



College of Arts and Sciences

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8 September 2016

MEMO

TO: Kate Miller
Provost/VPAA

FROM: Paula M. Lutz
Dean, Arts and Sciences

RE: Program Review for Religious Studies B.A.—Dean's recommendation

The Religious Studies B.A. degree began seven years ago and as such is 'borderline' for a program review. Thirty-two graduates have completed the program in the last five years. Interest in the program is accelerating.

The department contributes to both the D (diversity) and G (global) requirements in the A&S core, as well as many USP 'H' courses. In addition, the curriculum has a strong international component, including a number of study abroad options.

Religious Studies has been active in on-line education. The comment is made in the program review that a large part of the degree can be found on-line, but not the entire degree—one course is missing (RELI4000). I suggest that the department find a way to teach RELI4000 on-line!

In short, **the dean's recommendation is to maintain the B.A. in Religious Studies**, with the following suggestions. Increase enrollment in your courses—SCH's will be very important to financial stability of a department in the future. Your coursework should attract many students with its importance in critical global issues today. Add the final on-line course so that another degree can be added to our Outreach repertoire. The department's small number of faculty (six) is a concern, however. Strong consideration should be given to joining a larger administrative group (through a merger or division structure).

Academic Program Review
University of Wyoming
Office of Academic Affairs
26 August 2016

Title of Program/Specialization: **Bachelor of Arts – Religious Studies**

Indicate whether undergraduate or graduate program/specialization:

Undergraduate Program

Department and College: **Religious Studies Department, College of Arts and Sciences**

Department Head Name and contact information (phone, email):

Department Head: **Kristine T. Utterback**

Phone: **307-766-6259**

E-mail: **utterbck@uwyo.edu**

Part 1 – Program Review

Instructions: Please answer each of the following questions. Items listed under each question have been provided to help guide your response. If an item is not applicable, simply indicate “N/A”.

1. Program Demand*:

- a. Number of graduates over 5-year period: 32
- b. Enrollment in major/specialization over 5-year period: 139

* Cutoffs for “Low Demand” Designation -- *Degrees Granted*

- Bachelor’s Programs: Average – 5 per year; 5-year total: 25
- Master’s Programs: Average – 3 per year; 5-year total: 15
- Ph.D. Programs: Average – 1 per year; 5-year total: 5

2. Program Quality: Is the program of high quality?

a. Program accreditation: **The discipline of Religious Studies has no accrediting body.**

i. For programs currently accredited include:

1. Name of accrediting body/organization – **N/A**
2. Date most recently accredited – **N/A**
3. Next reaccreditation date – **N/A**
4. List recommendations from most recent visit and progress to date. – **N/A**

ii. For programs seeking accreditation include:

1. Name of accrediting body/organization - **N/A**
2. Timeline for seeking accreditation – **N/A**

iii. For all other programs include:

1. Date of most recent Academic Program Review (APR) – **None**
2. List of recommendations from the most recent APR and progress to date. **N/A**

b. Credentials of faculty

i. Include a list of all faculty by name, highest degree and discipline of highest degree.

Kristine T. Utterback	PhD	Medieval Studies
Paul V. M. Flesher	PhD	Religious Studies
Antoinette DeNapoli	PhD	Religious Studies
Seth Ward	PhD	Near Eastern Languages and Literature
Mary L. Keller	PhD	Religious Studies
Tyler Fall	MFA, MA	Creative Writing, History

ii. Also, include a breakdown by gender and ethnicity.

The Department includes three females and three males; all are Caucasian.

iii. Grants awarded to academic personnel: Previous 5 years

Kristine T. Utterback

2012 Shanghai Teaching Exchange Program
2016-2017 Innovative J-Term Program Grant for trip to Hong Kong, Macau and Xi'an

Paul V. M. Flesher

2016, Spring Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professor, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem Israel.
(Grant of \$24,000)
NEH Summer Stipend (not successful at NEH, but received UW WIHR summer stipend award of \$5000, 2015).

Antoinette DeNapoli –

2011 UW Basic Research Grant
2010 Wyoming Humanities Council Grant-We the People
2011 UW Internationalization Grant
2012 UW Summer Course Innovative Grant
2013 UW Internationalization Grant
2013 Ellbogen Summer Course Grant
2013 WIHR Grant
2014 Caitlin Long Independent Research Grant
2015 Summer Course Innovative Grant
2015 UW Internationalization Grant
2015 Center for Global studies grant

Mary L. Keller –

Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research Collaborative Grant, "Heart Mountain as Icon of American Landscape \$5,000.00
Wyoming Humanities Council, "Raising our Children Well: Traditional Crow Knowledge and the New Health Sciences," co-written with the Park County Library Foundation, \$5,538.88.
2014
Wyoming Humanities Council, Created Equal film series at Park County Public Library, co-written with the Park County Library Foundation, \$925.00
Summer 2014 Innovative Courses Grant, University of Wyoming \$4,480.00
Wyoming Humanities Council, "Aftermath: Pragmatic Challenges to Restoring American Indian Cultural Presence in the Big Horn Basin," co-written with Park County Library Foundation, \$4,480.00.
2013
Summer 2013 Innovative Courses Grant, University of Wyoming, \$4,480.00.
Wyoming Humanities Council, "Stories in Stone: The Roots of Plains Indian Culture in the Big Horn Basin," co-written with Park County Library Foundation, \$4,194.60.
2012
Wyoming Humanities Council, "Making Space Sacred: Plains Indian Culture and the Land of the Big Horn Basin," co-written with Park County Library Foundation, \$3,575.00

