

CARA J. (POLK) ASPESI

1707 Scottswood Drive
South Bend, IN 46617
505.330.5595 (Cellular)
Email: aspesi.1@nd.edu

EDUCATION

- UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, Indiana** Aug. 2010—*present*
Ph.D. Theology, concentration in Liturgical Studies
- UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, Indiana** Aug. 2008—May 2010
M.A. Early Christian Studies
GPA: 3.80
- TALBOT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, La Mirada, California** Aug. 2005—May 2007
Graduate Studies in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
- BIOLA UNIVERSITY, La Mirada, California** Aug. 2001—May 2005
B.A. English Literature
B.A. Anthropology (Concentration in Linguistics)
Minor: Bible
GPA: 3.945

DISSERTATION

- Lucca, Biblioteca Arcivescovile MS 5: A Window on Life and Liturgy in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem in the Twelfth Century *in progress*

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

- LATIN**
- Christian, advanced level, one semester Aug. 2009—Dec. 2009
Medieval, advanced level, one semester June 2009—July 2009
Classical, intermediate level, two semesters Aug. 2008—May 2008
Ecclesiastical, introductory level, two semesters Aug. 2006—May 2007
- GREEK**
- Classical, introductory & intermediate levels, four semesters June 2008—May 2010
Koine Greek, three semesters Aug. 2006—Dec. 2007

PUBLICATIONS

- “The *libelli* of Lucca, Biblioteca Arcivescovile MS 5: The Liturgy of the Siege of Acre?” *Journal of Medieval History* (forthcoming).
- “The Contribution of the Cantors of the Holy Sepulchre to Crusade History and Frankish Identity,” in *Medieval Cantors and Their Craft: Music, Liturgy, and the Shaping of History*, ed. Margot Fassler, Katie Bugyis, and Andrew Kraebel. (Woodbridge, Suffolk: York Medieval Press, 2016).
- “Literacy and Book Ownership in the Congregations of John Chrysostom,” in *Studia Patristica LXVII*, ed. Marcus Vinzent, vol. 15 (Leuven: Peeters, 2013), 333-44.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Cantors as Builders: The Reconstruction of Jerusalem in the Twelfth-Century Liturgy of the Holy Sepulcher”
49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan May 2014
- “The 12th century Cantors of the Holy Sepulchre and the Liturgical Formation of Identity”
34th Annual Conference of the Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, New York Mar. 2014
- “Reconstructing Jerusalem by Stations: The Transformative Power of a 12th-century Crusader Liturgical Procession”
Medieval Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group, University of Notre Dame, Indiana Nov. 2013
- “The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and the Liturgy of Twelfth-Century Jerusalem”
Cantor-Historian Symposium, Notre Dame London Center, London Oct. 2013
- “The Origins of the *Refrigerium*: A Reevaluation”
North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois May 2013
- “The Glory of God and the Face of Scripture: Understanding Origen's Esteem of the ‘Literal’ ”
What is the Bible? The Patristic Doctrine of Scripture, 3rd Annual Symposium in Honor of Fr. Florovsky Feb. 2013
- “Lessons from a Crusader Liturgical Procession in Twelfth Century Jerusalem”
Panel: “What Does the Study of Religion Bring to the Study of Music?”
American Musicological Society/Society for Ethnomusicology/Society for Music Theory Nov. 2012
- “Literacy and Book Use in the Congregations of John Chrysostom”
16th International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford Aug. 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Notre Dame

Course: Introduction to Theology: Biblical/Historical Fall 2016

Teaching Fellow, Pappas Patristic Institute

July 21-26, 2013

Sponsoring Institution: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston

Professor: Teva Regule

Course: Exploring Ancient Baptismal Liturgies

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research & Teaching Assistant, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame

Jan. 2012-May 2013

Professor: Dr. Robin Darling Young

Course: THEO 20255-Christ, Nature & Ends of World

Research: Friendship in Late Antiquity; manuscripts of the works of Evagrius of Pontus

Grant Writing: National Endowment for the Humanities “*The Gnostic Trilogy* of Evagrius of Pontus”

Teaching Assistant, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame

Aug. 2011-Dec. 2011

Professor: Dr. Margot Fassler

Course: THEO 20409/60409-Liturgical Prayer

Teaching Assistant, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame Jan. 2010—May 2010
Professor: Dr. Tadeusz Mazurek
Course: CLAS 10200-Greek and Roman Mythology

Research Assistant, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame Jan. 2009—Jan. 2010
Professor: Dr. Hildegund Muller
Text collation for *CSEL* critical edition of Augustine's *Enarrationes in Psalmos* 61-118
Manuscript collation for an edition of the medieval *Vita Pachomius*

Teaching Assistant, Torrey Honors Academy, Biola University Dec. 2006—May 2007
Professor: Dr. Fred Sanders
Course: YMDT 490-Doctrine of Scripture

Teaching Assistant, English Department, Biola University Aug. 2005—Dec. 2005
Professor: Dr. Aaron Kleist
Course: ENGL 405-Introduction to Shakespeare

OTHER EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN, RIVENDELL COLLEGE, BOULDER, CO July 2007—June 2008
Collaborated in helping the school complete the accreditation process
Gave administrative support to college faculty and students
Acted as Webmaster for *eRivendell*, an online distance education system

HONORS & AWARDS

University Presidential Fellowship in Humanities, University of Notre Dame	2010-2015
Nanovic Institute for European Studies Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame	2012
Downes Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame	2009
Graduated <i>Summa cum laude</i> , Biola University	2005
<i>Epsilon Kappa Epsilon</i> , Honors Society of Biola University	2005
Outstanding Senior Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Biola University	2005
Inez McGahey Award for Excellence in Literary Scholarship	2005
English Faculty Honors Scholarship	2004

NOTEABLE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Independent manuscript research, Italy	May—June 2012
Overseas study: Rome, Italy	Oct. 2009
Overseas study: Israel, Egypt, and Jordan	Jan. 2006
Guild of English Scholars, Biola University	2004—2005
Anthropological Field Research, Klaw Taw, Thailand	Summer 2004

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

North American Patristics Society	June 2008— <i>present</i>
American Anthropological Association	Sep. 2004—Aug. 2007
Modern Language Association	Sep. 2005—Aug. 2007

REFERENCES

Dr. Margot E. Fassler
Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History & Liturgy
Medieval Institute & Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame
241 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.0384
mfassler@nd.edu

Dr. Blake Leyerle
Associate Professor
Departments of Theology and Classics
University of Notre Dame
444 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.7090
leyerle.1@nd.edu

Dr. Maxwell Johnson
Professor of Liturgical Studies
Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame
432 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.4118
Maxwell.E.Johnson.254@nd.edu

Dr. Keith Bradley
Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Professor of Classics
Department of Classics
University of Notre Dame
520 Flanner Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.7004
bradley.45@nd.edu