News and Upcoming Events

“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. Featured speakers will include Philosopher Baird Callicott and Political Theorist Daniel Deudney. 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.

Awards

The 2015 Russell Jaberg Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement by a graduating religion major, went to winner Susan Imes. The runner up for the award was Alexa Rossi. Congratulations Susan and Alexa!

The 2015 graduate student competition for best scholarly presentation and best scholarly publication was open to papers that have been presented at academic conferences and for papers published in scholarly journals or books this academic year. We had five submissions for the best conference paper award and one for the best publication award. The papers were evaluated by a jury of faculty, organized by the graduate coordinator. All papers were impressive examples of mature scholarly work, showing a range of intellectual interests among our students as well as their outstanding research and writing skills.


Best conference paper. We had five excellent contributions. All papers were deserving, but in the end, the faculty jury selected Ken Chitwood’s paper entitled “Dreams of al-Andalus: Narratives of Conversion and Identity Reconstruction among Latina/o Muslims in the U.S.” It was presented to the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Regional Meeting, March 8, 2015. Congratulations to Ken for his outstanding work!
Presentations

On April 15, 2015, Professor Vasudha Narayanan gave the Eleventh Annual Lecture on World Religions at the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus, Ohio, which includes the Pontifical College Josephinum, and several Protestant denominations. Her talk on “Religions of India in America” was held at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.


Publications

Professor Anna Peterson's essay "Climate Change and the Right to Hope" has been published in the Spring 2015 issue of Tikkun magazine. A link to the table of contents can be found here: http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/spring-2015-table-of-contents


Alumni News

Lucas Johnston, who received his PhD in the Religion and Nature track at the University of Florida in 2009, has recently been approved for promotion to Associate Professor of Religion and Environmental Studies (with tenure) at Wake Forest University, becoming the first Ph.D. from the our department to earn this rank and tenure, an important milestone for our graduate program. Luke has been highly productive, authoring Religion and Sustainability: Social Movements and the Politics of the Environment (Routledge 2013), and editing Higher Education for Sustainability: Cases, Challenges, and Opportunities across the Curriculum (Routledge 2012), and with Whitney Bauman, Science and Religion: One Planet, Many Possibilities (Routledge 2014). Congratulations, Luke!

Deadlines

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