

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Humanities
Center

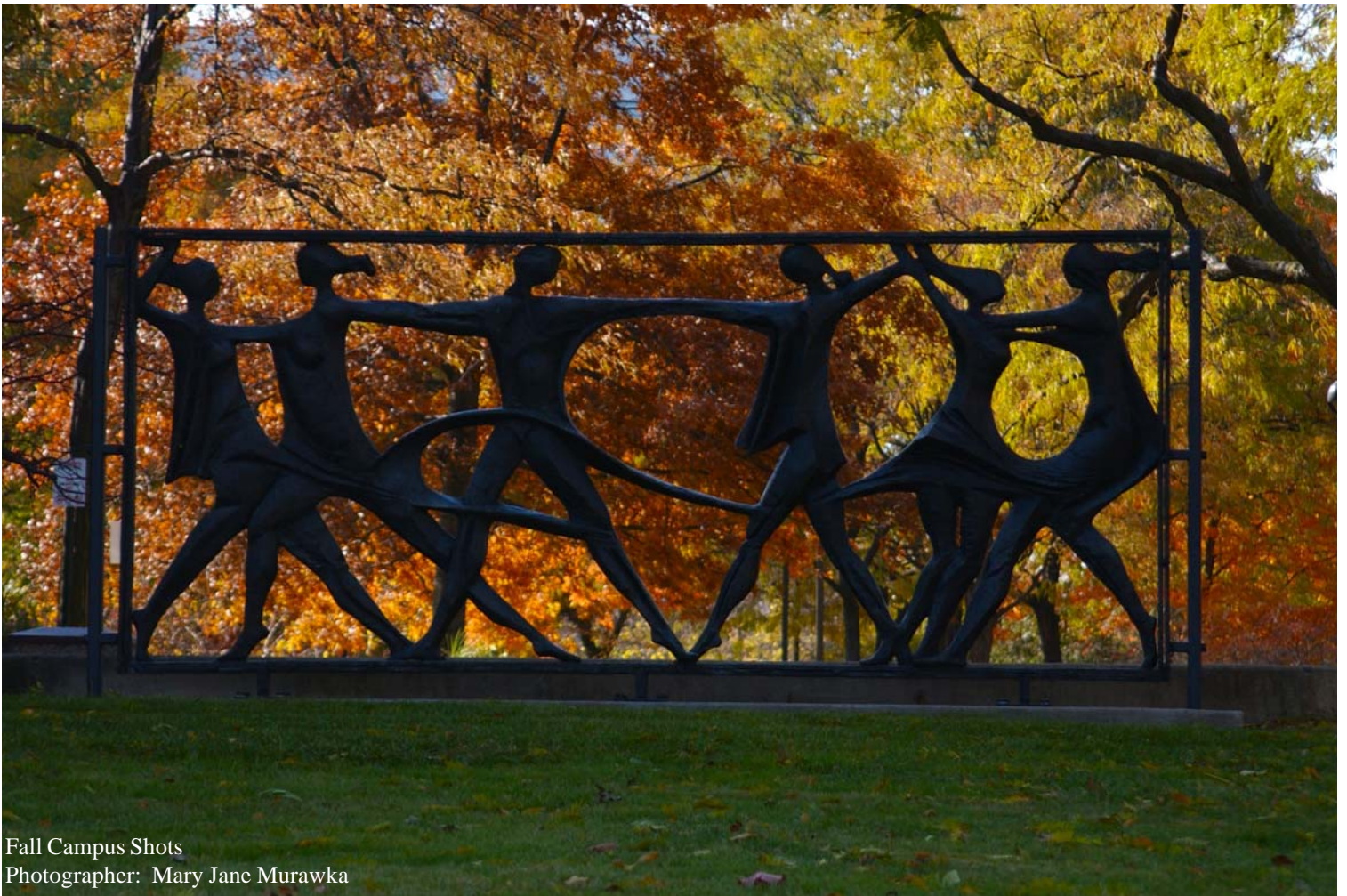
HUMANITIES CENTER

*Bringing Humanists Together
for Collaborative Research*

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ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007



Fall Campus Shots
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THE HUMANITIES CENTER



*Bringing Humanists Together
for Collaborative Research*

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

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OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE HUMANITIES CENTER IS TO NURTURE INTERDISCIPLINARY, TRANSDISCIPLINARY, AND DISCIPLINARY WORK IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS THROUGH COMPETITIONS, SEMINARS, DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR WAYNE STATE'S HUMANITIES AND ARTS FACULTY AND STUDENTS AND FOR VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS. THE CENTER ALSO SEEKS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS THROUGH RIGOROUS PEER REVIEW OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO IT FOR FUNDING; AND TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF HUMANITIES AND ARTS DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS, AND OTHER CENTERS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS. BY PROMOTING AND FUNDING PROGRAMS THAT INVOLVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS, THE CENTER SUPPORTS THE UNIVERSITY'S URBAN MISSION. THROUGH ITS VARIOUS PROGRAMS THE CENTER IS A SITE TO COLLECT, PROMOTE, AND CELEBRATE THE DIVERSE HUMANISTIC TALENTS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC CITIZENS AND TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS.



Humanities Center

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A Message From the Director

2006-2007 Overview

*Director of the
Humanities Center,
Dr. Walter F. Edwards*



An informal message from the Director:

I am pleased to report that the Center has had another successful year during which it continued to fulfill its primary mission of facilitating, promoting, funding and celebrating interdisciplinary scholarship and art on this campus. As you will see in the body of this report, all of our major programs did well in terms of multi-disciplinary contributions, attendance and intellectual quality. As an example, the Brown Bag series has grown quantitatively (we hosted a record sixty-two presentations) and also in scope, in that it now includes faculty from the University of Windsor. The series has become an established WSU institution that provides twice-weekly opportunities for faculty and students from diverse disciplines to come together for academic interaction and stimulation. We've already scheduled sixty-two talks for the 2007-2008 Brown Bag series (see p. 29) with several faculty on our waiting list. I see this as gratifying evidence that the series is providing an important venue for regular intellectual fellowship among humanists on this campus.

Our fall and spring conferences addressed key issues in humanities research and thinking while also engaging the concerns of the wider society. Our fall symposium on "Immigration" was particularly timely since it was held during a period when the general public and our own university community were engaged in discussions about the proposed new immigration policies and their effects on current and future citizens of this country. The Humanities Center joined this conversation by sponsoring an interdisciplinary conference in which scholars from several disciplines including law, history, cultural studies, political science, sociology and literature presented papers and debated the issues. The theme of our spring conference, "Translation and

Representation", addressed central conceptions in humanities and arts discourse: the transmission, interpretation and reception of ideas across cultures. Again, this conference brought together scholars from diverse disciplines to provide interdisciplinary analyses and commentary. These conferences were keynoted by outstanding international scholars, but our own WSU speakers were equally brilliant and our audiences were perceptive and responsive. The audiences for both these conferences included undergraduate and graduate students who responded to the Center's thrust to encourage more student participation in our events. Students are also increasingly represented at our Brown Bag talks. In this way, the Center is expanding its reach to include our students as regular participants in our events.

The most significant event for us this year was the Center's periodical re-chartering review which is still ongoing. We were asked in the fall to prepare and submit a self-study and supporting documents to the University's committee that reviews centers and institutes. Accordingly, my staff and I spent six intense weeks preparing the self-study manuscript with the assistance of the Advisory Board. That 158-page report and some digitized material were submitted on time on February 27th. However, the committee, because of scheduling problems, has postponed the review until the fall of 2008. We are of course, hoping for a fair review of the work of the Center, and for suggestions from the committee on how the Center can be improved.

The most heartening aspect of the review process was the strong endorsement the Center received from all of its constituents. Within three weeks of my asking them for letters of support, the deans of the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts; and Education, along with the

A Message From the Director 2006-2007 Overview

deans of the Law School, University Libraries, and the School of Social Work sent Associate Provost Barbara Price letters which gave their full support to the Center. Additionally, letters of support were submitted by the chairs of all the major departments of CLAS and FPCA. In some cases, the deans and chairs sent me copies of their letters, all of which spoke approvingly of the Center's interdisciplinary focus, its status as a valued academic institution on this campus, and its contribution to the academic success of humanities faculty and students on this campus. As the director of the Center since its inception fourteen years ago, I feel enormous pride that the Center is held in such high esteem by the scholars and administrators it seeks to serve. This esteem was also evident when the deans were recently asked to nominate faculty who are interested in serving on the Center's Advisory Board. The deans submitted the names of a record number of faculty (of all ranks) who expressed interest in serving on the Center's Advisory Board. Thus, Provost Barrett had twenty-three nominees from five colleges to choose from in appointing eight faculty members to fill vacancies on the Board.

I am gratified that the Center was able to sustain its major programs despite having to cut back considerably in its expenditures. This was necessary partly because of the decreasing revenue coming to the Center from its endowment and partly because of the escalating costs of the equipment and supplies needed to run our operations. In 2008 we will be intensifying our efforts to attract external funds to increase our endowment and to fund specific activities.

The most momentous academic event for the Center this year is undoubtedly the imminent publication by Wayne State University Press of the Center's book *Remapping the Humanities: IDENTITY, COMMUNITY, MEMORY, (POST) MODERNITY* edited by Mary Garrett, Heidi Gottfried, and Sandra F.

VanBurkleo (*With the assistance of Walter Edwards*). The page proofs of my Preface to this volume appeared in my mailbox on June 6th. It was a wonderful moment that marked the near culmination of three years of work by the editors to compile an anthology to commemorate the Center's 10th anniversary. It was a remarkable achievement for the editors to secure the cooperation and collaboration of sixteen scholars from nine departments. It was also very challenging to organize the essays into coherent groups, write perceptive and illuminating introductions and respond successfully to the questions and suggestions of rigorous and demanding anonymous external reviewers. The outcome is worth all our efforts. We now have an outstanding volume comprising cutting-edge essays with sweeping interdisciplinary scope authored by some of WSU's most brilliant and productive humanities faculty. The book will be an enduring testament to the work of the Humanities Center. I am enormously grateful to the editors and to the contributors.

I look forward to 2008 with optimism, in spite of the financial constraints the Center faces. I am confident that we will be able to sustain the quality and integrity of our programs. I thank you for your continued support of the Center's mission and look forward to working with you in 2008 and beyond. Enjoy the rest of this report!

Walter F. Edwards

2006-2007 Annual Report

Summary of Programs

BROWN BAG TALKS Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, literally hundreds of Wayne State humanities and arts faculty and students have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center now regularly hosts talks twice a week. During the 2007-2008 academic year the talks will continue to be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Brown Bag talks are free and open to the public.

RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM One of the Center's oldest programs, the Resident Scholars Program is open to all full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. This program provides office space, basic office equipment, and administrative support from Center staff. Additionally, monthly "roundtable" meetings allow our residents to discuss their current research in an engaging interdisciplinary environment. Resident Scholars are also eligible for up to \$800 in support for travel and equipment expenses, or to pay for research assistance. Over the years, over 60 faculty at WSU have taken part in this program.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS The Faculty Fellowship competition is based on an annual theme. Awarded Fellowships average \$6,000 and recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows Conference held in the spring of the following year. The theme for the 2007 competition was "Sovereignty, Law and Justice." The theme for the 2008 competition will be "Hauntings."

WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among WSU humanities and arts faculty and students. Groups typically include faculty from different fields as well as graduate students. Working Groups meet regularly for discussion, exchange, and planning for events such as guest lectures and colloquia. The Center will support up to three new groups for the 2007-2008 academic year, providing up to \$800 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational expenses.

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS The purpose of Innovative Projects awards was to promote and encourage new ideas and projects in the humanities and the arts. Each year, the Center funded up to four proposals that charted new research or artistic territory. Awards averaged \$4,000. The competition will be discontinued beginning Fall 2007 and may be replaced in the 2008-2009 academic year by a general competition that focuses on important new work in the humanities and arts.

MUNUSCULUM - HUMANITIES CENTER SMALL GRANTS The Center sets aside up to \$4,000 per year for a "Small Grants" program. The program offered, until this year, one time awards of up to \$300 to help faculty with the following academic expenses: data base searches to support research and creative projects; reproduction (photographs, microfilms, videos) of materials viewed at libraries or museums; costs of using copyrighted materials in publications; artwork or photographs used in publications; production of camera-ready manuscripts; and direct subvention to publishers. The program did not fund travel expenses. Requests were funded on a first come-first-serve basis until the budget was exhausted. This program will be discontinued in 2007--2008

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM The Center, in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Law School and the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts invites applications from scholars or artists who are affiliated with other universities and who hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Visits may range in duration from one month to one semester. No stipend is attached, but a Visiting Scholar who stays one full semester is eligible for a grant of up to \$5,000 for miscellaneous expenses related to his or her work. The visitor is assigned an office in the Center and is given assistance with obtaining library privileges. In return, the visitor is expected to interact with WSU faculty and students and to give a public lecture on his or her project.

EDWARD M. WISE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP Each year the Humanities Center offers \$12,000 in support to one student in the final stages of writing his or her dissertation through the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship. In addition, the Center may offer additional awards, each worth up to \$1,000, to deserving students who apply for the fellowship. This program is supported by an annual gift of at least \$6,000 from the Edward M. Wise Estate.

TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS The Humanities Center has budgeted between \$5,000 and \$8,000 each year to support graduate students in the Humanities and the Arts who present their research or artistic work at national conferences and exhibitions. These are good opportunities for graduate students to establish and broaden their contacts in their fields and gain valuable presentation experience. Students applied throughout the year for travel assistance of up to \$400 to present their work at conferences. In the 2007-2008 academic year \$3,000 will be budgeted to support this program and the maximum award will be reduced to \$300.

2006-2007 Annual Report Resident Scholars

The Humanities Center's annual competition for Resident Scholars in the 2006-2007 year attracted applications from across the university. Nine research projects were selected from a broad range of specialties. Scholars used the space and resources of the Center and collaborated for feedback and professional growth. Below are short statements from each resident scholar describing his or her achievements during 2006-2007.

HEATHER DILLAWAY

Assistant Professor, Sociology

“REPRESENTATIONS OF MENOPAUSE AMONG MEDICAL, ACADEMIC, AND LAY COMMUNITIES”

The Humanities Center Resident Scholarship turned out to be more valuable than I ever thought it would be this year. Even though I am a social scientist (rather than strictly in “the Humanities”), I found that my work coincided and overlapped with many of the other Resident Scholars’ work and interests and, especially in the second semester, we found many common links between our disparate topics and goals. For me, the best part of the Resident Scholarship was this camaraderie that developed over time via our research interests and common physical location. Within our own departments, we often don’t find research colleagues because the business of everyday departmental life intervenes and interrupts the potential for research relationships. I found that, as the months drew by, I looked forward to the monthly brown bags and informal talks in the hallways of the Humanities Center more and more, because I knew that I could talk to people who were actually interested in furthering their research and learning about others’ research projects, with no strings attached (just pure interest). The Resident Scholarship also allowed me to apply for an external grant, complete revisions on two article-length manuscripts, and initiate a new project comparing two sets of interviews with menopausal women. Out of this new project, I have written a presentation for a conference in June 2007, and the Humanities Center is paying for my travel to this conference. I have definitely benefited from this Resident Scholarship in multiple ways but of most value to me are the relationships with other faculty that I may keep after the Resident Scholarship is over.

DONYALE GRIFFIN

Assistant Professor, Communication

“MAKING A CASE FOR RESTORATIVE RHETORIC

In applying for the Resident Scholar position, my goal as a recent member of the tenure-track faculty in my Department, was to cement my research program. Prior to the one-year post, I had started an article that expanded my dissertation research and had begun to develop a theoretical framework for unique crises like natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Being a resident scholar helped to discipline my research time and to create research opportunities to share my work at conferences. During the fall semester, I completed a foundational article that compared the crisis response of Rudolph Giuliani after 9/11 and Mayor Ray Nagin after Hurricane Katrina. That article was submitted to a journal for a special issue on the Hurricane. I also presented my research at a regional conference this Spring in Providence and am preparing subsequent work for publication. In addition to carving out formal research time, the



Below: Resident Scholar Aaron Retish, History, utilized his office space at the Humanities Center to work on his project, “Power and Identity in Russia’s Age of War and Revolution, 1914-1921”.



Resident Scholar lunch sessions gave me an opportunity to present a vision for my research program as I see it over the next 1-3 years. The other scholars were actively engaged in the topic and posed questions that gave my ideas focus. The response and subsequent suggestions from other scholars has helped to further expand my research program and pending book proposal. This experience for me has been the essence of theory and practice. The Humanities Center has created a true scholarly community.

KEN JACKSON

Associate Professor, English

“ABRAHAM, THE ABRAHAMIC, AND THE SHAKESPEAREAN STATE”

The Resident Scholar’s program got me out of my office and into regular contact with faculty from other disciplines. I had a great opportunity to establish new academic relationships. Even more, the program provided much needed quiet and work space to continue writing my book — “Abraham, the Abrahamic, and Shakespeare” — during a sabbatical. During my stint there I completed two articles and one book review.

JANET LANGLOIS (WINTER 2007)

Associate Professor, English

“‘OTHER WORLDS’: THE ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF THE RETURN OF THE DEAD AND OTHER MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES IN HEALTH-RELATED CONTEXTS”

My appointment as a WSU Humanities Center Resident Scholar for the

2006-2007 Annual Report

Resident Scholars



Winter Term has been invaluable for my ethnographic research project on the place of personal accounts of mystical experiences in health-related contexts. First, my residency helped me in practical ways with data collection, annotation and analysis: I had the focused time to conduct field research and to direct an anthropology graduate student's related study which included transcription and content analysis of selected interviews with hospice staff. I also used the stipend allotted to hire a social worker to interview hospice volunteers (in process) and a librarian to annotate earlier field research collections (in process). Second, the residency also helped me in critical and theoretical ways: Comments, suggestions, and study references from the Director, staff and other resident scholars at the Resident Roundtables were extremely useful in my preliminary discussion of a book ms. proposal solicited by the University Press of Mississippi. I hope to work on that proposal for the Summer Term in the Center for submission to the Press. I also will be working on editing a special issue of the journal *Western Folklore* on "Culture, Health and Narrative" which grows out of a panel I chaired of the same name at the October, 2006 American Folklore Society annual meetings in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which will include an article on one aspect of the above research. During this time at the Humanities Center, I also made contact with a hospice nurse who is doing a comparable study of medicine and narrative through Ohio State University, and will be meeting with her during the Summer Term to discuss a collaborative article. I also hope to participate in the research committee of the Center for Palliative-Care Excellence (CAPE) at WSU which grows out of the Humanities-Center-funded End-of-Life Working Group. The Humanities Center has been a very important component of my research goals in the past six months.

LISA MARUCA

Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies

"TEACHING TECHNOLOGY: THE EDUCATION OF PRINT IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND"

I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity provided me by the Humanities Center's Resident Scholar Program, which I participated in during academic year 2006-2007. The office was especially valuable during my fall 06 sabbatical, allowing me to make progress on many projects (listed below). The program did more than offer me quiet space, friendly staff and a computer, however. Interacting with the other Resident Scholars, both formally and informally was utterly invaluable. The cross-disciplinary conversations at our monthly "Roundtables" enabled us all to engage ideas from new perspectives, and my colleagues were generous in sharing ideas, sources, and strategies. During my own presentation of a book outline, they supplied both practical advice and intellectual critique. I also felt privileged to hear and learn from the work in progress others were presenting. Overall, these roundtable discussions were one of the high points of the ten years I have spent at Wayne State—this sort of interaction is why I became a scholar in the first place.

Resident Scholars Roundtables were held once per month in the Humanities Center's suite on the second floor of the Faculty/Administration Building. Each Resident Scholar volunteered in advance to give a preview of a conference presentation or to informally discuss his or her research for feedback from colleagues.

Below: (left to right) Walter Edwards, Anca Vlasopolos, Charles Stivale, Aaron Retish, Janet Langlois and Lisa Maruca attend the April Resident Scholars Roundtable.



As noted, I was able to develop a number of projects related to my interests in literacy technologies during my residency. I created a bibliographic database of resources and research and completed an outline for my book in progress, *Writing Readers: Literacy Instruction and the Print Trade in Eighteenth-Century England*. I wrote and presented an excerpt from the book at a fall Brown Bag which I hope to soon submit as an article. I also used the time to draft both an introduction to a special double issue of *Genre* that I am editing on "New Histories of Writing," and an article, "Inventing Plagiarism: Academic Anxiety in the Internet Age" (forthcoming in *Con/Texts of Invention*, Eds. Mario Biagioli, Peter Jaszi and Martha Woodmansee, University of Chicago Press). I also wrote abstracts for and was accepted to two upcoming conferences.

CHRISTOPHER PETERS (FALL 2006)

Associate Professor, Law School

"THE JUDICIAL DUTY: JUDICIAL REVIEW AND THE FUNCTIONAL ACCOUNT OF LAW"

I served as a Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center during the 2006 calendar year, and I found the experience extremely valuable to the development of my book project, *A Matter of Dispute: Law, Democracy, and Disagreement in America*. The Scholarship gave me the opportunity to interact closely with scholars in other disciplines, in particular at the two Roundtables in which I was able to present my project. Input on my project from the other Resident Scholars – thoughtful, engaged academics in diverse fields – has proven useful in preparing a book proposal and determining how to present my thesis to non-specialists. In fact, the Roundtable presentations of many of my fellow Scholars not only were interesting in their own right, but also helped me develop my project by lending insight into the working methods of others and the often-cognate theoretical problems in different academic disciplines. And of course the office space included with the scholarship afforded me a much-needed "home away from home" in

2006-2007 Annual Report Resident Scholars

Each resident scholar established office hours at the Center where they were able to work on their research and meet with students and colleagues. They were each provided with a private office with a computer, computer table, desk and telephone and received clerical support from the Center's staff.



which to work on my project undisturbed by the many distractions of my regular office at the Law School. Thanks in large part to the Resident Scholarship, I anticipate completing a draft of my book by Labor Day 2007 and, if all goes well, signing a publication contract shortly thereafter.

AARON RETISH

Assistant Professor, History

"POWER AND IDENTITY IN RUSSIA'S AGE OF WAR AND REVOLUTION, 1914-1921"

The Humanities Center provided an ideal environment to develop several research projects and to expand my intellectual horizons. I took advantage of the well-equipped and quiet quarters to complete revisions on my book manuscript, *Peasants and Revolutionary Power Citizenship, Identity, and the Creation of the Soviet State, 1914-1922*. I also wrote three papers for national conferences—"Making Nations Revolutionary: The Creation and Mobilization of National Identities in Viatka Province, 1914-1921" for the American Association of the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference, "Social Identities and Political Power in the Revolutionary Countryside" for the Study Group on the Russian Revolution international conference, and "Constructing the New Soviet Peasant: Bolshevik Enlightenment Campaigns in the Civil War," for the Midwest Slavic Studies Conference. I completed a grant proposal and drafted two articles, one of which stemmed from my paper at the Humanities Center annual conference. The residency also gave me the time to begin work on a second major research project on the rural penal system in late Imperial and early twentieth-century Russia. The highlight of the residency, though, was the round table series where residents discussed their work. My colleagues' comments on a draft of my book proposal were invaluable and strengthened the final product. At the same time, it was just as intellectually rewarding to learn what my colleagues in other disciplines are studying.

CHARLES STIVALE

Distinguished Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures

"BOOK-LENGTH TRANSLATION FROM ITALIAN OF RANCO BERARDI BIFO & A BOOK-LENGTH STUDY ON *MAKING MEN: CONSTRUCTING MASCULINITY IN NINETEENTH CENTURY FRENCH NARRATIVE*"

The appointment at the Humanities Center as a resident scholar allowed me to structure my research time not only around specific projects, but also within a supportive and convenient space. In the fall, the center provided a valuable time/space conjunction so that I could complete different short projects (specifically, three conference papers) while teaching full-time. In the winter, during sabbatical leave, I was able to complete one project (a book on the conception of friendship in Gilles Deleuze's works), develop extensively a translation project (from Italian into English, of a biography of Félix Guattari written by his friend, the Italian philosopher and activist Franco Berardi Bifo), and to undertake research on a new project in nineteenth century French studies (the construction of masculinity in nineteenth century French prose). The

Below: Charles Stivale in his office at the Humanities Center.



latter project was given a significant boost thanks to my presentation of the project outline in the context of a monthly resident scholar roundtable.

ANCA VLASOPOLOS

Professor, English

"AMERICAN PATRIOTISM: NATHANIEL BOWDITCH AND THE OVERTHROW OF NAVAL MONARCHY"

Work on my project, a historical novel about Nathaniel Bowditch, has benefited greatly from my residence in the Humanities Center. I had the resources to go on two research trips to the Phillips Library of the Peabody and Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, as well as to the rare-book collection of the Boston Public Library, which holds the largest amount of material by and about Bowditch. As a result of my research, I gave a talk at the Humanities Center Lecture Series that was heard by a colleague in the Mathematics Department; he asked that I present on Bowditch to his colleagues, and now I have connections with experts on mathematics and astronomy who can help me fathom areas of research well beyond my ken. I also gave a paper on Bowditch at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies annual conference, whose theme addressed perfectly the sailing aspect of Bowditch's contributions: "Up to Date with a Vengeance: Technologies in the Nineteenth Century." The round-table discussions with my fellow scholars continue to be immensely helpful in giving me not only reactions to my work but solid suggestions on approaches and methodologies. I hope to make further progress on my book as I discover more about Bowditch's personal life; presently, I'm engaged in his public life, his contribution to American navigation and science, and the curious and, I argue, class-determined obscurity into which his reputation has fallen.

