



REACH

Volume 38, Number 4 Fall 2008

Annual Meeting Nov. 7-9, 2008 Chicago, Illinois

CROWNE PLAZA
CHICAGO O'HARE
5440 NORTH RIVER ROAD, ROSEMONT, IL 60018
(847) 671-6350

Come join us in the "City With the Broad Shoulders," the "Windy City," the home of Cubs, White Sox, Bulls, and Bears (oh, my!) for the Annual Meeting of the Religious Education Association. Chicago has among the richest traditions of great American literature, so the meeting theme, "Fiction as Truth: Seeking Religious Depth in Short Stories, Novels, and Film" seems a natural fit to our location. Carol Lakey Hess, the Association's incoming President, has developed an excellent program with dynamic plenary speakers, an outstanding selection of Research Interest Groups, Colloquia, and Workshops, an extensive bookstore, and an opportunity for a pre-conference immersion experience in the practice of local Religious Education! We look forward to seeing you!

Plenary Speakers



The opening plenary speaker for the Annual Meeting is one of Chicago's best-known religious leaders. **Father Andrew Greeley** is a sociologist, a theologian, a leader of Chicago's Roman Catholic community, and one of America's most popular novelists. Greeley's novels are written from the Chicago area's Irish-American community and reflect the centrality of faith in the midst of the messiness of life in a diverse urban environment. His plenary at 2:00 P.M. on Friday is entitled "How Stories About God Get Written."



Stuart Dybeck has become synonymous with the literary scene of Chicago. Dybeck has a keen sense of the ethnic voices of his community and combines drama and humor with a strong awareness of the faith, folklore, and fantasies of his characters. His work has received numerous awards, including a 2007 MacArthur Fellowship. His Saturday afternoon plenary is entitled "The Lexicon of Mystery and Awe: Fiction's Use of the Language of Religion."



Carol Lakey Hess, the incoming President of the REA, is Associate Professor of Religious Education at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. She has a life-long interest in the intersection of literature and theology and that dialogue informs her work in planning the theme of the Annual Meeting. On Friday evening, we are blessed to join in her Presidential Address, "

You are invited to a pre-conference workshop:
Building Religious Pluralism – Diversity, Narratives and Justice

Led by the staff from the **Interfaith Youth Corp (IFYC)**
At the IFYC meeting center in downtown Chicago

Thursday, November 6, 2008, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00

Sponsored by the REA Peace and Justice Task Force

To sign up please check the pre-conference workshop box on the REA Conference Registration Form and send the workshop fee with your conference registration.

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The IFYC is a Chicago-based, international non-profit organization that promotes interfaith cooperation. The IFYC works to build respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others. (For more information on the IFYC go to: <http://www.ifyc.org/>)

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This interactive workshop will look at the theory and praxis behind the Interfaith Youth Core's methodology for building religious pluralism, focusing on three core ideas: story-telling as a means of interfaith dialogue, shared values across religious traditions, and social justice between different groups. It will also underscore the role of young people and those who work with young people in building interreligious cooperation. We'll look concretely at how IFYC's work has played out on college campuses and seminaries around the country. We will explore how religious educators have and can contribute to the Interfaith Youth movement, and the urgent need for institutions of higher education to take seriously the challenges of religious diversity in a way that is constructive to both civic space and religious identity.

The workshop will focus on:

