Duke-UNCCH
Religion & Science Symposium

KENAN-BIDDLE GRANT PROPOSAL

Abdul Latif, Duke Class of 2016
Tafadzwa Matika, UNC-CH Class of 2016
Kehaan H Manjee, Duke Class of 2016
Advisor: Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp,
Associate Dean of Religious Life, Duke University

October 21st 2013
Duke-UNCCH Religion & Science Symposium

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Religion and Science are two subjects that heavily impact society. The relationship between the two is often tenuous, but always worth noting. Educational policy in many countries is affected by the perceived conflict between religion and science. Scientific biomedicine and traditional religious medicine interact with each other around the globe. Many students at universities like Duke and UNC grapple with reconciling their faith and their scientific studies. The Duke-UNC Religion and Science Symposium will provide a platform for professors interested in the intersection of the two subjects to present their findings, while also allowing students struggling with the subjects to raise their voices. The symposium aims to promote collaboration between Duke’s Religion department and UNC’s Religious Studies department, while also reaching out to other interdisciplinary departments/institutions at the two schools. It also aims to bring members of both student bodies together for intellectually stimulating discussions. Duke and UNC house America’s top religious studies departments, which puts us in a unique position to tap into the vast knowledge they have with regards to our topic of discussion. Various Duke and UNC faculty, students, and alums have already demonstrated interest in the field, including Dr. Randall Styers (Magic, Religion, and Science; Religion and Secularism), Dr. Ebrahim Moosa (Neurohumanities, Islam), UNC Alumni and Director of NIH Francis Collins.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

We want to organize a two-day symposium on Religion and Science in February 2014. Since, faculty and students from both universities will participate; we want the events to take place at both universities. In addition, we would like to use the symposium as a launching pad for a monthly or bimonthly lecture series on subjects in the field.

Possible Symposium sessions include:

- Build-up events at both campuses
- A debate on whether religion and science are reconcilable
- Breakout discussions and lunch
- A talk on the historical relationship between the two subjects
- Talk(s) on current issues; e.g. Islam and Science in education movements in Turkey
EXPECTED PRODUCTS & PRESENTATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 2:30</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>Opening Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 - 6:15</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<th>Day 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 - 3:15</td>
<td>A talk on current issues in Religion and Science</td>
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In this potential schedule, the opening event will be held at Duke University. A lecture by a guest speaker will be delivered on a specific topic on Religion and Science. This will be followed by lunch and a panel discussion on the historical relationship between the two subjects. The panel discussion will equally divide time between the panelists’ presentations and a Q&A session to increase student participation.

Day two events will take place on the campus of UNC. We want to organize a breakfast session, which will give students and guest speakers to interact with each other. This is supposed to be an informal session to encourage students to interact with scholars and ask them various questions. The second event of the day will be on the current issues between Religion and Science.

PROGRAMMATIC BENEFITS

The Symposium will increase collaboration between Duke’s Religion Department and UNC’s Religious Studies Department, two of the top Religion program in the country. Unlike many other efforts, it will bring undergraduates in the fields together, in addition to Faculty and Grad students. The Symposium will also try to work with Duke’s Science & Society initiative and similar programs at UNC. Furthermore, it will link religious life organizations at Duke and UNC, and try to bring the Secular Student Alliance at UNC and similar groups at Duke together. Campus Ministries at both schools can also collaborate. The symposium may also reach out to the Evolutionary Anthropology Department at Duke and the Biology Department at UNC, as well as other science departments.
Unlike many events on religion and science, this event will neither focus exclusively on evolution and religion, nor solely on religion and science conflict in the west. Due to the broad range of subject matter, topics as diverse as the logic of Religion, Religion and Medicine, and the role of religion in a secular society will be accessible (explored may be a better word). Religion and Science’s relationship in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the relationship in other areas of Asia and Africa may also feature to varying degrees in the symposium.

**DETAILED BUDGET**

Following an estimated budget of the symposium and bi-monthly lectures that we plan to organize.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Flyers</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advertisements</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Car rental/Fuel Cost</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Hotel Rooms for visiting experts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Lunch on Day 1</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast on Day 2</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch on Day 2</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Conference Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Souvenirs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other conference costs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bi-monthly lectures set-up</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATION**

