**ANDREW O. FORT**

**VITA (1/22)**

**EDUCATION**: B. A. (cum laude), Amherst College, 1974 majors: English and Religion

Ph. D. University of Pennsylvania, 1982 Religious Studies

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Professor, Texas Christian University, began at TCU 1982.

Appointed TCU Green Distinguished Emeritus Tutor in Religion, 2017-21

Courses taught: Understanding Religion: The World’s Religions, courses on Hindu,

Buddhist and East Asian religious perspectives, India: Texts and Traditions, The Many Faces of Krishna, Mysticism, Islam, Sanskrit, Nature of Values (honors colloquium), Freshman, Sophomore, and Senior Seminars in Religion, Mindbodyness: Contemplative Movement and Reflection, Mindfulness and Modern Life, Hunger: Problems and Prospects.

**Teaching awards:** Deans Award for Outstanding Teaching, 2003

Teaching Excellence Award, TCU Student Body, 1987, 1990, 1991

TCU Mortarboard "Top Prof", 1987-88, 11 times “preferred professor”

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**BOOKS**: *Jivanmukti in Transformation: Embodied Liberation in Advaita and Neo-Vedanta,* State University of New York Press, 1998.

*Living Liberation in Hindu Thought,* Co-editor (with Patricia Mumme), author of introduction and chapter "Liberation While Living in the  *Jivanmuktiviveka:*  Vidyaranya's 'Yogic Advaita'." Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996.

*The Self and Its States: A States of Consciousness Doctrine in Advaita Vedanta.*  Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1990.

**ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS****:**

“Riding the Wave: Contemplative Studies Goes Mainstream,” co-author with

Mark Dennis, *The Athanaeum Review* 4 (Summer 2020): 141-151

**“**Teaching Students about Mindfulness and Modern Life,” co-author with Mark Dennis, *Education About Asia* 25:1 (Spring 2020): 20-25

**“**On Creating A Contemplative Studies Program in the Southwest,” in *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism:**Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship.* Edited By Rita D. Sherma and Purushottama Bilimoria. London: Routledge India, 2021, pp. 13-

“Looking Further: a response to Kathleen M. Fisher’s ‘Look Before you Leap: Re-considering Contemplative Pedagogy’,“ *Teaching Theology and Religion*, 20:1, January, 2017: 22-27*.*

“Creating Contemplative Studies in the Southwest.”  *International Journal of Dharma Studies* (online) <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40613-016-0039-3>, November, 2016

“Embodied Liberation (*jivanmukti*) in the *Yogavasishtha*,” in *Engaged Emancipation: Mind, Morals, and Make Believe in the Mokshopaya Yogavasistha*, edited by Christopher Chapple and Arindam Chakrabarti, Albany: SUNY Press, 2015, pp. 247-66

“Contemplative Studies and the Liberal Arts,” *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 33 (2013): 23–32

“Shankara, Smith, and ‘Experience,’” *Journal of Hindu Studies*. 2012: 1-4*.*

**“**Awareness Practices in an Undergraduate Buddhism Course” in *Meditation and the Classroom:  Contemplative Pedagogy in Religious Studies,* edited by Fran Grace and Judith Simmer-Brown, Albany: SUNY Press, 2011, 179-85.

Learning About Learning Outcomes: A Liberal Arts Professor Assesses,” *Liberal Education,* vol. 97, no. 1 (Winter 2011), 1-4.

“Bad (and Good) Tendencies: *Vasanas* in the *Jivanmuktiviveka*,” in *Expanding and Merging Horizons: Contributions to South Asian and Cross-Cultural Studies in Commemoration of Wilhelm Halbfass.* Edited by Karin Preisendanz. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2007, 455-67.

“Vijnanabhikshu on Two Types of *Samadhi*.” *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 10: 3 (December, 2006), 271-94.

**“**Teaching Liberal Arts Undergraduates About Hinduism amid Theoretical and Political Contestation Today,” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 9:3 (July 2006).

