

Friday Bulletin, September 26, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

On September 30 and October 1, 2014, Professor **Zoharah Simmons** (Religion) will participate in a *Freedom Summer Symposium*. 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. Events include: on Tuesday, September 30, at 5:30pm in the Florida Gymnasium, Room 270, a screening of the film *Freedom Summer* (from PBS'S *American Experience* Series); on Wednesday, October 1, at 5:30pm in the Florida Gymnasium, Room 270, a panel discussion featuring Freedom Summer veterans, Dream Defenders, scholars, and activists, including Professors Simmons, **Sarah Blanc** (Samuel Proctor Oral History Program), **Amanda Nelson**, and **Paul Ortiz** (History). The Symposium 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 will be: **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 John Templeton Foundation; the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program; the Department of Religion; and UF Cultural Engagement. The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served. For more 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 program see: <http://www.latam.ufl.edu/2014-immigration-conference>

Our department's first **Graduate Student Conference**, entitled "Religion and Culture in the Digital Age," will be held on January 24, 2015. 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.

Presentations

Professor **Bron Taylor** will give a presentation drawing on his book *Dark Green Religion* this Sunday, September 28, 2014, at 10:30am, at St. Augustine's Unitarian Church.

Christopher Fouche (PhD student, Nature track) presented his paper entitled "Ecological Ecclesiology: Applying the Agrarian Mind to the 21st century Evangelical Church" at the Rooted and Grounded Conference, hosted by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, in Elkhart, Indiana, on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

News

Dr. Terje Østebø was featured in a *Washington Post/Religion News Service* article on the #QuranChallenge, which is a social media movement that focuses on Muslims reciting a portion of the Qur'an, posting it online, and challenging three friends to do so as well. The campaign seeks to raise awareness and funds for Muslim 'da'wah,' and Dr. Østebø provided an academic commentary on the phenomenon, representing the University of Florida and its new Center for Global Islamic Studies. **Ken Chitwood** (PhD student, Americas track) was the author of the article and is a regular contributor to *Religion News Service*. [HERE](#) is a link to the piece.

Other News

We are sad to inform you that our colleague Professor **Dennis Owen** passed away last week. Dennis received his PhD from Princeton University in 1974 and was a valued member of our department from 1974 until 2000. His fields of interest were religion, culture, and society; religion and politics in the United States; new religious movements; and ritual theory and practice. He was an outstanding teacher, offering a variety of very popular courses that included (North) American Religion Thought; American Religious Diversity; Church and State; Comparative Study of Religion; Cultural Diversity in the United States; Modernization and Religion; Religion and Politics; Religion and Society; Ritual, Sects and Cults; and Totalitarianism. Our heartfelt condolences to his family. His family asks that in lieu of flowers, you may wish to consider sending a donation to Carolina Poodle Rescue in Dennis's honor (Carolina Poodle Rescue, 6705 Union Highway, Pacolet, SC 29372, or on-line at <http://carolinapoodlerescue.org/donation.shtml>).

Deadlines

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.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies offers fellowships and grants through the following competitions:

- Dissertation Fellowships in Buddhist Studies—deadline: October 22, 2014;
- Postdoctoral Fellowships in Buddhist Studies—deadline: October 22, 2014;
- Collaborative Research Fellowships in Buddhist Studies—deadline: October 22, 2014; and
- Distinguished Visiting Professorships in Buddhist Studies—deadline: January 14, 2015.

More information is available on the ACLS website at <http://www.acls.org/programs/buddhist-studies/>. (Submitted by Professor **Vasudha Narayanan**.)

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce the opening of the scholarship competition for the **2015 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program** in thirteen critical foreign languages. Applications will be due November 12, 2014 by 8:00 pm EST. The CLS Program is

a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is a fully-funded overseas language program for American undergraduate and graduate students, with the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries. CLS provides study opportunities to a diverse range of students from across the United States at every level of language learning. The thirteen CLS languages are: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu. Please note that participants in the CLS Program are not required to have any experience studying most of these thirteen languages. Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, and Japanese institutes have language prerequisites, which can be found on the CLS website: <http://www.clscholarship.org>. The CLS Program seeks participants with diverse interests, from a wide variety of fields of study, backgrounds and career paths, with the purpose of representing the full diversity of professional, regional, cultural and academic backgrounds in the United States. Thus, students from all academic disciplines, including business, engineering, law, medicine, science, social sciences, arts and humanities are encouraged to apply. There is no service requirement for CLS Alumni after the program. However, participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period, and later apply their critical language skills in their professional careers. Participants are selected based on their commitment to language learning and plans to apply their language skills to their future academic or professional pursuits. Please note that CLS is an intensive group-based language program. The application is now live and available online at: <http://www.clscholarship.org>. Prior to preparing their application, interested students should review the full eligibility and application information on the CLS Program website: <http://www.clscholarship.org/information-for/applicants>.