Tafadzwa Matika, *UNC Class of 2016*

I am qualified to carry out this program because I have successfully organized conferences of this sort before. In 2011, I was selected to be a Bezos scholar and one of the responsibilities that came with this honor is that I had to organize a symposium or conference in my home city that identified an emerging issue and sought to conscientise more people about it. Consequently, a team of friends and I organized a conference in which we 60 students from Johannesburg came to learn about
entrepreneurship. In 2012, I was then selected to be a facilitator for the ALA-Credit Suisse Leadership Camp. In this capacity, I helped to manage the day to day running of events in the camp and ensured that the students at the camp were properly attended to. From both of these opportunities, I gained experience on how to conduct and facilitate conferences. Furthermore, I learnt valuable lessons on some of the challenges of trying to organize a conference. Now, I am driven to share a deep passion of mine, the connection between God and religion, with both the both communities at Duke and UNC. From the conversations I have had with many students at UNC and from my experience as an Every Nation Student Leader, I have come to realize that many people often see “God and Science” as mutually exclusive choices, in which they can only choose one or the other. It is part of the intention of this symposium to show that this is not the case and that religion does not conflict with science. The conference will try to show the elegant relationship and what Francis Collins described as a “wonderful harmony” that exists between science and faith.

Abdul Latif, Duke Class of 2016

As a prospective Religion and Evolutionary Anthropology Double Major, I am extremely interested in the intersection of religion and science. My coursework provides with the background necessary to help put together a symposium on the subject. My majors also put me in contact with professors who have a stake in the field. As member of Duke Muslim Student Association’s exec board, and a member of the undergraduate faith council, I have connections to religious life organizations which can benefit from the symposium. As a Robertson scholar, I have experience with both Duke and UNC which will make this project more feasible. As a member of TEDx Duke I am gaining experience in running conference-style events.

Kehaan H Manjee, Duke Class of 2016

As a prospective Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Major and a Religion Minor, I am interested in understanding the role that Religion plays in our society. The role religion plays in the Middle East today is incomparable to another part of the world. With the advancement in science and technology, I anticipate a conflict between these two fields. I think we, as students of religion and science, need to learn more about how these two fields are interconnect and how religion and science education go hand in hand. I think I am qualified to organize this conference my coursework over the past year has given me numerous opportunities to meet with professors who are working in this field. The relationships that I have built with my professors will certainly help make this symposium a success. My past experiences in organizing events as the President of my school’s
Model UN Club and as the Treasurer of Duke’s Pakistani Students Association will definitely help me in organizing this symposium.

ASSESSMENT OF ADVISOR’S INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES

Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp, Associate Dean of Religious Life, Duke University

There are deep connections between many of Duke and UNC’s Religious Life groups. Student religious groups from myriad traditions collaborate regularly on programming and events - from joint break programs to simple collaborative meals and service projects, campus ministries and religious organizations have a long history of working together across the institutional divide. For example, Duke’s Buddhist Chaplain leads meditation workshops at UNC, the Presbyterian campus minister coordinates spring break trips with her counterpart at UNC, several years ago the Muslim chaplain offered the baccalaureate address at UNC, and the gospel choirs at Duke, UNC and NCCU have come together for joint concerts. Personally, I have invited Dr. Omid Safi to Duke to participate in an interfaith panel discussion and have drawn on graduate students from UNC’s Religious Studies Department to help facilitate interfaith text studies and Scriptural Reasoning programs. When Imam Feisal Rauf came to the Triangle in 2012, we were pleased to host him at Duke following his presentation on UNC’s campus. Duke Chapel also has a relationship with several students who are Robertson Scholars and values the inter-institutional perspective that relationships with these students provides.

End of proposal. CVs below.
Kehaan H Manjee
PO Box 97308 - Duke University - Durham, North Carolina 27708
919.344.9990 – kehaan.manjee@duke.edu

Education

DUKE UNIVERSITY
Durham, NC
A.B in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with distinction and B.S in Economics with distinction expected, May 2016.

AITCHISON COLLEGE
Lahore, Pakistan
Elementary, Middle & High School. Jubilee Medal for second-best leaving; Cambridge A Level Scholarship; 14 A*s in Cambridge GCE O’ Levels; On Principal's Honour list throughout; SAT score: 2250 (M-800, W-750, CR-700)

Extra Curricular Activities

MODEL UN
Committee Chair at Duke Model UN 2014; Co-Chair at Duke Intl. Security Conference 2013; President Aitchison College MUN Society; Secretary General of ACMUN 2011
Best Delegate Awards at Harvard Model UN India 2011, Asia Intl. Model UN 2011 (Peking University, Beijing), Cathedral Model UN India 2011 & numerous others local and international Model UNs;

JOURNALISM
Editor-in-chief of Aitchison College Editorial Board (7 publications) 2011-12; Editor of Aitchison College Newsletter 2007-10; Coordinator of “Commanding Success” Documentary made for the 125th Anniversary of Aitchison College (http://goo.gl/3iMt4)

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Senator in the Duke Student Government 2012-13; College Prefect in Aitchison College

