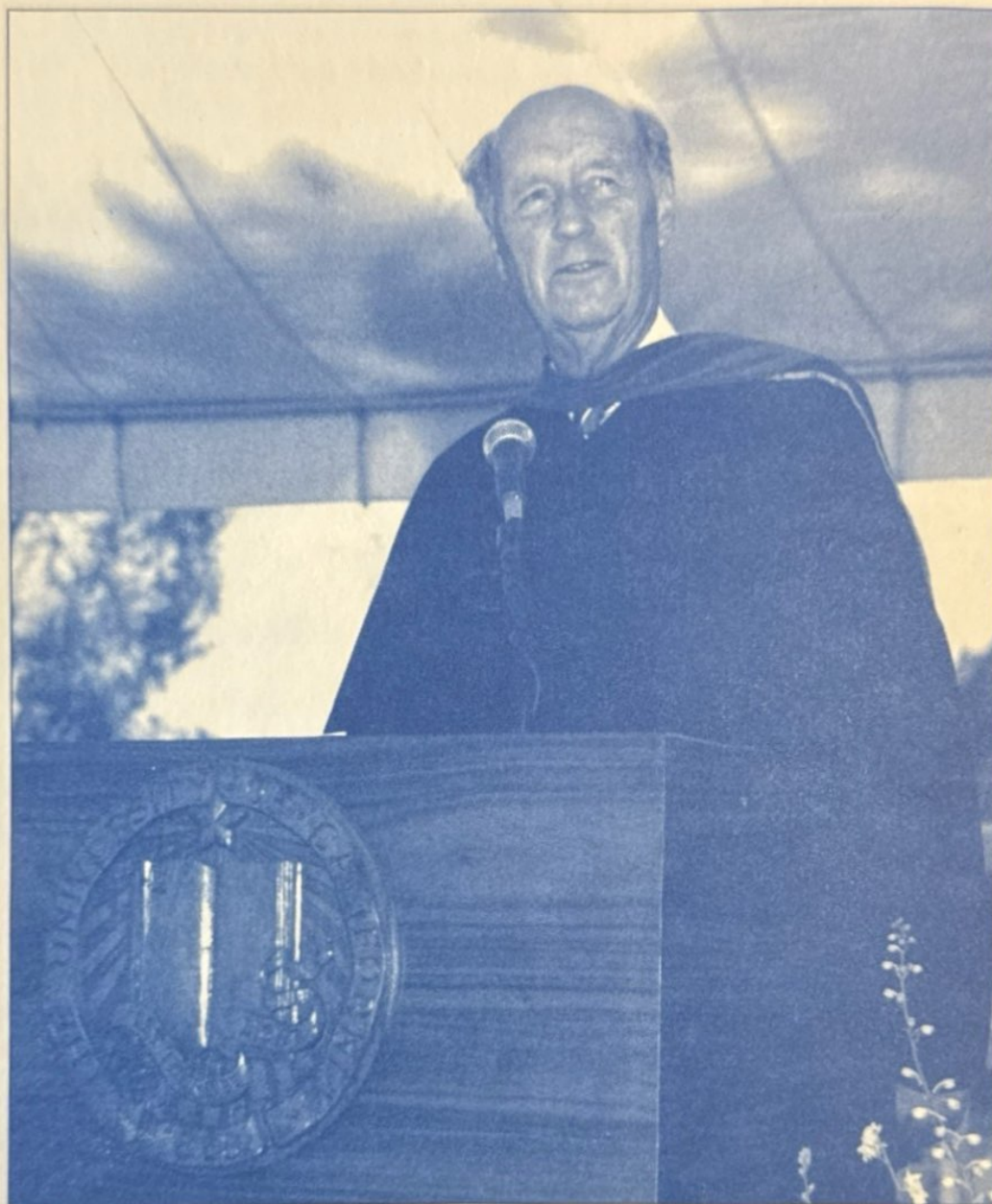


A Memorial and Celebration



WALTER H. CAPPS
(1934 - 1997)

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

FOR WALTER
9 NOVEMBER 1997

*I see you beneath the Finnish Sky
in Airisto beside the islandy sea
After all these years have wandered by;
And expressing beneath a garden tree
In the evening sunlight your gratitude
To all those highway patrol and medical folk
Whose practical love imparted renewed
Days; and in Buchanan Hall when you spoke
For St. Michael's on Congress's ethical worth
We were merry after in the Beachside Café.
I see you there at the ends of the earth
in Tromso; and in your open-top Bug
When you drove me home in a sinuous way
From Santa Monica. Your diffident shrug
And smile were framed by that evening sun.
You live, Walter, in my innermost eye
And the magic silence of everyone
You knew and who knew you.*

It is not goodbye.

Ninian Smart

WALTER CAPPS
(1934-1997)



Walter Holden Capps received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Humanities from Portland State University in 1958 and two years later a Bachelor of Divinity from Augustana Theological Seminary. He received a Master of Sacred Theology from the Yale Divinity School in 1961, a second Master's Degree from the Yale Graduate School in 1963, and then finally his doctoral degree from Yale in 1965. He received an honorary doctoral degree from Uppsala University in 1997 for his distinguished contributions to the study of religion.