“Tamal Krishna Goswami: An Appreciation,” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 11: 2 (spring, 2003): 33-36.

**“**Reflections on Reflection: *Kutastha, Cidabhasa* and *Vrittis* in the *Panchadashi, Journal of Indian Philosophy* 28 (2000): 497-510

“On Destroying the Mind: The *Yogasutras*  in Vidyaranya’s *Jivanmuktiviveka, Journal of Indian Philosophy* 27 (1999): 377-95

"*Jivanmukti* and Social Service in Advaita and Neo-Vedanta," in *Beyond Orientalism: Essays on the Work of Wilhelm Halbfass*. Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of Sciences and Humanities no. 59. Amsterdam/Atlanta: Editions Rodopi, 1997.

"Going or Knowing? The Development of the Idea of Living Liberation in the *Upanishads*," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 22 (1994): 379-90.

"Neither East nor West: A Case of Neo-Vedanta in Modern Indian Thought," *Religious Studies Review* 18 (April, 1992): 95-100.

"Knowing *Brahman* while Embodied: Shankara on *Jivanmukti*," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 19 (December 1991): 369-89.

"Beyond Pleasure: Shankara on Bliss," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 16 (June 1988): 177-89.

"Dream and Sleep in Later Advaita Vedanta," *Brahma Vidya* (Adyar Library Bulletin) 51 (1987): 157-75.

"Dreaming in Advaita Vedanta," *Philosophy East and West* 35 (October, 1985): 377-86.

"The Concept of *Sakshin* in Advaita Vedanta," *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 12 (September, 1984): 277-90.

"The Concept of *Sushupta* (Deep Sleep) in Advaita Vedanta," *Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute* 61 (1980): 221-28.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES:** "Hindu Nondualism," "Shankara," "Saccidananda," and "Vedanta" in *HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion*, 1995.

"Shankara" for *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 1998.

**RECENT PAPERS AND PANEL PARTICIPATION:**

Presenter, roundtable discussion on “What’s New for Contemplative Studies in the Southwest,”American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, February, 2020

Discussant, Symposium on The Future of Contemplative Studies, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November, 2019

Presenter, Ligmincha symposium for Contemplative Sciences: Body, Breath, and Mind, Serenity Ridge, Virginia, April, 2019

Roundtable discussion participant on “Contemplative Studies Programs in the Southwest,”American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2019

“Contemplative Studies and the Liberal Arts: An Integral Relationship,” International Symposium on Contemplative Research, Phoenix, November, 2018

“What are ‘Contemplation’ and ‘Contemplative Studies’?,” keynote with Mark Dennis at the Big XII Teaching Excellence meeting, TCU, May, 2018

“Creating Contemplative Studies at a University in the Southwest” for AsiaNetwork’s Conference on Mindful Connectivity, Philadelphia, April, 2018

Plenary Panel participant, Reflections on Retirement, American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2018

Roundtable discussion participant on Jeffrey Kripal’s *Comparing Religions,* American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2018

“Contemplative Studies and the Classroom,” Vedanta Society symposium on Contemplative Practices: Ancient and Modern, Irving, Texas, November, 2017

“Creating Contemplative Studies in the Southwest,” co-presented with Mark Dennis, Think Tank on Building Contemplative Studies Programs in the United States, Brown University, September, 2017

“Exercises in a Contemplative Studies syllabus,” same meeting

Roundtable discussion participant on Edward Kelly et. Al.’s *Beyond Physicalism,* American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2017

Organizer and convenor of panel on Louis Komjathy’s (ed.) *Contemplative Literature*, American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, San Antonio, November, 2016

“How contemplation makes us (more) human,” Moore Symposium, TCU, November, 2016

**“**Ardha Kumbha Mela Pilgrims in Haridwar: An Illustrated Guide,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2016

