NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE
We Have a New Look

It's here! We are excited to announce the Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program has a new, updated website at www.shu.edu/go/jcst.

The Jewish-Christian Studies’ (JCST) staff and the Web Development team at Seton Hall University have redesigned and rewritten a more informative, aesthetically pleasing, user-friendly and streamlined website. The needs of JCST students, prospective students and alumni remained at the heart of the redesign, and we believe they, in particular, will find the following new features and highlights helpful:

- **Overview page** - at a glance, prospective students can learn how our graduate program can prepare them for success through its Academic Programs, Distinguished Faculty, Special Archives and various Career Opportunities
- **Admissions page** - prospective and current JCST students can easily learn about and directly apply to several scholarship and discount programs offered at Seton Hall as well as 15 external scholarship programs
- **Career page** - JCST students and alumni can instantly access the Career Center regarding a broad spectrum of professions, vocations and specialties in our field and apply to 25 nationally competitive doctoral scholarships and fellowships

We hope you will start exploring the Jewish-Christian Studies’ website today, spread the word to others and check back regularly as we continue to expand our online content and announce new events and updates to our program.

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR RELATIONS WITH THE JEWS
Lawrence E. Frizzell’s Appointment Renewed

It is with great pleasure we announce that Pope Francis has renewed the appointment of the Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Frizzell as Consultor to the Holy See’s Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews for another period of five years. Instituted by Pope Paul VI in 1974 and institutionally linked to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, this special Commission encourages and fosters religious relations between Catholics and Jews and serves as the official contact point between the Vatican and the worldwide Jewish community on religious matters.

Father Frizzell, Director of the Institute Judaic-Christian Studies and Director and Associate Professor of the Jewish-Christian Graduate Program, was initially appointed as Consultor to the Commission by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. In his capacity as Consultor, Fr. Frizzell will continue to collaborate with the Commission to promote constructive dialogue between the Holy See and the Jewish people and to nurture positive relations between Jews and Catholics.
Spring and warmer weather has finally arrived and ushered in Seton Hall University’s annual commencement and hooding ceremonies. Congratulations and blessings to all of our recent graduates of the Master’s in Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) program - may your work continue to bear good fruit and yield many bountiful harvests! You can read about each one of our graduates and their future plans on page 3.

As you may have noted on page 1, the JCST website has been updated at www.shu.edu/go/jcst. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the design, content and launching of our new site. I encourage our recent graduates and alumni who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree or seeking career assistance to visit our Careers page, where you can apply to 25 nationally competitive doctoral scholarship and fellowship programs or directly link to Seton Hall’s Career Center. Likewise, current and prospective students will want to visit our new Admissions page and where you can directly link to 20 different internal and external scholarship and funding opportunities that are available to JCST students. Be sure to visit us online frequently so that you can stay current with the information on these and all of our webpages.

March proved to be a busy and exciting month. On March 13, our program’s annual Teachers Day brought together 70 educators from various New Jersey public and private school districts to further enhance their knowledge in the area of Holocaust and genocide studies. Please refer to page 5 to learn more about this year’s theme, Poles and Jews during World War II, and the keynote speakers and their discussion and workshop topics. Additionally on March 25 and 30, the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies sponsored the lectures Vegetarian Ideals & Jewish Dietary Laws and Pope John XXIII and the Jews respectively. Outlines about these events can be found on page 6.

Faulty member, Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D., also returned from his sabbatical in Varanasi, India this past March. Rabbi Brill will be writing a monograph about Judaism and Hinduism this year, and during the upcoming Fall semester, he will be teaching JCST 6024 Medieval Jewish Thinkers and JCST 7544 Judaism and Other Religions. Visit Rabbi’s blog, The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: notes on Jewish theology and spirituality, at http://bit.ly/FulbrightBrill to find out more about his sabbatical and related research. You can also find out what other faculty have been up to on page 4 and can view the full 2014 Fall Schedule for the JCST program on page 8.

On May 4, the Evening of Roses Gala marked is 21st anniversary at Seton Hall University by honoring thirty-two of its founders (page 7). As always, the event featured beautiful music and was attended by a wide variety of attendees. This year’s program highlighted the work of Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher, founding director of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies and the JCST Graduate Program, and Sister Rose Thering, a passionate advocate for Jewish-Christian relations and founder of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies.

In closing, I’d like to draw your attention to the engaging article on page 7, which was written by current graduate student Sarah Davis. Sarah is seeking two master’s degrees: one in Jewish-Christian Studies and one in Library and Information Science. We are proud of her continuing accomplishments and contributions both within and outside the JCST program and look forward to her upcoming graduation next year.

