

# DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2

SPRING 2010

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Msgr. Robert T. Sheeran will complete his fifteenth year as President of Seton Hall University in the coming summer. These have been years of growth and development for the University, including the addition of a new college, the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. Msgr. Sheeran led the University community through the dark and tragic days following the Boland Hall fire on January 19, 2000, a time when it was evident that his priesthood provided a key component to his leadership.

The Department of Jewish-Christian Studies is grateful to Msgr. Sheeran for the consistent support that he gave to our academic program and related work over these years!

On January 20, 2010 Msgr. Sheeran and I reminisced about: His memories of Msgr. Oesterreicher's reports to the University community in 1965 about the Second Vatican Council and the declaration on the Church's relation to non-Christian religions (*Nostra Aetate*);

Reading *The Anguish of the Jews* by Father Edward H. Flannery, then a member of Seton Hall's Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies.

His visits to Israel (1971, 1984, 1991, and May 2008). The last visit, with members of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment under the leadership of Mrs. Luna Kaufman, coincided with the sixtieth anniversary of the State of Israel. On this occasion the work of Sister Rose Thering was commemorated at Yad Vashem.

Msgr. Sheeran took a keen interest in the planning for the Cooperman-Ross Chair in the Department and in the selection of Rabbi Alan Brill as its first research professor.

What does the future hold for this youthful sexagenarian? Msgr. Sheeran will enjoy a well-earned sabbatical in 2010-11; a portion of this time may be spent at the Ecumenical Institute at Tantur, near Jerusalem, with its opportunities for interreligious dialogue and for study of the Bible in the Land.



Msgr. Robert T. Sheeran

The Jewish-Christian Studies faculty wishes that Msgr. Sheeran will enjoy a fruitful year of study and many blessings for his future work!

Father Lawrence Frizzell

## ROBERT A. HERRERA R.I.P.

When Dr. Robert A. Herrera died on November 25, 2009, the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies has lost a good friend and long-time member of its Advisory Board. The Department of Jewish-Christian Studies will miss a fellow professor and collaborator in our academic pursuits.

Robert Herrera, a doctoral student of the famous Professor Hans Jonas of the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, was a member of Seton Hall's Department

of Philosophy for thirty years. He was convinced of the benefits coming from interdisciplinary work, so he joined us in Jewish-Christian Studies for many of our courses. A number of the term papers that he wrote became publications in several journals. He taught courses for us on Christian Mysticism and Spinoza. He edited *Mystics of the Book: Themes, Topics and Typologies* (New York: Peter Lang, 1993), drawing on his contacts with scholars from several nations. His other books

provide evidence of his wide-ranging research interests

After retiring in 1998 Dr. Herrera continued to publish books on a variety of topics and persons. May he enjoy the eternal reward of a scholar who, like St. Anselm, was devoted to the wedding of faith and reason! May his soul rest in peace!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RABBI BRILL 2

COMING EVENTS 2

DR. BOSSMAN 2

RABBI FINKEL 3

ALUMNI 3

FR. FRIZZELL 3

FALL 2010 4

## RABBI ALAN BRILL



Rabbi Alan Brill

Rabbi Brill's new book, *Judaism and Other Religions* was published on March 2. Already he is completing the second volume of this work. It will be published in March 2011. See "Coming Events" for details.

He published "Does the Church 'Get' the Holocaust? A Response to Kevin Madigan" in *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations* Vol. 4, Issue 1 2009 Article.

He was a participant in a Trialogue on "The Sacrifice of the Sons: Ishmael, Isaac and Jesus" at the Baird Center in South Orange on March 7th.

He will participate in a book signing on April 29th at the New York University and the 16th Street Synagogue in Manhattan.

He will participate in a meeting of Judaism and Evangelicals in Dialogue in

Washington, D.C. on June 14-15, 2010.

## COMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR  
DEPARTMENT  
EVENTS.

The annual Teacher Study Day, Music and Art in Holocaust Education will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm in the Beck Rooms of Walsh Library. Dr. Tamara Freeman, Adjunct Professor of Instructional Music in Bergen Community College, will speak on "Musical Humanity amidst Holocaust Atrocities" and will perform "Music Rising from the Ashes" in the morning. The afternoon workshops by Dr. Freeman on Using Holocaust era Music to Encourage Racial Respect and by Dr. Susan Leshnoff on Art in Theresienstadt will be repeated so that partici-

pants can take part in both.

Rabbi Alan Brill's recent publication will be celebrated on Sunday, March 21, 2010 in the Beck Rooms of Walsh Library, beginning at 2:00 pm. He will speak about his book "Judaism and Other Religions" and will be available to autograph copies, which may be purchased at this time. Copies will be available for purchase from the Department at any time.

The Sister Rose Thering Endowment will celebrate the "Evening of Roses" on Sunday, April 18, 2010 in the South Orange Performing Arts Center

at 7:30 pm. The guest artists will be renowned violinist Joshua Bell and bass soloist Kevin Maynor.

The celebration of Ms. Renee Kessler's translation of her Father's diary "Surviving the Holocaust in Lwow" will take place on Thursday, May 6, 2010. For details, see the last page of this Newsletter and for the place, contact Fr. Frizzell at (973) 761-9751 or by e-mail at [Lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:Lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu)

## DR. DAVID BOSSMAN



Dr. David Bossman

Dr. Bossman continues to serve as the editor of the Biblical Theology Bulletin. He has written three editorials in the recent editions of the BTB: "Speak Truth to Power" (Nov. BTB 39:4, 178-179), "Trouble in Paradise" (Feb. BTB 40:1, 2-3), and "The Year of Priest—Opening Questions" (May BTB 40:2, 66-69). The Bulletin is now

being published by Sage Publishers. Please check out the Bulletin's new website at <http://btb.sagepub.com>. Currently he serves as a board member of the New Jersey Council on the Humanities. He was recently invited to serve a board member of the Christian-Jewish Community Council in Charles, SC.

