



**Chester Ronning Centre**  
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

**Annual Report**  
1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015  
Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

## **Program Summary**

This year at the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life (CRC) we offered and joined with various partners in almost two hundred events working across the academy, the public square, and within religious communities. Our work continued with our partners in Turkey as we plan to explore the varieties of the secular and the shape of public religion in various countries. A particular pleasure has been the work to reshape our website, bring a decade of audio and video recordings into a robust “Topics” area, and develop the Ronning Centre International Fellows initiative, making some twenty fine public intellectuals readily available to journalists and others. We invite you to visit our new website and have a look and to make use of the resources through it for ongoing education including study groups you may be associated with.

Highlights of the past year are difficult to choose. So many generous women and men have come and engaged in our work. Each has enlarged our thinking and deepened our ability to address many of the demanding issues we face locally, nationally and internationally. Let me mention a few. Rev. Dr. Salim Munayer, through a series of lectures on “who owns the land” opened the minds and hearts of many to the enormous challenges facing Israel and Palestine. Similarly, our Junior Fellows, along with other students, helped shape the conference “Respecting the Land: Transitions to a New Economy”. The Augustana Distinguished Lectures by Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (published under the title, *Three Perspectives on the Sacred, Healing Wisdom from the Desert, the Mountain, and the Cosmos*) invited us to think deeply about the way we live and how we are capable of living in a deeper union with all the gifts of our fragile and beautiful world. The Director was also invited, based on his recent book, *The Christian Responsibility to Muslims*, to a series of lectures and conversations in Nanimo, followed by joining Volker Greifenhagen in a similar offering in the Vancouver area.

This coming year it is our intention to bring to maturity the International Fellows initiative both with journalists and as an enhancement to the student experience at Augustana. We hope you will continue to join us in the opportunities afforded by our joint work.

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

Aksaray University, Turkey  
Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities  
Association for Life-Wide Living (ALL)  
Battle River Writing Centre  
BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

## **Roll Call**

Among the people who have contributed substantially to the work of the Chester Ronning Centre over the last year are:

Mustafa Acar, Rector, Askaray University, Turkey

Vangie Bergum, Author

Darrol Bryant, Director, Centre for Dialogue and Spirituality, University of Waterloo

Don Carmichael, Professor of Political Science, University of Alberta

Rev Dr John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Roger Epp, Professor of Political Science, University of Alberta

Milton Friesen, Cardus

F. Volker Greifenhagen, Luther College, University of Regina

Very Rev Fr Dr Cyril Hovorun, Yale University Divinity School Research Fellow

Bilal Kuspinar, Director of the International Rumi Centre

Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute  
Canadian Union University  
Cardus  
Centre for Alternative Medicine and Health, University of Alberta  
Concordia University College  
Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta  
Department of Political Science, University of Alberta  
Department of Political Science, University of Lethbridge  
Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta  
Eco-Justice Unit of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster  
The Ecumenical Patriarchate, Istanbul, Turkey  
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  
Faith and Society Committee of the BC Synod of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in Canada  
First Lutheran Church, Vancouver  
Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo  
Institute of Ismaili Studies, London  
International Institute of Islamic Studies  
Islamic Centre  
Ismaili Association of Edmonton  
Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Modern Horizons Journal  
Monastery of All Saints of North America  
Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University, Turkey  
Orthodox Peace Fellowship of Canada  
Religious Studies Program, University of Alberta  
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton  
Saint Herman's Orthodox Sobor, Edmonton  
St. George's Greek Orthodox Church  
St. Stephen's College, Edmonton  
Steeps Tea House, Edmonton  
Taylor Seminary, Edmonton  
The Faith & Society Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada  
The Kings University, Edmonton  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton  
University of the Frazer Valley, BC  
Vancouver School of Theology

*(continued on page 3)*

## **Roll Call (cont'd)**

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 on the next page.