I send best wishes to you all for a safe and joyous summer break and invite you to stay in touch with me throughout the year via email at lawrence.frizzell@shu.edu or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/lawrence.frizzell.

Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell
Director & Associate Professor
Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Seton Hall University
GRADUATE NEWS

Congratulations to Recent Graduates of the JCST Program!

Rose Ahaneku graduated this May after successfully defending her thesis, “Consecrated Widowhood - a ministry of the early Church and today.” Rose’s thesis emerged after learning about the “plights and neglect of widows in the ecclesial society” and was shaped by her “passion to stand up for the oppressed and speak out for the voiceless.” Rose, a teacher who works with the West Orange Board of Education, earned her first bachelor’s degree in Finance and Banking in Nigeria and a second degree in Theology from Caldwell College in New Jersey. She plans to continue her education and pursue doctoral studies and looks forward to ultimately promoting the lay apostolate in Nigeria because, as she notes, “My thesis is a framework for the apostolate on widowhood which is very dear to my heart.”

Bridgette Frank graduated this Spring semester and successfully defended her thesis, “Natural Born Vegans: The Moral Consequences of Eating Meat in the Past, Present, and Future,” which investigates the relationship between Judaism and veganism. Raised in an interfaith family, Bridgette matriculated into the JCST program to learn more about her heritage. She credits her studies in the program, especially those taught by Father David Bossman, with teaching her the “importance of preventing prejudice in public schools and serving the community” and trying to “create a better world for everyone.” As a result of Father Bossman’s classes, Bridgette is motivated to work with nonprofit organizations and to continue focusing on “preventing prejudice and dispelling harmful stereotypes.”

The Reverend John Assua successfully defended his thesis, “Table Fellowship of Jesus Christ (Mt. 9:10-13), As Part of the Ministry of the Church,” this month. The overall aim of his thesis was to demonstrate that all people, regardless of their roles in society or who they are as individuals, can still work together to “build the reign of God.” Fr. John will return to the Diocese of Buea in Africa where he will implement what he learned in the JCST program in his new role as a professor at the Catholic University Institute of Buea. Once home, he anticipates that he will help, “in a special way, to facilitate the mission of serving as a model for eliminating prejudice through understanding and bringing peace.”

Przemek Murczkiewicz, educator and principal at a Catholic school in Brooklyn, NY, graduated in December 2012. Przemek is originally from Staszów and received a degree in Theology at Lublin Catholic University in Poland. Following his long time fascination with Jewish history and Judaism, Przemek entered the JCST program where his courses on social justice and social responsibilities have further prepared him for the challenges he faces as a principal of an inner-city school. Already making a positive impact on his faculty as well as faculty members at other diocesan schools in Brooklyn and Queens, Przemek organized an “Echoes and Reflections workshop,” which was led by an instructor from Yad Vashem, for Reading and Social Studies teachers this past March.

Hagit Barnir graduated from the JCST program in December 2013. A Hebrew language teacher in several New Jersey Jewish schools, she earned her bachelor’s degree in Humanities with a double major in Art History and Jewish Thought at Hebrew University. For Hagit, one of the biggest challenges she faces as an educator is teaching about the Holocaust, “as the issue of abolishing hate is not only a Jewish one, but one that impacts all humanity.” Her graduate studies have helped her discover the impact of the Holocaust “on a universal, psychological and social level, as well as its philosophical and theological implications.” This knowledge has enabled her to become a better educator because as she explains, “As a teacher, it has given me the tools to better equip my students with the capacity and compassion to respond to hate of any kind.”

Sister Agnes Njume earned her M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies this month. A teacher and counsellor in Buea, Africa, she enrolled in the JCST program to better “understand the pains of segregation and discrimination,” so that she may teach others how to “love sincerely, [and] accept and tolerate each other.” Upon her return to Africa, Sister Agnes plans to have seminars with the sisters in her religious community and intends to teach her students about Christianity’s Jewish heritage. Her overall aim is to help combat the intolerance that often plagues tribalism in Cameroon and other parts of Africa by educating her students how to appreciate the “other” despite their differences.
FACULTY NEWS

The Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.
Director & Associate Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Director, Institute of Judaico-Christian Studies

Father Frizzell taught three graduate courses this Spring semester: Hebrew Bible Reading III, Hebrews and Catholic Epistles and Law and Ethics: Jewish and Christian. He also recently organized the Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program’s annual Teachers Study Day, Poles & Jews during World War II, which was held on March 13 (see page 5), as well as a session in Jewish-Christian Studies for the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, which took place at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan on May 8-11, 2014.

