

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of the Department of Religion at the University of Florida Spring 2006

FROM THE CHAIR

The Religion In the Americas Program

by David Hackett

This fall will mark 60 years since Delton Scudder was hired to create a department of religion at the University of Florida. In October, every former and retired faculty member, graduate of our master's program, and alumnus of our undergraduate major will be invited to come home to Gainesville and join the rest of us here in this celebration of the many years of our life together. The events will include a ceremony to honor our former and retired faculty, an invited lecture, and a reception. Who we are today owes a great deal to those who have gone before us. We invite each of you to join us in recognizing both our community of memory and our community of today (see "Celebrating the Department's 60th Anniversary," page 5).

Also in the fall, our graduate program will be at full strength with the arrival of a fourth class of doctoral students. More than three years ago, we inaugurated a three-track graduate program intended to pioneer specializations at the cutting edge of the religious studies discipline. As discussed in the Spring 2005 newsletter, the Religion and Nature program draws on faculty both within the department and across the university to create a new field of study at the intersection of religion, nature, and society. The fall 2005 newsletter highlighted the innovative approach of the Religions of Asia

program where Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and other Asian religious traditions are studied in their transmission and interaction as they move across and beyond Asia. The focus of this issue is the Religion in the Americas track, which builds upon the strengths of department faculty, and the Center for Latin American Studies to investigate the broad diversity of religious cultures in the Americas from a hemispheric perspective.

The origins of the Religion in the Americas program might be traced to developments over the past twenty years in the study of religion in North America that have moved us beyond a focus on European Christianity in the United States to a growing interest in the historic and continuing effects of European colonization, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and indigenous religions upon religious practices in the Americas. When Anna Peterson joined our faculty in 1993, she was among the first of a new generation of religious studies scholars who recognized and engaged this shift toward the Americas. Trained in social ethics at the University of Chicago, her first book examined religion and politics in Central America. In 1994, we hired Manuel Vasquez whose important work on the modernization of the Brazilian church was soon followed with collaborative studies, with Anna Peterson and



others, on the globalization of religion in the Americas. As Anna and Manuel have expanded their scholarly agendas, they have been joined just this year by Robin Wright, an internationally known scholar of indigenous religions in the Amazon, and Jalane Schmidt, whose research and teaching focuses on the religions of Cuba, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Together, these faculty are now actively developing a doctoral track that particularly engages ethics, globalization, indigenous religions, and the African Atlantic diaspora in the Americas. Along with my own specialty of North American religions, the work of Zoharah Simmons on American Islam, and related faculty interests, as well as the burgeoning research agendas of our graduate students, we are together exploring this new field of study.

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The Religion in the Americas Program

Any re-mapping of the field of religious studies would place the borderland state of Florida at the center of a new hemispheric perspective. Florida itself was once a Spanish colony and remains an historic home to indigenous peoples, the oldest continually inhabited African settlement in what is now the United States, and some of the oldest Christian missionary outposts. Today it hosts a mobile, trans-cultural, immigrant population from throughout the Americas. The University of Florida is, in turn, home to one of the best Latin American Studies Centers in the country with faculty throughout the college involved in research that spans the Americas. As the field of American religion increasingly shifts from a Eurocentric to an Americas perspective, our faculty and graduate students are creating a new program of study better aligned with the past and present reality of religious life in Florida, the United States, and the Americas.

Faculty Research Drives the Program

Anna Peterson teaches and conducts research in two main areas: Religion in the Americas and Religion and Nature.

Within the Americas, her focus is on the interactions between religion and politics in Latin America. Her first book, *Martyrdom and the Politics of Religion* (SUNY, 1997), examined the role of progressive Catholicism in political violence and resistance in El Salvador. With Manuel Vasquez and Philip Williams, she co-edited *Christianity, Globalization, and Social Change in the Americas* (Rutgers University Press, 2001), a comparative study of Latino and Latin American congregations based on collaborative research in El Salvador, Peru, and the U.S. Her second major interest is social and environmental ethics. She has published a number of articles in those fields, as well as *Being Human: Ethics, Environment, and Our Place in the World* (University of California Press, 2001). Her new book, *Seeds of the Kingdom: Utopian Communities in the Americas* (Oxford, 2005), explores the ways that religious ethics are embodied, articulated, and transformed in agrarian communities in Latin America and the United States.



