Merrimack College
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations 978-837-5428

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Grant winners for interfaith curriculum development announced

North Andover, MA, July 29, 2013 - The Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations at Merrimack College and The William and Mary Greve Foundation announce the winning proposals for grants to encourage the development of interfaith courses for graduate and undergraduate curricula.

A distinguished jury of faculty peers and interfaith scholars deliberated over many proposals of excellent quality. Four grants will be awarded for the development of interfaith courses in the U.S. and Canada:

Dr. Andrea L. Stanton, University of Denver, Denver, CO, for "Muslim Minorities / Minorities in Muslim Lands"

Assistant Professor of Islam, focusing on twentieth and twenty-first century Islam in the Middle East and beyond. Her research focuses on media and religious identity, and investigates the sometimes conflictual, sometimes cooperative relationships between new technologies and claims to religious authority. Her most recent historical work examines government management of religious broadcasts in Palestine in the 1930s and 1940s, connecting this to a broader trend of Middle Eastern states controlling religious communities' access to radio and television. Her most recent contemporary work examines the emergent phenomenon of "Islamic emoticons," which appear in online Islamic chat forums and websites.

Dr. Peter Ochs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, for "Interfaith Seminar on Religion and Foreign Affairs"

Edgar M Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies. Research interests include Jewish philosophy and theology; comparative Jewish-Christian-Muslim studies; Abrahamic "scriptural reasoning"; rabbinic semiotics; Judaism and science; Postliberal Christian theologies; American philosophy, pragmatism; Charles Peirce's philosophy and recent philosophic theology. Completing book projects on topics like Muslim-Jewish-Christian Dialogues on Scripture and Reason, Philosophy and Jewish Prayer, and Quantum Theory and Theology.

Dr. Nevin Reda (El-Tahry) and Dr. Mark G. Toulouse (principal), Emmanuel College of Victoria University, Toronto, ON, for "Intertwined Texts: Bible and Quran in Dialogue"

Assistant Professor of Muslim Studies. Her research focuses on Islamic history, classical and modern Islamic thought, the Qur'an, Sufism, Shi'ism, Islamic law, women, and ethics. Nevin is an active member in both the Women's Islamic Initiative for Spirituality and Equality, and the Canadian Council of Muslim Women. In 2010, she received the Canadian Council of Muslim Women's Women Who Inspire award, given each year to five Canadian Muslim women who serve as role models for girls and women through their commitment to improving the lives of others, to women's equality, and by their participation in grassroots activism and civic engagement.

The Rev. Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, Ed.D, Ph.D, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont Lincoln University, Claremont, CA, for "Seminar in Interreligious Education"

priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, an educator, historian of religion, and practical theologian. She is currently professor of practical theology and religious education at Claremont School of Theology, and professor of Anglican Studies at Bloy House, the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont. In addition to her work as a teacher, workshop, conference and retreat leader, she is the author of a dozen books and numerous articles, reviews and curricula. During 2010-2011 she was a fellow in the Christian Leadership Initiative, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

The Center will post the completed syllabi, including learning objectives, bibliographies, electronic resources, pedagogies, and assessment methods on our website. These syllabi and related materials will become part of an interactive, open-source curriculum on the Merrimack website to encourage further interfaith learning and teaching.

We wish to thank the Jury:

Dr. Asma Afsaruddin, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Dr. Mark Allman, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA

The Rev. Dr. Diane C. Kessler, Retired Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches

Dr. Yehezkel Landau (Jury Chair), Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT

Dr. Shari Lowin, Stonehill College, Easton, MA

Visit our website at www.merrimack.edu/JCM for more information.

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