

REPORT FROM THE Center

Dr. Howard Jones to speak on Reproductive Technology and Personhood

Event inaugurates new **Justine L. Nusbaum Lectureship**
12 p.m., Thursday, September 26, 2013, Pearce Hospitality Suite

Howard W. Jones Jr., M.D., Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, will give a talk at Virginia Wesleyan College entitled “When Did You Become a Person?” This presentation constitutes the inaugural lecture for the Justine L. Nusbaum Lectureship, described in more detail on page 2.

Dr. Jones received his M.D. in 1935 from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he later served as Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Acting Chair of the OB/GYN Department, and Secretary General of the university’s Program for International Education. After coming to EVMS in 1978, Dr. Jones and his late wife, Dr. Georgeanna Jones,

established the first in vitro fertilization program in the United States. Their work resulted in the first IVF baby born in the US in 1981. A few years later, they were the only American gynecologists invited by the Vatican to participate on a panel to advise Pope John Paul II on matters of assisted reproduction. Howard Jones



is author of *Personhood Revisited: Reproductive Technology, Bioethics, Religion and the Law*, published by Langdon Street Press in 2013, and co-author of *Legal Conceptions: The Evolving Law and Policy of Assisted Reproductive Technologies* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).

At the age of 102, Dr. Jones continues to hold key positions in the development of ethical standards for reproductive technologies and spends several hours each day at his office at the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk.

Top Pew Researcher Brian Grim to Speak on Global Decline of Religious Freedom

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 29, 2013, Monumental Chapel



Dr. Brian J. Grim, Senior Researcher and Director of Cross-National Data at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, will deliver the **Fall 2013 Cookson Religious Freedom**

Lecture entitled “The Global Decline of Religious Freedom.” Dr. Grim is a specialist in international religious demography. Prior to joining the Pew Forum, he worked for 20 years as an educator and researcher in China, the former Soviet Union, Kazakhstan, and other places in Europe and the Middle East. He also managed the international data initiative for the

Association of Religious Data Archives and is co-editor of the World Religion Database. His research interests have focused on quantitative measurement of international religious regulation and religious freedom as well as religiously motivated social conflict. He is co-author of the book *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the 21st Century*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2011.

Dr. Grim received his Ph.D. and an M.A. in sociology from Pennsylvania State University. He also holds an M.A. in teaching English to speakers of other languages and has done theological study at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY.

The Cookson Religious Freedom Lecture Series is named for the Center’s founding director, Dr. Catharine Cookson.

IN THIS Issue

■ REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR	2
■ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE NEWS	3
■ RECOMMENDED READING	5
■ NEXUS HIGHLIGHTS	6
■ LOOKING AHEAD	7
■ CALENDAR OF EVENTS	8

Center Receives Lectureship Gift

A new lectureship, formally titled the **Justine L. Nusbaum Lectureship in the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College**, has been established through generous gifts from Robert and V.H. Nusbaum.

The lectureship is named in honor of their mother, the late Justine L. Nusbaum, and is designated specifically for the purpose of bringing distinguished speakers to the College as well as to honor and remember the life of Justine Nusbaum. The inaugural *Justine L. Nusbaum* lecture will be presented by Dr. Howard W. Jones on September 26, 2013. (See page 1 for details.)

Justine Nusbaum was well-known for her life-long volunteer service and dedication to humanitarian causes. In addition to her service to organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, she helped with resettlement of refugees and displaced persons during and after the Second World War, the war in Vietnam, and other conflicts, while serving on the boards of more than 20 nonprofit organizations. She received awards and recognition for her work from numerous local and national organizations, including the City of Norfolk, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Cancer Foundation for Cancer Research, and the American Red Cross. The Nusbaums have long been strong supporters of the Center, and Robert Nusbaum was a key figure in its creation in 1996.

of the world's countries between mid-2009 and mid-2010, the period covered by the latest report, and 37% of all countries now have high or very high restrictions. Both the rate of increase and the actual numbers are far higher than in previous periods. Many of these countries are among the world's most populous, which means that three-quarters of the world's seven billion people live in countries that have serious restrictions on religious freedom.

Moreover, this worsening trend is evident in all regions of the world, including many countries in the West that have traditionally had strong protections for religious freedom. Ten countries in Western Europe, including Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK, experienced increases in both governmental restrictions and social hostilities. Only three Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden, improved in both categories.