Seth Ward

2016. Innovative and Summer Programs. Funding UW Study Abroad in Israel for 2017, 2018.
2016. Innovative and Summer Programs. Funding UW Study Abroad in Israel for 2016.
2014. Innovative and Summer Programs. Funding UW Study Abroad in Israel for 2015.
2013. Innovative and Summer Programs. Funding UW Study Abroad in Israel for 2014.
2012. Innovative and Summer Programs. Funding UW Study Abroad in Israel for 2013.
2015. Wyoming Humanities Council. Road Scholars Tours. Funded speaking tours around Wyoming.
2014. Wyoming Humanities Council. Humanities Forum. Funded speaking tours around Wyoming.
2013. Wyoming Humanities Council. Humanities Forum. Funded speaking tours around Wyoming.
2012. Wyoming Humanities Council. Humanities Forum. Funded speaking tours around Wyoming.
2011. Wyoming Humanities Council. Humanities Forum. Funded speaking tours around Wyoming.
2015. Wyoming Humanities Council. Opportunity Grant. Menachem Mor. Funded two talks on campus.
2015. Wyoming Humanities Council. Opportunity Grant. Raphael Jospe. Funded two talks on campus.
2015. Wyoming Humanities Council. Opportunity Grant. Estelle Nadel and Colorado Hebrew Chorale. Funded talk on campus together with joint performance with Laramie Civic Chorus. March 2015.
2014. Wyoming Humanities Council: Opportunities Grant for Marc Shapiro. Feb. 2014
2014. Wyoming Humanities Council: Opportunities Grant for Moshe Pinchuk Oct. 2014
2014. Wyoming Humanities Council: Opportunities Grant for Lenny Solomon Talkback. (wrote grant, named applicant was LJCC)
2016. WIHR. Humanities in Prison Working Group grant. Team member. Bonnie Zare and Susan Dewey, principals. Working Group to deliver college level education to women's prison in Lusk.
2012. University of Wyoming Sabbatical Grant 2012-2013 academic year
2012. UW / Shanghai Exchange: Exchange Teaching Program
2014. LJCC Asimow Fund in Memory of Fred Homer. Supported visit of Yisrael Neeman to campus.
2015. LJCC Asimow Fund in Memory of Fred Homer. Grants for UW Study Abroad in Israel; for Menachem Mor and Raphael Jospe.
2016. Bain Foundation. Grant for UW Study Abroad in Israel.
2015. Bain Foundation. Grant for UW Study Abroad in Israel.
2014. Bain Foundation. Grant for UW Study Abroad in Israel.
2015. Asimow Foundation (not the same as LJCC Asimow Fund). Grant for UW Study Abroad in Israel.
2014. Asimow Foundation (not the same as LJCC Asimow Fund). Grant for UW Study Abroad in Israel.
2016. Brandeis Schusterman Institute for Israel Studies. Travel and Participation Grant
2013. Brandeis Schusterman Institute for Israel Studies. Travel and Participation Grant
2012. Brandeis Schusterman Institute for Israel Studies: travel and participation grant..
2013. American University. Conference Participation Grant
2013. Taglit-Birthright Conference at Hebrew University. Conference fees and meals.

2012. Limmud Colorado Learning Grant. two lectures in Denver.

iv. Grants submitted by academic personnel: Previous 5 years – in addition to those received.

Kristine T. Utterback

Wabash Center Grant for Teaching Religion and Theology, 2016

Paul Flesher -

NEH Fellowship, 2014

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2015

Radcliffe Fellowship, 2015

ALCS Fellowship, 2015

Stanford Fellowship, 2015

National Humanities Center Fellowship, 2015

All Souls Fellowship, Oxford University, 2015

Antoinette DeNapoli

2012 UW Faculty-in-Aid Grant

2013 American Association of University Women

2013 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipends

2013 American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship

2013 UW Social Justice Grant

2015 UW Susan McKay International Grant

v. Publications/presentations by academic personnel

Kristine T. Utterback

2013 Kristine T. Utterback and Merrall Llewelyn Price, ed. *Jews in Medieval Christendom: Slay Them Not*, Leiden, Brill.

2013 “Jewish Resistance to Conversion in the Late Medieval Crown of Aragon”, in *Jews in Medieval Christendom: Slay Them Not*, pp. 163-176.

2012 “The Vulgate: A Bible for the People”, King James Bible Exhibition, UW.

Paul V. M. Flesher

Paul V. M. Flesher and Bruce Chilton, 2011, *The Targums: A Critical Introduction* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press), xvii + 557 pp.

Books Edited:

Avigdor Shinan and Rimon Kasher, with Michael Marmor and Paul V.M. Flesher, eds. 2011, *Michael Klein on the Targums: Collected Essays 1972-2002*. Studies in the Aramaic Interpretation of Scripture 11 (Leiden: Brill Academic Press), xvi + 296 pp.

