



# Chester Ronning Centre

for the Study of Religion and Public Life



## **Annual Report**

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Prepared by  
David J. Goa, Director, & Catherine Caufield, Associate Director

### **Program Summary**

Throughout this year the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life has continued its regular schedule of events working across the academy, the public square, and within religious communities.

Our work on the “Spirit of the Land” project continued to develop as did our partnership with the International Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilization, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey, on public religion and the civil life in democratic societies. We were pleased to have Norman Wizba, Professor of Theology, Ecology and Agrarian Studies, Duke Divinity School, give the Augustana Distinguished Lecture and engage students in a number of classes.

Our work shaping the International Fellows of the Ronning Centre, as well as the Research Associates, Practice Associates, Junior Fellows and Interns, continued to develop through the fine work of our new Associate Director Catherine Caufield.

We worked with Dean Allen Berger to bring a series of distinguished professors to Augustana to both lecture and consult with his leadership transition committee and consider the interdisciplinary work of the Ronning Centre in the academy, the public square and with religious communities, drawing on major leaders in their fields who thoughtfully reflect and act at the boundaries of religion and law, healthcare, education, governance, and the media.

The dean used this opportunity to consider the future shape of the Ronning Centre as we move toward the second generation of leadership. The Centre supported these efforts by providing Dean Berger and his committee with several feasible infrastructure scenarios for solidifying and continuing the collaborative work of the Centre within the academy, a broad range of religious communities, and civil domains over the past decade, as well for as deepening and expanding this inter-sectoral work.

The broad interest in the focus and quality of the Centre’s work was apparent when we were invited to speak to the University of Alberta Senate on the Centre’s mandate and university

education, shaped a workshop on leadership for the caucus of the Provincial Government during a time of crisis, and, develop workshops for the students of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College of the University of Alberta on “engaging difference in a pluralistic society” and for the Bethany Group on physician assisted dying.

Our key partners in the work of the last year include:

Aboriginal Students Office, Augustana  
Ahmadiyya Association of Edmonton  
All Saints Monastery of North America, BC  
BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Bethany Group Board, Camrose  
Burman University, Lacombe  
Camrose and District Hospice Society  
Camrose Church of God  
Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute  
Cardus  
City of Toronto  
Central Lions Seniors Association, Edmonton  
Centre for Alternative Medicine and Health, University of Alberta  
Concordia University College  
Corrections Canada  
ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies, UofA  
Department of Fine Art, UofA  
Department of Philosophy, UofA  
Department of Political Science, UofA  
Department of Political Science, University of Lethbridge  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, UofA  
Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action  
Faculty of Law, University of Alberta  
Faculty of Theology and Social Science and Humanities, Necmettin Erbakan University,  
Konya, Turkey  
Hindu Society of Alberta, Edmonton  
Hospice Society of Camrose & District  
House of Bishops, Anglican Church of Canada  
Humanities Department, Augustana  
Institute of Ismaili Studies, London  
Intercultural Dialogue Institute  
Ismaili Association of Edmonton  
Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
Kings University College, Edmonton  
Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church, Edmonton  
Maskwacis Cultural College  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose  
Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilization, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey

Nevsehir Haci Bektas Universitesi, Nevsehir, Turkey  
 Office of Diplomacy, London  
 Orthodox Peace Fellowship of Canada  
 Osgoode Hall, York University, Toronto  
 Peter Lougheed Leadership College, UofA  
 Prison Fellowship International  
 Religious Studies Program, University of Alberta  
 Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton  
 Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut  
 Social Science Department, Augustana  
 St. Francis Roman Catholic Church  
 St. Joseph's College, UofA  
 St. Stephen's College, Edmonton  
 Steeps Urban Tea House, Edmonton  
 Synod of Bishops, ELCIC  
 The British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)  
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton  
 University of the Frazer Valley, BC  
 Department of Religious Studies, University of Toronto  
 Vancouver School of Theology  
 Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

Each of the Centre's events is noted below along with work we have done with other organizations. I have placed in square brackets, following the event, the length of time and the number of people who attended. For example: the lecture and discussion was 1.5 hours and 35 attended [1.5/35]. We then calculate our teaching hours as noted in the summary below.