Roundtable discussion participant on Evan Thompson’s *Waking, Dreaming, Being: Self and Consciousness in Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy,* American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2016

“Creating Contemplative Studies in the Southwest: Theory and Practice,” Dharma Association of North America, Atlanta, November, 2015

“Mindful Teaching and Learning: Contemplative Pedagogy in the University Setting (A Case Study),” Conference on Mindfulness and Compassion: The Art and Science of Contemplative Practice, San Francisco State University, June, 2015

Panel organizer and participant, “Teaching Asian Religions in the Introductory Course,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2015

“Contemplative Exercises in Liberal Arts Pedagogy,” American Academy of Religion, national meeting, San Diego, November, 2014

“Building Contemplative Studies in the Southwest,” Contemplative Studies conference (AAR pre-meeting), San Diego, November, 2014

“The Americanization of Hindu Yoga,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2014

“Contemplative Studies in the Southwest,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2013

Workshop co-organizer and participant, “Stress, Wellness, and Contemplative Practice in Health Care and Higher Education,” TCU, April, 2013

Panel presentation on Contemplative Pedagogy, Buddhist-Christian Studies,

American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November, 2012

“Contemplative Studies and the Liberal Arts” workshop organizer and panel presentation, “What is Contemplative Studies, and what is its place at TCU?”, TCU, September, 2012

“The Many Paths of the Bhagavad Gita,” Northaven United Methodist Church, Dallas, June, 2012

Panel presentation, “The New Humanities: Contemplative Studies and the Liberal Arts,” International Symposia on Contemplative Studies, Denver, April, 2012

“A Journey to Braj, Krishna’s Homeland,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2012

Respondent, panel on “Shaping the Field of Contemplative Studies,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November, 2011

Plenary presentation, “A Professor’s Journey Learning about Learning Outcomes, Two Years Down the Path,” Texas Faculty Development Network Conference, El Paso, June, 2011.

“Contemplating Contemplation: What is It?,” Northaven United Methodist Church, Dallas, April, 2011

“Reflections on India: Past and Present in Banaras,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2011

“Teaching American College Students About Vedanta,” Swami Vivekananda’s Ancestral Home, Kolkata, India, February, 2011.

“Shankara, Smith, and ‘Experience,’” DANAM meeting, Atlanta, October, 2010

Workshop presentation on teaching contemplative traditions, Southwest Commission on Asian Studies, Fort Worth, September, 2010

Panel presentation, “The Faculty Experience of Working with Learning Outcomes,” June 2010 Texas Faculty Development Network Conference, Fort Worth, June, 2010.

Panel organizer and presenter: “Experiential Exercises in the Classroom: Merits and Limitations,” American Academy of Religion, Southwest region, Dallas, March, 2010

**ACADEMIC GRANTS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

Council on International Educational Exchange Faculty Development Seminar to Turkey,

June, 2001

Seminar on World Thanksgiving, Kyoto, Japan, March, 1995

Citizen Ambassador Program to China, Religion and Philosophy professor delegation,

June, 1994

American Institute of Indian Studies senior research fellowship, 1990

Fulbright Educational Exchange grant to Pakistan, summer, 1984

American Institute of Indian Studies dissertation research fellowship, 1979-80

NDFL language fellowship (Hindi), 1976-78

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICES AND SERVICE:**

Member, Contemplative Studies Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion,

2013-17

Workshop organizer and participant, “What is Contemplative Studies, and what is its place

at TCU?”, TCU, September, 2012

Organizer and participant, Pathways in Contemplative Pedagogy, Rice University,

June, 2012

Organizer and participant, Teaching Contemplative Traditions in the Undergraduate

Liberal Arts Setting, AAR Southwest Region, March, 2011

President, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, 2010-11, Past President, 2012

Executive Director, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion, 2007-09

Chair of editorial board, *Religious Studies Review,* 2007-10

Editorial Advisory Board, 2011-present

Organizer and participant, Teaching Religion in Troubled Times: When Practitioners Meet

