World Religions Interest Group

Contact person: Denise Marie Hanusek
Pitts Theology Library
Emory University
505 Kilgo Circle
Atlanta, GA 30322

Phone: (404) 727-1220
E-mail: dhanuse@emory.edu

Annual Report for the Past Year

The World Religions Interest Group spent some time planning an excursion at the 2012 conference in Scottsdale. Unfortunately, not enough individuals signed up for the excursion.

Summary of Meeting at Conference

The World Religions Interest Group met on Friday, June 29, 2012, from 9 – 10:30 am. Our speaker was Freddie Johnson, Cultural Specialist at Phoenix Indian Center, Inc. Mr. Johnson, a Navaho culture and language instructor and a court interpreter in New Mexico and Arizona, talked with us about Navaho self-identity, which is very much clan-focused. He introduced us to the four clans central to Navaho self-conception (mother’s, father’s, maternal grandfather’s and paternal grandfather’s) and discussed the specific teachings associated with each clan. Nine were in attendance at Mr. Johnson’s presentation.

A brief business meeting followed the presentation. Attendees discussed possible contacts in Charlotte for an excursion and program at the 2013 conference. There was also some discussion about the WRIG list and a promotional e-mail for next year’s excursion and program. New officers were elected. Further conversations about next year’s plans will occur through e-mail.

Denise Hanusek’s term as chair expired with this conference. The officers of the Steering Committee are Karla Grafton (chair, 2012-2013), Ellen Frost (vice-chair/chair elect, 2012-2014), and Chris Benda (2012-2014). Steering Team: Chris Benda, Ellen Frost, Karla Grafton, Denise Hanusek, Laura Harris. Eight were in attendance at the business meeting.

Submitted by Chris Benda, Secretary