

John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

Annual Report 2014-15



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS



Washington University in St. Louis

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Washington University in St. Louis



Mission The Center serves as an open venue for fostering rigorous scholarship and informing broad academic and public communities about the intersections of religion and U.S. politics.

**John C. Danforth Center
on Religion and Politics**

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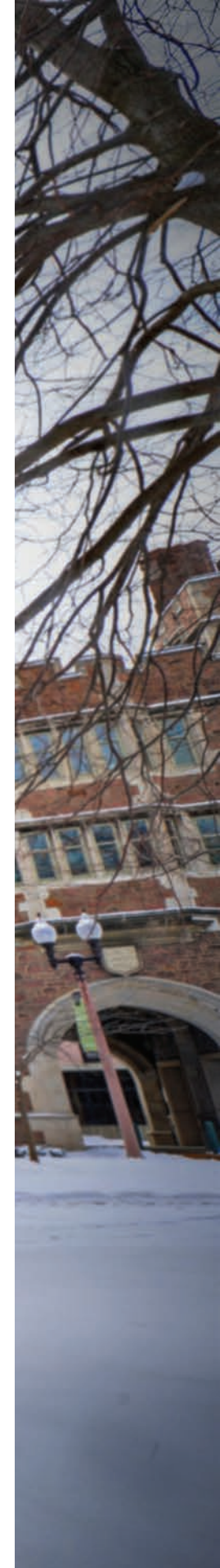
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Founding

“Few issues are more critical to the well being of a democracy than how religious beliefs—or the denial of such beliefs—coexist with civic virtue and of how the ‘truths’ of the one are made compatible with the toleration and good will required by the other.”

Senator John C. Danforth



Letter from the Chancellor



Five years ago, the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics was established at Washington University as an educational center that would focus on the interplay of religion and politics--two important subjects that stimulate debate and shape public opinion in the United States. Named in honor of former Missouri Senator John C. Danforth, the Center provides an ideologically neutral setting that encourages rigorous scholarship and respectful discussion on relevant issues.

Much has been accomplished at the Center this past year: new faculty were recruited; postdoctoral and dissertation completion fellowships were developed; and curriculum offerings to support a minor in Religion and Politics were instituted. Mark Valeri joined the Center and was installed as the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics, and Laurie Maffly-Kipp was installed as the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor. Lerone Martin, formerly a postdoctoral fellow at the Center, was hired as assistant professor. The

fellowship programs continue to thrive, with two postdoctoral fellows and two dissertation completion fellows currently in residence.

The Center reaches out to the community by sponsoring programs that contribute to the public's understanding of local and national issues related to politics and religion. During the 2014-15 academic year, a four-part film series on "Religion & Politics" was offered, and thought-provoking lectures were presented on topics including: religious responses to Ferguson, religious freedom, and U.S. foreign policy. Drawing the largest audience of the year was a conversation program between two former senators—John Danforth and Joseph Lieberman—who discussed the role of religion in America's broken politics. The online journal, *Religion & Politics*, continued to expand its reach and earned another Webby award nomination.

In every year of its existence, the Center has increased its accomplishments as well as its stature. We thank Senator Danforth and the Danforth Foundation for supporting the establishment of the Center. Special thanks to Professor Wayne Fields, the founding director of the Center, and to Professor R. Marie Griffith and her outstanding staff who carry out the mission of the Center every day. Washington University is very proud to be the home of the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, and as you review this annual report, you will know why the Center has become one of our greatest assets.

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

Letter from the Acting Center Director



It has been a pleasure for me to fill in as Acting Director, even as we very much look forward to Marie Griffith's return to the helm next year.

We welcomed two new faculty members to the Center this year. Mark Valeri joined us as the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics, and Lerone Martin was hired as an Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics after a year at the Center as a postdoctoral fellow. Both have made immediate contributions to our teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, and both have also added immensely to the intellectual vitality of our community. In addition to celebrating Mark's installation into the Neaves Distinguished Professorship, we also marked Laurie Maffly-Kipp's installation into the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professorship. All told, a festive year.

We are especially delighted with the success of our fellowship programs. Again this year we have hosted four exceptionally promising scholars, all of whom have enhanced the Center's programming as well as its research agenda. I invite you to read their profiles in this report for an indication of the creative new scholarship the Center is helping to nurture through its fellowships.

Even as we continue to build our undergraduate minor in religion and politics, we have begun to enlarge our role in graduate education as well. We appointed five graduate affiliates for this year from three different fields of study (History, English, and Musicology) and have laid the groundwork for further interdisciplinary collaborations at the Ph.D.-level going forward.

Our online journal, *Religion & Politics*, has continued to soar, attracting a head-turning number of page views, Facebook fans, and Twitter followers. We are

featuring the journal in this year's report, and I invite you to read more about it beginning on page 36.

Crucial to the Center's mission is its public programming. A banner event for us was the public dialogue we held between former senators John C. Danforth and Joe Lieberman about what constructive roles religion might play in fixing America's broken politics. We also hosted major public events on religious responses to Ferguson, the Holocaust and American public memory, as well as religious freedom in international policy debates. We even ventured into a new medium for us, presenting a four-part Religion & Politics Film Series.

