Fr. Jacques Dalarun  
Scholar of Medieval Christianity

Jacques Dalarun, senior researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, was previously director of the Medieval Department at l'Ecole Francaise de Rome, as well as the Joseph A. Doino Visiting Professor of Franciscan Studies at the Franciscan Institute of St. Bonaventure University (2004-2005).

Dalarun, the author of numerous books and articles, is one the world's foremost authorities in medieval and Franciscan studies. Among his better-known English-language titles are The Misadventure of Francis of Assisi (2002), Francis of Assisi and the Feminine (2007), Francis of Assisi and Power (2007), and Robert of Arbrissel: Sex, Sin, and Salvation in the Middle Ages (2006).

He has published works focused on certain medieval women in the Franciscan tradition, in particular Clare of Assisi, Angela of Foligno, and Clare of Rimini.

Lectures

Masculine/Feminine: Francis and Clare in the Medieval Culture

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7-8 p.m., OEC 103  
co-sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women

Who is the Real Francis of Assisi?
Seasons in Franciscan Hagiography:  
A Contemporary Reflection upon the Early Sources on the Life and Identity of Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

A three-session presentation  
Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., OEC 103  
co-sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women

Maternal Government according to Francis of Assisi: The Autograph Letter to Brother Leo

Tuesday, Oct. 12 4-5 p.m., Center for Medieval Studies  
University of Minnesota
**Women's Studies Program: Upcoming Events**

This will be another great year for the Women's Studies program. At UST, we are offering excellent cross-listed courses in a variety of disciplines, including Biology, Communication and Journalism, English, History, Music, and Sociology. At the ACTC level, the Women's Studies directors will be working together to implement the recently-approved revisions to the ACTC Women's Studies major. We'll be moving from particular course requirements to areas of study, which will allow for increased flexibility while maintaining the strengths of the ACTC major. I am really excited to get started, as it will open up many more opportunities for our students.

As Director of Women's Studies, I am very happy to be attending the National Women's Studies Association conference in November. The conference theme is “Difficult Dialogues II,” and will continue last year's focus on concepts and issues that remain “under-theorized and under- examined in the field of women's studies,” such as questions of race, class, and sexuality (www.nwsa.org). As the description of the conference theme reads, "Although the problem of omissions, silences, and distortions in women's studies has been analyzed for decades, too often feminist scholarship continues to theorize on the basis of hegemonic frameworks, false universals, and a narrow range of lived experiences. The legitimate terrain of feminist theory, inquiry, and politics remains contested." In other words, this is not your older sister's NWSA. Check out their website to learn more, and consider attending the annual conference.

The Women’s Studies Program will hold an information session on Thursday, October 26 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in JRC 430. Students: You are welcome to drop in and ask any questions you might have about our courses, major/minor requirements, scholarships, and other opportunities. We can also talk about WMST 205: Foundations in Women's Studies, a course that I will be teaching for the first time in Spring 2011.

Of course, you are always free to contact me with any Women's Studies questions. And stop by my office for a “Changing Lives — Changing the World — Women's Studies” button!

Angela High-Pippert  
Director of Women's Studies  
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**Can I Kiss You?**

Mike Domitrz, speaker and author, will give the 2010 Fall Welcome keynote address, “Can I Kiss You?” Two presentations will be given on Tuesday, Sept. 21, in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium.

Everyone from the UST community is invited to attend either presentation. Students unable to attend their assigned session are asked to attend the other session.

Presentations will be at 4:30 p.m. to commuters and residents of John Paul II, Brady, Murray, Morrison and Selby halls, Sophomore Year Experience apartments, transfer houses and commuter students. Presentations will be at 7:30 p.m. to residents of Dowling, Ireland, Cretin, Grace and SJV halls.

Domitrz will give a high-energy, interactive program on healthy relationships, dating and intimacy. Do you get fed up with all the "games" people play in dating and with hooking up? Domitrz reminds audiences that while some games are entertaining, dating games can lead to confusion and even danger.

In “Can I Kiss You?” Domitrz shows you how to eliminate the games by saying exactly what you want. Discover how raising the level of respect between you and your partner can heighten the romance. Domitrz is author of May I Kiss You? (2003) and Voices of Courage (2005).
Change

My mother turns 90 this year. When I try to imagine what the course of her life must have felt like, I often wonder how she negotiated the wild ride of social changes that catapulted us through the 20th Century. Born in 1920, just 3 months after women got the vote, she lived through the Great Depression, a financial crisis that makes our recent tumble look like a mere bump in the road. (Of course, she also always said that her family was so poor, she had no idea there was a Depression.) She had to quit high school for two years and work to help support her family, yet, when she returned she still managed to graduate on time with her class. She saw women go to work during World War II. She embraced every change in fashion (her brothers still laugh about all her hats), while she kept up with news and politics. She applauded the results of the Women’s Movement for what it meant for her 5 daughters. And, like any parent, she has come to accept things in her children that she never thought she would be able to. She has lived a long, healthy life, in part because she has been able to adjust to change.

