



DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on February 4, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Rachel Balows; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Claude d’Estree; Kristi Gessler; Ashley Hurley; Paul Miller; Luke Oestman; Justin Spicer;

Absent: Janet Gold (Chaplain’s assistant); Ron Gustman; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Fr. Dino Sinos; Chad Stewart; Ken Tankersley

The meeting began at 9:30 with a period of silence, and the approval of the December 3rd meeting’s minutes. Gary mentioned that he’d received “regrets” from several of those who were absent, and commended prayers for the Gustmans as they transition Ron’s mother-in-law into hospice care.

**In the Chaplain’s Corner --**

**DU Responds & Haiti:** Gary noted the “Keeping Haiti’s Hope Alive” meeting that afternoon (4:30 in 1864).

**Interceding for Others (2nd Tuesdays) and Meditation Across the Traditions (4th Tuesdays):** Gary took the opportunity to announce two new programs for the winter/spring quarters. The first is an interfaith service of intercessory prayer; the second is an exploration of meditation/contemplative prayer across the five major religious traditions. Both are held at noon in Evans Chapel.

**Ash Wednesday (2/17):** Four services during the day: 7:45 am (Ecumenical); Noon (Roman Catholic); 4:45 pm (Ecumenical); 9:00 pm (Roman Catholic). Gary also asked for volunteers to help with the Ecumenical services.

**January & February Bridge events:** Gary noted the success of the January “community service” bridge fair, and pushed participation in the February “social justice” fair. These are great opportunities for the DU community to see us at our public best!

**Emily Griffith Opportunity School community service event (2/19):** Spend a morning tutoring recent immigrants in English. For more information, contact Janet ([jgold@stu.iliff.edu](mailto:jgold@stu.iliff.edu)).

**Chapel Scheduling:** Gary let folks know that Maria (Mata) who schedules the Chapel is beginning to get requests for spring 2011. So if folks want to reserve the chapel for their regular meetings, they should contact her now!

**Chaplain’s Newsletter:** Gary asked that folks please share/forward his newsletter to their constituencies at least once a quarter -- and let the recipients decide whether to subscribe.

**Google Calendar:** Gary simply reminded folks of the opportunity to use the common Google Calendar (and provided login information).

We then turned to a conversation on “what’s happening on campus”, “how’s attendance”, mood, etc. Laura noted that international students seem to find the winter quarter more stressful (they tend to take an additional class). Justin noted that grad students and seniors were busy processing their next academic/career steps. Several noted that student attendance listed heavily to the female side (Ryan and Paul, in particular), which started a side conversation about socialization of boys. Gary suggested that we might want to have a book discussion on some of the books that have recently come out on that subject, and said he would research the options. Rachel noted that winter quarter also meant that many Study Abroad students were returning and being re-integrated into programs. Kristi noted that the Christian Science group seemed to have hit a “good rhythm”.

Rachel Balows announced that this would be her last year with Hillel. While she really loved her Hillel work, she was looking forward to getting back (more) into one-on-one counseling.

Several upcoming events were announced (with promises of more information to be sent out):

- 2/9 Interfaith Panel on LGBT issues (Hillel)
- 2/24 Program on Genocide (Hillel)
- 4/25 Workshop and Service on Int’l trafficking issues (d’Estree)
- 5/22 Project Homeless Connect (Chaplain’s office)

Gary then asked if there were other subjects/topics around DU that might provide topics for speakers at DURC meetings. Several things were suggested:

- ★ How to use the library’s resources (Chris Brown, research librarian)
- ★ Programming for Orientation
- ★ “Boys” and/or generational shifts in religiosity among youth
- ★ How to best access the intramurals/sports scene

Gary said he’d follow up!

Gary closed and thanked Rachel for Hillel’s hospitality, and Justin Spicer for providing bagels.

