

News from the Director

by Richard S. Sarason, PhD

Director, Pines School of Graduate Studies



Dr. Richard S. Sarason

Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends of the Pines School of Graduate Studies,

As I write these words, we are entering our last week of classes before the High Holy Day break. This year we have welcomed to campus four new PhD students—three in Jewish and Christian Studies in the Greco-Roman World and one in History of Biblical

Interpretation—as well as one new MAJS student. They are all off to a good start.

At the end of May, we awarded a PhD to Gregory Snyder; a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies to Sara Yeager; and Master of Philosophy degrees to Eric Barrios, Steven Donnally, Cameron Sapaugh, and Keith Vande Vrede, who are now working on their dissertation proposals. We also awarded a Graduate Medallion to Dr. Ruth Langer, Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Boston College and Associate Director of its Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, and to the Rev. Dr. Paul Wright, President and Professor of Biblical History and Geography at Jerusalem University College/Institute for Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem, in recognition of twenty-five years of distinguished service to the academic world and support of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

May's graduation exercises were the first to be presided over by our new president of HUC-JIR, Dr. Andrew Rehfeld. Dr. Rehfeld's formal inauguration will be held in Cincinnati on October 27. The inauguration weekend will bring together members of our faculty, students, and staff from across the institution, governors, overseers, as well as members of the Cincinnati and national Jewish, civic, and academic communities. We look forward to this major event and, going forward, to working productively with our new president in support of student learning and growth.

Our alumnus-in-residence this March will be Prof. John C. Reeves ('89), Blumenthal Professor of Judaic Studies



2019 HUC-JIR/PSGS Graduation, from left: Dr. Richard Sarason, Director; Rabbi Julie Schwartz, Associate Dean; Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Dean; Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Provost; Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, President; Ms. Joan Pines; Sara Yeager, MAJS; Steven Donnally, MPhil; Eric Barrios, MPhil; Keith Vande Vrede, MPhil; Gregory Snyder, PhD.

and Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, whose research agenda has revolved around the study of the religions practiced in the Mediterranean world, the Near East, and Iran from roughly 600 BCE through the Middle Ages.

We are seeing some personnel changes in the Pines School of Graduate Studies this year. Profs. Michael Cook and David Sperling retired at the end of this past academic year, and Prof. Nili Fox will be retiring at the end of the current academic year. We are delighted that Dr. Daniel Fisher will be joining our faculty in January. Dr. Fisher received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and his MA in Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies from Vanderbilt University. His broad research interests include Biblical Hebrew language and literature, historiography in the Hebrew Bible, reception history, history of Jewish biblical interpretation, social memory studies, material culture studies, as well as religious and literary traditions of the ancient Near East. We believe he is poised to make a significant contribution to our graduate programs as well as to our rabbinical school.

We will be running our Summer in Israel program again this summer (2020). It will feature a month's work at HUC-JIR's dig at Tel Dan, as well as time on our Jerusalem campus learning about Israel from our Jerusalem faculty.

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Prof. Jason Kalman will go over to Israel with our students this year and run the Jerusalem part of the program.

We look forward to greeting many of you at our annual alumni luncheon at the joint meeting of the American Academy of Religion-Society of Biblical Literature (AAR-SBL) in San Diego in November. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, November 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Room 7B of the San Diego Convention Center. Additionally, our alumni association will sponsor a dinner at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). See the complete details on the back page of this newsletter.

Two of our dissertation students are also working for the College-Institute this year in recruitment and admissions and alumni relations. Rabbi Aryeh Ballaban is now Recruitment and Leadership Development Associate in Cincinnati of the National Office of Recruitment and Admissions. In that capacity, he is working closely with the Pines School of Graduate Studies to promote our programs. You will shortly be receiving recruitment mailings from us. Please keep an eye out for promising students even in their early years with you—they can be contacted by us and cultivated as they grow and mature. Chelsea Simon is our new Alumni Program Manager, working out of New York. She, too, will have reason to contact you in the future.

