

Friday Bulletin, October 24, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The Gainesville Sun had an article about the upcoming conference on immigration co-organized by Professor **Philip Williams** of the **Center for Latin American Studies** and Professor **Manuel Vásquez**, the director of the **Program for Religion, Immigration, and Social Change (PIRSC)**, see: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20141018/ARTICLES/141019597/0/search>. The conference, which is entitled “Immigration Reform and Beyond?” will take place on October 23-25 in Emerson (Alumni) Hall. Keynote speakers include **Thomas Wenski** (Archbishop of Miami) and **Mae Ngai** (Professor of Asian American Studies and History at Columbia University). For the conference’s program see: <http://www.latam.ufl.edu/2014-immigration-conference>.

Mark Winne, Senior Advisor, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and author of *Closing the Food Gap*, will present a lecture, “Good Food for All: A Dream Deferred,” on Thursday, October 30, 2014, 3:00-4:00pm in McCarty Hall A, Room G186. Since the “rediscovery” of domestic hunger in the 1960s, the U.S. has spent trillions of dollars in an attempt to end it. With a fairly steady food insecurity rate of 15 percent, the demand for “emergency” food at food banks growing steadily, and a record 47 million Americans receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits, the question must be asked whether something is wrong with our public and private hunger-ending strategies. Mark will review the history, programs, policies, and assumptions behind the long battle to end hunger, and explore why that war has reached a stalemate. This event is sponsored by The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Center for Sustainable and Organic Food Systems, the Departments of Food & Resource Economics, and the Department of Religion. The event is open to the public.

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 Saturday, October 18, 2014, Professor **David Hackett** gave a lecture in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to a gathering of Pennsylvania Masons. Yesterday, he was in Washington, D.C. to serve on a panel adjudicating NEH proposals for documentary films.

Professor **Bron Taylor** will give the Roetzel Lecture in Religious Studies at the University of Minnesota’s Institute for Advanced Study on April 30, 2015.

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** was an invited speaker at Mississippi State University in Starkville for their 50th Anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer Conference, "Remembering Freedom Summer: Building A Better Future," on October 19-21, 2014. Dr. Simmons presented a paper in the "Leadership and Activism in Freedom Summer" panel, titled: "Unsung Heroes: Roles of Women Leaders in the Mississippi Freedom Struggle" and also spoke in the panel, "The Life of a Freedom Summer Volunteer."

Deadlines

Here is our Spring 2015 schedule: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201501/all/religion.htm>

The applications for Spring 2015 Travel Support for Graduate Students, for the period January 1 – May 1, 2015, are due in the Dean's office by 4:00 pm on Monday, November 24, 2014. The application is available on the web at <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/index.html>. Since the graduate studies committee will have to evaluate and rank the applications before forwarding them to CLAS, please submit a copy of your application to Professor David Hackett by 4:00 pm, Wednesday, November 19, 2014. The department also offers matching support. 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, Wednesday, November 26, 2014.

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