**Next meeting:** March 4, 9:30.



DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on March 4, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Rachel Balows; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Luke Oestman; Justin Spicer; Chad Stewart

Absent: Janet Gold (Chaplain's assistant); Laura Compton; Claude d'Estree; Ron Gustman; Ashley Hurley; Paul Miller; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Fr. Dino Sinos; Ken Tankersley

The meeting began at 9:30 with a period of silence, and the approval of the February 4th meeting's minutes. Gary mentioned that he'd received "regrets" from several of those who were absent, and commended prayers for the Gustmans as they Ron's mother-in-law nears death. He also mentioned that Fr. Dino and the OCF have decided to wait until there is more student involvement/leadership to be really active in the DURC.

**In the Chaplain's Corner --**

**Interceding for Others (2nd Tuesdays) and Meditation Across the Traditions (4th Tuesdays):**

Gary took the opportunity to announce two new programs for the winter/spring quarters. The first is an interfaith service of intercessory prayer; the second is an exploration of meditation/contemplative prayer across the five major religious traditions. Both are held at noon in Evans Chapel.

**Project Homeless Connect (5/22):** Will be held primarily at Coors Field. Chaplain's office will continue with foot-washing. Details to follow as more is revealed!

**Baccalaureate:** Gary reminded folks that he had sent out sample baccalaureate formats and invited others to help plan a DU event. Justin and Ken (by email) agreed; Ryan said "maybe/interested")

**Library Resourcing:** Following up on a suggestion from last month's discussion, Gary had communicated with the reference librarians at Penrose. Their team meetings conflict with the DURC meeting, so we decided to schedule a separate "training" with the library for those DURC members who were interested.

**Google Calendar:** Gary simply reminded folks of the opportunity to use the common Google Calendar (and provided login information).

We then turned to a conversation on "what's happening on campus", "how's attendance", mood, etc. Ryan noted again that his participants were primarily female. The Foundation was going to conduct a School Supplies Drive. Chad wondered (based on an article he subsequently sent to the list) about what kinds of messages DU was sending students about over-committing/over-engaging. [Gary suggested that we might get reps from Career Services and Campus Activities to join us in conversation on this point.]

Several upcoming events were announced (with promises of more information to be sent out):

4/5	Freedom Seder (Hillel)
4/12 (week)	Holocaust/Genocide Awareness Week (Hillel)
4/17	Festival of Nations
4/30	Diversity Summit

We then welcomed Megan Lyons (Assistant Director for Orientation: [megan.lyons@du.edu](mailto:megan.lyons@du.edu)) to talk with the DURC about Discoveries Week, and the place(s) where the DURC might play a part. Megan pointed out that the week was very academically-oriented, and that it was packed. She walked us through the week's schedule, and then we began to brainstorm:

- ★ What about Religious Preference Cards? Most pre-orientation stuff is done electronically now. Question (to Megan/Gary): can we get some kind of notice in the electronic stuff pointing to the on-line pref card?
- ★ Are there restrictions with move-in help? I.e., can we hand out water bottles, etc. Gary would check.
- ★ Are there communications to the Parents pre: registration? Gary would check.
- ★ Might we put up tables (or, a DURC table) outside Penrose during the two days when registration is occurring. Gary would check.
- ★ DURC ad/page in the Discoveries Handbook/Schedule? Gary would work on that!
- ★ How are the law school students oriented? Is there a place/role for the DURC? Gary would check.

Gary closed and thanked Rachel for Hillel's hospitality.

**Next meeting:** April 1, 9:30. Guest speaker will be Mary Boevers, from International Student and Scholar Support Services.

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on August 20, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Claude d’Estree; Kristi Gessler; Ron Gustman; Kelli Hayes; Ashley Hurley; Paul Miller; Caleb Nothwehr; Luke Oestman; Rachel Pinsker; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Fr. Dino Sinos; Justin Spicer; Chad Stewart

Guest: Hal Applebaum (Hillel of Colorado)

The meeting began at 9:05 with a period of silence, and the approval of the final CRS minutes (May 2009).