If we had taken the girl that she was at, say 10 years old, and plopped her in the middle of 2010, I suspect she would have felt that she was in a foreign world. Changes in technology that affected women’s work both personally and professionally, assumptions about a woman’s “place” in the world, views toward love and marriage: these and other changes make my world so vastly different from the one into which my mother was born.

This year the programming at Luann Dummer Center for Women will focus on change for women. Our speaker for March Women’s History month will be Gail Collins, whose recent book is When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present. Collins, a regular columnist for the New York Times, clearly and compellingly describes the vast changes that have taken place for American women in just the past 50 years. It is a hopeful book, one that reminds us about the improvements in the quality of life for many American women as a result of this change. It is a book that I hope many of our undergraduate students will read, since it describes a recent history about which many of them know too little.

One of the dangers of swift social change is that the past is often forgotten. I have to confess that I love history, because I believe that the contemporary world is tied to that history for good or for ill. It is sad that we often forget that the changes that took place in the past fifty years were preceded by attempts by many women to challenge their place in society. To be sure, many of these attempts did not result in lasting change, but this is perhaps a cautionary tale we too often ignore. Lasting change is hard to sustain, especially when confronted by fear that leads to a nostalgia for “good old days” that distorts the past.

This year the Women’s Center will host a variety of Feminist Fridays that will examine small bits of women’s history. Dr. Anne Klejment (History) will give us a guide for reading Dorothy Day’s The Long Loneliness; Dr. Ann Johnson (Psychology) will introduce us to women pioneers in her field; and Dr. Sherry Jordon will highlight some of the women of the Reformation, another period of vast social change.

We are also co-hosting a talk by an internationally recognized Medieval historian, Jacques Dalarun, whose research has combined interest in gender issues with studies of St. Francis of Assisi and other religious movements that were taking place at that time. One of these movements that he has researched attempted a monastic system where men and women lived together under the direction of a female Abbess.

The programs as a whole this year will highlight the fact that most social movements in history (the rise of the Mendicant orders, the Reformation movements in Christianity, the socialist movements during the early periods of the Industrial Revolution, the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960s, etc.) included an attempt to rethink gendered relationships that often undergird the patriarchal system of unearned privilege these movements tried to reform.

— Corrine Carvalho
**Female Faculty Pursue Work-Life Balance: It’s not just a summer issue**

This summer, 18 female faculty participated in the second retreat co-sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women, Faculty Development, Academic Affairs, the University Advocates for Women and Equity and the President’s Office/Affirmative Action. This year the two-day event focused was on work-life balance.

Dr. Susan Robison, who holds a doctorate in Psychology, worked with the group to identify those professional activities that bring optimum satisfaction and joy. She showed the group how placing one’s energies into those activities lead to what she terms “great life.” In the process she covered diverse areas, including how to recognize something as “good enough” and how to say “no” in a positive manner. Evaluations of the retreat revealed that faculty greatly appreciated her expertise and insights.

In the last part of the retreat, the faculty who had gathered discussed formal mechanisms for women faculty to be mutually supportive in our career advancement. The University of St. Thomas reflects national trends that show that, although women are hired at a fairly equitable rate, they fail to be retained or to advance their careers at the same rate of men. Studies have also shown that mentoring among women who face similar life-work challenges improves retention and promotion.

As a result, these same offices are pursuing a pilot plan to create small networking groups that will meet on a regular basis throughout the year. These groups of approximately 5-6 faculty at various stages in their career and from different departments will meet monthly to discuss various topics. These will include discussions of university policies and how they impact women, recognizing and enhancing leadership skills, and strategic approaches to the flow of one’s career. There will be a kick-off event in September.

**UAWE to extend Fall Welcome**

The University Advocates for Women and Equity will hold its annual fall meeting on Tuesday, October 12, from 3:30-4:30 pm in McNeely Hall 100 on the St. Paul Campus. Elections will be held to determine representatives on the executive committee. Also, for the first time, we will be combining the fall meeting with a reception to welcome women who have been hired at UST since our spring reception. Refreshments will be served. Please come to discuss goals for the academic year and to welcome our new women employees. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Susan Myers (semyers@stthomases.edu).

**Yarn Tamers Meets All Year Long**

Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues and socializing. Newcomers are encouraged to stop by and join in the fun.

Each year the group works on a service project with materials funded by a small grant from the Women’s Center. During the Fall 09 semester they crocheted and knitted squares that were sewn into three afghans which were donated to Alexandra House in Blaine which provides shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Yarn Tamers meets on Mondays from noon-1:00 pm in Room 103, OEC in the Luann Dummer Center for Women.

