

# Friday Bulletin, March 14, 2014

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*Department of Religion, University of Florida*

## Upcoming Events

Professor **Jacob K. Olupona** will be giving the second 2014 Delton Scudder lecture. The talk, “Transnational Migration: America's Emerging African Diaspora,” will take place March 19, 2014, from 3:30 - 5:00pm, in Grinter Hall, Room 404, with a reception to follow.

Dr. Olupona is Professor of African Religious Traditions at Harvard Divinity School and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He studied at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Boston University where he received his Ph.D. in Comparative Religion in 1983. He has authored, edited, and co-edited a number of books, including *City of 201 Gods: Ilé-Ifè in Time, Space, and the Imagination*; *Òrìsà Devotion as World Religion: The Globalization of Yorùbá Religious Culture*; *Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity*; and *Kingship, Religion, and Rituals in a Nigerian Community: A Phenomenological Study of Ondo Yoruba Festivals*. This event is co-sponsored by UF's Center for African Studies and the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.

The Christian Study Center is pleased to host a special weekend honoring Dr. **C. John Sommerville** (Professor of History, Emeritus, University of Florida) before he moves to North Carolina. On Friday, March 14, at 7:30pm, Dr. Sommerville will talk on "What do Beauty and Desire Have to do With Faith?" followed by a reception. On Saturday morning, March 15, 2014, he will speak twice. At 9:30am, "How Beauty Leads to Faith: Some Case Studies," and at 11:00am, "Turning Lemons to Lemonade: The Difficult Life of C.S. Lewis." A complimentary breakfast will be served at 9:00am, and an optional lunch (\$10.00 if reserved by 3/12) will follow at 12:30pm. For additional information, please call 352-379-7375, visit [christianstudycenter.org](http://christianstudycenter.org), or email [nora@christianstudycenter.org](mailto:nora@christianstudycenter.org).

## Presentations

Professor **Bron Taylor** will present a series of invited lectures, “Religion and Nature in America,” to the Foundation for Contemporary Theology in Houston, Texas, March 28-29, 2014. Event information: <http://contemporarytheology.org/>

## Publications

Professor **Manuel Vasquez** published a co-authored article (with **Marie Marquardt** – Emory University) entitled “From the Body: An Exchange on Scholarship and Advocacy” in the scholarly journal *Religion*.

Professor **Terje Ostebo's** article, “Claims for Authority at the Shrine of Shaykh Hussein, Ethiopia,” has been published in *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 25, 2, 2014:

<http://jis.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/02/16/jis.etu019.abstract?keytype=ref&ijkey=DbmbV3fJINIPxDME>

## News

**Bhakti Mamtora** (PhD student, Asia track) was elected as the Student Director of the AAR Southeast region last weekend at the SECSOR regional meeting in Atlanta, GA. She also presented a paper there entitled "Youth Activities: Creating a Swaminarayan-American identity." Congratulations Bhakti!

Religion major **Jeena Kar** has been accepted into the University Scholars Program to conduct research on Islamic Feminism under Professor **Zoharah Simmons**. They will be investigating the role of the Arab Spring on women's leadership in the Middle East - specifically Jordan and Syria. The study will also analyze the Muslim feminist movement in a western context by tracking American women's participation in Syrian revolution relief efforts. Congratulations Jeena!