Storytelling as a means of
Interfaith Dialogue

Shared Values across
Religious Traditions

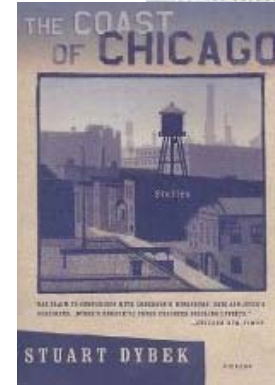
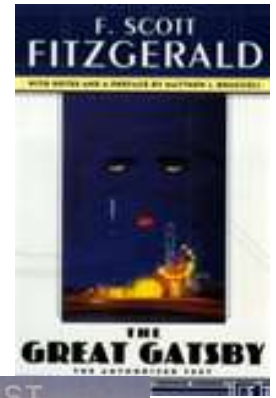
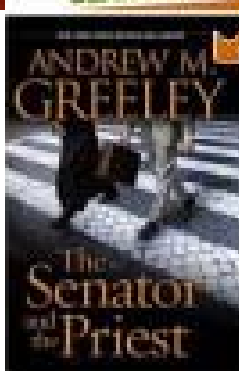
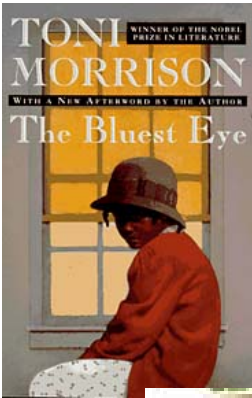
Social Justice Initiatives
between Diverse
Populations

The IFC Offices are located at: 910 W. Van Buren, 3rd floor.

Those attending can go the IFYC office directly from the airport. It is a few blocks from the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) stop of the Blue Line, which comes straight from O'Hare Airport, in the UIC/Greektown neighborhood. Also, a group will meet in the main lobby of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 2:00 PM and travel together on the Blue Line to the IFYC offices.

There are a number of fine restaurants in the neighborhood in which the IFYC is located. Those who register will be provided with a list of suggested restaurants for dinner after the workshop.

For additional information about the workshop contact Harold (Bud) Horell at horell@fordham.edu.



FICTION AS TRUTH:
Seeking Religious Depth
In Short Stories, Novels, and Film
ANNUAL MEETING
Religious Education Association
November 7-9, 2008
Crowne Plaza, Chicago O'Hare

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008

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|---------------------|---|
| 8:30-11:45 A.M. | REA Board Meeting |
| 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. | Registration Table Open |
| Noon | Graduate Student Luncheon |
| 12:15 P.M. | <i>Religious Education Journal</i> Board Meeting |
| 2:00 P.M. | Opening Plenary: <u>Father Andrew Greeley</u>
"How Stories About God Get Written" |
| 3:30-4:45 P.M. | Break-Out Session #1 |

CHECK THE HOTEL LOBBY AND THE REGISTRATION PACKET FOR ROOM LOCATIONS

Rig 1.1	Randle Lewis , "Master Teacher or Teaching Master: Recovering the Master-Apprentice Model in Religious and Theological Education"
	Anthony Ozele , "Representations of Cultural Resilience and Perceptions of Reality in Nigerian Movies and the Crisis of Personal Identity Among Nigerian Adolescents"
Rig 1.2	Margaret Myrtle Power , "The Lovely, Dark, Deep Woods of Narrative Fiction: Making Room for the Religious and Ethical Imagination of Children"
	Russell Dalton , "Miraculous Readings: Using Fantasy Novels about Reading to Enhance Scripture Reading"

RIG 1.3	Gabriel Moran, "Logic of Religion, Logic of Fiction"
	Brian J. Mahan, "Mysticism, Manners, and Religious Education"
RIG 1.4	Therese Ratliff, "Sins, Saints, Sacraments, and Stations"
	Tim Martin, "Limning the Landscape of Religious Narrative"
COL 1.1	Cate Siejk, "Fiction and Religious Education: Be Not Afraid"
COL 1.2	Eddie Kwok, "Ghost Stories, Gothika, and Hanpuri"
WKS 1.1	Diane Shallue, "Building Community Through Sharing of Faith Stories"
WKS 1.2	Susan Young, "Seuss, Scripture and Stories of Faith: An Intergenerational Sunday School Class"

4:45-5:45 P.M. Religious Community/Denominational Meetings

6:00-6:30 P.M. Opening Reception (with Cash Bar)

6:30-7:45 P.M. Annual Meeting Banquet

8:00 P.M. **Presidential Address: Carol Lakey Hess**

"Come Here Jesus...Wonder What God Had in Mind": Toni Morrison and F. Scott Fitzgerald as Narrators of Theodicy"