Refereed Chapters in Books:

Paul V. M. Flesher, 2014, "Tent of Meeting as *Bet Ulpana*: Temple as Torah in the Targums of Israel," In: *A Legacy of Learning: Essays in Honor of Jacob Neusner*. Bruce Chilton, William S. Green, Gary Porton and Alan Avery-Peck, eds. Leiden: Brill, pp. 64-81.

Refereed Translations

Stephen A. Kaufman, "Targum Pseudo-Jonathan and Late Jewish Literary Aramaic." Translated by Seth Ward, Bernard Grossfeld and Paul V.M. Flesher. Edited by Paul V.M. Flesher. *Aramaic Studies* 11 (2013), pp. 1-26.

Other:

DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Paul V.M. Flesher, forthcoming, "Targum" entry in *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Michael Satlow, Eric Orlin, Lisbeth Fried, and Jennifer Knust, eds. New York, NY: Routledge.

NEWSPAPER COLUMN

1998 – present. *Religion Today*.

A twice-monthly newspaper column carried by several newspapers in Wyoming, including the Casper Star-Tribune. It also appears online as a blog (<http://religion-today.blogspot.com/>). I have written approximately 20 columns each year. Past columns can be read on the website of the Religious Studies Program.

WEB PUBLICATIONS

Associate Editor, *The Bible and Interpretation*, News and Commentary webzine (<http://www.bibleinterp.com>) (An online semi-popular journal of news, scholarship and commentary broadening the reach of the scholarly study of the Bible and the historical times during which it was created to a educated non-specialist audience. It places heavy emphasis on archaeological, textual and historical research.)

Essays in *Bible and Interpretation*:

2012 Paul V.M. Flesher, "The Huqoq Synagogue Mosaics," August.

2012 Paul V.M. Flesher, "What the Gospels Left Out," July.

2012 Paul V.M. Flesher, "The Ossuary of James the Brother of Jesus: From Trial to Truth?" March.

2011 Paul V.M. Flesher, "Did the Synagogue save Judaism?" September.

2011 Paul V.M. Flesher, "What did Jesus' Synagogue Look Like?" August.

2011 Paul V.M. Flesher, "College Students and Cultural Memory: Bible-Believing Christians and the Academic Approach to the Bible," July.

2011 Paul V.M. Flesher, "The Oral Character of the King James Bible," June.

Antoinette DeNapoli

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Gender/Renunciation in Hinduism." *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, Spring 2016.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "In Search of the Sadhu's Stone: Metals, Minerals, and Gems in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers in Rajasthan," in *Souless Matter, Seats of Energy: Metals, Minerals, and Gems in South Asian Religions*, edited by Thomas Dahnhardt and Fabrizio Ferrari (Springer, Fall 2016). Under Contract. Chapter submitted on Feb. 1, 2015.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Performing the *Bhagavad Gita* and Constructing Asceticism in the Practices of Female *Sadhus* in Rajasthan," submitted to *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* (under review as of 7/17/2013). Rejected. Resubmitted to *Gender and Religion* 3/19/2014. Revise and resubmit, March 2015. Resubmission scheduled for December 2015.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Our Own Two Hands Create our Destiny: Narrative Patterns and Strategies in Male *Sadhus'* Personal Stories," submitted to *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 48/3 (2014): 333-356.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Singing *Ramayan* and Performing Literacy: Male Hindu Renouncers' Idea and Performance of Vernacular Texts in Rajasthan," submitted to *Asian Literature and Translation Journal* 2/1 (2014): 1-23.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, *Real Sadhus Sing to God: Gender, Asceticism, and Vernacular Religion in Rajasthan*, Oxford University Press. (April 1, 2014 release date)

DeNapoli, Antoinette, Review of *Unearthing Gender: Folksongs of North India*, by Smita Tewari Jassal, *Anthropos* (September 2013).

DeNapoli, Antoinette, Review of *Interpreting Devotion*, by Karen Pechilis, *Asian Ethnology* 72/1 (2013): 154-158.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Speaking Shadows to Light: Vernacular Narrative as Vehicle for Rajasthani Female *Sadhus'* Voicing Vulnerability and Violence," in *Women and Religion in the World*, edited by Zayn Kassam, Praeger, forthcoming. Under Contract. Chapter submitted January 13, 2013.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "God Depends on His Lowest Devotees: Gender, Performance, and Transformation in the Tale of a Female *Sādhu* in Rajasthan," submitted to *History of Religions* 3/19/2014. Revise and resubmit. Resubmission scheduled for December 2015.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "'Nobody can be like Mira!': How Alternative is Mira Bai's Model of Alternative Femininity? The Challenge of Contemporary Female Hindu Ascetics in Rajasthan," in *Mira Bai*, edited by Nancy M. Martin, Oxford University, forthcoming (n.d.).

