



Professor Herrick Releases Book

By Elizabeth Orlando, Hope Junior

Communication Professor Jim Herrick recently has had another book added to his list of publications. The book, *Scientific Mythologies: How Science And Science Fiction Forge New Religious Beliefs*, is, as Herrick explains it, “a historical and cultural study of the development of modern myths at the intersection of science, science fiction, and new religious movements.”

The book looks at how popular culture has influenced spirituality and is intended for any college-educated audience whom this may interest. Although readers do not have to be Christians, Herrick’s Christian views are very evident throughout.

Herrick wrote this book with the hope that more people would understand the

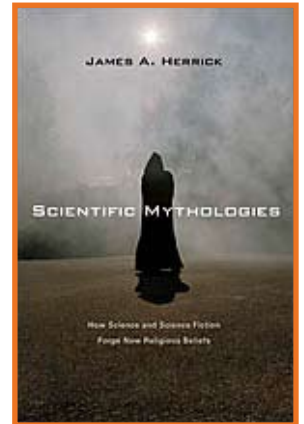
way popular culture, such as movies and television programs, will affect the way viewers think about religion.

“I try to accomplish this goal by reaching back culturally several hundred years,” Herrick said, “and tracing the development of ideas such as the presence of benevolent and intelligent extraterrestrial life, or the belief that exploration of space will yield insights into where we came from or where we are headed.”

Herrick’s research has always explored this idea of “public religious discourse” and its relationship to spirituality. He has been working with this topic since the 1980s and previously wrote the book, *The Making of the New Spirituality*, which also dealt with spirituality and popular culture, but with the overarching concept of the New Age

Movement. This was the book in which Herrick first explored the role of sciencefiction on religious perspectives. Since then, Herrick has found that doing this type of research has had an effect on his own spirituality.

Said Herrick, “As an evangelical Christian I find that exploring these alternative spiritualities leaves me feeling very thankful for the transparency and truth of the Christian gospel, and renews my confidence in the core of the Christian message.”



Alumni Q & A: Vanessa Ann Claus ('08)

By Professor Teresa Housel

Vanessa Ann Claus '08 (Communication and Women's Studies double major) is enrolled in Eastern Michigan University's M.S. program in Human Resources and Organizational Development. Eastern is one of the three graduate schools in the country that offers this program.



“Q & A” is a new monthly feature focusing on recent Communication graduates and their career paths.

Vanessa Claus '08 is an M.S. student in Human Resources and Organizational Development at Eastern Michigan University.

Did the Communication program at Hope help prepare you for grad school? If so, how?

The Communication program at Hope College was absolutely fantastic. I had great professors who really inspired me to do my best and to pursue a graduate degree. Graduate school is a million times more intense than undergrad. Graduate school is a completely time-consuming experience. Hope College did a fantastic job providing me with the tools to do well in graduate school. I learned a great deal about research methods at Hope, how to be a good presenter, how to write in an appropriate manner, etc. I am SO glad that I had the professors that I did at Hope, because without them, I wouldn't be able to make it at graduate school.

Any advice you'd give to Hope juniors and seniors who are thinking more about their career options?

Thinking about the future is always extremely difficult. I nearly made myself go crazy, because I was so stressed my junior and senior year. I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. The best advice that I can give juniors and seniors is the following:

- Pray about your goals, the path you want to pursue, and God's plan for you.
- Talk with your professors/advisor about your future plans. Ph.D.'s and people with Master's degrees are FANTASTIC people to get advice from.
- Go to Career Services. Utilize this office. They can help you to figure out your calling or possible future career options.

- Consider graduate school ONLY if you are a dedicated student and you have a desire to work extremely hard.
- NETWORK! If you know someone in the field that you want to go into, contact them. Ask these individuals for advice, job leads, etc. These individuals are great references.

• Do an internship. Without internships or job experience, you are not an IDEAL candidate for positions. You need experience and you need good references from these experiences.

