

Walter H. Capps  
Department of Religious Studies  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Formal Education

B. S. Portland State University, 1958 (Major: Humanities)  
B. D. Augustana Theological Seminary, 1960 (Summa cum laude)  
S.T.M. Yale University Divinity School, 1961  
M.A. Yale University, 1963 (Emphasis: Religious Studies)  
Ph.D. Yale University, 1965 (Emphasis: Religious Studies)

Post-Doctoral Study

Visiting Scholar, The Warburg Institute, University of London, 1968-69  
Visiting Scholar, Mansfield College, Oxford University, 1971  
Visiting Scholar, Uppsala University, Summer 1971  
Visiting Research Scholar, Center for the Study of New Religions, Graduate  
Theological Union, 1982-83

Teaching Positions

Assistant in Instruction, Department of Religion, Yale University, 1963-64  
Visiting Professor, Department of Religion, Syracuse University, 1975  
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB, 1964-69  
Associate Professor, " " " " " , 1969-73  
Professor, " " " " " , 1973 to present

Administrative Positions

Acting Director, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB, Summer, 1970  
Director, Institute of Religious Studies, UCSB, 1971-77  
Program Director, The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1979-80  
Director, The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1980-81  
President, Council on the Study of Religion, 1977-84  
Chairman, California Council for the Humanities, 1983-85  
National President, Federation of State Humanities Councils, 1983-85  
Acting Director, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1987.

Memberships in Professional Societies, Councils, Boards of Directors

Member, Board of Directors, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1966-81  
Member, Board of Directors, La Casa de Maria Conference Center, 1966 to present,  
Chairman, 1979-85  
Member, American Academy of Religion, 1964 to present  
Chair, Advisory Committee on the Humanities, Board of Directors, Pacific Lutheran  
University, 1977-83  
Member, Advisory Committee, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park,  
North Carolina, 1977-80  
Member, Advisory Committee, Program for the Study of New Religions, Graduate  
Theological Union, 1977-83



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

Walter H. Capps

805-569-2636

805-961-3578

EDUCATION:

home address: 1724 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- B.S. Portland State University, 1958 (Humanities)
- B.D. Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, 1960 (Summa cum laude)
- S.T.M. Yale Divinity School, 1961
- M.A. Yale (Religious Studies), 1963
- Ph.D. Yale, 1965

Visiting Scholar, The Warburg Institute, University of London, 1967-68

Visiting Scholar, Mansfield College, Oxford University, 1971

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Assistant, Associate and Full Professor, Department of Religious Studies,  
University of California, Santa Barbara, 1964 to present

Visiting Professor, Syracuse University, 1975

Director, Institute of Religious Studies, U.C.S.B., 1972-77

Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1977-79

Program Director, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1979-80

Director, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1980-81

RELATED POSITIONS:

Member of the Board of Directors: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary;  
La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center; (Collegium) Pacific  
Lutheran University

Member, California Council for the Humanities, 1981 to present

Chairman, California Council for the Humanities, 1983-1986

President, National Federation of State Humanities Councils, 1983-85

PUBLICATIONS:

The Religious Personality (1970); Ways of Understanding Religion (1972);  
Time Invades the Cathedral (1972); Encounter with Erikson (1976);  
Hope Against Hope: From Moltmann to Merton in One Theological  
Decade (1976); Seeing with a Native Eye (1976); Silent Fire: An  
Invitation to Western Mysticism (1978); The Unfinished War: Vietnam  
and the American Conscience (1982); The Monastic Impulse (1983);  
and approximately 100 articles in journals, periodicals and news-  
paper editorial pages.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS:

National Endowment for the Humanities (1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983,  
1984, 1985, 1986); Lilly Endowment (1978-79); Irving F. Laucks Founda-  
tion (1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1986); Eucalyptus Securities (1983,  
1984, 1985, 1986). -- partial list.