Time was spent with introductions, and brief answers to “How I spent my summer vacation?” During which time, Hal Applebaum introduced himself as the new Director of Hillel Colorado.

In the Chaplain’s Corner --

“The King is Dead; Long Live the King” or the CRS becomes the DURC.

- Gary noted the change and inquired if there were any procedural questions/problems with the paperwork
- Gary passed around draft copies of new brochures out of the Chaplain’s Office and asked for corrections/comments
- He made his final plea for corrections on information on the old CRS website in advance of printing new DURC brochures
- He pointed out some changes to the website (primarily that it would reflect the name change, etc.)

Suicide Prevention piece: Gary passed out information from Regis University’s program on suicide prevention and the faith communities.

Orientations: Gary suggested that future meetings of the DURC might include orientations/information sessions from various university offices (e.g., branding/communications, Internationalization)

Calendar Items: Gary pointed out the following upcoming events:

- Pioneer Carnival (9/12)
- Int’l Day of Peace (9/21) – observance, 5 pm, Chapel Green
- Interfaith Habitat Build (9/25)
- Gleaning with COMPA (10/17)

Move-in help: Gary pointed out how folks who wanted to help with move-in day might register.

We then moved to a reporting what was going to be happening with each group -- plans, etc.

The meeting then broke into smaller groups to brainstorm about how the individual members might work together, or how the group might work together to forward our common goals. One suggestion that garnered a lot of support was for a common "Religious Life" calendar. Gary said he'd look into it.

Next meeting: September 17, 2009 at 9:00 am at Hillel. It was decided that we would meet the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Brower

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on September 17, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Janet Gold (Chaplain’s assistant); Kelli Hayes; Ashley Hurley; Br. John Ignatius; Paul Miller; Luke Oestman; Rachel Pinsky; Fr. Dino Sinos; Justin Spicer

Absent: Claude d’Estree; Ron Gustman; Caleb Nothwehr; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Chad Stewart

The meeting began at 9:00 with a period of silence, and the acknowledgement that the minutes of 8/20 had not been supplied (with the promise that they would be by the next meeting).

Time was spent with introductions, and brief answers to “How I spent my first two weeks of ‘back to school’?”

In the Chaplain’s Corner --

Update on DURC document processing & membership issues: Gary mentioned that the paperwork was proceeding through the bureaucratic maze, and that things should be finalized within the next few weeks. He also announced that Menorah Ministries apparently would NOT be seeking membership in the DURC (reasons not known).

Orientations: Gary solicited ideas for University orientations (beyond International student issues & branding/marketing issues). Ideas meeting with approval were Insurance questions (e.g., for Spring Break trips); Portfolio training; webCentral training.

Calendar Items: Gary pointed out the following upcoming events:

- Int’l Day of Peace (9/21) – observance, 5 pm, Chapel Green
- Book Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (9/22)
- Interfaith Habitat Build (9/25) - talk to Janet!
- Contemplative Prayer (10/1) - 5 pm, Evans Chapel
- Gleaning with COMPA (10/17) - talk to Janet!
- Alternative Gift Market (11/7) - talk to Janet!

We then moved to a reporting what was going to be happening with each group -- plans, etc. Gary specifically inquired as to regularly scheduled meetings in order that they might be included in the Chaplain’s Newsletter.

Gary then talked about the differences between various shared calendars (Google vs. Portfolio), reporting that he had communicated with someone at Google about this. Rachel suggested having one email address with Google that would allow all member access to the calendar. He would report back by the next meeting.

**Next meeting: October 22 at 9:00 am at Hillel. The subsequent meeting will be Dec 3 at 9:00 am at Hillel.** [Due to some schedule conflicts for Gary, the “3rd Tuesday” schedule was NOT going to work, hence the schedule adjustments. He apologizes for any inconvenience.]

