

# **Phi Eta Sigma Inaugural Lecture**

## **“Revisiting Religion Post 9/11”**

Dr. Zeff Bjerken, Dept of Religious Studies  
September 11, 2007 3:30 pm  
Honors Center, 10 Greenway  
College of Charleston



**September 11, the war in Iraq, bombing in cities from Bali and Madrid to London—recent years have seen an alarming global increase in religiously motivated violence, often inspired too by nationalism, colonialism, ethnic conflict, and fundamentalism. There has perhaps never before been a time when the study of religion and violence has been so relevant to global society. This lecture will examine whether religion is the problematic source of violence and reconsider the relationship between religion, politics and public life. Attendees will watch clips from a documentary film “Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero” and they should read a short article by Mark Juergensmeyer “Is Religion the Problem?” which is available at the Honors Center.**

**Phi Eta Sigma is the nation’s oldest and largest honor society for first-year college students. The mission of Phi Eta Sigma is “to encourage and reward academic excellence among freshmen in institutions of higher learning.” College of Charleston’s chapter of Phi Eta Sigma was established in 2007.**