Friday Bulletin, November 30, 2012

Department of Religion, University of Florida

AAR Presentations

Professor Terje Ostebo presented a paper entitled “Ethiopian Salafism: The Role of Actors, Locality, and Outside Connections” for the panel Modernism, Islam, and the Sociology of Knowledge at the American Academy of Religion’s Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Events

Professor Terje Ostebo has convened and will chair the panel Current Realities in Muslim Africa: Maneuvering between the ‘Traditional’ and the ‘Modern’ at the African Studies Association’s Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 29th – December 1st. He will also present the paper “Claims for Authority at the Shrine of Sheikh Hussein, Ethiopia.”

Religion MA student Vickie Machado will give a presentation on food justice this Sunday, December 2nd, at All Soul’s Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Palatka. The talk, entitled “It’s Just Food: Social Inequalities within the American Food System,” will focus on injustices and reactions to the trouble within our country’s food system.

Publications

Robin Globus Veldman, Ph.D. candidate and Assistant Editor of the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, was the lead special issue editor for a wonderful issue (v6, #3) focusing on "Religion and Climate Change." For details, see http://www.religionandnature.com/journal/pdf/JSRNC6-3-2012-TOC.pdf. The JSRNC is edited by Religion Professor Bron Taylor and a broad team of editors and assistants, including two former graduate students, Joseph Witt and Lucas Johnston, who are now assistant professors at Mississippi State and Wake Forest University, respectively. Two graduate students recently joined the journal team as Editorial Assistants, Christina Callicott and Caitlin Schroering, joining Amy Brown. Other UF people involved are UF Anthropology professor Rick Stepp, who serves as an Associate Editor, and Religion Professor Robin Wright, who has been an Editorial Board Member since the founding of the journal, and earlier, a special issue editor.

Professor Robin Wright’s new book Mysteries of the Jaguar Shamans of the Northwest Amazon has just been announced in the Spring catalog of the University of Nebraska Press. Scheduled to be released in May 2013, the book is the culminating point of more than 30 years of research and applied work with indigenous shamans and religious specialists among the Baniwa people. It introduces a series of new perspectives on shamanic experience and apprenticeship, its basis in sacred narratives, and performative expressions of sacred realities beyond the visible and
material worlds. The ethnography of the cosmos develops the notions of sacred ecology, sacred geography, and the sacred self. It provides the first mapping of the sacred geography ("mythscape") of the Northern Arawak-speaking peoples, demonstrating direct connections between petroglyphs and other inscriptions and Baniwa sacred narratives as a whole. The book will be available in paperback and e-book.

PhD student Alex Savory-Levine’s paper “Man is the Redeemer of Nature: An Interpretation of Schelling’s Of Human Freedom” is going to appear in volume 42, issue 3 of the Journal of Idealistic Studies published by Clark University.

**News**

Professors Vasudha Narayanan and Manuel Vásquez have been offered a contract to edit the Wiley Blackwell Companion to Religion and Materiality. It will be a multi-media, interdisciplinary, and comparative exploration of the ways in which religions are intertwined with embodiment, performance, material culture, and environment.

Professor Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons’s Civil Rights Story is now featured on the website of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights located in Atlanta, Ga. The National Center for Civil and Human Rights describes itself as a cultural institution where people can learn about global civil and human rights struggles. It will also chronicle our country’s journey towards equality and our collective struggle for civil and human rights. When the physical center actually opens in 2014, it will share the stories of activists like Dr. Simmons with people all around the world. The Center will be a three story structure with 18,000 square feet of exhibit space located in downtown Atlanta and will include a gallery for the Dr. Martin Luther King’s, Jr. Collection owned by Morehouse College as well as civil rights and human rights exhibition. The Center broke ground for construction on June 27, 2012. At this point, the Center has a web presence with the stories of Dr. Simmons and others who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement. The site can be viewed at [http://www.freedommosaic.com/gwendolyn-zoharah-simmons](http://www.freedommosaic.com/gwendolyn-zoharah-simmons). The National Center’s website is: [http://www.cchrpartnership.org/index.html](http://www.cchrpartnership.org/index.html).

PhD candidate Gayle Lasater Pagnoni successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Building the Latter-day Kingdom in the Americas: The Florida Fort Lauderdale Mission.” Professor Anna Peterson served as chair of her dissertation committee, which also included Professors David Hackett, Whitney Sanford, and Marianne Schmink (Center for Latin American Studies/Anthropology). Congratulations, Dr. Lasater Pagnoni!

Religion Major Krista Schumacher was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in November. Congratulations, Krista!
Other News

We regret to tell you that Professor Vasudha Narayanan’s mother passed away last week. Our condolences to Dr. Narayanan and her family. Our thoughts are with her at this time.

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.

The Department of Religion schedule for Spring 2013 is available online: http://www.religion.ufl.edu/courses.html

Compiled by Anne Newman
Edited by Mario Poceski