Manuel Vasquez's first book, *The Brazilian Popular Church and the Crisis of Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), explored the effects of democratization and late capitalism on grassroots progressive Catholicism in Brazil. Vasquez also co-edited (with Anna Peterson and



Philip Williams), *Christianity, Social Change, and Globalization in the Americas* (Rutgers University Press, 2001). In *Globalizing the Sacred: Religion Across the Americas* (Rutgers University Press, 2003), which he co-authored with Marie Friedmann Marquardt, he explores the interaction between religion and these globalizing processes. In *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in America* (AltaMira, 2005), co-edited with Karen Leonard, Alex Stepick, and Jennifer Holdaway, he assesses the impact of post-1965 migration on the religious arena in the U.S. Currently, Vasquez is co-directing with Philip Williams a study on religious pluralism, space, and power among Brazilians, Mexicans, and Guatemalans in Florida, supported by the Ford Foundation. He is also working on a book for Oxford University, which moves the study of religion away from classic hermeneutic approaches and belief, texts, ideas, and theologies, and focuses on performance, embodiment, and emplacement.

Robin Wright is an anthropologist of religion who joined our department this year after spending the past two decades at the University of Campinas in Brazil. Much of his research has been among the surviving indigenous peoples of the Amazon and their encounter with non-indigenous peoples. His many publications include *Cosmos, Self, and History in Baniwa Religion: for Those Unborn* (Texas, 1998) and, co-edited with N.L. Whitehead, *In Darkness and Secrecy: The Anthropology of Assault Sorcery and Witchcraft in Amazonia* (Duke, 2004). Dr. Wright is currently working on bring-

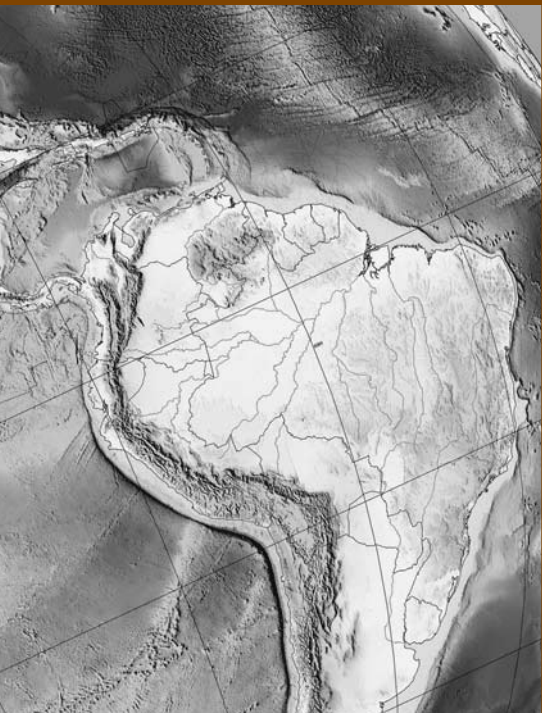


ing his research on the religions of native South American peoples to a larger audience through audiovisual material and narrative myths. In particular, he is working on projects that will communicate the creation myths of the Baniwa people as well as their understandings of sickness and curing, and a bibliographic project that explores differences and similarities in cosmologies among the Arawak-speaking peoples.

Jalane Schmidt joined our faculty this year from Harvard where she developed her interests in religions of the African diaspora, Caribbean, and Latin America. She is currently revising her dissertation for publication while on a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill. Tentatively titled "Cuba and the Politics of Festivity," Dr. Schmidt's book looks at 20th century festivals devoted to Cuba's patron saint, the Virgin of Charity. Through her own theory of festivity, she examines how the performance of religious festivals reveals shifts in 20th-century Cuban national identity with regard to race, religion, and political ideology. Together with Robin Wright, she hopes to build connections between our department and scholars and practitioners of indigenous and African diaspora religions from throughout the Americas.