BACKGROUND

- A. Religious Studies 155 -- "The Impact of the Vietnam War"
- largest class in the UC system; perhaps largest class in American higher education
  - the subject of a double-segmented CBS News "60 Minutes" program, scheduled for September 13 or 20, 1987
  - premier course in the nation in this field; first offered in 1979, by now, more than 400 colleges and universities offer similar courses
  - a course in healing as well as in academics
  - class featured in articles in Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Time, Insight, Newsweek on Campus, and other publications; and on CBS, ABC, and NBC News, in addition to (local stations) KEYT, KCOY, KBSY.
- B. Innovative Teaching
- thematic foci ("Impact of Vietnam War," "Religion and Politics in America Today" "Monastic Impulse," and [projected] "Voices of the Stranger")
  - classroom portrayals as theater (use of "wisdom of ordinary Americans," employment of eye-witness accounts, uses of narrative presentations, et al.)
  - field trips as vital element in teaching: examples: student trips to Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1985, 1986, 1987; student trips to monasteries (in connection with "Monastic Impulse" course).
  - invitation to important national figures to participate in classroom instruction: George McGovern, Ed Bradley (CBS News), Bob Kerrey (Governor of Nebraska), David Gardner (President of University of California); Governor Trappist monks, political theorists for New Religious Right, Vietnam Brown. War Veterans leadership (Shad Meshad, Bill Mahedy, Art Blank, John Russell Smith, Rose Sandecki); officers of Moral Majority...Committee for Survival of
  - classroom presentations and organization of undergraduate courses that are both essentially and functionally cross-disciplinary -- for example, usage of academics from varieties of departmental affiliation, uses of public citizens (the Mayor of Santa Barbara, legislative officials, representatives of women's leadership groups, etc.). KEY: the translation of Robert Hutchins' model (Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions) into classroom effectiveness
  - each day's class is self-contained unit
  - lectures are polished (I believe it!)
- C. Understanding the teaching profession as belonging to a larger context
- integrating undergraduate education into the life of the community (example: students give Memorial Day addresses at official Santa Barbara ceremonies; students volunteer time at social service agencies; Santa Barbara Vet Center started as product of RS 155), and traffic runs in both directions, from campus to community and from community to campus
  - Capps himself: directed the work of the California Council for the Humanities, the National Federation of State Humanities Councils; testified before Congress (1984, 1985) on behalf of the humanities; writes op/ed pieces (LA Times and Santa Barbara News-Press) on significant issues affecting the life of UCSB, the humanities community, and American higher education.
  - teacher education: with one exception, Capps has directed more summer seminars for college professors and secondary school teachers than anyone else (in any field) in the country, as sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities.



BACKGROUND (continued)

"Education: The Great Teacher," reprinted in *Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter/Spring 1971, pp. 9-11.

"Education," new edition, *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1972.

- Capps producer of several educational television programs, through UC facilities: Seminars on Education (involving Secondary School Teachers); Series on Vietnamese and American Veterans; Series on Vietnam Veterans; Series on New Religious Right
- Capps has average 2-3 public speeches and addresses per month, since 1978, most to public and/or community organizations

See also here

page -



Additional Publications:

"Religion, The Great Teacher," reprinted in Forum: The Committee for the Humanities in Alabama. Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter/Spring 1985, pp. 8-11.

"Religion," new edition, The World Book Encyclopedia. 1985.

"Society and Religion," in The Encyclopedia of Religion. (New York: Macmillan and Free Press, 1987). Vol. 13, pp. 375-385.

"The Quest for Transcendence," in Word and World. Vol. VII, Number 2. 1987, pp. 125-130.

SB News Item :

JNAR -

Walter H. Capps

Publications:

- Article "On Teaching Today's Students About the Vietnam War," in Federation Review: The Journal of the State Humanities Councils, Vol. VII, No. 3, 1985, pp. 10-13.
- Op/Ed "We Still Owe a Debt to History on Josef Mengele," in Los Angeles Times, June 18, 1985, Part II, p. 5.
- Article "On Discussing the Vietnam War With Goernor Kerrey," in Humanities (published by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, Vol. VII, No. 2, 1985, pp. 1-3.
- Op/Ed "Why Humanities Community Is Uneasey Over Proposed Chairman," in Los Angeles Times, September 30, 1985, Part II, p. 5
- Article "The Rise of the New Religious Right," in Dialog. Vol. 24 (Fall, 1985), pp. 248-251
- Review "Arthur Egendorf, Healing From the War," in Los Angeles Times Book Review, January 5, 1986, p. 4.



