

Voice of the Other

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Whenever a new experience or opportunity is on the horizon, a sense of excitement always follows. That's how I felt when I first heard about the 2012 Global Conference for Chaplains in Higher Education, and the feeling persisted even as I checked into my lodgings. I was sure I was not the only one filled with anticipation; after all, this conference happens only once every four years. What an opportunity for all in attendance to connect, share ideas, gain understanding of the diverse nature of faith, and begin to talk about religious pluralism on college campuses. However, my understanding of what would happen at the conference was, in a word, naïve. I soon learned that there was very little room for the voice of the “other”, let alone for discussion surrounding religious pluralism.

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¹Ms. Hudson is the Pagan Chaplain at Syracuse University. She is also a Third-Degree High Priestess, ordained in 2003 as a member of the clergy of the Church of the Greenwood. She was instrumental in working with students at Syracuse University since 2002. In 2010 Mary was appointed by the Church to her position as Chaplain at SU making her the second Pagan Chaplain at a secondary educational institution in the United States. Ms. Hudson holds a dual Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Women's Studies and is currently pursuing her Master of Divinity in Neo-Pagan Theology and can be emailed at: mkhudson@syr.edu