AN EVENING OF REFLECTION, FELLOWSHIP, AND FREE TIME IN CHICAGO!!!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

8:30-9:45 A.M. **Break-Out Session #2**

RIG 2.1	Christopher Kennard Richardson, "Encountering the Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious: the Roles of Art in Religious Learning"
	Ina Ter Avest, "Father and Daughter: Religious Identity Development Through Filmed Stories"
RIG 2.2 THIS SESSION CANCELLED	Jerome Berryman, "Herman Hesse's <i>Glass Bead Game</i> and Teaching About Children in the History of Theology"
	Intisar Mustafeh, "The Role of Short Stories in In-Depth Understanding of Islamic Concepts by Children"

RIG 2.3	Mary Hess , “Crafting and Sharing Stories of Faith in a Media Culture”
	Richard Rymarz , “Using Stories to Illuminate Hard Topics in Religious Education”
COL 2.1	Charles S. Chesnavage , “Transformational Learning and Interreligious Biblical (Re)Interpretation of Genesis 22:10-19 The ‘Binding of Isaac’”
COL 2.2	Miriam Martin , “Hearing the Stories of Earth: Poetry and Ecotheology— Telling it Slant”
WKS 2.1	Dave Csinos , “A Slice of Life: Responsibly Using Fictive Accounts of the Biblical Meta-Narrative”
WKS 2.2	Barbara Javore , “Story and Spiritual Transformation: Experiential Encounters with the Sacred Story for Children and Youth”
10:00-11:15 A.M.	Business Session #1
11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.	Women’s and Men’s Luncheons
1:00-2:15 P.M.	Plenary Session #2: Stuart Dybeck “The Lexicon of Mystery and Awe: Fiction’s Use of the Language of Religion”
2:30-3:45 P.M.	Break-Out Session #3
RIG 3.1	Sinai Chung , “Youth Ministry with 1.5 Generation Korean Americans: Conversion Stories of Love and Acceptance”
	Naoki Okamura , “Un-Autobiographical Autobiographies: Investigating the Life-Stories of Ten Elderly Nisei Christian Women at a Local Japanese American Church”
RIG 3.2	Kyoung-Hee Shin , “Theological Truths of Folktales and Its Educational Implications for Intercultural Religious Christian Education”
	Mai-Ahn Tran , “Faith Fictions and Ghosts of Memory: ‘The Word Between This World and God’”
RIG 3.3	Siebren Miedema , “Heart and Reason: A Comparison of John Dewey’s <i>A Common Faith</i> and His ‘Religious’ Poems”
	Carl Procaro-Foley , “Autobiography and Curriculum: Its Theory and Application to Religious Education in a Millennial Era”
COL 3.1	Sybrina Atwaters , “Truth Seekers: Conveying Religious Truths and Constructing Religious Narratives Through Gaming Animation Technology”
COL 3.2	Claire Bischoff , “‘I Can Relate’: Television Watching and Discussion as a Religious Practice”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

7:30-8:15 A.M.

Prayer Service

8:30-9:30 A.M.

Task Force Meetings

Adult Education	Jane Regan	reganje@bc.edu
Children	Karen-Marie Yust	kmyust@union-psce.edu
Asian/Asian North American	Tito Cruz/Eddie Kwok	fcruz@fst.edu
Ethnography	Sue Singer	ssinger@cdsp.edu
The Black Experience	Evelyn Parker	eparker@smu.edu
History of Religious Education	Patty Meyers	pmeyers@Pfeiffer.edu
Peace and Justice	Bud Horrell	horell@fordham.edu
Teaching Religious Education	W. Alan Smith	wsmith@flsouthern.edu
to Undergraduates		

9:45-10:45
A.M.