Sadly, the United States is among the countries with significantly worsening records. In terms of government restrictions, the US was removed from the list of countries with "low" levels of restrictions and moved into the "moderate" group – on a par with Spain, Cambodia, and Croatia. The US was already in the "moderate" group in terms of social hostilities, but in the new study it shot to the top of that group, right next to Syria. Indeed, the US barely avoided being placed in the group of countries with "high restrictions" on religion. This is a shameful position for a country that is widely regarded as a model for religious liberty.

What accounts for this worsening situation?

World-wide, one of the most significant factors is the increased harassment and intimidation of specific religious groups. This was apparent in both the government restrictions and social hostilities indexes. Forms of government harassment include arrests and detentions of members of religious minorities, desecration of holy sites, and favoritism or discrimination in areas such as employment and education. Social hostilities include verbal or physical assaults, harassment of women for violating

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Religious Freedom Suffers Steep Decline in the U.S.

U.S. situation mirrors global trend



"A rising tide of restrictions on religion spread across the world between mid-2009 and mid-2010," including the United States.

Report from the Center

is published twice a year by the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College.

Paul Rator

Joan P. and Macon F. Brock Jr. Director

Ann Shappell

Assistant to the Director

757.455.3129

csr@vwc.edu

www.vwc.edu/csr

This is the conclusion of a comprehensive report by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released in September 2012, the third such study Pew has undertaken in the past six years. The trend is unmistakable and worrisome.

The report measures two types of restrictions on religion: government restrictions – those imposed by law or official policy, and social hostilities – restrictions that are the result of violence or intimidation by private individuals and groups, including other religious groups. Countries are evaluated according to a complex set of criteria and then placed into four groups for each type according to the degree of restrictions found: very high, high, moderate, or low. Restrictions on religion increased in two-thirds (66%)

codes of dress or behavior, violence or threats relating to religious conversions, and abuse of religious minorities for acts offensive to majorities.



In the US, government restrictions on religion typically appear in institutional contexts such as judicial settings and correctional facilities. Individuals may be prevented from wearing certain religious clothing or symbols, including beards. Prisoners have been denied the right to change their religious designation and at times prevented from participating in religious exercises. In addition, religious groups have had problems obtaining zoning or other permits to build or expand houses of worship, religious schools, or similar institutions. Many of these restrictive official actions have been held to violate the 2000 federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), yet they continue.

Several factors contributed to the rise in social hostilities in the US. According to the report, one of the key factors was “a spike in religion-related terrorist attacks” during the period covered by the report. Other factors include efforts by local residents to block construction of mosques and a sharp rise in the numbers of religion-based complaints of workplace discrimination.

Overall, this worsening record reminds us that we cannot take our religious liberties for granted, even in the United States. This is why the Center’s work is so important.

The Center’s fall Cookson Lecturer, **Dr. Brian Grim**, will address these concerns in more detail in his presentation on **October 29, 2013**. Dr. Grim is Senior Researcher for the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and was one of the principal authors of the Pew Report. *For more information, see the story on page one.*

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

in the News

All stories are from the Religion Clause Blog.

Suit Challenges Jesus Portrait in Public Middle School

The Freedom From Religion Foundation announced on February 7, 2013, that it, along with the ACLU of Ohio, filed suit on behalf of parents and a student who attends Jackson (OH) Middle School. The federal court lawsuit seeks removal of a portrait of Jesus displayed on an entrance wall in the school. The complaint alleges that the display violates the federal Constitution’s Establishment Clause, as well as the Ohio Constitution. The school board decided in January that it would not take down the picture, which has hung in Jackson Middle School since 1947. School superintendent Phil Howard said: “the picture is legal because it has historical significance. It hasn’t hurt anyone.” The picture was originally provided by a student club and hangs among other pictures in a “hall of honor.”