2006 Fall Symposium Immigration



The 2006 Fall Symposium centered around various aspects of the immigration debate. Speakers from WSU and from other universities came together to discuss immigration from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

FALL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

NANCY S. BARRETT

Welcoming Remarks
Provost and Senior Vice
President for Academic
Affairs
Wayne State University

ALI BEHDAD

Keynote Speaker
Professor of English and
Chair of Comparative
Writing,
University of California:
Los Angeles

T. ALEXANDER ALEINIKOFF

Keynote Speaker
Professor of Law, Executive
Vice President of Law
Center Affairs, Dean of
the Law Center,
Georgetown University

FALL SYMPOSIUM INTERNAL PRESENTERS

ROBERT AGUIRRE

Moderator
Associate Professor,
English, CLAS

JOAN MAHONEY

Moderator
Professor,
Law School

JAMES THOMAS

Moderator
Professor,
Theatre, FPCA

2006 FALL SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION

With nearly 3,000 international students and over 100 nationalities represented on Wayne State University's Campus, the number of on-campus faculty and students directly affected by immigration is considerable. With the contemporary debates raging about immigration in America, what it means to be a citizen, who should or should not be a citizen - and with thousands in Detroit taking the street to protest current immigration law, joining millions nationally rallying for increased immigrant rights, the Humanities Center focused its annual Fall Symposium on "Immigration: Multidisciplinary Perspectives." The symposium was keynoted by T. Alexander Aleinikoff of Georgetown University Law School and by Ali Behdad of the English Department of UCLA. Wayne State presenters were affiliated with sociology, history, law, Middle East studies, English, and German studies. Thus, the conference provided a rich interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary experience for the faculty and students who attended. The Symposium provided the opportunity for students to not only learn about immigration, but to interact with professors and professionals in their respective areas as well.

Below: Ali Behdad from University of California, Los Angeles



Below: T. Alexander Aleinikoff from Georgetown University



IMMIGRATION OF MUSLIMS IN EUROPE, PEOPLE IN MOTION, AND PALESTINIAN IMMIGRATION

The Conference began with **Nancy S. Barrett**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, welcoming all attendees. Moderator **Robert Aguirre**, Associate Professor of English, introduced the first keynote speaker, **Ali Behdad**, professor of English and Chair of Comparative Writing at the University of California, Los Angeles, a prominent scholar who has written extensively about immigration and cultural identity in the United States and abroad. He presented "Muslim Immigrants in Europe," which dealt with the history and current status of Muslim immigrants in Europe. **John J. Bukowczyk** from the Department of History next spoke on "Refiguring Disciplinary Paradigms: People(s) in Motion." The morning session concluded with **May Seikaly**, Chair of Near Eastern and Asian Studies presenting on "Palestinian Immigration," in which she examined the causes and conditions of the forced relocation of Palestinians beginning in 1948 by the Israeli state.

2006 Fall Symposium Immigration

The 2007 Fall Symposium will address the subject of "Silence and Silencing." It is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2007. It will be keynoted by Kevin Hart from the University of Virginia. WSU speakers Roslyn Abt Schindler (Interdisciplinary Studies), Jennifer Sheridan Moss (Classics, Greek and Latin), Robert Sedler (Law), Caroline Maun (Interdisciplinary Studies), Lisabeth Hock (German and Slavic Studies), Anca Vlasopolos (English), Kathryn Lindberg (English) and Ken Jackson (English) will also present.



DISCOURSE OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, GERMAN LITERATURE OF MIGRANTS, AND WORLD CAPITALISM

Moderator **Joan Mahoney**, Professor at the Law School introduced keynote speaker **T. Alexander Aleinikoff**. Dr. Aleinikoff is Professor of Law and Executive Vice President of Law Center Affairs as well as Dean of the Law Center at Georgetown University. Dr. Aleinikoff has written a number of books on immigration, citizenship, and the U.S. Constitution. Aleinikoff presented on "Beyond the Immigration Stalemate: Demography and Discourse." Aleinikoff was followed by **Alfred L. Cobbs**, Associate Professor, German & Slavic Studies, who examined "The Federal Republic of Germany and the Literature of Migrants." **José Cuello** next presented. He's an Associate Professor of History. His topic was "World Capitalism, Mexican Migration and the Crisis of the American Nation State".

INVOLUNTARY IMMIGRATION, THE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE AND THE LAW

James Thomas, Professor of Theatre moderated the final session of the day which began with **Anca Vlasopolos**, Professor of English and 2006-2007 Resident Scholar who presented on "The Breadcrumb Trail: Involuntary Child Migrants from 19th Century Culture to the Contemporary Novels of Peter Rushforth

*Below: José Cuello from WSU's
History Department*



*Below: Anca Vlasopolos from WSU's
English Department*



and Shirley Geok-Lin Lim." Dr. Vlasopolos's talk addressed the long shadow that children's fates casts over our imagination, from childhood fairy tales to contemporary novels to popular forms of music such as Italian opera. Following, **Mary Cay Sengstock**, Professor of Sociology spoke on "A Tale of Two Worlds: The Sociology of the Immigrant Experience," which looked at the application of sociological theory to the experiences of immigrants. **R. Fred Wacker**, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, changed the emphasis to focus on Congressional action with "Reflections on Immigration Reform: A Focus upon the 1986 Immigration Reform Control Act and Its Consequences." Concluding the day, **Jonathan Weinberg**, Professor at the Law School presented on "Rules, Standards, and Immigration Law," which gave an analytical look at the laws governing immigration in the United States.

FALL SYMPOSIUM INTERNAL PRESENTERS (CON'T)

JOHN BUKOWCZYK
Speaker
Professor,
History

ALFRED L. COBBS
Speaker
Associate Professor
German & Slavic Studies

JOSÉ CUELLO
Speaker
Associate Professor,
History

MARY CAY SENGSTOCK
Speaker
Professor,
Sociology

MAY SEIKALY
Speaker
Chair,
Near Eastern and Asian
Studies

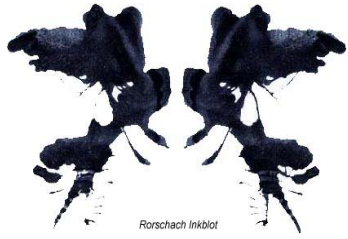
ANCA VLASOPOLOS
Speaker
Professor,
English

R. FRED WACKER
Speaker
Associate Professor,
Interdisciplinary Studies
Department

JONATHAN WEINBERG
Speaker
Professor,
Law

2007 Faculty Fellows Conference

Translation and Representation



Each spring the recipients of the previous year's annual Faculty Fellowships participate in a conference based on that year's theme. The 2007 conference on "Translation and Representation" addressed theoretical and practical issues in translation and representation from a variety of perspectives across many disciplines.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

DONALD SPINELLI

Welcoming Remarks
Associate Dean of The
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

LAWRENCE VENUTI

Keynote Speaker
English, Temple
University

MARY LOUISE PRATT

Keynote Speaker
Social & Cultural
Analysis and Spanish,
New York University

MICHAEL GIORDANO

Moderator
Associate Professor,
Romance Languages &
Literature

CAROLINE MAUN

Moderator
Assistant Professor,
Interdisciplinary Studies

ALFRED COBBS

Moderator
Associate Professor,
German and Slavic
Studies

Keynote Speaker **Lawrence Venuti** from
Temple University



2007 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE ON TRANSLATION AND REPRESENTATION

Throughout history, issues of "translation" and "representation" have been situated at the center of inquiries into the representational function of language, the means by which value is created and moral claims are expressed, definitions of the self and the other, the conceptualization of group and individual identity, the construction of power and power relations, and the expression of culture in general. This is evident when one considers how the representation of one-point-perspective in Renaissance painting affected the act of seeing, or how nineteenth-century translators used their renditions of Shakespeare's works to assert national identity. More recently, Herbert Paul Grice has explored the distinction between a speaker's meaning and linguistic meaning, and discussions of translation and representation have played a key role in the critical self-consciousness that informs Edward Said's "Orientalism," Homi Bhabha's notion of "hybridity," and Clifford and Marcus' notion of "writing culture."

The 2007 theme for the Humanities Center Faculty Fellows Competition sought to address the multiple roles that translation and representation play in humanities scholarship and in artistic creations. The competition invited scholars in the humanities to ad-

dress these challenges critically by exploring the nature, problems, and prospects of translation and representation. Such explorations addressed translation, representation, or both, as well as interrelationships between the two.

TRANSLATION, REPRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

The conference was held in McGregor Memorial Center on March 23, 2007. **Donald Spinelli**, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences welcomed all conference attendees and introduced moderator **Michael Giordano**, Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures. Dr. Giordano introduced the conference's first keynote speaker, **Lawrence Venuti**. Dr. Venuti, a Professor of English from Temple University as well as an historian, a prolific translator and an expert in translation theory, spoke about "Translation, Intertextuality, Interpretation." Dr. Venuti's presentation explored translation as a unique case of intertextuality, with three sets of intertextual relations: 1) Those between the foreign text and other texts; 2) those between the foreign text and the translation and 3) those between the translation and other texts.

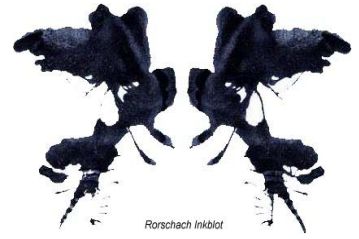
Michael Goldfield, Professor of Political Science then presented his work, entitled, "Translation,



Above: Keynote Speaker **Mary Louise Pratt**, New York University

2007 Faculty Fellows Conference Translation and Representation

Each talk was followed by a Question and Answer period to encourage interaction between the speakers and audience members.



Representation, and (Mis)Interpretation in Marx's *Kapital*," which highlighted what the most vexed interpretive and translation issues are in *Kapital*. **Barrett Watten**, Professor of English gave the last presentation of the first session, entitled "Translating Authority: Adorno's Cultural Work in The Authoritarian Personality." Dr. Watten examined Adorno's work in order to disclose the moment of cultural translation it enacts in terms of Adorno's work and on the development of Cultural Studies.

TRANSLATION AND REPRESENTATION IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE

Caroline Maun, Assistant Professor from Interdisciplinary Studies began the second session by introducing the conference's second keynote speaker, **Mary Louise Pratt**, Silver Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and Spanish, New York University. Dr. Pratt, a former head of the Modern Language Association presented a paper entitled, "Beyond Translation: Toward a Geolinguistic Imagination." Dr. Pratt's paper sought to insert translation in a broader array of translinguistic processes of multiple kinds, of which translation is the central one as well as map out what the linguistic dimensions of globalization are from the point of view of translinguistic operations. **Aaron Retish**, Assistant Professor of History then presented his



Professor James Thomas, Theatre, WSU

paper, "Peasants In a Modern State: Power and Identity in Russia's Age of War and Revolution 1914-1921," which explored the process of how Russian elites defined peasants and peasants in turn translated, accepted, and resisted these definitions. **Jeffrey Abt**, Associate Professor of Art and Art History followed with his presentation on "Picturing Writing Pictures: From Representation to Translation in the Historiography of Egyptology." This paper focused on the particular challenges of studying hieroglyphs due to their pictorial nature, their location in often remote settings, and the importance of their accurate reproduction for critical analysis. **James Thomas**, Professor of Theatre concluded the second session with his presentation, "Translation of *The Wisdom of Rehearsal* by Russian director Anatoly Efros (1925-1987)," which dealt with the translation of an Efros play that was relatively unknown in the West until recently.

TRANSLATION, REPRESENTATION AND THE CREATION OF IDENTITY AND GENRES

The final session of the conference was moderated by **Alfred Cobbs**, Associate Professor of German and Slavic Studies. Dr. Cobbs introduced the first speaker of the session, **Victor Figueroa**, Assistant Professor of Romance Literatures and Languages. Dr. Figueroa gave a presentation entitled, "A Revolution by Any Other Name? Pan-Caribbean Representation of the Haitian Revolution," which examined how the Haitian Revolution and its aftermath has been represented in literary works from the Caribbean region. Then the final speaker of the conference, **Anne Duggan**, Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures gave her presentation, "The Tragic Story: An Exercise in Translation," which explored the French translations of Italian writer Matteo Bandello's *Novelles* by Pierre Boaistuau in 1559 in order to suggest that the emergence of the tragic story genre resulted from an exercise in translation.

The conference was followed by a reception where speakers and audience members had the chance to share ideas in a less formal environment.

2006-2007 FACULTY FELLOWS

JEFFREY ABT
Associate Professor,
Art and Art History

ANNE DUGGAN
Associate Professor,
Romance Languages
and Literatures

VICTOR FIGUEROA
Assistant Professor,
Romance Languages
and Literatures

MARY GARRETT
Associate Professor
Communication

MICHAEL GOLDFIELD
Professor,
Political Science

SUZANNE HILGENDORF
Assistant Professor,
German and Slavic
Studies

HAIYONG LIU
Assistant Professor,
Near East and Asian
Studies

AARON RETISH
Assistant Professor,
History

CANNON SCHMITT
Associate Professor,
English

JAMES THOMAS
Professor,
Theatre

SUSAN VINEBERG
Associate Professor,
Philosophy

BARRETT WATTEN
Professor,
English

2006-2007 Events

Brown Bag Colloquium Series



Abstracts for talks are posted on the Center's Web site and can be accessed at www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown_bag/06-07.html.

