

## RAYMOND BRADY WILLIAMS

Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, *Emeritus*,  
Wabash College  
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### Personal Information:

Born November 6, 1935 in Bluefield, WV  
Married Lois Raye Baldwin on June 5, 1956  
Children: Kevin Michael (Nov 13, 1959); Electrical Engineer, Thomson, Inc., Indianapolis  
Thayer Lynn (July 7, 1962); Program Director, Early Childhood Development  
Center, University of Notre Dame.  
Brian Scott (July 28, 1964); Attorney at Law, Vice President of Development,  
The Children's Museum, Indianapolis.

### Education:

L.H.D. Christian Theological Seminary, 1999  
PhD University of Chicago, 1966 *with distinction*  
Dissertation: *Origen's Interpretation of the Gospel of John*  
R.M. Grant, Advisor; Henry Chadwick (Oxford) and Brian Gerrish, Readers  
MA University of Chicago, 1963  
MDiv Phillips University, 1960  
BA Phillips University, 1960  
BA Johnson Bible College, 1957 *magna cum laude*

### Post-Doctoral Study:

University of Madras, 1969-70  
Center for the Advanced Study of Philosophy, T.M.P. Mahadevan, Director  
Cambridge University, 1972-73, 1987 (spring)  
Department of Social Anthropology (1972-73), Divinity School (1987)  
Visiting Scholar of Fitzwilliam and Westminster Colleges  
Gujarat University, 1980  
Department of Sociology  
University of Madras, 1990  
Radhakrishnan Institute for Advanced Study, Dr. Devidass, Director

### Teaching:

1965-66 Instructor of Religion, Wabash College  
1966-71 Assistant Professor of Religion, Wabash College

- 1971-77 Associate Professor of Religion, Wabash College  
 1977-2002 Professor of Religion, Wabash College  
 1990-99 Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Wabash College  
 1984-95 Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Wabash College  
 1994-96 Advisor to the Speech Department and Advisor to the Dean of the College  
 1995-2002 Director, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion: A program for faculty members in seminaries, theological schools, and departments of religion and theology funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.  
 2002- Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, *Emeritus*, Wabash College  
 Professor of Religion, *Emeritus*, Wabash College  
 Director, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, *Emeritus*, Wabash College  
 Senior Advisor, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion  
 2005-06 Dean of the College, Wabash College.

### **Publications: Books**

*A new face of Hinduism: the Swaminarayan religion.* Cambridge University Press, 1984.

*Religions of immigrants from India and Pakistan: new threads in the American tapestry.* Cambridge University Press, 1988.

*The Community of the Humanities: the Charles D. LaFollette Lectures 1985-1990.* Editor. Wabash College Press, 1992.

*A Sacred Thread: Modern Transmission of Hindu Traditions in India and Abroad.* Editor. Anima Press, 1992. Columbia University Press edition, 1996.

*Christian Pluralism in the United States: The Indian Immigrant Experience.* Cambridge University Press, 1996. Edition in India by CUP New Delhi, 1997.

*The South Asian Religious Diaspora in Britain, Canada, and the United States.* Co-edited with Harold Coward and John Hinnells. State University of New York (SUNY) Press, 2000.

*An Introduction to Swaminarayan Hinduism.* Cambridge University Press, 2001.

*Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in the United States.* Co-author with Paul Numrich and Gurinder Singh Mann. Oxford University Press, 2001. [Revised edition forthcoming in 2007 from Oxford University Press]

*Williams on South Asian Religions and Immigration,* Ashgate Publications, 2004.

### **Publications: Editing Journals**

*Teaching Theology and Religion*. Founding editor. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers. 1998-2002. Member of the Editorial Board, 2002-

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Guest editor of a special issue on teaching. Atlanta: Scholars Press. December 1997.

*Spotlight on Teaching*. Guest co-editor of a special issue on teaching distributed in *Religious Studies News*. Atlanta: Scholars Press.

### **Publications: Chapters in Books**

“Origen’s Method of Biblical Interpretation” in *One Faith: Its Biblical, Historical, and Ecumenical Dimension*. Robert L. Simpson, Editor. Phillips University Press, 1966.