Father Frizzell was also a speaker at the interfaith Shoah Memorial Service at the Epiphany Cathedral of Venice, Florida on Sunday, May 4, 2014. Additionally, he presented a paper, “Isaiah on Jerusalem in Medieval Latin Exegesis,” in the session, Jerusalem in Medieval Exegesis, organized by the Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages. These sessions took place on May 8, 2014.

Rabbi Alan Brill, Ph.D.
Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair of Jewish-Christian Studies

Rabbi Alan Brill has returned from his sabbatical in Varanasi, India and will resume teaching this coming 2014 Fall semester. To read about some of his teaching experiences in India, please visit him online and participate in his blog, The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: notes on Jewish theology and spirituality at http://kavvanah.wordpress.com/2014/03/25/teaching-in-banaras/.

Rabbi Brill also recently gave a talk entitled, “Jewish-Christian Relations Since Vatican II” on April 3rd at the Dominican Center on the campus of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY.

David M. Bossman, Ph.D.
Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program
Executive Director, Sister Rose Thering Fund

Dr. Bossman taught two graduate courses this Spring: Lessons in the Holocaust and Personal Rights and Responsibilities for a Just Society.

In his capacity as Executive Director of the Sister Rose Thering Fund, Dr. Bossman also helped organize this year’s annual Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture, which took place on March 23 at Seton Hall University. The lecture, which is committed to building bridges between women of various faiths, featured the speakers, Professor Mary C. Boys, Dean of Academic Affairs and the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, and Ms. Blu Greenberg, author, activist and co-founder of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. To view a video recording of the Dr. Marcia Robbins Wilf Lecture, please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SLaZge6544.

Dr. Bossman also continues to serve as editor of the Biblical Theology Bulletin (BTB). The May 2014 issue of BTB (44:2) is now published and features articles: “Who Converts Whom? A Narrative-Critical Exegesis of the Book of Jonah” (Sandy Habib); “Vivid Imagery in Galatians 3:1—Roman Rhetoric, Street Announcing, Graffiti, and Crucifixions” (Steven Muir); “‘Those Things That Jesus Had Begun to Do and Teach’: Narrative Christology and Incarnational Ecclesiology in Acts” (Jason J. Ripley); and “The Deus Absconditus of Scripture: An Apophatic Hermeneutic for Christian Contemplatives” (Vincent Pizzuto).

This issue may be accessed and purchased online at http://btb.sagepub.com/. Seton Hall students can access these and other Biblical Theology Bulletin articles online through the E-Journals tab on the University Libraries homepage at http://www.shu.edu/academics/libraries.
ANNUAL TEACHERS STUDY DAY
Poles and Jews during World War II

The Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) Graduate Program’s annual Teachers Study Day was held on March 13, 2014 at Seton Hall University and was attended by 70 educators from various New Jersey schools and districts.

This year’s theme was Poles and Jews during World War II and featured presentations by the Reverend Dr. Dennis McManus, Director of the Jan Karski Institute at Georgetown University, and Ms. Monika Rice, Ph.D. candidate at Brandeis University. The Rev. Dr. McManus presented the lecture, *The Holocaust: Its Destructive Past and Its Dangerous Future*, and led the workshop, *Jan Karski: A Catholic in the Holocaust*. Ms. Rice’s lecture focused on *Poles and Jews during the War*, and her workshop examined the pogrom at Jedwabne.

Mr. Alan Silberstein, Board member of the World Society of Czestochowa Jews and the Sister Rose Thering Fund, also led a third workshop entitled, *The Jews of Czestochowa*.

The JCST Graduate Program designed its annual Teachers Study Day to assist New Jersey educators in the development of expertise in the area of Shoah and genocide studies. The program also offers five professional development credit hours to participating educators as it meets the New Jersey mandate for K-12 education about the Holocaust and genocide.

“It was very gratifying to witness 70 educators come together to explore complex religious, ethical and social issues that will further help them promote justice and peace among their students,” said the Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Frizzell, Director of the Jewish-Christian Studies Program. “I was particularly pleased to meet educators from schools who participated in our event for the first time and to learn how they are making a difference in their classroom and their communities,” Frizzell concluded.

For more information or to register for next year’s teachers study day, please contact Jay Wolferman at (973) 761-9751.