### Statistics of Note 2015-2016

Number of Ronning Centre events	75	
Total attendance:	3,3408	
Number of teaching hours	6,698	
Publications (books, newsletters, articles)	12	
Media (interviews, consultations)	10	
Ronning Centre Annual Fund (550 account)	\$ 67,290.70	
Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment	\$662,474.34	
[annual available: \$23,594.09 + \$22,608.53 surplus]		
Hendrickson Memorial Endowment	\$113,717.28	
[annual available: \$3,765.60 + \$4,870.86 surplus]		
Yang Internships	\$ 13,512.63	
[annual available: \$551.52 + \$1,180.75]		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$856,994.95</b>	
Prof. Nicholas Wickenden, volunteer hours est.	120 hours	120 hours
Reiner Loewan, volunteer hours est.	60 hours	60 hours

## Centre Development & Key Initiatives

### **International Ronning Centre Fellows**

International Fellows are drawn from the three sectors in which Ronning Centre works: academy, religious communities, civil sphere. They offer context and a depth of knowledge to enhance our understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public life (law, healthcare, governance, journalism, education) as well as gracious ways of engaging with strongly held beliefs associated with local, national, and global developments that touch the core of our deepest concerns. There are currently 28 Fellows, their profiles and areas of expertise are available on our website. Several additions in progress.

We have shaped several projects to bring their skills as public intellectuals into a working relationship with the media, the public, and with political leaders in Canada and abroad and are exploring funding to also periodically bring several of them to the Augustana campus to work with students and faculty.

We are requesting briefing papers and op-ed pieces from them to address breaking news stories and have developed ways of broadcasting these to the media and journalists; these may be found on the Ronning Centre website under *News of Our Fellows*.

International Fellows are available for student mentorship; in the coming year we will work with Augustana faculty to select Junior Fellows from among our senior students and partner them in appropriate areas with a suitable International Fellow.

### **Research and Practice Associates**

We welcome three new Practice Associates for 2016-2017, Odell Olson and Ina Neilson in the area of healthcare and Richard Bruneau in diplomacy, as well as two new Research Associates from for 2016-2017, Joe Wiebe in the area of Indigenous and Brandon Alakas in Reformation. Each will be presenting their work as part of Ronning Centre programming in upcoming year. As with the International Fellows, above, Research and Practice Associates are available for student mentorship and therefore their interests will be included in the email in late August.

### **Ronning Centre Junior Fellows**

Carlena Weber, Augustana alumna, research assistant on the project *Naw'qinwixw: Métis, Nehiyô, and Oblate Trauma Recovery on Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 Lands*.

Lisa Vaughan-Farrell confirmed for 2016-17, anticipate more in response to matching International Fellow, Research Assistant and Practice Assistant interests. This award includes at least one public presentation of their work, integrated into Ronning Centre programming

### **Student Interns**

Autumn MacDonald, third year Environmental Studies student, received the Yang Internship to assist with the project *Mapping the Social Architecture of Camrose*.

This endowment provides sufficient stipend for one intern, preferably of East Asian origin; we are inundated with possibilities for 2016-17 and will be making a selection in the next couple of weeks.

Carmelle Mohr, Ryan Lindsey, Hans Asfeldt, Geordie Nelson, Nataha Martel, and Alison Bortolon Augustana alumnae, on the *Spirit of the Land* project. Their terms were completed as of spring 2016.

The Centre has worked closely with Community Service Learning (CSL) over the past year and anticipate one or more CSL interns to the Centre during the 2016-17 academic year.

We have also connected with Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP) funded through the Vision for Innovation in Alberta grant, and anticipate one intern in the fall through that program.

### **Website Portal on Issues of Religion and Public Life**

A redesigned Ronning Centre website includes a portal to a wide range of resources on numerous issues of religions and public life. The portal is arranged by topics and we have populated it with the current work of the Centre as well as all audio and video presentations from our decade of work. We will profile this new research resource to Augustana students in the fall as well as make it known to journalists, media and for the purposes of various interest groups.

### **Challenges for Religious Communities in Plural, Democratic Societies**

The International Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilization, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey and the Ronning Centre are partnering on this project. It includes a series of workshops exploring issues related to public religion and the various ways secular societies have been formed. Conferences and publications will flow from this work and we are building in various ways to involve students with an eye to their capacity to become the next generation of leaders and public intellectuals.

### **Chester Ronning Memorial Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy**

*Chester Ronning Memorial Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy* will be held on Chester Ronning's Birthday (December 13). We are honoured to have confirmed Dr. Peter Jones, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa; consultant for Centre for International Policy Studies; Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University present inaugural lecture on December 13, 2016. He served as a senior analyst for the Security and Intelligence Secretariat of the Privy Council of Canada; various positions related to international affairs and security at the Privy Council Office, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Defence. He is an expert on security in the Middle East and track-two diplomacy, presently leading several track two initiatives in South Asia and the Middle East; also widely published on Iran.