Finally, I cannot overstate the significance of your support—both financial and academic—to the work of the Pines School of Graduate Studies. So many of our applicants each year have been sent to us, either directly or indirectly, by you. They are your students and readers of your publications. You are our pipeline—keep up the good work! Your willingness to mentor our students in so many ways is inestimable. Your annual contributions to the PSGS Scholarship Fund allow us to support our PhD students at reasonable levels. We literally cannot do our work without you. So please, keep up your support—and keep in touch!

At this season of beginnings, we wish you all a sweet, productive, and fulfilling year.

At the Start of a New Year

by Steven L. Donnally

President, Graduate Student Association



Steven L. Donnally

Shanah tovah! The High Holy Day break has arrived. As rabbinical students head to their pulpits, many graduate students head to their desks. While there are opportunities to return home, visit family, and attend services, the slower pace afforded by the break allows us to take a breath and get ahead on reading and projects. It is cause for great joy indeed.

This year the Cincinnati campus hosted its first-ever back-to-school Shabbaton. With events spread over the length of Shabbat, it provided an opportunity at the end of Orientation Week for the entire campus to come back together as a community. We celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat followed by the annual barbecue. The next day, morning services that included several graduate students were followed by a Beit Midrash, lunch, fun, and discussing communal aspirations. The events concluded with S'udah Sh'lshit and Havdalah.

With Orientation, we were pleased to welcome into the Graduate Student Association four new PhD students and one MAJS student. Among the doctoral students, David Johnson, Matthew Liethen, and Joel Wildermuth are studying in the Jewish and Christian Studies in the Greco-Roman Period program. Christopher Slane is working in the History of Biblical Interpretation. Gretchen Johnson has joined us for the MAJS in Jewish Studies program.

The GSA is currently active in a number of areas. In addition to advocating for student interests and concerns, we are assisting students as they move through their courses of study. We will be organizing a session led by more advanced students on how to successfully navigate comprehensive exams. We have done this for the last two years, and it has proven popular because of the demanding nature of the exams. The GSA is also exploring a joint conference with some of the students at the University of Cincinnati.

In addition, our PSGS students are regularly active in regional and national conferences.

We look forward to a wonderful and productive new year!



2019 Convocation, from left: David Johnson (PhD student); Joel Wildermuth (PhD student); Christopher Slane (PhD student); Gretchen Johnson (MAJS student); Matthew Liethen (PhD student)

A Message from the Alumni Association

by Hélène M. Dallaire, PhD, President, PSGS Alumni Association



Dr. Hélène M. Dallaire

Greetings, PSGS Alumni! This past year has been exciting with the arrival of HUC-JIR's new president, Dr. Andrew Rehfeld. In April, the Alumni Council (Chairs of Alumni Associations) met with President Rehfeld, Provost Andrea Weiss, and members of the Eastern Region Board of Overseers on the New York campus of HUC-JIR. During our luncheon with the Board of Overseers and in a later meeting with President Rehfeld and Provost Weiss, the chairs of the Alumni Associations discussed the following questions. I provide here summary excerpts of the responses from PSGS alumni.

- *What are the most important things from your student experience at HUC-JIR that stay with you today?*

“As a graduate student, one seeks to dive deeply as a specialist into the chosen field of study. The diverse learning environment at HUC-JIR—in terms of coursework and students—forces us to be also generalists in the fields of biblical and religious studies. My time in the PSGS has made me more able to teach the ‘Introduction to . . .’ courses, as well as the advanced, more technical subjects and specialties. The legacy of ‘broad intellectual learning’ that HUC-JIR/PSGS continues is the most lasting benefit to me as a scholar.”

Alumni also mentioned the lasting friendships formed and the many doors opened to a higher level of scholarship and teaching, along with forging a connection to the Jewish world—scholars, rabbis, community members.

- *What keeps you connected and drives you toward alumni work?*

“My appreciation for the work of HUC-JIR/PSGS and its legacy in my life [leads me to be] intentional in building a bridge between the school and its graduates.”