EDUCATIONAL & SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS
The Sister Rose Thering Fund

The Sister Rose Thering Fund (SRTF) is currently accepting applications from New Jersey educators who want to pursue their Certificate in Jewish-Christian Studies (JCST) or who want take one or more JCST courses to fulfill the State of New Jersey mandate for having teaching knowledge of the Holocaust.

The JCST Graduate Program will be offering the following core courses and electives this coming fall semester in the late afternoon and evening to help enhance educators’ lessons and classroom teachings about the Holocaust and genocide studies:

**JCST 6001**: Christian-Jewish Encounter

**JCST 6016**: Values for a Pluralistic Society

**JCST 6017**: Jewish and Christian Foundation for Social Service

**JCST 7544**: Judaism and Other Religions

To apply for funding, please visit the SRTF online at [www.shu.edu/go/SRTF](http://www.shu.edu/go/SRTF) or contact Marilyn Zirl at marilyn.zirl@shu.edu or (973) 761-9006.
Pope John XXIII & the Jews

The Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies sponsored the lecture, “Pope John XXIII and the Jews,” on March 30, 2014 at Seton Hall University in honor of the canonizations of Popes John XXIII and Pope John Paul II.

The keynote speaker was Rabbi David G. Dalin, Ph.D., Professor of History at Ave Maria University and noted scholar of American Jewish History and Catholic-Jewish relations. Rabbi Dalin also serves on the Advisory Council of the journal, First Things, and is the author, co-author or editor of eleven books, including Icon of Evil: Hitler’s Mufti and the Rise of Radical Islam (with John Rothman, Random House: 2008); John Paul II and the Jewish People: A Jewish-Christian Dialogue (with Matthew Levering, Rowman & Littlefield: 2007); and The Myth of Hitler’s Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis (Regnery History, 2005).

During his presentation, Rabbi Dalin discussed the many ways in which Pope John XXIII had “prolific implications for Catholic-Jewish relations in our day,” both as the former Vatican diplomat in Turkey and Greece during World War II and later as the Vicar of Christ in Rome. For an overview of Rabbi Dalin’s lecture and the many accomplishments of Pope John XXIII, including his commission of the watershed document, Nostra Aetate, please visit The Catholic World Report article, “John XXIII and the Jews,” which was written by editor, reporter and blogger, Thomas L. McDonald, who attended the event.


Vegetarian Ideals & Jewish Dietary Laws

by Bridgette Frank, M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies

On March 25, 2014 in the Beck Rooms of Walsh Library, the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies hosted the event, Vegetarian Ideals and Jewish Dietary Laws. Presentations were given by Jeffrey Cohan, the Executive Director of the Jewish Vegetarians of North America (JVNA), and Rabbi Eliyahu Soiefer, who sits on the Rabbinic Counsel of JVNA. Dr. Judith Stark, the Director of Environmental Studies Program at Seton Hall University, was the official respondent.

Mr. Cohan led the presentations discussing the various Jewish leaders worldwide who hold the belief that vegetarianism is the moral ideal for Jews. These leaders include, but are not limited to: Rabbi David Rosen, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, and Rabbi Abraham Kook. He then took the audience through the exegesis of several Biblical texts stressing how the relationship between humans and animals in the Bible was intended to be a peaceful one and how God did not intend for humans to exploit or be cruel to animals.

Rabbi Eliyahu focused his attention on the commandments that prevent the mistreatment of animals emphasizing that when they are upheld correctly it becomes very difficult to justify eating animals. He also referenced the commentary, Minchat Chinuch 80, which discusses human-kind’s prohibition of causing pain to animals and the obligation to prevent their pain, and provided exegesis of verses from Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, and Psalms. Members of the audience expressed appreciation for his comments on Psalm 150, where he talked about all living things praising God: plants, animals, and humans alike.

Dr. Judith Stark concluded the presentation by defining the different terms associated with vegetarianism, such as vegan, lacto-vegetarian, and even weekday vegetarians. She engaged the audience by discussing her own experience as a vegetarian, a way of life she has been following before it was made popular and before it was easy to find options in a restaurant.

For more information about the Jewish Vegetarians of North America, please go to www.jewishveg.com.
SISTER ROSE THERING FUND
Recent Gala

Evening of Roses

The 21st Evening of Roses Gala, the major fund raising vehicle for the Sister Rose Thering Fund (SRTF), recently took place on May 4, 2014. Held on Seton Hall University’s South Orange campus, the gala honored the founding members of the SRTF, which provides tuition assistance to educators who are pursuing their Certificate or Masters in Jewish-Christian Studies and carrying out the New Jersey mandate to teach the Holocaust in all New Jersey schools from kindergarten through grade 12.