Anyone can come to Yarn Tamers, even if they don’t have knitting or crocheting experience. There is no formal registration; interested people can just show up to a meeting. Contact: pmalexander@stthomases.edu.
Calendar of Events

We welcome you to any or all of our programs and co-sponsored events. See the LDCW website for information on additional events and activities. (All events held at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

Sept. 17  Chocolate Reception, 3-4:30


Sept. 29  Book Club: The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Oct. 7   “Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam,” Thursday, Oct 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at OEC Auditorium, co-sponsored with the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center

Oct. 14  Jacques Dalarun, “Masculine/Feminine: Francis and Clare in the Medieval Culture;” 7 p.m.


Oct. 27  Book Club: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Nov. 12  Feminist Friday: Sherry Jordon: “Anne Askew: Martyr of the English Reformation”

Dec. 1   Book Club: The Weight of Water by Anita Shreve


March 8  Gail Collins, “When Everything Changed,” March Women’s History Month Speaker, 7 p.m., OEC Auditorium

March 30 Book Club: The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Apr. 1  Feminist Friday, “Challenges and Opportunities for Fiber Artists in Asmat, Papua, Indonesia” by Dr. Julia Risser (Art History)

April 14th  Suzanne Belote Shantley of the Agape Community will speak on women suffragists and peacemaking, co-sponsored with Theology, Environmental Studies and Justice and Peace Studies

Apr. 27  Book Club: The Thirteenth Tale: A Novel by Diane Setterfield

Apr. 29  Feminist Friday: “Singing a Song After a Battle Always Being Fought: Women and Revolution in Latin America” Dr. Meg Wilkes-Karraker (Sociology) and Dr. Paola Ehrentraut (Modern and Classical Languages)

May 11  Grant Recipients Poster Session, 3-4:30

May 25  Book Club: Lake of Sorrows: A Novel by Erin Hart

Moving up!

Madonna McDermott, Director of Student Health Services, is pleased to announce that Health Services in Minneapolis is expanding services, changing its name and moving up—literally! The Clinic formerly called Minneapolis Quick Clinic, was housed in the lower level of Terrance Murphy Hall (TMH) and open two days a week. The new location is now in TMH, Suite 110 next to the bookstore. This site was the previous home to Life/Work Center. The new Health Services Minneapolis will offer expanded services and hours to better serve the students, staff and faculty of the Minneapolis campus and St. Thomas community.

Effective Sept. 7, 2010 the new Health Service Minneapolis clinic will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 2-6 p.m. More comprehensive health care services and a travel clinic will be available to all students, faculty and staff in addition to the Counseling and Psychological Service which continue to be available Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
The Women’s Center book club has developed a core of loyal members, but we are always open for more! We try to vary our reading: at least one classic per year, at least one non-fiction per year, some “fun” reads, and some controversial ones. Our only requirement is that the book has to have been written by a woman. We meet the last Wednesday of every month (usually) from 12-1 in the Center. It is open to (female AND male) students, faculty, staff, and people from the community. You don’t even have to have finished the book to join us!

Our book club has also been picked up by authors. Donna Woolfolk Cross, author of Pope Joan, joined us by phone this summer to talk about the research she conducted in writing the book. In May Erin Hart will join us in person as we discuss her book!

We are also going to collect books and monetary donations this year for donations to women’s prisons and literacy programs.

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Read a Good Book Lately?

“Readers’ Guide to Dorothy Day’s Autobiographical Long Loneliness” by Dr. Ann Klejment, Sept. 24

Do you like to read Dorothy Day’s Long Loneliness eventually? Have you read The Long Loneliness but still have questions about Dorothy Day and her spirituality? Are you just curious? If so, join Dorothy Day scholar Anne Klejment, Department of History, in a lively conversation that will bring her to life for us.

“Dilemmas for Women Scientists, Pre-1960: Doing Historical Research on Women Psychologists of the Mid-20th century” by Dr. Ann Johnson, Oc. 22

The presentation will discuss research conducted on women psychologists of the mid-20th century and the difficulties they faced as women working within a professional environment that dictated loyalty to science above all while penalizing those who tried to pursue feminist goals within the profession. Those complex professional norms sometimes led women scientists of that era to resist the later feminist developments of the 1960s. This created some interesting problems for post-1960s feminist historians hoping to cast early women professionals as feminist role models.

“Anne Askew: Martyr of the English Reformation” by Dr. Sherry Jordon, Nov. 12

Anne Askew was burnt at the stake during Henry VIII’s reign for her denial of transubstantiation and for her refusal to implicate other women in her reformist views. In Askew’s account of the interrogations that led to her death, she uses her gender and her knowledge of scripture to defend her views and to criticize her accusers.

