

University of Oklahoma Department of Religious Studies

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Chair

Greetings all,

Please forgive the late arrival of this year's newsletter. It has been a momentous period for Religious Studies at OU. You will see in the following pages the amazing things we have been up to in service of our mission to support students' learning and build community around the study of religion at OU.

Amidst all of this good news, I am writing with an announcement of a transition. Pending Regents' approval, as of July 1, 2026, the Department of Religious Studies will be restructured.

As many of you are aware, humanities enrollments across the country have fallen precipitously in recent years. Increasing financial pressures are pushing students toward majors in the sciences and business. At other universities, this has led to the closure of humanities departments, the firing of faculty and staff and the loss of instruction for students in vital subjects like religion.

At OU, students continue to report that they value highly the ways the study of religion expands their horizons and helps them to understand one another and the world. Many of you—our alumni—know firsthand that your degrees have led to great accomplishments and satisfaction in your careers. And, you know that those degrees have led to a richer life. All of this reflects national data indicating that humanities majors in fact return outsized financial dividends in the long run, as employees with this background advance into leadership positions at higher rates than their peers. Even still, OU students are part of the national trend toward majoring in subjects outside the humanities.

In 2023, the Dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences alerted chairs and directors of humanities units about the necessity of reorganizing so as to avoid the fate suffered by humanities departments at other universities. Since that time, we have been in conversation with the Dean's office and with other humanities units to understand the possibilities for the future of the study of religion at OU.

Here's the good news: All of our faculty will be re-homed, mostly in the Department of History, and OU students will continue to be able to access top-notch instruction in the study of religion. Since the inception of the Religious Studies Program in 2002, history faculty have been among the most active in the program. This includes our colleagues in the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies, which is housed in the Department of History. We are excited to be working more closely with these and other faculty as we continue to provide important and meaningful courses on religion to OU students.

Here's what you can do: Please continue to support our students in the ways you can. They need your graduate school and career mentoring now more than ever. We are hoping to provide some new internship opportunities for our students in which we are eager for your involvement. We would love to continue to provide funding for students to attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and to present their research at various conferences. If you are able and feel so moved, you can donate here to our Student Enrichment Fund. Last but not least, we want you to continue to be in community with us, sharing your accomplishments and coming back to visit us when you can. We value our vibrant community and are grateful for you.

On that note, if any of you will be in the Boston area for the AAR meeting this year, please come and see us! We will be hosting a gathering at *Democracy Brewing* in Downtown Boston on Sunday, November 23 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. We would love to see you there.

With gratitude and in solidarity,
Deonnie



The Past Year in Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies was fortunate to host several engaging and informative events and offer amazing opportunities over the past academic year.

In November, Department of Religious Studies Associate Professor Wendy Mallette moderated a Featured Scholars panel hosted by OU Arts and Humanities Forum titled "Parody and Possibility: Feminist, Queer and Trans Studies in Religion" with Janet Jakobsen and Melissa Wilcox.

In March, the Department of Religious Studies and the University Buddhist Association hosted the 2025 Oklahoma Buddhism Conference. The conference featured Jianhu Shifu, the former dean of Chung Tai Buddhist Institute in Taiwan and the founder of Prajna Dharma. This year's conference theme, "Technology, AI and Buddhism: Navigating the Future," delved into the profound connections between Buddhist wisdom and modern technological advancements.



In April, the Department of Religious Studies with the Department of Political Science was pleased to host the Agnes M. & G. Herbert True Family Lecture with Daniel De Haan, Frederick Copleston Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Philosophy and Theology in the Catholic Tradition at the University of Oxford, for a public lecture on "Offloading Human Intelligence: Does AI Threaten Our Common Goods?"

Also in April, the Department hosted a conversation and book talk moderated by the Reverend Dr. Barbara Boyd with Religious Studies alumna (2010) and author Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder on her recent publication, *Mother, Creature, Kin: What We Learn from Nature's Mothers in a Time of Unraveling*.

