Friday Bulletin, April 10, 2015

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

With the end of the semester approaching, it is time to remind everyone that Religion, Science and the Future, the tenth anniversary conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, will be held January 14-17, 2016 at the University of Florida. The deadline for submitting proposals for panels and papers is JUNE 15, 2015. UF Religion faculty and students are strongly encouraged to support this effort of orchestrating sessions and submitting proposals for sessions and papers. The full call for papers is available at http://www.religionandnature.com/society/pdf/ISSRNC_CFP-2016.pdf.

The lead UF organizer for this conference is Professor Bron Taylor, who also led the collaboration that founded the ISSRNC in 2006. We expect about 200 participants from around the world, and, as was the case the first time around, many hands will be needed to make the conference a success. If you are able to help, please contact Dr. Taylor at your earliest convenience. The ISSRNC is the foremost scholarly society focusing in an interdisciplinary way on the nexus religion, nature, and culture.

Presentations

On April 9, 2015, Professor Manuel Vasquez gave a presentation entitled “Brazilian Neo-Pentecostalism’s Vibrant Matter: Notes Toward a Post-Humanist Sociology of Religious Efficacy” at Wesleyan University’s Center for the Americas.

Professor Bron Taylor will be a featured instructor and give a keynote lecture on “Sustainable Development Goals and Global Development Challenges,” during the Bergen Summer Research School, University of Bergen, Norway, June 14-23, 2015.

Professor Bron Taylor will be a featured speaker and panelist at the “Symposium on Sustainability, Values, and Religion,” hosted by the Division of the History of Science and Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, June 11-12, 2015.

Ken Chitwood (PhD student, 2014) was invited to Concordia University Texas at Austin as part of the College of (Religious) Education’s 2014-2015 Lecture Series. His talk was entitled, “Buffet-style religion: picking our way through the contemporary spread of spirituality.” He also presented a paper at the University of Texas at Austin’s conference “Building Bad: The Construction of Evil in Religious Discourse.” His paper for that conference was entitled “Somalis as Samaritans: Kenyan Evangelical Christians and the Reimagining of Christian-Muslim Conflict in Eastern Africa.”
News

How can social media challenges help students apply their learning? How can you blog like an academic? What’s the best way to engage with social media? Ken Chitwood invites all faculty and graduate students interested in learning more about **how to integrate social media into the classroom and use it to build your curriculum vitae** to contact him via email (kchitwood@ufl.edu) with interest. Ken is serving as our department’s webmaster and has helped #UFReligion launch its own Facebook page and Twitter profile and would like to help interested faculty and students utilize social media for the greatest possible pedagogical and professional impact. He is hoping to put on a seminar and would like to have a full list of names of people interested by the end of April.

Deadlines

Here is our Fall 2015 schedule:  [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201508/all/religion.htm](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201508/all/religion.htm)