The Humanities Center

Our Mission

The Humanities Center aims to foster interdisciplinary and intra-disciplinary studies in the humanities and arts through themed and unthemed competitions, seminars, forums, and research discussions among groups of faculty and graduate students at Wayne State University and through the ideas of invited visiting professors. The Center seeks to promote excellence in humanistic and creative endeavors through rigorous peer review of proposals submitted by faculty and students for funding through its various programs, and to involve departments, programs, and other centers and institutes at the University in collaborative efforts to advance humanistic and artistic work. Through these activities, the Center aims to become a site of innovation and excellence in the humanities and arts with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary or trans-disciplinary study in the arts and humanities.
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A Message From the Director

2001-2002 Overview

I am very pleased to report on a vigorous year of activities in the Humanities Center; a year of growth, and consolidation. We grew in terms of the number and popularity of our programs; and we consolidated our role as an academic center that provides stimulating intra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary experiences for the humanities and arts community on campus and in the wider metropolitan area.

Our interdisciplinary impact was enhanced by several of our programs, including the activities of the seven Working Groups we funded this year. Each of these groups involved faculty and students from diverse departments, programs, and intellectual orientations, working together on one common project.

Our Brown Bag Colloquium lectures have also emerged as venues in which faculty and students from across sub-disciplines interact with one another. It was not unusual, for example, to have a philosopher, a historian, a literary expert, a legal scholar, and an artist considering a presenter’s topic from their individual standpoints. In this format, each contributor has his or her own ideas enriched by the cross-disciplinary conversation.

Our Fall Symposium on “Notions of Beauty and Pleasure” was also an interdisciplinary success. After art critic Dave Hickey presented his unique views, our faculty from the Philosophy, Art History, English, Psychology, and Theatre departments examined his ideas from their respective disciplinary standpoints. The result of this interaction was a rich tapestry of ideas and opinions surrounding the concepts of beauty and pleasure.

Our conference on the theme “Fueling the Spirit of Detroit: Humanists and the Humanities in Detroit’s History” to mark the 300th birthday of the City of Detroit was also multidisciplinary in focus, with presentations from various fields including art, drama, literature, history and archiving. Experts drawn from our own faculty as well as neighboring universities and civic institutions participated in this event.

These and other programs sponsored by the Center sought to promote our central goal, which is to celebrate, promote, and extend the humanities and arts. My sense, encouraged by explicit comments from colleagues, is that the Center is perceived as a very valued member of the humanities and arts family at Wayne State and that its programs are seen as contributing significantly to a healthy intellectual climate, and providing needed funds to support work of humanities and arts faculty and students. For that perception, I am truly grateful.

The Center has also grown in its collaborative experiences. In 2001-2002 we collaborated with the DIA, the Windsor Art Gallery, and WSU’s American Studies Program to sponsor the symposium on Beauty and Pleasure; with the Reuther Library, the Detroit Historical Museum, CULMA, the History Department, and the Auto Heritage Association to sponsor our Detroit 300 conference; with the College of Liberal Arts, the Italian Consulate and the Mandean community to sponsor the visit of an Italian religious scholar to lecture on our campus; with the English Department and the Africana Studies Department to sponsor the visit of the internationally renowned author Ishmael Reed; with WSU’s Academy of Scholars and several WSU and community organizations to sponsor a conference on “The Meaning of September 11,” featuring political leaders and local scholars.

I personally enjoyed contributing to the growing importance of a sister organization, the Center for Great Lakes Culture, on whose Board of Regional Advisors I serve, and meeting with fellow Humanities Center directors at conferences in Minneapolis and Madison. Through these latter meetings I gathered ideas for new programs and shared some of the positive experiences our Center has had. I was encouraged to find that our Center compares very favorably with other centers in terms of funding for internal faculty and students and the range of programs offered.

The Center continues to benefit from the support of faculty and administrators in the colleges of Liberal Arts, Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, CULMA, the Law School, the Library System, the College of Education, and the School of Social Work, and from the advice and encouragement of the Provost, to whom it reports. These associations and collaborations have helped to integrate us with the other humanities and arts units on this campus so that the Center is viewed as complementary to and supportive of these entities. The Center continues to attract excellent Advisory Board members who work beyond the call of duty to help the Center respond to the needs of our constituents.

The experiences of this past year make me feel confident that the Center’s work is making a valuable contribution to the life of this university. We will move forward with new and enhanced programs in the coming year. Thanks for your continued support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Walter F. Edwards, Director
The Humanities Center’s Annual Competition for Resident Scholars in the 2001-2002 year attracted impressive applications. Eight research projects were selected for funding from a broad range of specialties. Scholars were able to use the space and resources of the Center and were encouraged to collaborate for grant writing, feedback and professional growth.

