

Friday Bulletin, October 10, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The Islam in Africa Working-group is hosting **Anne Bang**, University of Bergen/Chr. Michelsen Institute, to speak about: “Sufi networks and Islamic reform in East Africa, c. 1880-1940.” This will be on Friday, October 10, 2014, at 11:45am in 471 Grinter Hall (CAS Conference room, 4th floor). Anne K. Bang is a senior researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen and an associate professor in History at the University of Bergen. Anne K. Bang obtained her PhD at the University of Bergen in 2000 and has since worked extensively on the Islamic history of East Africa. She has published widely on aspects of Sufi brotherhoods in the region, literary and cultural change, as well as legal and religious reform.

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.

On Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7:00pm, Professor **Pawel Maciejko-Milano** will give a presentation entitled "The Kabbalistic Friendships of Giacomo Casanova, in Smathers Library (Library East) Conference Room 100. What does the world-famous womanizer Giacomo Casanova have in common with the subject of Jewish Studies? Did you know that Casanova attributed his great success with women to the mystical Kabbalah? Come and hear Dr. Pawel Maciejko, a prize-winning scholar from the Hebrew University, talk about Casanova's surprising connections in the world of Kabbalah, and the fascinating world of European charlatanry. For more information, see http://www.jst.ufl.edu/images/maciejko_postcard.jpg. This event is sponsored by the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies, Gary Gerson Lecture Series in Jewish Studies, and the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica.

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

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** will be attending and speaking at Miami University-Ohio's *Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary Reunion & Conference* titled "50 Years After Freedom Summer: Understanding the Past, Building the Future" on October 11-14, 2014, in Oxford, Ohio. The Commemorative Event is dedicated to Dr. **Vincent Harding**, an architect of Freedom Summer who passed away earlier this year. Dr. Simmons will moderate the Reunion's Inter-faith Gathering on Sunday, October 12, 2014, and will moderate the panel, "Education for Freedom: A Conversation About Freedom Schools" with Dr. **Staughton Lynd** and Mr. **Charles Cobb**,

both of whom developed the Freedom School Curriculum and directed the Schools in Mississippi in 1964. This panel will also occur on Sunday, the 12th.

News

The webpage for the Center for Global Islamic Studies is now published: <http://globalislam.center.ufl.edu/>. Many thanks to **Megan Geiger** (MA student, Americas track) for her terrific job in creating this!

Deadlines

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>.