(and Challenge) Professors, AAR Southwest Region, March, 2005

Organizer and participant, Teaching Religion in the American University, American

Academy of Religion, Southwest Region, March, 2002

Vice president, American Academy of Religion, Southwest Region, 1999-2000

President-elect, 2000-01, President, 2001-02, Past President, 2002-03

South Asia area editor, *Religious Studies Review,* 1997-2001

Booknote editor on Hinduism, 1995-2002

Staff member, Lilly/NEH and American Academy of Religion Teaching Workshop,

Southwest region, 1995-96

Board of Directors, Association of Asian Studies, Southwest Region, 1989-91

Chair, Asian Religions section, AAR Southwest Region, 1985-86, 1991-92

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Coordinator, Contemplative Studies Faculty Interest Group, TCU, 2012-16

Steering Committee member, 2017-22

University Compensation Advisory Committee, member, 2010-14

Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence advisory committee, 2012-13

Dept. Advisory Committee, 1993-96, 2007-12, Chair, 2009-10

Dept. Curriculum Committee, chair, 1988-92, 1997-99, 2012-14, 2015-16

member, 1992-5, 1999-2002

eCollege Learning Outcomes Management consultant for Koehler Center, 2009-10

Faculty Senate, 1990-96, 1999-2007

Chair, 2005-06, Executive committee, 1993-95, 2002-03, 06-07

Chair, Academic Excellence Committee, 1990-92

University Compensation Advisory Committee, co-chair, 2006-07

Member, 2011-15

Chair, Steering Committee for Common Reading Program, 2005-07

Member, Steering Committee, 2007-09

Asian Studies minor, Coordinator, 1993-2006

Member, Steering Committee, 2007-16

Honors Council, 1990-95, 2003-08

Student Publications Committee, 2000-02, chair, 2001-02

Compliance and Affirmative Action Committee, 1995-2000; Chair, 1998-2000

Ad hoc Senate Committee on Teaching Excellence, Organizer and Member, 1993-94

University Advisory Committee, 1992-94, 2004-05

TCU Hunger Week, faculty chair, 1985-93, 1997-2000

Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee, 1985-present, Chair, 1988

Student Organizations Committee, 1983-89; Chair, 1987-9

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Phil Omega service fraternity, 1983-2015

Vietnamese Students Association, 2013-16

**Awards**: TCU Green Distinguished Emeritus Tutor in Religion, 2017-21

TCU AddRan College Humanities nominee for Chancellor’s Award as

Distinguished Teacher-Scholar, 2016

John G. Gammie Distinguished Scholar Award, Southwest Commission on

Religious Studies, 2013

Distinguished Service Key, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, 2015

Elizabeth Proffer Award for Outstanding Faculty Contribution to Student Affairs, 2008

TCU Deans’ Award for Teaching, 2003

Residential Services Faculty Contribution Award, 2000

Honorary member, Golden Key Honor Society, 1990

"Outstanding faculty involvement in student development," TCU Student Affairs office,

1988-89

Outstanding faculty member" for university service, TCU Student Foundation, 1987

**OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

Lecturer/consultant on Asian Religions and Contemplative Studies, ongoing

President of Board, Tarrant Area Food Bank, 2018-20, Past Chair, 2020-22

Board Member, 2012-4, Secretary, 2014-16, President-elect, 2016-18

Advisory Board Member, Summerbridge Fort Worth, 2000-05

Board member, AIDS Interfaith Network, 1992-95

Chair, Development Committee, 1993-95

member, care team, 1993-97

Board member, Casa Ricardo Chacon (Central American refugee shelter),

1990-92; Capital Campaign Chair, 1991

Chair, Fort Worth Committee for UNICEF, 1985-87

Chair, Education Committee, 1989-91

Amnesty International, Fort Worth, chapter and case coordinator, 1984-89