Friday Bulletin, September 14, 2012

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Events

The Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions—CHiTra (Indian Classical Music Endowment Fund) and SPICMACAY at the University of Florida will sponsor a violin concert, Carnatic music style, with H.N. Bhaskar and Ashwin Ramanathan on the violin, and Karthic Kailas playing the mridangam, a percussion instrument. The performing arts are a central part of the Hindu traditions, and the Indian community in north central Florida has set up this endowment fund as part of CHiTra’s outreach. Ashwin Ramanathan, the lead violin player, is a junior at UF. This event will take place Friday, September 14th, at 7:00 pm in the Music Building Auditorium (MUB 101), University of Florida.

CHiTra is sponsoring two talks by Jonathan Edelmann, Asst. Professor, Mississippi State University. Professor Edelmann will present a seminar, “Hindu Theology as Churning the Ocean of Milk,” for graduate students and faculty. The seminar is on Monday, September 17th, at 2:30 pm in Anderson Hall, room 117. He will also give a talk on historical Perspectives on Science and Religion on Monday morning in an undergraduate class on Religion and Society. Jonathan Edelmann received his PhD from Oxford University in 2008. He was a 2009-2011 Luce Summer Fellow with the American Academy of Religion, and a winner of a 2011 John Templeton Prize for Theological Promise. He is the author of Hindu Theology and Biology: The Bhāgavata Purāṇa and Contemporary Theory (Oxford University Press, 2012).

Professor Bron Taylor will give a lecture entitled, “The media and message of Dark Green Religion: tracking the spread and influence of contemporary nature spirituality,” at Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina, on September 20th. He will participate in a forum/debate about contemporary nature religion, which will include Cornwall Alliance founder Dr. Cal Beisner. Event information: http://www.presby.edu/newsroom/russell-program-2012/

Professor Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons will be a participant in the University of Florida's Oral History Program’s 4th Annual Mississippi Freedom Project Tour & Speaker Series held in the Mississippi Delta. She will join a panel of distinguished Civil Rights Activists on the Program’s Panel on "Fannie Lou Hamer, Civil Rights Movement Organizer: Lessons and Legacies" on Wednesday, September 19th, at 7:00 pm at Delta State University in Greenville, Mississippi. On Thursday, September 18th, Dr. Simmons will speak at a High School assembly at the Sunflower County High School on "The Indispensable Role of High School and College Students in the Civil Rights Movement."
News

Professor Vasudha Narayanan, along with Chris Machen, Dan Johnson (Trinity United Methodist Church), and Rabbi Kaiman (Congregation B’nai Israel), organized A Gathering of Peace, Understanding, and Hope on Sunday, September 9th. The event, held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Gainesville, included performances by the UF Gospel Choir, a capoeira display by Aimee Green (Center for Latin American Studies) and colleagues, and a “fusion” classical Indian dance. President Bernard Machen was the featured speaker.

Professor Vasudha Narayanan gave a talk on “Peace/Shanti” at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Micanopy, on September 9th, in connection with events to mark 9/11.

Professor Whitney Sanford gave a talk, “Searching for Gandhi in the American Heartland,” in the Fall Reception for the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research on Thursday, September 13th.

Other Items of Interest

The Christian Study Center is launching a three-semester series of lectures, panels, and other events under the heading, "Seeing Justice, Seeking Justice." The series begins next week on Wednesday evening with a panel presentation in which UF faculty will address the question of how their discipline conceives of justice and what the strengths and limitations of their discipline are in the pursuit of justice. Participants include:

- Sarah Hamersma, Economics
- Elizabeth Dale, Law
- Jaime Ahlberg, Philosophy

The event is moderated by Joseph Spillane, Criminology and History. It is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th at 7:30 PM, in the Christian Study Center classroom (112 NW 16th Street--two blocks north of University Avenue, across from Library West).

(Item submitted by Professor Richard Horner, Christian Study Center)

Upcoming Deadlines

The Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund will continue for 2012-2013. The deadline for receipt of proposals from faculty in the CLAS office is Friday, October 19th. No hard-copy announcement will be distributed this year. Instead, you will find the Announcement, Guidelines for Fund Eligibility, and Proposal Preparation, Cover Sheet, Budget Justification and Budget Pages at http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/humanities.html. The forms should be completed according to the guidelines provided and submitted to CLAS. Please submit your applications by email to Annie by MONDAY, OCTOBER 15th.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences invites graduate students pursuing the Ph.D. to apply for dissertation fellowships for the spring or summer terms of 2013. Students will be provided with a stipend of $5000 per term and a waiver of tuition fees. One copy of each proposal must be submitted by Thursday, October 11th. In order to allow the
Graduate Studies Committee to rank applications, please turn in TWO COPIES of the application by email to Annie by 4:30 PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH. Please see previous bulletin for details.