RICHARD BILAITIS

As an Associate Dean of the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts, Dr. Bilaitis has for years been directly involved in maintaining and improving the University Art Collection. After his retirement in 2000, Dr. Bilaitis acted as a consultant to President Reid in overseeing the collection. As a Resident Scholar, Dr. Bilaitis used his space in the Humanities Center for himself and his assistant Kristin Lambert. Together they focused on a computerized catalogue of the WSU Art Collection. After reviewing the complete inventory, select pieces were described and illustrated for a text soon to be published. For this effort it was necessary to meet with collectors and potential donors to augment the existing collection of the University.

DONALD HAASE

Dr. Haase of the German and Slavic Studies department continued his residency begun in 2000-2001 to complete research on his project on fairy tales in relation to war situations. Pursuing a broad-range study, with particular attention paid to fairy tales and the Holocaust. Viewing the fairy tale as a tool of politicization and as a response to trauma, Haase then expanded the research to include a greater historical and geographical background, examining works from Arabian Nights and the Decameron to World War II works such as Dreams by a French Fireside, which was written in response to wartime conditions. Haase’s work on the fairy tale aesthetic in wartime conditions during his residency, as well as work in a Humanities Center Working Group contributed to his book project, The Fairy Tale in War, Exile, and the Holocaust and resulted in an excellent Brown Bag lecture given in April 2002.

CHRIS LELAND

Dr. Leland, of the English department, used his residency in the Fall of 2001 to complete work on his book project, A Storyteller’s Guide to Style. This work is...
M.L. Liebler of the English Department began his residency at the Humanities Center in Fall 2001. His work involves a community-based literacy arts education program entitled The Vision of Words Literacy Program for Non-Traditional Venues. Through community connections with the YMCA of Detroit and other non-profit organizations, Liebler worked to place qualified Detroit-based artists/teachers in non-traditional venues to conduct creative writing workshops and literary arts classes with children and adults. These venues include youth homes, senior centers, schools, mental health facilities, and veterans hospitals. Liebler’s space at the Center enabled him to continue building networks within the community to broaden and enrich this unique program.

Jennifer Sheridan Moss
Classics, Greek & Latin
A Michigan Tax Roll

Dr. Moss, Associate Professor of Classics, Greek and Latin Department, used her residency to pursue a very exciting investigation of an ancient Graeco-Roman Egyptian text which records the personal finances of an Egyptian businessman. As an expert in ancient papyri, Moss was asked to collaborate on the translation and analysis of this record with regard to its implication on ancient tax practices. The text, dating to the mid-fourth century, will also shed light on economic and political structures of that era. Moss collaborated with Traianos Gagos of the University of Michigan on this project.

Steven Stack
Criminal Justice
The Death Penalty and Homicide: Theoretical and Empirical Extensions

Dr. Stack used his time at the Center to continue his research on the effects of public execution on murder rates in the U.S. His project seeks to assess the relative im-
For the upcoming year, the Humanities Center has upgraded all computer equipment in the offices reserved for Resident Scholars. The new computers are top-of-the-line models, both PC and Mac. The Center staff continue to support our Residents. The deadline for application for 2002-2003 residency is July 19, 2002.

Portance of different types of nationally publicized punishments (death penalty and life sentences) on the national incidence of homicide. He found that life sentences for murder were unrelated to homicide rates, but that publicized executions were linked with a dip in the murder rate for four days after the media coverage. This included states that do not have the death penalty. The implications of this study will require further research, but the preliminary results of this study, the first of its kind, are groundbreaking.

Lisa Vollendorf

Dr. Vollendorf is an Assistant Professor of Spanish. During her residency in the Winter 2002 term, Dr. Vollendorf focused her research on Women's Culture in Spain: 1580-1700. This work led to a productive term: she wrote and submitted two articles, presented a paper at an MLA Convention and gave a Brown Bag lecture at the Humanities Center. During her residency, Dr. Vollendorf also earned a Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award. Her Brown Bag talk entitled “Good Sex, Bad Sex: Intimacy and Authority in Spain (1580-1680)” was well-attended and spurred much interest from attendees.

Below: Resident Scholar Renata Wasserman

Renata Wasserman

While in residence at the Center, Dr. Wasserman of the English department pursued completion of a book-length comparative study on realism/naturalism in French, Brazilian and American literature. She examined the representation of political and economic life in novels. She was especially interested in the transformation of former European colonies into independent nations and their insertion in a global economy that distributed wealth and power unequally. This research led to a fascinating Brown Bag lecture that looked at these factors and at the representation of the press, entitled “Fitting the News for Print: Howells' A Modern Instance, Lima Barreto’s Memorias de escrivao Isaias Caminha and the Role of the Press.”

2001-2001 Resident Scholars (Continued)

Lisa Vollendorf

Romance Languages & Literatures

Feminist and Women's Texts in Spain, 1580-1680

Renata Wasserman

English

Financial Fictions

2001-2002 Annual Report

Resident Scholars
2001 Annual Report

Innovative Projects

The Humanities Center enthusiastically supports innovation in research, including collaborative projects and research on subjects not heavily covered in mainstream academia. This year the Center made four awards in its annual competition for innovation in humanities and arts research.

