

Friday Bulletin, October 31, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions/ Gujarat Region Cultural Program at the University of Florida is sponsoring the second **Suvarna D. Shah Poetry Festival** on November 1- November 2, 2014, at ICEC, 1115 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608. The **Poetry reading** is on November 1, 9:00am-5:00pm, and on November 2, 9:00am-1:00pm. Featured poets are **Devika Dhruv**, Houston, TX; **Preety Sengupta**, NY, NY; **Saryu Parikh**, Austin, TX; **Sapana Vijapura**, Chicago, IL; **Adam Tankarvi**, Manchester, UK; and **Krushna Dave**, Amdavad, India. For more information, including dinner tickets, see <http://chitra.clas.ufl.edu/event/gujarati-poetry-festival-2014/>

The Center for Global Islamic Studies is organizing a public lecture on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 5:30pm in 120 Pugh Hall. The speaker is Dr. **Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im**, Emory University. His talk is entitled "Religious Belief Requires the Possibility of Disbelief: Tolerant Public Space is an Islamic Imperative." Dr. An-Na'im is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, associate professor in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion of Emory University. He is an internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights and human rights in cross-cultural perspectives. His research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, secularism, and Islam and politics. For more details, see <http://globalislam.center.ufl.edu/lecture-series/>.

Our department's first **Graduate Student Conference**, entitled "Religion and Culture in the Digital Age," will be held on January 24, 2015. We will have several grad student presenters from our department as well as a few from out of state. Following the students' panels, we will have a roundtable discussion with Dr. **David Morgan** from Duke University, Dr. **Stewart Hoover** from the University of Colorado, Dr. **Sid Dorbin** from UF's English department, and Dr. **Dragan Kujundzic** from UF's Center for Jewish Studies.

Presentations

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** presented in an event focusing on Sacred Space, organized by the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, the association of Orthodox Christian students on campus. The panel was convened on the occasion of the consecration of the St. Elizabeth Greek-Orthodox Church in Gainesville. The other speakers were **His Eminence**, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, **Rabbi Adam Grossman**, UF Hillel, and Professor **Sara Katherine Williams**, School of Architecture. The event took place on Friday, October 31, 2014, at 2:00pm in the Conference Room in the Department of History (Flint Hall, room 005).

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.](http://www.clscholarship.org/information-for/applicants)