We extend our thanks anew to our donors and supporters. We are fortunate, indeed, for the founding gift from the Danforth Foundation, but, as we continue to build the Center, we depend on the generosity of a growing circle of contributors who have joined us in our pursuit of academic excellence, dedicated teaching, and public interchange at the ever-bustling intersections of religion and politics.

Leigh Eric Schmidt
Acting Director



Guiding

“It’s an honor to be here particularly to inaugurate what all of us in the general field of American religious history regard as an exceptional beginning of an effort of a Center that has the capacity to quite simply transform the relationship between religion and politics in the United States.”

Professor Jon Butler, Yale University, on his 2013 visit to the Center.

Faculty Director



R. Marie Griffith

R. Marie Griffith, the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, is currently the director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. She focused on a research leave during the 2014-15 academic year to complete work on her next book, an analysis of sexuality debates in twentieth-century American Christianity titled *Christians, Sex, and Politics: An American History*.

Professor Griffith obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia in Political and Social Thought in 1989. She received both her M.A. and Ph.D. in the study of religion from Harvard University. Upon earning her doctorate in 1995, she was awarded consecutive fellowships at both Princeton University and Northwestern University. In 1999, she joined the faculty at Princeton where she filled several roles. From 1999–2003, she was associate director of Princeton's Center for the Study of Religion. In 2003, she became Associate Professor of Religion and was promoted to Professor in 2005. She was later named the Director for the Program in the Study of Women and Gender. While at Princeton, Griffith was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished

Teaching, along with the Cotsen Fellowship for Distinguished Teaching, in 2008. She returned to her alma mater, Harvard University, in 2009 as the John A. Bartlett Professor in the Divinity School, serving as well on the faculty committee for the History of American Civilization program in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Her first major publication was *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (1997), which examines the practices and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her next book *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity* (2004), explores the history of Christian-influenced attitudes and practices related to embodiment in modern America, culminating in the evangelical diet and fitness movement. These books, along with her three edited volumes and many articles, exhibit Griffith's varied and thoughtful scholarship.

In May 2015, Griffith was appointed to the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Distinguished Lectureship Program.



Faculty



Leigh Eric Schmidt

Leigh Eric Schmidt is the Edward C. Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis. He joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in 2011 and served as the Acting Director for the Center during the 2014-15 academic year.

From 2009 to 2011, he was the Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America at Harvard University, and, from 1995 to 2009, he taught at Princeton University where he was the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion and served as chair of the Department of Religion. He has held research fellowships at Stanford and Princeton and also through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Schmidt earned his undergraduate degree in history and religious studies from the University of California-Riverside in 1983 and his Ph.D. in religion from Princeton in 1987.

Schmidt is the author of numerous books, including *Hearing Things: Religion, Illusion, and*

the American Enlightenment (Harvard University Press, 2000), which won the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Historical Studies and the John Hope Franklin Prize of the American Studies Association. He is also the author of *Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality* (HarperOne, 2005), which appeared in an updated edition from the University of California Press in 2012; *Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays* (Princeton University Press, 1995); and *Holy Fairs: Scottish Communion and American Revivals in the Early Modern Period* (Princeton, 1989), which received the Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History. In addition, Schmidt has served as co-editor with Sally Promey of *American Religious Liberalism* (Indiana University Press, 2012), co-editor with Laurie Maffly-Kipp and Mark Valeri of *Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), and co-author with Edwin Scott Gaustad of *The Religious History of America* (HarperOne, 2002). His next book project, under contract with Princeton University Press, examines how atheists and freethinkers have fared in American public life. Its working title is *Village Atheists: A Cultural History of American Belief*.



Faculty (cont'd)



Darren T. Dochuk

Darren Dochuk joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in 2012 as Associate Professor in the Humanities.

Dochuk earned his B.A. from Simon Fraser University and his M.A. from Queen's University in Canada before completing his Ph.D. at University of Notre Dame. Between 2005 and 2012, he taught courses in twentieth century U.S. political and cultural history at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

In 2011, Dochuk published the award winning *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism* (W.W. Norton), which tracks the emergence of evangelical politics from the margins of the Depression-era “Bible Belt” South into the mainstream of California’s “Sunbelt” society. Dochuk also co-edited a collection of essays called *Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place, and Region* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011) and he has published essays in several edited collections and journals, as well as received extensive research support from a number of organizations, most recently

the American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Philosophical Society, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Canadian government.

Dochuk was invited to teach a June 2014 seminar in China, which drew together thirty-five professors and graduate students from twenty major Chinese universities.

Dochuk is currently working on a book project tentatively titled *Anointed With Oil: God and Black Gold in America's Century*. It employs grassroots sources, church and corporate archives, and the personal records of powerful industrialists, wildcatters, and oil patch citizens to chart evangelical Protestantism’s longstanding (and politically significant) relationship with the petroleum industry. He is also involved in a number of collaborative initiatives, including a symposium and collection of essays that examine religion during Barack Obama’s presidency.



Laurie Maffly-Kipp

Laurie Maffly-Kipp joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in July 2013, and was named the inaugural holder of the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professorship in October 2014.

