ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN RELIGION
F. STANLEY JONES may be the DEPARTMENT’S MOST PROLIFIC SCHOLAR with one book, two edited volumes, and seven published articles in the last three years. Pseudoclementina Echasaiticaque inter Judaeochristiana (2012) demonstrates how Jones ushered in a “new era in the study of Pseudo-Clementine literature.” Jones, as a consulting editor for the journal Apocrypha and by his book Rediscovery of Jewish Christianity (2012), shows his leadership in the study of early Jewish Christianity and New Testament Apocrypha. Among his students, David Vasquez researches the intertextual relations between the Greek Orphic texts and the Pseudo-Clementine Christian novellas.

DAVID TABB STEWART works on DISABILITY STUDIES, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN THE HEBREW BIBLE. An example that captures all three is his “Sexual Disabilities in the Pentateuch” in Disability Studies and Biblical Literature (2011). His graduate student, Suzette Zazueta, works on the gender reassignment of intersexual people as a disguised religious purity practice.

CONTEMPORARY RELIGION
SOPHIA PANDYA, researches WOMEN AND NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN ISLAM across the Middle East and East Africa. Her field work in Bahrain, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Turkey appears in her Muslim Women and Islamic Resurgence: Religion, Education and Identity Politics in Bahrain (2013) and in the co-edited Gülen Movement and Its Transnational Activities: Case Studies of Altruistic Activism in Contemporary Islam (2013). Brenda Oliden, her graduate student, did fieldwork among Syrian refugees in Jordan last summer for her thesis on the effect of diaspora on religion.

GABRIEL S. ESTRADA, new to the Department, works on INDIGENOUS, QUEER, AND MEDIA STUDIES IN RELIGION WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON TWO-SPIRIT PRACTICES. His Queer Indigenous Film: Two-Spirit Visual Sovereign Erotics, is under review.

PETER LOWENTROUT’s new project, “Virtual Genesis: RELIGION IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD,” had its debut at the American Academy of Religion in 2013.