Community Service & Activism

LAND O’ LAKES INC. USA
Baluchistan, Pakistan
Volunteered as Assistant Program Supervisor
Summer, 2010
  • Monitored the progress of the food for education program being run in two villages

Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Foundation
Punjab, Pakistan
Volunteer Supervisor
Summer, 2010
  • Volunteered to help flood affectees
GLOBAL ZERO
Lahore, Pakistan
Representative of Lahore Chapter
2011 – 2012
- Organized two conferences to discuss the advantages of a nuclear-weapon-free world

Internships

Newsweek Pakistan
Lahore, Pakistan
Research Intern
Summer, 2011
- Researched and write key point for Pakistan-related news stories.
- Worked with the editing staff to proofread stories before they were published.

Language skills
English, Urdu/Hindi (Fluent); Arabic (Conversational); French (Basic)
Abdul Latif  
Wannamaker 206  
Wannamaker Fire lane  
Durham, NC 27708  
240-217-6385  
arl24@duke.edu

EDUCATION
Duke University, Durham, NC, 2012-Present  
- Major: (Prospective) Religion, Evolutionary Anthropology
Smithsburg High School, Smithsburg, MD 2008-2012
Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD Fall 2008, Summer 2010

WORK / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE
Refugee Family Services, Stone Mountain Georgia, Summer 2013  
- Classroom Co-supervisor
Washington County Board of Education, Hagerstown, MD, 2011-2012  
- Student Board Member
Islamic Society of Western Maryland, Hagerstown, MD, 2008-2012  
- Qur’an Teacher  
- Youth Group President/ Coordinator

ACTIVITIES
Muslim Students Association, 2012-  
- Weekly Activities Chair
Bass Connections Specialist, 2013-  
Tedx Duke, 2013-  
Undergraduate Faith Council, 2013-  
Brown House Council, 2012-2013  
- Founder and Coordinator of Brown Talks
Duke Mock Trial, Fall 2012

HONORS
Robertson Scholar
Duke University Dean’s List with Distinction, Fall 2012
Duke University Dean’s List, Spring 2013
Duke STEAMY Video, Honorable Mention
Smithsburg High School Valedictorian, 2012
National Merit Finalist, 2012
FBLA Public Speaking II State Champion, 2011
MIST Nationals Impromptu Speaking 2nd Place, 2011
Tafadzwa Matika

Mailing Address: 110 Country Club Road, Chapel Hill, 27514  Nationality: Zimbabwean

Phone: +1-919-937-5767  E-Mail: tmatika@live.unc.edu

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill– Chapel-Hill, North Carolina, USA Aug 2012 - present
- Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) expected 2016)

African Leadership Academy (ALA) – Johannesburg, South Africa 2010-2012
- Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and African Studies curriculum
- Completed Cambridge A-level Exams in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics

EXPERIENCE

Every Nation Campus Leadership  Aug 2013 – Present
Student Leader and Small Group Leader
- Co-led a bible discussion group
- Planned community service and social just activities

Center For Employment Opportunities- New York, NYJune 2013- Aug 2013
Business Analysis Intern
- Designed and piloted Constituent Voice, a customer satisfaction survey for the organization
- Dealt with the input and analysis of some statistical data from the organizations seven branches in platforms like MS Excel and Salesforce
- Served as a Job Search Advisor by assisting clients with resume creating and online job applications

Ramslist – Chapel Hill, NC Jan 2013 – present
Co-founder, online student exchange site
- Oversaw the creation, design and implementation of the online student exchange site at UNC Chapel Hill
- Innovated and crafted business strategy plans for the platform
- Sought customer feedback by designing and delivering customer satisfaction surveys.

ALA Credit Suisse Leadership Camp – Johannesburg, South Africa June 2012 – July 2012
Facilitator
- Taught entrepreneurship skills to youth aged 16 to 18
- Counseled student teams on how best to develop business models
- Oversaw the day to day running of the camp

Organizer, Co-founder
- Organized the first ALA ideas festival which promoted youth entrepreneurship
- Contacted and maintained partner relations
- Designed criteria to evaluate feasibility, scalability and sustainability of youth proposed projects

Grow Green Itsuseng
External Communications Director, ALA community service project  Oct 2010 – May 2011
- Searched for potential sponsors and partners in order to diversify community projects
- Introduced Earth-box farming methods in the Itsuseng Community as means to increase agricultural yields
- Planned harvest celebrations that brought Itsuseng community members together

HONORS
- Robertson Scholar
- Bezos Scholar
- Carolina Millennial Scholar
- Hayden B. Renwick Award for Academics
- Stone Center Advisory Board
- Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor
- Deans List (2 Semesters)