“Origen’s Interpretation of the Old Testament and Lévi-Strauss’ Interpretation of Myth” in *Scripture in History and Theology*. Arthur L. Merrill and Thomas W. Overhold, Editors. Pickwick Press, 1977.

“Presentation of the Shikshapatri to Sir John Malcolm” in *New Dimensions in Vedanta Philosophy*, Part I. R.S. Srivastava, Editor. Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharapurushottam Sanstha, India, 1981.

“Holy Man as Abode of God in the Swaminarayan Religion” in *God of Flesh / God of Stone: The Embodiment of Divinity in India*. Joanne Waghorne and Norman Cutler, Editors. Anima Press, 1985. (Rights purchased and distributed by Columbia University Press.)

“Negotiating the Tradition: Religious Organizations and Gujarati Identity in the United States” in *Migration and Modernization: The Indian Diaspora in Comparative Perspective*. Richard H. Brown and George V. Coelho, Editors. Washington & Lee: Studies in Third World Societies, 1987.

“Asian Indians” in *Dictionary of American Immigration History*. Francesco Cordasco, Editor. Garland Publishing, 1990.

“Asian-Indian Muslims in the United States” in *Indian Muslims in North America*. Omar Khalidi, Editor. South Asia Press, 1990, 2nd edition, 1994.

“What Has Athens To Do With Jerusalem or Bombay? Tradition and the Liberal Arts” in *The Community of the Humanities: the Charles D. LaFollette Lectures 1985-90*. Wabash College Press, 1992.

“Sacred Threads of Several Textures” in *A Sacred Thread: Modern Transmission of Hindu Traditions in India and Abroad*. Anima Press, 1992.

“The Swaminarayan Temple in Glen Ellyn” in *American Congregations*, James Lewis and James Wind, Editors. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994. pp. 612-662. Paperback edition 1998.

“Hinduism in America” in *Harper’s Dictionary of Religions*. Harpers, 1996.

“Religions of South Asian Immigrants to the United States” in *A New Handbook of Living Religions*, second edition. John Hinnells, Editor. Penguin Press (pb) 1998, pp. 796-818; Blackwells (hb), 1997.

"South Asian Christians" in *American Immigrant Cultures: Builders of a Nation*, edited by David Levinson and Melvin Ember. New York: Macmillan, 1997.

“South Asian Christians in Britain, Canada, and the United States” in *The South Asian Religious Diaspora In Britain, Canada, and the United States*. SUNY Press, 2000, pp. 13-33.

“South Asians in the United States—Introduction” in *The South Asian Religious Diaspora In Britain, Canada, and the United States*. SUNY Press, 2000, pp. 213-17.

“Conclusion: Trajectories for Future Studies” in *The South Asian Religious Diaspora In Britain, Canada, and the United States*. SUNY Press, 2000, pp. 277-87.

“Religion and Recent Immigrants: New Ferment in American Civic Life” in *Religion and Public Life in the Midwest*. Alta Mira Press, 2004.

“Hindu Families in the United States” in *American Religions and the Family*. Ed. Don Browning. Columbia University Press, 2006

“The Vocation of a Teacher: Reconceiving our Work and Calling” in *Practical Wisdom*. Peter Lang Publishers, 2004.

“Hindu Children in America” in *American Religions and Children*. Ed. Don Browning. Forthcoming from Rutgers University Press in 2007.

“Religion and Ethnicity in America” ” in *From Generation to Generation*. John Hinnells and Werner Menski, eds. Forthcoming from Polgrave/Macmillan in 2007.

“South Asian Religions in the United States Since 9/11” in *From Generation to Generation*. John Hinnells and Werner Menski, eds. Forthcoming from Polgrave/Macmillan in 2007.

### **Publications: Article**

“Albert Schweitzer and the Enigma of Jesus” in *Quest: A Journal of Student Opinion*. The Divinity School of the University of Chicago. III. 3 (1965).

“Liturgy and the New Testament” in *Worship*. St. John’s Abbey Press. XLII. 8 (1968).