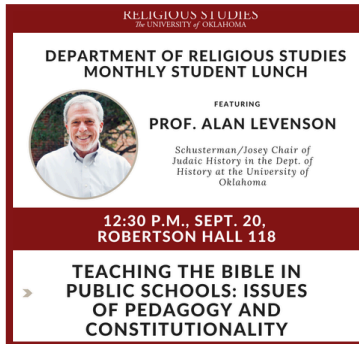
Finally, the department concluded the semester by celebrating our students and their amazing achievements over the course of the year with a scholarship luncheon for our scholarship recipients and a graduate dinner for our amazing graduates. We are extremely proud of our students' accomplishments over the past year, and we cannot wait to hear what they achieve in the future.



Student Enrichment Continues in the Department of Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies is continuing its commitment to student enrichment with events and opportunities geared toward student academic, community and professional enrichment.

Over the past academic year, students had the opportunity to meet with distinguished speakers and alumni at our monthly religious studies student lunch (as well as enjoy some Hideaway pizza!).



Also, the department was again able to sponsor RELS students to attend the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in San Diego in November. Four students were able to engage more deeply in academic discourse, attending panel sessions on a diverse array of issues. It was an unforgettable and enriching experience.



We would like to thank all of our generous donors for their contributions to enrich the student experience of Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

Watch for more student opportunities to come in the academic year!

Foster Student Enrichment in the Department of Religious Studies

The Department of Religious Studies looks forward to more exciting opportunities for our students in the future. If you are interested in supporting student enrichment within the Department of Religious Studies, please visit [our OU Foundation page](#). We are always grateful for support of any kind to the department to further our mission of preparing our students to honor difference, embrace complexity and lead with integrity.

[Support RELS at OU](#) →



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Facebook: [OU Department of Religious Studies](#)

Instagram: [oureligiousstudies](#)

X/Twitter: [@OUReligStudies](#)

YouTube: [OU Religious Studies](#)

Also, RELS alumni have their own group on LinkedIn. Please join us!

LinkedIn group:

["University of Oklahoma Religious Studies Alumni"](#)

RELS Alumni: Visit Us at This Year's AAR Meeting in Boston on Nov. 22-25

If you are in the Boston area or attending the AAR meeting on Nov. 22-25, we'd love to see you!

We are hosting a special RELS Alumni Gathering at **Democracy Brewing in Downtown Boston** on Sunday, November 23 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Please come join us!



Introducing Professor Marie Dallam



Marie Dallam, Professor of American Religion and Culture, is the newest faculty member to join the Department of Religious Studies. Dallam has been a member of the OU Honors College faculty since 2009, where she has taught interdisciplinary courses on American religion. She also served as the Associate Dean of the college from 2020-2023. The department is pleased that recent university restructuring has allowed her to move her permanent home to Religious Studies.

Dr. Dallam's current research is focused on religious theater, both historic and contemporary. Her previous books include *Cowboy Christians* (2018) and *Daddy Grace: A Celebrity Preacher and His House of Prayer* (2007), as well as co-edited volumes on religion and dress (2023) and religion and food (2014). Dallam also serves as co-general editor of *Nova Religio*, a journal focused on the study of new religious movements.

In spring 2026 Dr. Dallam will offer a new course, RELS 1313 "Religious Controversies in the United States." Once a year she also teaches "Death, Dying and Religion" through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange. In this program, OU students meet weekly with inmates currently incarcerated at Mabel Bassett Correctional Facility, where they learn together through discussion and collaborative group work. Dallam will continue to teach courses in the Honors College including "Religion and State" and "New Religious Movements." Because Dr. Dallam is a member of the Religious Studies faculty, any student who majors or minors in Religious Studies is eligible to enroll in her Honors courses.

OU Alum Talks about the Advanced Study of Religion

Spencer Kunz, currently a PhD student in American Religious History at Florida State University, shared recently:

"Professor Dallam's "Religion and Pop Culture" course — and [Dallam's] enthusiasm for it — played a huge role in my decision to pursue doctoral work in religious studies.. I've carried [her] approach to teaching with me as best I can in my own classroom."