### **Statistics of Note**

	<b>2014–2015</b>
Number of Ronning Centre events:	194
Total attendance:	4,172
Number of teaching hours	11,395
Publications (books, newsletters, articles)	8
Media (interviews, consultations)	14
CRC Annual Fund (550 account)	\$18,204.24
Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment	\$666,544.38
Hendrickson Memorial Endowment	\$113,717.28
Prof. Nicholas Wickenden, volunteer hours est.	120
Reiner Loewan, volunteer hours est.	60

### **CRC Seminars**

**17 November 2014**

“Religion and Culture in Camrose and District”, David J. Goa, an invited seminar for Canada World Youth. [2/20=40]

### **CRC Forums**

**19 September 2014**

“Omar Khadr: What does his case teach us about human rights in Canada”, Dennis Edney, QC, Professor Michael DeMoor and David J. Goa, Richardson Hall, Winnipeg. A forum that paralleled the opening of the Human Rights Museum. [2.5/50=150]

### **CRC Consultations**

**2 October 2014**

“Soul City”, a joint consultation project with CARDUS, exploring the social capital of Edmonton with Milton Friesen, Monique Nutter, David Williams, Stephen Martin, Ray Weins, David Ridley, Keilel Rose, Azim Jeraj, David Goa. [2.5/8=20]

Jerôme Melançon, Department of Political Studies and Philosophy, Augustana Campus

Carmelle Mohr, Ronning Centre Junior Fellow

Salim Munayer, Director, Musalaha Ministries

Ronald Niezen, Canada Research Chair, McGill University

Suzette Phillips, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta

Rajan Rathnavalu, Ronning Centre Junior Fellow

Betty Spackman, Artist

Martin Tweedale, Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, University of Alberta

**3 October**

“Soul City”, a joint consultation project with CARDUS, exploring the social capital of Camrose with Milton Friesen, Agnus Hoveland, Dittmar and Pat Mundel, Bill Sears, Max Lindstrand, Linda Gervais, Margaret Rathnavalu, Codie McCarroll, Jane Ariel, David Goa. [2.5/11=27.5]

**13 & 14 November**

“Towards a Theology on Spirituality and Justice and Biblical Reconciliation”, Salim Munayer, in partnership with CLBI, Camrose. [1.5/50 = 75 x 4 = 300]

**2 February 2015**

“Islamophobia”, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Acar, Rector, Aksaray Univeristy, Turkey, with David Goa as respondent, The King’s University. [2/100=200]

**3 February**

“Islamophobia”, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Acar, Rector, Aksaray Univeristy, Turkey, with David Goa as respondent, Agora Conversations, Augustana campus. [2/29=58]

**CRC Conversations in the Agora & Philosophers’ Cafés****20 September 2014**

“A Sense of Place,” Charles Schweger, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton. [2.5/30=75]

“Canada, Human Rights and Child Soldiers”, Dennis Edney and David Goa, Winnipeg Free Press Café, Winnipeg. [1.5/21=31.5]

**22 September**

“Radicalization, Canadian Culture, and University Education,” Natasha Martel and David Goa, Conversations in the Agora, Camrose. [2.5/10=25]

**4 October**

“The Other Side of the City: Urban Institutions That Harm and Help,” Milton Friesen, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton. [2.5/30=75]

**17 October**

“Instrumentum Laboris: Catholics Rethink the Family,” David Goa, Conversations in the Agora, Camrose. [2/14=28]

**18 October**

“Who Governs? Who Cares? Democracy and Power in Edmonton,” Judy Garber, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton. [2.5/34=85]

**1 November**

“Outside the City Wall,” Hannah Goa, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton. [2.5/29=72.5]

**15 November**

“Shaking the Hands and Caring for the Land That Feeds Us,”  
Monique Nutter, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton.  
[2.5/20=50]

**28 November**

“Prostitution and Canadian Law and Culture,” Kate Quinn,  
Conversations in the Agora, Camrose. [2/21=42]

**29 November**

“Art for the Halibut,” Karyn Stirling, Philosophers’ Café,  
Edmonton. [2.5/25=62.5]

**13 December**

“An Urban Talkabout,” Martin Tweedale and Don Carmichael, Philosophers’ Café, Edmonton.  
[2.5/30=75]

**16 January 2015**

“Thinking About the Paris Shooting and Freedom of Speech”, David J. Goa, Conversations in  
the Agora, Camrose. [2/27=54]