FALL SEMESTER

September 12: Richard Grusin, Chair, English
"AFFECT, MEDIALITY, AND ABU GHRAIB"

September 13: Eileen Trzcinski, Professor and Interim Director of Research, School of Social Work
"THE JUSTICE ASPECTS OF PARENTAL LEAVE FOR FAMILIES: THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN EXPERIENCES"

September 19: Melba Boyd, Chair and Distinguished Professor, Africana Studies
"POETRY AND SCHOLARSHIP: RESEARCH FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION"

September 20: Denver Brunzman, Assistant Professor, History
"THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION'S FIRST VICTORY: ENDING BRITISH NAVAL IMPRESSMENT IN NORTH AMERICA, 1763-1769"

September 26: Arifa Javed, Lecturer, Sociology
"PACES AND PATTERNS OF ACCULTURATION AMONG POST-1990 IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA"

September 27: Caroline Maun, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
"MAPPING INTERIOR SPACES: THE EVOLUTION OF *THE SLEEPING*"

October 3: Avis Vidal, Professor, Geography and Urban Planning
"INTERACTIONS BETWEEN RACE AND SPACE: SOUTH AFRICA AND DETROIT"

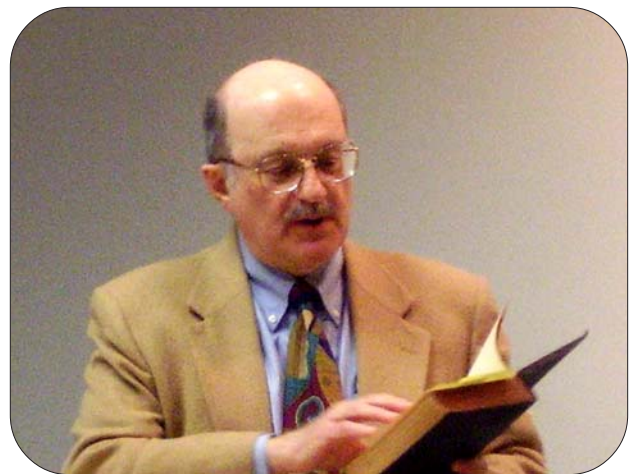
October 4: Sharon Vasquez, Dean, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts
"THE CRAFT OF CHOREOGRAPHY"

Below: **Roslyn Schindler**, Interdisciplinary Studies



The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series presented sixty-two talks given by Wayne State University faculty members and faculty from the University of Windsor.

Below: **Marvin Zalman**, Criminal Justice



October 10: Rayman Mohamed, Assistant Professor, Geography and Urban Planning
"POSSESSION AT THE HEART OF LAND USE LAW: A BEHAVIORAL PERSPECTIVE"

October 11: Lisa Maruca, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
"TEXT/TRADE/TECHNOLOGY: CONSTRUCTING PRINT LITERACY IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND"

October 17: Fred Wacker, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
"REFLECTIONS ON GAMBLING IN DETROIT: HUMANISTIC COSTS AND BENEFITS"

October 18: Anne Rothe, Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies
"CONSTRUCTING POST-HOLOCAUST GERMAN IDENTITIES IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE, 1946-2004 - AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT"

October 24: Catherine Barrette, Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures
"SCHOLARSHIP WITHIN LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTION"

October 25: Geoff Nathan, Associate Professor, English, & Margaret Winters, Professor and Chair, Romance Languages and Literatures
"A TALE OF TWO WORLDS: THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND FACULTY WORLD VIEWS"

Brown Bag Colloquium Series

Many Brown Bag presenters have expressed gratitude for feedback they received from the faculty and students who attended their talks. They particularly benefit from the perspectives of faculty from other disciplines.



October 31: Barrett Watten, Professor, English
"FRANCO LUAMBO MAKIADI'S UNIVERSALISM"

November 1: Amy Adamczyk, Assistant Professor, Sociology
"FRIENDS' RELIGIOSITY AND THE TIMING OF FIRST SEX"

November 7: Steven Palmer, Associate Professor, History,
University of Windsor
"SLAVERY AND THE PRODUCTION OF MEDICINE IN CUBA, 1800-1880"

November 8: Mary A. Wischusen, Associate Professor, Music
"FRANZ SCHUBERT AND THE POPULAR STYLE"

November 14: Debra Hernandez Jozfowicz-Simbeni, Assistant
Professor, School of Social Work & Coordinator of School Social
Work Practice
"CREATIVITY, THE ARTS, AND AUSTISM"

November 15: Anca Vlasopolos, Professor, English
"AMERICAN PATRIOTISM: NATHANIEL BOWDITCH AND THE END OF MONARCHY
AT SEA"

November 21: Thomas Killion, Chair, Anthropology
"ARCHITECTURE OF POWER: SOCIAL LANDSCAPES AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION
ON MEXICO'S SOUTHERN GULF COAST (CIRCA AD 700)"

November 29: John Reed, Distinguished Professor, English
"PERSONIFICATION IN DICKENS"

December 5: Frances Ranney, Associate Professor, English
"TECHNOLOGY AS SURROGATE: MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS AND 'LABOR-SAVING'
DEVICES"



Above: *Guerin Montilus, Anthropology*

December 6: Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, Basic Course Director,
Communication

"EROS IN THE CLASSROOM: DESIRE AND PASSION AS FOUNDATIONS OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING"

December 8: Mary Paquette-Abt, Visiting Scholar
"CITY LIFE AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE IN DETROIT, 1800 TO 1960"

December 12: Julie Klein, Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies,
Nardina Mein, IT Director I, University Libraries, Shawn McCall,
Web Librarian, Library Computing and Media Services & Steven
Shaviro, Professor, English

"HASTAC- HUMANITIES, ARTS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED
COLLABORATORY"

December 13: Suzanne Hilgendorf, Assistant Professor, German and
Slavic Studies & Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, Director, Foreign
Language Technology

"MOVING FROM A TRADITIONAL TEST DELIVERY TO AN ONLINE DELIVERY:
MANAGING THE CHANGE TO ONLINE LEARNING"

December 19: Robert A. Sedler, Distinguished Professor, Law
"THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE RELIGIOSITY
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE"



Above: *Members of the standing room-only audience that attended Richard Grusin's talk on September 12th.*

The Year in Photos

Right: **Bill Harris** and **Mary Paquette-Abt** talk after Dr. Harris' reading. One of the Humanities Center's main goals is to foster interdisciplinary conversations like this one.



Right: **Roberto Barbanti**, **Walter Edwards** and **James Michels** toward the end of Dr. Barbanti's stay as a Visiting Scholar.



Below: Student Research Assistant **Kelly Bennett** represented the Humanities Center at the Dean of Students Office's Annual Student Organization Day. Programs that cater to graduate and undergraduate students were highlighted.

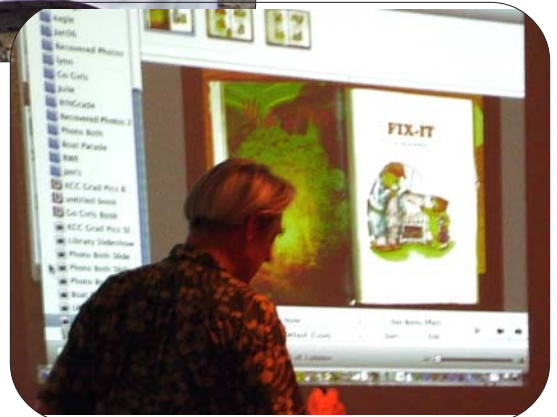


Above: **Kathleen McCrone**, Professor Emerita of History was one of four University of Windsor faculty to participate in our Brown Bag Series this year.



Above: **Mahmoud Abdalla** gave the final Brown Bag talk of the academic year: "The Future of Teaching and Learning Arabic in the US".

Right: **Jim Brown** shows the Brown Bag audience how images in basal readers can confuse children who are learning to read. Dr. Brown along with Dr. Karen Feathers and Dr. Poonam Arya spoke about the effects of basal readers on new readers' learning.



2006-2007 Events The Year in Photos



Left to right: Caroline Maun, Walter Edwards, Ken Jackson, Alfred Cobbs, and Diane Sybeldon attended the final Advisory Board meeting for the 2006-2007 Academic Year on May 10, 2007. Departing members are displaying Certificates of Recognition presented to them for their service.



Left: Erica Stevens Abbitt, one of our Brown Bag guest speakers from the faculty of the University of Windsor spoke about the representation of women and girls in theatre.



Left: Director Walter Edwards dines in Port- of-Spain, Trinidad with the President of the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad, Dr. Trevor G. Gardner, the VP for Financial Administration at USC, Matthew Greaves, Elvetha Telemaque and a fellow speaker from the International Literacy Conference. Dr. Edwards keynoted the conference.



Below: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs gave the welcoming remarks for the Fall Symposium on Immigration.



Left: Donyale Griffin and her research assistant used her Resident Scholar office space to work on Dr. Griffin's project, "Making a Case for Restorative Rhetoric" during the 2006-2007 academic year.



Right: The reception after this year's Faculty Fellows Conference was well-attended. Speakers and audience members had the chance to chat informally over light snacks and beverages.

2006-2007 Events

Brown Bag Colloquium Series



Below: **Monica White**, Sociology



WINTER SEMESTER

January 9: Roslyn Schindler, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies

"(RE)VISION OF A LIFE: MY MOTHER'S HOLOCAUST STORY"

January 10: Steven Shaviro, Professor and DeRoy Chair, English
"MONEY FOR NOTHING: VIRTUAL WORLDS AND VIRTUAL ECONOMIES"

January 16: Kathleen McCrone, Professor Emerita of History, University of Windsor
"...AND SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC WHEREVER SHE GOES': MUSIC AND THE WOMAN QUESTION IN LATE-VICTORIAN ENGLAND"

January 17: Ronald Brown, Associate Professor, Political Science, & Wassim Tarraf, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Political Science
"IS RACIAL SOLIDARITY POSSIBLE AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND CARIBBEAN BLACKS?"

January 23: James Hartway, Distinguished Professor, Music
"THREE MYTHS FOR PIANO: JAMES HARTWAY DISCUSSES SOME OF HIS ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS AND THE PRODUCTION OF HIS LATEST CHAMBER MUSIC CD"

January 24: Marvin Zalman, Professor, Criminal Justice
"EDWIN MONTEFIORE BORCHARD (1884 - 1951): SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THE WRONGLY CONVICTED AT YALE"

January 30: Jennifer Olmsted, Assistant Professor, Art and Art History
"ADMIRING THE ENEMY? FRENCH ARTISTS AND THE NORTH AFRICAN (ANTI)HERO, 1830-1850"

January 31: Richard Marback, Associate Professor, English
"UNCLENCHING THE FIST: MAKING SENSE OF EMBODYING RHETORIC"

Brown Bag talks are held twice a week in Faculty Administration Building's second floor conference room. This year's series also included a choral concert conducted by Norah Duncan IV held in the Community Arts Auditorium and a dance presentation by Sharon Vasquez in the Community Room of the David Adamany Undergraduate Library.

February 6: Monica White, Assistant Professor, Sociology
"FROM PICKING COTTON DOWN SOUTH TO PICKING STEEL UP SOUTH': THE SYMBOLIC CONSTRUCTION OF LIBERATION IN THE NEWSLETTERS OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS"

February 7: Norah Duncan IV, Associate Department Chair, Music
"A CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL: SONGS OF HOPE IN TIMES OF STRUGGLE"

February 13: Michele Ronnick, Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Latin
"THE CLASSICAL EDUCATION OF WILLIAM PICKENS: NAACP FIELD DIRECTOR"

February 14: Jocelyn Benson, Assistant Professor, Law School
"THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT"

February 20: Guerin Montilus, Professor, Anthropology
"FROM THE ADJA FON IN SOUTHERN BENIN TO HAITI IN THE CARIBBEAN, THE CONCEPT OF PERSONHOOD IN HAITIAN VODUN RELIGION: A STUDY IN THE SURVIVAL OF AFRICAN TRADITION AND VALUES IN THE AMERICAS"

February 21: Monte Piliawsky, Associate Professor, Education
"THE KILLING OF CLYDE KENNARD: MISSISSIPPI'S FORGOTTEN MARTYR"

FEBRUARY 22, 2007: ROBERTO BARBANTI, Department of Fine Arts, University of Paris, France
"TOWARD A NEW ESTH-ETHIC OF NATURE"

February 27: Irshad Altheimer, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
"FIREARMS AND CRIME: A CROSS-NATIONAL APPROACH"

February 28: Donyale Griffin, Assistant Professor, Communication
"CRISIS PREPARATION, MEDIA USE AND INFORMATION SEEKING: PATTERNS ACROSS KATRINA EVACUEES AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR CRISIS COMMUNICATION"



Above: **Jocelyn Benson**, Law School

2006-2007 Events

Brown Bag Colloquium Series

See page 29 for a list of talks which have already been scheduled for next year.



Above: **Norah Duncan IV** conducts *The Wayne State University Concert Chorale* in the *Schaver Music Recital Hall* for a special *Lecture Concert* on February 7, 2007.