Innovative Projects 2001-2002 Recipients

Dora Apel
Assistant Professor, Art & Art History
Images of Lynching in the United States
Award Amount: $2,000

Barrett Watten
Associate Professor, English
and Carla Harryman
Senior Lecturer, English
New Generation Poetics: Innovative Writing in New Genres and New Media
Award Amount: $2,000

John Corvino
Assistant Professor, Philosophy
By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them: Homosexuality, Biblical Interpretation, and the Relevance of Experience
Award Amount: $500

M.L. Liebler
Senior Lecturer, English
and Olivia Washington
Assistant Professor, Nursing
Song: A Healing Collage
Award Amount: $500

$5,000 Total Awards Fund Innovation

Now in its third year, the Center’s Innovative Projects program continues to encourage faculty members from a variety of departments to collaborate on projects in the humanities and the arts. This year the Center awarded the maximum grant amount of $2000 each to two projects conducted by Wayne State faculty.

Dora Apel of the department of Art and Art History received funding to lead a project examining how images of lynching have affected the landscape of America by historicizing and theorizing the construction of black cultural identity in relation to the body of imagery documenting the practice of lynching.

Carla Harryman and Barrett Watten, both of the English Department, are collaborating on a project looking at the rapid pace of change in writing styles and genres in this technology-driven modern world. The planned events include individual readings, lectures, and symposia to bring emerging writers and their new genres to Wayne State.

In addition to these two fully funded projects, the Center awarded $500 to John Corvino, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, for his project entitled “By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them: Homosexuality, Biblical Interpretation, and the Relevance of Experience.” In this project, Dr. Corvino worked from the premise that much of America’s opposition to homosexuality is rooted in the belief that the Bible condemns homosexuality. Using a philosophical outlook to reexamine the relevant passages of the Bible, Dr. Corvino argues that this view may have been a misinterpretation of the Bible’s stance toward homosexuality.

Also receiving a $500 award was “Song: A Healing Collage,” a collaborative effort between M. L. Liebler, Senior Lecturer in English, and Olivia Washington, Assistant Professor of Nursing. Together, these WSU scholars planned a cross-disciplinary performance-based program examining the healing effect of the arts, with particular attention to the experiences of survivors of breast cancer.
This event was an invitational conference sponsored by the Humanities Center featuring representatives from Wayne State University’s College of Liberal Arts and College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs (CULMA); and from the Detroit Institute for the Arts (DIA), the Detroit Historical Museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Automotive National Heritage Association. The event was supported by a grant from the Ford Motor Company.

The event marked Detroit’s 300th birthday by bringing together scholars and students to commemorate the contributions to Detroit’s cultural and humanistic landscape made by major and minor historical figures, including Augustus Woodward, Albert Kahn, Henry Ford, Edsel Ford, Diego Rivera and Ossian Sweet.

The aim of the conference was to make the contributions of these historical figures known to the general public so that names of Detroit buildings, streets and locations may be related to the intellectual, religious, educational, artistic and other humanistic contributions made by these historical figures.
2001 Events

Detroit 300

The year 2002 marked the 300th year since Detroit’s founding. As part of a year-long program of commemoration by the city, the Humanities Center sponsored a day-long conference to mark this historic occasion and to draw attention to the long and fascinating history of one of America’s oldest cities.

Detroit 300 Presenters (Continued)

**Michele Ronnick**
Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Liberal Arts, Wayne State University
*From Rome to Detroit: Augustus Woodward (1774-1827) and the Campus Martius*

**Kevin Boyle**
Detroit Historian and Author, Associate Professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst
*The Rages of Whiteness: A Murder, Modernity, and the Making of Civil Rights Liberalism*

**Bill Harris**
Playwright, Professor of English, Wayne State University,*Detroit Sketches*, performed by Bill Harris and Council Cargle

On September 14, 2001, with the financial assistance of Ford Motor Company, the Humanities Center in conjunction with American Studies, CULMA, the History Department, and the DIA hosted an official Detroit 300 event.

Presenters for this event included visiting scholars and artists, community leaders, and Wayne State faculty with specialized knowledge of the Detroit community and its history.

“A Reading by Charles Baxter” began our conference. Charles Baxter is an internationally renowned poet and author who has written extensive fiction focusing on the unique historical and cultural features of Detroit. He delivered a keynote speech to begin the day’s celebrations.

A luncheon, sponsored by the Humanities Center, provided an opportunity to hear Constance Budorow, Executive Director of the Automotive Heritage Association, speak about the development of the six automotive corridors in metro-Detroit and its potential social, political and economic impact.