Religious Studies Faculty Teaching Spotlight: *Associate Professor Geoffrey Goble*



My teaching philosophy centers on the goal of immersing students in different worldviews and encouraging them to intellectually engage with different lifeways. This is especially challenging when exploring historical Chinese religious cultures, which operate according to worldviews, practices and goals that do not easily fit into students' established intellectual frames or experiences. To bridge this gap, I've co-created a role-playing game with my colleague, Erik Hammerstrom. Our game drops students directly into the intellectual and religious rivalries of 9th-century China. They become historical figures—Daoists, Buddhists, Confucians, Nestorian Christians and Muslims—and debate one another, embodying the sectarian and political currents

that shaped the era. I'm proud of how my students have responded to this game; their level of investment in the course material deepens noticeably and they come away with a much more profound, lived understanding of the sectarian and political dimensions that shaped Chinese religious traditions.

The success of this game has inspired me to explore more strategies for interactive learning. I'm currently finalizing a new board game, adapted from historical Buddhist games in Tibet and China, that simulates the complex mechanics of karma and rebirth. I'm excited for students to play this game in my upcoming section of Buddhist Traditions. After that, I plan to design another board game based on Chinese historical games simulating the career of a Confucian official navigating the complexities and pitfalls of professional life in the imperial bureaucracy of historical China.

*I'm also excited to offer a new course in spring 2026: **Altered States of Consciousness**. I developed this course in relation to my current research project on datura and psychoactive flora, but it is one that I've had in the back of my mind for quite a while. Specializing in meditative traditions like Buddhism and Daoism, I've long been aware of the centrality of altered states of consciousness in religious traditions. My new course will allow the students and I to explore the cultural significance of dreams, the use of psychoactive plants and fungi and the fundamental nature of consciousness itself.*

Religious Studies Faculty Research Spotlight: *Associate Professor and Academic Chair Deonnie Moodie*

*My book project, "Business School Hinduism: An Imperial Genealogy," began with a phone call from the dean of an Indian business school in 2012. I was in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) pursuing dissertation research on the famed Kālīghāṭ temple. The dean invited me to come and convince his MBA students that Hinduism would make them more successful in their business pursuits. I had been interviewing priests, beggars and members of NGOs, and was familiar with the competing economic interests at stake in the management of a Hindu temple. Yet the notion that Hinduism would make one a better businessperson was one that had escaped me up to that point. I declined the invitation but soon realized the ubiquity of this theme. Bookstore shelves from Delhi to Mumbai are lined with titles like **Vedic Management and Leadership Sutras from the Bhagavad Gita**. Managers in Kolkata and Bengaluru flock to executive education programs on self-mastery and yoga. Meanwhile, thousands of CXOs and managers attend elite US business school programs on spirituality, mindfulness and authenticity annually.*



It would appear that global capitalism has finally succeeded in co-opting religion—or that Hindu nationalism has gone global. But this is nothing new. In the book, I draw on over a decade of ethnographic and archival research to home in on the debates around culture and religion taking place in Indian business school instruction and scholarship over the past long century. Attention to these debates reveals that business schools are fundamentally sites of moral formation indelibly shaped by their imperial origins. At the turn of the twentieth century, business schools everywhere were built around the discipline of economics whose texts were written by and for British and American empires. The central figures of that discipline produced human difference along national, racial and religious lines, aligning each of those categories with a capacity (or not) for economic productivity. They reinforced the tropes of the "productive Protestant" and "indolent Indian." Indian faculty responded with a new trope: the productive Hindu.

Whereas religions are vast traditions, their multiplicity and fresh perspectives about how to achieve human flourishing are flattened and erased in new interpretations of Hinduism I study. I contextualize and denaturalize these now globally-circulating interpretations to undermine the myth that economic productivity is a universal human value, and to clear new ground for rethinking humanity's shared economic and ecological future.