March 6: Erica Stevens Abbitt, Assistant Professor, Dramatic Art, University of Windsor
 "RESISTING BODIES: PROMISE AND CHANGE IN THE REPRESENTATION OF GIRLS IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE ART"

March 7: Jeff Pruchnic, Assistant Professor, English
 "ON THE GENEALOGY OF MORTALS: RHETORIC, BIOTECHNOLOGIES OF THE SELF, AND THE ETHICS OF IMMORTALITY"

March 20: Ken Jackson, Associate Professor, English
 "THE CRAZY MIX OF POLITICS AND RELIGION THE OLD MEN SHAKESPEARE'S RICHARD II"

March 21: Robert Aguirre, Associate Professor, English
 "BEFORE THE CANAL: THE PANAMA RAILROAD IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN IMAGINATION"

March 27: Mysoon Rizk, Associate Professor University of Toledo
 "ONE LOVE, ONE BLOOD, ONE LIFE...BUT WE'RE NOT THE SAME': AIDS, BONO, AND DAVID WOJNAROWICZ; ART, SOCIAL ACTION, AND SPECIES SURVIVAL"

March 28: Bruce Russell, Professor, Philosophy
 "THE LIMITS OF PHILOSOPHY IN FILM"

April 3: James Michels, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
 "THE SATIRE OF DARIO Fo"

April 4: Stephen Pender, Director of Humanities Research Group, University of Windsor
 "RHETORIC, PHANTASMATA, AND THE HYDRAULICS OF GRIEF "

April 10: Melvin Small, Distinguished Professor, History
 "ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE IN WWII"

April 11: Raffaele De Benedictis, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures
 "REVISITING INFERNO III"

April 17: Jeff Noonan, Associate Professor and Head of Philosophy, University of Windsor
 "LIFE-GROUNDED ETHICAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY"

April 18: Suzanne Hilgendorf, Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies
 "ENGLISH IN THE GLOBAL MARKET: THE IMPACT IN THE GERMAN BUSINESS DOMAIN"

April 24: Karen Feathers, Associate Professor, Education, Poonam Arya, Associate Professor, Education & James Brown, Lecturer, Education
 "THE IMPACT OF EARLY LITERACY TEXTS ON CHILDREN'S EYE MOVEMENTS AND READING PROCESS"

April 25: Bill Harris, Professor, English
 "READING FROM A WORK IN PROGRESS: A DARK TIME IN THE WHITE CITY"

May 1: Mahmoud Abdalla, Assistant Professor, Near Eastern and Asian Studies
 "THE FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ARABIC IN THE US"



Above: **Stephen Pender**, Director of the *Humanities Research Group*, University of Windsor

2007-2008 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

“Sovereignty, Justice and the Law Across Disciplines”



Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowships Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was “Sovereignty, Justice and the Law Across Disciplines.” Fellowships provide Wayne State University faculty with funding to help pay for expenses related to their research projects, including travel, research assistance, salary and fringe benefits. Awarded Fellowships average \$6,000 and recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows Conference held in the following spring (see pages 12-13 for this year's conference). Below are brief descriptions of the six projects that were selected for funding this year.

2007-2008

FACULTY FELLOWS

THOMAS ABOWD

Assistant Professor,
Anthropology

DENVER BRUNSMAN

Assistant Professor,
History

OLLIE JOHNSON

Assistant Professor,
Africana Studies

Thomas Abowd, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, has received a Faculty Fellowship for his project “*Laws of the Land*” This research project will examine legal practices, the politics of sovereignty, and struggles for justice in the current context of Israeli military occupation. This ongoing, two- year project explores the ways in which Palestinians (as the occupied population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem), have been subject to a range of Israeli legal mechanisms of exclusion and expropriation within the realms of land and housing. These forty-year-old laws, prohibitions, and practices are, themselves, illegal under International Law (specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention governing military occupation). However, these measures have continued unabated since the advent of Israeli occupation in 1967, impacting both Arab and Jew in transformative ways.

The research will explore three sets of interrelated concerns: 1) How, since 1967, have Israeli land laws functioned to sustain the state's rule over the West Bank and East Jerusalem? What legal strategies have been developed by the occupying power to control and reconfigure Palestinian land? To what extent have such practices—spatial, legal, and discursive—strengthened Israeli claims to sovereignty over these territories as against those of the Palestinians? 2) How have Israeli legal measures been deployed to contain, regulate, and promote various kinds of housing? In what ways have Palestinian efforts at home building been criminalized and deemed “illegal”? What have been the demographic implications of such restrictions on Palestinian building and the concurrent construction of Jewish settlements? And 3) How, in recent years, have Israelis and Palestinians established new kinds of inter-communal solidarity, cooperation, and activism in an age of intensified military occupation? To what degree have forms of struggle and emerging communities of resistance across national boundaries been fostered in the quest toward justice and peaceful coexistence?

Denver Brunsmann, Assistant Professor of History, was awarded a fellowship for “*The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World.*” Dr. Brunsmann will be using his Faculty

Fellowship to help complete his book *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*. The book is the first study of British naval impressment throughout the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. British press gangs composed of anywhere from two to a dozen men used violence or the threat of violence to capture thousands of sailors to serve in the British Royal Navy. Until the navy stopped impressing sailors in 1815 those who were captured remained in the service until they died, they escaped, or a particular war ended – whichever came first.

The topic of impressment is an ideal fit for the Humanities Center's theme as forced naval service raised fundamental issues of “sovereignty, justice, and the law” in the eighteenth century. Dr. Brunsmann uses the controversy over the legality of impressment to explore its broad social, political, and cultural influence in the “long” eighteenth century (1688-1815). In drawing upon Royal Navy archival records, ships' logs, merchants' papers, personal letters, and diaries as well as engravings, political tracts, sea ballads, and other printed materials, his book argues that impressment acted as both an integrative and destructive force in Britain's early empire. Press gangs helped to bring Britain and its Atlantic territories into a common system of maritime defense. Yet they also violated seamen's liberties, destabilized seaports, and mobilized entire colonies against the navy's presence. Used in the name of liberty, impressment became synonymous with tyranny for British subjects throughout the Atlantic in the eighteenth century.

Ollie Johnson, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, has received a grant for his project entitled “*Affirmative Action and Racial Justice in Brazil.*” Affirmative action has been one of the most significant developments in Brazilian politics since the return to civilian rule in 1985. Local and state governments, universities, and private institutions throughout the country have proposed, debated, and in many cases implemented policies to include members of the national population who had been excluded, underrepresented or simply absent. Women, African descendants, public high school graduates, indigenous people, the poor, and the disabled have often been the target beneficiary groups. Despite

2007-2008 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

“Sovereignty, Justice and the Law Across Disciplines”

This year, the Center awarded fellowships for six projects proposed by faculty members from six different departments or programs in the humanities and related disciplines.



the good intentions of its earliest sponsors, affirmative action has become a very polarizing public policy issue. In general, the debate has tended to reduce the variety of policies to “racial quotas” and narrow the potential beneficiaries to “blacks.” This project traces the Afro-Brazilian struggle to place the topics of racial inequality and racial discrimination on the country’s political agenda. Affirmative action has been a longstanding demand of the black movement. Unacceptable black living conditions and historical white resistance to recognizing Brazilian racism have led many black leaders to support affirmative action in general and racial quotas in particular. Most black leaders are demanding expansion and deepening of affirmative action and more political action against poverty. This proposal examines affirmative action laws and policies in Brasilia, the nation’s capital, and two states, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia, as demands for racial justice in Brazil.

Christopher Peters, Associate Professor of Law, has been awarded a grant for his project, *“A Matter of Dispute: Law, Democracy, and Disagreement in America.”* In this book project, Dr. Peters argues that the basic legal and political institutions of modern constitutional democracy — majority voting in the electorate and in the legislature; adjudication by means of active litigant participation and subject to principles of legislative supremacy; the imposition of constitutional limitations on the decisionmaking of majoritarian government; and the rendering of binding constitutional interpretations by relatively nonmajoritarian courts — can be understood, and defended, as implications of a particularly convincing kind of response to the problem of legal authority. In brief, each of these institutions is a type of *reasonably accurate dispute resolution*; and it is the dispute-resolving function of law that gives it its authority — its capacity to tell us to take actions that we believe to be wrong.

Brad Roth, Associate Professor of Political Science and Law, has received a grant for his project *“Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement”* The book project will accomplish two tasks. One is to construct a unifying

account of the manifestations of the principle of sovereign equality in international legal norms governing a range of subject areas, from foundational matters such as the recognition of states and governments to controversial questions such as legal authority for extraterritorial criminal prosecution and armed intervention. The other is to defend the principle as a morally sound response to persistent and profound disagreement within the international community as to the requirements of legitimate and just internal public order. Sovereignty entails three presumptions: (1) a state is presumed to be obligated only to the extent of its actual or constructive consent; (2) a state’s obligations, while fully binding internationally on the state as a corporative entity, are presumed to have direct legal effect within the state only to the extent that domestic law has incorporated them; and (3) the inviolability of a control over a field of activity).

May Seikaly, Chair of Near Eastern and Asian Studies, has received a fellowship for *“Women Usher in Waves of Change in the Arabian Gulf.”* This research project will investigate the socio-political history of the Arabian Gulf states of Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE (Dubai) through the lens of women’s experience and agency. Written and archival sources will be used for background research, but primarily oral history techniques will be employed. In this study, women will voice their distinct experience expressing their own understanding of the underpinnings of social change, concepts of gender discourse and regional transformation during the last twenty-five years, as well as their own role in defining their societies. Within Middle Eastern studies, research on the social history of the Arabian Gulf is limited. Furthermore, research on Gulf women is even more limited and begs for publications with sociohistorical analysis that takes into consideration the current patterns of socio-political change in the region.

This project will fill a significant gap within the fields of Middle East Studies, History, and Women’s Studies by providing a social history of Gulf women mediated through women’s experiences and contributions.

2007-2008 FACULTY FELLOWS

CHRISTOPHER PETERS

Associate Professor,
Law

BRAD ROTH

Associate Professor,
Political Science and
Law

MAY SEIKALY

Chair,
Near Eastern and
Asian Studies

2006-2007 Grant Projects

Innovative Projects



Through its Innovative Projects program, the Humanities Center funded faculty members from various disciplines who conducted innovative research in the humanities and arts. This year, the Center's Advisory Board selected four projects for funding, awarding them a total of \$13,000. Descriptions of the funded projects are below.

2006-2007 RECIPIENTS

PAMELA DeLAURA

Art and Art History

EVAN LARSON

Art and Art History

VISUAL

BIOGRAPHIES,

Students from the

Detroit Public School

Catherine Ferguson

Academy

PAMELA DeLAURA

Art and Art History

EVAN LARSON

Art and Art History

VISUAL BIOGRAPHIES, Students from the D.P.S. Catherine Ferguson Academy

“Visual Biographies” involves eight to ten students from The Catherine Ferguson Academy, a public school for pregnant teenagers and young mothers. Professors DeLaura and Larson and graduate students will talk with the students about a variety of topics. These conversations will help construct each visual biography which will consist of layers of semi-transparent blueprints, each representing a layer of the student’s life. The first layer will be a portrait of the student followed by portraits of their baby, a written narrative, pictures of family, friends, home, etc. These “Visual Biographies” of young citizens of Detroit will acknowledge and embrace their efforts to balance the layers of motherhood, school, and home. Viewers entering the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery will be able to “read” each biography by lifting the individual layers, creating a more tangible connection to the “individual” as they are no longer a part of an “invisible” statistic. This grant will be used by Professors DeLaura and Larson to purchase materials, chemicals and related expenses involved with transportation to and from conversation and photo sites.

LJILJANA PROGovac

English

Rudimentary Grammar

in the Evolution of

Human Language

JUANITA ANDERSON

Communication

Cinematic Senegal

ena illustrate the use of a rudimentary grammar, which represents a fossil/trace of a simpler stage of grammar in the evolution of language. In addition, each of these phenomena characterizes a stage in language acquisition by young children, which provides corroborating evidence for an evolutionary approach.

JUANITA ANDERSON

Communication

Cinematic Senegal

Funding from the Humanities Center Innovative Projects initiative will support the production of *Cinematic Senegal*, a video documentary project that explores the relationship between filmmakers, their films, and the world in which they create. Set in the context of recent promises of debt relief and heightened interest in Africa on the part of the world’s most wealthy nations, this hour-length documentary journeys across time to examine the concerns and commentary by Senegalese filmmakers on such issues as political accountability, economic dependency, urbanization, gender, class, cultural traditions, development, and a 21st Century African future.

BARRETT WATTEN

English

CARLA HARRYMAN

English

CHARLES J. STIVALE

Romance Languages and Literatures

Revisioning Authors:

Colloquia on

Modernists and

Postmodern Authorship

LJILJANA PROGovac

English

Rudimentary Grammar in the Evolution of

Human Language

This project purports to establish, with concrete linguistic analysis and data, that modern languages preserve “fossils”/traces of grammar/syntax of previous stages of language evolution. The project is a result of a convergence of analysis of two other (seemingly) unrelated projects of mine: (i) the analysis of nonsentential speech (i.e. speech that does not involve full sentences, but rather phrases or “small clauses”) and (ii) the analysis of so-called “exocentric” (in the sense that their meaning is not transparent from the pieces that compose them) compounds in Serbian, English, and other languages. My basic argument is that both phenom-

BARRETT WATTEN

English

CARLA HARRYMAN

English

CHARLES J. STIVALE

Romance Languages and Literatures

Revisioning Authors: Colloquia on Modernists and

Postmodern Authorship

This is a proposal to stage a series of four “author-based” mini-colloquia that will bring into focus the advantages and disadvantages of authorship for literary and cultural studies. The purpose of these events will be both to explore the revisionist importance of the four selected authors, and to think more broadly about the status of the author as a form of cultural reproduction—as a site for the reflection on and reproduction of values held by cultures more generally. The four proposed programs would take place over 2007—8, one or two per semester over four semesters (Winter 2007 to Fall 2008), and would begin with a colloquium on the work of postmodern fiction writer Kathy Acker.