**7 February**

“Ethics and International Relations: On Skepticism, Suffering, and the Status of Strangers, Roger  
Epp, Vice Provost, University of Alberta, Philosopher’s Café, Edmonton. [3/38=114]

**21 February**

“Kant on the Supposed Right to Lie”, Alan McLuckie, Postdoc Fellowship, University of Alberta,  
Philosopher’s Café, Edmonton [2.5/30=75]

**23 February**

“The Insistence of Hope”, Rebecca Warren, Conversations in the Agor, Camrose. [2/25=50]

**21 March**

“Gifts, Bribes, and the Ethics of Business”, Jim Gaa, Pofessor of Accounting, University of  
Alberta, Philosopher’s Café, Edmonton. [2.5/30=72]

**28 March**

“Did Socrates Deserve to Die?”, Kathrin Koslicki, Professor and Canada Research Chair in  
Epistemology and Metaphysics, University of Alberta, Philosopher’s Café, Edmonton.  
[2.5/30=72]

**11 April**

“Nietzsche’s Moral Mirror: If an ape looks in, can an angel look out?”, Robert Burch, Professor  
Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Alberta, Philosopher’s Café, Edmonton. [2.5/32=80] ]

**3 May**

“Does the Jesus of the Gospels Teach a Moral Religion”, David J. Goa, Philosopher’s Café,  
Edmonton. [2.5/38=114]

## Conferences

### **28 July 2014**

*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. CRC is a partner. Conference will be in September of 2015.

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

### **25 October**

“Conversations with Tradition,” co-sponsored with Modern Horizons, The King’s University, Edmonton.



### **7–8 November**

“Respecting the Land: Transition to a New Economy,” a Ronning Centre conference, Augustana Campus, Camrose.

#### **Friday**

Opening & Keynote, James Magnus-Johnston (CASSE) [2/165=330]

#### **Saturday**

Plenary, Mike Unraw [1.5/190=285]

Plenary, Duane Guina, Farmland Legacies, [1.5/190=285]

### **Local Experts**

Transitioning Beyond Peak Oil [1.5/42=63; 1.5/38=57]

Sustainable Land and Food Systems [1.5/43=64.5; 1.5/36=54]

Entertaining Ourselves to Life [1.5/35=52.5]

Attending to the Local Economy [1.5/35=52.5]

Healthy, Livable Communities [1.5/38=57]

The Wealth of Being [1.5/37=55.5; 1.5/35=52.5]

## CRC Study Circles, Course, Symposium

### **June – August 2014**

AUREL 391 Directed Reading course for Hans Asfeldt, directed by David Goa [1/35=35]

### **September to December 2014**

AUREL 270 “Ultimate Questions in a Post-Christian Age,” taught by David Goa, Augustana Campus, Camrose. Students: [3x15= 45 x 13=585 ]; public [2x25=50x13=650]

CHRTC 103 “Roads to Happiness”, team taught with Prof. Suzette Phillips, St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton. [3x15=45 x 13=585]

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. [1/3=3x15=45]

David Goa is part of The King’s University teaching team. He has been teaching Omar Khadr, Bowden Institution. [1/3=3x15=45]

### **January – April, 2015**

CHRTC 103 “Roads to Happiness”, team-taught with Prof. Suzette Bremault-Phillips, St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton. [1.5 x 33=49.5 x 26 classes =1287]

#### **29 January**

“The Orthodox Way”, David Goa lecture in AUREL 100, Augustana. [1.5/34=50]

#### **30 January**

“The Orthodox Way”, David Goa lecture in AUREL 100, Augustana. [1.5/14=21]

### **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.

#### **18 September**

“Jesus and Muhammad: A Sufi Perspective,” Bilal Kuspinar, Professor of Philosophy & Director, International Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilizations, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Augustana Campus, Camrose. [1.5/33=49.5]



“Pathways to the Heart: Sufi and Hesechastic Traditions in Conversation”, Bilal Kuspinar and David J. Goa. [3/15=45]

#### **10 November**

“The Trinity Western University Law School Case”, Iain Benson, Augustana. [2/14=28]