“I work to benefit my *almae matres* so that the students who come after me may have the same (or better) experiences and learning environment.”

- *What about the College-Institute inspires/inspired you?*

“Great faculty [and] generous financial assistance toward Christian scholars is a real blessing and benefit.”

“My friendships, built in years of studying together, continue to enrich my life both personally and professionally. I am inspired by HUC-JIR as a source of warm memories and rich collegiality.”

- *Where would you like to see the work of the Alumni Leadership Council and Alumni Associations go?*

“Take leadership in student recruitment. We cannot rest on our laurels and expect people to remember HUC-JIR/PSGS as a

top-tier school. We must be out there making our presence and prestige visible and maintain awareness of what PSGS can do for our students and our fields of study.”

- *What could the College-Institute do to improve alumni engagement?*

“While ‘meet-ups’ at national meetings are valuable, smaller regional events or simply by geographical clusters would also be valuable.”

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the PSGS Alumni Association met several times by phone and online to discuss upcoming projects. Some of these include: (1) developing a PSGS alumni webpage with alumni news; (2) gathering a list of PSGS alumni publications to be used as textbooks and articles in our courses; (3) developing a bank of CVs from PSGS alumni to be consulted in faculty searches; (4) raising funds for the PSGS Alumni Association.

Annual Academic Conferences in San Diego

Scholarly conferences provide wonderful opportunities for PSGS alumni to meet, reminisce, celebrate, eat, laugh, and network. This year, students and alumni of the PSGS will have opportunities to meet in San Diego at the ETS, IBR, AAR-SBL, and/or ASOR conferences. In addition to the PSGS alumni luncheon at SBL (see back page for details), the Alumni Association invites you to a dinner at the ETS conference, on Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor House Restaurant, 831 W. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. Please let me know (helene.dallaire@denverseminary.edu) before Wednesday, November 13, if you plan to attend this dinner. (The cost of this dinner is not covered by the Alumni Association.)

Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember Dr. Ken Way ('06) who was diagnosed on May 24 with AML (acute myeloid leukemia). Ken spent most of the summer in the hospital undergoing grueling treatments. He is scheduled to receive a stem cell transplant in mid-October. Fortunately, his brother is a perfect match and was able to provide millions of stem cells for the transplant. You can follow Ken's journey at a Caring Bridge web page (caringbridge.org/visit/kenway/journal). Please keep him and his entire family in your thoughts and prayers.

Hope to see many of you in San Diego next month!

Presentations, Publications & Other News

PRESENTATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting

Jeffrey L. Cooley | “Exegeting Enoch: Rewriting a Mesopotamian Figure in the Yahwist Narrative”

Angela R. Erisman | “Caleb and the Territory of Judah”; Panelist, Pentateuch Text Workshop: The Plagues; Co-chair, Pentateuch Steering Committee

Kristine Henriksen Garroway | “Recovering Female Interpreters of the Bible: Biblical Archaeologists”; “Conclusions: The Childist Criticism of the Future”

Michael Graves | “Pronoun Shifts in the Hebrew Bible and Qur’an: Literary, Source-Critical, and Theological Accounts”; “The Gallican Psalter and the Hebrew: How the Original Can Influence a Secondary Version”

Andrew W. Higginbotham | “When Fire Descended from Heaven ... after That Time Their Knowledge Became Unclear”; “Teaching the Merkavah as Dangerous Rivalry”

David L. Palmer | “The Prominence of Piety in Josephus’ Summary of the Law in *Against Apion* Book 2”

Vadim Putzu | Respondent for panel on “Drinking and Intoxication in Ancient and Late Antique Meals”

American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting

Kristine Henriksen Garroway | “Crafting Children”; “Thou Shalt (Not) Eat Thy Children: Cannibalism in the Hebrew Bible and Surrounding Cultures”

Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting

Hassell Bullock | “The Psalter and Intertextuality: Voices Once Heard and Still Speaking”

