



# School of Undergraduate Studies Career Services

## Major Spotlight: Religion



**Dr. Matthew Gordley**  
*Department Chair,  
Religion and Philosophy*

### What avenues do religious studies and Christian ministry students pursue after graduation?

There is a wide range of paths our students take, since Religious Studies, Christian Ministry, and Biblical and Theological Studies offer great preparation for a wide range of careers and occupations. Some of our students go directly into a ministry setting or related occupation (youth ministry, pastoral ministry, missions, church planting, student services).

Some of our students continue working with organizations they began with in college or even before they started college. People often do not realize just how

many career options there are for majors in the areas related to religious studies.

In addition to the careers I just listed, our majors are well prepared for certain kinds of work in college ministry, church ministry, student ministry, denominational service, missions, social services, relief organizations, community development, chaplaincy, evangelistic outreach, administration, youth camps, as well as writing, publishing, or teaching for a Christian school.

And of course, some of our students pursue graduate degrees in divinity or other fields such as government where an understanding of Christian faith and other religious ideas provides a strong foundation for advanced studies. All of our degrees provide excellent preparation for graduate study in a

range of fields.

### How do they normally find internships/ jobs?

For the most part, my experience is that our students find these opportunities through networking and seeking them out. Talking with the pastoral staff at the local church level can lead to conversations with leaders in the denomination, and can surface many interesting opportunities.

Continued on page 2...

### Summer Internship Reminder

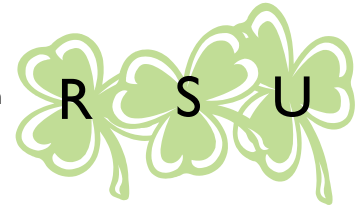
It's time to think about summer internships! Many competitive internships have deadlines in the fall or early winter for the summer.

Internships are a great way to get experience in your field and marketable to employees.

How do you find a great internship? Research. Start by doing a search of your field of interest. You can visit our website to view a list of possible internships sites.

The Washington Center is a great opportunity for summer internships in D.C. Check them out at [twc.edu](http://twc.edu)!

If you're interested in an internship, Career Services can help you identify potential companies and assist in the application process. Contact us today!



### Job Hunting with Barnabas

By: Jillian Loukinas

As graduation nears, many will be looking for jobs, including myself. In the last few months, my job search has been frustrating. For students, looking for a career is a job within itself and can be discouraging.

Through hard work and determination, you will eventually find a job, but is it the right one? Our future plans are not up to us, but God. We must pray diligently. We should not be disappointed if we do not get our "dream job." I have had to learn that the hard way and understand that everything is in

God's timing.

My favorite verse, Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." This verse is a constant reminder to me as I send my resumes out.

I'm also reminded of Barnabas in Acts as he encourages the early church. He went to Antioch to encourage the new believers after Stephen had preached to them about Jesus. Barnabas and

Paul spent one year in Antioch working with the church. They were patient and understanding, knowing that God had a plan for these people.

As I and many others begin to question our future, we should not be discouraged, but encouraged. Barnabas did not give up in Antioch, he knew it was where God needed him. Sometimes God has a different plan for us than we do. Continue to pray about your future and His plan for you, it might surprise you.

## Regent University, School of Undergraduate Studies Career Services

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### Learn about Career Services!

#### Kita Graham, Director of Career Services



Our purpose is to equip students with comprehensive resources that enhance their calling, marketability, promote goal setting, and encourage a spirit of excellence as they prepare for

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Jillian Loukinas, Graduate Assistant

### Major Spotlight (continued)...

es in serving others in ministry roles.

Para-church organizations often work through local churches or college campuses, and conversations with leaders of those organizations can often lead to finding out about unique opportunities.

Students should be building their relational and professional networks throughout their undergraduate years.

#### What advice would you give to students currently majoring in religious studies/ Christian ministry?

It is vitally important for our students to become involved in a local church during their college years. This is important personally and spiritually, but it also provides an opportunity for students to get some beginning experienc-

If a student can contribute well to a local church, that becomes a good basis for possibly finding an internship (even if it is unpaid), and ultimately being able to get a strong letter of recommendation from a pastor or ministry leader.

Of course, students must be careful not to become over-involved in ministry or other extra-curricular opportunities to the detriment of their studies, but appropriate levels of involvement in a church or para-church organization can be a great complement to undergraduate courses in Bible and ministry.