“What Divides, What Unites, and Who Decides: Religion, Association and the Limits of Law”, Iain Benson, Augustana. [2.5/37=92.5]

#### **11 November**

“What Divides, What Unites, and Who Decides: Religion, Association and the Limits of Law”, Iain Benson, Canadian Union University, Lacombe. [2.5/104=260]

#### **19 January 2015**

“Liberation from the Past: Victim-Centrism in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools”, Ronald Niezen, co-sponsored with the Micah Centre, The King’s University, Edmonton. [2/72=144]

## 20 January

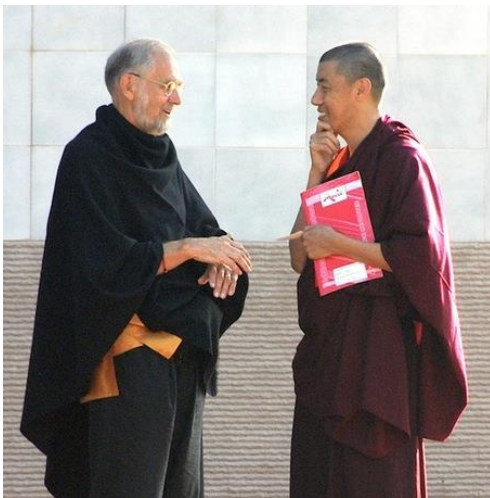
“Liberation from the Past: Victim-Centrism in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools”, Ronald Niezen, Augustana campus. [2/75=150]

“The Changing Shape of Anthropology”, a conversation with Ronald Niezen, AUSOC 105. [1.5/40=60]

“The Limits of Truth-Telling: Inclusion and Exclusion in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools, Ronald Niezen, Augustana campus. [2/27=54]

## 21 January

“Field Work in Aboriginal Communities”, a conversation with Ronald Niezen and Augustana faculty and student researchers. [1/10=10]



## 11 – 12 March

Professor M. Darrol Bryant is the Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Director of the Centre for Dialogue and Spirituality in World Religions at Renison University College, University of Waterloo.

“Hinduism in India and Canada”, AUREL 101 two sections. [1.5/30=45; 1.5/26=39]

“The Travelling Guru”, Augustana campus. [2/30=60]

## 22 – 30 March

Archimandrite the Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Cyril Hovorun gave the following lectures:

“Nationalism as a Form of Secularization of the Church”, All Saints Monastery, Dewdney, BC. [2/27=54]

“Religious Ethos of Putin’s Regime in Russia”, University of the Frazer Valley, Pol Sc 480j. [3/18=36 x 2=72]

“Ideology of the Russian World”, University of the Frazer Valley, Pol Sc 331 [3/25=75 x 2=150]  
“God on the Maidan and the Implications of the Ukrainian Revolution for Eastern Christianity, Pol Sc 120. [3/25=75 x 2=150]

“Symphony and its Reincarnations in Our Day”, All Saints Monastery, Dewdney, BC [2/42=84]

## Junior Fellows & Interns

**[INTERN update below included several not included in prior annual report]**

Ronning Centre Interns: Carmelle Mohr, Hans Asfeldt, Geordie Nelson, Natasha Martel, and Alison Bortolon



**15 April 2014**

“Bigger and Better: Hydraulic Fracturing and our Energy Intensive Lifestyle,” Hans Asfeldt to Probus Club, Camrose (1/40=40)

**7 May**

“State of oil and gas development in Albert,” Hans Asfeldt, Geordie Nelson, and Natasha Martel in dialogue with Cochrane area residents, Cochrane (3/12=36)

**28 May**

“The Church and Development: Project North, KAIROS, and Religious Leaders,” seminar with David Goa, Camrose (2/6=12)

**30 May**

Filming with Donna Wise

**3 June**

“Meanings and Perceptions of Bishop Tutu’s Address on the Oilsands in Fort McMurray,” seminar with David Goa, Camrose (3/7=21)

**4 June**

Conversations with journalists Andrew Nikiforuk and Dave Camapanella, Parkland Institute.