In addition to these key events, our symposium featured the following prominent speakers:


**Michele Ronnick**, WSU Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Liberal Arts, made an address on the topic of Mr. Augustus Woodward’s Humanistic contributions delivering a talk entitled, “From Rome to Detroit: Augustus Woodward (1774-1827) and the Campus Martius.”
The Humanities Center wishes to thank the following for their financial support and other assistance in planning the Detroit 300 conference:

- Ford Motor Company
- Detroit Historical Museums and Society
- Walter P. Reuther Library
- American Studies Program, WSU
- History Department, WSU

Kevin Boyle, Detroit Historian and author, contributed a paper about the civil rights movement in Detroit and specifically about Mr. Ossian Sweet’s contribution to the movement in a talk entitled “The Rages of Whiteness: A Murder, Modernity, and the Making of Civil Rights.” The paper was read by Louis Jones of the Reuther Library in Dr. Boyle’s absence.

Bill Harris, Wayne State University English Professor and Playwright staged a performance of his work, Detroit Sketches with a colleague, Council Cargle.

Jerry Herron, WSU Director of American Studies, gave a talk on the subject of Edsel Ford’s humanistic contributions to the city of Detroit, entitled “Henry, Edsel, Diego and the Last Pedestrians.”

Charles Hyde, WSU History Professor concluded the seminar with his talk on the history of the Chrysler Corporation and its humanistic implications. This lecture was entitled “Southeastern Michigan and the Chrysler Corporation: Riding the Roller Coaster Together.”

The symposium attracted over 100 attendees from Wayne State University and the general public, as well as the academic community of Greater Detroit. Our thanks to all the members of the Detroit 300 partnership for allowing us to participate in the official Detroit 300 program. The success of this program is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the American community who refused to be daunted by the horrific experiences of September 11.
Beauty and Pleasure are uniquely human concepts, and as such, intersect with every aspect of the broad Humanities. Our Fall Symposium examined the human perceptions of Beauty and Pleasure from a multidisciplinary viewpoint.

Finding Beauty in the Modern World

The Humanities Center’s symposium on The Notions of Beauty and Pleasure was held in the Alumni Lounge, Ferry Mall, on campus on November 30, 2001. The event provided participants with a good way to intellectually stop and smell the roses at a time when the ugliness of war in the wake of the events of September 11 was forefront in our minds.

The program spotlighted two concepts that are central to the humanities and arts by approaching them from several disciplinary viewpoints: literary, philosophical, psychological, historical, artistic and theatrical; and from interdisciplinary perspectives.

The Moderator was Jerry Herron, Professor of English, and Director of WSU’s American Studies Program. Jerry is well known for his outstanding work on Detroit’s cultural institutions, for his book Afterculture: Detroit and the Humiliation of History (1993), and for his eloquence and wit. The event was co-sponsored and partially funded by the Michigan Humanities Council.

The Eye of the Beholder: Keynote Address by Art Critic Dave Hickey

The event was keynoted by Dave Hickey, Professor of Art Theory & Criticism at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Hickey is an internationally known art critic and commentator whose books Stardumb (1999), Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy (1997) and The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty (1993) have attracted considerable critical attention for their unique, sometimes controversial, insights and content.

Hickey writes for the New York Times, Rolling Stone, Art News, Harper’s Magazine and other publications, and has curated several exhibitions, including Ultralounge: the return of social space (with cocktails) at Diverse-Works Artspace in Houston,
The format of the symposium was designed to promote active intellectual dialogue. Keynote speaker Dave Hickey presented his views on notions of beauty and pleasure, and was followed by WSU faculty from several disciplines who gave their own replies, looking at Hickey’s ideas from different angles.

Below: Robert Yanal delivers his response, “The Beauty of Meaning”

Above: Provost Charles Bantz attended the luncheon with Dave Hickey and other presenters at the Fall Symposium.

Concepts of Beauty Discussed by Wayne State University Faculty

Responding to Hickey and offering their own insights on beauty and pleasure were the following six Wayne State faculty.

David Magidson of the Theatre Department and Robert Wilbert, Professor Emeritus, Art and Art History, teamed up on a response entitled “Meaning and Beauty” during which they invited audience participation.

David Magidson is a former dean of the college of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts who now teaches theatre aesthetics, directing and playwriting. He has directed over 80 plays for 15 different theater companies. Robert Wilbert taught painting for 38 years at Wayne State. His own work has appeared in the Detroit Institute of Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Arts (NY), the Pennsylvanian Academy of Fine Arts and the Chicago Art Institute. He is a recipient of an NEH Fellowship.

Robert Yanal, Professor of Philosophy, continued the symposium with a presentation entitled “The Beauty of Meaning”. Yanal teaches logic and other analytic courses in our Philosophy Department. His most recent book is Paradoxes of Emotion and Fiction. He is currently writing a volume on epistemology and the films of Alfred Hitchcock.

Nancy Locke, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, delivered a response entitled “Gendering Beauty and Pleasure.” Locke’s book Manet and the Family Romance was published last year (2001) by Princeton University Press. She teaches courses in 19th century European art, theories of modernism, contemporary art, and the history of Paris in our Art and Art History Department.
The Fall Symposium challenged its attendees to think about the human values of “beauty” and “pleasure” from many perspectives. It was well attended and provoked thoughtful discussions at the reception which followed.