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Full Slate of Feminist Fridays for Fall

Here is the list of this year’s books:

September 29: The Lovely Bones by Alice Seybold

October 27: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

December 1: The Weight of Water by Anita Shreve

January 26: Black Water Rising: A Novel by Attica Locke

February 23: When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present by Gail Collins

March 30: The Help by Kathryn Stockett

April 27: The Thirteenth Tale: A Novel by Diane Setterfield

May 25: Lake of Sorrows: A Novel by Erin Hart
The Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center of College of Arts and Sciences at the University of St. Thomas invites you to a panel discussion: “Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” Thursday, Oct. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at O’Shaughnessy Auditorium, University of St. Thomas. The panelists will be as follows:

Rabbi Amy Eilberg is the first woman ordained as a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. After many years of work in pastoral care, hospice and spiritual direction, Rabbi Eilberg now directs the Interfaith Conversations Project at the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning. Deeply engaged in peace and reconciliation efforts in connection with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she now serves as chair of J Street Minnesota. She is at work on a book on Judaism and Peacebuilding.

Ms. Gail Anderson is the Director of Unity and Relationships, Minnesota Council of Churches, where she directs Interfaith and Ecumenical programming. With the Muslim American Society she organizes Taking Heart, a program designed to bring Muslim and Christian neighbors together. She was a 2009 recipient of a Building Bridges award from the Islamic Resource Group in Minnesota. Her newest program is called Taking Root, a program to create interfaith understanding as well as welcome refugees to Minnesota who arrive without any connection to the community. Gail earned a Masters Degree in Theology from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She also has been an award winning television producer, and president of a corporate communications company.

Dr. Elaine MacMillan received her PhD in ecclesiology from the University of Toronto, and is now teaching courses in the University of St. Thomas theology department. She has done research and has spoken widely on the role of women in the Christian church. For many years she represented the U.S. Catholic Bishops at the national Faith and Order Conference (a branch of the National Council of Churches of Christ).

Dr. Fatma Reda, M.D., Ph.D., is a consulting physician who has spoken widely on Islam and the role of women in Islam. She studied medicine at Oxford University and the Univ. of Minnesota medical school (psychiatry, psychopharmacology), and also has a Ph.D. in Comparative Religious Studies from the University of Canterbury (Kent, U.K.). She has been extremely active in interfaith dialogue in the Twin Cities area with both Jewish and Christian organizations for decades. She is also a third level Mureedah (female seeker) in the Naqshabandi Sufi order.

Ms. Honaida Al-Mottahar is an American of Yemeni descent. Ms. Al-Mottahar is a prolific speaker and expert on matters of faith and cultural matters. She is an active member of the Minnesota faith communities and a strong advocate of inter-religious dialogue. Ms. Almottahar is completing her post graduate studies majoring in education. She is married with three lovely sons.

The event will be introduced and moderated by Dr. Marisa Kelly, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This event is co-sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning and by the Luann Dummer Center for Women at the University of St. Thomas.
Some Thoughts on Becoming an Ally at UST

Angela High-Pippert, Don Beyers, Gay Grymes, Jill Manske, Buffy Smith, Mark Stansbury-O’Donnell

In our last Climate Survey, results showed that the climate on campus for those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies (LGBTQA) is particularly chilly. In light of that reality, a group of staff, faculty and students, with the support of the Affirmative Action committee, has been working on ways to improve that statistic. One significant way is for people in our community to become more visible Allies. Here are some thoughts on how to do that.

- Try not to make the assumption that everyone you meet is heterosexual. Be open to the fact that people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies (LGBTQA) are present in every walk of life, in every community. At the University of St. Thomas, they are your students, your co-workers, and your colleagues.

- Find ways to let people know that you are an ally. This could be as simple as paying attention to the language you use, the examples you incorporate in class, and what students and colleagues see when they look around your office.

- Understand the privilege that comes from using terms such as “husband” or “wife” instead of “partner” in casual conversation.

- Don’t let offensive statements or jokes stand. Understand the power of your silence or your words when such uncivil discourse occurs in your presence, either in your classroom, your office, or anywhere on campus.

- Understand that being an ally is consistent with and encouraged by Catholic teaching.

- Identify yourself as an ally, through your words and actions. Keep in mind that becoming an ally is an ongoing process. Continue to educate yourself about relevant issues and policies.

- Express support for UST Allies by promoting and attending their events.

- Attend ally training sessions offered on campus, or contact one of us if you would like to schedule a session for your department or group.

- Understand your responsibility to shape organizations of which you are a part.

- Consider these efforts to be an investment in both the University of St. Thomas and the kind of world you’d like to live in.

If you would like to schedule a formal Ally training for your group or organization, feel free to contact Dr. Corrine Carvalho (clcarvalho@stthom.edu).