2006-2007 Fellowships Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship

In an effort to foster exemplary doctoral dissertation work among humanities students at Wayne State, the Humanities Center offers an annual fellowship competition for PhD candidates. For 2006-2007, the Humanities Center selected one dissertation fellow, Naoki Kambe, and one awardee, Kathryn Beard. This program is partially supported by an annual cash gift of \$6,000 to \$8,000 from the Edward M. Wise Estate.



Above: The late Edward M. Wise



Above: Fellow Naoki Kambe summarizes his dissertation.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Humanities Center offers \$12,000 in support each year to one student in the final stages of writing his or her dissertation through the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship for Doctoral Students in the Humanities and Arts. The Fellow may also be eligible for tuition reimbursement for up to 10 non-audit dissertation credits. In addition, the Center may disburse additional awards each worth up to \$1,000. This year the Fellowship was once again supported by a gift of \$7,000 from the estate of the late Edward M. Wise, administered by his widow, Professor Sandra VanBurkleo. This year, one fellow, Naoki Kambe, received the \$12,000 award. Additionally, one awardee, Kathryn Beard received \$3,000.

The late Edward M. Wise was a Wayne State University Professor of Law. He was a Humanities Center Fellow in 1997 and 2000 and a Humanities Center Resident Scholar in 1999-2000. Dr. Wise passed away in October 2000.

2007 AWARDEES

Edward M. Wise Fellow
NAOKI KAMBE
Communication
Department

The Rhetoric of "Proper" Citizenship in Contemporary Japan: A Case of the Japanese Hostage Crisis in Iraq

Awardee
KATHRYN BEARD

History Department

"Higher than those of their race of Less Fortunate Advantages": Race, Ethnicity, and Political Leadership in Detroit's African American Community 1885-1940

EDWARD M. WISE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD LUNCHEON

This annual award luncheon is traditionally held in conjunction with the Humanities Center's Faculty Fellows Conference (see page 12-13). **Hayg Oshagan**, Graduate Officer of the Communication Department moderated the event which was attended by conference participants and the two recipients' dissertation advisors, department chairs and friends. **Dr. Oshagan and Walter F. Edwards**, Director of the Humanities Center, presented certificates to this year's fellow, **Naoki Kambe**, and awardee **Kathryn Beard**. Naoki Kambe's project, *The Rhetoric of "Proper" Citizenship in Contemporary Japan: A Case of the Japanese Hostage Crisis in Iraq* analyzed the rhetorical production and cultural practice of proper citizenship in contemporary Japan which became visible through various public discourses during the Japanese hostage crisis in Iraq that happened in 2004. Kathryn Beard's project, *"Higher than those of their race of Less Fortunate Advantages": Race, Ethnicity, and Political Leadership in Detroit's African American Community 1885-1940* provided a historical framework for the examination of Detroit's present-day community of Caribbean immigrants.

Both award recipients made short presentations on their dissertations.



Above: Kathryn Beard, Edward M. Wise Awardee

2006-2007 Sponsored Programs

Working Groups



WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

BRAZILIAN STUDIES

Marion Jackson, *Art & Art History*
Renata Wasserman, *English*
Leslie Marsh, *Romance Languages & Literatures*
Arthur Marotti, *English*
Ollie A. Johnson, *Africana Studies*
Guerin Montilus, *Anthropology*
Allen Batteau, *Anthropology*

JUSTICE STUDIES NORMATIVE AND EMPIRICAL APPROACHES

Brad Roth, *Political Science*
Sandra VanBurkleo, *History*
Sheldon Alexander, *Psychology*
James Chalmers, *Political Science*
Marvin Zalman, *Criminal Justice*

RESISTANCE AND IDENTITY IN THE AMERICAS

Sandra Hobbs, *Romance Languages*
Victor Figueroa, *Romance Languages*
Ollie Johnson, *Africana Studies*
Luisa Quintera, *Romance Languages*
Kelly Young, *Communication*

COMPUTERS AND WRITING 2007 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Jeff Rice, *Digital Literacies, English*
Richard Marback,
Compositional Rhetoric, English
Richard Grusin, *Film, English*

The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among Wayne State University faculty members. Each group consists of faculty members from different disciplines and may include graduate students as well.

Below, each group outlines its activities during the 2006-2007 academic year.

BRAZILIAN STUDIES

7 members from 5 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Marion Jackson

During the academic year, the Brazilian Studies Working Group held informal Portuguese conversation hours that were attended by faculty, staff and students of Wayne State. The Group also sponsored informal culture presentations, or *bate papos*. In the Fall semester, Leslie Marsh gave an informal talk on the Brazilian actress and singer Carmen Miranda followed by a screening and discussion of the documentary "Bananas is my Business" by Helena Solberg. In the Winter semester, Antônio Luciano A. Tosta, assistant professor of Brazilian Literature and Culture at the University of Illinois, gave a talk entitled "Latinidade and the Politics of Identification in Bazuca/Brazilian-American Novels." The third cultural presentation featured a local *capoeira* group that demonstrated to an audience of Wayne State faculty, staff and students the movements and music of this Afro-Brazilian martial art. Several faculty and students joined in to learn *capoeira* and the event culminated in a *samba da roda* with all attendees fervently dancing samba in a circle. Humanities Center funds were used to bring Prof. Tosta and the *capoeira* group to campus, provide overnight lodging, and offer an honorarium. Lastly, Renata Wasserman and Leslie Marsh met on several occasions to draft a proposal for a minor in Brazilian Studies, which is currently in the final stages of development and intends to take advantage of the established institutional connections between Wayne State University and Universities in Brazil.

JUSTICE STUDIES NORMATIVE AND EMPIRICAL APPROACHES

5 members from 4 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Brad Roth

The Justice Studies Working Group was dormant this past academic year and did not request or use any Humanities Center funds. The group wishes to maintain its status as a Humanities Center Working Group so that it may be revived when necessary.

RESISTANCE AND IDENTITY IN THE AMERICAS

5 members from 3 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Sandra Hobbs

The group met six times during this academic year. Each meeting focused on a reading chosen by one of the members. Our readings this year were selections from: *Caliban* (R.F. Retamar), *Pour une poétique du divers* (Édouard Glissant), *The Impure Imagination :Toward a Critical Hybridity in Latin American Writing* (Joshua Lund), *The Idea of Latin America* (Walter Dignolo), Film *Les Maîtres fous* by Jean Rouch and reading from *Mimesis and Alterity* (Michael Taussig), *Más que un indio* (Charles Hale). In addition, the group presented a panel at the 2007 Center for the Study of Citizenship Annual Conference: Race and Citizenship. The panel was entitled "Subaltern Identity in the Americas: Resistance to Dominant Narratives of Nationality in the Aftermath of Colonialism". Panel members were Victor Figueroa, Sandra Hobbs, Leslie Marsh and Luisa Quintero. The group focused on the panel presentation at the Race and Citizenship Conference. We used the Humanities Center Working Group funds to pay conference registration fees for the four members who presented a paper. We still have \$440 dollars remaining, which we plan to use in Fall 2007 to organize a videoconference with and invited speaker to be determined.

COMPUTERS AND WRITING 2007 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

3 members from 3 sub-disciplines of English Studies
Group Leader: Jeff Rice

The Computers and Writing 2007 Organizing Committee arranged the May 17-20 Computers and Writing conference at Wayne State University. Titled "Virtual Urbanism", the conference is bringing to Wayne State almost 300 attendees who will give papers, attend and support workshops, and participate in an all day research network. The Humanities Center grant has helped bring one speaker to the event, Helen Liggett, Professor of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Dr. Liggett will present on her work with visuality and urban issues.

INTEGRATING ONLINE LEARNING COMPONENTS THROUGH COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

5 members from 4 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan

Members met approximately once per month throughout the academic year. There are plans to continue meeting through the summer. We expanded the group to include two new members: graduate students Anyuta Eddy from

2006-2007 Sponsored Programs Working Groups

Working Groups meet regularly throughout the year for scholarly interaction as well as to plan special events such as guest lectures and colloquia. This year the Center supported Working Groups by providing meeting space and up to \$1000 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational needs.



WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

INTERGRATING ONLINE LEARNING COMPONENTS THROUGH COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, *FLTC*
Suzanne K. Hilgendorf, *German and Slavic*
Sandra Hobbs, *Romance Languages*
Haiyong Liu, *Near Eastern Languages*
Alexandra Pakh, *German and Slavic*
Anyuta Eddy, *German and Slavic*
Pierluigi Erbaggio, *Romance Languages and Literatures*

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

Susan Vineberg, *Philosophy*
Robert R. Bruner, *Mathematics*
Sean Stidd, *Philosophy*
Madeline Muntersbjorn, *Philosophy*
Eric Hiddleston, *Philosophy*
Jill Dieterle, *Philosophy at EMU*
Jamie Tappenden, *Philosophy at U of M*
Mohammed Abouzhar, *Philosophy*
John Burn, *Philosophy*

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY CORE MEMBERS

Marsha Richmond, *Interdisciplinary Studies*
William Lynch, *Interdisciplinary Studies*
Al Saperstein, *Physics*

German & Slavic Studies and Pierluigi Erbaggio from Romance Languages and Literatures. Group members presented on their current uses of technology in their teaching. Several members have further developed instructional technology projects because of discussions within the group. We have identified new instructional technology initiatives for group members for the upcoming academic year. We participated in two teleconferences during the academic year, one on 'Online Language Learning and Instruction: Perspectives & Experiences' and another on 'Creating Hybrid Courses.' We have begun making plans to present our work as a panel at national conferences such as CALICO 2008, and ACTFL 2008. Group members have begun drafting articles on their projects for journal publication. Alexandra Pákh, Pierluigi Erbaggio, Suzanne Hilgendorf, and Sandra Hobbs have applied for FLTC Mini-grants to fund the development of new instructional technology projects for the coming academic year. Because the conferences where we plan to present our work have higher than average registration fees, we decided it would be best to use our allotted funds for this year towards subsidizing registration fees for our conference panel presentation. We plan to reapply for funding from the Humanities Center to support the Working group beyond this first year and to present a panel in February 2008 as part of the Humanities Center's Brown Bag series.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

9 members from 2 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Susan Vineberg

This year the Philosophy of Mathematics Working Group hosted Sarah Hoffman, Chair of Philosophy at the University of Saskatchewan. Her talk was entitled "Mathematics and Imagination". The event was our best attended to date. In addition to all of the core members of the group, the event was attended by most of the faculty and graduate students from the Philosophy Department, as well as some Math Department representatives. Jill Dieterle from Eastern Michigan University also attended. The feedback, especially from the students, was very positive. During Sarah's visit, we made tentative plans for a session on mathematical fictionalism for next year's Canadian Philosophical Association meeting. This year Susan Vineberg presented a paper "Mathematical Explanation and Ontology" at the Realist/Antirealist discussion group meeting held in conjunction with the Eastern

Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. The paper was a new piece on explanation in mathematics, which was the main topic that our working group concerned itself with last year. The session was arranged by Otavio Bueno, who made a presentation to the working group several years ago, and included Jody Azzouni who has also participated in the working group. Susan also served as a commentator on a paper on the philosophy of mathematics at the APA last year. The invitation came from attention from an earlier work on explanation that was associated with some of the Philosophy of Mathematics Working Group's previous activities.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

32 members from 11 different disciplines or sub-disciplines

Group Leader: Marsha Richmond

The Working Group on Science and Society has been supported by the Humanities Center for the past five years. During this period, a cohort of individuals drawn from many different departments across the campus has formed through their interest in broad questions connected with science, particularly social and humanistic dimensions connected with scientific activity. This year we scheduled a series of brownbag lectures in the Winter semester which included: 29 March: Tom Moeller (History / Interdisciplinary Studies), "The Lysenko Affair"; 12 April: Steven Shaviro (English), "Bioaesthetics"; 23 April: William Moore and Kathleen Miglia (Biology) "Inferring Evolutionary History: Philosophical and Methodological Problems and 'Solutions' Illustrated by Avian Studies". The email list of the Working Group on Science and Society (Sci/Soc) is large—32 members. The discussion following the sessions is frequently lively, and these conversations sometimes foster new interdisciplinary attachments among faculty who would not ordinarily come together. We feel, therefore, that Sci/Soc has been a valuable addition to the intellectual life of the University, and we hope to continue its existence in the future by seeking continuing Humanities Center sponsorship in the Fall semester.