**Fall Symposium Presenters**

**Gisela Labouvie-Vief**
Professor, Psychology
*The Self and Beauty*

**Barrett Watten**
Associate Professor, English
*Difficult images: trauma and pleasure*

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**Gisela Labouvie-Vief**, Professor of Psychology, was the next speaker, delivering a talk on “The Self and Beauty”. Labouvie-Vief is Chair of the Development Psychology Program in the Psychology Department, where she directs several doctoral students. Her many publications include “Cognitive-emotional integration in adulthood” in *History of Geropsychology in Autobiography* (in Press); “Positive development in later life” in *Handbook of Aging and the Humanities* (Springer, in Press) and “Emotions in later life” in *Theories of Adult Development and Aging* (Springer, 1998). She is the recipient of several substantial grants including awards from the NIA and the NIMH.

**Barrett Watten**, Associate Professor of English, gave the final response with a contribution entitled “Difficult images: trauma and pleasure.” Watten teaches American modernist literature and cultural studies in our English Department. His interest in the avant-garde is reflected in his poetry and prose publications including *Frame: 1970-1990* (collected poems); “nonnarrative and the construction of history” in *The Ends of Theory* (WSU Press, 1995), “New meaning and poetic vocabulary” in *Poetics Today* (1995). He has taken a leading role in his department’s interest in integrating digital culture with the humanities.

The formal program concluded with a response by **Dave Hickey** to the faculty papers, followed by a roundtable discussion by the presenters with comments from the audience.
Graduate Students Receive Support for Travel Expenses

Victoria Abboud, of the Department of English, received funding to present her paper, “Words That Feed a Nation: The Effects of Language on the Discourse Surrounding September 11” at the 8th Annual McGill Symposium on Languages and Literature at McGill University, Montreal.

Mark Aune of the English Department was awarded funds to attend the Renaissance Studies Conference in Chicago and present his paper, “The Shakespeare Miscellany Project: Using Technology to Explore Early Modern Literary Culture.”

Lisa Beydoun, Sociology, traveled to Savannah, Georgia with Humanities Center support in order to present “Towards a Global Identity?: The Influences of Transnational Networks and Citizenship Rights on (Re)Shaping Global vs. Local Preferences of Lebanese Immigrants in Sierra Leone” at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Countries.


Mark Huston of the Department of Philosophy received funds to travel to the University of Washington’s Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy and present his paper “So You Think You Know What Water Is?”

Kaushalya Krishnamoorthy of the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies traveled to the Colorado Springs to attend the annual conference of the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery and present her paper, “Jewish Exile in India (1933-1945)”.

Caroline Jumel of Romance Languages and Literatures was awarded assistance to attend the Asociacion de Escritoras Espanolas y Americanas (AEEA) 6th Annual Conference at Georgetown University and give a paper entitled “Cross-Dressing and Crossing Space in Catalina de Eraso’s The Lieutenant-Nun.”
Continuing to build on past success, the Humanities Center once again offered a program of Brown Bag Lectures on Tuesdays. Topics covered included the entire spectrum of the Humanities and Arts. Below are abstracts from most of these talks.

2001-2002 BROWN BAG SERIES ABSTRACTS

September 18 - Dr. Lawrence Scaff
Politics and the Order of Terror
The “order of terror”—the internment, concentration or extermination camp—has been called a new species of absolute power invented and implemented in the twentieth century. This talk explored these phenomena of absolute power and the issues connected with studying them.

September 25 - Dr. Christopher H. Johnson
The Sibling Archipelago: Brother-Sister Love and Bourgeois Class Formation in Nineteenth-Century France
This talk examined the emotional underpinnings of the shifting structure of patriarchy from father-dominant to brother/husband-dominant and the new kinship regime rooted in consanguinous marriage that arose in Europe during the 19th century. It was a system conducive to growing middle-class solidarity because close marriage (cousins, someone “like a brother,” etc.) reconsolidated assets already attained, muted political differences, and enhanced civic and associational cooperation, all key elements of bourgeois class formation.

October 2 - Dr. Ellen Barton
The Explicit Construction of Legal Consciousness as Advocacy: Developing a Relational Orientation Toward the Law in the Discourse of a Support Group
Using Conley and O’Barr’s (1990) framework of rule vs. relational orientations toward the law, this paper describes the explicit construction of a relational legal consciousness developed in the discourse of a support group aimed at parents who have children in the special education system of US schools. This discourse systematically constructs a relational orientation toward the law focused on advocacy, but this relational orientation is sometimes constrained in a crucial move back toward a rule-based orientation. This move places a significant limitation on the relational view of advocacy.