**5-7 June**

Conversations with Caleb Behn and those attending the Cold Lake Keepers of the Water conference, Athabasca, Alberta.

**7 June**

“Hydraulic Fracturing in Alberta: an Overview,” Hans Asfeldt, Keepers of the Water Annual Gathering, Cold Lake (0.5/30=15)

**10 June**

“Conversations on Water, Energy and Livelihoods,” Hans Asfeldt, a panel-led discussion sponsored by the Keepers of the Athabasca and the Crooked Creek Conservancy, Athabasca (3/25=75)

**11 June**

“Bigger and Better: Hydraulic Fracturing and our Energy Intensive Lifestyle,” Hans Asfeldt to Rotary Club, Athabasca (1/30=30)



**16 June**

“First Nations and their Approaches to Development,” seminar with David Goa, Camrose (2.5/8=20)

**26 June**

Conversations with Dr. Russel Schnell

**7 July**

“Development and Economy,” seminar with David Goa, Camrose (2/8=16)

**15 July**

Interview with those attending the Hardisty Enbridge Open House

**17 July**

Conversations with Andrew Davis on web development for the project

**8 August**

Filming with Donna Wise

**9 August**

Conversation with Kim Mildenstein

**11 August**

“Spirit of the Land”, documentary screening and discussion with Alison Bortolon and David Goa, Camrose (2/12=22)

**12 – 13 August**

Filming with David Loyie

**15 – 16 August**

Conversation with Duncan Kenyon, Pembina Institute, and, filming with Karlis Muehlenbachs

**17 August**

Filming with Aiyana Lauridsen

**20 August**

Conversations with Dr. Emily Eaton

**15 September**

Intern’s Report to the Community. Presentation on the summer work on the responsibility for the land. Donors were invited. [2/27=54]

**20 April 2015**

URI office of the UofA in providing funds for Hans Asfeldt to work on curriculum this summer. Proposal developed and funding granted.

Pembina Institute proposal for developing a manual for landowners on policy and practice associated with the petrochemical industry in Alberta. The Relators Association of Alberta have given a grant of \$60,000. for this work. Hans Asfeldt, Rajan Rathnavalu and others will be working on this 2015-16.

## **Augustana Distinguished Lectures (ADL)**

The ADL is made possible through the Hendrickson Memorial Endowment.

### **29 October 2014**

“In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers,” John Chryssavgis, St George’s Greek Orthodox Church, Edmonton. [2/50=100]

### **30 October**

“Peace and Justice: Spiritual Reflections on the Beatitudes,” John Chryssavgis, Augustana campus, Camrose. [1.5/52=76]

“On Earth as it is in Heaven: Transforming Perspectives and Practices,” John Chryssavgis, Augustana campus, Camrose. [2.5/49=122.5]

### **31 October**

“On Earth as it is in Heaven: Transforming Perspectives and Practices,” John Chryssavgis, The King’s University, Edmonton. [2/20=40]



## **CRC Research & Documentation**

### **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.

## **21 April—continuous**

“Iranian Public Intellectuals in the Neo-Shariati School of Thought,” Professor Mojtaba Mahadavi, Political Science, University of Alberta, and CRC Fellow, with David Goa as research collaboration. KIAS grant.

## **2013-2016**

Collaboration with the Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilizations, Konya, Turkey, with CRC, a comparative study of forms of the secular and public religion in the West and Turkey.

## **Addresses & Lectures**

### **6 July 2014**

“Stranger in a Strange Land: Story, Bible & Identity” David Goa, First Mennonite Church, Edmonton. [.5/92=46]

### **24 September**

“Pathways to Wholeness: Orthodox Spiritual Discipline”, an invited lecture by David Goa for Rel 210, Christian Spiritual Formation, Canadian Union University, Lacombe. [1.5/10=15]

