



HONG KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

Student Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Casual Kierkegaard Conversations

Join us for a "students only" discussion on various topics on the following Thursdays: 9/19, 10/31, and 11/21
Time TBD
Kierkegaard Library Lounge

Philosophy Forum

8-9pm on the following dates: 10/8, 10/29, 11/19, 12/10

Friday Afternoon Tours

Available every Friday in September
3:30-4:00pm

Writing For Grad School: Personal Statements & Resume/CVs

Tuesday October 8th, 7:30-8:30pm

Halloween Treats

Join us for some holiday festivities!
10/31 10am-5pm

Julia Watkins Lecture

Thursday, November 7th
7pm

Ballroom- all are welcome!

Career Panel

Mid-November, more details to follow

Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us in collaboration with the Taylor Center for a festive meal to celebrate the holiday for students staying on campus, more details to follow

Santa and Christmas Treats

Week of finals, more details to follow

A Message from the Curator

Meet the Kierkegaard Library Student Workers

Expression as Therapy
The Reed: An Undergraduate Journal of Existentialism

Julia Watkins Lecture

A Message from the Curator

BY Gordon Marino

Welcome to the Hill! You have made a wise choice of colleges, not just because of the excellent academic programs or because the environment at St. Olaf is a nearly unique combination of challenging and nurturing, but also because St. Olaf is home to the Hong Kierkegaard Library, which is arguably the best collection of writings on Søren Kierkegaard in the world.

But who is Søren Kierkegaard? The father of Existentialism, Kierkegaard (1813-1855) was a Danish poet/philosopher who wrote like an angel about topics such as the meaning of life, the self, what it means to have faith, and finally about anxiety and depression. In fact, based on my many years of walking with Kierkegaard, I would say that no philosophical writer outstrips him in his ability to powerfully address the obstacles that we face in our inner lives. Read him carefully and he is sure to make a positive difference in your life. And you can begin reading him by coming to the Library and joining our Kierkegaard Conversations group. You might also register for the class Kierkegaard and Existentialism – phil 233 and/or participate in our Young Scholar's program. Either/ or, which, by the way, is the title of Kierkegaard's most popular book, I hope you will visit the Library the sooner the much better.

Meet the Kierkegaard Library Student Workers



Emma:

"My name is Emma Aanestad. I am a sophomore from Bettendorf, Iowa, and I plan to major in psychology and religion with a concentration in statistics. Here at Olaf, I participate in APO, serve on the OUTS Lodge, and volunteer at the hospital birth center. After a summer of lifeguarding, teaching swim lessons, traveling, and reading, I couldn't be more excited to begin my first semester working in the Kierkegaard Library!"



Holly:

"My name is Holly Smith and I'm a senior Studio Art and Art History major from Eagan, MN. While I'm not majoring in philosophy, it is something I really enjoy and find that it can be very helpful in both my studies and personal life. This year I will be helping the Hong Kierkegaard Library preserve its Rare Book collection, as I have experience in conservation and hope to pursue it as a career."



Mattias:

"I'm Mattias Kostov, and I am a senior international student from Bulgaria. I have been working at the Hong Kierkegaard Library since my sophomore year. I am majoring in Philosophy and am involved in many things at St. Olaf such as being a member of Model UN, Senior Reporter of the Manitou Messenger, partaking in many entrepreneurial activities, and the Editor-in-Chief of *The Reed: An Undergraduate Journal of Existentialism*. I am greatly looking forward to my final year working at the Kierkegaard Library with all of the wonderful staff and scholars that call this place home!"



THE EXISTENTIALIST'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

Gordon Marino, Ph.D.

AVAILABLE FOR ORDER AT
ExistentialistsSurvivalGuide.com

Expression as Therapy *The Reed: An Undergraduate Journal of* *Existentialism*

BY Mattias Kostov, Editor-in-Chief of *The Reed*

There are 16 million undergraduates in the United States, and this undoubtedly makes it difficult for a student to stand out. I would argue that it even makes it difficult to find the motivation to stand out. There is always someone smarter, faster, stronger, and seemingly more original than you. This is where the paradox comes in: the fact that you are unoriginal like everyone else, yet your phenomenal experiences are unique to you alone and in this you do stand out as an individual. The feeling of being trapped due to an inability to express yourself can enhance anxiety, feelings of isolation, and hopelessness.

No doubt in one's late teens and early twenties, minor forms of existential crises are experienced. One's identity is transformed with regards to the new environment, their intellectual curiosities, budding romances, and the discovery of the atrocities of "the system". Underlying many of the big questions that face the starry-eyed college student is an existential question: "What is the meaning of my existence?" This question is what makes someone an individual. When I realized that this is the underlying question that I believed needed answering, I also realized the particularity of the nature of that question. In my case, my religious upbringing, the isolation from my home country, and the suffering in my life makes this a fundamentally different, but no less significant, question than for the Midwestern farmer's daughter or the first-generation college student from south side, Chicago.

A unifying factor between the multitude of individuals with varying life stories, is the need for self-expression. I heard someone once say that an untold story is similar to an event that never occurred. Although not true, I fancy this statement as it describes the metaphysical truth of utterance. To everyone other than experienter, that specific experience did not occur, so hence if it is not expressed it goes unmaterialized. This accentuates the profundity of self-expression and human communication in regards to phenomenal experience.

It is exactly this peculiarity of the human condition that drew me to the philosophical undergraduate journal: *The Reed*. Although some express themselves through music, programming, sports, etc., my form was through writing. The beauty of our journal is the focus on the subject of existentialism. Despite being an academic journal, short stories, paintings, and poems are equally welcome. It is the mission of providing a platform - an outlet - for voices to be heard and stories to be told that cultivated my desire to contribute as an editor. Finding one's voice is an essential part of the coming of age story that everyone undergoes. While each person's process of becoming is different, an integral part of it is sharing. Not only does telling the story benefit the narrator, but also the listener. This is the charm of existentialism. It does away with trivialities and concentrates on the building blocks of humanity - the questions of existence and the suffering therein.

If submitting an existentialist piece or working on furthering the mission of *The Reed* interests you, please do not hesitate to email me at thereed@stolaf.edu.

Julia Watkins Lecture – Thursday, November 7th, 7pm, Ballroom



The Kierkegaard Library is proud to announce our speaker for the Julia Watkins Lecture this fall. An author with his eyes set on Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, Professor Antony Aumann is an associate professor of philosophy at Northern Michigan University and previously taught at St. Olaf College.

Aumann's research explores both the continental and analytic traditions of philosophy, and he specializes in issues related to aesthetics, existentialism, and religion. Aumann is a recipient of Northern Michigan University's 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award and the co-editor of *New Kierkegaard*

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