New Courses Introduced to the Religious Studies Curriculum

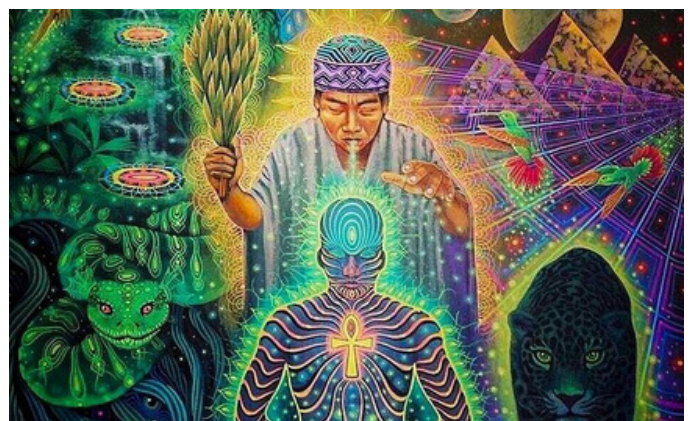
Professors from the Department of Religious Studies will be offering several new courses to University of Oklahoma students in the coming academic year.

Assistant Professor Wendy Mallette is teaching **Sin and History** this fall 2025 semester. This seminar examines how Christian ideas about sin have intersected with race, sexuality and gender throughout American history. Students will consider: If sin haunts America's past and present, what are the perils and possibilities of talking about sin and history? They will investigate this question by engaging feminist and queer theory, Black studies, literature, film, history, religious studies and Christian theology.

Associate Professor Geoffrey Goble will teach **Altered States of Consciousness** in spring 2026. The course will focus on conditions of subjectivity noticeably different from one's ordinary waking consciousness. Altered states of consciousness are common human experiences that are induced, experienced and interpreted variously across cultures and religious traditions. This course introduces altered states of consciousness as an object of critical inquiry, considers different techniques for inducing them and examines how they are incorporated into religious cultures.

Professor Marie Dallam will teach **Religious Controversies in the United States** beginning in spring 2026. The course will examine religious controversies as an engaging way to learn about the history of religion in the United States. These controversies will allow students to think critically about the ways differing historical circumstances and changing social attitudes affect what we perceive as a "controversy," as well as what a socially acceptable "solution" is.

Associate Professor and Chair Deonnie Moodie is teaching **Introduction to World Religions** this fall semester 2025. The course serves as an introduction to some of the world's major religious traditions, including study of their internal diversity and how they change over time. Close attention is also paid to the ways the categories of "religion" and "world religions" and the way they shape how we understand one another and the world around us.



RELS Alumni Spotlight: Rhea Brown-Bright

Shortly after graduating OU in May 2021, I moved from Oklahoma to Boston to pursue my Master of Divinity at Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH). This was to further pursue my career in Unitarian Universalist ministry. I graduated with my MDiv in May 2024. During my time at BUSTH, I explored queerness in conversation with religion and theology. I also explored children's spiritual coping mechanisms in the face of trauma.

OU helped prepare me for my MDiv by engaging my curiosities about religions. One of the things that OU gifted me was the ability to deeply explore a multitude of religious traditions and their histories, in a way MDiv did not always give me. As someone pursuing Unitarian Universalist ministry, pluralism is deeply important in how we engage with one another in our churches.

It was during the time I spent in seminary, I realized how deeply I love being a religious educator, working with kids and adults and helping them explore their religious curiosities. As I continue to work towards ordination, I serve as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education at Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church. While I am not necessarily giving fully cited academic presentations to elementary-aged students, I am still constantly using the knowledge I gained at OU from religious studies professors. It is always a fun conversation to talk about the history of Buddhism or Roman Religions or any of the other topics I had the joy of learning about at OU and see how both the kids and adults I work with start shifting their conceptions.

For now (although that could change in the future), my focus is on ministry, but the academic skills from OU are something I still carry deeply and continually apply to my work.