Maffly-Kipp’s research and teaching focus on African American religions, Mormonism, and U.S. religion in a global context. Her publications include *Religion and Society in Frontier California* (Yale University Press, 1994), where she explored the nature of Protestant spiritual practices in Gold Rush California; articles on Mormon-Protestant conflicts in the Pacific Islands, African Americans in Haiti and Africa, and Protestant outreach to Chinese immigrants in California; a volume of essays entitled *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) with Leigh Schmidt and Mark Valeri; and a co-edited collection of essays about Mormonism in the Pacific World, *Proclamation to the People: Nineteenth-Century Mormonism and the Pacific Basin Frontier*, (University of Utah Press, 2008). Most recently she authored *Setting Down the Sacred Past: African-American Race Histories*

(Harvard University Press, 2010); *American Scriptures*, a Penguin Classics anthology of sacred texts (Penguin, 2010); and *Women's Work*, a co-edited collection of writings by African American women historians (Oxford University Press, 2010). Currently she is working on a survey of Mormonism in American life that will be published by Basic Books.

Prior to coming to the Danforth Center, Maffly-Kipp taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Religious Studies and American Studies for twenty-four years. She earned her B.A. from Amherst College in English and Religion *summa cum laude* and completed the Ph.D. in American History at Yale University with distinction (1990). She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including a grant for a collaborative project on the History of Christian Practice from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., fellowships at the National Humanities Center, and an NEH Fellowship for University Professors. Her work in African American religion was recently honored with the James W.C. Pennington Award from the University of Heidelberg (2014). Maffly-Kipp will serve as the president of the Mormon History Association in 2015-16, and is a past president of the American Society of Church History.



Faculty (cont'd)



Lerone A. Martin

Lerone A. Martin joined the faculty of the Center as an Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics in 2014, after a one-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Center. In the 2014-15 academic year he taught courses on Religion and the Modern Civil Rights Movement, Religion and Politics in the Long 1920s, and co-taught with Professor Maffly-Kipp Readings in African American Religious History.

Martin earned his B.A. from Anderson University in Anderson, IN, and his Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary before completing his Ph.D. at Emory University in 2011. From 2010-2013, he was Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Culture at Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis, MO, where he taught courses in American and African American religious history.

His first book project, *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Making of Modern African American Religion* (New York University Press, 2014), tracks the role of the phonograph in the shaping of American religion, culture, and politics during the first half of the twentieth century.

In support of his research, Martin has received fellowships from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Religion and Theology, The Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, Emory University's Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Fund for Theological Education, and Princeton University's Program (now Center) for African American Studies.

In 2014, he was selected for the Young Scholars in American Religion 2014-2016 cohort as one of the top ten pre-tenure scholars in American religion by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. Martin currently chairs the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Teaching and Learning Committee and serves on the AAR Afro-American Religious History Group as well. In the past, he was an instructor at Georgia's Metro State Prison and has worked as a research consultant for continuing education and recidivism at New York's Sing Sing State Prison. His commentary and writing have appeared in popular media outlets such as CNN, *The Boston Globe*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Religion & Politics*, *Religion Dispatches*, *Charisma*, and National Public Radio.

Currently he is researching the historic relationship between religion and the F.B.I.



Mark Valeri

Mark Valeri joined the faculty in 2014 and was installed as the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics in February 2015.

Valeri's areas of specialization include religion and social thought, especially economics, in America; Reformation theology and the social history of Calvinism; Puritanism; and eighteenth-century American religion.

He came to Washington University from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, where he served as the Ernest Trice Thompson Professor of Church History since 1996. His prior appointment was in the Religious Studies department at Lewis and Clark College.

His latest book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*, (Princeton University Press, 2010), received the 2011 Philip Schaff Prize from the American Society of Church History. It was also shortlisted for the 2011 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Historical Study of Religion and selected as one of *Choice* magazine's Outstanding

Academic Titles for 2010. Previous publications include the co-edited *Global Neighbors: Christian Faith and Moral Obligation in Today's Economy* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008); *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), co-edited with Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp and Leigh E. Schmidt; *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733* (Yale University Press, 1999); and *Law and Providence in Joseph Bellamy's New England: The Origins of the New Divinity in Revolutionary America* (Oxford University Press, 1994), which won the Mackemie Prize from the Presbyterian Historical Society. His publication list is extensive and includes many chapters, journal articles, and essays.

He has received several fellowships, including an Andrew W. Mellon fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies grant, and a Lilly Endowment faculty fellowship. Valeri earned the Ph.D. from Princeton University, his M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Whitworth College. Currently he is working on religious persuasion, evangelicalism, and secularism in the eighteenth century.



Associate Director



Rachel McBride Lindsey

Rachel Lindsey joined the Center as Associate Director in July 2013. In this position, Lindsey directs undergraduate studies, in which she has direct oversight of the Center's curricular developments, the minor in religion and politics, undergraduate advising, and student programming. She also manages the Center's operations and contributes to Center planning.