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "The Freedom of Wandering, the Protection of Settling in Place: Gendered Symbolizations of Space in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers in Rajasthan," In *The Changing World Religion Map*, edited by Stan Brunn, Springer, Chapter 168, pp. 3189-3212. Springer Publications.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Real Sadhus Sing to God': The Religious Capital of Devotion and Domesticity in the Leadership of Female Renouncers in Rajasthan," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 29/1: 117-131.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "God, We are your Beggars: The Songs of Hindu Sadhus in Rajasthan," in *Poetry for Peace*, edited by Michael Lidgley and Devanshe Chauhan, Amnesty International Press, Spring 2013.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "'Meeting is Good but Parting is Bad': Vernacular Hinduism in Rajasthan," in *Introducing Hinduism*, edited by P. Pratap Kumar, Equinox Publishing Ltd.

DeNapoli, Antoinette, "Performing a Rhetoric of Renunciation: An Exploration of Hindu Female Renouncers' Vernacular Practices in North India," *Memphis Theological Seminary Journal* for its special issue on Rhetoric and Religion, vol. 50 (2012).

<http://mtsjournal.memphisseminary.edu/vol-50-1/performing-a-rhetoric-of-renunciation-an-exploration-of-hindu-female-renouncers-vernacular-practices-in-north-india>.

Seth Ward

Publications

2015. Review of Elkin, Judith Laikin. *The Jews of Latin America*. 3rd ed. L. Rienner, 2014, CHOICE March 2015.

2014. S. Ward, Review of *A History of Jewish-Muslim relations: from the origins to the present day*, ed. by Abdelwahab Meddeb and Benjamin Stora; tr. by Jane Marie Todd and Michael B. Smith. Princeton, 2013. Review of Clinton Bennett, *The Bloomsbury companion to Islamic studies*, Bloomsbury, 2013. *Choice*. Nov. 2013.

2014. S. Ward, review of Gu, Sharron. *A cultural history of the Arabic language*. McFarland, 2014. July 2014 issue of CHOICE.51-6018.

2014. Review of Oxford Arabic dictionary: Arabic-English/English-Arabic, ed. by Tressy Arts. Oxford, 2014. 1,966p ISBN 9780199580330, CHOICE, March 2015.

2013. Review of Hazony, Yoram. *The philosophy of Hebrew scripture*. Cambridge, 2012. *Choice*, Feb. 2013.

2013. S. Ward, "University of Wyoming Israel Election Survey" Results published in <http://www.uwyo.edu/sward/university%20of%20wyoming%20israel%20election%20survey%20results-jan.30.2013.htm> and other venues

2013. S. Ward: Review of: Don Quixote, *Interdisciplinary Connections*, edd. Matthew D. Warshawsky and James A. Parr, Newark, Del.: Juan de la Cuesta, 2013. In *HALAPID*.

2012. Seth Ward, review of Alan Mintz, *Sanctuary in the wilderness: a critical introduction to American Hebrew poetry*. Stanford, 2012. Choice. July 2012.
2012. Seth Ward, Review of G. Plunka, *Holocaust Drama: The Theater of Atrocity*, Cambridge University Press, 2009. *South Atlantic Review*.
2012. Seth Ward, Jewish Identity and Crypto Judaism: The Emergence of a Community, *Casa Shalom Journal* Institute for Marrano-Anusim Studies, Netanya Academic College, Netanya Israel 13 (2012) 11-13

Presentations

2016. Denver Jewish History. Kavod on the Road. Aug. 23 2016.
2016. Women in Judaism and Islam—Pinedale (Soroptimist) Sublette County Library March 14 2016.
2016. Understanding the Middle East—Pinedale (Sublette County Library, Pinedale) March 14 2016.
2016. Understanding the Middle East--Marbleton (Sublette County Library, Big Piney)—Marbleton Senior Center. March 15 2016.
2016. Women in Judaism and Islam—Jackson (Jackson Hole Jewish Community)—Arts Center.
2016. Understanding the Middle East—Casper (Natrona High School) 930 S Elm St, Casper, WY 82601. March 16
2016. Understanding the Middle East—Casper (Natrona High School) 930 S Elm St, Casper, WY 82601. March 16 (Second presentation)
2016. Women in Judaism and Islam—Lusk Niobrara County Library 425 South Main Street, Lusk, WY 82225 March 16.
2016. Understanding the Middle East—Eastern Wyoming College 3200 W C St. March 17.
2016. “He who saves a single soul, saves the world entire.” The Parallel texts, Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5 and Qur’an, 5:32, and the difficulty of dialogue. WJSA Annual Conference, May 2016.
2016. “Transmitting Crypto-Jewish Identity” Society for Crypto Jewish Studies Annual Conference.
2015. ממקדש ומעשרות למיסטיקה ומדינה: עלייתו של ט"ו בשבט כדוגמת התפתחות והתחדשות בחגי ישראל (In Hebrew) From Temple and Tithes to Mystics and State: The Rise of the Festival of Tu Bishevat as exemplifying development and renewal in Jewish ritual. Netanya Academic College. Presenter. Netanya.
2015. "Muslim and Jewish parallels in the Ten Commandments." UW Jerusalem Seminar. Presenter (and organizer of Seminar). Jerusalem.
2015. “Essential Music of the Holocaust: Cultural Creation, Resistance and Memory.” WJSA Presenter, Vancouver, BC Canada.
2015. “Religion and Politics in Israel-Palestine.” UW Religious Studies Club. Feb. 2015.
2015. Shabbat Shirah Lecture. East Denver Orthodox Synagogue. Denver.
2015. Remembering Yitzhak Rabin. East Denver Orthodox Synagogue and Kavod Senior Life Jewish Values Series. Denver.