October 9 - Dr. Rodney Clark
Psychological and Physiological Effects of Environmental Stressors: A Focus on African Americans
Although scientific examinations of the effect of stress have proliferated, relatively few researchers have explored the psychological effect of stress among African Americans. Dr. Clark’s presentation briefly outlined two conceptual models as a guide for future biobehavioral research, as well as empirical findings from relevant studies in his laboratory. The first model outlines a stress and coping framework for perceived racism, which explicates the relationship of environmental factors to psychological and physiological functioning in African American adults. The second model explores the protective and risk factors associated with psychosocial and psychophysiological adjustments in African American youth.
October 16 - Dr. Tracy Fisher
Politics, Black Women, and Community in London
This talk addressed the significance of black women’s grass-roots organizing in the post-Thatcher era. Grass-roots mobilization is critical in understanding how people are drawn into local and global processes of social transformation. Moreover, it is critical in understanding how people attempt to transform the conditions of their lives. In this presentation, Dr. Fisher explored how black women’s grass-roots organizations are trying to build a more politically aware community, and the political mobilization of black women’s grass-roots organizations within the context of changing state policy and conservative discourses on the nation.

October 30 - Dr. Gerald MacLean
Editing Restoration Poetry: Some Lo-Tech Solutions
For over two decades, Dr. MacLean has been editing the large number of poems that appeared in England immediately upon the restoration of monarchy in 1660. On no previous occasion had the commercial press been both so necessary and so directly instrumental in bringing a new government into being. The Return of the King seeks to document how poetry helped shape the counter-revolution of 1660. Computers have transformed the nature, range, and practices of editing literary texts. For this presentation, Dr. MacLean discussed some of the implications of publishing this edition in a relatively “lo-tech” on-line environment.

November 6 - Dr. Ken Jackson
Twin Shows of Madness in the Duchess of Malfi: Reconsidering the Influence of Bethlem (“Bedlam”) Hospital on Renaissance Drama
Bethlem Hospital, London’s notorious psychiatric facility, became notorious in part because prior to 1676 the hospital governors showed the “mad” patients to the public. Historians and literary critics have characterized this practice as primitive perversity. The “show” at Bethlem, however, was designed to elicit charity for the mad. Dr. Jackson argued that this unusual show informs much of English Renaissance drama including John Webster’s The Duchess of Malfi.

November 13 - Dr. Zanita Fenton
Silence as a Means of Perpetuating Violence
Dr. Fenton discussed domestic violence and demonstrated the comparability of the apparent differences in forms of violence. “Silence” was used to represent a) the literal, b) the conceptual, c) the rhetorical, and d) the structural. Integral to this discussion was an examination of the conceptual public/private dichotomy to evaluate its use in shaping perceptions of violence. These conceptualizations contribute to the social construction of race and “otherness,” guide perceptions of legitimate violence, and delimit the ability of those victimized by violence to receive redress.

November 20 - Dr. Jeffrey Abt
Drawing with the Masters: Optical Devices and the Origins of Pictorial Realism
Contemporary artist David Hockney has recently been investigating the use of optical devices in western art and concluded that western artists’ pursuit of pictorial realism was the result of widespread use of optical aids. His assertion has ignited a debate in the art world.
2001-2002 Events
The Year in Photos

Above: the audience at Dean Mahoney’s Brown Bag lecture listens as Larry Lombard, Philosophy, makes a point.

Below, left to right: Charles Baxter, Ross Pudaloff, and Jerry Herron at the Detroit 300 celebration.

Below Right: Gerald MacLean explains the technical hurdles in editing centuries-old poetry.

Above: the audience at Dean Mahoney’s Brown Bag lecture listens as Larry Lombard, Philosophy, makes a point.
Left: Donna Haraway delivers the keynote address at the Faculty Fellows Conference.

Right: Mark Kruman, History and Louis Jones of the Reuther Library.

Above: Ron Brown, an old friend and former Resident of the Center, drops by for a chat.

Above: Monica Sklar was an assistant at the Humanities Center until January 2002, when she graduated from WSU.

2001-2002 Events

The Year in Photos
camera lucida, an especially effective drawing aid, was rediscovered by Hockney but is not accepted to have been as widespread as Hockney claimed. For the colloquium, Dr. Abt brought a pair of camera lucida and provided a hands-on demonstration after introducing the artistic debate over their use.

November 27 - Dr. Richard Grusin
Screen Space, Collage, and the Remediation of Modernism
In Clement Greenberg’s account of modernist painting, collage played a crucial role in calling attention to the fact that “flatness, two-dimensionality, was the only condition painting shared with no other art.” As critics of film know all too well, flatness is also a condition of that medium; television, too, shares the condition of flatness and two-dimensionality. In recent years, televisual screen space has begun to orient itself to flatness in ways that bear interesting affinities to the employment of collage in modernist painting. In this presentation Dr. Grusin explored the way in which televisual screen space serves to remediate modernism through techniques both similar to and strikingly different from the use of collage in modernist painting.