Business Session #2

10:45 A.M.-
Noon

Break-Out Session #4

RIG 4.1

Narola Ao, "Hidden Stories, Hidden Truths: Uncensoring to Unleash"

Vickie Wiltse, "Heroine's Journeys: An Analysis of the Potential Power of Tamora Pierce's Fantasy Novels for Women's Growth and Development"

RIG 4.2

Judith Ann Brady, "Dorothy Day: A Love of fiction and Her Love of the Poor"

Peter W. Shafer, "The Heart, Not the Face: Race, Religion, and Righteousness in a Civil War Era Children's Tale"

COL 4.1

Mary Carter Warren, "How *Five People You Meet in Heaven* Teaches First-Year Students to Practice Theology"

WKS 4.1

Daniela Zsupan, "Using Emerging Computer Technologies to Incorporate Fiction into the Practice of Religious Education"

ADJOURN!

NEXT YEAR AT CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA, DALLAS

NOVEMBER 22-24 ,2009

OPENINGS

We are pleased to offer a brief listing of the openings in the field of Religious Education we have received from our partner institutions in both Academic and Faith Community settings.

Higher Education

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA— Faculty Position in Field Education and Leadership Development. This Faculty position provides educational and intellectual leadership in Field Education and Leadership Development for a diverse faculty and student body. The faculty person in Field Education/Leadership Development will lead a small group Field Education year-long seminar, teach the required Leadership course for M.Div. students, and one elective during the academic year. The successful candidate will be expected to publish creative and recognized scholarship. Rank is open. Essential Duties and Responsibilities: Carry out the responsibilities listed in the Faculty Manual; Develop praxis based Field Education programs and resources that call for critical theological reflection, contextual analysis, leadership assessment/evaluation and accountability to communities; Cultivate field education mentors and sites; Teach theory and practice of mentoring to field mentors and field based communities (9 to 11 seminars per year); Oversee recruitment and teaching of Field Education adjunct faculty; Supervise Associate Field Education Director and staff; Develop and oversee Field Education budget; Advise M.Div. students in areas of vocational/field education; Attend monthly GTU FE Directors meetings/coordination of GTU FE events; Serve as consultant and mediator for sites, mentors and students when necessary; Consult with the faculty on the development of the Senior Integrative Seminar and the D.Min. seminar. Earned doctorate (Ph.D. in Practical Theology or an allied field, Th.D., Ed.D.) required. Interested parties should contact: Dr. Lynn Rhoades, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC— Assistant/Associate Professor in Youth Ministry. Pfeiffer University seeks a full-time qualified Assistant or Associate Professor in Youth Ministry to teach courses in youth ministry and religion at both the undergraduate and master's level, beginning August 2009. Minimum qualifications include an earned doctoral/terminal degree from an accredited university (ABD candidates will be considered). As a part of the Department of Christian Vocations, the ideal candidate will demonstrate creative teaching methodologies, work collaboratively in a team environment within the School of Religion and the greater university, have experience leading youth in local congregations and/or other youth venues, and advise and mentor students to become servant leaders with a passion for youth and their families. Pfeiffer University is a private, Liberal Arts University, affiliated with the United Methodist Church, whose mission is to prepare servant leaders for life-long learning. This position will be based on the main campus in Misenheimer, North Carolina, approximately 40 miles northeast of Charlotte, with teaching responsibilities in Charlotte as well. Benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance, a 403b retirement account with matching funds, and tuition benefits at Pfeiffer and other member institutions. Compensation is based upon education and experience. Pfeiffer University is an equal employment opportunity employer, and we encourage those of diverse ethnic background to apply for this position. To apply, you must complete an employment application located on the Human Resources/Job Opportunities site at www.pfeiffer.edu, send a letter of application, CV, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to: Kathy C Odell, SPHR Director of Human Resources, Pfeiffer University, P.O. Box 960, Misenheimer, NC 28109, FAX: 704-463-3012, Kathy.Odell@pfeiffer.edu. Review of all applications will begin October 24, 2008.