### **25 September**

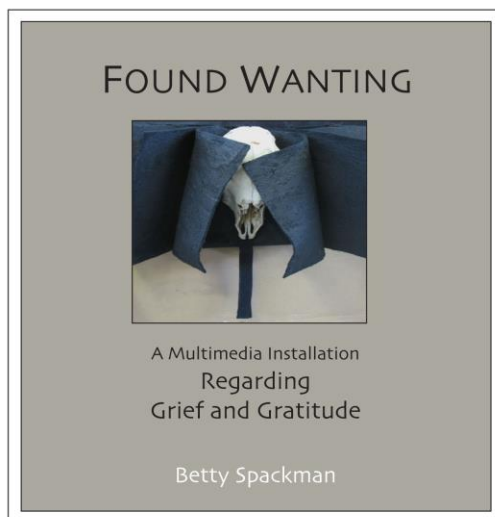
“Downstream: Bestemor and Me,” Vangie Bergum, co-sponsored by the Association for Life-wide Living (ALL) and the Battle River Writing Centre, Augustana campus, Camrose. [2/56=112]

### **26 September**

“Evangelical Protestants and Ecology”, invited lecture by David Goa, AUREL 345. [1.5/20=30]

### **27 September**

“Memoir Writing Workshop,” Vangie Bergum, co-sponsored by the Association for Life-wide Living (ALL) and the Battle River Writing Centre, Camrose. [5/12=60]



### **8 October**

“Confessions of an Artist: Enough is Enough,” Betty Spackman, The King’s University, Edmonton. [.5/200=100]

### **8 October**

“Intelligent Humility: Christianity and the Arts,” Betty Spackman, The King’s University Edmonton. [1.5/20=30]

### **9 October**

“Found Wanting: A Multimedia Installation Regarding Grief and Gratitude—Process and Collaboration,” Betty Spackman, The King’s University, Edmonton. [2/13=26]

**10 October**

“Confessions of an Artist: The Importance of Process,” Betty Spackman, The King’s University, Edmonton. [3.5/17=59.5]

**21 October**

“Engaging Our Capacity to Care”, an invited keynote by David Goa, Alberta Health Services *Spiritual Care Week 2014*, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Foothills Medical Centre and available via Telehealth at six sites in Alberta. [1.5/50=75]

**13 November**

“Waging Peace When the Context is War,” Salim Munayer, Director, Musalaha Ministries, Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose. [1.5/106=159]

**17 November**

“Who Owns the Land: Israel/Palestine,” Salim Munayer, Augustana campus, Camrose. [2/47=94]

**18 November**

“Who Owns the Land: Israel/Palestine,” Salim Munayer, Concordia University College, Edmonton. [2/30=60]

**27 January 2015**

“Conversations in the House of Islam”, David J. Goa, invited lecture, Rotary Club of Edmonton. [5/62=31]

**6 March**

“Religion, Civil Life and the purpose of the Humanities”, an invited lecture by David Goa, University of Alberta Senate. [.75/56= 42]

**26–27 March**

Four lectures by David Goa hosted by Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo, BC and sponsored by the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada

“The Relationship of Women and Men in Islam”. [1.5/57=85.5]

“Seven Things Everyone Needs to Know About Islam”. [2/72=144]

“The Relationship of Men and Women in Islam”. [1.5/52=78]

“The Landscape of Our Conversation with Muslims”. [1.5/50=75]

**27–28 March**

Four lectures by David Goa and Volker Greifenhagen hosted by First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC and sponsored by the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Westminster Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada

“Seven Things Everyone Needs to Know About Islam” [2/75=150]

“Religion and Violence” [1.5/52=78]

“The Landscape of Our Conversation with Muslims” [1.5/52=78]

“The Gift of Spiritual Friendship with Muslims” [1.5/52=78]

## **Publications**

### **2 June 2014**

“Ways of Imperfection,” an essay for *Ways of the Spirit*, edited by Darrol Bryant. Slated for publication in 2014.

### **12 June**

“The Bible in the Land of Shades: Divine Justice and How We Read the Bible,” David J. Goa (Dewdney, British Columbia: Synaxis Press, 2014).

### **2 September**

Chester Ronning Centre Newsletter, Fall 2014



### **30 January 2015**

*The UEncounter*, a digital exhibition exploring ultimate questions. David J. Goa, chief curator. A project of the Humanitas Group.