“Historical Criticism of the Koran” in *Encounter*. XXX, 1 (1969).

“Form Criticism of Indian Religious Texts” in *The Proceedings of the Madurai Conference on Anthropology and Archeology*, Tamilnadu Department of Archeology, June, 1970.

“Historical Criticism of a Buddhist Scripture: The Mahaparinibbana Sutta” in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. XXXVIII. 2 (1970).

“A Polychrome Gita: A Review Article” in *Encounter*. XXXVI. 3, 1970.

“Man and Nature and Mirror Images” in *Religion in Life*. XL, 3 (1971).

“The Sacred Thread: Transmission of Tradition” in *Encounter*. XXXVII. 1 (1977).

“Krishna Consciousness: Commentary and Exhortation: A Review Article on Sri Caitanyacaritamita” in *Choice*. XIV. 2 (1977).

“Transmission of Tradition in the Early Church” in *Encounter*. XL. 3 (1979).

“Swaminarayan and Social Reforms” in *Journal of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*. XXVII. 18 (1981). Excerpts from one of my papers published without my permission.

“Holy Man as Religious Specialist: Acharya Tradition in Vaishnavism” in *Encounter*. XLIII. 1 (1982).

“Translating Indian Christianity to America” in *The Christian Century*. October 15, 1986.

“The New Testament and the Liberal Arts” in *Criterion*. Spring, 1987.

“The Guru as Pastoral Counselor” in *Journal of Pastoral Care*. XL. (1986): 133-40. Also published in *Swaminarayan Magazine* in India. X. 6-7 (1988).

“Hinduism in America” in *The Christian Century*, March, 1987. Also published without permission in *Hindu Vishwa*. XVI (March-April, 1988).

“Introductions to the New Testament.” Invited inaugural review article in the first issue of *Critical Reviews in the Study of Religion* published by the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and the *Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature*. Fall, 1988.

“Students Line up for Religion Courses: An Interview.” *Religious Studies News*, February 1995: 12-13.

“Immigrants from India in North America and Hindu-Christian Study and Dialogue.” In *Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin*. 11, 1998: 20-24.

“Asian-Insian and Pakistani Religions in the United States.” In *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, July, 1998: 558: 178-195.

“Training Religious Specialists for a Transnational Hinduism: A Swaminarayan Sadhu Training Center.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, December, 1998: 66, 4: 841-862.

“Religions of India in the United States.” In *‘Live like the Banyan Tree’: Images of the Indian American Experience*. An essay for a museum exhibit to open on February 4, 1999 at The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia.

"So, What Are We Professing Here? Religion, the Liberal Arts, and Civic Life". *Council on the Scientific Study of Religion Bulletin*, September 2000: 74-80.

"Getting Technical: Information technology in seminaries." *Christian Century* Feb 7-14, 2001: 14-15.

"Swaminarian Hinduism." *Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices*. 4 vols. Melton, J. Gordon and Martin Baumann, eds. (Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 2002).

“Retirement and Vocation” in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, October 2004.

“Swaminarayan Hinduism” in *The Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*. Peter Clarke, ed. (London: Routledge, 2005).

#### **Invited Lectures since 1986:**

Knox College Claxton Club, May, 1986. “Immigrants, Religion and the Liberal Arts.”

University of Florida, Gainesville, Feb, 1987. “The Guru in Swaminarayan Hinduism.”

General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), July, 1988. Presentation on a panel about “Christianity and New Religions in America.”

Indiana State University, April 28-29, 1989. “Religions of Asian-Indian Immigrants: Permanence and Change in the United States” and “Strategies of Adaptation of Asian-Indian Religious Organizations.”

Stanford University, April, 1989, for a meeting of Muslim leaders under the auspices of the Indian Muslim Relief Committee. “Asian-Indian Muslims in the United States.”

Wabash College, LaFollette Lecture in the Humanities, Nov. 10, 1989. “What Has Athens to Do with Jerusalem or Bombay? Tradition and the Liberal Arts.”

Anathacharya Indological Research Institute, University of Bombay, Dec. 30, 1989: “Srivaishnava Acharyas and the Future of the Srivaishnava Community.”

