Meet your faculty director:
Dr. Stephen Covell
Religion and Culture in Japan

A true Buddhist experience

Fun Fact: Dr. Covell lived in Japan for **ten years**, where he worked as a translator, studied to become a Buddhist priest, and conducted research on contemporary Japanese religions. He shared this story about his time in Japan:

“Years ago I was interpreting for a senior Buddhist priest who was giving an informal talk to a group of American students studying in Japan. Tea and a sweet were served. I was so focused on interpreting that I failed to realize there was a thin piece of paper on the bottom of the sweet. Sitting right beside the priest I could not simply spit it out. It was too tough to chew and I had to keep speaking, so I swallowed it and kept going.”

From the students:

— “[This trip] forever influenced my understanding of the depths of religious nature, the ways in which history should be remembered and preserved, and the influences both of these elements can have on present-day culture.”

— “I have learned more and been exposed to more Buddhism than is possible in a lifetime of reading and studying in the United States.”

— “I felt that this trip was one of the best and most meaningful events in my life.”

— “Best three weeks of my life.”

Contact us:
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