Lindsey earned the B.A. from Missouri State University in 2006 and the Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2012. She is a cultural historian who has teaching and research interests in politics and practices of representation in American media, legal, and religious histories. She teaches the introductory survey, Religion and Politics in American History, as well as advanced courses and seminars in media, technology, representation, and visual studies of religion in American public life.

Her current book project, *A Communion of Shadows: Religion and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America*, explores the role of photographic beholding in American religious life within the broader contexts of visual technologies and identity politics. Her work approaches photographs as

material artifacts that require attention to their circumstances of production, circulation, and beholding as well as the visual field within the compositional frame. *A Communion of Shadows* is under contract with The University of North Carolina Press and has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, and a Grace May Tilton subvention award for first books in American Studies. Her articles have appeared in *The Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, *The Journal of Southern Religion*, *The Journal of Africana Religions*, and *Religion & Politics*, and she is a contributor to the professional blogs Religion in American History and Material Religions.

Lindsey taught in the religion department at Florida State University before coming to Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Research Affiliate with the Initiative for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion at Yale University and chair of the Material and Sensory Cultures of Religion section of the Midwest American Academy of Religion.



Staff

Debra B. Kennard

Debra Kennard joined the Center in 2011 and currently serves as Communications Specialist, handling multiple communications functions, as well as supporting donor relations and contributing to event management. Since earning her B.A. in journalism at Indiana University, she has worked at an advertising agency and a GE company, and also has enjoyed freelance and community volunteer work.



Sheri Peña

Sheri Peña is the Center's Administrative Coordinator managing financial operations, event coordination, and office administration. Before coming to Washington University, she worked at Tower Grove Park as Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for 16 years. She has broad administrative experience leading front and back office operations including executive support, human resources and payroll coordination, financial processing, and meeting planning.



Tiffany Stanley

Tiffany Stanley is Managing Editor of *Religion & Politics*, the John C. Danforth Center's online journal. She brings a strong background in the journalism and publishing world, as well as in religion and politics. Prior to coming to the Center, she worked for *The New Republic*, *Harvard Magazine*, and Religion News Service. Her articles on religion and politics have appeared in, among other publications, *USA Today*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Christian Century*, and *The Salt Lake Tribune*. She holds a B.A. in journalism and a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, in addition to a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.



Postdoctoral Fellows



Maryam Kashani

Maryam Kashani completed her doctorate in social anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014. Her research and filmmaking are organized around the centrality of visual culture to Muslim everyday life and its critical relation to questions of morality, politics, ethics, and social justice. Her dissertation, “Seekers of Sacred Knowledge: Zaytuna College and the Education of American Muslims,” is based on eighteen months of fieldwork.

As a postdoctoral fellow, she continued development of her dissertation towards publication and offered a course on Islam and Muslims in the United States. She also completed the related film, *That Which Is Coming and Signs of Remarkable History* (2015), which was screened both at Washington University and the Sharjah Biennial 12 in the United Arab Emirates. Next spring she will be co-teaching a course with Dr. Lerone Martin on Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X Shabazz.

Kashani earned her M.F.A. in film/video from the California Institute of the Arts in 2003 and double-majored in film and interdisciplinary field studies as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley.



Ronit Y. Stahl

Ronit Y. Stahl completed her Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 2014. Her research focuses on the interaction between religion and the state in modern America. Stahl’s dissertation, “God, War, and Politics: The American Military Chaplaincy and the Making of a Multireligious Nation,” reveals how the modern American state wielded power over and through religion, transforming the spiritual landscape of American society, as well as using faith to support military and foreign policy goals. Against the backdrop of constitutional separation of church and state, the military intertwined religion and democracy as the ideological center of American values, identities, and empire. This dissertation won the Arthur Fondiler Award for Best Dissertation in History and the Proquest Distinguished Dissertation Award, both from the University of Michigan.

While at the Center, she has taught a class on religion and the constitution in fall 2015 and she will also teach a new class on religious rights and civil rights this academic year. Stahl earned her master’s in social sciences in education from Stanford University and her bachelor’s in English from Williams College.

Dissertation Fellows



Lauren Turek

Lauren Turek is a doctoral candidate in the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia. She specializes in the history of U.S. foreign relations, politics, and twentieth-century American evangelicalism. Her dissertation entitled “To Bring the Good News to All Nations: Evangelicals, Human Rights, and U.S. Foreign Policy, 1969-1994,” explores the complex and deeply significant ways in which religion and religious groups interacted with foreign policy, political culture, and the international human rights regime to shape America’s role in the modern world. Turek has received grants to support her research from The American Historical Association and The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, among others. In the fall of 2015, she will begin as assistant professor of history at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX.

Turek will complete her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia this August. She earned her M.A. in history from the University of Virginia and her M.A. in museum studies from New York University. She earned her bachelor’s in history at Vassar College.



Stephanie Wolfe

Stephanie Wolfe is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at Northwestern University, where she specializes in the field of American Religion. Her dissertation, entitled “Urban Renewal: The Evangelical Encounter with Race, Poverty and Inequality in Chicago,” utilizes ethnographic and historical methods to examine evangelical conceptions of urban America, social justice, and racial identity throughout the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Wolfe’s broader interests include American religious history, particularly American evangelicalism; urban studies; and the intersections among religion, politics, race, and capitalism in American public life.