A proposal was initiated to develop this annual lectureship through various partnership (perhaps with Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, and, The Office on Religious Freedom) and offer it to the public in Western Canada and Ottawa.

### **Spirit of the Land**

Through the generosity of the Ganske fund we have had a briefing paper on various models employed by universities in the education of students on local knowledge and sense of place and re-skilling their relationship to sustainable agriculture and food security. We have also explored how these themes may be engendered in the high school curriculum in the region of Camrose. Along with planning a conference in November we have several student researchers continuing to establish the foundations for moving this type of student engagement ahead at Augustana.

### **For the Healing of the Whole Person: Medicine and Spirituality**

We have partnered with several units of the University of Alberta under the lead of Prof. Suzette Bremault-Phillips, Rehabilitation Medicine. Our planning group includes a prestigious scholars, scientists, medical professionals and theologians including Harold Koenig, Bernard McGinn, Donna Dobrowsky, Carol Weingarten, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, and Thomas Plante.

### **Ronning Centre Consultations**

#### **26 November 2015**

“Thinking About Physician Assisted Dying”, an invited lecture, David J. Goa, for the Board of the Bethany Group, Camrose. [1/12=12]

#### **12 March 2016**

“The Art of Engaging Difference: Discernment of Gifts and Needs”, an invited day-long workshop by David Goa, Peter Lougheed Leadership College. The Honourable Verlyn Olson, Dr. Ghada Ageel and Dr. Valerie Lapointe-Gagnon joined in the workshop. North Campus, UofA, Edmonton. [7.5/52=390]

#### **4-5 April**

“The Christian Responsibility to Muslims”, David J. Goa, an invited two-day workshop for the Anglican House of Bishops and the Synod of Bishops, ELCIC, Niagara Falls, Ontario. [8/43=344]

#### **7 April 2016**

“Physician Assisted Dying: Law, Culture and Our Responsibility”, David J. Goa, an invited workshop for The Bethany Group, cosponsored with the Ronning Centre and Camrose and District Hospice Society. Camrose. [5/84=420]

### **Ronning Centre in the Classroom**

#### **July 2013 - continuous**

David Goa, thesis supervisor for Nola Sharp, Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality, Saint Stephen’s College, University of Alberta. Expected completion, 2016.

#### **August – January 2016**

Ethics in World Religions (SSC513), Saint Stephen’s College, reading course for David Faver taught by David Goa. [5x3=15]

## **August – January 2016**

Special Topics in Diversity: Faith and Culture (SSC547), Saint Stephen's College, reading course for Wenda Salomons taught by David Goa. [5x3=15]

### **23 September**

“Art, Religion and the Museum as Encounter with Meaning”, an invited lecture, David J. Goa, for Prof Joan Greer's Art History 455/555 course, University of Alberta. [1.5/8=12]

### **8 October**

“Confession of an Artist”, Betty Spackman, Chapel, The King's University. [1/85=85]

### **9 October**

“Confession of an Artist” and “Found Wanting”, Betty Spackman, in Daniel van Heyst's mixed media lab, Art 210, The King's University. [3/24=72]

### **14 October**

“*Cahiliyye*, Muhammad, and the Modern Mind”, David Goa, an invited lecture in Prof. Dogan's course, “The Life of the Prophet”, Nevsehir Haci Bektas Universitesi. [3/74=222]

### **15 October**

“*Cahiliyye*, Muhammad and the Modern Mind”, David Goa, an invited lecture in Prof. Dogan's course, “The Life of the Prophet”, Nevsehir Haci Bektas Universitesi. [3/72= 216]

### **16 October**

“Geography and Culture: The Peculiar Case of Alberta”, David Goa, an invited lecture in Prof. Ali Meydan's course, Geography and Turkish Culture, Nevsehir Haci Bektas Universitesi. [1.5/46=69]

### **12 November**

“Eating our Way to Peace”, Norman Wirzba, AUREL 263, Augustana. [1.5/70=105]

“Table Manners”, Norman Wirzba, AUREL 271/IDS 286/386, Augustana. [2/50=100]

### **13 November**

“Eating our Way to Peace”, Norman Wirzba, The King's University, Edmonton. [1.5/45=67.5]

“Agrarian Human Nature”, Norman Wirzba, AUREL 251, Augustana. [1.5/41=61.5]

