A Note from (the new) Chair:

Dear colleagues:

I hope you had a great summer. It is good to see everybody back healthy and ready to tackle a new academic year. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new graduate students: Nicholas Collins, Christopher Fouche, Joseph Heizman, Bhakti Mamtora, Mary Puckett, Alex Savoy-Levine, Rodney Sebastian, and Sara Stokes. I am certain that they will enrich our thriving intellectual community. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Terje Ostebo and Dr. James Mueller, who will be serving as graduate and undergraduate coordinators, respectively. Thanks for your willingness to serve the department in these two important posts. Finally, I would like to ask you to mark Sunday, September 16th on your calendar. We will be holding our beginning-of-the-year gathering -- a picnic-BBQ -- on that day from noon to 3:00 pm at Lake Wauburg. I hope to see you there.

Manuel

Events

Vasudha Narayanan

The Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions (CHiTra)/Gujarat Region Culture Program at the University of Florida presents a weekend of Gujarati poetry and literature, August 25th-26th. Renowned poets, writing in Gujarati, Mukesh Joshi, Mona Naik (aka Urmi Saagar), Natwar Gandhi, Harnish Jani, Panna Naik, Snehlata Pandya, and Himanshu Bhatt will be presenting their works. The University of Florida has established the first program at a major university in the United States to encourage the academic study and public understanding of Gujarati culture. The inaugural Suvarna D. Shah poetry festival is part of our outreach activities. There will be a special dinner on Saturday, August 25th, at 6:30 pm. The chief guests are Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel, Tampa; Dr. Paul D’Anieri, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida; and Mrs. Laura D’Anieri. Well-known musicians from Gujarat, Rinki Talati, Karnik Shah, and Gautam Mehta will be performing. For more information, see our website or send an email to vasu@ufl.edu

News

Sean O’Neil

This summer, Sean O’Neil (PhD, Americas track), successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Contested Combinations: Evangelical, Pentecostal and Catholic Convergence among Latin Americans and U.S. Latinos in the Anglican Communion." Profs. Peterson and Vásquez served as co-chairs of his dissertation committee, which also included David Hackett and Philip Williams (Political Science/Latin American Studies). Sean is currently an instructor at the University of
Congratulations Sean! He can be reached at soneil1@utk.edu

Bron Taylor

On August 23rd, Professor Bron Taylor gave a lecture on grassroots environmental movements at the Global Environments Summer Academy 2012, which was hosted by the Munich International Summer University. The theme of his lecture was "Socio-ecological Interactions in a Dynamic World."

Manuel Vásquez

Professor Manuel Vásquez gave a presentation entitled “Brazil and the Emerging Global Cartography of the Sacred” at the Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr University, Bochum, on June 26th. This presentation drew from a volume entitled “The Diaspora of Brazilian Religions,” which he is co-editing with Cristina Rocha (University of Western Sydney) and which has been accepted for publication by Brill.

Upcoming Deadlines

Department of Religion schedules for Fall 2012 can be found here: http://www.religion.ufl.edu/courses.html

The applications for Fall 2012 Travel Support for Graduate Students, for the period September 1 – December 31, 2012, are due in the Dean’s office by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, September 5th. 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, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30th. 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, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th.