Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures Master's and PhD Programs

Assessment Measures

The Semitics Department uses the following measures to assess departmental learning outcomes:

- Grades and course evaluations
- Comprehensive exams

the Ph.D. program.

- Progression through the programs
- Other: end of program surveys, alumni surveys, including publications and participation in scholarly associations and conferences

Given the nature of this small department's graduate programs, each student's course of study is planned individually, tailored, so to speak, to each one's special aims and purposes. Semitics graduate students do not take a set of "core" courses. They come to their programs with different levels of language/history proficiency. They do not take the same number or the same combinations of "intermediary" courses. There is no one required culminating course of the type that one might find in other degree programs—i.e., a practicum or workshop or final seminar.

Assessment Findings

Graduate Student Retention & Graduation Data Summary (Appendix 1) Master's Program and Progression (Appendix 3):

Of 12 new students in the Master's program cohorts starting in Fall 2000 through 2007, 8 passed their MA comprehensive exams and completed their degrees. 3 withdrew before the end of their studies: 1 left for health reasons, 1 got married and left the area, 1 transferred to the School of Theology and Religious Studies; 1 is a nontraditional, continuing student.

Of the 8 students who completed their degrees, 1 of the 8 passed the MA comprehensive exams in the second year of registration, 6 of the 8 passed in the third year, 1 of the 8 passed in the fourth year. 1 of the 8 graduated in the second year, 5 of the 8 graduated in the third year, 2 of the 8 graduated in the fourth year. 5 of the 8 students who received a master's degree enrolled in

Graduate Student Retention & Graduation Data Summary (Appendix 2) Ph.D Comprehensive Exams and Progression (Appendix 4):

Of 17 new students in the doctoral program cohorts starting between Fall 2000 through 2007, 12 passed their PhD major comprehensive exams. 3 of the 12 passed the Ph.D. comprehensive exams in the first year of registration, 3 in the second year, 4 in the fourth year, and 2 in the fifth year. Of the 12 who passed their comprehensive exams, 3 completed their degrees; 3 have not received a degree and did not maintain continuous enrollment.

The department is concerned that once having completed the comprehensive requirement few of the students have completed the dissertation in a timely manner. Lack of financial support during the dissertation phase is one reason for this.

Academic Component Assessment (Appendix 5)

The department has granted 30 Ph.D. degrees over the past forty years. It granted 7 Ph.D. degrees over the past ten years (2001-2008): 3 in 2001, 1 in 2003, 2 in 2007, 1 in 2008. 5 of the 7 degree recipients have academic positions; 1 is currently a university postgraduate fellow. All have published books or articles and presented papers at scholarly conferences. This information, along with end of program surveys and end of program meetings with the department chair, attests to the success of the academic component of the programs. Lack of funding for doctoral students, especially at the dissertation stage, is noted as a problem by graduates.

Curricular Improvements for Master's Program and Ph.D. Program

Faculty reviews of students' course papers and grades (class performance) over the past two years ¹ have prompted the department to consider these issues:

The department has observed that students who took introductory-level courses in Coptic and Syriac and Classical Arabic at other accredited academic institutions did not acquire the same level of language proficiency as students who took the department's introductory 500 level courses. This became clear from their class performance when they were placed in intermediate-level language courses. The department is considering a language placement exam for all students who wish to skip the 500 level introductory courses in Coptic, Syriac, and Arabic languages.

The department has found TOEFL scores to be helpful in measuring the ability of international students, for whom English is not the primary language, to function in an English language classroom environment. However, course research papers of some international students currently are the first indicators that they lack skills to write good research papers in English or that they are unfamiliar with scholarly documentary styles (MLA, Chicago Manual of Style) in use here. The department is exploring ways in which to ensure that all international students entering the ANWSL and NECLL programs receive diagnostic help in this regard at the start of their programs.

Some 600-level department courses such as Biblical Hebrew Prose (SEM 611-612) and Biblical Aramaic (SEM 622) also function as service courses for graduate students from the university's School of Theology & Religious Studies. In the 2008-2009 academic year the department will look at ways in which to strengthen the research paper component for these courses.