Wolfe earned her M.A. in religious studies at Northwestern University and her bachelor’s in religion from Columbia University. She serves as an Assistant Curator at the Newberry Library in Chicago for an interactive web-based exhibit entitled *Faith in the City: Chicago’s Religious Diversity in the Era of the World’s Fair*. Wolfe plans to defend her dissertation in July of 2015.

Faculty Affiliates



John Inazu

John Inazu is an associate professor of law and political science at Washington University in St. Louis. His scholarship focuses on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related questions of legal and political theory. His first book, *Liberty's Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly* (Yale University Press, 2012), seeks to recover the role of assembly in American political and constitutional thought. He is the special editor of a volume on law and theology published in *Law and Contemporary Problems*. In 2014, he was named the law school's David M. Becker Professor of the Year. In 2014-2015, he was at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia as a Visiting Faculty Fellow. Prior to joining the law faculty, Professor Inazu was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School of Law and a Royster Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He clerked for Judge Roger L. Wollman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and served for four years as an associate general counsel with the Department of the Air Force at the Pentagon.



Abram Van Engen

Abram C. Van Engen is assistant professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis. He specializes in early American religion, literature, and culture, focusing on Puritanism, sentimentalism, and the history of emotion. His first book, *Sympathetic Puritans: Calvinist Fellow Feeling in Early New England*, (Oxford University Press, 2015), argues that a Calvinist theology of sympathy shaped early New England. Building on this first book, his second project draws religion and politics together in a biography of the 1630 Puritan sermon, *A Model of Christian Charity*—the sermon modern politicians cite when they refer to America as a “city on a hill.” That research has led to a class for the Danforth Center studying the history of American exceptionalism from Winthrop to Obama. His work has appeared in numerous journals and has been supported by several fellowships and awards, including in 2014, the Whitehill Prize in Early American History from *The New England Quarterly*.

Center Founders



John C. Danforth

John C. Danforth developed the initial vision for the Center that is named for him. Danforth served in the United States Senate representing the state of Missouri as a member of the Republican Party from 1976 to 1995. His areas of interest included trade, tax policy and civil rights. In 1999, Danforth was appointed Special Counsel to investigate the federal raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. Senator Danforth was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in July 2004 by President George W. Bush. An ordained Episcopal priest, Senator Danforth presided over the funerals of President Ronald Reagan, Katharine Graham, and Senator John Chafee. He also authored the books *Resurrection* (Viking Press, 1994) and *Faith and Politics: How the “Moral Values” Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together* (Viking, 2006). His new book, *The Relevance of Religion*, will be published in 2015. Senator Danforth graduated with honors from Princeton University and then earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Yale Law School.



Wayne Fields

Wayne Fields, the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor of English, is the Center's founding director. He joined the English department at Washington University as an instructor in 1968, and he has since served as chair of the Department of English, dean of University College, and director of that same college's Master of Liberal Arts program. He helped establish the American Culture Studies program in 1996, and functioned as its Director until 2008, and he chaired the Democracy and Citizenship Initiative from 2008-2010. Fields is an accomplished author and frequent commentator on the subject of political rhetoric. His writings include *Union of Words: A History of Presidential Eloquence* (The Free Press, 1996); *What the River Knows: An Angler in Midstream* (University of Chicago Press, 1990); *The Past Leads a Life of Its Own* (Poseidon Press, 1992); and several essays. Fields also has served as a radio and television commentator and magazine columnist. He has received various teaching awards and fellowships.

National Advisory Board

Both as a group and as individuals, the National Advisory Board offers ongoing counsel and support to the Center. The board involves a group of distinguished representatives from the fields of American politics, religion, law, education, and journalism.



Jon Meacham (Chair)
Executive Editor and Executive Vice President, Random House



Thomas O. Bean
Partner, Verrill Dana LLP



David L. Boren
Former United States Senator from Oklahoma; President, University of Oklahoma



David Brooks
Author and opinion writer, *The New York Times*



John C. Danforth
Former United States Senator from Missouri; Partner, Dowd Bennett LLP



Gerald Early
Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Washington University in St. Louis



Jean Bethke Elshtain
The University of Chicago
In Memoriam 1941-2013



Michael Gerson
Journalist and opinion writer, *The Washington Post*



Sarah Barringer Gordon
Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania



Joel C. Hunter
Senior Pastor, Northland, A Church Distributed



Charles R. Marsh
Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia



John T. McGreevy
I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame



Eboo Patel
Founder and President, Interfaith Youth Core



Barbara D. Savage
Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania



Barbara A. Schaal
Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis



Alan K. Simpson
Former United States Senator from Wyoming; Co-Chairman, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform



Mary Stillman
Founder and Executive Director, Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls



Holden Thorp
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis



Krista Tippett
Host and Producer, "On Being" radio program and website



William G. Tragos
Co-Founder and Former Chairman, TBWA Worldwide



Jonathan L. Walton
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church, Harvard University

National Advisory Board

Jon Meacham, chairman of the group, convened the second meeting of the National Advisory Board on May 13, 2015. Fourteen board members participated with Center faculty in a productive discussion encompassing Center goals and strategy, academic programming, and public engagement.