2015. Breast Cancer Awareness. (For Sharsheret's Jewish Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend) Kavod Senior Life.

2015. Chichester at 50. Works by Leonard Bernstein, Paul Ben Haim and others. Preconcert Lecture. Denver.

2015. Narrative Cultural Production and Musical Value: Hebrew Music at UW. Laramie WY. 2015. Lecture: Introduction to Islam. Lander Community & Convention Center Lander WY 82520. April 12, 2015.

2015. Lecture. "Understanding the Middle East." Sheridan College, Sheridan WY, April 13, 2015.

2015. Lecture. "Understanding the Middle East," St. Luke's ELCA, Buffalo. April 14, 2015.

2015. Lecture, Women in Judaism and Islam. Western Wyoming Community College Rock Springs. April 15, 2015.

2015. Lecture. Women in Judaism and Islam, White Mountain Library. Rock Springs. April 15.

2015. Lecture. Understanding the Middle East. White Mountain Library. Rock Springs. April 15.

2015. Lecture. Women and ISIS. Laramie County Library, Cheyenne. Sept. 3.

2015. Lecture. Women in Judaism and Islam. Laramie County Library, Cheyenne. Sept. 17.

2014: "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys. Seth Ward presents An Introduction to Islam for the Equality State." Albany County Library/ Wyoming Humanities Council. Presenter. Laramie.

2014: "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys. Seth Ward presents An Introduction to Islam for the Equality State." Laramie County Library And Wyoming Humanities Council. Presenter. Cheyenne.

2014: Religion and Democracy in the Middle East. UW Religious Studies Club. Presenter. UW.

2014: "Cultural Production as Resistance and Memory: Towards a History of Zog nit Keinmol." Millersville State University, 33rd Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide, Academic Paper Presenter. Millersville PA.

2014: "Like an Orange on the Seder Plate: New-Age additions to Seder rituals." East Denver Orthodox Synagogue. Presenter. Denver CO.

2014: "Tuesday Nights at the Movies: Teaching Middle East and Israel in Film at the University of Wyoming." Western Jewish Studies Association Annual Meeting, Conference Paper Presenter. Tucson.

2014: "Leadership, Engagement and Identity and the Construction of a Contemporary Crypto-Jewish identity in North America." Institute of Marrano-Anusim Studies, Netanya Academic College, Paper Presenter. Netanya Israel.

2014: "Muslim and Jewish parallels in the Ten Commandments". Presenter. Shavuot Symposium, Jerusalem.

2014: Holocaust Hymns as Resistance and Memory: Towards a history of Zog nit Keinmol and Ani Maamin. North American Jewish Choral Festival, Workshop Presenter. Kerhonkson NY. (Note: helped organize three additional workshops, including Holly Dalrymple, UW Dept. of Music, From Germany to Israel: Music of Paul Ben-Haim).

2014: Managing Stress through Belief. UW Mental Health Week. Panel Presenter. Yellowstone Room, UW Campus.

2014: "On Remembering the Holocaust Through Art: Works of Groper, Levine, and Reisman" Special Art Exhibition and Faculty Response Panel, Panel Presenter. UW Art Gallery.

2013. Roger Martinez (University of Colorado-Colorado Springs) and S. Ward (University of Wyoming) "Crypto-Jews and Sephardic Studies" Limmud Colorado. Englewood CO

2013. S. Ward, Presenter. Parent Panel: Parents of Children and Adults with Disabilities, Limmud Colorado. Englewood CO.

2013. S. Ward, "Medieval Jewish History." Guest Lecture. University of Denver, Judaic Studies.

2013. S. Ward, "Remembering Yom Yerushalayim." EDOS, Denver.

2013. S. Ward, "Crypto-Judaism Comes of Age: Acceptance, Authority and Authenticity," Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, Annual Meeting, Colorado Springs.

2013. S. Ward, talk on Deuteronomy. EDOS, Denver.

2013. S. Ward, "About Rosh Hashana," ParkPlace, Denver.

2013. S. Ward. "Moses Jesus and Muhammad," WHC Humanities Forum, Thermopolis

2013. S. Ward. "Moses Jesus and Muhammad," WHC Humanities Forum, Dubois

2013. S. Ward. "Moses Jesus and Muhammad," WHC Humanities Forum, Casper.

2013. S. Ward. "Israel and Middle East in Film," NW College Powell, WHC Humanities Forum.

2013. S. Ward. "Moses Jesus and Muhammad." Glenrock, WHC Humanities Forum.

2013. S. Ward, "Second annual Nitzl Nacht talk," EDOS, Denver.

2012.S. Ward, "S.M. Hordes: Judaism, Identity and Boundaries," paper delivered at *Stanley M. Hordes: the Impact of the Man and his Work on NM Jewish History*, New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, Albuquerque NM.

2012. **Jewish Identity and Crypto-Judaism: The emergence of a community**, Leslie and Gloria Mound Library, Netanya Academic College, Netanya Israel, May 23.

