

Friday Bulletin, November 14, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

This year's **Native American Heritage Month's** events include two speakers on Wednesday and Friday the 12th and 14th of November, 2014. The second presentation is by **Marcus Briggs-Cloud**, Maskoke Nation, UFL, who will speak on "Liberation Theology & Indigenous Gender Epistemology" on Friday, November 14, 2014, at 3:00-4:00pm, in Little Hall 113. In his talk, Marcus will argue that the current manifestations of female subjugation and homophobia are NOT traditional Indigenous Maskoke concepts. Through colonization and its Christian missionization apparatus, patriarchy and heteronormativity have unequivocally become infectious within many Indigenous societies today. Under a liberation theology rubric, Marcus Briggs-Cloud argues that critical analysis of the Maskoke language reveals a traditional worldview of inclusivity that challenges gender and queer violence and summons traditional and Christian Indigenous practitioners alike to a contemporary social justice agenda that combats oppression of women and queer peoples.

The Islam in Africa Working-group is organizing a talk on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 11:45am – in 471 Grinter Hall (CAS Conference room, 4th floor). The speaker is Dr. **Dereje Feyissa** from the International Law and Policy Institute, Addis Ababa, and he will give a talk on "The terms of the Sufi-Salafi debate in the Ethiopian context." Dereje Feyissa received his PhD in social anthropology from Martin Luther University/Max Plank Institute in 2003. Currently, he is an affiliated associate professor at Addis Ababa University, Africa Research Director at the International Law and Policy Institute, and Experienced Researcher Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has published on topics such as the transnational politics of the Ethiopian Muslim diaspora, the Ethiopian Muslims rights movement, and the politics of religious tolerance.

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. The Office of Research has awarded the graduate students \$1000 in support of this graduate conference!

Publications

Professor **Mario Poceski** submitted to the publisher the final manuscript for his latest book, *The Records of Mazu and the Makings of Chan Literature*. The book is now in production and will be published by Oxford UP in the summer of 2015.

NEWS

Professor **Anna Peterson** has been awarded a Humanities Scholarship Enhancement grant for summer 2015, in order to work on a new book project tentatively titled "Practice in Ethical Theory." Congratulations, Dr. Peterson!

Professor Robert Kawashima has been awarded a generous grant from the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund in support of his current research project, a study of the role modern linguistics plays in Proust's literary masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*. It forms part of his ongoing work on the relationship between linguistics and literature in general. Congratulations, Dr. Kawashima!

Deadlines

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>.