2006-2007 Sponsored Programs

Munusculum & Graduate Student Travel



MUNUSCULUM (SMALL GRANT PROGRAM)

MUNUSCULUM GRANT RECIPIENTS

THOMAS ABOARD
Anthropology

JEFFREY ABT
Art and Art History

**HERMINA G.B.
ANGHELESCU**
Library and
Information Science

DORA APEL
Art and Art History

ALFRED COBBS
German and Slavic
Studies

LISA MARUCA
Interdisciplinary
Studies

DAPHNE NTIRI
Interdisciplinary
Studies

ANCA VLASOPOLOS
English

Beginning in 2002-2003, the Center has set aside up to \$4,000 per year for a "Small Grants" program. The program offers awards of up to \$300 to help faculty with the following academic expenses: data base searches to support research and creative projects; reproduction (photographs, microfilms, videos) of materials viewed at libraries or museums; costs of using copyrighted materials in publications; artwork or photographs used in publications; production of camera-ready manuscripts; and direct subvention to publishers, but excludes travel expenses. Requests are funded on a first-come-first-serve basis until the budget is exhausted.

This year eight faculty members received small grants: Thomas Abowd, Jeffrey Abt, Hermina G.B. Angheliescu, Dora Apel, Alfred Cobbs, Lisa Maruca, Daphne Ntiri, Anca Vlasopolos.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL

The Humanities Center annually budgets funds to encourage graduate students in the humanities and the arts to present their research or artistic work at national conferences and exhibitions. To apply for this funding, graduate students must include a personal statement indicating how presenting their work will help them further their understanding of the topic and help their academic or future professional careers. Graduate students outside of the humanities are also free to apply if their talks are of particular interest to scholars in the humanities and the arts.

The Center offered up to \$400 in travel assistance to successful applicants. The following eleven graduate students took advantage of this program this year:

MELISSA AMES
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ALANA BARTOL
ART AND ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT

JULIE BORKIN
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER BOYD
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

KIMBERLY CHANDLER
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

ERICA CONLEY
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

GIOVANNA FOLLO
SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

RENUKA GUSAIN
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

TARA HAYES
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

JUSTIN PRYSTASH
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL SCHMIDT
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



CONFERENCES ATTENDED

*AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING*

EVOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

*FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GROUP FOR
EARLY MODERN CULTURAL
STUDIES CONFERENCE*

*LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE ON
LITERATURE AND CULTURE SINCE
1900*

*NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
CONFERENCE*

*NATIONAL COMMUNICATION
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE*

*NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT
ANNUAL MEETING*

*NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT
CONFERENCE*

RENAISSANCE DRAMA IN ACTION

*SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY
AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS*

*SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE ART
CONFERENCE*

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Center, in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Law School and the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts invites applications from scholars or artists who are affiliated with other universities and who hold the Ph.D. or equivalent degree for their field. Faculty with lower degrees from universities in developing countries are also considered.

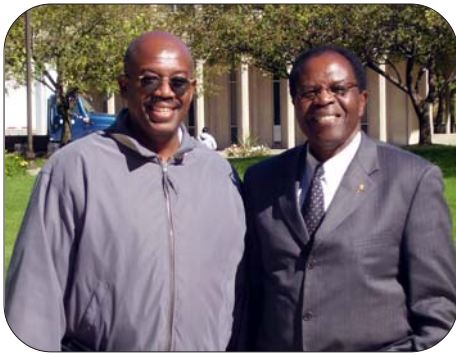


During the 2006-2007 Academic Year, the Center hosted four Visiting Scholars.

DEREK ARCHER

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES,
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

Derek Archer from the University of Guyana visited the Humanities Center October 1, 2006 through October 6, 2006. During his visit, Dr. Archer met with Dr. Margaret Winters, the Chair of the Romance Languages and Literatures Department, toured the Foreign Language Technology Center, observed introductory and intermediate French classes, attended two Brown Bag Colloquia, and met with Dr. David Austell, Executive Director of the Office of International Programs and Dr. Kate Paesani, Assistant Professor of French.



Above: *Derek Archer and Walter Edwards on the lawn of the Faculty Administration Building*

MARY PAQUETTE-ABT

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

Dr. Mary Paquette-Abt was in residence at the Humanities Center for the Fall 2006 Semester. While in residence, Dr. Paquette-Abt researched music performance in Detroit from 1800 to 1960, and focusing on how musical practices in Detroit participated in larger cultural trends in the U.S., as a first step toward a social and cultural history of music in Detroit. She gave a public talk entitled "City Life and Music Performance in Detroit, 1800 to 1960," on December 8, 2006.



Above: *Mary Paquette-Abt gives her public lecture on December 8, 2006.*

ROBERTO BARBANTI

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF PARIS,
FRANCE

Dr. Roberto Barbanti, from the University of Paris came to visit the Humanities Center for four weeks in February. He gave a public lecture entitled "Toward a New Esth-Ethic of Nature" on February 22, 2007. Dr. Barbanti also participated in the February Resident Scholars Roundtable. During his short visit, he worked closely with Dr. James Michels of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department on a project examining the emergence in the arts and contemporary literature of a new esthetic-ethical problem from the interactions of the biosphere-semiosphere-technosphere dynamic.



Above: *Roberto Barbanti lectured on "Toward a New Esth-Ethic of Nature".*

MYSOON RIZK

DEPARTMENT OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO,
OHIO

Visiting scholar Mysoon Rizk joined the Humanities Center of Wayne State University from March 5 to May 31, 2007 to work on her book about American artist David Wojnarowicz (1954-92). On March 27, she gave a Brown Bag

talk, entitled "'One Love, One Blood, One Life....But We're Not the Same': AIDS, Bono, and Wojnarowicz; Art, Social Action, and Species Survival." She also participated in other events sponsored by the Humanities Center, greatly benefiting from the intellectual rigor and collegial generosity of Wayne's academic community.

During her residency, she reviewed page proofs for a Wojnarowicz essay forthcoming in the exhibition catalog *Held Together with Water: Art from the Verbund Collection* (Vienna, Austria: Museum of Applied Arts|Contemporary Art, Hatje Cantz). She also produced entries on two contemporary artists, Mona Hatoum and Sara Shamma, for the *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East* (Farmington Hills, MI: Thompson Gale). In addition, she sent off a Wojnarowicz-related essay for consideration in a forthcoming anthology called *Animals and Agency*. She received, moreover, conference acceptances for two papers and one session proposal that engage the emergent and interdisciplinary field of human-animal studies.

Her session, "Animals Are Us", featuring five speakers, takes place in Charleston, WV at the Southeastern College Art Conference in October 2007. Her papers, considering different facets of Wojnarowicz's post-humanism and his complex use of animal representations, will be presented in Toronto, Ontario, October 2007 (*Nature Matters: Materiality and the More-than-Human in Cultural Studies of the Environment*, York University), and Hobart, Australia, July 2007 (*Animals and Society II: Considering Animals*, University of Tasmania). The latter trip has since received faculty development funding by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Research at the University of Toledo (where she teaches full-time in the Department of Art).



Above: *Mysoon Rizk in her office at the Humanities Center.*

Program & Support Expenditures



EXPENDITURES FOR 2006-2007

(EXCLUDING STAFF SALARIES)

BROWN BAG LECTURES
\$700.00

**FALL SYMPOSIUM & FACULTY FELLOWS
CONFERENCE**
\$13,379.00

RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM
\$6,200.00

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS
\$28,000.00

WORKING GROUPS
\$4,308.00

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS
\$13,000.00

SMALL GRANTS - MUNUSCULUM
\$1,642.07

EDWARD M. WISE FELLOWSHIP AWARDS
\$8,000.00

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL
\$4,800.00

VISITING SCHOLARS
\$7,500.00

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
\$3,500.00

EQUIPMENT RENTALS
\$10.00

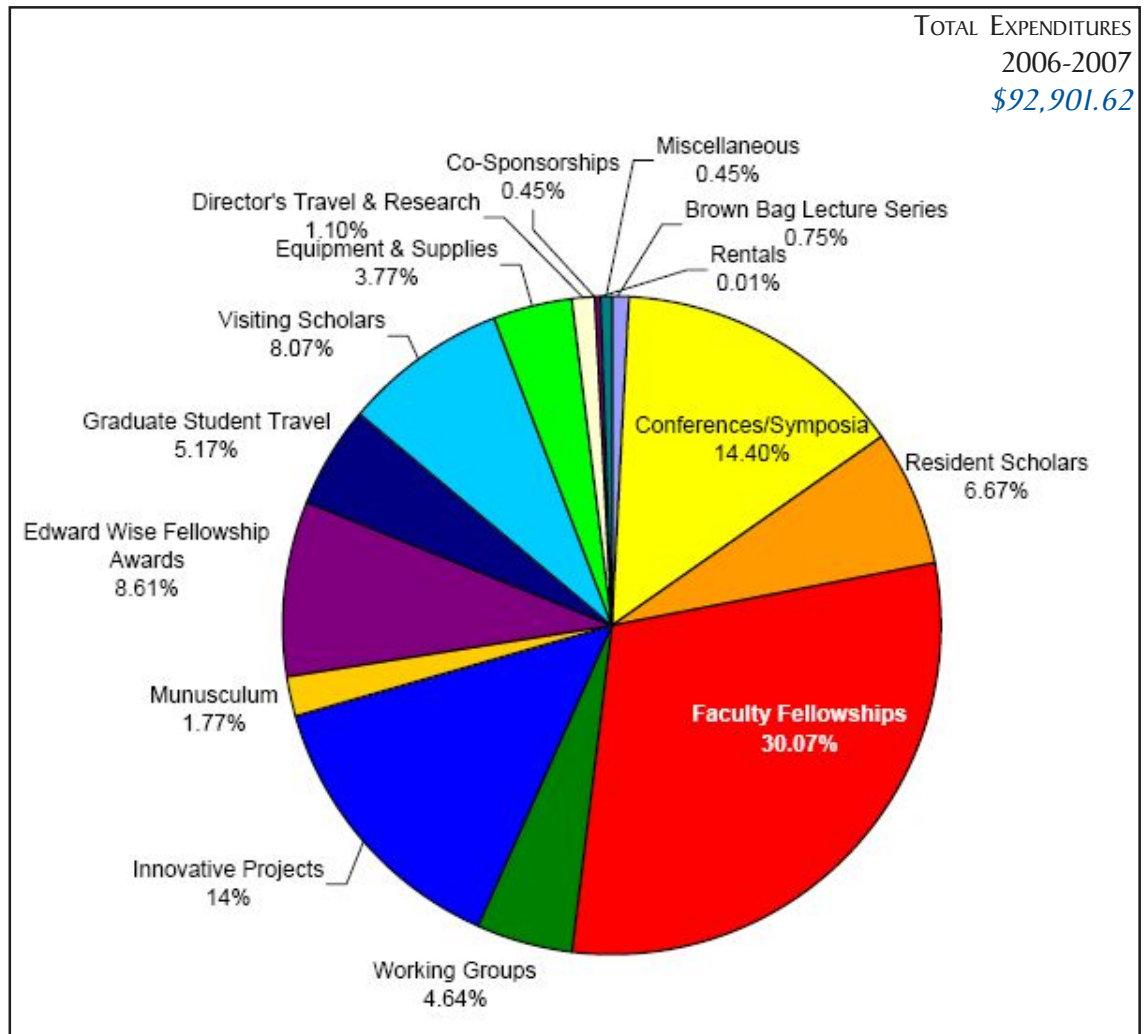
CO-SPONSORSHIPS
\$420.00

MISCELLANEOUS (SOFTWARE, ETC.)
\$420.00

DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL AND RESEARCH
\$1,022.55

The Humanities Center uses the vast majority of its operating funds for projects which enrich the University's research capabilities in the humanities and arts. The Center receives its annual budget from the interest on its endowment. In addition, the Edward M. Wise Estate contributed \$7,000 this year to support the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship. The Center continued to operate with reduced funds from its endowment and in the context of the increased cost of supplies and equipment needed to run its programs. Nonetheless, we were able to provide funds to support all of our programs.

BELOW: 2006-2007 HUMANITIES CENTER EXPENDITURES
FOR PROGRAMS AND SUPPLIES



The Brown Bag Colloquium Series for next year promises to be as exciting as the 2006-2007 season, with 63 talks already scheduled. Below is the list of scheduled talks. (Subject to change).