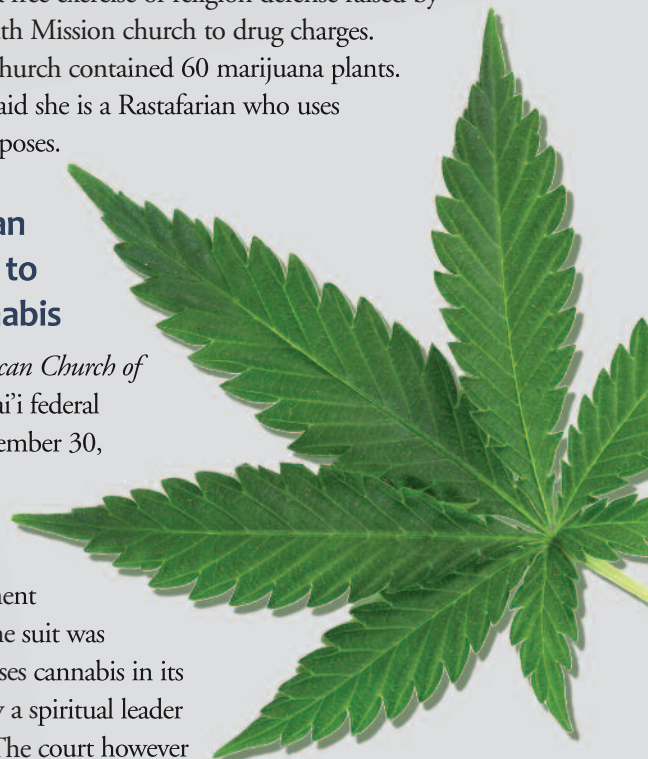


Hawai’i Appeals Court Rejects Free Exercise Defense to Marijuana Charges

In *State of Hawai’i v. Harris*, decided May 20, 2013, the Hawai’i Intermediate Court of Appeals rejected a free exercise of religion defense raised by the president of Sacred Truth Mission church to drug charges. A greenhouse next to the church contained 60 marijuana plants. Defendant Nancy Harris said she is a Rastafarian who uses marijuana for religious purposes.

Hawaiian Church can Pursue RFRA Claim to Permit Use of Cannabis

In *Oklevueha Native American Church of Hawai’i v. Holder*, an Hawai’i federal district court ruled on December 30, 2012, that a church could proceed on its Religious Freedom Restoration Act claim challenging enforcement of the federal drug laws. The suit was brought by a church that uses cannabis in its religious ceremonies and by a spiritual leader who founded the church. The court however dismissed plaintiffs’ claims under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the equal protection clause and the First Amendment’s free exercise clause.



continued on page 4

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM *in the News*

continued from page 3

4th Circuit Upholds Regulation of Fortune Tellers Over First Amendment Objections

Moore-King v. County of Chesterfield, Virginia, decided February 26, 2013, the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld against various constitutional challenges a Virginia county's regulation of fortune tellers. The regulations require fortune tellers to obtain a license and business permit, and to obtain a conditional use permit in order to locate their business in specifically zoned areas. The court held that while the First Amendment's free speech clause gives some protection to fortune telling, here the county has merely enacted a generally applicable licensing and regulatory scheme regulating professional speech. The court also rejected the argument that the regulation infringes the free exercise of religion in violation of the First Amendment and RLUIPA. It concluded that the beliefs of the "spiritual counselor" here challenging the regulation are "personal and philosophical choices consistent with a way of life," and are "not deep religious convictions shared by an organized group deserving of constitutional solicitude."



School Accommodates Muslim Students' Prayer Needs if they have High Grades

On January 28, 2013, The Washington Post reported on an interesting method of accommodating Muslim students' religious needs at Prince George's County, MD, Parkdale High School. The suburban Washington D.C. school allows students who are members of the Muslim Students Association and who have parental permission to leave class and pray together for eight minutes each day so long as the students have high grades. Ten students currently qualify for the daily pass, and another student is working hard to raise his grades so he can join the prayer group.

In Employment Discrimination Case, Federal Court Says Veganism Might Qualify as a Religion

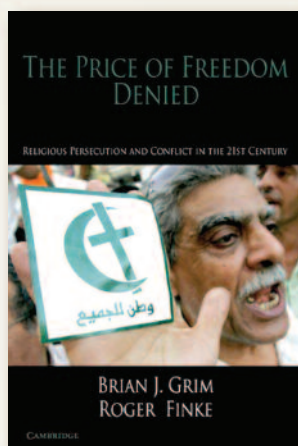
In *Chenzira v. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*, an Ohio federal district court held on December 27, 2012, that a hospital customer service worker may be able to show that her employer's refusal to accommodate her vegan beliefs amounted to religious discrimination under Title VII and state anti-discrimination laws. Plaintiff was fired for refusing to be vaccinated against the flu. She claimed that the discharge violated her religious and philosophical convictions because as a vegan she would not ingest any animal or animal by-products. In refusing to dismiss the complaint, the court, rejecting defendant's argument that veganism does not qualify as a religion, said: "The Court finds it plausible that Plaintiff could subscribe to veganism with a sincerity equating that of traditional religious views."