December 4 - Dr. Marvin Zalman
Reflections on Racial Profiling
Dr. Zalman speculated on the reasons the practice of “racial profiling” emerged in the public’s consciousness in the mid-1990s. Notorious police brutality cases helped propel the practice onto the front pages. The rapid move onto the public agenda may reflect the growing disillusionment with the war on drugs and changes in race-consciousness by the larger society and by minority communities. As upper- and middle-class blacks and Latinos have been subject to racial profiling, their growing ability to make their complaints heard have has an impact on the policy question. Dr. Zalman also examined whether the recent questioning of up to 5,000 people in the USA, most from the Middle East, who might have information about foreign terrorists, constitutes racial profiling.

December 11 - Dr. Anca Vlasapolos
The Voyage of Extinction
Dr. Vlasapolos is working on a fictionalized account of how short-tailed (Steller’s) albatrosses came to near-extinction on the Japanese island of Torishima between 1887 and 1932. She read excerpts from her novel-in-progress as well as discussed its historical background, which involves issues of animal “harvesting,” crosscultural encounters, closed versus open societies, and the very heavily trafficked oceans of the nineteenth century.

January 8 - Dr. Bruce Russell
The Matrix: Knowledge, Reality, and the Good
The Matrix raises three interesting questions: whether we can know there is a real world that exists independently of us, about the nature of the real world, and whether pleasant or satisfying experiences are the only things that are intrinsically valuable. The Matrix suggests an argument for skepticism that Dr. Russell presented and criticized. He discussed the view of reality put forth by one of the main characters in the film, namely that what is real is what we can feel, smell, taste, and see. He also discussed “how life in the matrix is not like life in the standard experience machine and what of value in real life is missing in the matrix.”

January 15 - Dr. Joan Mahoney
Protecting Civil Liberties in the United States and Great Britain: The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Council for Civil Liberties
Dr. Mahoney’s talk looked at the different ways the United States and Britain guaranty civil liberties within their nations and the similarities and differences between the
two organizations that have taken on the job of assisting individuals in protecting those rights: the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) in the United States, and the NCCL (National Council for Civil Liberties) in Great Britain.

January 22 - Dr. Guy Stern
Trials, Formal and Improvisational, in the Dramas of Bertol Brecht
Dr. Stern expanded on the tape recording of an NPR broadcast to which he had contributed, entitled “Trials in Literature.” He focused on trial scenes in the drama of Bertol Brecht and argued that Brecht’s consistent affinity for trial scenes is due to his conviction that dramatic action should be “alienated” from the audience. Trial scenes “alienate,” because they do not show the immediacy of an action but rather its recreation in court. The discussion centered on Brecht and Weill’s Mahagonny, Brecht’s Caucasian Chalk Circle and The Measure Taken. Dr. David J. Magidson, Professor of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, served as respondent.

January 29 - Dr. Sherilyn Briller
Exploring Personhood and Social Justice: Ethical Issues for Research in Dementia Care Settings
This presentation discussed a number of issues including how the current models of US dementia care developed, what special issues arise in obtaining informed consent for this type of research, what risks people with dementia and staff working in these settings may be introduced to beyond those encountered in daily living, and what safeguards can be used for evidence of risk and protection of privacy. Dr. Briller concluded by recommending further research conducted in these settings but with a caution to researchers to carefully consider ethical issues that arise when dealing with this vulnerable population.

February 5 - Dr. Ron Brown
The Legacy of Slave Resistance: Revisiting William Styron’s The Confessions of Nat Turner
The purpose of this talk was to revisit the controversy surrounding the 1967 publication of William Styron’s The Confessions of Nat Turner. Dr. Brown contended that the author intentionally ignored the saliency of racial politics and that the creation of a fictional Nat Turner, void of any careful layering of historical information, was done to intentionally ignite new racial fires during the turbulent 1960s era.

February 12 - Dr. Michele Ronnick
New Developments in Classica Africana
Among the members of the American Philological Association during the latter half of the 19th century were several men of African American descent, but little or nothing has been written about them in this regard. Post civil war America was marked by debates over the questions related to the education of freed slaves, particularly about the study of classics. Greek and Latin shaped the lives of many at this time, and that dynamic represents an area of study that has been up to now overlooked: namely, the impact the Graeco-Roman heritage has had upon the experience of people of African descent in America and the western world in the past 400-500 years.

February 19 - Dr. John Corvino
Naughty Fantasies
Is it wrong to eroticize activities that are themselves wrong? Dr. Corvino’s talk considered the issue of “naughty fantasies,” that is, fantasies about wrongful actions such as rape, humiliation, and abuse. He attempted to clarify and defend one of the central arguments against such fantasies, which holds that eroticizing wrongful actions is wrong in itself, apart from any consequentialist concerns.
February 21 - Dr. Saheed A. Adejumobi
Citizenship and Social Reform in the African Diaspora: Problems and Prospects
By focusing on twentieth-century politics of social reform in the “Black Atlantic,” this presentation evaluated the historical and philosophical limits of the idea of liberation while offering a reevaluation of those fundamental modern notions of freedom and revolution. It analyzed the relationship between Africa’s New World Diaspora and the future direction of the African continent through the perspective of twentieth-century decolonization politics.