• Attend a school that embraces diversity. Going to a school that has a good international and ethnic population is a fantastic experience. You will get to know all about different cultures, backgrounds, and different lifestyles.

• Stay in contact with your Hope College professors! These individuals are absolutely amazing. Keep up your relations with them. They help you through four years of college, the least you can do is send a note to them once in a while!

Magazine Course to be Offered

By Chris Lewis, Hope Senior

Next semester, Dr. Teresa Heinz Housel will be offering a revised edition of her Print Media II (Comm. 356) course. The new course will have an emphasis on magazine writing, design, and production, unlike the former course which mainly focused on advanced features writing and public relations. Dr. Housel has taught Print Media II since Spring 2006.

"I believe that this course is needed at Hope. The course will further streamline and develop Hope's journalism offerings," Housel said.

The new course will focus on the process of effectively communicating ideas through writing and visuals. This process is much more complex than some may be led to believe and requires well-developed creative skills in order to impact audiences in an effective manner.

During the semester, students will create a new campus magazine.

"The class will decide on a concept (for the magazine), design a logotype, create an editorial vision, analyze our circulation markets, and demonstrate the magazine by writing, designing, and producing a prototype issue," Housel said.

Students will examine different types of features articles published in magazines, from the how-to article to the critical review feature. Students will also learn the steps that are involved in writing in-depth magazine articles, such as generating story ideas and researching materials to finishing articles.

Housel believes that many students

have a strong desire to learn more about magazine production and that they can use the skills they learn in class as they begin to perform at various jobs in communication and journalism fields.

"Students are hungry to learn design principles and lay-out software. Young media workers in magazine, newspaper, and web writing must be multi-skilled and be able to write, as well as think visually," Housel said.

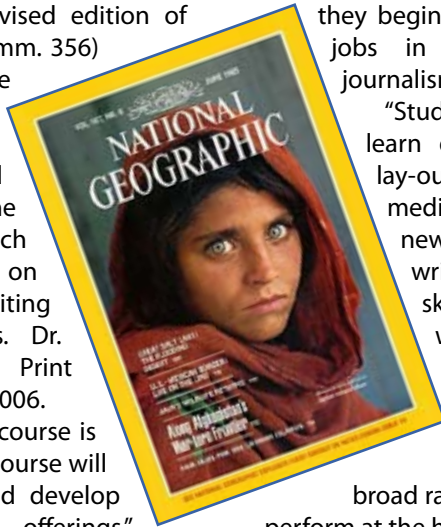
Housel said that modern-day reporters must have a broad range of skills in order to perform at the highest levels.

"Many newspaper reporters, in fact, are now expected to generate multi-media content such as videos and audio along with their text," Housel said. "They may also be asked to provide design ideas with their articles and even do lay-out. Writers must now think visually."

Housel added that these skills are especially necessary at an economic time when the future of print publications is in question. Some national publications have already went web-only, Housel said.

With this in mind, students are encouraged to enroll in the spring semester course as they register for classes this November. Housel will allow a maximum of 20 students to enroll in the course.

Along with that, former Print Media II students should not shy away from the idea of taking a second Comm 356 class, as they will be allowed to enroll in the magazine course as a Communication Independent Study. Students in this situation will receive all four credit hours and should talk to Housel if they have any questions.



Housel

Professor Housel's magazine course will focus on:

- Magazine journalism
- Magazine design
- Magazine production
- Market analysis
- Editing

Upcoming Events

WTHS's iHope Program (ongoing)

• The WTHS iHope program gives iPods to chronically and/or terminally ill patients at Holland Hospital in order to provide emotional comfort and support for their well-being. If you would like to donate an i-pod to this non-profit program, please check out the WTHS website to fill out the donation form. WTHS website: <http://wths.hope.edu/iHopeProgram/iHope.htm>

Spring Semester Starts
On Tuesday, January 6.

Blessings For the New Year!