Radhakrishnan Institute for Advanced Study, University of Madras, July, 1990: “Transmitting Religious Traditions: Asian Indians in the United States.”

Srivaishnava Conference, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Aug. 10, 1990: “The Making of a Modern Acharya.”

Harvard University, October 2, 1992: Keynote address for the Pluralism Project Conference: Discovering America, 1992. "Charting New Religious Landscapes"

Rocky Mountain/Great Plains AAR, April 16, 1993: Keynote address on "Study of Religion and the Skills of Freedom."

Conference on Critical Thinking and the Study of the Bible, November 19, 1993: Keynote address on "Approach-Avoidance: The New Testament and the Liberal Arts."

School of Oriental and African Studies (Centre for South Asian Studies), University of London: Lecture on "Intimate Strangers: Making of a Modern Sadhu in Swaminarayan Hinduism" for a conference on "Modernization in Hinduism" on November 27, 1993.

School of Oriental and African Studies (Department for the Study of Religion), University of London: Lecture on "Hindu and South Asian Immigration to America" on November 29, 1993.

Association of Disciples for Theological Discussion, St. Louis: Lecture on Immigration, Religion and Life in America" on October 7, 1994.

Center for the Study of American Religion at Princeton University: Presentation on "Religious Pluralism and Immigrant Religions" on June 2, 1995

Center for Migration Studies Conference at Georgetown University: Response on Religious

Tradition

National Indian American Conference on "Balancing Two Worlds: Forging and Indian

American

Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago on "Religion and Immigration" on January 15, 1996.

Indiana University. Moderated panel on "Second Generation of Asian-Indian Families" on April 1, 1996.

School of Oriental and African Studies (Department for the Study of Religion), University of London: Lecture on "South Asian Christians in the West" on November 5, 1996.

University of Iowa (School of Religion), Lecture on "So, What Are We Professing Here? Religion, the Liberal Arts, and Civic Life" April, 2000.

Garrett-Evangelical Seminary/Northwestern University, Keynote address on "Promised Land or Wilderness" for the Conference on Pedagogy and Theology in Cyberspace, April 2001.

Emory University, Presentation on “Hindu Family in the United States” for the Conference on Marriage, Family, and Religion in America, March, 2003.

Georgetown University, Presentation on “Creating an Enabling Environment for Excellent Teaching and Learning” for the Conference of Religion Department Chairs Sponsored by the American Academy of Religion, June, 2003.

Highlands Institute, Presentation on “New Immigrants and Religion”, August 2003.

Emory University, Presentation on “Hindu Children in the United States” for the Conference on Religions and Children in America, April, 2006.

Middlebury College, The Charles P. Scott Lecture on “Religion and Identity in America”, March 1, 2007.

### **External Reviewer/Reader:**

McGill University, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1992-93.  
Cambridge University Press, Book Manuscripts, On occasions.  
University of Alabama Press, Book Manuscripts, On occasion.  
Oxford University, Book Proposals, On occasion.  
Routledge, Book Proposal, 1999  
Ashgate Press, Book Proposal, 1999 (Editorial Board, 1999- )  
University of South Carolina Press, Book Proposal, 2000  
Emory University, Dean’s Office Promotion Review, On occasion.  
Hampden-Sydney College, Religion Department Review, 1995  
Macalester College, Religious Studies Department Review, 1995  
Gustavus Adolphus College, Religion Department Review, 1996  
Hamilton College, Dean’s Office Tenure Review, 1997  
University of Hartford, Dean's Office Tenure Review, 1999  
Macalester College, Lilly Vocations Initiative, 2001-2004  
New York University Press, Book Proposal, 2003  
American Academy of Religion, Review of the American Religion Section, 2004  
Routledge, Book Proposal, 2007.

### **Teaching and Service Awards:**

McLain-McTurnan Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1975-76

Ray L. Hart Service Award for distinguished service to the American Academy of Religion, 1993.

### **Fellowships, Grants, and Awards:**

Fellow of Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago, 1960-63.

