation communion worship service at YDS. In the fall of 2008, two of her sermons were broadcast on the “Day 1” radio program, “What Makes a True Patriot?” and “Glimpsing Heaven in the Thin Places.”

EMILIE TOWNES spent much of the 2007-2008 academic year transitioning into her new role as the Divinity School’s associate dean of academic affairs, a position she assumed in July of 2008. Townes also served as president of the American Academy of Religion for 2008. Her book *Religion, Health and Healing in African American Life* is currently in press with Praeger. Her speaking engagements this year were myriad



Emilie Townes

and included participating in a panel presentation *Fifty Years of Women in the AAR and SBL: The Battles of Yesterday and the Challenges of Tomorrow* at the American Academy of Religion 2007 meeting in San Diego and leading a graduate seminar entitled *Womanist Ethics and the Cultural Production of Evil* at the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Townes was also honored as the 2008 Alumna of the Year at University of Chicago’s Divinity School, where she delivered an address entitled “The Dancing Mind.”

Though on sabbatical in the fall of 2007, **TOM TROEGER** once again co-taught the plenary sessions of the Principles and Practice of Preaching with Nora Tubbs Tisdale. In addition he contributed “Improvisations on the Lowry” published with original musical settings by contemporary composers, including “Too Splendid for Speech,” composed by Swann (Oxford University Press); “Too Often God Your Name Is Used,” composed by K. Lee Scott (Oxford

University Press); and “As a Chalice Cast of Gold,” also composed by Scott (Augsburg Choral Library). Troeger’s lecturing and preaching engagements were numerous, most notably including leading a conference on homiletics at Cathedral College, moderating and presenting a paper at the Academy of Homiletics in Minneapolis/St. Paul, and preaching the dedicatory sermon of the new organ in Marquand Chapel.

DENYS TURNER contributed “The Heresy of the Free Spirit” to the work *Heresies and How to Avoid Them* (SPCK, 2007) as well as the foreword to Herbert McCabe’s *Faith within Reason* (Continuum, 2007). In addition, while on leave in the fall semester he completed seven of nine chapters of a monograph on the theology of Julian of Norwich, commissioned by Cambridge University Press. With Philip McCosker, Turner is editing the *Cambridge Companion to the Summa Theologiae of Thomas Aquinas* (Cambridge University Press) and, with Nicholas Watson, the *Cambridge Companion of Julian of Norwich* (Cambridge University Press). Turner has also been involved in heading up the Science and Religion Initiative at YDS and is a member of the advisory boards for both *Modern Theology* and *Reviews in Religion and Theology*.