Americas' Graduate Students



David Hackett is an historian of American religion. His first book, *The Rude Hand of Innovation: Religion and Social Order in Albany, New York 1652–1836* (Oxford, 1991), explored the historical relationship between religion and society in one early North American community. He is editor of the widely used reader *Religion and American Culture* (Routledge, 2nd ed, 2003). Dr. Hackett is currently exploring the relationship between men's religious lives in Freemasonry and their participation in organized religious life in *Freemasonry and American Religious History* (Princeton). While serving as chair of the department, he is also responsible for the North American Religions core courses for the Americas doctoral program.



Department members at the Latin American Studies Association annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 14–18, 2006: Robin Wright, Manuel Vasquez, Sean O'Neil, Hilit Surowitz, Shreena Gandhi, Jalane Schmidt, David Hackett, and in front Gayle Lasater. Not pictured: Anna Peterson.

Shreena Gandhi received her B.A. in Religion from Swarthmore College and an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, where she focused on American religious history. Her interests include religions of the Americas, Hinduism in diaspora, and the study of material culture and religion. She is currently researching the material culture of Hinduism in the Americas.

Gayle Spiers Lasater received a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in International Relations at the University of West Florida and followed this with an M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from Florida International University. Her academic interests include religion and politics in the Americas, western monotheism in the Atlantic New World, the interaction of Christian missions in the Americas, and religion and the environment. Ms. Lasater is also a researcher with Dr. Vasquez's Ford Foundation's immigrant religion project, "Latino Immigrants in Florida: Lived Religion, Space, and Power."

Sean O'Neil received a B.A. in English and History from the University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and holds a Masters in International Affairs—Latin American

Studies from Ohio University. Prior to coming to UF, he taught high school world and American history in Bogota, Colombia and was an instructor of Spanish language and Latin American history at North Greenville College in Tigerville, South Carolina. His interests include convergent Christianities in the Americas, religious ethics, religion, and globalization, the history of Christianity, religion, and politics in the Americas, and pneumatic religions in the Americas.

Hilit Surowitz received an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in Religion and Political Science and followed that with a Fulbright Fellowship to study the religious and social integration of Israel's Ethiopian Jewish community. She subsequently earned a master's degree from the Department of Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and taught primary and secondary school in both Israel and South Florida. Her research interests include Caribbean religion and religion in diaspora. Hilit is particularly interested in the trans-Atlantic social and religious networks established and maintained by European, North African, and Caribbean Jewish communities and their role in defining community identity.



Religion and Nature Conference

This April the department hosted the first annual conference of the newly formed International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC). Spearheaded by Bron Taylor, the conference boasted an impressive program, including keynote presentations from Carolyn Merchant of UC Berkeley, Stephen Kellert of Yale's School of Forestry, and Kocku von Stuckrad, from the University of Amsterdam, one of

Europe's leading cultural historians..

The theme for this first gathering was "Exploring Religion, Nature, and Culture." Over 150 scholars from over twenty countries converged on Gainesville to develop this theme through disciplines as diverse as biology, ethnology, cognitive science, anthropology, sociology, indigenous studies, traditional ecological knowledge, ethnobotany, forestry, political science, and religious studies.

The truly interdisciplinary nature of this first conference and of the Society in general promises to provide an interactive setting for scholars who do not often have the opportunity to exchange ideas within the focused confines of the academy. For more information about the conference, or about the Society, please visit www.religionandnature.com/society. Membership applications are available online.

