AAR Presentations

The American Academy of Religion (AAR) will be holding its annual meeting in Chicago from November 17th – 20th. UF faculty, graduate students, and recent alumni are very active in the AAR, which is the primary professional association for Religious Studies students and scholars in the US. The very diverse topics of UF participants show the range of themes addressed by research and teaching in our department.

Professor Manuel Vásquez will participate in a keynote panel, titled “Migrants’ Religions under Imperial Duress: Approaches from the Sociology and Anthropology of Religions,” at the annual meeting of the AAR in Chicago.

Professor Vasudha Narayanan is presenting a paper on “Building a Vaishnavite Theology: Angkor Wat and the Churning of the Ocean of Milk Story” as part of a session on the Hindu Theology of Love at the Annual meeting of the AAR this weekend. She is also one of three panelists invited to present on Body and Religion: Shaping the Field in the Body and Religion Group. In addition, she is presiding over a session on Re-figuring Bodies That Matter in the Religion in South Asia section of the AAR.

Professor Whitney Sanford will present two papers at AAR in Chicago: 1. “Feeding the World and Agricultural Violence: Resources from Hindu Agrarian Thought;” and 2. “‘Feeding the World:’ Teaching Religion, Food, and Sustainability at a Land-grant University.”

Events

Professor Terje Ostebo has been invited by the US State Department to participate in the Analytic Exchange on Salafism in north and sub-Saharan Africa. The event is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the State Department and the National Intelligence Council – and will happen on December 7th.

Professor Bron Taylor gave two invited lectures in California last week: “Spirituality After Darwin,” at the University of California, Berkeley, on 10 November 2012, and “Panentheism and Dark Green Spirituality,” at the workshop on Evolutionary Panentheism, at the Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California, on 8 November 2012.
Awards

Professor Mario Poceski was awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany) a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, for the period of 2013-15. The fellowship provides for 18 months of research on Chan literature and history in Germany. Tentatively, he plans to take residence and conduct research at the Universität Hamburg during the summer and fall of 2013 and 2014, and the summer of 2015. Congratulations, Dr. Poceski!

Publications


Professor Bron Taylor's interview on religion and climate change in Patheos, Harvard University's online religion news and commentary site, was published 4 November 2012. See "God Against the Whirlwind" at http://www.patheos.com/Evangelical/God-Against-Whirlwind-Erik-Campano-11-05-2012.html

News

Professor Vasudha Narayanan was invited to be part of the Talk of the Nation program in NPR on November 13th. She was interviewed by Jacki Lyden on Deepavali, the Hindu “Festival of Lights.” The audio and transcript are available at http://www.npr.org/2012/11/13/165046185/diwali-celebrating-the-festival-of-lights

Krista Schumacher, a religion major who is graduating this December, has been chosen for Teach For America, a program that sends recent college graduates to teach in low-income communities. For the next two years, she will be working as an elementary school teacher in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations, Krista!

Upcoming Deadlines

Please complete your teacher evaluations online by logging in with your GatorLink account at the following site: https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/. The system will open 11/20/12 and will remain open through 12/7/12.

Applications for Spring 2013 Travel Support for Graduate Students, for the period January 1 – May 1, 2013, are due in the Dean’s office by 4:00 pm on Monday, November 26th. Since the graduate studies committee will have to evaluate and rank the applications before forwarding
them to CLAS, please submit your application by email to Annie by 4:30 pm, FRIDAY, November 16th. The department also offers matching support in the range of $250 - $300. In order to apply for these funds, you will need to have applied for support from CLAS, International Studies, GSA, or any other external source. Please submit your application for department funds by email to Annie by 4:30 pm, FRIDAY, November 16th.

The UF Religion Department website is undergoing an overhaul, and we would like to update our faculty and grad profiles. All faculty members and graduate students are requested to submit revised bios to Ali Radder (aradder@ufl.edu) by Thursday, November 29th.

Compiled by Anne Newman
Edited by Mario Poceski