2012. Ward, "Roots and Identity: Divergence and Parallels in Crypto-Jewish and African-American Muslim Identity" 22nd Annual Meeting of SCJS.

2012. On the Difficulty of Dialogue 20th and 21st century Jewish and Muslim authors on the question of interfaith discourse March 2012

2012. March 1. S. Ward, "Implementing Islamic Law" Lions' Club. (WHC Humanities Forum) Big Horn, WY.

2012 March 2. S. Ward, "Democracy and Religion in the Middle East" (WHC Humanities Forum) Sheridan College, Sheridan.

2012. March 20. S. Ward, Workshop on Jewish Sabbath Practices. LDS Institute of Religion, Laramie.

2012. March 22. S. Ward: "The Holocaust in North Africa and the Sephardic World," LCCC, Guest Lecturer. Cheyenne WY.

2012. March 15. S. Ward, "Democracy and Religion in the Middle East," (WHC Humanities Forum) Converse County Library, Glenrock.

2012. May 1. S. Ward, "Democracy and Religion in the Middle East," (WHC Humanities Forum) Converse County Library, Douglas.

2012. May 2. S. Ward, "Food and Foodways: A Most Important Sacrament" (WHC Humanities Forum) EWC-Torrington

2012. May 2. S. Ward, "Democracy and Religion in the Middle East" (WHC Humanities Forum) Natrona County Library Casper,

2012. Oct. 10 2012. S. Ward, Talkback Humanities Moderator. Off Square Theatre, Production of E. Kraiem's *16 Wounded*. Jackson, WY.

2012. Oct. 29 Guest Lecture in course “intro to social problems” about Heart Mountain exhibit on Muslim American Self Image, and fears raised by it.” (not delivered due to travel disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy).

2012. Oct. 29. “Democracy and Religion in the Middle East,” NW College, Powell WY (not delivered due to travel disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy).

2012. Oct. 30, “Foodways, Faith, Fellowship and Identity” NW College, Powell WY (not delivered due to travel disruption caused by Hurricane Sandy).

Mary L. Keller

Refereed Journal Articles:

Douglas E. Allen, Elton G. McGoun, Mary L. Keller, 2015 “Teleinvestment Evangelists: Celebrity, Ritual, and Religion and the Quest to Beat the Market,” *Qualitative Research in Financial Markets* 7.3 (08/03; 2015/07, 2015): 290-308.

Refereed Chapters in Books:

Keller, Mary L. 2015. “Spirit Possession,” In: Handbook of Spiritualism and Channeling, ed. Cathy Gutierrez,
Brill, pp. 66-86.

vii. Other

Mary L. Keller

HONORS AND AWARDS

2015 Master Distance Educator Award, University of Wyoming

2015 Hollon Award for Teaching Excellence in Off-Campus Programs

Tyler Fall

HONORS AND AWARDS

P.I.E. award -- last seven years.

2015: A & S Top Ten Professor

2015: Elbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award.

c. Program reputation

i. If program is ranked, include rank and by what organization. **N/A**

ii. Include a brief description of any other indicators of program reputation such as demand (e.g. waiting lists or over enrollment) for admission into program, employer data/feedback, etc.

d. Curriculum of major or specialization

i. Include a list of courses by prefix, number, title required in the major or specialization (do not include general education course unless required as part of the major requirements.)

RELI 1000. Introduction to Religion

RELI 4000. Theories of Religion.

In addition, each major takes two concentrations of three courses each, typically in a specific religion and geographical area. These are intended to provide depth in particular religious traditions or geographical areas. Each includes two upper division courses. It is not feasible to list every possible concentration, but a few examples of the content of typical concentrations will indicate the composition of our major.

American Religion Concentration:

RELI 2250. American Religious History (To 1965)

RELI 3200. Religion and American Culture

RELI 3400. Religion in the American West.

Christianity Concentration:

RELI 2225. History of Christianity

RELI 3230. Early Christianity: From Jesus to Church

RELI 3240. Christianity Since Darwin.

Middle Eastern Religions Concentration:

RELI 2320. History of Islam

RELI 3110. Bible and Archaeology

RELI 4160. Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.

Eastern Religions Concentration:

RELI 2050. Religions of Asia.

RELI 3340. Mysticism, Yoga and Enlightenment in the East.

RELI 3350. Religion and Globalization in India.

e. Distance delivery of program/major

i. Note if the program is offered online and/or at one of the off-campus attendance centers (e.g., UW-Casper)

While we do not offer an online degree, a student could complete the religious studies major online except for RELI 4000. We have discussed the possibility of offering the degree online, but it is not feasible with our small staff, even though we offer a large part of our program online.

f. Quality of Assessment Plan/data

i. Include a brief description of the program assessment plan and how the data are used to inform decisions related to program quality and student learning.

The department continues to work to attain Tier 1 status, and we consider it a high priority. I have met with the assessment coordinator since we received our last review, which showed progress from the previous year, and I will

continue to do so this year. The department has revisited our learning outcomes and made them more easily assessable. The entire department has agreed to work on developing our assessment culture. As Dr. Lyford recommended, we have chosen one of those outcomes to work on this year. We are currently developing a rubric to assess that outcome across courses at all levels, and we will implement it for the first time after Fall Semester ends.

g. Strategic Plan i. Include a brief description of any plans for the program or specialization that appear in the college/department strategic plan (i.e., facilities upgrades, curriculum changes, on-line or off-campus delivery, enrichment learning opportunities, etc.)