### **12 February 2015**

Chester Ronning Centre Newsletter, Winter 2015

### **14 February**

“Biography of Archbishop Lazar Puhalo,” in *For a Culture of Co-Suffering Love*, Andrew Sopko, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

### **27 March**

*The Christian Responsibility to Muslims*, David J. Goa (Camrose, Alberta: The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life). Published

### **30 April**

*Three Perspectives on the Sacred, Healing Wisdom from the Desert, the Mountain, and the Cosmos*, John Chryssavgis, Augustana Distinguished Lectures 2014 (Camrose, Alberta: The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life).

## **Centre Development & Key Initiatives**

### **July–continuous 2013**

Proposed partnership with the Faculty of Theology, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey. Partnership focuses on joint conferences and public work on religion and public life issues in Turkey and Canada, broker English as a scholarly language for graduated students, and, seminars for graduated students on issues/themes of religion and public life. Prepared MOU with Appendix and Schedule A.

### **July–continuous 2013**

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

### **2011–continuous**

Press Room. Through this new initiative on our web site the Fellows and Research Associates of the Centre will be made available to the media to comment on breaking stories and provide briefing papers. Through providing accurate information and expert analysis of current issues, they seek to contribute to reasoned and civil debate on difficult and controversial topics.

### **September–continuous**

“For the Healing of the Whole Person: Medicine and Spirituality” is a major initiative involving several units of the University of Alberta including the Ronning Centre. Prof. Suzette Bremault-Phillips, Rehabilitation Medicine, is the lead. Our planning group includes a prestigious group of medical professionals and theologians including Harold Koenig, Bernard McGinn, Donna Dobrowsky, Carol Weingarten, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Thomas Plante, and David Goa.

### **September 2013**

Dean’s Strategic Plan committee. Developed a draft Strategic Plan in preparation for the work of the committee work. Committee members: Alan Fielding, Azim Jeraj, Arlette Zinck, Jeremy Mouat, David Gay, Roger Epp, Allen Berger, David J. Goa.

### **September–continuous**

Ronning Centre International Fellows initiative: project development with the assistance of Catherine Caufield

1. Developed the structure of a suitable web portal. Developed International Fellows profile and posted them on our web portal. Developing media and journalists contacts and posted for use with our web portal.
2. CIP grant program of the provincial government initiated to support 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 prepared for the Lutheran Triune Education and Benevolent Society fund, ELCIC. Our intention is to bring scholars associated with the work of CRC including Dittmar Mundel, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Cam Harder, Franz Wolker Greifenhagen, Ray Schultz, Martin Moser, and, David Goa. Requested to re-submit in 2015.
4. The Chester Ronning Memorial Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy. Grant funding is being explored through the Office of Religious Freedom, Government of Canada.
5. “Varieties of the Secular, Public Religion and Democratic Society”, a series of workshops jointly sponsored by CRC, the department of Political Science, UofA, and the

International Rumi Centre for the Study of Civilizations, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey. Jointly planned by David Goa (CRC), Bilal Kuspinar (IRCSC) and Mojtaba Mahadavi (Pol. Sci). We are planning two workshops, one at Augustana and one in Konya. Our target is for the first workshop to be held in Konya followed by the second workshop in Camrose.

6. “For the Healing of the Whole Person: Medicine and Spirituality” is a major initiative involving several units of the University of Alberta including the Ronning Centre. Prof. Suzette Bremault-Phillips, Rehabilitation Medicine, is the lead. Our planning group includes a prestigious group of medical professionals and theologians including Harold Koenig, Bernard McGinn, Donna Dobrowsky, Carol Weingarten, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Thomas Plante, and David Goa
7. “Civic Virtues and Civil Charters: Creating Respectful Communities in a Divided World”, a project proposal submitted to the John Templeton Foundation by CRC 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. Proposal submitted, October 1.
8. KIAS Dialogue Grant submitted January 15, 2015, requesting support for a consultation and planning meeting with Kenneth Pargament as part of our work on “For the Healing of the Whole Person: Medicine and Spirituality”. Grant of \$1760. Acquired.
9. “Spirited Citizenship: Faith Communities and the Common Good”, SSHRC Grant application. We partnered on this application with numerous other agencies.

