

Friday Bulletin, October 3, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

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.

Environmental Artist, **Cherie Sampson** (University of Missouri), will visit UF’s **Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions** and the **Department of Religion** from October 13-15, 2014 to discuss interdisciplinary collaborations around sustainability, art/dance, and religion. She received an SEC faculty grant for this collaboration. Her talk, “From the Forests to the Farm – Siting Environmental Performance in the Wild and the Cultivated,” is scheduled for October 14, 2014, 5:00-6:30pm, in Anderson 216. She will present an overview of her work with a look at live art/performance and dance in the landscape as a small, but growing community within the broader horizon of environmental art of the past four decades, often with a focus on ritual and the sacred as related to the environment. Cherie will also discuss her study and practice of the south Indian classical dance form, Bharatanatyam, and a new direction in her work exploring the vocabulary of the dance within her environmental performance practice. In addition to her public talk, she will be meeting with interested faculty and students and make several class visits. Please contact Professor **Whitney Sanford** (wsanford@ufl.edu) for more information or if you would like to meet with the artist.

The Center for Global Islamic Studies is organizing a public event with the title: “ISIS and the Question of Islamic Militancy: A Public Conversation.” It will feature the following speakers and topics: Prof. **Leonardo Villalon** (Dean, UFIC): “Political Chaos and Islamic Militancy: Perspectives from Saharan African;” Prof. **Matt Jacobs** (Director, Program for International Studies): “ISIS and its Implications in Middle Eastern and International Politics;” and Prof. **Terje Ostebo** (Center for Global Islamic Studies): “Religious Purity and the Politicization of Purity.” The event will take place on October 22, 2014, at 5:30pm, in the Ocora

(Pugh Hall). It is co-sponsored by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the University of Florida International Center, and will be followed by a reception sponsored by the Gainesville Inter-Faith Forum and the Department of Religion.

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 29, 2014. Should anyone want the official CFP to send to someone, please email **Prea Persaud** at ppersaud@ufl.edu.

Presentations

On October 9, 2014, Professor **Manuel Vásquez** will be giving a keynote lecture entitled “Beyond the Body? An Eco-Cultural Approach to Religious Materiality” at Oregon State University’s School of History, Philosophy, and Religion. He will also be conducting workshops with students and faculty at OSU and Reed College.

Sarah Moczygemba (PhD student, Americas track) is presenting a paper titled “Not Clowning Around: the Eschatology of the Insane Clown Posse’s Dark Carnival” at the Pop Culture Association/ American Studies Association South Conference this weekend.

Alumni News

Leah Sarat (PhD, 2010) recently appeared on *Horizonte*, a channel of our local PBS station. She was interviewed about her book, *Fire in the Canyon: Religion, Migration, and the Mexican Dream* (NYU Press, 2013), in relation to the current Central American migration/ refugee situation: <http://www.azpbs.org/horizonte/detailvid.php?id=1123>

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>.