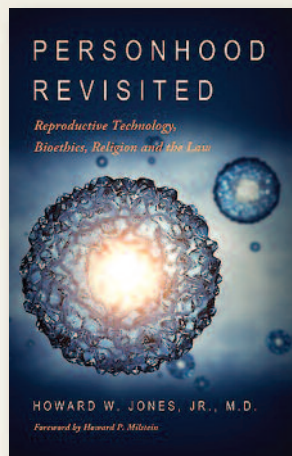
RASOR'S *Recommended* READING

The first recommendation was co-authored by Dr. Brian Grim, the fall 2013 Cookson lecturer; the second was authored by Dr. Howard W. Jones, the fall 2013 Justine L. Nusbaum lecturer. Both books deal with the subject matters of their respective presentations.

See the stories on page one.



Brian J. Grim and Roger Finke, *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (2011)



Howard W. Jones, Jr., *Personhood Revisited: Reproductive Technologies, Bioethics, Religion and the Law* (2013)



Borrowing Policy

All books in the CSRF collection are included in the college library's online catalog, and most are available to VWC faculty, students, and other authorized users. If you would like to borrow a book, come to the Center offices, Clarke Hall 108, during normal college business hours. If you are unable to come to the Center during these hours, please call the office at 455.3129, and we can make other arrangements. All borrowers must have a valid account with Hofheimer Library.

Specific policies can be found on the Center's website under the "Education" button on the Center's home page.

BOOKS RECEIVED

A few of the new titles in the Center's collection:

Banchoff, Thomas, and Robert Wuthnow, eds., *Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Clark, Kelly, ed., *Abraham's Children: Liberty and Tolerance in an Age of Religious Conflict* (Yale University Press, 2012)

Crimm, Nina J., and Laurence H. Winer, *Politics, Taxes, and the Pulpit: Provocative First Amendment Conflicts* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Dudley, Jonathan, *Broken Words: The Abuse of Science and Faith in American Politics* (Random House, 2011)

Fitzgerald, Timothy, *Religion and Politics in International Relations: The Modern Myth* (Continuum, 2011)

Green, Steven K., *The Bible, the School, and the Constitution: The Clash that Shaped Modern Church-State Doctrine* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

Grim, Brian J., and Roger Finke, *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Helbling, Marc, ed., *Islamophobia in the West: Measuring and Explaining Individual Attitudes* (Routledge, 2012)

Jeffries, Jennifer L., *Religion and Political Violence: Sacred Protest in the Modern World* (Routledge, 2009)

Jones, Howard W. Jr., *Personhood Revisited: Reproductive Technologies, Bioethics, Religion and the Law* (Langdon Street Press, 2013)

March, Andrew F., *Islam and Liberal Citizenship: The Search for an Overlapping Consensus* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Maroukis, Thomas C., *The Peyote Road: Religious Freedom and the Native American Church* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2010)

Meyerson, Michael I., *Endowed by Our Creator: The Birth of Religious Freedom in America* (Yale University Press, 2012)

Neal, Lynn S., and John Corrigan, eds., *Religious Intolerance in America: A Documentary History* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010)

Wilson, Erin K., *After Secularism: Rethinking Religion in Global Politics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

Witte, John Jr., and M. Christian Green, eds., *Religion and Human Rights: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

HOW OUR FAITHS SEE

Marriage and Family



The increasing diversity of committed relationships among adults, both with and without children, have challenged our traditional understandings of terms like “marriage,” “family,” “parenthood,” and even “personhood.”

Examples include:

- Rise in interfaith and interracial marriage
- Increasing public acceptance of same-sex marriage
- Increased numbers of non-traditional living arrangements
- New options for childbearing and childrearing

These developments raise important and difficult questions for religion:

- What does “marriage” mean?
- Who defines “family”?
- What are the implications for children?
- What are the appropriate roles of religion and the state?

The 2013-2014 Nexus Interfaith Dialogue Series examines these and related questions from a range of diverse and often conflicting faith perspectives.

PANELS

October 17, 2013

Interfaith Marriage

Panelists: **K.Lynne Loving** (Baha’i), **Nathan Oman** (Mormon), **Dr. Dilip Sarkar** (Hindu)

November 4, 2013

Same-Sex Marriage

Panelists: **Rev. Pamela Bro**, Living Waters Sanctuary, Virginia Beach; **Fr. James Parke**, retired pastor, Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach; **Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz**, Congregation Beth El, Norfolk.