Academic Planning Implementation

Given that the university still lacks UP4, which should be well under way by now, I will only briefly rehearse our goals and explain what we have done in the last year. In Summer 2014, Religious Studies proposed five goals for UP4:

1. Evaluate the Religious Studies Major
2. Enhance student travel-study opportunities
3. Enrich Religious Studies courses and offerings for non-majors
4. Create Asian Studies Major and Middle- East/Arabic Culture Minor
5. Enhance departmental research productivity by increasing funds available to students and faculty for research and dissemination of results.

Goal 1: “Evaluate the Religious Studies Major”. A good deal of our effort in 2014 – 15 involved the change in requirement of a major and minor concentration to one of two concentrations using ‘preferred paths’ to encourage more depth in our graduates. We used this as a main focus of our assessment, but while it is important to the department, we have determined that it is too soon to assess its success.

Goal 2: “Enhance student travel-study opportunities”. Much of our development effort has been towards this goal. In the last two years we awarded travel scholarships, typically \$1000, to X students either, most of whom traveled on Faculty-led programs to India or Israel. Despite our efforts and the generosity of Cheney scholarships, cost deters many good students from taking our travel courses.

Goal 3: “Enrich Religious Studies courses and offerings for non-majors”. We continue to offer a wide variety of courses that introduce students to the broader world through a religious lens. Often one of our major efforts is helping these students understand what the term ‘religion’ means, since their horizons are often quite narrow. We have the bulk of our courses approved for USP 2015 as Humanities, Communication (COM 2 and 3) and First Year Seminars, both on campus and online. Two additional courses are currently under review for H designation. We also offer many courses that fulfil D and G requirements for the college.

Goal 4: “Create Asian Studies Major and Middle- East/Arabic Culture Minor”. Since creation of new majors and minors is currently not possible, this goal is on hold. In addition, since Prof. Raddaoui has moved from a split line that included Religious Studies to a complete line in

GAST, as was planned when he was hired, our part in that minor will decrease, although not evaporate.

Goal 5: “Enhance departmental research productivity by increasing funds available to students and faculty for research and dissemination of results.” This remains a great challenge. We have been able to raise money for student travel and research presentation, but opportunities, especially internal grants for faculty, continue to shrink, as does our support budget.

h. Other: N/A

3. Mission Centrality: Does the program advance the mission of UW including institutional strategy?

- a. Describe how the program supports the mission, vision and strategic goals of UW.

The Religious Studies Department provides an outstanding liberal arts education by teaching students to think critically, rationally, and empathetically about the production, use, and dissemination of knowledge about religion as a global, as well as local, phenomenon. One of the ways that Religious studies contributes to the mission of the university and A&S is that it teaches students how to think about the cultural production of knowledge with respect to how, where, when, and by whom it is produced and the implications of those cultural productions. The department emphasizes constructive approaches to understanding not only the ways in which religion changes across time and space, but also the ways that what people understand to mean across cultures, time, and space changes. The department emphasizes the cross-cultural study of religion and this training of our students occurs not only in the classroom but outside of it, too. In service to the mission of a land-grant research university, Religious Studies provides students with information about religion as it is practiced in the state, in the nation, and globally. We offer intellectual frames that raise religion from the realms of private and personal experience into an academic discipline. With research-active scholars and award winning APLs, our classes present the “how” of thinking about religion, while providing accessible expert information regarding the “what” of local and world religions. Offering our classes on campus and online, we serve traditional and non-traditional students across the state and around the world, particularly those serving in the military and their families. We bring the world to our students in classroom study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Indigenous Religions and Atheism, we bring the deep history of religion with American history and more specifically the American West, including Indigenous religions, Mormonism, and the New Religious movements of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. We also take our students out into the world to experience religions as they are lived in different cultures. Religious Studies has one of the strongest internationalization curricula on campus. The faculty regularly lead well-enrolled student study abroad trips around the world, including Israel, India, and China, and also teach about indigenous religions in domestic arenas, such as the Rocky Mountain West with respect to Heart Mountain in Wyoming. Students leave our classes more aware of religion as a dynamic force, illustrative of the complexities of the modern world.

- b. Describe how the program contributes to other programs across campus (i.e., general education courses, minor or support courses, interdisciplinary program, etc.)

In addition to supporting the University's mission, vision, and strategic goals, the Religious Studies Department is distinguished by its connections and contributions to other units on campus.

From a very early date, Religious Studies has been active in online education. It continues to offer many online courses, both at the lower and upper divisions. The inherent flexibility of online offerings allows students from across the university to fulfill their USP

requirements. Typically, online courses in the Religious Studies department are filled to capacity and often generate waiting lists.

The Religious Studies Department has also been a leader on campus in offering courses that align with the most recent USP changes. Students take courses to fulfill several of the new designations, including the humanities, diversity, and writing requirements. Also, the department offers two First-Year Seminars (FYS), one of which is online, the first and, to date, only such offering.