### **20 November**

“An Open Conversation on *Laudato Si'*, *On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on ecology, David Goa, St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, for the course AUREL 271/ IDS 286/386. [1.5/52=76]

### **26 January 2016**

“Practicing ‘Decolonial Love’: Damages, Relations, Truth and Telling”, Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington. Maskwacis Cultural College, Maskwacis [2/50=50 students and staff]

“Practicing ‘Decolonial Love’: Damages, Relations, Truth and Telling”, Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington. Wahkotowin Lodge, Augustana campus, UofA [1/30=30 students plus 10 members of the public]

### **28 January**

Dian Million lectured in Roxanne Harde’s AUENG 292: Feminist Literary Theory and Women's Writing [8 students and 2 guests]

Dian Million lectured in Janet Wesselius’ AUPHI 210: Theories of Knowledge [18 students]

Dian Million lectured in Jérôme Melançon’s AUPOL 221: Canadian National Government and Politics [18 students]

### **4 May**

Nevsehir Havi Bektas Veli Universitesi, Nevsehir, Turkey

“Religion and Modern Culture”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa, in “History of Religions” class, Tourism Faculty. [3/44=132]

“The Memory of English Words”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa in “English Language” course, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, class of Professor Ercan Kacmaz. Tourism Faculty. [3/56=168]

## **Grants and Project Funding**

1. The Ganske Fund was established to support the development of the Spirit of the Land project.
2. Website development grant is being prepared and will be submitted to the CIP grant program of the provincial government. This grant program may also be used in our international work with universities in Turkey.
3. “The Lutheran Contributions to Public Life”, a series of lectures commemorating the Reformation and offered in both the university context and in selected Lutheran churches. Grant application in preparation for the Lutheran Triune Education and Benevolent Society fund, ELCIC. Our intention is to bring scholars associated with the work of Ronning Centre including Dittmar Mundel, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Cam Harder, Franz Wolker Greifenhagen, Ray Schultz, Martin Moser, and, David Goa. Grant will be submitted before October 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Chester Ronning Memorial Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy. Grant funding is being explored through the Office of Religious Freedom, Government of Canada and with members of the Ronning family.
5. “Civic Virtues and Civil Charters: Creating Respectful Communities in a Divided World”, a project proposal submitted to the John Templeton Foundation by Ronning Centre Fellow, Iain Benson. We have worked with Professor Benson on this initiative and will be exploring additional grant funding particularly for the Canadian and Turkish aspects of this proposal.
6. “Spirited Citizenship: Faith Communities and the Common Good”, SSHRC Grant application. We partnered on this application with numerous other agencies.



7. Shell Grant, University of Alberta, \$1000 for support of a students work on SOL.
8. KIAS Dialogue Grant, \$1000. University of Alberta, Kule Institute, for our work with the Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilization.

### **Augustana Distinguished Lectures**

#### **12 November**

“Eating our Way to Peace”, Norman Wirzba, Professor of Theology, Ecology and Agrarian Studies, Duke Divinity School, AUREL 263, Augustana.

“Table Manners”, Norman Wirzba, AUREL 271/IDS 286/386, Augustana.

#### **13 November**

“Eating our Way to Peace”, Norman Wirzba, The King’s University, Edmonton.

“Agrarian Human Nature”, Norman Wirzba, AUREL 251, Augustana.

“Becoming Rooted in the Land”, Norman Wirzba, Faith and Life Chapel, Augustana.

### **Ronning Centre Conversations in the Agora (Camrose) & Philosophers’ Cafés (Edmonton)**

#### **31 July**

“Care for Our Common Home”, David J. Goa, Agora, Augustana campus. [2/30=60]

#### **16 September**

“Buried. Alive.” Betty Spackman, artist of the “Found Wanting” installation, Agora, Year of the Soil lecture, Augustana campus. [2/10=20]

#### **23 September**

“Soil and Spirit”, Symeon van Donkelaar, artist, Agora, Year of the Soil lecture, Augustana campus. [2/12=24]

#### **3 October**

“The Challenge that Aboriginal Therapies Pose for Western Medicine”, Earle Waugh, Steep’s, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [3/21=63]

#### **17 October**

“Poverty and Doing Something About It”, Gloria Chalmers and Jeff Bisanz, Steep’s, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [3/25=75]

#### **31 October**

“Headliners of the World, United to Kill a Deal! Iran After the Nuclear Deal, Mojtaba Mahdavi, Steep’s, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [3/30=90]