A Look Ahead: 2007-2008 Activities

Brown Bag Colloquium Series

- September 11** Robert Burgoyne, *Professor, English*, “World Trade Center and United 93 - Traumatic Historical Film?”
September 12 Sharon F. Lean, *Assistant Professor, Political Science*, “Protest and the Public Sphere in Mexico”
September 18 Susan Frekko, *Lecturer, Anthropology*, “Ideologies of Language in Catalonia”
September 19 Max Nelson, *Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Windsor*, “300 and the Ancient and Modern Idealization of the Spartans”
- September 25** Ljiljana Progovac, *Professor, English*, “Sex and Syntax: Explaining Human Grammars through Evolutionary Forces”
September 26 Kathryn Lindberg, *Professor, English* & Thomas Featherstone, *Archivist III, Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs*, “Shot in Silence: Labor Photography and Commentary in Black and Red, 1932-34”
- October 2** Karen Tonso, *Associate Professor, Education* & Jorge Prosperi *Detroit Country Day*, “Poetics from the Heart”
October 3 Ken Walters, *Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Latin*, “Bearding Brutus: Paradigmatic Pressure and the Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic”
October 9 Charles Stivale, *Distinguished Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures*, “Boy2 Men: The Collaborative Erotics of the Brothers Goncourt”
- October 10** Jeff Rebudal, *Assistant Professor, Dance*, “Reinventing Opera: The Role of Dance and Choreography in Contemporary Opera Productions”
October 16 Thomas Kohn, *Assistant Professor, Classics, Greek and Latin*, “The Stagecraft of Seneca”
October 17 Arifa Javed, *Lecturer, Sociology*, “Parenting and Parallel Socialization among Immigrant Children”
October 23 Mary Garrett, *Associate Professor, Communication*, & Haiyong Liu, *Assistant Professor, Near East and Asian Studies*, “Translations before the Translation”
- October 24** James Chalmers, *Associate Professor, Political Science*, & Katrina Fenton, *Student, Political Science*, “Blood on the Tracks: The Long Road Out of Iraq”
October 30 Terese Volk, *Associate Professor, Music* “The Works Progress Administration Manuscript Collection in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Music Library”
October 31 Heather Dillaway, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*, “What is ‘Successful Aging’ in Michigan Communities?”
November 6 Elizabeth Faue, *Professor, History*, “The Shaping Up Years: Labor Reporting, Working-Class Culture Politics, and Labor Movement Survival after World War I”
- November 7** Jose A. Rico-Ferrer, *Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures*, “The Spanish Galateo: When Jokes and Laughter Become a Serious Matter”
November 13 Lavinia Hart, *Assistant Professor, Theatre* & Christopher Collins, *Associate Professor, Music*, “‘Translations’ by Brian Friel: Directing an Interdepartmental and Community Collaboration to Expand the Theme of Translation on Multiple Levels”
- November 14** Avis Vidal, *Professor, Geography and Urban Planning*, “Contemporary Approaches to Neighborhood Revitalization”
November 20 Mame Jackson, *Professor, Art and Art History*, “TBA”
November 21 Matthew Wolf-Meyer *Assistant Professor, Anthropology*, “Intimacies: Sleep, Families, and Disease”
November 27 Elena Past, *Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures*, “The Dying Diva: Violent Ends for Clara Calamai in Visconti’s *Ossessione* and Argento’s *Profondo rosso*”
- November 28** Suzanne Hilgendorf, *Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies*, “Globalization and the German Media: The English Language in Television, Cinema/Film, and Popular Music”
- December 4** Lothar Spang, *Librarian IV, University Libraries* & Deborah Tucker *Librarian II, University Libraries*, “Chapbooks: Institutional Repository Inspires Urban K-12 Student Poets”
- December 5** Myra Tawfik, *Professor, Law, University of Windsor*, “A Connecticut Yankee in Montreal: Mark Twain’s Adventures with Canadian Copyright Law”
December 11 John Corvino, *Associate Professor, Philosophy*, “The Best Argument Against Same-Sex Marriage (and why it Doesn’t Work)”
December 12 Anca Vlasopolos, *Professor, English* “*The New Bedford Samurai*: Reading, Discussion, and Book Signing”
December 18 Ross J. Pudaloff, *Professor, English* “We have to live upon what we can catch’: Mordecai Noah and *She Would Be a Soldier*”
January 8 Michael Scrivener, *Professor, English*, “TBA”
January 9 Mysoon Rizk, *Associate Professor, Art, University of Toledo*, “Why Look at ‘Animals in Pants’?: The Posthumanist Case of David Wojnarowicz”
January 15 Robert Nelson, *Assistant Professor, History*, “A German in the North American Prairies: Max Sering and the Concept of Inner Colonization”
January 16 Cynthia Erb, *Associate Professor, English*, “Jodie Foster and Brooke Shields: Functions of the Child Star in New Hollywood”
January 22 Leslie Howsam, *Professor, History, University of Windsor*, “Discipline and Narrative: British Publishers and Historical Knowledge 1850-1950”
January 23 Thomas Abowd, *Assistant Professor, Anthropology*, “TBA”
January 29 Ken Jackson, *Associate Professor, English*, “Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, Kierkegaard, and Suspending the Ethical Now”
January 30 Josee Jarry, *Associate Professor, Psychology, University of Windsor*, “Self Esteem and Body Image”
February 5 Leon Wilson, *Chair, Sociology*, “Western Media and Adolescent Development in Guyana”
February 6 Kidada E. Williams, *Assistant Professor, History*, “Some Costs of White Supremacist Violence on the African American Family”
February 12 Jennifer S. Moss, *Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Latin*, “Cleopatra: Queen of Where?”
February 13 Suzanne Hilgendorf, *Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies* & Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, *Academic Services Officer III* “Integrating On-line Learning Components through Course Management Systems in Foreign Language Instruction”
- February 19** Lisa Ze Winters, *Assistant Professor, English and Africana Studies*, “The Traipsing Mulatta and Economics of Blackness”
February 20 Perry Mars, *Professor, Africana Studies*, “TBA”
February 21 Osumaka Likaka, *Associate Professor, History*, “TBA”
February 26 Susan Vineberg, *Associate Professor, Philosophy*, “Mathematical Representation in Empirical Science”
February 27 Frances N. Brockington, *Associate Professor, Music*, “Art Song: Uniquely American”
- March 4** Norah Duncan IV, *Associate Chair, Music*, “TBA”
March 5 Guy Lazure, *Assistant Professor, History, University of Windsor*, “Lineage of Learning: The Construction of a Cultural Elite in Sixteenth-Century Seville”
- March 18** Roslyn Abt Schindler, *Associate Professor & Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies*, “Border Crossing to Zbaszyn: A Holocaust Tale of Two Countries”
March 19 Jim Wittebols, *Professor, Communication Studies, University of Windsor*, “Media and Promotional Culture: Commodifying Authenticity”
March 25 Julie Klein, *Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies* & Nardina Mein, *Director, Library, Computing and Media Services*, “WSU-HASTAC Library Digital Media Project”
- March 26** Clifford Clark, *Distinguished Visiting Professor, Economics*, “Ideology and Economic Development”
April 1 Caroline Maun, *Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies*, “Nature Does Not Love Us: The Novels and Poetry of Evelyn Scott”
April 2 Roy Amore, *Acting Associate Dean, Political Science and Art and Social Sciences, University of Windsor*, “Four Models of the Religion and Politics Interface: China, Iran, Turkey, the USA”
- April 8** Michael Liebler, *Senior Lecturer, English*, “Poems of Russia, Israel and Germany”
April 9 Tamara Bray, *Associate Professor, Anthropology*, “Inca Material Culture”
April 15 Christopher H. Johnson, *Professor Emeritus, History*, “Kinship and Modernity: New Perspectives on a Neglected Issue”
April 16 Katherine Quinsey, *Faculty, English, University of Windsor*, “Antichrist of wit: Religious and Cultural Authority in Poe’s *Dunclad*”
April 22 Lisabeth Hock, *Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies*, “TBA”
April 23 Christopher Leland, *Professor, English*, “Narrative by Other Means”
April 29 Andre Furtado, *Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies*, “Teaching Mathematics to the Scared”
April 30 George Patrick Parris, *Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Education*, “The Impact of Trauma on Disability Adjustment and Coping”
May 6 Fran Shor, *Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies*, “Constructing and Contesting the American Century”

2007 Fall Symposium Call for Papers

November 9, 2007

“Silence and Silencing”

EXPLICATION

Paradoxically, “silence” has come to express many of the concerns of modernity writ large. In Edvard Munch’s famous painting *The Scream*, for example, we *experience* - if not necessarily hear - the alienation, anomie, solitude, and social fragmentation associated with the modern world. Indeed, scholars of modern art such as Frederic Jameson have traced the development of this paradoxical expression with great care and eloquence. Amplifying this speaking silence, it has now long been noted, constitutes a crucial element in what many refer to as our ‘postmodern’ condition. John Cage’s notorious musical composition (4’33”), with its long stretches of “rhythmic” silence, for example, made clear to a general public that silence, in some sense, sings. The challenge, in other words, to addressing the condition of silence imposed on us by alienating effects of modernity was not to plumb the depth’s of Munch’s distorted subject and translate the scream of silence into recognizable language but to let silence speak for itself. Of course, the paradox of silence is not contained by the realm of art. The political, historical, sociological aim of much scholarly work in the late twentieth century was to allow marginalized or silenced groups to speak, and speak for themselves. Psychiatry, psychology, and social work, for example, became much more attuned to the violence a therapeutic voice could do to a silent subject. But what does it really mean to let silence or the silenced speak? Are we really hearing the sounds of silence more distinctly now? Or is this a postmodern illusion (is ‘postmodern’ an illusion)? Are we simply hearing more noise? “Babel” - an Oscar nominated film this year about globalization - seems to make a distinct artistic contrast to *The Scream* - or does it? Have we really been *translating and representing* silence as sound? That is, have we really been mistranslating and misrepresenting silence and sound? Our government is listening to us certainly, but not always when and where we would like. What does the law have to say about “silence”? *And silencing*? Anglo-American analytic philosophy has long resisted the notion that silence ‘speaks’ as nonsense; if silence speaks, it is not ‘silence’! Have they been right? Perhaps the problem in understanding silence is tied to our concentration on modernism, our attempt to understand the problem purely in a modernist context at the expense of pre-modern history in our fast paced world. Saying the unsayable and, in turn, listening to what does not correspond to language has a long, long history, dating back to the ancient world and its apophatic, religious discourses (“Babel” indeed!).

The Humanities Center is inviting WSU faculty to nominate themselves or their colleagues to present papers on the theme “Silence and Silencing” for the Center’s 2007 Fall Symposium on November 9, 2007. Each nomination must include the proposed title of the talk and a short description (abstract) of the content of the paper including its theoretical framework, if applicable. The statement should not be long (a paragraph will suffice) but should contain enough information for the Center’s Advisory Board to make a decision on the papers to choose for the symposium. The proposals should be addressed to **Walter Edwards, Director of the Humanities Center, 2226 F/AB** or email your proposal to walter.edwards@wayne.edu. The proposal should reach the Director by **Friday, June 1, 2007**. Authors of selected papers will be notified by June 30, 2007.

The Humanities Center welcomes proposals to talk about silence from all disciplines.

A Look Ahead: 2007-2008 Activities

2008 Faculty Fellows Competition

“Hauntings”

EXPLICATION

“Thou art a scholar, speak to it, Horatio!”

The terrified guards at the beginning of *Hamlet* beg Horatio to speak to the uncanny apparition of the dead king’s ghost. Why do they look to Horatio as one especially able to “speak to” — both *with* and *about*—the ghost? Because he is a scholar. But why ask a *scholar* to speak to a *ghost*? Especially a skeptic who has already scolded the frightened guards, “’tis but fantasy!” and who declares that he “will not let belief take hold of him”? Confronted by the ghost, even he has to admit its presence. Even worse, deprived of the scholar’s preferred response to such things—which is haughty, knowing dismissal—Horatio has to admit he has no idea how to talk to or about the ghost.

Horatio’s dilemma is not an uncommon one for scholars in many different disciplines. As we work in and through the past, we find ourselves grappling with many ghosts, and in some sense are the ones, because we are scholars, to sort it out. At the end of the 20th century and into the first decade of the 21st century, scholarship is still humbled by such hauntings. For all the advances that have been made in various disciplines, we cannot seem to exorcise our ghosts completely. We often say we are “haunted” by memories and history. Much music and poetry, of course, is still said to be “haunting.” But what does this mean in the 21st century? Why is this spectral metaphor so indispensable? Does this persistent haunting have anything to do with the seemingly ever present attention to spirit and spiritualism? After all, one tends to need specters to make “pure” spirit manifest. In what sense are we now haunted by virtual realities? Or do virtual realities render us into the apparitions? The most material thing in modern global capitalism – money – has itself a certain spectral quality. We do not know what it is precisely. We alternately want more of it and want to get rid of it, but it both eludes us and remains indispensable at the same time (“A specter is haunting Europe – the specter of Communism,” Marx famously wrote). There has been an extraordinary revival of interest in spiritism, as well as the metaphorical sense of haunting in terms of layered history (for instance, the colonial carvings of lands and peoples in the Middle East that now represent a return of the repressed), the haunting of the Holocaust through European memory (the museums dedicated to it are but an example), the African religions and languages still “haunting” practices all through the Caribbean, native gods and customs infiltrating the Catholicism of South and Central America. We are at a point where people desperately want to connect to a world of the spirit, to some confirmation of an afterlife, and at the same time re-live history in contemporary events and policies. Can societies be haunted? Are there geographical spaces that gather the past to themselves? Can debt be a kind of haunting?

In brief, this faculty fellowship competition invites scholars from all disciplines to address — via the term and concept of haunting – that which they normally take for granted: the distinction between real and unreal, the actual and inactual, the living and the non-living, being and non-being, presence and non presence.

The Humanities Center invites applications from scholars who are interested in the topic of hauntings from any disciplinary perspective. Sixteen (16) copies of the application and CV should be submitted to the Director, Humanities Center, 2226 F/AB by 5:00 PM on March 28, 2008.

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