February 17, 2014

Reproductive Technologies and Personhood

Panelists: **Jewish, Conservative Protestant** (to be announced)

March 10, 2014

Polygamy, Domestic Partnerships, and other Non-Traditional Relationships

Panelists: **Hindu, Mormon, Muslim** (to be announced)

Spring 2014 Symposium

Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?

RELIGION, ETHICS, AND HEALTH CARE



- Termination or refusal of medical treatment
- Assisted reproductive technologies
- Genetic manipulation
- Cloning and stem cell research
- Physician-assisted death

When should religious belief determine medical decisions?

What if children are involved?

These and other related topics raise important and difficult questions for religion, ethics and public policy. They are among the issues that will be addressed by the Center's Spring 2014 Symposium.

Specific program dates and speakers will be included in the Center's spring 2014 newsletter and posted on the Center's website.

*The Center
for the Study
of Religious
Freedom needs
your support.*

You can support the Center in many ways: by attending Center programs, by sharing news of the Center's work with others, and by your financial contributions. Please share this newsletter with your family and friends, and encourage them to come to Center events.

If you would like to make a financial gift to support the Center, you may use the form below, or you may make a gift through our website: www.vwc.edu/csrf.

Your gifts allow us to improve our programs, strengthen our library and other resources, and continue our work of promoting religious freedom.

Financial Gift to The Center for the Study of Religious Freedom

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$_____

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please designate my gift for:

☐ Program Enhancement Fund ☐ Publication Fund ☐ Catharine Cookson Endowed Visiting Scholar Fund

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ payable to Virginia Wesleyan College. (Note fund on memo line of check.)

OR Charge my credit card \$_____ ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Card# _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

My gift is ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of _____

Please notify: _____

Name and Address

Please mail to: College Advancement, Virginia Wesleyan College, 1584 Wesleyan Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502-5599

Calendar

OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 17, 2013



Constitution Day Debate: The Evolving Meaning of Equal Rights: A Review of Recent Supreme Court Cases
Dr. Timothy O'Rourke, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Kenneth R. Perry Dean of the College, and **Dr. Paul Rasor**, Joan P. and Macon F. Brock Jr. Director of the Center

3 – 4:30 p.m., Pearce Hospitality Suite

Saturday, September 21, 2013



ONE LOVE/UN Peace Day Festival
 An afternoon and evening of music and the spoken word, demonstrating unity in diversity, fostering a closer interfaith community, and celebrating United Nations Peace Day.

See event website for more details: onelovefestivalva.com.

1 – 5 p.m., **Drum Circle**, The Grille

2:30 – 5 p.m., **UN Peace Day Celebration**, Boyd Dining Center

2 – 4 p.m., **Pax Christi**, Monumental Chapel

7 – 9 p.m., **Boyd Dining Center**

Thursday, September 26, 2013

When Did You Become a Person?

The Fall 2013 Justine L. Nusbaum Lecture

Dr. Howard W. Jones Jr., Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School

12 – 12:50 p.m., Pearce Hospitality Suite



OCTOBER

Monday, October 7, 2013

NEXUS Interfaith Dialogue: How Our Faiths See Marriage and Family

Topic: **Interfaith Marriage**

Panelists: **K.Lynne Loving** (Baha'i), **Nathan Oman** (Mormon),

Dr. Dilip Sarkar (Hindu)

7:30 – 9 p.m., Monumental Chapel

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

The Global Decline of Religious Freedom



The Fall 2013 Cookson Religious Freedom Lecture

Dr. Brian J. Grim, Senior Researcher and Director of Cross-National Data at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

7:30 – 9 p.m. Monumental Chapel

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 4, 2013

NEXUS Interfaith Dialogue: How Our Faiths See Marriage and Family

Topic: **Same-Sex Marriage**

Panelists: **Rev. Pamela Bro**, Living Waters Sanctuary, Virginia Beach; **Fr. James Parke**, retired pastor, Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach; **Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz**, Congregation Beth El, Norfolk.

7:30 – 9 p.m., Monumental Chapel

*All events are free and open to the public. Reservations not required.
 For more information, call 757.455.3129.*



1584 Wesleyan Drive
 Norfolk, VA 23502-5599

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Norfolk, Virginia
 Permit 27