#### **4 November**

“Remembering Palmyra: A Reflection on the Cult of Sacrifice and Human Memory,” David Goa, Steep’s, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [3/40=120]

**25 November**

“Pluralism and Public Religion: A Partnership with Turkey”, Conversations in the Agora with David J. Goa, Camrose. [2/14=28]

**27 January 2016**

“Reconciliation: The Literature of Damages, Marketability, Truth and Telling” Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington. Conversations in the Agora, Augustana campus, UofA. [1.5/15=22.5]

**28 January**

“ISIS, Islamophobia, and the Fear of the West”, David J. Goa, A Philosopher’s Café, Central Lions Seniors Association. [1.5/52-78]

**6 February**

“Humans in the Glass Cage of Automation”, Martin Tweedale, Prof. Emeritus, Philosophy, University of Alberta. Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.1/33=82.5]

**10 February**

“Contemplation and Action: My Journey to India”, Rajan Rathnavalu, Junior Fellow. Conversations in the Agora, Augustana campus. [1.5/18=27]

**20 February**

“Steve Fuller’s Humanity 2.0”, Francis Remedios, PhD, University of Leuven. Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.5/26=65]

**25 February**

“Putin’s Russia and the Rise of the Religious Right”, David J. Goa, A Philosopher’s Café, Central Lions Seniors Association. [1.5/52=78]

**2 March**

“Theology of Inculturation of the Faith and the Oblate-Aboriginal Encounter in Alberta”, Catherine Caufield, Associate Director. Conversations in the Agora, Augustana campus. [1.5/34=51]

**5 March**

“Kant, Eugenics, and Human Nature”, Alan McLuckie, Killam Post-doctoral Fellow, Philosophy, University of Alberta. Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.5/27=67.5]

**8 March**

“Contemplation and Prophecy: Thomas Merton as Spiritual Icon”, Michael Higgins, Vice President and Professor, Religious Studies, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield Connecticut. Conversations in the Agora, Augustana campus. [1.5/22=33]

**11 March**

“Physician Assisted Death: Implications of the Legal Decision,” David J. Goa, Director, CRC, A Philosopher’s Café, Central Lions Seniors Association. [1.5/44=66]

### **19 March**

“Are Westerners enlightened as a result of 'The Enlightenment'?”, Don Carmichael, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, University of Alberta Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.5/30=75]

### **2 April**

“All things considered, the Enlightenment turned out to be irrelevant for feminists “, Rosalind Sydie, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, University of Alberta Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.5/34=85]

### **16 April**

“The Wisdom of Experience versus the Hubris of Reason: A Spirited Defence of Classical Conservatism for the Modern Age”, Tony Simmons, Associate Professor of Sociology, Athabasca University Steeps, the Urban Tea House, Edmonton. [2.5/38=95]

## **Conferences**

### **20 July**

“Listening to Muslims in the Face of Religious Terror”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa and Volker Greifenhagen, North American Interfaith Association bi-annual conference, University of Regina. [1.5/70=105]

### **25-27 September**

*Beyond Moments of Euphoria and Middle East Exceptionalism: Social Movements and Democratic Consolidation in MENA Region*”, an interdisciplinary and comparative conference to be held in the Fall 2015. David Goa joined the planning committee at the request of Professors Allam and Mahdavi, Political Science, UofA north campus. Ronning Centre is a partner. David Goa, chair for keynote, “Reformist Islam, Gender, and the Question of Authority”, Amina Wadud [1.5/71=107]

David J. Goa, chair for panel with Professors Herfeh, Yahya, Bilgili. [1/34=34]

### **1 October**

“The Spiritual Dimensions of Death and Dying”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa. Being With Dying conference of the Camrose and District Hospice Society. [1.5/87= 130.5]

### **8-11 October**

International Symposium on Time in Islamic Civilization, Necmettin Erbakan Universitesi, Konya, Turkey.

“The Time of the Kingdom: An Eastern Christian Perspective”, David J. Goa [1/112=112]

*Unsettling Colonial Modernity 2015*, an interdisciplinary conference at the Uof A, April 2015. David Goa served on the advisory committee.

### **13 - 15 November**

“Making Peace with the Land,” a Ronning Centre conference, Augustana Campus, Camrose.  
Registration for the conference: 210.