**Rhea Brown-Bright,
Class of 2021**

RELS Alumni Spotlight: Lauren Gastineau

After graduating from OU in 2023, I continued my education at the University of British Columbia in pursuit of a Master Degree in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology. My research is concentrated in Neo-Assyrian garden archaeology as a foundation for studying ideological communication through built environments. I am grateful for the OU RELS department for providing me with opportunities to improve my research and critical thinking skills. Through the department, I was successful in writing an honors research project with Dr. Cline, finished my thesis with Dr. Goble, and connected with professors on a larger scale at the American Academy of Religion conference. Because of my interdisciplinary background through the RELS department, I was able to land a position as a Teaching Assistant for several religious studies classes at UBC. I additionally recently received grant funding for a paper proposal that was started while doing my undergraduate course work in the RELS department. The past and present professors at OU including the above named, Dr. Hicks-Keeton, Dr. Moodie and Dr. Mallette all greatly impacted my undergraduate career and truly taught me not only how to pursue ethical research, but also how to live with kindness and openness. I am indebted to the department for teaching me not only the invaluable skills necessary to continue on in the academic field but also in a field that chooses not only to work through very haunting topics but also celebrates the uniqueness of individuals and communities.



**Lauren Gastineau,
Class of 2023**

RELS Student Spotlight: Amy Hotchkiss



**Amy Hotchkiss,
Class of 2026**

When I started at OU, I was an Art History major with a completely different path in mind. I took **Intro to Religious Studies** as a general education requirement, not expecting it to change everything, but it did. That course opened my eyes to the assumptions I carried and the importance of understanding perspectives beyond my own. I changed my major to Religious Studies and added a minor in Judaic Studies because I felt the department wasn't just teaching content, they were encouraging me to think more critically, empathetically and expansively. The faculty have had a profound impact on me, helping me grow both intellectually and personally. I'm currently researching women's roles in the Abrahamic religions, exploring what sacred texts communicate about gender and how that shapes the lives of women in religious communities today. After graduation, I plan to pursue a master's in Judaic studies at OU and, eventually, a PhD abroad. The Religious Studies department has truly helped me become the person and scholar I want to be.

Congratulations, RELS Students

Congratulations to our amazing students for their accomplishments this academic year!



2024-25 Religious Studies Scholarship Recipients

*The Heather Nicole Stephenson
Scholarship*
MacKenna Willaimson

*The David D. LeNorman
Scholarship for Religion and
Ethics*
Amy Hotchkiss

*The Bernita L. Thompson
Endowed Scholarship for
Undergraduate Research and
Writing*
Caroline Perkins & MacKenna
Williamson

*The David D. LeNorman Make A
Difference Scholarship*
Amy Hotchkiss

*The Reverend Larry & Gloria
Angus Endowed Scholarship*
Hazel Cruse

*The Tom W. Boyd Scholarship
for Religious Studies and
Education*
Amy Hotchkiss

*Angus Family Scholarship in
Religious Studies*
Joshua Armstrong

2024-25 Religious Studies Graduating Seniors

Fall 2024

Majors:
Royce Moore

Minors:
Julianna Lopez

Spring 2025

Majors:
Caroline Perkins
MacKenna Williamson

Minors:
Madison Byrne
Noel Cornelius
Christian Keener
Christopher Messer
Alexandra Vettese

Where Our Graduates Are Headed Next...

Our graduates make us proud! Here's where a few of them are headed next.

Caroline Perkins is pursuing a master's in theological studies (MTS) at Harvard Divinity School. **Madison Byrne** is a legal assistant for Ball Morse Lowe PLLC. in Oklahoma City in the civil litigation department. **Alexandra Vettese** is currently working on her interdisciplinary master's in fine arts (MFA) and continuing to study art history at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts while also working on her own visual art.