Hélène Dallaire | “Teaching the Rhetoric of Emotions in Biblical Hebrew”; Moderator, session on Messianic Jewish Studies: History, Theology & Praxis

Lee Fields | Moderator, Applied Linguistics and Biblical Languages Consultation: “Latest Developments in Biblical Languages Teaching”; Co-chair, Consultation’s Steering Committee

International Organization for the Study of Old Testament (IOSOT) Annual Meeting

Nancy L. Erickson | “Shaving It All Off: Prescriptions in Numbers 8”

Free University (Berlin)

Bill T. Arnold | “A Centennial Review of *Die Große Täuschung*: Friedrich Delitzsch’s Final Reflections on the Babel-Bibel Controversy” at “The Babel-Bibel-Controversy and the Wissenschaft des Judentums” conference, jointly sponsored by the Moses Mendelssohn Center (Potsdam), the Einstein Centre Chronoi, and the Institute of Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the Free University (Berlin)

Boston College

Angela R. Erisman | “The King is Dead, Long Live the King! The Role of Mesopotamian Literature in the Formation of the Torah,” at “The Spirit of Scholarship: Biblical and Mesopotamian Studies in the Roman Catholic Academy” conference

PUBLICATIONS

Jeffrey L. Cooley | “Judean Onomastic Hermeneutics in Context,” *Harvard Theological Review* 112 (2019): 184-208.

Angela R. Erisman | “The Settlement of Reuben and Gad: A Rhetorical Case for Transjordan as Part of the Promised Land,” *TheTorah.com* (August 1, 2019), <https://thetorah.com/the-settlement-of-reuben-and-gad-a-rhetorical-case-for-transjordan-as-part-of-the-promised-land/>.

—“Navigating the Torah’s Rough Terrain into the Land,” *TheTorah.com* (July 15, 2019), <https://thetorah.com/navigating-the-torahs-rough-narrative-terrain-into-the-land/>.

Kristine Henriksen Garroway | *Growing Up in Ancient Israel: Children in Material Culture and Biblical Texts*. *Archaeology and Biblical Studies* 23. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2018.

—“Children in the Ancient World: A Methodology,” in *Handbook to Children and Childhood in the Biblical World*. Edited by Julie Faith Parker and Sharon Betsworth. London: T&T Clark, 2019. Pg 67-90.

—“Failure to Marry: Girling Gone Wrong,” in *Children in the Bible and the Ancient World: Comparative and Historical Methods in Reading Ancient Children*. Edited by Shawn W. Flynn. *Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East*. New York: Routledge, 2019. Pp. 59-74.

—“Enculturating Children in 8th Century Judah,” in *8th Century Judah: An Introduction*. Edited by Jacob Wright and Zev Farber. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2019. Pg. 415-30.

Jordan W. Jones | *She Opens Her Hand to the Poor: Gestures and Social Values in Proverbs*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2019.

—“A Review of *Lift Up Your Heads: Nonverbal Communication and Related Body Imagery in the Bible*” by John A. Davies, *Journal of Theological Studies* 70:2 (October, 2019). Forthcoming in print.

John Kampen | *Matthew within Sectarian Judaism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.

Tepei Kato | “Ancient Chronography on Abraham’s Departure from Haran: Qumran, Josephus, Rabbinic Literature, and Jerome,” *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 50 (2019): 178-96.

—“Hebrews, Apostles, and Christ: Three Authorities of Jerome’s *Hebraica Veritas*,” *Vigiliae Christianae* 73 (2019): 420-39.

Michael Lyons | “Requests for Food-provisions in RS 94.2523 and RS 94.2530: Reconsidering PAD.MEŠ as Metal Ingots,” *Altorientalische Forschungen* 46 (2019):15–21.

John H. Walton and J. Harvey Walton | *Lost World of the Torah: Law as Covenant and Wisdom in Ancient Context*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019.

—*Demons and Spirits in Biblical Theology: Reading the Biblical Text in Its Cultural and Literary Context*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2019.