Washington University

Executive Committee

The Center has developed relationships with members of the Washington University faculty representing various departments and programs, including History, Religious Studies, American Culture Studies, Law, and Political Science, as well as Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These individuals agreed to serve as a resource to Center leadership in the matters of programming and curricular vision. This group also helps demonstrate and extend the Center’s commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship.



Iver Bernstein
Professor of History and Director of the American Culture Studies Program

Bernstein is a professor of history, of African and African American studies, and of American culture studies. He is currently director of the American Culture Studies Program at Washington University. He researches nineteenth-century United States history and is interested in the processes by which the political regime was invented, reinvented, ruptured, and recreated during this time. He earned his Ph.D., M.Phil., and M.A. from Yale University, and his B.A. from Brown University.



Daniel Bornstein
Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies, Department of History

Bornstein is a professor of history and of religious studies, and is also currently serving as the Study Abroad Advisor for the Department of History. He focuses his research on the religious culture of medieval and Renaissance Italy, with a special interest in popular devotion and the role of religion in daily life. He earned both his Ph.D. and his M.A. from University of Chicago, and his B.A. from Oberlin College.



Randall Calvert
Thomas F. Eagleton University Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Calvert is a professor in the Political Science Department at Washington University. His research interests include formal political theory, American political institutions, and Constitutional politics. He earned his Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology and his B.S. from University of Kentucky.



Marion G. Crain
Vice Provost and Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law

Crain is a professor of law and in addition to serving as a Vice Provost for the university, is currently Director of the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work & Social Capital. Her research focuses on the relationship between gender, work, and class status, with a particular emphasis on collective action and labor relations. She earned her J.D. from University of California Los Angeles and her B.S. from Cornell University.



Adrienne Davis
Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law

Davis is a professor of law and currently serves as a Vice Provost of the university with a focus on coordinating diversity and faculty leadership. Her research focuses on private law areas such as contracts and trusts and estates, as well as legal theory and history, including slavery, feminist legal theory, and theories of justice and reparations. She earned her J.D. from Yale Law School and her B.A. from Yale College.



John Inazu
Associate Professor of Law and Political Science

Inazu is an associate professor of law and political science at the university. His scholarship focuses on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related questions of legal and political theory. He earned his Ph.D. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and both his J.D. and B.S.E. from Duke University.



Andrew Rehfeld
President and CEO, Jewish Federation of St. Louis and Associate Professor of Political Science

Rehfeld is an associate professor of political science and law (by courtesy) at the university. In 2012, he was selected to lead the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. His research focuses on contemporary democratic theory with related interests in the history of political thought and the philosophy of the social sciences. He earned his Ph.D. and master’s of public policy from University of Chicago, and his B.A. from University of Rochester.



Rebecca Wanzo
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Associate Director, Center for the Humanities

Wanzo is an associate professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies. Her teaching and research interests include feminist theory, African American literature and culture, critical race theory, feminist media studies, graphic storytelling, and cultural studies. She earned her Ph.D. at Duke University and her B.A. from Miami University.



Connecting

“The Center is a dynamic place where students are exposed to a variety of perspectives and disciplines where they can really explore the intersection of religion and politics in an academic environment. I think the role it plays on campus – allowing students to look at religion and politics, not as separate, controversial issues, but as overlapping elements in American history – is unique, and increasingly necessary.”

Lainey Schmidt, WUSTL
Class of 2015



Academics

Undergraduate

The Center’s undergraduate program offerings continue to grow, including a minor in religion and politics, which offers an interdisciplinary approach to draw on and contribute to relevant offerings from other academic programs on campus including Religious Studies, History, American Culture Studies, and African American Studies, among others. Students are given the analytical tools to examine with a broad, historical context current events such as church-state relations, gender and sexuality debates, and electoral politics.



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Courses offered in the 2014-15 academic year:

- Religion and Politics in American History (Lindsey)
- City on a Hill: The Concept and Culture of American Exceptionalism (Van Engen)
- Faith and Politics in America’s Cold War (Dochuk)
- Religion and the Modern Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968 (Martin)
- Topics in Religion and Politics: Religion and the Constitution in the U.S. (Stahl)
- Religion and the State: Global Mission, Global Empire (Maffly-Kipp)
- Religion and Politics in 20th Century U.S. History (Dochuk)
- Religion and the Origins of Capitalism (Valeri)
- Religion and Politics in the Long 1920s (Martin)
- Topics in Religion and Politics: Islam and Muslims in the United States (Kashani)
- Readings in African American Religious History (Maffly-Kipp, Martin)
- Christian Nation, Secular Republic (Schmidt, Valeri)



Academics

Graduate

Center connections to graduate education at Washington University have already proven substantial. By the end of the 2014-15 academic year, the Center had offered formal affiliate status to eight Washington University graduate students representing the departments of Political Science, History, English, Musicology, and the Brown School of Social Work.