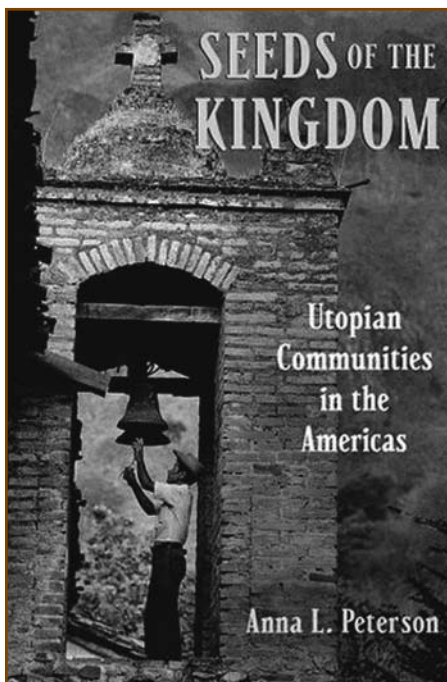
New Faculty

We are delighted to announce the hiring of two new faculty members.

Robert Kawashima is currently Dorot Assistant Professor in New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley in 2001. Dr. Kawashima's work situates the Hebrew Bible within both the ancient Mediterranean world and the literary and intellectual history of Western Civilization. His first book, *Biblical Narrative and the Death of Rhapsode*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2004. This appointment will be shared with Jewish Studies.



A. Whitney Sanford is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Iowa State University. She received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 1995. Dr. Sanford's research and teaching areas are religion and nature and the religious traditions of South Asia, particularly north Indian devotional traditions. Her forthcoming book, *Invited to the Dance: Hindu Narratives of Agriculture and Environmental Discourse*, examines how narratives of agriculture provide patterns for human relationships with the land.



Recent Publications

Seeds of the Kingdom: Utopian Communities in the Americas (Oxford, 2005)

In this just-published study, Anna Peterson reflects on the experiences of two very different communities, one inhabited by impoverished former refugees in the mountains of El Salvador and the other by Amish farmers in the Midwestern U.S. What makes these groups stand out among advocates of environmental protection, political justice, and sustainable development is their religious orientation. They aim, without apology, to embody the reign of God on earth. The Salvadoran com-

munity is grounded in Roman Catholic social thought, while the Amish adhere to Anabaptist tradition. Peterson offers a detailed portrait of these communities' history, social organization, religious life, environmental values, and agricultural practices. By examining the process by which people struggle to live according to a transcendent value system, Anna sheds light on both the actual and the potential place of religion in public life.

Mark Your Calendars!

60th Anniversary Celebration

This coming fall will mark the 60th year since Delton Scudder founded the department of religion in the fall of 1946. Since that time, dozens of faculty members and hundreds of undergraduate majors have called the department home.

On Thursday, October 19th of this coming fall, we are inviting home all of you who have taught and studied in the department throughout our sixty-year history. Already such beloved former and retired professors as Barry Mesch, Austin Creel, Richard Hiers, Hal Stahmer,

Michael Gannon, and Sam Hill have responded enthusiastically to our invitation, and we are hoping that Azim Nanji, Patout Burns, Taylor Scott, Dennis Owen, and others may also attend. Every undergraduate major and every graduate of our master's degree program will be invited. They will be joined by our advisory board members, current faculty, and members of the current UF administration in an event to commemorate our past, celebrate our present, and imagine our future.

We will gather at 4 p.m. that day

for a ceremony honoring our former and retired faculty followed by an invited lecture and a gala reception. The next day, plans are afoot for some common conversation among all of us as we share memories, tour the department's new (as of 2003) facilities in Anderson Hall, and discuss the department's present activities and future visions.

So please mark your calendars and plan to be with us for this grand coming together of our department community on Thursday, October 19th, 2006.

Focus on Retired Faculty: Harold Stahmer

Harold Stahmer retired from our faculty in 1995, yet remains an active member of our department community.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Harold Stahmer received his B.A. from Dartmouth where he was a student of the social philosopher, Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy. Hal, then a Methodist, spent a year after Dartmouth at the German Benedictine Abbey of Maria Laach to learn German and Church Latin. He received his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, NY, and wrote his thesis under Reinhold Niebuhr on the 1916 correspondence between Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy and Franz Rosenzweig. He received his Ph.D. from Cambridge, where he wrote about language in Martin Buber's writings.