¹ The department formally will decide on these issues in the 2008-2009 academic year when the two ANWSL faculty positions are filled. Former department chair Prof. Michael Patrick O'Connor died June 2007; former Assoc. Prof. Douglas M. Gropp resigned May 2007. Prof. Richard M. Frank, the Semitics department's Arabic Professor, retired in 1993. The department's Coptic Professor David W. Johnson, S.J. retired in 2002. In the meantime, NECLL program work is carried out by the Syriac professor (Syriac/Christian Arabic), an adjunct associate professor (Coptic) and two instructors (Syriac and Islamic Arabic).

Graduate Student Retention & Graduation Data Summary Department of Semitics (Cohort 2000-2007)

Master's Program

Cohort	entering master's	Number of students who have not received a degree and did not maintain continuous enrollment	Number of students who enrolled in PhD program after		Graduated in 1st year		Graduated in 3rd year			Graduated in 6th year		
2000	2	0	2	2	0	0	1	1		///////		
2001	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
2002	3	0	2	3	0	1	2					
2003	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2004	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0				
2005	1	0	0	1	0	0	1					
2006	2	0	0	0	0	0						
2007	0											

PhD Program

		Number of students									
	Number of	who have not received									
	entering	a degree and did not	Number of students who left	Number of	Graduated						
	doctoral	maintain continuous	the program after receiving a	students who	in less than	Graduated	Graduated	Graduated	Graduated	Graduated	Graduated
Cohort	students	enrollment	master's degree	passed comps	2 years	in 3rd year	in 4th year	in 5th year	in 6th year	in 7th year	in 8th year
2000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2002	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1		
2003	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0			///////
2004	4	1	0	3	0	0	0				
2005	3	0	0	2	1	0					
2006	2	0	0	1	0	0					
2007	2								///////	7/////	

Note: A particular cohort is defined as the combination of the students first enrolled in consecutive sessions of one year: the summer session, the fall semester, or the spring semester the following year. For example, Cohort 2000 consists of the students first enrolled in Summer 2000, Fall 2000, or Spring 2001.

Graduate Student Comps Exam Data Department of Semitics (Cohort 2000-2007)

Master's Program

Comps

		Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed
		MA comps	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Cohort	Size	in 2000-01	in 2001-02						in 2007-08
2000	2	0	0	2					
2001	2		0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2002	3			0	1	2			
2003	0				-	-	-	-	-
2004	2					0	0	1	0
2005	1						0	0	1
2006	2							0	0
2007	0		<u>/////</u>	<u>/////</u>	//////	<u>/////</u>			//////

PhD Program

Comps

Compo	,								
Cohort	Cohort Size				Pass PhD comps in 2003-04	Pass PhD comps in 2004-05	Pass PhD comps in 2005-06	Pass PhD comps in 2006-07	Pass PhD comps in 2007-08
2000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	2		//////	0	0	0	2	//////	7/////
2003	3				1	0	0	0	2
2004	4					0	1	0	2
2005	3						1	1	0
2006	2							0	1 1
2007	2					//////		//////	1

Note: A particular cohort is defined as the combination of the students first enrolled in consecutive sessions of one year: the summer session, the fall semester, or the spring semester the following year.

For example, Cohort 2000 consists of the students first enrolled in Summer 2000, Fall 2000, or Spring 2001.

			Appendix 5	
		Semitics Department Ph.D.	Degrees 1969-2008	
Ph.D. degree	Student Name	Dissertation Title	Career	Other Information
1969				
1970				
1971				
	Michael D. Guinan, O.F.M.	The Eschatology of James of Sarug	Prof. of Old Testament Prof. of Semitic Languages Franciscan School of Theology Berkeley, CA	http://www.fst.edu/faculty/guinan-m.html
1973	Leslie S.B. MacCoull	Greek and Coptic Papyri in the Freer Gallery of Art	Senior Research Scholar, Society for Coptic Archaeology in North America Editorial Assistant, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University	http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/contact.html#Leslie
1973	David W. Johnson, S.J.	Coptic Sources of The History of the Patriarchs of Alexandria	Assoc. Prof. of Coptic, Semitics Dept., CUA retired 2002; currently Adjunct Faculty member, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA	Address: dwjsj@calmail.berkeley.edu
1973	Francis James Morrow, Jr.	The Text of Isaiah at Qumran	Instructor, Dept. of Defense, Ft. Meade, MD	no contact information
1974 1975	Burton MacDonald	The Biblical Tribe of Benjamin: Its Origins and its History during the Period of the Judges of Israel	Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia	CV: http://www.stfx.ca/people/bmacdona/ http://www.bu.edu/asor/outreach/AskArch/BurtonMacDonald .htm
1973				
		A Septuagint Translation	time at Dallas Theological Seminary	Current address:
1976	Homer Heater, Jr.	Technique in the Book of Job	Dominiar y	920 Grand Cypress Lane, Fairview TX 75069
1977		•		