The Center holds a colloquium twice a month to foster discussion of new scholarship in the broad domain of American Religion, Politics, and Culture. Focusing on student and faculty research projects, it has become a lively gathering place for doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, advanced undergraduates, and allied faculty. Our intellectual community includes participants from Saint Louis University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, as well as those from a wide variety of disciplines at Washington University.



Public Events

We again offered a robust program of events to explore a variety of issues from different viewpoints. Our invited speakers represent the best in their areas of specialty and help inform our collective understanding of the matters significant to contemporary life in the U.S., as well as their historical footings. We strive for a balanced approach across our schedule whether considering the role of religion in America's "broken politics" with two former senators, or learning more about the responses of different religious leaders in the community of Ferguson, Missouri, during the fall of 2014. In addition to lectures and discussion panels, we offered a film series this academic year that showcased four documentaries, each with a unique depiction of how race, religion, and community can shape identity in public life and private practice. We are pleased to record most public events and share them via our website, rap.wustl.edu.



Public Events

September 4, 2014

Open House & Faculty Reception

September 9, 2014

Religion & Politics Film Series: *Divided We Fall*

Valarie Kaur and Sharat Raju

October 23, 2014

Why Liberals Win: America's Culture Wars from the Election of 1800 to Same-Sex Marriage

Stephen Prothero, Boston University

November 6, 2014

Religion and Politics in 21st Century America

A conference at SMU with keynote lecture by
Sen. Danforth, co-sponsored by the Center

November 11, 2014

Religion & Politics Film Series: *The Tailenders*

Adele Horne

December 9, 2014

Senators John C. Danforth and Joe Lieberman in Conversation: The Role of Religion in America's Broken Politics

Moderated by R. Marie Griffith

February 3, 2015

Religion & Politics Film Series: *IQRA' is READ*

Maryam Kashani



February 5, 2015

Religious Responses to Ferguson

Rev. Traci Blackmon, Fr. Arthur Cavitt, Rabbi
Susan Talve, Mr. Elhadj Wann; organized by
Stephanie Wolfe

February 17, 2015

In a Communion of Shadows: Religion, Race, and Nation in Nineteenth-Century American Photography

Rachel Lindsey, Washington University,
with response by Martha Sandweiss,
Princeton University

March 19, 2015

Religion & Politics Film Series: *Writing in Water*

Angela Zito

March 30, 2015

International Religious Freedom and U.S. Foreign Policy

Elizabeth Hurd, Northwestern University,
William Inboden, University of Texas Austin,
and Leila Sadat, Washington University;
organized by Lauren Turek

April 22, 2015

The Holocaust and American Public Memory

Fred Zeidman, Chairman Emeritus of the
United States Holocaust Memorial Council,
moderated by Rachel Gross, Virginia Tech

Online Journal

Religion & Politics

Fit For Polite Company

“Locating our managing editor in Washington D.C. offers the Center an important connection to our nation’s capital that enhances our ability to deliver historical perspective to current conversations about religion and politics.”

Editor
Marie Griffith



Online Journal

Religion & Politics entered its third year striving for insight into the most important issues of our time, including religious freedom, foreign policy, and electoral politics. Our writers represent some of the brightest thinking in journalism, the arts and humanities, and the social sciences, and without exception model the civility we pin as one of our highest hopes for this project. A shining example of this attitude is our ongoing feature, “The Table,” which presents informed, yet divergent views on a single topic like immigration reform or government aid.

Nearly 700,000 Readers	50,000- 100,000	2.5 million
Since May 2012	Pageviews per month	Pageviews by May 2015
10,513	7,987	1,202
Facebook Fans	Twitter Followers	Newsletter Subscribers

We feature articles from scholars and journalists who proceed from a single premise: that for better and for worse, religion and politics converge, clash, and shape public life.

In 2015, the journal was honored as an official Webby Nominee in the category of Religion & Spirituality for the third consecutive year.



Essay

Texas Textbooks: A Case Study for Creationism’s Staying Power

By Molly Worthen

Report

Shaun Casey Talks About Leading the State Department’s Faith-Based Office

By Mara Willard

Review

Marilynne Robinson in Montgomery

By Briallen Hopper

Report

The Protestant Mainline Goes to Washington

By Gene Zubovich

Interview

Why Law Professor Douglas Laycock Supports Same-Sex Marriage and Indiana’s Religious Freedom Law

By The Editors

Read more articles at religionandpolitics.org



“The journal has been home to exceptional content, writers, and readers in its three years. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together next.”

Managing editor
Tiffany Stanley

Masthead

Editor

Marie Griffith
Director, John C. Danforth Center
on Religion and Politics

Managing Editor

Tiffany Stanley

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Max Perry Mueller

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The Danforth Foundation

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics owes its existence to the tremendous generosity of the Danforth Foundation, founded in 1927 by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Danforth. The Foundation’s commitment to funding St. Louis-based initiatives is well known, and in 2009 it announced a major gift of \$30 million to Washington University to establish the Center. John C. Danforth, former Senator from Missouri and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was particularly engaged in the Center’s founding and remains a member of its National Advisory Board. This gift reflects Senator Danforth’s specific interest in religion and politics, as well as his dedication to his city, state, and nation.