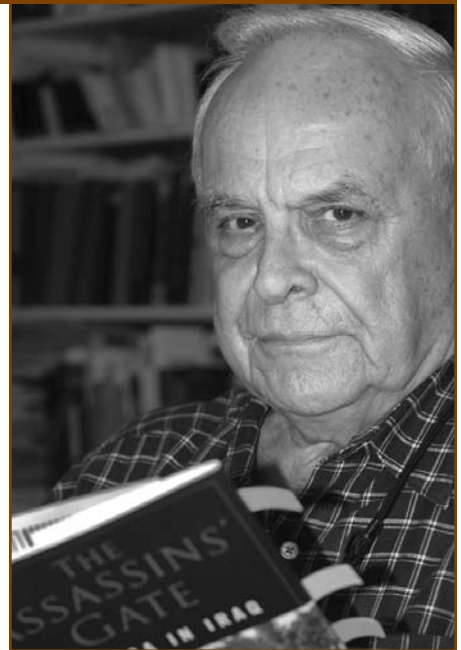
It was Hal's background in civil rights that brought him to UF in 1969, from Columbia University where he had been professor of religion at Barnard College and Columbia and Director of the Harvard-Yale-Columbia Program that prepared gifted students from historically black colleges for graduate and professional careers. During his Columbia years, Hal had co-founded the Rockland County Committee on Religion and Race, the Rockland County chapter of the A.C.L.U., and served for ten years on the National Committee on Church and State of the A.C.L.U. In March 1965, he marched with Dr. King in Selma when James Reeb, the Unitarian minister, was killed. In 1982, Hal was arrested in Washington D.C., while protesting apartheid in South Africa.

While Associate Dean at UF, Hal created and chaired Governor Reubin O'D.

Askew's 1971 Invitational Conference on Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities for the Disadvantaged that was held at the University of Florida. The Carnegie Program that involved the University of Florida and Florida's four historically black colleges and universities was an outgrowth of Governor Askew's Conference. In 1974, Hal served on Governor Askew's Death Penalty Commission that was co-chaired by former governor Leroy Collins, whom Hal had met in Selma in 1965. Hal was instrumental in establishing the Women's Studies Program, the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Gerontological Studies, and the Criminal Justice Program.

In 1979, Hal returned to teaching as professor of religion and philosophy. His courses included philosophy of religion, history of Christianity, religion and poverty, religion and aging, Latin American liberation theologies, modern Jewish philosophies, and seminars on speech and orality that focused on Rosenstock-Huussy, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and Walter J. Ong, S.J.

Since his retirement in 1995, Hal has remained active in the scholarly community. He is a founder and member of the academic advisory board of the International Franz Rosenzweig Society, was a Max Planck Lecturer on Rosenstock-Huussy at Goettingen, and the Nahum Glatzer Franz Rosenzweig Lecturer at Boston University. He has lectured at Harvard, Dartmouth,



the universities of Kassel and Goettingen, Moscow State University, and at the Jesuit College in Cracow, Poland. In 1996, Hal published "Lieber Pater Caesarius...Ihr Martin Buber" (Dear Father Caesarius...Your Martin Buber), a study of the correspondence (1949-1964) between Fr. Caesarius Lauer, a Benedictine monk from Maria Laach, and Martin Buber. Hal is currently working on a new edition of the 1916 wartime correspondence between Rosenstock-Huussy and Rosenzweig and a book about the collaboration between Abbot Herwegen of Maria Laach and the National Socialists during Hitler's rise to power.

Hal is married to Paula Huussy Stahmer, an attorney.

Alumni Updates

1973

Theresa Horton has a solo law practice in South Carolina. She has recently joined the board of a contemplative ministry called The Anchorage, which services upstate South Carolina.

1988

Steve Prescott is establishing a new church in Warren County, North Carolina. Fishing Creek Baptist Church is involved in evangelism, literacy, a free medical clinic, and youth programs. The church is intended to be biracial, informal, and welcoming to all. Meanwhile, Steve is using his legal training. He has a full-time position teaching Business Law at the local community college to provide income and benefits.

1991

Johnny Zokovitch has established a Catholic Worker House in Gainesville. He also works with Pax Christi USA.