**University Chaplain**

Driscoll Student Center South, 29 | 2050 E. Evans Ave. | Denver, CO 80208 | 303.871.4488 | Fax 303.871.3331 | www.du.edu





DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on October 22, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Claude d’Estree; Janet Gold (Chaplain’s assistant); Ron Gustman; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Rachel Pinsker; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Fr. Dino Sinos; Justin Spicer

Absent: Kristi Gessler; Ashley Hurley; Paul Miller; Caleb Nothwehr; Luke Oestman; Chad Stewart

The meeting began at 9:00 with a period of silence, and the approval of the prior two meetings’ minutes (8/09 and 9/09).

In the Chaplain’s Corner --

Update on Pioneer Card: Gary noted that Pioneer Cards were being issued to those who’d passed all the HR hurdles, with the reminder to take photo ID. The Pioneer Card office should be ready for you! Several folks mentioned that there was some confusion at the Library when trying to check out books. Gary said he’d check on it immediately.

JMAC Religious Identity Program: Gary announced that the RA’s from JMAC were looking for student panelists for a program on November 2 at 8:30 pm. Once he had the appropriate email from the lead RA, he’d forward it on.

Calendar Items: Gary pointed out the following upcoming events:

- Dia de los Muertos (11/2) at 6:00 – 8:00; Community Room, Craig Hall
- Shop for a Cause (11/7) - talk to Janet! Volunteers wanted! Both Saturday and Sunday (11/7 and 8) for a couple of hours
- *The Book of Samuel* with author Erik Raschke (11/10) at 4:30; Nelson Private Dining Rm

We then moved to a discussion about what folks were hearing/dealing with on campus.. Consensus was that attendance was down, although there wasn’t a lot of agreement as to the reason(s). Suggested were pre-existing communities, problems with communications/publicity (more texting, less email). Gary noted that he wanted to hear “what was going on” at upcoming meetings as well.

We then welcomed [Jenn Light](#), from the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) for a presentation on the Portfolio system (a very easy-to-learn web-site substitute available to DURC members). If folks have questions they can contact Jenn directly (CTL is located in Penrose Library on the upper floor).

**Next meeting: December 3 at 9:00 am at Hillel.**

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on December 3, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Rachel Balows (*nee* Pinkser); Tom Balma; Kristi Gessler; Janet Gold (Chaplain’s assistant); Ashley Hurley; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Justin Spicer; Chad Stewart; Ken Tankersley

Absent: Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Claude d’Estree; Ron Gustman; Paul Miller; Luke Oestman; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Fr. Dino Sinos;

The meeting began at 9:05 with a period of silence, and the approval of the October 22nd meetings’ minutes.

In the Chaplain’s Corner --

**Update on Pioneer Card:** Gary noted that Pioneer Cards were still being issued to those who’d passed all the HR hurdles. He also noted that he’d learned that Library privileges and Portfolio privileges weren’t REALLY a part of being a “Special Community Member”, but that the appropriate offices are glad to extend them. If, when you get to that point, you need help, let me know.

**DU Responds:** Gary presented a protocol he had been working on for 1-1/2 years for the University to respond to major national/international disasters (e.g., Katrina, 9/11, tsunami, etc.). The DURC may be called in to help with trauma control and/or vigil/memorial help.

**MLK Ideas:** Gary asked for suggestions as to how the DURC might help the campus observe the MLK holiday. One suggestion was “service projects”; several groups on campus are already doing that. We decided that a inter-religious panel (as was done several years ago) on how religious convictions inform action/service would be a good fit. We also discussed providing options for community service at the event. We need suggestions as to speakers.