### **25 November**

Provost Dinner with the community. David Goa, guest speaker on the International Ronning Centre Fellows. Hosted by Carl and Ellen Amrhein and Olive Young. Guests: Allen and Rebecca Berger, Roger Epp, Father Terry Kersch, Jim Edwards, Dave Hancock, Shelia Pratt, Ralph and Gay Young, Amarjeet Sohi; Peter Leclair (unable to attend).

### **19 May 2015**

New Ronning Centre website launched. It includes profiles of our International Fellows plus a “Press Room” section where all CRC recordings of work done over the last ten years is easily accessed via pertinent topics. This constitutes a major improvement in access to our work.

## **University Service**

### **Continuous**

David Goa was asked to serve on the Editorial Board, *Marife, the Turkish Journal of Religious Studies*, Mecmettin Erbakan University. Accepted.

David Goa continues to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board, *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religienses*, Canada’s leading journal of religious studies.



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

David Goa serves on the Advisory Council for the Religious Studies program at the main campus of the University of Alberta.

### **July 2013–continuous**

David Goa, thesis supervisor for Nola Sharp, Master of Psychotherapy and Spirituality, Saint Stephen's College, University of Alberta. Expected completion, 2015.

### **4 July**

Advised Adib Kaddour on prison chaplaincy options.

### **26 October**

Review of articles submitted to the international journal, *Sociology of Islam*.  
“The Muslim Brotherhood: Between Democracy, Ideology and Distrust”

“Reading Representations of Religion's Presence Amidst the Arab Uprisings: Beyond Caricatures of Resurgent ‘Islamists’ and Enlightened ‘Secularists’

### **January–continuous 2015**

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 is one of his advisors.

## **Public Service & Media**

### **1 June 2014**

Ronald Friesen interviewed and quoted David Goa for an article, “Nurturing our Children's Faith” in the *Canadian Lutheran*, June edition.

### **19 September**

Interview with Michael Welch, News Director, CKUW, Winnipeg, on Canadian Human Rights and the Omar Khadr case.

“Human rights law failed to protect Omar Khadr, his Edmonton lawyer says”, Sheila Pratt, *Edmonton Journal*.

### **1 November**

“The Education of Omar Khadr”, Omar Mouallem, *The Walrus*, November 2014. Interview with RC Fellow, Arlette Zinck and David Goa.

### **12 January 2015**

Vangie Bergum, author, consulted David Goa on the Norwegian Lutheran landscape in Western Canada for her next book.

**24 April**

“Novelist who met with Omar Khadr says he ‘wants to move forward’, by Justin Giovannetti, Globe and Mail, quoted David Goa.

**27 April**

National Public Radio, WBEZ 91.5, program, *Worldview*, interview with David Goa by Jerome MacDonald, on *The Christian Responsibility to Muslims* and on the Omar Khadr court case and my work with him. Our conversation was 30 min. and is available on Podcast through Sound Cloud.

**7 May**

CBC National Television program “News Now”, Ian Hanomansing interviewed David Goa on Omar Khadr on his release from prison.

**8 May**

CBC Calgary radio program, “The Calgary Eye opener”, interviewed David Goa on Omar Khadr on his release from prison.

CBC Edmonton radio program, Edmonton AM, interviewed David Goa on Omar Khadr on his release from prison.

Global interview with David Goa on the character of Omar Khadr. Portions of this television interview were on the local and the national Global evening news.

CBC, “As it Happens”, interview by Carol Off with David Goa on Omar Khadr’s formation and education.

Don Hill, journalist, interviewed David Goa for his podcast, “Voice of Genome Alberta”.

**11 May**

National Public Radio, WBEZ 91.5, program, *Worldview*, interview with David Goa by Jerome MacDonald, on political change in Alberta and its implications and on the release of Omar Khadr. Our conversation was 30 min. and is available on Podcast through Sound Cloud.

**13 May**

Bruce Bowie, 630 CHED anchor for “Morning News” interviewed David Goa on Omar Khadr’s bail release and what he is like as a student.

For more information on Ronning Centre initiatives and events, contact:  
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Or visit our website: [www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning)