Jonathan S. Greer, John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton, eds. | *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018. Other HUC alumni contributors included Paul Wright, Seymour Gitin, and Richard Hess, and an article was also contributed by Nili Fox.

NEWS

Jeffrey L. Cooley organized a conference, “The Spirit of Scholarship: Biblical and Mesopotamian Studies in the Roman Catholic Academy,” together with colleagues David Vanderhooft and Michael Simone, SJ, at Boston College.

Nancy Erickson’s title has changed to Executive Editor of Biblical Languages, Textbooks, Reference Tools, and Seedbed Resources for Zondervan Academic.

Rebecca Harris was recently hired as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Vadim Putzu co-led a Study Away program on the History, Religions, and Politics of Israel, which took a group of fifteen Missouri State University students all around Israel for ten days. He continues to chair the Study of Judaism section of the AAR–Midwest Region, where PSGS students are encouraged to present papers.

Chelsea Simon, ABD in the Pines School of Graduate Studies, is the new Alumni Program Manager at HUC-JIR. Contact her at csimon@huc.edu to stay connected to your alma mater.

Dr. Gary P. Zola received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Thomas More University.

BIRTHS

Teppe and Rena Kato announce the birth of their son, Saku Isaac, on May 27, 2019.

Cameron and Kellie Sapaugh announce the birth of their son, Ambrose David, on July 1, 2019.

Your Support is Needed

Alumni support is *vital* for funding student fellowships. Our spendable annual endowment income does not fully cover the aggregate cost of tuition that the Pines School of Graduate Studies pays to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion each year. Additionally, student stipends are funded entirely out of annual fundraising and contributions. Our goal is to accept more qualified PhD students to the PSGS, but without generous alumni support the number of students that we can fund remains limited.

Please consider a gift specifically designated to the PSGS Scholarship Fund, which supports PhD student stipends. Help us to invest in our current and future students, just as we have invested in each one of you. Every dollar that you contribute goes *directly* to student financial support. You can donate by mail (your check must specify that this is a gift to the PSGS Scholarship Fund) or online at <https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad>.

Graduate student tuition and candidacy fees are supported by endowed scholarship funds that are earmarked for this purpose. A new PSGS scholarship endowment fund has been established in honor of PSGS director Richard Sarason, and we are making good progress in raising its principal. If you wish additionally to contribute to this fund, you should make out a separate check and specify the Sarason Endowed Scholarship Fund on the memo line. You can also contribute to this fund online at <https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad>, but you *must specify* the Sarason Endowed Scholarship Fund in the comment box. For questions, contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513 487-3230 or gradschool@huc.edu.

We need your support!

Annual SBL and ETS Meetings Opportunities to Connect!



The Pines School of Graduate Studies alumni luncheon held each year at the annual joint meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) will be on Sunday, November 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the San Diego Convention Center (Room 7B), 111 West Harbor Drive (San Diego, CA 92101). We look forward to sharing a meal with students, faculty, alumni, colleagues, and friends.

HUC-JIR students and faculty are invited as our guests. Alumni who have supported the PSGS Scholarship Fund with a contribution in 2019 are also invited in appreciation as guests of the College-Institute. For others, the cost is \$57 per person.

For more details and to make a reservation, contact Shelly Goldfarb, PSGS Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or gradschool@huc.edu. (The reservation deadline has been extended to November 7. Checks are payable to HUC-JIR Pines School of Graduate Studies, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220.) To donate to the PSGS, go to <https://donate.huc.edu/cngrad>.

In addition to the SBL luncheon, there will be a dinner on Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor House, 831 West Harbor Drive (San Diego, CA 92101) for those attending the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS).

Make your reservations for this dinner by contacting Dr. Hélène Dallaire at helene.dallaire@denverseminary.edu by November 13. (The cost of this dinner is not covered by the Alumni Association.)

Both the luncheon at the SBL meeting and the dinner at the ETS meeting are opportunities to establish or re-establish connections. Make plans now to attend both!