**Google Calender:** Gary announced that he had set up a Google Calendar for the DURC to post members’ activities. The account name is: [dureligiouscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dureligiouscouncil@gmail.com). The password is: gopioneers. The answer to the secret question is: “Driscoll South”. It is currently set up so that it is “publicly viewable”. Each group may point to the calendar as they see fit, and each group is responsible for maintaining their events. It was suggested that each group also provide a “key” as to what the entries imply (e.g., FOCUS=Fellowship of Catholic Students; CRU=DU Campus Crusade, etc.)

**Calendar Items:** Gary pointed out the following upcoming events:

- Carol Sing in Evans Chapel, December 17 at noon

Janet Gold announced that she would be sending out information on an upcoming Habitat for Humanity build. Kelli noted that the build was very near by - behind the Best Buy on Colorado at I-25.

We then welcomed [Kerrie Rueda](#), from Campus Activities for a presentation on the policies and procedures that govern the scheduling of “events” on campus. Events are NOT groups’ regular meetings, but rather those gatherings that may bring in off-campus guest speakers, performers, etc -- if you’re making a special reservation for space, it’s probably worth checking if it qualifies as an “event”. And leave LOTS of lead time! Gary will send out a copy of the PowerPoint for reference. If folks have questions they can contact Kerrie directly (Campus Activities is on the upper floor of Driscoll North).

Gary noted those folks who were absent, and the “special events” that were coming up: the Serebryanski’s presentation of their new twins on Sunday, Caleb Nothwehr’s upcoming wedding, and asked if there were other events.

**Next meeting:** Gary will send out, within the next several day, a Survey instrument that will help us set up meeting times for the Winter/Spring.

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on April 1, 2009

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Rachel Balows; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Ashley Hurley; Br. John Ignatius; Paul Miller; Justin Spicer; Chad Stewart

Absent: Ryan Canaday; Claude d’Estree; Ron Gustman; Luke Oestman; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Ken Tankersley

The meeting began at 9:30 with a period of silence, and the approval of the March 4th meeting’s minutes. We noted with appreciation the delicious matzot, jam and honey!

**In the Chaplain’s Corner --**

**Good Friday (4/2):** Gary reminded folks of this noon service at Evans Chapel.

**Freedom Seder (4/5):** Gary and Rachel reminded folks of this inter-religious/inter-cultural event

**Music & Meditation (1st Tuesdays), Interceding for Others (2nd Tuesdays) and Meditation Across the Traditions (4th Tuesdays):** Gary took the opportunity to remind folks of these monthly programs. All are held at noon in Evans Chapel.

**Diversity Summit (4/30):** Gary reminded folks of this event, and urged them to register.

**Project Homeless Connect (5/22):** Volunteer sign-ups are now being welcomed:  
<http://www.du.edu/studentlife/campusactivities/volunteerprograms.html>. Gary will get back to folks about the foot-washing options.

**Baccalaureate:** Gary will draw together Justin, Ken and Ryan to explore pursuing this.

**Community Service Opportunities:** Gary let folks know of two upcoming service opps:  
1) Friday, April 16, 12:00 - 2:00: volunteer at the showing of *Poto Mitan* (a movie on women’s empowerment in Haiti). Help needed with set-up/ registration, etc. Event is in in Cyber Café at the Korbel School of International Studies; show up at 11:30!  
2) Friday, May 7: Planting shrubs with South Suburban Parks and Recreation in Littleton. Details to follow

**Google Calendar:** Gary simply reminded folks of the opportunity to use the common Google Calendar (and provided login information).

We then turned to a conversation on “what’s happening on campus”, “how’s attendance”, mood, etc. Issues this month had to do with tuition increases, enrollment projections, and how students self-report/self-reveal about their religious preference/activities.

Several upcoming events were announced (with promises of more information to be sent out):

4/12 (week)	Holocaust/Genocide Awareness Week (Hillel)
4/17	Festival of Nations
4/24	Christian Science Lecture: "What is Christian Science Healing" (3:00 pm, Community Room, Craig Hall)

We then welcomed Mary Boevers (Director, Int' l Students and Scholars: [mary.boevers@du.edu](mailto:mary.boevers@du.edu)) to talk with the DURC about how to work with International Students/Scholars. Mary had done, in advance of our meeting, a survey of the International students on campus, and shared the results of that survey (with the promise of forwarding on the results/data). Conversation was lively about how internationals do (or do not) feel included/served.