Don't see yourself here? Send us an update at rels@ou.edu and join our LinkedIn group for alumni!
University of Oklahoma Religious Studies Alumni

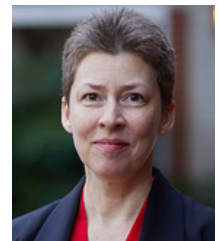
Faculty Updates

RELS Departmental Faculty

Associate Professor Rangar Cline received the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences Senior Faculty Fellowship award for 2025. He used the funds to research Roman-era pilgrimage destinations in Greece and to examine pilgrimage souvenirs at museums in Athens and London. That research supports a chapter in Cline's current book *Signs and Wonders: Roman Travelers in Search of Gods, Heroes, Saints and Angels*, which he is completing while on sabbatical for the academic year 2025-2026. While in Greece, he also assisted with excavation and legacy data processing at the Michigan State University excavations at Isthmia, the site one of ancient Greece's Panhellenic games and the location of a 6th-century CE military fortification. Isthmia was the first archaeological project that Cline worked when he was an undergraduate, and he was able to reunite with his former professors and colleagues while there. As reported last year, Cline developed a new course, "History of Magic," in collaboration with colleague Professor Vermij in the Department of History of Science, Technology and Medicine. Cline will be speaking about his experience developing that course and his broader experience teaching courses on ancient magic, religion and archaeology at this year's annual meeting of ASOR, the preeminent conference for archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean and western Asia.



Professor Marie Dallam is pleased to offer a new religious studies course in spring 2026, "Religious Controversies in the United States." Involving a blend of academic essays and primary sources, each week will focus on a different controversial issue, question or situation. Examples of weekly topics include: "The Satanic Panic," "The Salem Witch Trials," "Religious Appropriation" and "Who is an Evangelical?" The course will be aimed at freshmen and sophomores with a goal of piquing their interest in the study of religion. In addition to Dallam's ongoing research project on religious theater, this year she also completed writing projects for edited volumes: a chapter on "Race and Ethnicity in the Study of New Religions," and a short piece addressing the topic "Are all New Religions Dangerous?"



Associate Professor Geoffrey Goble is advancing his pedagogical and research agenda. Having game-tested his *Reacting to the Past* role-playing game about religious debate in historical China this summer, he has submitted the game to the *Reacting to the Past Consortium* (Barnard College) to make the game accessible to other instructors. He is also developing new pedagogical games for his courses based on historical board games in Tibet and China. Goble is also advancing his research on the datura plant, its bioactive effects on humans and its early, human-mediated global dispersal. He is looking forward to offering his new course on altered states of consciousness in the spring 2026 semester. He is director of the Department's Asian Religions Certificate Program and serves as a faculty co-advisor for the University Buddhist Association (UBA) and is presently helping to organize the third annual Oklahoma Buddhism Conference, bringing together scholars and practitioners of multiple Buddhist traditions in central Oklahoma.



Assistant Professor Wendy Mallette was a research associate and visiting faculty member in the Women's Studies in Religion Program at Harvard Divinity School during the past academic year. During this time, she completed her book manuscript, *Lesbian Feminist Killjoys: Sin, Pessimism and Queer Histories*, which is under contract with NYU Press. She published a journal article, "Once Upon a Lesbian Theory" in *Religion Compass* and was able to share her work at several conferences and universities. She had the opportunity to return to OU in November for a manuscript development workshop and to host a panel entitled, "Parody and Possibility: Feminist, Queer and Trans Studies in Religion," for the Arts and Humanities Forum. She was also selected to join the 2025-2027 cohort of Young Scholars in American Religion through the Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture at Indiana University. She is delighted to be returning to OU in Fall 2025 to offer a new course, "Sin and History."



Associate Professor and Academic Chair Deonnie Moodie made progress on her monograph, tentatively entitled, *Business School Hinduism: An Imperial Genealogy*. She was invited to present research for that book at Claremont Graduate School and the University of North Florida. She also presented portions of it at the Business History Conference and the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Her special issue, co-edited with C.S. Adcock and bringing together scholars of religion, history and political science, "Hindu Economicus," was published by *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, so, too, was her individual contribution to that issue, "Making Management Hindu: S.K. Chakraborty and the Indigenisation of Homo Economicus." She also collaborated with scholars from Ohio State, Dartmouth, the University of North Florida and Sewanee College to create a new interdisciplinary project on religion and work that will entail research, teaching and public education components. At OU, she taught the Capstone and her course on Religion and Economy.