		The Controversial Theology of		1
		Theodore Abu Qurrah (c. 750-		
		c. 820 A.D.): A		
		Methodological, Comparative		
		Study in Christian Arabic	Ordinary Prof. & Chair, Semitics	
1978	Sidney H. Griffith, S.T.	Literature	Dept., CUA	http://semitics.cua.edu/griffith1.cfm
1979	,			g
1980				
1981				
1901				
			Received licentiate in sacred	
			theology (S.T.L.) from the	
			Pontifical Faculty of the	
			Dominican House of Studies in	http://www.providence.edu/About+PC/
			Washington, D.C.; became	College+News/2005+Releases/2005+New+Faculty.htm
			Assoc.Prof.of Scripture at the	Current address:
			Dominican House of Studies,	
			Washington, DC, where he also	Rev. Thomas McCreesh, O.P.
				Program Director, Theology, Siena 232
			2003.	Providence College
			Currently Assoc. Prof. and	549 River Avenue
	Thomas Patrick	Poetic Sound Patterns in		Providence, Rhode Island 02918-0001
1982	McCreesh, O.P.	Proverbs 10-29	of Theology, Providence College	tel. (401) 865-1150
			Formerly Assoc. Director,	
			Graymoor Ecumenical Institue,	
			NYC; now working at	
			Franciscans International, a non-	
			governmental organization	
			(NGO) and the United Nations on	
			issues of interreligious	
			cooperation for conflict	
		The Ugaritic Verb in the	transformation and peace	
	Elias Donald Mallon,	Letters	building, and on issues of peace	http://www.atonementfriars.org/meet_dimauro.htm
1982	· ·	and Administrative Documents	and justice in the Middle East	Recent book: Islam: What Catholics Need to Know
1,702			J	
			1983-1988: Pastor, Minister,	
			Presbyterian Church in America	
			•	
			1988-1999: Assoc. Prof. of Old	
			Testament (and Dean of	
			Students), Westminster	
			Theological Seminary,	http://www.rts.edu/Site/Staff/mfutato/default.aspx
			Escondido, CA	http://www.rts.edu/faculty/professorDetails.aspx?
			1999-present: Robert L.	id=427
			Maclellan Prof. of Old Testament	
				Current address:
		1	Theological Seminary, Orlando,	1231 Reformation Drive, Oviedo FL 32765.
		e ,	FLA	tel.407-366-9493
1984	Mark David Futato	Psalms 104, 65, and 29		email:mfutato@rts.edu

1984	John Charles Kesterson	Tense Usage and Verbal Syntax in Selected Qumran Documents	Teaching positions at CUA and at St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA, followed by appointment as Academic Dean of St. John's Seminary 1983-1986; priest of Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA from 1986-his death in 1997	07/04/1997Obituary: http://articles.latimes.com /1997/jul/04/local/me-9792
1985	Francisco Javier Martínez Fernández	Eastern Christian Apocalyptic in the Early Muslim Period: Pseudo-Methodius and Pseudo- Athanasius	1985-1986: Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid 1986-2003: Bishop of Córdoba 2003+: Archbishop of Granada 2007: he established International Center for the Study of the Christian Orient (ICSCO) in Granada	http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop /bmarf.html
1986	Alice Ogden Bellis	The Structure and Composition of Jeremiah 50:2-51:58	Prof., Old Testament Language and Literature, Howard School of Divinity, Washington, DC	http://www.howard.edu/divinity/Faculty/abellis.htm Ordained Clergy, United Presbyterian Church, USA Address: Howard University School of Divinity 1400 Shepherd Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20017 email: aobellis@earthlink.net; abellis@howard.edu
1986	Thomas Richard Hurst, S.S.	I (727-823): A Study in	1980-1992: taught on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD, and served as vice rector from 1986-1992; then he served as Regional Superior of the Sulpicians in Zambia, Central Africa, and Academic Dean of St. Dominic's Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. 2001-2007: Rector of Theological College, CUA. 2007 +: President-Rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University	http://www.stmarys.edu/sot/sot_welcome.htm Address: St. Mary's Seminary and University 5400 Roland Ave. Baltimore, MD 21210-1994
1986	Dale Launderville, O.S.	A Comparative Study of Kingship in Biblical Israel, Homeric Greece, and Mesopotamia of the Old Babylonian Period	At St. John's University, Collegeville, MN) from 1981- present: Associate Professor of Theology, 1981-82; 1985-; Dean, School of Theology, 1989-1999; Rector, Saint John's Seminary, 1992- 1997	http://www.csbsju.edu/sot/about/facstaff/ launderville.htm Address: St. John's University, School of Theology, Collegeville, MN 56321

