

World Faiths Teachers' Workshop

December 5, 2009

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

6 Act-48 Credits and New Jersey Professional Development Documentation Available

Co-sponsored by University of Pennsylvania Centers: African Studies, East Asian Studies, Middle East, and South Asia, as well as Camden County College

Agenda

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Registration and Welcome

9:15 am – 10:00 am

“Teaching the Human Experience: Lessons from Ethiopia”

Presenter: Sarah Edwards

Strategies will be presented on how to teach students about different religions. Teachers will also gain insight on how to create a more inclusive environment for students in regards to the different religious backgrounds represented in the classroom. Examples of the religions represented within Ethiopia as well as different religions represented within the United States will be discussed. Lesson plans, created by Edwards, are available in the resource packets.

10:00 am – 10:10 am

Break

10:10 am – 10:55 am

"Introduction to Buddhist Ethics"

Presenter: Dr. Justin McDaniel

This talk will serve as a basic introduction to Buddhist ethics for high school teachers. We will look at the four noble truths and the virtues of compassion and wisdom.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Multi-gallery Religion-themed Docent Tour

Presenter: Elin Danien

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Lunch

Agenda continues onto second page

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

“In between Tradition and Modernity: Religion and Social Movements in India”

Presenter: Debanuj DasGupta

Is Religion always retrogressive? What role does religion play in progressive social movements? In this interactive discussion we will look at progressive social movements in India and how religious discourse has played a role in shaping them.

1:15 pm – 1:25 pm

Break

1:25 pm – 2:10 pm

“Unpacking the Monolith: Investigating the multiplicity of meanings in the word *Islam*-- Source, Culture, History and Practice”

Presenter: Carolyn Baugh

This lecture will help teachers take a more nuanced approach to talking about "Islam." We will learn about the spread of Islam, and early history; basic tenets and varieties of practice; and get a few ideas about the demographics of the world's Muslims.

2:10 pm – 3:00 pm

Lesson Plan Break-Out Session, Program Conclusion, and Evaluation

Speaker Biographies

Sarah Edwards is currently working on her doctorate in Language Arts at Temple University and teaching a course at Temple on inclusivity in the classroom. She is a Resource Specialist for the New Teacher Project as well as a Selector. Sarah also serves as a consultant for City Year Greater Philadelphia. This summer she was part of the Fulbright Hays Group Study Abroad project in Ethiopia which focused on understanding the history, religion, and culture of the country.

Dr. Justin Thomas McDaniel received his PhD from Harvard University's Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies in 2003. Presently he teaches Buddhism and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania after previous appointments at Ohio University and the University of California at Riverside. His research foci include Lao, Thai, Pali and Sanskrit linguistics and literature, Southeast Asian Buddhism, Thai and Lao art, ritual studies, manuscript studies, and Southeast Asian history. He is the chair of the Thailand, Laos, Cambodia Studies Association and the founder of the NEH funded Thai Digital Monastery Project. He has taught courses on Hinduism, Southeast Asia Literature, Buddhism, Myth and Symbolism, Southeast Asian History, and the Study of Religion after living and researching in South and Southeast Asia for many years as a Social Science Research Council and Fulbright Fellow, translator, volunteer teacher, and Buddhist monk. His recent publications appear in the Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, the Journal of the Siam Society, Journal of Burma Studies, as well as contributions to collected articles on Buddhism and Modernity, Fragile Palm-leaf Manuscript research, and Pali literature in Laos and Thailand. His book, *Gathering Leaves and Lifting Words: Histories of Monastic Education in Laos and Thailand*, is published by the University of Washington Press (2008) and has other work on Buddhism and Magic and Thai Buddhist Films being published soon.

Debanuj DasGupta is an internationally renowned Human Rights Activist. His work primarily focuses on gender, sexuality and migration policy advocacy. He serves as an adviser for the critically acclaimed trans-national festival on gender, sexuality, ritual and religion "Engendered" held annually at the Lincoln Center and Asia Society in New York City.

Websites for more information:

<http://www.debanujdasgupta.com>

<http://debanuj-speakupnow.blogspot.com>

<http://www.gaywisdom.org>

Carolyn Baugh holds an AB from Duke University in Arabic and Arabic Literature and a Master's from the University of Pennsylvania in Arabic and Islamic Studies. She is currently a Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on gender issues in early Islamic Law. Her novel, *The View from Garden City*, was published by MacMillan in 2008, and she has published in the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Muslim World and the Muslim World Book Review.

Penn Museum

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY and ANTHROPOLOGY

The Education Department at Penn Museum invites all educators and life-long learners to attend these upcoming professional (and personal) development activities:

World Faiths

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$30, Light breakfast refreshments and lunch included

Location: Penn Museum

3260 South Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

RSVP by December 3, 2009

- Explore methods to teach about religion and to create a more inclusive classroom environment
- Discover the exchanges between progressive social movements and religions in India
- Learn about Buddhist ethics and Islamic faith
- Receive 6 Act-48 Credits or New Jersey Professional Development Documentation



Co-sponsored by Camden County College and the African Studies Center, the Middle East Center, the South Asia Center, and the Center for East Asian Studies of the University of Pennsylvania.



Teaching Empathy

Saturday, January 30, 2010

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$30, Light breakfast refreshments and lunch included

Location: Penn Museum

3260 South Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

RSVP by January 26, 2010

- Get a glimpse of the daily lives of the drug addicted homeless as you explore Penn Museum's newest exhibit *Righteous Dopefiend: Homelessness, Addiction, and Poverty in Urban America*.
- Meet advocates for tolerance and social health who have explored sensitive topics with students.
- Participate in a hands-on art project facilitated by MYX: Multicultural Youth eXchange.

Co-sponsored by Camden County College.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact:

Jennifer Reifsteck

Penn Museum Education

T: 215.898.4016

jreif@sas.upenn.edu