Walter H. Capps

Lectures, Addresses, Papers at Conferences:

- September 29 - "Characteristics of the Scandinavian-American Tradition,"  
Lecture to Annual Meeting of Swedish-American Society,  
California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks
- October 4 - "Contemporary Developments in Theology," series of lectures  
to Lutheran Pastors' Conference, Phoenix, Arizona
- October 18-20 - "Towards a Theology of the World Religions," presided at  
conference in honor of Wilfred Cantwell Smith, sponsored  
by the Lewis Foundation and St. Louis University, St.  
Louis, Missouri
- October 17 - "10th Anniversary Celebration, California Council for the  
Humanities," presided over meeting, gave brief history of  
the Council, Huntington Library, San Marino, California
- November 1-2 - Keynote Lecturer, "The National Reports on Education,"  
Southern Regional Conference, Danforth Associates, Southern  
Pines, North Carolina
- November 22-24 - National Conference, National Federation of State Humanities  
Councils, presided over meeting, Kansas City, Missouri
- November 24 - "On Teaching About the Vietnam War," lecture to National  
Federation of State Humanities Councils, Kansas City
- January 5 -- interviewed by King Harris, Jr., on KEY ISSUES, Television  
Station KEYT, on upcoming class on "The Impact of the  
Vietnam War
- January 17 -- Evening Address (homily), B'Nai Brith Temple, Santa Barbara
- January 26 -- "Contemporary Trends in Theology," paper given at local  
theological conference, Grace Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara
- January 31 -- Participant in discussion, the Los Angeles Educational Pro-  
ject, Times-Mirror Building, Los Angeles
- April 27 -- Talk: "The New Religious Right," Bethania Lutheran Church,  
Solvang
- June 4 -- Commencement Speaker, Commencement Day Ceremonies, Cypress  
College



- |      |  |   |                      |
|------|--|---|----------------------|
| 1987 | "Ten Years After, His Questions Apply" (in tribute to Robert M. Hutchins)  | <u>Santa Barbara News-Press</u> , May 14, 1987, p. A-11   | Article              |
| 1987 | "A Response to Dr. Strenski"   | <u>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</u> , Vol. IV, No. 1, Spring, 125-26   | Article              |
| 1987 | <u>The Humanities and the American People</u> (Report of the Colloquium on the Humanities and the American People) | National Report, distributed by the Texas Committee for the Humanities  | Report (contributor) |
| 1988 | "Professor Berger's Lament"  | <u>Dialogue</u> . Vol. 27, No. 2, Spring, 1988, pp. 101-4   | Article              |
| 1988 | "Contemporary American Religion at the Crossroads"   | <u>Texas Journal of Ideas, History and Culture</u> . Vol. 11, No. 1, Fall/Winter, 1988, pp. 4-7   | Article              |
| 1988 | "Religious Studies as Creative Reflection"   | <u>Soundings</u> . Vol. LXXI, No. 2-3, Summer/Fall, 1988, pp. 373-79  | Article              |
| 1988 | "Where is Religious Studies Going?"  | <u>Excursus: A Preview of Religious Studies</u> , Vol. I, No. 2, December, 1988   | Article              |
| 1988 | "Education and Memory: Teaching About the Vietnam War"   | <u>Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference, Improving University Teaching</u> , June 20-23, 1988, Umea, Sweden (College Park: University of Maryland, University College, 1988), | Article              |
| 1988 | "Students Send Message of Peace"   | <u>Santa Barbara News Press</u> , December 25, 1988, A9   | Article              |

Publications in Press

- |      |  |   |               |
|------|--|---|---------------|
| 1989 | <u>Thomas Merton: Preview of an Asian Journey</u>    | Crossroad/Continuum, scheduled for publication, November 1989               | Author/Editor |
| 1989 | <u>Reflections on the Vietnam War</u>                | Routledge, scheduled for publication, December, 1989                        | Author/Editor |
| 1990 | <u>The Conservative Revival in American Religion</u> | University of South Carolina Press, scheduled for publication, January 1990 | Author        |