On November 22, 2009 Dr. Bossman presented a paper "Jesus and the Qur'an" in the Qur'an and Biblical Literature Section of the Society of Biblical Literature at the annual meeting in New Orleans.

## RABBI ASHER FINKEL

Rabbi Finkel continues to offer his Lehrhaus on Mondays at 2:45 in the Oesterreicher Suite. Everybody is welcome.

Rabbi Finkel has prepared a series of tapes on the areas of Biblical Studies, Biblical and Christian Studies, with the focus on prayer, Massorah and Islam. Those interested in purchasing these items should contact Ms. Kathy Dorry at (9732) 364-9074.

Rabbi Finkel recently completed an article "The State of Israel and the Jewish People (1948-2008)" for inclusion in the online version of the New Catholic Encyclopedia (June 2010).

On May 15th Rabbi Finkel will present "The Rabbinic Views of Christianity in the Middle Ages" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI.

On the evening of May 18-19 Rabbi Finkel will present "The Significant Teachings of the Two Decalogues" during the night of study for Pentecost at the Central Synagogue in Jerusalem. He will serve as the coordinator of the program, which will feature the two chief rabbis of Israel. Rabbi Finkel will continue to lecture and teach at the Central

Synagogue' educational center during his summer stay in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Finkel will be on sabbatical leave from the Department for the two semesters of 2010-11. We wish him well in the preparation of two works for publication!



Rabbi Asher Finkel

## ALUMNI NEWS

A recent graduate of the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies, Ms. Renate Renee Kessler, published the Polish original of her father's diary in Warsaw under the title *Surviving the Holocaust in Lwow*, covering the years 1942-44. She was present at the celebration of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw on April 22, 2008. Now she has prepared the English translation of the diary and

related chapters by one of the rescuers and others. This event will be celebrated at Seton Hall University on May 6, 2010. All are welcome. For details about the time and place, please contact Mr. Jay Wolferman at (973) 761-9751 or Father Frizzell at [Lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:Lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu).

Mr. Forrest Elliot, who graduates in December 2009, continues to teach with a focus on Language Arts to children with special needs. Over the years he has been involved very actively with Holocaust and Genocide education in his school.

## OUR GRADUATES

## FATHER LAWRENCE FRIZZELL

Participated in the US conference of Catholic Bishops Dialogue with the Council of Synagogues on November 11, 2009 at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Gave a presentation "the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Holy Spirit" to the Seton Hall RCIA group on February 14, 2010.

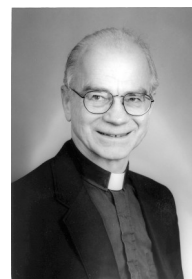
On Saturday, February 20th, 2010 presented a response to a paper on Origen by Dr. Karl Morrison at the Biblical Theologian in Princeton, NJ.

Participated in the Orthodox-Jewish Catholic Dialogue in Manhattan, NY on February 22, 2010.

Father Frizzell published Commentary and Reflections

on the 4th, 5th Sundays of Lent and on Palm Sunday in *Scripture in Church* (Dublin: Dominican Publications, 2010).

He wrote the entry "Christian-Jewish Relations- Theological Issues" in *New Catholic Encyclopedia Online edition* (June 2010).



Father Lawrence Frizzell

## THE DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH-CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.SHU.EDU](http://WWW.SHU.EDU)— SEARCH JCST

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## Fall 2010

JCST 6001 Christian-Jewish Encounter- Frizzell R 6:15 – 8:25 pm

JCST 6005 Hebrew Bible Readings I- Frizzell TBA

JCST 6014 Lessons from the Holocaust- Bossman T 4:00 – 6:10 pm

JCST 6015 Cross Cultural Analysis- Bossman W 4:00 -6:10 pm

JCST 7036 Peace and War: Biblical and Jewish Tradition- Frizzell M 6:15 – 8:25 pm

JCST 7560 The Land of Israel in the Three Faiths Brill T 4:00 – 6:10 pm

JCST 7570 Jewish Ethics Brill M 4:00 – 6:10 pm

JCST 9001 Thesis- Staff

Rabbi Finkel will be on sabbatical leave in the two semesters of 2010-11.

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## TUITION SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Many worthy students who show an interest in Jewish-Christian Studies cannot afford to pay the level of tuition charged by Seton Hall University. From the first semester of our program in 1975 the Foundation for Judaeo-Christian Studies has provided assistance for a number of matriculated students. In 1990 the Sister Rose Thering Endowment was envisioned to assist educators who wish to take one or more courses in the program, especially in relation to the *Shoah* (Holocaust). After the call

for Holocaust and Genocide Education was passed by the New Jersey Legislature and signed by Governor Christine Whitman in 1994, many teachers have received tuition assistance to respond to this mandate. Of course, teachers and others in our Master's program should seek assistance from their school district or other sources because funds from these two sources are limited.

Recently a Holocaust survivor and a resident of South Orange, Mrs. Lily Richman, included a generous sum in her will for

the support of students at Seton Hall University. This bequest has become a quasi-endowment, designated the Andrew-Lili Richman Scholarship, to benefit full-time students in Jewish-Christian Studies, beginning in the Fall 2010 semester. This gift will open the door for one or two students to receive assistance for the bulk of tuition for one or two courses. We are indeed grateful for this gift!