University Fellow at the University of Chicago, 1963-65.

Fellowship for Faculty Summer Seminars on Asian Religions: Hinduism in 1966 at College of Wooster, P.T. Raju, Director; Islam in 1967 at McGill, Charles Adams, Director; Buddhism in 1968 at Carleton, Joseph Kitagawa, Director.

Fellowship in Asian Religions for College Teachers in 1969-70 for study at the Center for the Advanced Study of Philosophy at the University of Madras, T. M. P. Mahadevan, Director.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Institute of Judaism at Vanderbilt University, 1971.

Danforth Fellow. Fellowship for Cross-Disciplinary Study from the Society for Religion in Higher Education in 1972-73 for research in the Department of Social Anthropology at Cambridge University.

Fellowship in the East Asian Studies Institute of the Great Lakes Colleges Association and Indiana University at Earlham College, Summer, 1975.

Wabash College Faculty Grant for research on the acharya-sishya relations in Srivaishnavism in Madras and on the Swaminarayan religion in Gujarat, 1976.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute at Yale University on Social Background of Early Christianity. Wayne Meeks, Director. 1977.

Lilly Endowment Faculty Open Fellowship for 1979-80 for a project of reading about liberal arts colleges in the United States.

Wabash College Faculty Grant for a research trip to Ahmedabad, India in 1981 to witness the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Birth of Swaminarayan and to complete work on the book manuscript.

Rockefeller Foundation Grant for a research project in the Population Sciences program on Immigration Studies entitled "The Role of Asian Indian Religious Organizations in the Formation and Preservation of Ethnic Identity" for the summers of 1984-85.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Chicago on The Bible and the Liberal Arts. 1986.

McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Research Scholar Award for 1985-86. The award provided a semester for writing a manuscript on the Rockefeller Research Project: *Religions of Immigrants from India and Pakistan: new threads in the American tapestry* (Cambridge, 1988).

Lilly Endowment Minor Grant raised through Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago to establish the Association of Disciple Pastors for Theological Discussion.

Senior Research Grant from the Smithsonian Institution through the American Institute of Indian Studies for study in Madras, India, in the summer of 1990 on "Srivaishnava acharyas and their disciples."

Co-Director with John Carman (Harvard) of the Conference on the Transmission of Religious Traditions in Times of Rapid Social Change in conjunction with the Cultural Festival of India in Edison, New Jersey in August, 1991.

Lilly Endowment Major Grant for a Workshop on Teaching Religion for Young Faculty at Colleges and Universities, which was held at Wabash College, 1991-92. Director of the Workshop on Teaching Religion.

Assisted with a Lilly Endowment Major Grant to the American Academy of Religion for four additional Workshops on Teaching Religion to be held in other regions of the American Academy of Religion. Chair of the AAR Committee on Lilly Workshops, 1992-2001.

Convener of a Wabash-Lilly Consultation on Theological Teaching for thirty scholars invited by Lilly Endowment Inc. held at Wabash College on March 23-24, 1995.

Prepared grant proposal to Lilly Endowment for a major grant to support the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College, 2005.

#### **Offices:**

Member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Religion (1989-95; 1996- ); Member of the Executive Committee (1991-95); Member of the Regions Committee (1990-93); Chair of the Lilly Teaching Workshops Committee (1992-2001); Chair of Nominations Committee (1996-2002), Chair of Special Taskforce on Board of Directors and Committee Structures (1999-2002).

Member of the Board of Trustees of Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago (1985-96); Member of the Executive Committee as Secretary (1990-95).

Advisory Board of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, British Columbia, (1995-2002 ).

Advisory Board of a study of Religion in Urban America by Auburn Seminary, New York (1996-99).

Advisory Council of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, Diana Eck, Director, 1998-

Secretary/Treasurer of the Midwest American Academy of Religion, 1989-95.

Director of the Wabash Consultation on Undergraduate Study of Religion, 1991-93.

Executive Director of the Midwest Commission on the Study of Religion, 1989-95

Member of the Board of Trustees of Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis. 2005- ,  
Executive Committee, 2006-

[March 2007]