1994

Sun Chae this year edited the American Women's Studies course for the Virtual Learning Community of the North Carolina Community College system. She is also working to create a Religion and Philosophy Faculty networking group for NCCC.

Mary Ann Fredericks is busy working with Parish Council and various committees at Holy Faith Catholic Church in Gainesville. She is also helping to care for her new grandson, Daniel William. Her granddaughter Ashlee is currently a UF Religion minor.

1995

Omar Lateef graduated from medical school in 1999. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where he serves on that hospital's ethics committee.

1997

Phil Schwadel is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has recently published an article in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* and has an article coming out later this year in *Review of Religious Research*.

Graham Glover received his M.Div. in 1997 from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He is currently the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Chiefland, Florida, and a Ph.D. student in the University of Florida's Political Science Department. Graham's dissertation is titled: "Answering Liberalism: The Political Theology of Pope Benedict XVI." His first child, Hannah Grace Glover, was born in May.

1998

Charity S. Lanier received her J.D. from the University of Florida in 1998. She is an Academic Dean at Florida Metropolitan University.

2000

Bhakti Cohen is working at Meridian Behavioral Healthcare as a Children's Outpatient Therapist in Gainesville, Florida. She has a part-time private practice at the Gestalt Center of Gainesville where she counsels couples and families, specializing in pre-marital counseling, faith-based issues, and families with children with special needs. She recently became a Nationally Certified Counselor.

Carolyn Kivler after serving in the Peace Corps now teaches geography in an inner-city middle school in Jacksonville, Florida.

2001

Aaron Alexander spent two years studying in a traditional yeshiva in Jerusalem, before returning to UF to finish his B.A. He then began rabbinical school in Los Angeles at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. This spring, he will be ordained as a Conservative Rabbi and will immediately assume the position of Assistant Dean for the Ziegler School.

2002

Allen Hamlin is completing his Master's in Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. He is writing his Master's thesis on "Representations of YHWH in the Hebrew Bible."

Zane Altman is in the third year of an M.A. in Religious Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Zane focuses on American Religions with an emphasis on new religious movements.

2003

Jay M. Allbritton works in Library East as archivist for the Baldwin Library. He is working on a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to catalogue 3,000 monographs (children's literature books) from the 1870s and 1880s.

Jennifer Breman is working towards her Master's and Specialist's Degrees in Counselor Education at the University of Florida. She has two sons who are 3 and 19 months old.

2004

Andy Anderson is interning at the Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ Student Center in Gainesville, Florida. He is the worship coordinator and program manager for the Student Center. Later this year, he will move to Berkeley, California, to study at the Pacific School of Religion.

Department Hosts Visiting Lecturers

This spring the department has been privileged to host a variety of visiting lecturers.

Robert Kawashima

On Friday, January 13th, New York University Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible Robert Kawashima spoke on “Jacob Have I Loved, but Esau Have I Hated: Self and Other in Genesis 12-50.”

A. Whitney Sanford

On Friday, January 20th, Iowa State University Associate Professor of Hinduism, A. Whitney Sanford, gave a lecture on the myth of Balarama: “From Balarama to Biotech: Hindu Narratives of Agriculture and Tropes of Contemporary Agricultural Practice.” Dr. Sanford explained the myth as an attempt to construct a symbiotic relationship with the land and thus justify an indigenous approach to agriculture.

Kocku von Stuckrad

On Monday, January 23rd, University of Amsterdam Assistant Professor Kocku von Stuckrad gave a talk entitled “Ernst Haeckel and the Origin of the Term ‘ecology’: Reflection on the Triangle of Scientific Darwinism, Philosophical Monism, and the Devotion of Nature.” In this lecture, Dr. von Stuckrad explored the work of 19th-century philosopher Ernst Haeckel, who invented the term “ecology,” to suggest the various contemporary influences that lead Haeckel to have a particular construction of an ethic of nature.

Nathaniel Barrett

On Friday, January 27th, Boston University doctoral student Nathaniel Barrett gave a talk entitled “Nature is not Humane: Nature’s Spontaneity and the Limits of Moral Conduct.”

