

Friday Bulletin, July 11, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Presentations and Conferences

On July 2-4, 2014, Professor **Manuel Vásquez** gave a keynote presentation entitled “The Crisis of Sociological Representation: Toward an Ecological Sociology of Religious Efficacy” at the annual conference of the British Sociological Association (Sociology of Religion Study Group) at the University of Sussex. He also gave a presentation on migration, space, and pilgrimage, participated in a round table on Abby Day’s *Believing in Belonging: Belief and Identity in the Modern World*, and responded to two panels on religion in the global city.

Professor **Mario Poceski** gave a well-attended public lecture at King's College, London, on June 13, 2014. The lecture’s title was “Saving the Abbot of Da’an Monastery: Reimagining the Chan Master’s Religious Persona.”

Professor **Mario Poceski** gave a talk at a retreat organized by the Dharma Mind Buddhist Group in Woodchester, England, on June 15, 2014. The topic was “Cultivation of Detachment in Chan Buddhism.” (For a video recording, see <http://vimeo.com/98759700>).

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** will participate on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in a New York screening of the film *Freedom Summer*, which chronicles the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project during which 1000 college-age young people descended on the State in a massive effort to secure the vote for African Americans. Simmons was a participant in the Freedom Summer Project and is featured in the film. This New York Screening and panel discussion to follow will take place at 7:00pm at the Tribeca Cinemas. Members of the panel, in addition to Simmons, include **Woodie King, Jr.**, a well-known African American filmmaker, and **Eddie Sandifer**, known as the Robin Hood of the Civil Rights Movement. The moderator for the panel will be the *Washington Post* columnist, **Eugene Robinson**. She will also participate on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in a Washington, DC screening of the film *Freedom Summer*, which will be followed by a panel discussion featuring NPR Commentator, **Michele Norris Johnson**, Rep. **Barney Frank**, **Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons**, **Eddie Sandifer**, and **Matt Herron**. Both events are hosted by the *March on Washington Film Festival*. The film is available on line free of charge at this link: <http://to.pbs.org/NZKjGL>.

Sarah Werner (PhD student, Nature) presented her paper entitled "Nonviolence and Creation Care in the Mennonite Church" at the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Graduate Student Conference at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 31, 2014.

Publications

Professor **Robin Wright's** e-coursebook, *Religion, Medicine, and Healing: Contemporary Perspectives* (kendallhunt, 2014), has been released for purchase. Among the 11 modules, there are PowerPoint presentations by Religion grad students **Jaya Reddy** and **Nick Collins**; Latin American Studies M.A. student **Pete Taylor**; articles from our 2011 conference on Religion and Plants; and much, much more.

Professor **Terje Ostebo's** latest article, "Salafism, State-Politics, and the Question of "Extremism" in Ethiopia," has been published in *Comparative Islamic Studies*, Vol. 8, no. 1-2: <http://www.equinoxpub.com/journals/index.php/CIS/article/view/20940>.

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan's** "Social and Bhakti Hierarchies in Interpreting the Life of Tiruppan Alvar" appeared In the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* Vol. 22/2 (Spring 2014): 221-246.

News

Caleb Simmons (Ph.D. 2014, Asia track) successfully defended his dissertation "The Goddess and the King: Camundesvari and the Fashioning of the Wodeyar Court of Mysore" on May 19, 2014. His committee was comprised of Professors **Vasudha Narayanan** (chair), **Travis Smith** (co-chair), **Manuel Vásquez**, **Vandana Baweja** (Architecture), and **Kathleen Erndl** (FSU, Religion Department). Congratulations Dr. Simmons!

On the Job Front

Kendall Marchman (Ph.D. candidate, Asia track) has accepted a tenure-track position in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Young Harris College, in the North Georgia mountains. He begins 8/1/2014 and will be teaching World Religions, Buddhism, and Comparative Religious Ethics. Congratulations Kendall!

Alumni Notes

Chungwhan Sung (Ph.D. 2011, Asia track) is now a teaching and research professor at Dongguk University in Korea. Her dissertation was titled "Un Mun Sa," focusing on monastery for Buddhist nuns, and her advisor was Professor **Robin Wright**. Congratulations Chungwhan!

Congratulations to **Greg** (Ph.D. 2011, Nature track) and **Alyson McElwain** on the birth of their daughter, **Emily Isla McElwain**, who was born on June 26, 2014 at 6:20pm! She weighed 6 lbs. and was 18.5 inches long.

Other News

We regret to inform you that **Susan Lewis** (a former MA Religion major) passed away last June. Our deep condolences to her family. She was one of our first MA students and was an important and well-loved community member.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gainesville/obituary.aspx?pid=171125167>