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1987	Shawqi N. Talia	Bûlus al-Bûsi's Arabic Commentary on the Apocalypse of St. John: An English Translation and a Commentary The Syriac Vita Tradition of	1985-2005: Simultaneous Language Interpreter (Arabic), Department of State, Washington, DC 2005+: Arabic language Instructor, Semitics Dept., CUA 1988+: Professor, Dept. of Classics, University of Notre Dame, Notre	http://semitics.cua.edu/talia1.cfm email: talia@cua.edu http://classics.nd.edu/faculty/profiles/joseph-amar/ http://al.nd.edu/resources-for/faculty-and-staff/faculty- list/bio/jamar/ Address: Department of Classics, 304 O'Shaughnessy Hall University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556
1088	Joseph Phillip Amar	Ephrem the Syrian	Dame, IN	email: amar.1@nd.edu
		The Verb Syntax of Second Isaiah and Deuteronomy	1988-1990: Fulbright Fellowship at Univ. of Heidelberg, Germany 1990-1991: Research Associate, Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH 1991-1994: Asst. Prof., Old Testament, St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX 1994 +: Asst. Prof., now Assoc. Prof.and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Theology, Marquette University,	email: deirdre.dempsey@marquette.edu
1988	Deirdre Ann Dempsey	Compared	Minneapolis, MN	
1989				
1990	J. Mark Sheridan, O.S.E	_	Novice Master (St. Anselm's Abbey, Washington, D.C.) 1972- 1981 Prior (St. Anselm's Abbey, Washington, D.C.) 1979-1981 Prior, Collegio S.Anselmo (Roma) 1984-1992, Teaching activity: St. Anselm's Abbey School (Washington, D.C.) 1963-1978 Cluster of Independent Theology Schools (Washington, D.C.) 1975- 1980 Pontificio Ateneo S.Anselmo (Roma) 1986- Professore consociato - letteratura del primo monachesimo 1992 Coordinatore dell'Istituto Monastico 1990-1998 Professore straordinario 1996- Professore ordinario 1999 Decano della Facoltà di Teologia 1998-	

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				http://www.dts.edu/about/faculty/rtaylor/
1990 1991	Richard Andrew Taylor	An Analysis of the Syriac Text of the Book of Daniel	1989+: Asst. Prof., Assoc. Prof., Prof. of Old Testament Studies & Director of the Ph.D. Program, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX	Books: http://www.dts.edu/utility/publicationinfo.aspx?PublicationID =248 http://www.dts.edu/utility/publicationinfo.aspx?PublicationID =2091
1992				
		Meteorological Imagery in	1994-1999: Asst. Prof.of Theology, St. Mary's University, Winona, MN 2000: Ordained Lutheran minister 2001?-2007: Pastor, Trinity Old Lutheran Church, Amherst, NY 2007+: Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville,	http://mysite.verizon.net/gslc1/Our%20Pastor.html Work Address: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 7248 Highbridge Rd. Fayetteville, NY 13066 Home Address:
1993		Isaiah 40-55	NY	100 Berkeley Dr., Syracuse, NY 13210
1993	Canadami Vall	From Womb to Tomb: Poetic	1992-2000: Asst. Prof., Old Testament at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans; 2000- 2004: Asst. Prof., Scripture at Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville, Ohio; 2004+: Assoc. Prof. of Theology at Ave Maria	Department of Theology, Ave Maria University 5050 Ave Maria Boulevard, Ave Maria, FL 34142-9505
1773	Gregory Vall	Imagery and the Book of Job	University, Orlando, FLA	email: gregory.vall@avemaria.edu
1994	Gregory vall	magery and the Book of Job	University, Oriando, FLA	emaii: gregory.vaii@avemaria.edu
1994 1995 1996 1997	Lloyd Charles John, II	A Study of Predicate <i>liqtol</i> in the Hebrew Bible, with Examples from the Qumran Writings	no information	Address: 1607 Park Overlook Dr. Reston, VA 20190 tel. 703-925-9046
1994 1995 1996 1997 1998	Lloyd Charles John, II	A Study of Predicate <i>liqtol</i> in the Hebrew Bible, with Examples		Address: 1607 Park Overlook Dr. Reston, VA 20190
1994 1995 1996 1997	Lloyd Charles John, II	A Study of Predicate <i>liqtol</i> in the Hebrew Bible, with Examples		Address: 1607 Park Overlook Dr. Reston, VA 20190
1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000	Lloyd Charles John, II	A Study of Predicate <i>liqtol</i> in the Hebrew Bible, with Examples		Address: 1607 Park Overlook Dr. Reston, VA 20190
1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 2000	Lloyd Charles John, II	A Study of Predicate <i>liqtol</i> in the Hebrew Bible, with Examples from the Qumran Writings Beh Isho` Kamulaya's Syriac Discourses on the Monastic Way of Life: Edition, English	no information 2001+: Curator, Semitics Collections/Institute of Christian	Address: 1607 Park Overlook Dr. Reston, VA 20190 tel. 703-925-9046 http://semitics.cua.edu/blanchard1.cfm Address: Semitics Dept., 035 Mullen Library The Catholic University of America Washington, DC 20064 tel. 202-319-5084 email: blanchard@cua.edu