The gala featured a musical tribute by Voices in Harmony, chorus members from three local synagogues, and honored the following thirty-two founders for their contributions to fostering understanding and cooperation among Jews and Christians through advocacy and education:

- Shirley Aidekman-Kaye
- Julia & David Altholz
- Jacqueline Berke
- David Bossman
- Susan Feinstein
- Eugene Fisher
- Rev. Lawrence Frizzell
- Paul Gibbons
- Msgr. John Gilchrist
- Sr. Mary Gomolka
- Rabbi Irving & Blu Greenberg
- Jerome & Rita Horowitz
- Marlene Jacobs
- Luna Kaufman
- Murray Laulicht
- Lois Lautenberg
- Pearl Randall Lehrhoff
- Jacqueline & Howard Levine
- Rev. John Morley
- Karan and Kenneth Oleckna
- Marilyn Rosenbaum
- Hattie Segal
- Howard Tepper
- Regina Townsend
- Joseph Volker
- Robert Werbel
- Marcia Robbins Wilf

STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Sarah Davis, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Student

It was about 2 minutes before the train was about to leave. I was on the platform, beginning to panic. I was heading out to South Orange for my first class in the Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program. It had taken me longer to get to Penn Station than I expected, and I was cutting it close. But I still didn’t have my ticket. The lines at all the ticket booths were monstrously long, and I had three dollars on me at that time, not nearly enough to buy a ticket on the train. What was I going to do?

I approached a conductor by the train and quickly explained my situation: first day of grad school, no money, long lines, if I miss this train I’ll miss most of the class, what should I do? He listened and then pulled out a comp ticket. He gave me the ticket, and said “make sure you learn a lot.”

That was the start of my wonderful adventure in Jewish-Christian studies. I think about that man a lot and am so grateful he helped me out. I believe I have more than lived up to his challenge! I’ve been an active participant in the Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program for 4 years now, taking classes around my busy schedule. I have learned about a wide variety of subjects, from the history of Jewish-Christian relations (the good, the bad, and the very, very ugly), how perspectives on the Holocaust have changed nearly every decade, the importance of prayer in both religions and how they are connected, the importance of the Temple periods to both religions, and so much more.

During this time, my thoughts on how I can best use my degree has changed. When I started, I was a young Protestant working in a Jewish education organization. Since then I have changed jobs a few times and even changed my whole career focus. In addition to Seton Hall University, I am concurrently pursuing a master’s degree in Library and Information Science, which I hope to combine with my master’s in Jewish-Christian Studies to work in a seminary or theology-based library. This would never have been a career consideration for me before this program.

This program has been a welcome constant in my life for many years, and it is odd to think that it will be winding down soon. I have started to prepare my thesis topic and think critically how I can take what I have learned at Seton Hall to the library field. I can’t thank Father Frizzell, Jay Wolferman, David Bossman, Rabbi Brill, the Sister Rose Thering Fund, the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, my classmates, or Marilyn Zirl enough. But I suppose my first thank you must go to that nameless conductor all those years ago. Because it would have been a very different start to what has become a great story.
## FALL 2014 COURSE SCHEDULE
### Master of Arts in Jewish-Christian Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>JCST 6001</td>
<td>Christian-Jewish Encounter</td>
<td>Lawrence E. Frizzell</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:15 – 8:25 pm</td>
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<td>JCST 6005</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible Readings I</td>
<td>Lawrence E. Frizzell</td>
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<td>JCST 6016</td>
<td>Values for a Pluralistic Society</td>
<td>David M. Bossman</td>
<td>Wednesday, 5:00 – 7:10 pm</td>
</tr>
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<td>JCST 6017</td>
<td>Jewish-Christian Foundations for Social Service</td>
<td>David M. Bossman</td>
<td>Tuesday, 5:00 – 7:10 pm</td>
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<td>Medieval Jewish Thinkers</td>
<td>Alan Brill</td>
<td>Monday, 5:00 – 7:10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCST 7036</td>
<td>Peace and War: Biblical and Jewish Tradition</td>
<td>Lawrence E. Frizzell</td>
<td>Monday, 6:15 – 8:25 pm</td>
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<td>Judaism and Other Religions</td>
<td>Alan Brill</td>
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### THE JEWISH-CHRISTIAN STUDIES
### GRADUATE PROGRAM

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