

Fuller tries to cover all spiritual bases

By MICHAEL WILMES
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Roy Fuller, adjunct professor of religious studies, is a practicing Baptist.

However, you wouldn't know it by attending his classes unless he outright told you.

Fuller, who also teaches at the University of Louisville, said he does not try to hide his religious affiliation from his students.

"Religion professors debate whether you should reveal your own religious preference," he said.

"I do because I think it is natural for students to wonder that, but I don't volunteer it."

Fuller said some students may think a religion teacher is biased towards their chosen religion but he takes pride in teaching his classes in an unbiased manner.

"It is important for me to represent all the religions fairly," he said. "I try to show the good, the bad and the ugly. If you don't do that, you aren't giving the full picture."

Sadie Scott, undecided junior, said she appreciated Fuller's teaching style.

"As far as religion courses go, it would be easy to have bias but he is very unbiased," she said.

Scott said even after attending Fuller's class for nearly an entire semester, she could not guess his religious preference.

"I figured he was Christian but you couldn't tell," she said.

Fuller said he likes it when

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**Roy Fuller
adjunct professor
religious studies**

students such as Scott can't guess his religious affiliation.

"I take it as a compliment when students don't know what I am because it means I represented all of the religions fairly," Fuller said.

Being unbiased was not the only thing Scott said she liked about Fuller.

"He seems to be very knowledgeable about what he is teaching," she said.

Fuller, who hails from St. Louis but has lived in Louisville since 1984, graduated from the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville.

He said he always planned on being a teacher rather than a minister.

Fuller said he has always been fascinated with the study of religion.

"I was drawn to the study of religion because it is interesting and an important part of human culture," he said. "It is vitally important to understanding human culture and why people would go so far as to kill for their religion."

Fuller also said that while he is a Baptist, he has learned

things from other religions that he has incorporated into his own faith.

"Personally, I think that I have learned from other religions," he said. "Buddhists can teach you a lot about meditation and Hinduism has taught me a lot about diversity."

"Humans are diverse and they conceive of God in many ways and Hindus celebrate that diversity."

"Islam has taught me about faithfulness to a lifestyle and devoutness. Islam is about action, that you should behave a certain way towards other human beings."

While Fuller was a student at the Seminary, a controversy arose about whether or not women should be allowed to become ministers.

"At the time that I was there, the seminary was open to women ministers but that has changed," he said.

"There was a conservative resurgence. What was going on in the country echoed what was going on at the seminary."



Photo by Michael Wilmes

Roy Fuller, adjunct professor of religious studies, teaches students in his Speaking of God class. Fuller said he tries to teach his classes in an unbiased manner.

Fuller said he disagreed with the conservative stance that women should not be ministers.

"I have no problem with women being ministers," he said. "I think if women feel that being a minister is their calling, they should be

allowed to do what they want."

Fuller is married and has two daughters, ages 12 and 16. He said there are some difficulties involved with raising children.

"The job of kids is to test boundaries and the job of

parents is to maintain those boundaries," he said.

"The hard thing about being a parent is knowing when to relax the boundaries."

Fuller said church is a larger part of his current family's life than it was a part of his childhood growing up in St. Louis.

"From third grade on we were pretty regular at church," he said. "I wouldn't say it was primary in our life but, like many other families, we attended. My mom was more religious than my dad and he often didn't go to church."

Fuller said he is not ready to relax the boundaries with his daughter when it comes to attending church.

"She is 16, so at this point we expect her to go to church," he said. "We are very involved in our church. I teach there as well."

Fuller said he enjoys living in Louisville.

"I like Louisville," he said. "I like the size and I like an urban area with good art institutions and Louisville has that. I've gotten to know a lot of the religious communities. There is not a lot of religious diversity, but that is changing."

Fuller's interests also include traveling and art, and he incorporates religion into both.

"I've focused more on art lately because it is another way that people express their spirituality," he said.

"My children will tell you I drag them to churches a lot when we travel. I think visiting the places I talk about in class adds to my teaching."

College Democrats prepare debate

By JUSTIN CARTER
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The College Democrats held a meeting on March 21 to discuss a debate between Jeffersonville mayoral candidates at IU Southeast.

The debate between the two Democrats is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, on the second floor of the IUS Library. It will be held from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., and is open to the public.

The club is hoping both candidates will attend the debate, but incumbent Jeffersonville Mayor Rob Waiz hasn't committed to the date yet. Waiz's opponent, Tom Galligan, has already said he will attend the debate and if Waiz doesn't confirm, Galligan said he will still speak.

"I think Waiz will definitely attend the debate," Chris Saffran, political science senior and College Democrats member, said. "I'm sure he realizes he has a big primary coming up and this would be too big of an opportunity to pass by."

Saffran said Waiz would like to have some of the questions the panel is preparing for the debate in advance so he can organize his answers, but Linda Gugin, political science professor and College Democrats faculty adviser, said this is unlikely to

happen.

"We want to keep this in a debate form," Gugin said. "If one of the candidates is more prepared for our questions than the other, it would be unfair."

The group spent most of their meeting discussing how the format of the debate should be conducted. The format proposal was subject to change after Saffran said there may be a third candidate that would be interested in speaking.

Jim St. Clair, professor of journalism and College Democrats faculty adviser, said there is no third candidate and the debate will only be between Waiz and Galligan.

The College Democrats decided the debate will begin with a two minute opening by each candidate.

The group also concluded that each Democrat will have one minute and 30 seconds to answer each question given to them by the panel.

After each candidate answers, the opposing politician will have a 30-second rebuttal if they wish to respond.

Gugin said there will be questions directed to each individual that only they can answer, as well as questions designed for responses from both participants.

The club decided there will



Photo by Justin Carter

Catherine Cable, College Democrats president, discusses club issues with faculty advisers Jim St. Clair and Linda Gugin. The group spent their meeting discussing the format of a debate that will be held at IU Southeast on April 18 between Jeffersonville, Ind., mayoral candidates Rob Waiz and Tom Galligan.

be three panelists who will ask questions to the candidates during the debate. Catherine Cable, College Democrats president, was elected as one of the panelists. The Horizon editor, Jerod Clapp, was also selected.

St. Clair said Larry Thomas, a reporter for the Jeffersonville Evening News, will be the final panelist and Dale Moss, columnist for The Courier-Journal, will moderate the debate.

"I was very pleased with the format the students chose," St. Clair said. "There

should be some interesting issues discussed and we anticipate a good turn out from the community."

No questions have been organized for the debate yet. Gugin said she expects many topics to be covered; especially the recent smoking ban enacted in the city and some annexation concerns.

"We don't want any gotcha questions," Gugin said.

"The goal is to ask in-depth questions that will demonstrate where the candidates stand on important issues."

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