### **Saturday**

“Peace From Down Under”, Andrew Creed. [1.5/173=259.5]

“Healing Mind, Body, Land, Spirit”, James Makokis. [1.5/178=267]

“Greening Oil Country”, Dennis Cuku. [1.5/175=262.5]

“Youthful Visions for a Community Land Ethic”, Leah Johnson, Sarah McCrae, Ryan Lindsay, Takota Coen. [1.5/172=258]

### **Sunday**

“Solar Power in Alberta”, Randal Benson, workshop. [1.5/29=43.5]

“Cree Culture, History and Ceremony”, Roy and Judy Louis, workshop. [1.5/32=48]

### **3 May 2016**

“Gregory of Nyssa: Landscape as Revelation”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa, *II Uluslararası Nevşehir Tarih ve Kültür Sempozyumu* (2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the history and culture of Nevşehir). [1/64=64]

### **20 May**

“Deep Religion, the Antidote to the Diseases of Modernity”, an invited lecture by David J. Goa, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on “Religious Studies and Global Peace”, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on “Religious Studies and Global Peace”, Necmettin Erbakan University, Sarajevo, Bosna Hersek.

### **30 May**

“Encounters with Hybridity: Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life”, a paper by Catherine Caufield for the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion at the Congress of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Calgary, Calgary.

## **Ronning Centre Study Circles, Courses, Symposia**

### **August – January 2016**

Ethics in World Religions (SSC513), Saint Stephen’s College, reading course for David Faver taught by David Goa.

### **August – January 2016**

Special Topics in Diversity: Faith and Culture (SSC547), Saint Stephen’s College, reading course for Wenda Salomons taught by David Goa.

David Goa is part of The King’s University teaching team. He has been teaching Chris Brazeau, Edmonton Institution. Brazeau was transferred to a medium security prison in October.

### **February – March**

“Special Topics in Diversity: Faith and Culture”, SSC547, Saint Stephen’s College course. Course preparation covering issues of religious literacy associated with health and healing in Aboriginal, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Sikh traditions. Offered in August 2016.

### **Distinguished Visiting Fellows & Ronning Fellows**

The Ronning Centre Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment is supported through the generous contributions of many of the Friends of the Ronning Centre.

#### **11 September**

“Politics & Planning in Cities of Conflict: The Case of Jerusalem”, Prof. Moshe Amirav, Hebrew University, The King’s University. [1.5/18=27]

“The Role of Jerusalem: Religious Perspectives”, Prof. Moshe Amirav, Hebrew University, Augustana campus, UofA. [1.5/24=36]

#### **8 October**

“Intelligent Humility”, Betty Spackman, The King’s University, Edmonton. [2/30=60]

#### **13 January 2016**

“No More Naked Public Square”, Ron Nikkel, President Emeritus, Prison Fellowship International, Washington. The King’s University, Edmonton. [1.5/18=27]

#### **14 January**

“No More Naked Public Square”, Ron Nikkel, President Emeritus, Prison Fellowship International, Washington. Augustana campus, UofA. [1.5/20=30]

#### **22 January**

“‘God is Beautiful and Loves Beauty’: Fostering Religious Literacy through the Arts”, Ali Asani, Director, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Program and Professor, Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Culture, Harvard University. Augustana campus, UofA. [1/27=27]

“ ‘God is Beautiful and Loves Beauty’: Fostering Religious Literacy through the Arts”, Ali Asani,. The King’s University. [1.5/29=40.5]

#### **26 January**

“Practicing ‘Decolonial Love’: Damages, Relations, Truth and Telling”, Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington. Maskwacis Cultural College, Maskwacis.

“Practicing ‘Decolonial Love’: Damages, Relations, Truth and Telling”, Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington. Wahkotowin Lodge, Augustana campus, UofA.

#### **3 February**

“‘The Prayer of Faith will Save the Sick’: Health, Medicine, and Religion in Today’s World”, Earle Waugh, Professor Emeritus and Director, Centre for Culture and Health, Family Medicine, University of Alberta. [1.5/31=46.5]

### **8 March**

“A Many Mottled Beast: Religion, Media, and the Public Square”, Michael Higgins, Vice President and Professor, Religious Studies, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield Connecticut. Augustana campus. [2/29=58]

### **9 March**

“A Many Mottled Beast: Religion, Media, and the Public Square”, Michael Higgins, Vice President and Professor, Religious Studies, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield Connecticut. Saint Joseph’s College, north campus, UofA, Edmonton . [1.5/24=36]

### **15 March**

“Nurturing Global Citizens: How Universities Can Develop, Enhance, and Refine Their Learning-Abroad Programs”, Michel Desjardins, Associate Dean and professor, Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University. Augustana campus. [1.5/15=22.5]