Walter was appointed to the faculty in Religious Studies in 1964 and retired from the University of California, Santa Barbara as Professor Emeritus on 31 December 1996. Throughout his long career on the campus he offered courses on the history of Christian thought, monasticism, mysticism, contemporary religious thought, religion and politics in America, the ethics of Jesus, and the department's proseminar for new graduate students on the history and methods of Religious Studies. In 1979 he instituted a new course, "The Impact of the Vietnam War," which earned national and international recognition. It was the first course in the nation which took up the profound cultural, psychological, social, and theological issues which tore at America's conscience in what he called the nation's "unfinished war." He invited now Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska to co-teach the course with him. He offered other courses with distinguished visitors like former Senator George McGovern and he was among the first in the University of California to use distance-learning technology to bring dignitaries and politicians into his classroom from the UC-DC Center, which Walter championed with his colleagues on the UCSB campus. For more than a decade he took great pleasure in organizing, under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities, summer seminars for high school, college, and university teachers on the study of religion and civic life in America.

Walter's teaching won him national recognition. In 1987, the American Academy of Religion, the largest professional association for the study of religion in North America, recognized him for its "Outstanding Teaching Award." He was named "Professor of the Year" by the Santa Barbara chapter of the national student honors society, Mortar Board during four years of his career. He was awarded the Corita Kent Peace Award from Immaculate Heart College in 1989, nominated for the Joseph C. Wilson Award in 1990, and the State of California nominee for the Charles Frankel Prize of the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1990. In 1992, he received the President's Award from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, in large part in recognition of his being one of the country's outstanding

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interpreters of the humanities. He was nominated in three consecutive years for National Professor of the Year. He received no less than 13 grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, one major grant from the Lily endowment, and 14 grants from the Laucks Foundation.

During his career he published more than 100 articles, chapters, research papers, and essays in journals such as the *Revue Philosophique de Louvain*, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, *Journal of Religion*, *Studia Theologica*, *Nomen*, *Studia Mystica*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and the *Encyclopedia of Religion*. He was invited to give lectures at 50 universities and colleges throughout the United States, and he delivered countless public addresses in national meetings, to professional and civic organizations, to governmental agencies, to business organizations, in churches, synagogues, and other religious institutions. He wrote 14 books including *The Religious Personality* (1970), which he co-authored with his brother, Donald; *Hope Against Hope: Moltmann to Merton in One Theological Decade* (1976); *The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience* (1982 and 1990); *Thomas Merton: Preview of an Asian Journey* (1989); and *Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline* (1995), which won a nomination from the American Academy of Religions for best book in *The Study of Religion* (1996). A number of other works, including a series of articles on Vaclav Havel, a book-length manuscript titled *Finishing the War: The Moral and Spiritual Challenges of Vietnam*, and an edited and translated edition of Anders Nygren's *Religious Apriori* are in press.

Throughout his career Walter was deeply involved in service to the University of California. He was Director of the Institute of Religious Studies (1971-1977); Director of the Robert Hutchins Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (1980-1981); member of the Faculty Legislature for seventeen years during his career; Vice Chair of the Academic Senate (1990-1992); member or chair of numerous systemwide advisory committees, including the Humanities Research Institute at UC Irvine, the UC President's Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Education; and chair of the Department of Religious Studies from 1993 to 1995. He also contributed substantially to the professional and learned societies in the study of religion. He was President of the Council on the Study of Religion (1977-1984), the founding chair of the American Academy of Religions' Committee on Religion and Public Life (1994-1996), chair of the California Council for the Humanities (1983-1985), and President of the National Federation of State Humanities Councils (1985-1987), to name just a few. Over the years he was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara School District's Educational Foundation (1985-1987), and a member of the Board of Directors for the Study of the Vietnam Generation at the Smithsonian Institution (1985-1987).



PRESIDING - RICHARD D. HECHT, CHAIR, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UCSB

Remarks

Chancellor Henry T. Yang

From Thomas Merton's *Emblems of a Season of Fury*
read by Robert S. Michaelsen - Religious Studies, UCSB

Walter Capps, an Americanist
Giles Gunn - English, UCSB

From *Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline*
read by W. Richard Comstock - Religious Studies, UCSB

Walter Capps, the Study of Religion and the Humanities
Richard D. Hecht - Religious Studies, UCSB

TRUST IN GOD - UCSB GOSPEL CHOIR

From *The Unfinished War*

read by Deborah R. Sills - Religious Studies, California Lutheran University

Walter Capps, the Vietnam War, and the American Conscience
Wilson Hubbell - Vietnam Veteran

Voices of Vietnam Veterans
Rose Sandecki - Vietnam Veteran

Reflections on a Teacher, Scholar, and Friend
Edward T. Linenthal - Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
David Chidester - Religious Studies, University of Capetown

Walter Capps, the Public Intellectual
Mario T. Garcia - History and Chicano Studies, UCSB

From Vaclav Havel's Address upon receiving the J.H. Ralston Prize
read by Elliot Butler-Evans - English, UCSB

NOCTURNE IN C SHARP MINOR, OP. 27, NO. 1 - FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN
BETTY OBERACKER - MUSIC, UCSB

My Father and a Professor of the University of California
Lisa Capps - Psychology, UC Berkeley

A Book of Words
presented by Wade Clark Roof - Religious Studies, UCSB

MUSICAL VIDEO TRIBUTE

CLOSING - CHRIS WILHITE, TRUMPET

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