

Friday Bulletin, April 25, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Publications

Sections of Professor **Vasudha Narayanan's** "Hinduism" have been reprinted in *Thinking Globally: A Global Studies Reader*, edited by Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California Press, 2014, pp. 105-108.

Professor **Terje Ostebo** (together with **Marit Tolo Ostebo**) has published an article entitled "Are Religious Leaders Key in the Efforts to Eradicate Female Genital Cutting" in *Instituut Culturele Antropologie* (Leiden), April issue, 2014.

Professor **Mario Pocesi's** new edited volume, *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2014), has just been published and is now on sale in bookstores (presently available in Europe and Asia, with the US to follow soon; the e-book version is also available on Amazon and other online booksellers). For more details, see the publisher's website: <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118610334.html>.

Awards

Jaberg Award

The 2014 **Russell Jaberg Award**, which recognizes outstanding achievement by a graduating religion major, went to co-winners **Richard Batchelor** and **Casey Miller**. The runner up for the award was **Rachel Deloach**. Congratulations Richard, Casey, and Rachel!

Wells Graduate Student Award

The competition was open to papers that have been presented at academic conferences and for papers published in scholarly journals this academic year. We had six submissions for the best conference paper award and two for the best publication award. The papers were evaluated by a jury of faculty, organized by the graduate coordinator. All papers were impressive examples of mature scholarly work, showing a range of intellectual interests among our students as well as their outstanding research and writing skills.

Best published paper. We had two excellent contributions, a fact that made for a very difficult decision. In the end, the faculty jury selected **Rodney Sebastian's** paper for this year's award. The title of his paper was "Performing Identities: State-ISKCON Interactions in Singapore." It was published in *Proselytizing and the Limits of Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Asia* (Springer Asia Series, Volume 4). Congratulations to Rodney for your outstanding work!

Best conference paper. We had six excellent contributions. All papers were deserving, but in the end, the faculty jury selected two winners: **Amy Brown** and **Bhakti Mamtora**. The title of Amy's paper was "Pregnancy and a Feminist Critique of Individualism and Autonomy in Christian and Evolutionary Understandings of Subjectivity." The title of Bhakti's paper was "Children and Youth Activities: Creating a Swaminarayan-American Identity." Congratulations to Amy and Bhakti for your outstanding work!