

Alumnus of the Year

Peter Iver Kaufman Named Divinity School Alumnus of the Year, 2016

Dean Margaret M. Mitchell has announced that, upon recommendation from the Divinity School's Alumni Council, the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Theological Union has named Peter Iver Kaufman, (MA 1973, PhD 1975, History of Christianity) the Divinity School Alumnus of the Year for 2016.

Kaufman is George Matthews and Virginia Brinkley Modlin Professor of Leadership Studies in the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond, a position he has held since 2008. Previously he taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Kaufman's scholarly work focuses on the political cultures of late antique, medieval, and early modern Europe and North Africa; he teaches leadership studies courses as well as advanced courses on political, cultural and religious leaders in late antiquity and early modern Europe.

Of the award, Dean Mitchell said "Professor Peter Kaufman's integration of scholarly work and passion for social justice exemplify the highest values of the University of Chicago Divinity School. His work exploring the intersection of religion, culture, politics, leadership, and educational systems and ideals from antiquity through the early modern period has led to outstanding pedagogy and prolific, and influential research. In addition, Professor Kaufman's work to ensure access to education for underrepresented minorities demonstrates a seasoned, mature, and reflective mind moved by compassion."

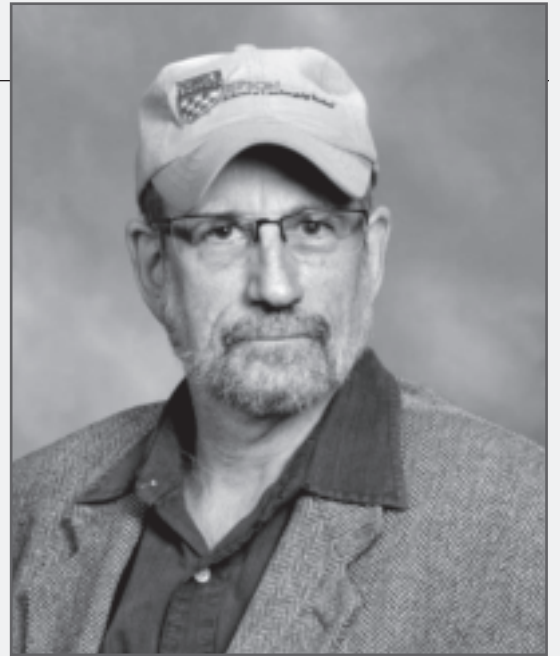
Kaufman taught at Chapel Hill for thirty years (1978–2008), and was the co-founder

and director of the Program in the Study of Christianity and Culture. During that time he won seven awards for teaching excellence and, in 2002, founded the Scholars Latino Initiative (SLI), which has chapters in North Carolina and two in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. For twelve years Kaufman taught early college classes in the high schools and directed college placement for undocumented youngsters.

His ninth book will appear later this year. The previous eight include *Redeeming Politics* (Princeton 1990) and *Incorrectly Political: Augustine and Thomas More* (University of Notre Dame, 2007). Over forty articles on authority, religious conflict, and literary history have appeared in journals including *The Journal of Late Antiquity*, *Journal of Early Christian*



Studies, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Church History*, and *Journal of Religion*. He has also co-edited two books and edited four, ranging from studies



of charisma to others on leadership and Elizabethan culture.

Professor Kaufman's most recent book is *Religion Around Shakespeare* (Penn State University Press, 2013). This volume represents the launch for a series of books, for which Kaufman is the general editor, on the 'religion around' major literary and cultural figures from Dante through Bob Dylan. Also in 2013, at the University of Richmond, he won both the Richmond College's "Outstanding Teacher" award (nominated and refereed by student colleagues) and the University's Distinguished Educator award (nominated and refereed by faculty colleagues).

Alumnus of the Year Address

Kaufman will deliver the 2016 Alumnus of the Year address on April 21, 2016, as well as the Dean's Craft of Teaching seminar for The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion Program.

Dean's Letter

Continued from the front cover



Jasmine Kwong

year's research leave. Although I am a scholar of religion, my award was granted in the Guggenheim category of Translation, to complete a project long in the works to publish a text and translation volume of eighteen Greek homilies by John Chrysostom on problem texts (or texts he turns into problem texts) within the *corpus Paulinum*.

These texts have accompanied me on airplanes and elsewhere on my iPad these last five years, as I have snatched moments to engage them, taught a seminar on them and gave a few conference papers on topics like the "hypocrisy" of Peter and Paul, and the relationship between the particular and the universal in interpretation of a text like the Letter to the Romans. Now I return to them in earnest and with the kind of sustained and focused attention and precision that are so well characterized by one of John's favorite Greek terms, *akribeia*. I am very lucky to have this opportunity, and I hope that via the translation volume John's fascinating, pugnacious (at times), exaggerated (at other times) and ingenious exegetical and rhetorical feats will become accessible to broader audiences interested in the process of Christianization in the late antique cities of the east in the fourth century, to others who study the arts and fancies of biblical interpretation, and to others who wonder

whether, when it comes to the New Testament, there is anything new under the sun (John—and I!—have some views on that).

It has been my honor to represent the Divinity School faculty, students, staff and alumni as Dean these last five years, and I thank you for the many ways in which you have supported me and your School in that time, in ways that have moved and inspired me every day. I am tremendously grateful. Please continue to stay connected and involved in the life of this School that has a unique identity and ethos and makes a critically important contribution, not only in our lives, but on the landscape of higher education in this country and internationally. To the Divinity School and its future!

This Dean's column was in press when Professor Yu died after a short illness on May 12 (please see page 5). We have decided to print it as originally written.