Other academic departments often lean on Religious Studies to supply courses for their majors. Through cross-listing, the department contributes to major programs in English, History, Anthropology, African American and Diaspora Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, American Studies, and Global and Area Studies.

The Religious Studies Department has a long tradition of both international and field courses, averaging about 3 per year. In the past few years, our students have traveled to Israel, India, China, and Heart Mountain, WY. Nearly all of our students have taken advantage of the travel monies provided by the Cheney Center. Two Religious Studies Faculty have participated in the University of Shanghai Exchange Program.

Faculty have also been quite active across campus, serving on advisory committees for the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research (WIHR), Gender and Women's Studies, as well as many graduate committees (both at the Master's and Doctoral level). Our former Chair is the also the founder of Saturday University, an important outreach program in the state.

Finally, the Religious Studies Department has remained active in the University Honors Program. Several of its faculty have volunteer their time to lecture to the Freshman Honors cohort and to serve on senior thesis committees. As the Honors Program grows, contributions from the Religious Studies Department will continue to prove valuable and essential.

- c. Include placement data for graduates and indicate if graduates are working in the field or not.

Religious Studies graduates report employment and placement in law schools and other professional schools, graduate school programs, seminaries, and professional teaching placements. Initial study of graduates suggests a significant percentage of majors working in the field, either for religious entities or attending seminaries or graduate education in Religious Studies and related fields. Our graduates work in secondary education, integrating Religious Studies components in Social Studies curriculum, in national and, notably, international postings, currently including Cameroon and Dubai, and have gone on to Law School and other professional programs. One graduate reported: "Discussions of human agency in the Theories of Religion course were crucial to a Law School education. When this topic comes up I find I have something really important to say."

d. Describe the uniqueness or duplication of this program across the UW.

Religious Studies found out the hard way that its subject area is distinctive on this campus. When it was formed as an interdisciplinary program in 1993, Dean Oliver Walter's concept was that Religious Studies would be able to draw upon courses taught by faculty in other programs and departments. Within three years, it became clear that was true only to a very limited degree. The Program developed sufficient courses to offer a solid minor, but there were too few faculty on campus with expertise in any area of religion to offer sufficient upper-level courses to support a major. That inability further revealed a serious gap in UW's instructional capabilities, for even though religious beliefs and behavior still shaped the lives of most people around the world (and even in our own nation), the university lacked faculty expertise to help its students understand that formative power.

Today, the Religious Studies Department's seven faculty teach UW students—its majors but also students across its colleges—about our nation's and our world's religions. Not only do our students want to learn about their own religions or those that have influenced their lives, but they want to learn about religions practiced by the people of the world's most populous countries (India and China) and most influential regions (Middle East and Europe). While the department interacts with disciplines from global studies to history, it is only in the Religious Studies Department that students can find a focus on the academic study of the world's religions at UW.

4. Cost: Is the program financially viable?

In the academic year 2015, the Religious Studies Department had seven full time instructors: 4 tenured/tenure track faculty and 3 APLs.

Note 1: The OIA data indicated only 3 tenured/tenure track faculty (as well as 3 APLs).

Note 2: OIA data contained no salary information for the APLs, so that has been supplied for the calculations below.

a. Ratio of student credit hours per FTE

Note: Student credit hours per FTE was calculated as the students taught by the departments' full-time faculty (TT&APL). Students and teachers in courses taught by part-time instructors were not included in these calculations.

The ratio is: 503.14 CH/FTE

b. Direct instructional expenditures:

- i. Per student credit hour: \$399.48
- ii. Per total degrees awarded: \$52,110.22
- iii. Non-personnel expenditures per total academic FTE: None

c. Course enrollment

- i. Number of classes falling under University minimums: 7 (18%)
- ii. Lower-division courses falling under University minimums: 1 (4%)

Note 1. In 2015, courses enrolled below the university minimums were not a major concern.

- d. Other instructional cost drivers, such as:
 - i. Section fill rates
 - According to the Standard Data Set, our average class sizes were:
 - Lower Division 54.3
 - Upper Division 17.9
 - ii. Course completion rates – I did not know where to find this data.
 - iii. Curricular complexity – Our curriculum provides great flexibility, with two required courses and two concentrations which are determined by the student and major advisor.
 - iv. Faculty course load Religious Studies has taught a 3-2 load for TT faculty and a 3-3 load for APLs, except for the chair, who receives a 1-course reduction per semester (2-1)

- e. Research expenditures per tenured/tenure-track FTE (and other academic personnel, where appropriate) None.

- f. Compare your data to national benchmarks (Delaware data) Not available.

Academic Program Review: **Religious Studies BA**

Section 8 – Cost

a) Ratio of student credit hours per FTE (AY 2014/15): **783**

b) Direct instructional expenditures (FY 2015): **\$825,560**

i) Per student FTE: **\$5,279**

ii) Per total degrees awarded: **\$91,729**

iii) Non-personnel expenditures / total academic FTE: **\$4,192**

c) Course enrollment (AY 2014/15)

i) Classes falling under university minimums: **7**

ii) Lower-division courses falling under university minimums: **1**

e) Research expenditure per tenure-track FTE (FY 2015): **\$0**