

Short-term Residency Update:

Four scholars joined us this fall as part of the Short-term Residency Program:

Cathy Cavanagh

Cathy returned to us in September for a three-week stay after participating in one of our summer writing workshops. Cathy is a teacher from Ontario, Canada and is currently writing a book for a general audience that explores the lives of biblical women.

Weldon Nisly

Weldon is a former Scholar (2000-2001) who was able to return for a four-week residency. He is head pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church in Washington. Weldon (along with three other Mennonite leaders) is writing a pastoral letter to his congregation on the issue of same-sex unions. He is drawing on the Mennonite peace-making tradition to address an issue that divides virtually every U.S. denomination.

Mary Lou Judd Carpenter

Mary Lou is compiling the letters of her mother, Miriam Barber Judd, wife of missionary and Minnesota Congressman Dr. Walter H. Judd. The letters detail her mother's wealth of experience from war-torn China in the 1930s to her life in the political whirl of Washington, DC. This was Mary Lou's second short-term residency with us.

Forrest Johnson

and his wife, Cynthia, joined us for four weeks in November from Pleasant Hill, TN. While at the Institute, Forrest worked on his project entitled "Dialogues with Thomas Merton," which has grown out of his many trips to Gethsemani Abbey, just three hours from his home.

INSIDE

THE

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FALL LECTURE SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

Scholar Steve Ostovich kicked-off our Fall Lecture Series with a presentation entitled **"Self-Deception, Shame, and Responsibility: Ordinary Germans and the Third Reich."** In his talk Steve explored how, in the post-war years, two German gentile citizens of the town of Hildesheim responded to the events of Germany's recent past. Steve considered the question: How can one be responsible for (and respond to) something that is beyond understanding? He underscored the philosophical and theological implications for how we understand our responsibility for the past, present, and future—especially our debt owed the dead. Almost sixty people attended this lecture

which was co-sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning.

On the first seriously cold, blustery night of the fall, Saint John's monks, students from the School of Theology, and sisters from Saint Benedict's gathered to hear Peter Huff's lecture **"Pope John Paul II and the Challenge of Interfaith Prayer: Where Dialogue and Doxology Meet."** Peter provided an overview of how JP Paul II surprised many even within the Vatican by working tirelessly to advance the cause of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue. Co-sponsored by the School of Theology.

About seventy people attended the final "lecture" of the semester—a panel presentation

entitled, **"On Earth As It Is: Saving the Earth, Saving our Souls"** featuring scholar Steven Chase and four local experts on community environmental issues. The panelists included: Richard Bresnahan (SJU potter), Tom Kroll (Land Manager, SJU Arboretum), S. Phyllis Plantenberg, OSB (Common Ground Garden), and Derek Larson (Environmental Studies). The panel considered: What is our responsibility for the earth? Can the natural world shape us? How do prayer, imagination, spiritual practices, the arts, and ethics help us connect to the natural world?

The panel was a successful experiment in bringing together diverse voices to address a vitally important issue.



Panelists

Richard Bresnahan, Phyllis Plantenberg, Tom Kroll, Derek Larson, Steven Chase

INSTITUTE UPDATES

SPRING BOARD MEETING REMINDER:

Thursday, May 1st. In Minneapolis. More information to follow.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

To date, we have received over \$1.379 million in campaign pledges, \$760K in estate gifts, and 82% of Board Members/Honorary Life Members have pledged. The campaign was opened to over 300 former resident scholars in mid-December.

LIBRARY UPDATE:

CSNA architects presented their most recent Library proposal to various SJU community members, including Institute staff. Although this project is still in the early stages of design, we are pleased with the proposed space for our scholars.



OKTOBERFEST FUN
at the Institute
with the
Saint John's
School of Theology

SPRING '08 RESIDENT SCHOLARS

In December we said good-bye to Steven Ostovich, Peter Huff, and Steven Chase. In the new year we welcome the following new and returning scholars.

Bob Hurley and **Carol Neel** will remain with us throughout spring semester and will be joined by:

Jeffrey Gros, FSC

Until recently, Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *The Approaches to Ecumenism in Latin America and the United States Hispanic Community*

Loretta Phelps de Cordova

Retired State Director, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Caguas, PR *Puerto Rico: Integrating History, Culture, and Spiritual Reality of Today's Island, Today's World*

Valerian Odermann, OSB

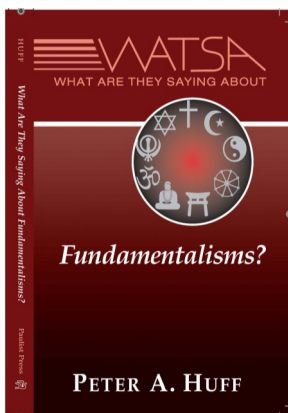
Chaplain and Associate Professor of Theology
University of Mary, Bismarck, ND *Spirituality and Men: College Males Dialogue with Culture and Faith*

Mary Ann Hinsdale

Associate Professor
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA *Power & Participation in the US Catholic Church: Ecclesiology from the Margins*

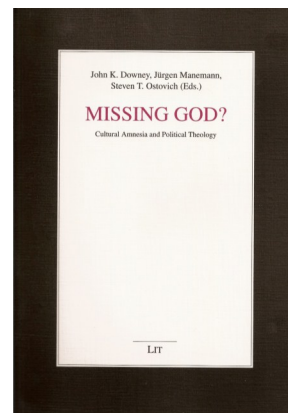
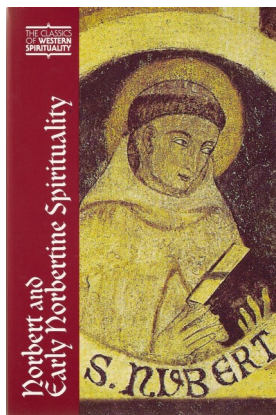
THE BOOK NOOK

A FEW EXAMPLES OF CURRENT INSTITUTE RESIDENT SCHOLARS' RECENT WORK



Peter Huff's, *What Are They Saying About Fundamentalisms?* is a new addition to Paulist Press's popular WATSA series. Peter's work brings new depth and subtlety to the analysis of a central religious phenomenon of our time.

Carol Neel's co-authored volume, *Norbert and Early Norbertine Spirituality*, appeared this fall in the esteemed Classics of Western Spirituality series. In this book, Carol seeks to bring the hard-won spiritual wisdom of the past into conversation with our own times.



Steven Ostovich joined some colleagues in publishing, *Missing God? Cultural Amnesia and Political Theology*, which takes a hard look at how current cultural realities shape our awareness of God.