### **5 April**

“Clearing the Plains, Clearing the Air: What We Can Do in Post-TRC Canada”, James Daschuk, Professor of Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina. Augustana campus. [1.5/26=39]

### **11 April**

“Faith Communities and the Common Good”, Joe Mihevc, Councillor, City of Toronto. Augustana campus. [1.5/14=21]

### **12 April**

“Friendship: The Horizon of Our Common Life”, John von Heyking, Professor, Political Science, University of Lethbridge. Augustana campus. [1.2/18=27]

### **26 May**

“Law, Religion, and Public Life: The Stories We Tell”, Pamela Klassen, Professor, Religion and Anthropology, University of Toronto, and, Benjamin Berger, Professor of Law, Osgoode Hall, York University, Toronto. [tba]

## **Ronning Centre Research and Documentation**

### **4 March**

“Religious Diversity in the Rural Community of Camrose, Alberta”, Catherine Caufield, with David Goa and Joseph McMorro. “Getting Results: Migration, Opportunities and Good Governance”, National Metropolis Conference, Toronto.

### **September–continuous**

Ongoing partnership with Cardus, Templeton Foundation and the Aga Khan Development Network (Global Centre for Pluralism) for the project *Symposium on Civic Virtue and Civil Charters: Creating Respectful Communities in a Divided World* project.

**November 2010–continuous**

“The Evangelical Church in Canada: Exploring its Tectonic Shifts,” a research and publication project initiated with various partners and participants including: Canadian Evangelical Theological Association (CETA), an association of professors, Margie Patrick, Joel Nikkel, Will Van Arragon, The King’s University College. Potential participants: John McKay, MP, Ron Dart, UBC, Frazer Valley, Jeffrey MacPherson, McMaster University, John Stackhouse, Regent, Dawit Isaac, Edmonton.

**November 2010–continuous**

“The Liberal Protestant Church in Canada: Exploring its Gifts and Challenges,” a research and publication project initiated with various partners and participants including: Dittmar Mündel, Roger Hutchinson, Martin Garber-Conrad, Bob McKeon, Ingrid Doerschel.

**30 November**

Applied for a UARE-CSC (China Scholarship Council) for *The Chester Ronning Papers* project.

**2 December**

KIAS Dialogue Grant of \$1,000 received for Turkey-Canada Partnership project.

**19 January**

Catherine Caufield applied for an eligibility exception to the Research Services Office of the University of Alberta. Granted February 3; Associate Director can now apply for and hold research funds on behalf of the Ronning Centre.

**Addresses and Lectures**

**1 September**

“The Gift and Challenge of the Ronning Centre’s Work”, David J. Goa, an invited lecture and discussion with Bishop Telmor Sartison and group, Ronning House. [2/20=40]

**22 September**

“Theology of Inculturation of the Faith and its Relationship to the Oblate-Aboriginal Encounter in Alberta, invited keynote, Catherine Caufield, Associate Director Ronning Centre, for the inauguration of the Institute for Christian Studies and Culture, Concordia University. [1/70=70]

**24 November**

“Heretic, Why Islam Needs a Reformation: Does Ayaan Hirse Ali Have it Right?”, an invited lecture, David J. Goa, Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church, Edmonton. [1.5/24=36]

“Refugees, ISIS and Christian Responsibility”, an invited lecture, David J. Goa and Azim Jeraj, Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton. [2.5/44=110]

## **10 January 2016**

“A Christian Conversation with Swami Vivekananda”, David J. Goa, an invited lecture in the symposium, Legacy of Swami Vivekananda, An Interfaith Dialogue, jointly sponsored with The Hindu Society of Alberta, Edmonton. Additional lectures from a Vedanta, Hindu and Jain perspective. This event was cosponsored by Ronning Centre. [2/147=294]

## **4 February**

“*Sola Fide/Gratia*, In the Footsteps of Francis and the Sultan: A Model for Peacemaking”, a forum of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute with David Goa and Ishak Yorganci held at Saint Joseph’s College, UofA, Edmonton. [2/24=48]

## **9 March**

“Revisiting the Doctrine of Justification by Grace Through Faith”, David J. Goa, Director, & Stephen Martin, Professor, The King’s University and Ronning Centre Fellow. Lutheran/Roman Catholic Study Group in preparation for “Reformation 500”, Providence Retreat Centre, Edmonton. [2/17=34]

## **6 June**

“A Meditation on Power”, David J. Goa invited to give the lecture at the AGM of Sahakarini NGO, Camrose. [.5/30=15]

## **Publications**

Caufield, Catherine. “Emancipatory Possibilities beyond Kyriarchy: A Mexican Woman's Story.” *Fieldwork in Religion*. 10.2 (2015): 209–231.