Claremont School of Theology, CA— Faculty Position in Religious Education. Claremont School of Theology wishes to welcome to our faculty a creative and productive scholar and teacher in Religious Education. The position is full-time and tenured/ tenure track (rank open.) Successful applicant will be able to: teach

religious education and faith formation at the master's level, prepare students for ministerial vocations, and provide leadership for doctoral program in religious education. We seek a candidate who shares the liberative pedagogical commitments of CST's program in religious education, and is also prepared to contribute his/her own research interests to the program's development.

Responsibilities include teaching and advising in M.Div., M.A.R.E., D. Min., and Ph.D. programs. We seek excellence in teaching and scholarship, collegiality and engagement in the profession, religious communities and society. Opportunity currently exists for joint appointment and teaching of M.A. and Ph.D. students at Claremont Graduate University. A completed Ph.D. and teaching experience is expected. Rank and salary will be determined by qualifications and experience.

CST, a graduate theological school related to the United Methodist Church, is transitioning to a multi-religious university model in which the dialogue between religious traditions and contemporary society will continue to be central. As an ecumenical and inter-religious institution, CST seeks to instill students with the ethical integrity, religious intelligence, and intercultural understanding necessary to become effective as religious, academic, spiritual, and community leaders in an increasingly diverse, multi-religious world. Inter-disciplinary competence and the ability to function effectively and constructively in an inter-religious context is, therefore, expected.

Women and members of ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities are especially encouraged to apply, The position is available July 1, 2009. Evaluation of applications will begin October 15, 2008 and will continue until position is filled. Applicants are requested to send a letter of application, vita, one article or book chapter, one course syllabus or course design, and the contact information of 3-5 references and 3 letters of reference to Dean Susan Nelson, Claremont School of Theology, 1325 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. www.cst.edu CST is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

Fund for Theological Education (FTE), Atlanta, GA— Web, Print, and New Media Communications Editor. The fund for Theological Education (FTE) is a leading advocate for excellence and diversity in Christian ministry and theological scholarship. It supports the next generation of leaders among pastors and scholars, providing fellowships and a network of support for gifted young people from all denominations and racial/ethnic backgrounds. FTE is looking for a talented, enthusiastic professional to serve as editor and project manager with lead responsibility for generating electronic, print and new media communications tools.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Serve as editor and project manager responsible for content and spin-off applications for the Fund's Web site, engaging external resources (designers, programmers, freelance writers) and serving as a key writer as needed. Serve as editor/writer and production manager for a new bi-monthly electronic newsletter. Supervise editing and integration of audio/video tools on Web site. Work with program staff to design and implement marketing communications tools, including brochures, fliers, ads, signage and other materials. Coordinate editorial content, design, production and distribution of one annual print issue of the Fund's newsletter, which serves as an annual report. Consult and assist with other Fund-related Web sites as needed. Advise on messaging and stakeholder strategies. Maintain photo library and make images available to internal and external sources. Supervise photography at conferences and events. Provide back-up assistance with media relations on as-needed basis, including occasional writing, editing or distribution of news releases. Post FTE media coverage on Web site and maintain archival file of print and broadcast coverage. Other duties as assigned by supervisor

QUALIFICATIONS: Commitment to FTE's mission. Bachelor's degree in journalism, communications, new media or related field. Three or more years of professional experience in writing, editing, project management and/or other communication activities. Excellent writing skills, with training and/or experience in journalistic writing. (Writing samples and a writing tests will be requested.) Demonstrated project management skills;

ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously and independently and consistently meet deadlines. Ability to work effectively with vendors and partners. Strategic and working knowledge of Web-based communications and applications. Ability to identify and communicate effectively with a variety of audiences. Excellent computer skills. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel are required, as are skills in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Acrobat Professional. Experience with Constant Contact products a plus. Requires aptitude with digital photo file formats, editing and printing. Photography skills not required but considered a plus.

SALARY: This is a full-time salaried position with benefits.

CONTACT: Send resume and writing samples to Kerr Traubert, FTE Director of Communications via e-mail: ktrauber@thefund.org .