Associate Professor David Vishanoff greatly enjoyed teaching not only his regular courses on Islam but also a new first-year experience course called "Gateway to the Humanities," in which students sat around a conference table and discussed famous stories, poems and essays on knowledge, freedom, storytelling, the concept of home and human nature. He published three research articles and a book review, and submitted a new article on how theories of language affect Islamic law, which will appear soon in a book he is co-editing with a famous Shiite scholar. He also collaborated with OU philosophy professor Adam Green and several other scholars on a grant-funded research project investigating the role that intellectual humility, courage and religious literacy play in religious pluralism. He plans to continue that work over the next three years, writing several articles and a mass-market book about his theory of Sacrificial Listening.

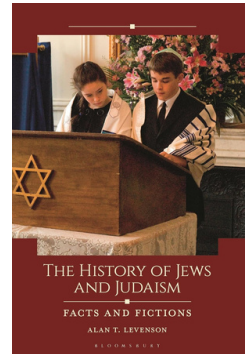


RELS Core Faculty

Religious Studies core faculty who teach and research in the area of religion from different disciplinary homes continue to be an integral part of the Department of Religious Studies at OU. They include: Professor Thomas Burns (Sociology), Schusterman/Josey Chair and Professor Alan Levenson (Judaic Studies), Associate Professor Roberta Magnusson (History), Associate Professor Bala Saho (History) and Associate Professor Jane Wickersham (History). Here are some highlights of their work over the past year:



Having published *Jews and Judaism: Facts and Fictions*, Schusterman/Josey Chair of Jewish History Alan Levenson is turning to a new book project, *The Artists' Bible*, a companion project to his course "The Artists' Bible." Levenson taught a section of this course in summer 2024 in Arezzo. He worked on this project during his spring 2025 sabbatical. He also wrote a series of Op-Eds on the pedagogic challenges of teaching Bible in public schools in response to initiatives by the OK State Superintendent of schools. He's glad that OU is once again hosting one-day conference for Oklahoma Holocaust Educators. He's especially enjoying teaching "Judaism" in the Fall 2025 semester and looking forward to teaching "Genesis Through Jewish Eyes" for the Spring 2026 semester.



Staff Updates

Administrative and Financial Coordinator Rebecca Hall-Davis handled administrative and financial tasks for the department as well as student, alumni and community outreach. The year for her went by quickly with many departmental discussions, supportive faculty and alumni, student achievements and administrative trainings. With a bachelors and master's in history at OU, she looks forward to the upcoming transition to working with the Department of History.



Faculty Recognition

The Department of Religious Studies faculty celebrated a number of achievements this past year.

Associate Professor Rangar Cline received the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences Senior Faculty Fellowship award to pursue his research on souvenirs and pilgrimage in ancient Rome. Cline will utilize a sabbatical for the 2025-26 academic year to research and write his forthcoming book.

Associate Professor and Academic Chair Deonnie Moodie was appointed by the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences as the Faculty Fellow for Co-Curricular Enrichment. In this capacity, she works on bench-marking, designing and launching a college-wide internship program to serve all Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences majors, initially focusing on the humanities.

Assistant Professor Wendy Mallette received an appointment to the Young Scholars in American Religion Cohort. She will be traveling to Indiana some during the next two years to receive mentorship and support on teaching and research.

Congratulations to **Professor Alan Levenson** on the publication of his new book, *The History of Jews and Judaism: Facts and Fictions*. The publication is an incredibly timely and important resource about Jewish history and cultures within contemporary discourse. It is his fifth monograph.

Congratulations to our amazing faculty!



Deonnie Moodie, Ph.D.
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 Associate Professor and Chair
 Department of Religious Studies



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