Hanna Liss

On Friday, February 10th, Professor Hannah Liss from Germany’s University of Heidelberg presented a lecture “From Prophetic Speech to Holy Scriptures: Literary Transmissions and the Search for Self Identity in Israel and Later Judaism.”

Eugene Wang

On Monday, March 6th, Eugene Wang, Gardner Cowles Professor of Art and Architecture at Harvard, spoke on “Why Do Caves Need Murals? Symbolic Cosmos in Cave Shrines at Dunhuang, Northwest China.” The

murals in cave shrines at Dunhuang, created between the 5th and 14th centuries, are among the most spectacular surviving art works in the world. But what was their purpose? Dr. Wang explained the kind of world they invoked.

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

On Saturday, April 1st, this dance ensemble from Bangalore in southern India presented a program of Odissi dance sponsored by The Center for the Study of Hindu traditions (CHiTra), the Center for World Arts, and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

David L. Haberman

On Monday, April 10th, University of Indiana Professor and Chair, David Haberman, gave a talk entitled “River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India.” This slide presentation explored the religious meaning associated with this sacred river, drawing from both religious texts and ethnographic fieldwork conducted over the past several years. This lecture was sponsored by CHiTra.

Travis Smith

On Wednesday, April 12th, Columbia University Hinduism doctoral student, Travis Smith, presented a lecture entitled “Center the Peripheries: Re-Configuring the Sacred and the Social in Early ‘Glorifications of Varanasi.’” The city of Varanasi went from a merchant town to a religious center in a matter of a few centuries. Using Puranic texts, specifically the Skanda Purana, Mr. Smith, explained how this transition has been mythologically understood, as a town of merchants to the home of Shiva and Parvati, thus giving Varanasi a primordial origin.

Joyce Flueckiger & Sasikala Penumarthi

On April 3rd through 6th, Emory University Professors, Joyce Flueckiger and Sasikala Penumarthi, gave a series of workshops on “Dance, Hinduism, and Embodied Knowledge” in the Department of Theater and Dance and the Department of Religion at the University of Florida. The lecture and dance recital at the Keene Faculty Center was attended by almost a hundred students and faculty members. The lectures and dances were based on a very successful interdisciplinary course they teach at Emory University. Their visit and programs were sponsored by CHiTra.

Alumni Lecture Fund

The Department of Religion hopes to provide students with academic experiences that will offer perspectives on religion’s role in our everyday lives. We hope that through an Alumni Lecture Series and other activities both students and alumni will gain insights from some of today’s most brilliant minds. These occasions will also offer the opportunity for today’s classes to connect with those who came before them.

Please consider a gift to the Department of Religion to support the department’s critical educational activities for those following in your footsteps. Please complete the form and return to the address below. Thanks for your support!

*David Hackett, Chair
dhackett@religion.ufl.edu*

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Stay in Touch

The next time you're surfing the web, visit the department web site at www.religion.ufl.edu. It's a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the department. Also, alumni are encouraged to participate in the department of religion alumni list service. Alumni on this list may post and receive e-mails to and from other alumni and the department. This service is free, and you may unsubscribe anytime you wish. Those of you who responded to our "getting in touch" letter we sent in July are already on this list. For others who wish to subscribe, either send an e-mail to anewman@religion.ufl.edu or subscribe yourself directly by sending an e-mail to alumni-religion-request@clas.ufl.edu. In the body of your message, type: subscribe end. We hope you will join us in conversation online!

~ Sports ~

The Bog Frogs Spring Off the Lilly Pad!

The "Frogs" seem to have found their level of play. After an underwhelming no win fall season in the "C" level coed league at the Diamond Sports Park, the department's intrepid "Bog Frogs" softball team started "E" level league play with their first ever win and, as of this writing, are an even 2 and 2 going into the last half of the spring season.

Games are Thursday evenings—come out and cheer!



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Thanks to graduate student Hilit Surowitz for gathering much of the information for this newsletter.



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