Gary closed and thanked Rachel for Hillel's hospitality.

**Next meeting:** May 6, 9:30. Guest speaker will be MaryMichael Hawkins, Director of the Career Center. We will also try to get someone from student government/campus activities.



DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on May 6, 2010

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Rachel Balows; Ryan Canaday; Kristi Gessler; Janet Gold (Chaplain’s assistant); Ron Gustman; Kelli Hayes; Justin Spicer

Absent: Laura Compton; Claude d’Estree; Ashley Hurley; Br. John Ignatius; Paul Miller; Luke Oestman; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Chad Stewart; Ken Tankersley

Guest: Ruth Febriana (a representative of a local Chinese Church, interested in reaching out to Chinese students)

The meeting began at 9:30 with a period of silence (in partial recognition of the National Day of Prayer), and the approval of the April 1st meeting’s minutes.

**In the Chaplain’s Corner --**

**Community Service Opportunity (5/7):** Planting shrubs with South Suburban Parks and Recreation in Littleton.

**Zevk Ensemble: Experience Sufi Music (5/12):** Concert benefitting the Lambi Fund of Haiti, 7:00 pm, Cyber Café.

**Interceding for Others (May 11) and Meditation Across the Traditions (May 25):** Gary took the opportunity to remind folks of these monthly programs. Both will be noon in Evans Chapel.

**Project Homeless Connect (5/22):** Volunteer sign-ups are now being welcomed:  
<http://www.du.edu/studentlife/campusactivities/volunteerprograms.html>. For those interested in foot-washing:

For Volunteers: Let Gary know the names and email of your volunteers as well as when they would like to serve. We are scheduling 8:30-12 and 12-3:30. They can choose one or both times. We need a count though. Anyone working both will be given lunch and a t-shirt for the event. Volunteers can wash feet, help with replenishing soaking tubbies, or polish toenails...their choice. **We need to have a good count for volunteers and their information by May 14 and a final count by May 18 if at all possible.**

**Baccalaureate:** Tables ‘til next year. We will talk about fall programming at the next meeting.

**Religious Preference Cards:** Gary discussed the difficulties of the “old style” of religious preference cards in this day of electronic media. He did pledge to do what he could to get the message highlighted in existing print media.

**Google Calendar:** Gary simply reminded folks of the opportunity to use the common Google Calendar (and provided login information).

We then welcomed MaryMichael Hawkins (Director, Career Center: [mhawkins@du.edu](mailto:mhawkins@du.edu)) and Jim Francescon (President-elect of the Undergraduate Student Government: [jim.francescon@gmail.com](mailto:jim.francescon@gmail.com)) to talk with the DURC about whether or not DU sends overt, or subtle, messages to students to over-commit. Jim basically said “yes”, new students are encouraged to get involved in as many things as possible. MaryMichael confirmed that employers really seem to want to see a lot of high level activity (including internships, study abroad, etc.). All agreed, however, that this easily leads to burn-out among students.

Discussion ensued about how to deal with this problem, especially as it seems to be driven equally from without the university (parents, future employers, etc.) as it does from within. Issues students need to address are “How do you say ‘No’?” and “Can you focus on two things only (i.e., very deeply), or is it better to have multiple involvements.

Proposal that we try to come up with quarterly workshops, co-sponsored by DURC, Career Center, Academic Advising, Housing and Residential Education and the USG to help students navigate these treacherous waters.

Gary closed and thanked Rachel for Hillel’s hospitality.

**Next meeting:** June 3, 9:30 at Hillel. Main topic of conversation will be wrapping up the year, and looking ahead.