Friday Bulletin, April 12, 2013

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Events

The Department of Religion is co-sponsoring with the Islam in Africa Working Group (Center for African Studies) a symposium entitled **Islamic NGOs and Development Aid in Africa**. It will take place April 12-13, 2013 in 404 Grinter Hall (Center for African Studies), and will feature speakers like Jonathan Benthall (University College, London); Mayke Kaag (African Studies Centre, Leiden); Cecilia Lynch (UC-Irvine); and Ibrahim Yahaya (UF). For more information, see: [http://www.africa.ufl.edu/documents/IslamNGOPoster13.pdf](http://www.africa.ufl.edu/documents/IslamNGOPoster13.pdf)

Upcoming Presentations

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** will be giving two lectures at Furman University in Greenville, SC, next Monday and Tuesday, April 15 and 16, 2013. One of the lectures is titled “Shared Ritual Spaces Between Hindus and Muslims in South India,” and the other one is on Hindu Traditions in America.

**The Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions** (CHiTra) [http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/](http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/) presents *Gatha Odissi: A Journey from Temple to Stage*, a classical Indian dance program in the Odissi style by the Orissa Dance Company, India. Time: Friday, April 12, 2013, at 6:00 pm. Venue: P.K. Yonge School Performing Arts Center, 1080 SW 11th St., Gainesville, FL 32601. See more details see [http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/2013/03/17/gatha-odissi/](http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/2013/03/17/gatha-odissi/) or contact sitharam@cise.ufl.edu

**CHiTra** is also co-sponsoring a screening of *Horn Please: Truck Art of India* [http://www.projecthornplease.com/](http://www.projecthornplease.com/) by Shantanu Suman. *Horn Please* is a documentary that encapsulates various aspects of an age-old folk art form of India — the Truck Art, an art form that makes journeys through the dusty highways of India. With a kaleidoscope of bright paints, motifs, typography and some unique couplets, these Indian trucks take you on a rather colourful journey of diverse cultures and beliefs of the country. Date and Time: April 14, 2013, at 1:30 pm. For more information see: [http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/2013/03/29/documentary-film-screening-indian-truck-art/](http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/2013/03/29/documentary-film-screening-indian-truck-art/)

News

Ms. **Keri Johnson** successfully submitted her M.A. thesis on April 10, 2013. In addition, Keri has been accepted into the Counselor Education program here at UF and was awarded the Graduate School Fellowship through that department. Congratulations, Keri!
Publications

Professor Whitney Sanford has an article entitled “Gandhi’s Agrarian Legacy: Practicing Food, Justice, and Sustainability in India” in the latest issue of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*. The JSRNC is edited by Professor Bron Taylor with the able assistance of UF faculty and students, past and present, including Amy Brown, Christine Callicott, Professor Luke Johnston (Wake Forest), Professor Greg McElwain (College of Idaho), Caitlin Schoering, Professor Rick Stepp (Anthropology/Associate Editor), Sara Stokes, Reyda Taylor, Robin Globus Veldman, Joe Wilson, Professor Joe Witt (Mississippi State), and Professor Robin Wright (Executive Editor).

Professor Manuel Vásquez’s *More than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion* (Oxford 2011) was the subject of “an author meets his critics” section in *Religion and Society: Advances in Research*. See: [http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/air-rs/](http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/air-rs/). This is the third scholarly journal to feature an extended discussion of the book.

Other News

We deeply regret to inform you that Professor Zoharah Simmons’s mother passed away last week. Our condolences to Dr. Simmons and her family. Our thoughts are with her at this time.