				http://www.wscal.edu/faculty/bios/estelle.php
		Know Before Whom You	2000+ : Asst. Prof., now Assoc.	Address: 3011 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92026-8808
		Stand: The Language of Deference in	Prof. of Old Testament, Westminster Seminary California,	book:
2001	Davies D. Estelle	Some Ancient Aramaic and Hebrew Documents	Escondido, CA	http://www.wscal.edu/bookstore/store/details.php?id=544 Minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church
2001	Bryan D. Estelle	Hebrew Documents		http://www.bradley.edu/las/phl/zaborowski
				/index.shtml
		The Neo-Martyr John of		Address:
		Phanijōit: A Late Coptic Text describing a Public Conversion	2006+: Asst. Prof Department of	Bradley University Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
		from Islam to christianity in	Philosophy and Religious Studies,	1501 West Bradley Avenue, Peoria, IL 61625
2003	Jason R. Zaborowski	Ayyūbid Cairo	Bradley University, Peoria, IL	email: jzaborowski@bradley.edu
2005				
2006				http://www.uis.edu/history/faculty/index.html
				http://www.uis.edu/mediaquad/newsbureau/davidbertainaF07.
		An Arabic Account of Theodore	2007+ : Asst. Prof., History	html Address:
		Abu Qurra in Debate at the	Dept., Comparative Religion,	History Department, University Hall Building 3050
		Court of Caliph al-Ma'mun: A Study in Early Christian and	University of Illinois at Springfield	University of Illinois at Springfield One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62703
2007	David Bertaina	Muslim Literary Dialogues	Springheid	tel: 217-206-6779 email: dbert3@uis.edu
			2007-2008: Visiting Asst. Prof.,	Address:
		The Balaam Texts: A Theme	Semitics Dept., CUA	http://semitics.cua.edu/leson1.cfm
2007	Mark S. Leson	and Motif Approach	2008-2009: Dept. Research Fellow, Semitics Dept., CUA	email: leson@cua.edu
2007	Man S. Beson		··· ,	
			Review of Jerusalem's Rise to Sovereignty: Zion and Gerizim in	
			Competition. By Ingrid Hjelm.	
			JSOTSup 404. London: T & T Clark, 2004 in Journal of the	
			Evangelical theological society	
			(June 2006):	
			http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3817/is_200606/ai_n17176	
			276	
			Scholarly Papers	
			11/21/2005, at Annual Meeting of	
			Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA: "Is God Able to	
			Save? The Grammatical,	
			Contextual and Theological Problem in Daniel 3:17-18"	
			11/16-118/2005, at 57th Annual	
			Meeting of the Evangelical	http://www.immanuelbible.net/discover/leadership/dannyleav
		Verbs of Leading in the	Theological Society, Valley Forge, PA: "Runaway Lamed?	ins.php
		Hebrew	Can the Preposition "L" mean	Address:
2007	Daniel C. Leavins	Bible	"away from" in Biblical Hebrew?	danny.Kristen@verizon.net