Center Director Marie Griffith holds the John C. Danforth Distinguished University Professorship that was established as a part of this generous founding gift. We thank Senator and Mrs. (Sally) Danforth, and the Danforth Foundation, for their tremendous generosity and continuing encouragement of the Center.

Dr. William B. Neaves and Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves

In the fall of 2012, William B. Neaves, an emeritus trustee at Washington University in St. Louis, established a professorship for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in honor of his wife, Priscilla Wood Neaves. The Reverend Mrs. Neaves is a former Methodist minister with a personal interest in the role of gender in religion and politics. William Neaves has served on the Washington University Board of Trustees since 2003 and is a current member of the National Council for the School of Medicine. In addition to this generous gift to the Danforth Center, the couple donated Wood Neaves’s library containing books on gender and religion to Olin Library. Mark Valeri was installed into this professorship this year.



Additional Contributors

(Gifts given in the 2014-15 academic year through May 31 are indicated in bold.)

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Planning

“The Center can and does provide a space for a broad range of stakeholders to work through the full implications of the dynamic principles of religious freedom and tolerance. Anyone can see that today’s 24/7 media matrix fans the flames of these explosive controversies more than providing resources to address them. The need for informed debate and public education in matters of religion and politics has never been greater. That is why the Center exists, and this is the difference we wish to make in the world.”

Marie Griffith
Director, John C. Danforth
Center on Religion
and Politics

New Appointments/Dissertation Fellows



Stephanie Gaskill

Stephanie Gaskill is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She specializes in the history and ethnography of African American religions and U.S. social policy. Her dissertation entitled “Moral Rehabilitation: Religion, Race, and Reform in America’s Prison Capital” explores how the predominance of African Americans in U.S. prisons shapes the conception, implementation, reception, and public presentation of rehabilitative programming. She has taught courses on African American religious experience; the history of the Black church and social change; and religion, literature, and the arts in America at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Gaskill earned her M.A. in history, as well as her bachelor’s in history and English, from Bowling Green State University.



Scott Libson

Scott Libson is a Ph.D. candidate and George W. Woodruff fellow in the history department at Emory University. He specializes in the histories of religion and capitalism in the United States during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. His dissertation, “Tainted Money, Sanctified Wealth: The Business of Mission Movement Fundraising, 1865-1929” examines the development of global philanthropies in the United States through an analysis of fundraising for Protestant foreign missionary societies between the Civil War and the Great Depression. Libson argues the coexistence of competing ideas about charity and philanthropy advanced the rise of American international philanthropy.

Libson earned his B.A. in archaeology, French, and religion from Columbia University. He holds master’s degrees in the history of Christianity from Yale University and history from Emory University.

2015-16 Public Events

A sample of coming events we are planning:

September 10, 2015

Religion, Medicine, and the Law
Lecture Series: Obamacare and American Values

David Craig, IUPUI
Umrath Lounge, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

October 8, 2015

Religion, Medicine, and the Law
Lecture Series: Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine

Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University
Umrath Lounge, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

October 21, 2015

Religious Freedom and Civil Rights
Panel Discussion

Umrath Lounge, 4 – 6 p.m.

November 3, 2015

Religion, Medicine, and the Law
Lecture Series: TBD

G. Scott Morris, Church Health Center,
Memphis, TN
Umrath Lounge, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

December 1, 2015

Religion, Medicine, and the Law
Lecture Series: On Transparency:
Protestantism, Prohibition, and the Policing of the Americas

Kevin O’Neill, University of Toronto
Umrath Lounge, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

January 28, 2016

War Stories: How Religion and State
Converge in the U.S. Military

Ronit Stahl, Danforth Center, with response
from Margot Canaday, Princeton University
Women’s Building Formal Lounge,
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

March 2, 2016

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal
Dolan, Archbishop of New York

Graham Chapel, Time TBD

March 10, 2016

American Catholicism, American
Politics Reconsidered

Timothy Matovina, University of Notre
Dame, Leslie Woodcock Tentler, The Catholic
University of America, Kristy Nabhan-Warren,
University of Iowa, Eugene McCarragher,
Villanova University
Umrath Lounge, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

2015-16 Courses

Courses in development for the coming academic year:

Fall 2015

Religion and Politics in American History (Lindsey)

Puritans and Revolutionaries: Religion and the Making of America (Valeri)

The FBI and Religion (Martin)

Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from Transcendentalism to the New Age (Schmidt)

American Religion and Politics: History and Historiography Before 1865 (Maffly-Kipp)

Spring 2016

Age of Independents: Millennials, Religion, and U.S. Politics (Lindsey)

Religion in the African American Experience (Martin)

Martin and Malcolm: Discourses on Religion and Politics (Kashani, Martin)

Religious Rights and Civil Rights in the U.S. (Stahl)

The Jewish Political Tradition (Rehfeld)

Scriptures and Cultural Tradition (Maffly-Kipp, Valeri)

Religion, Salvation, and the Religious Other in Early America (Valeri)

Seminar in Religion, Politics, and Society (Griffith)

Polygamy, Prayer, and Peyote: Epic Church-State Battles and How They Have Shaped American Culture (Schmidt)