Caufield, Catherine. “Narratives of Jesus: Hermeneutics and the Co-creation of Meaning.” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*. 44.3 (2015): 26–44.

Caufield, Catherine. “Exilio espiritual en *Tierra adentro* de Muñiz-Huberman.” *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*. 92.2 (2015): 185–197.

Caufield, Catherine. “Theology of Inculturation of the Faith and the Oblate-Aboriginal Encounter in Alberta.” *Canadian Journal of Scholarship and the Christian Faith*. In press.

Caufield, Catherine. “Teaching Women in World Religions.” *Teaching Theology and Religion*. In Press.

Caufield, Catherine. *Shmiot Fugue: Neomysticism in the Voices of Three Jewish-Mexican Women*. In review.

Goa, David. “Foreward.” *A Muslim Perspective on Christian Mysteries: The Incarnation, The Crucifixion*, by Reza Shah-Kazemi, Augustana. Augustana Distinguished Lectures, 2013. Camrose, Alberta: The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, 2016.



Goa, David. "The Future of Religion." An invited reflection by David J. Goa, *New Trails, University of Alumni magazine*. Winter 2015: 44.

Goa, David. "Spatiul public si cultura amneziee." Translated by Florin Tomoioag into Romanian for *Biserica Si Societatea*, edited by Timoteo Seviciu and Arhiepiscopul Aradului (Editura Arhiepiscopiei Aradului, Editura Tiparnita, 2016). This essay was originally published in *A Regard for All Creation* and titled, "The Public Square and the Culture of Amnesia."

Goa, David, Nicholas Wickenden, Rebecca van Arragon, and Catherine Caufield. *Chester Ronning Centre Newsletter*. Fall 2015.

*A Muslim Perspective on Christian Mysteries: The Incarnation, The Crucifixion*, by Reza Shah-Kazemi, Augustana. Augustana Distinguished Lectures, 2013. Camrose, Alberta: The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, 2016.

### **University Service**

David Goa is advisor to Hakan Gulerce, PhD candidate, George Washington University, is doing a comparative study of the social teaching of the Muslim theologian Said Nursi and the Second Vatican Council.

David Goa provided a Letter of Reference for the Integrated Dietetic Internship program, University of Alberta for former student Sarah Jean-Noel; internship granted.

David Goa served on the Advisory Committee for *Unsettling Colonial Modernity 2015*, an interdisciplinary conference at the Uof A, April 2015.

David Goa serves on the Editorial Board, *Marife, the Turkish Journal of Religious Studies*, Mecmettin Erbakan University.

David Goa serves on the Editorial Advisory Board, *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, Canada's leading journal of religious studies.

David Goa serves on the Advisory Board of *Material Religion, The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*, an international journal, published by Berg in the United Kingdom.

David Goa serves on the editorial board of *Katre, the International Journal of Said Nursi Studies*, published in Istanbul, Turkey.

Catherine Caufield spearheaded the formation of the Religious Studies and Theology Articulation Committee with the Alberta Council of Admissions and Transfers, Alberta Education, Postsecondary Division and sits as its Chair (Interim).

Catherine Caufield continues to serve as Editor of the international journal *Religious Studies and Theology*.

Catherine Caufield coordinated the renewal of the Religious Studies and Theology working group this past year.

Catherine Caufield continues to serve as a Member-at-Large of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR).

Catherine Caufield, as a member of the executive of CSSR, worked with Canadian Theological Society (CTS), Canadian Society for Biblical Studies (CSBS) and Canadian Society for Patristic Studies (CSPS) to organize this year's Joint Lecture for Congress.

### **Public Service & Media**

#### **September**

"Frack-Tured, there are two sides to every story", *Business in Edmonton*, article based on interview with Hans Asfeldt on "Alberta Voices" and Spirit of the Land project.

#### **19 October**

Interview request for David Goa to comment on the Canadian election, Chicago Public Radio.

#### **21 November**

"Goa on the Green Pope", *Western Catholic Reporter*, article on David Goa's lecture on the papal encyclical, "Our Common Home".

#### **17 February 2016**

"A Better Way to Travel", Eric Steele, in *The Daglightale*, quoted David Goa.

#### **7 April**

"Canada's small towns can make refugees feel at home", Joseph McMorrow and Catherine Caufield *Edmonton Journal*. A.10.