

Friday Bulletin, September 12, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The Gainesville Sun had an article about the establishment of the new **Center for Global Islamic Studies** and about the Launching Conference: “Global Islam and the Quest for Public Space.” <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20140830/ARTICLES/140839983>. As a reminder, the conference will take place on September 18 and 19, 2014. Professor **John Esposito**, Georgetown University, will give the keynote speech on September 18, at 5:30pm in The Ocora (Pugh Hall) to be followed by a reception. On September 19, from 8:30am–12:30pm in the Matthew Suite of the Reitz Union, there will be a discussion panel, which will include Professors **Mirjam Künkler**, Princeton University, **Ousman M Kobo**, Ohio State University, and **Badredine Arfi**, University of Florida. Please mark your calendars!

On Tuesday, September 23, at 5:30pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Union, **HUM 2305: What is the Good Life?** is hosting a UF panel discussion on the Humanities Common Course and the UF Core Curriculum. Panelists include **Joseph Glover** (Provost), **Bernard Mair** (Associate Provost), **Vasudha Narayanan** (Distinguished Professor of Religion), and Rebecca Nagy (**Director of the Harn Museum of Art**). The event is free and open to the public.

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** (Religion) will participate in a **Freedom Summer Symposium** that will take place on September 30 and October 1, 2014 (Time and Place TBD). Freedom Summer was a campaign in Mississippi organized by a coalition of civil rights organizations in the summer of 1964 to attempt to register as many African-American voters as possible in the state, which had historically excluded most blacks from voting. On Tuesday, September 30, there will be a screening of the film *Freedom Summer* (from PBS’s *American Experience* Series). On Wednesday, October 1, there will be a panel discussion featuring Freedom Summer veterans, Dream Defenders, scholars, and activists, including Professors Simmons, **Sarah Blanc** (Samuel Proctor Oral History Program), and **Paul Ortiz** (History). This event is sponsored by the UF African American Studies Department, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and the UF Department of Religion.

The **American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program** is pleased to announce the Forum *Indigenous Knowledge, Spirituality and the Future of Humans in Nature: Experiences from North and South America* which will take place on October 13, 2014, from 3:00-6:40pm in Keene-Flint Hall, Room 105. Speakers are: **Marcus Briggs-Cloud** (Maskoke Nation, UF) on “Indigenous Ceremonialism;” **James Treat** (Illinois) on “Peyote women;” **William Lyon** (Missouri) on “The Interface of Quantum Mechanics and Magic;” **Ana Mariella Bacigalupo** (SUNY Buffalo) on “Shamanic Rebirth through Mapuche Indigenous ‘Bibles;’” and **Robin M. Wright** (Religion – UF) on “‘The Falling Sky and ‘The Warnings of Mandu:’ Prophetic Visions of Amazonian Shamans.” The event is co-sponsored by the

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture; the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program; the Department of Religion; and UF Cultural Engagement. The public is welcome; refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Prof. Robin M. Wright at baniwa05@ufl.edu or 352-392-1625.

Cherie Sampson, Art Department, University of Missouri, will visit the Department of Religion from October 13-15, 2014 (<http://www.cheriesampson.net/>). She received an SEC Grant to collaborate with Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** and Professor **Whitney Sanford**. She is developing a dance project that integrates Indian dance, food, and sustainability. She will give a public talk and meet with interested faculty and students.

As part of the **Program for Religion, Immigration, and Social Change (PRISC)**, co-directed by Professors **Manuel Vásquez** and **Philip Williams**, the Religion Department will co-host with the Center for Latin American Studies a major international conference entitled “Immigration Reform and Beyond?” on October 23-25, 2014, in Emerson (Alumni) Hall. Keynote speakers will include **Thomas Wenski** (Archbishop of Miami) and **Mae Ngai** (Professor of Asian American Studies and History at Columbia University). To register and see the conference’s full program, please visit: <http://www.latam.ufl.edu/2014-immigration-conference>

Our department's first **Graduate Student Conference** will be held on January 24, 2015. The conference is entitled “Religion and Culture in the Digital Age.” Those interested in presenting should submit a 250 word abstract related to the topic to ufreligiondept@gmail.com by October 1, 2014. Should anyone want the official CFP to send to someone, please email Prea Persaud at ppersaud@ufl.edu.

Publications

Another issue of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* (v8, #2), which was founded and is edited by Professor **Bron Taylor**, was published this summer. Theme: “Ecstatic Naturalism & Deep Pantheism.” Online access and hard copies of the journal come with membership in the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, and the journal is also available at UF’s library. For more information on this issue see <http://www.equinoxpub.com/journals/index.php/JSRNC/issue/view/1867>.

Presentations

Professor **Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons** will be a panelist at Wesleyan University’s *Freedom Summer Conference* on September 12 and September 13, 2014 in Middletown, Connecticut. On Saturday, September 13, Dr. Simmons will be on the panel: “Unwavering Coverage: Civil Rights Activists of Freedom Summer.” She and her fellow panelist will talk about their role in Mississippi Freedom Summer and engage with students in a Q & A Session. This is a link to the 2 day conference: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/afam/freedomsummer/index.html>

On September 19, 2014, Professor **Manuel Vásquez** will be on a panel on religion and immigration at Emory University Law School, as part of the conference of the *Religious Newswriters Association*.

Deadlines

Our department offers graduate students matching support for travel. In order to apply for these funds, you will need to have applied for support from CLAS, International Studies, GSA, or any other external source. The application for departmental travel funds can be found at http://sites.clas.ufl.edu/religion/files/Religion_Travel_Support_Application.pdf.

Please submit this application to David Hackett by 4:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences invites students pursuing the Ph.D. to apply for **dissertation fellowships** for the spring or summer terms of 2015. They expect up to twelve fellowships to be available, and they will provide students with a stipend of **\$7,000** per term and a waiver of tuition fees. Departments may supplement the dissertation fellowship if they wish, but the intent of the awards is to free students from the demands of a teaching assistantship so that they can complete their dissertations. This year there will be a separate category of small awards. These will be selected from among those who apply but do not receive the full awards whose dissertation project can be completed with a small award. The small awards will not include a waiver of tuition fees. In order to be eligible to hold a fellowship, students must have already been admitted to candidacy before January 1, 2015. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents must be Florida residents (for tuition waiver purposes) by October 12, 2014 to be eligible. (No such eligibility restrictions apply to international students.) Applicants should submit proposals to their department. Please submit proposals to Professor David Hackett by October 3, 2014.

The proposals should include:

1. Cover sheet (attached and also available on the web: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/index.html>)
2. a 1- to 2-page description (single spaced) of the dissertation project and the work to be conducted with the dissertation fellowship. (These fellowships can be used to fund travel to archives.)
3. two letters of endorsement from the faculty, with one being from the chair of the dissertation committee

The **Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund** will continue for 2014-2015. The deadline for receipt of proposals in the CLAS office is 4:00pm, Friday, October 24, 2014. 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 4:30pm on Monday, October 20, 2014.