February 26 - Dr. Karen Tonso
Playing With Pros: An Alternative to the ‘Wasteland of Teenage Life’
Dr. Tonso discussed her research into how the Ragtime Festival provided young at-risk teens a diversion from the sort of acting-out behavior witnessed recently in events such as the Columbine shooting. Participating in the Festival provided students with strategies for developing and maintaining support to counter alienation found in schools, and for gaining recognition for talents and interests. Seen as an alternative to “the wasteland of teenage life,” the Festival offers insights into school structures needing reform.

March 5 - Dr. Donald Haase
The Fairy Tale in Extremis: War, Exile, and Literary Tale in Germany
Dr. Haase’s presentation examined the relationship of war and exile to the production, framing, and thematics of the literary fairy tale in Germany. First, he considered the literary-historical connection between storytelling and extreme situations, where storytelling is depicted as a response to threatening situations and social disorder. He then compared the historical and political contexts that inform selected German tales and their framing strategies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and how these works compare to the use of fairy tales in the twentieth century as strategies for surviving the trauma of war, exile, and the Holocaust.

March 19 - Dr. Daphne Ntiri
Street Advertising as a Change Agent in the Promotion of Literacy in Urban Centers in Benin
Dr. Ntiri discussed her research which aims to answer the following questions regarding street advertising in Cotonou, Benin: With the low national literacy rates in French, who is the targeted audience of street advertising? Given the prevalence of “reading panels” that are text-loaded, is it the intention of the government to
reach only the educated elite? Are “reading panels” a deliberate effort to improve reading levels? To what extent can dissemination of information and production and transmission of knowledge among the masses be aided by technology? Can Benin’s reading panels be conceived of as a cultural process of consciousness-raising and liberation of the masses?

March 26 - Dr. Renata Wasserman  
Fitting the News for Print: Howells’ A Modern Instance, Lime Barreto’s Memorias do escribão Isaias Caminha and the Role of the Press  
Novels of the turn of the last century frequently take on the subject of the rise and fall of fortunes, the gain and loss of status. The press, though often peripheral to the plot of these novels is nevertheless seen as a strong factor in the phenomena at their center. The two novels in question center on the life of newspapers, and give a good sense of the role it was thought to play in the social and economic lives of individuals.

April 2 - Mike Smith  
Monopoly and Public Necessity: Franchises and Urban Development in Nineteenth-Century Detroit  
Smith discussed his case study into the early years of public transit in Detroit, 1863-1900. He investigated the relationship between the municipal government and the several street railway companies operating in Detroit, the nature and extent of the franchises granted to transit companies, and the city government’s role as citizen advocate and regulatory urban state.

April 9 - Dr. Lisa Vollendorf  
Good Sex, Bad Sex: Intimacy and Authority in Spain (1580-1680)  
A thematic overview of women’s texts from this period suggests that fiction, (auto)biography, and Inquisition records can help us gather information on difficult questions about sexuality and intimacy. What issues did women deem appropriate for public conversation? What information did inquisitors want from defendants? How was sexuality viewed in convents? A thematic examination of women’s fiction, non-fiction, and Inquisition cases will suggest a road map for reconstructing the otherwise elusive history of views toward intimacy and touch. Dr. Vollendorf also argued that women of all different backgrounds used motherhood and the body as sources of authority.

April 16 - Dr. Linda Moore  
The Rhetorical Strategies of Countess Markiević in the Irish Independence Movement  
This presentation was a discussion of work-in-progress involving Countess Markiević’s evolution as a national heroine. How did Countess Markiević, whose political actions were discounted by many as “overtheatrical,” amass such a large following that she was elected as the first woman to the British Parliament? How did she acquire credibility enough to be given a key role in the Easter uprising that eventually led to her arrest and imprisonment?
In an effort to foster exemplary doctoral dissertation work among humanists at Wayne State, the Humanities Center offers an annual competition for PhD candidates. In previous years the Center had awarded two dissertation fellowships, each worth $6,000. For 2001-2002, the fellowship offered $12,000 plus tuition reimbursement and was renamed in honor of Edward M. Wise. However, so many outstanding applications were received that the Center made two additional awards.

2002 Awardees
Edward M. Wise Fellow
Julie Towell
PhD Candidate, English
“Rise and Progress” of Anglo-Saxonism and English National Identity
Award Amount: $12,000

Additional Awardees
Mark Huston
PhD Candidate, Philosophy
Intuitions and Concepts
Award Amount: $1000

Craig Smith
PhD Candidate, English
Eustace Tilley’s Closet: Gay and Lesbian Writers at The New Yorker 1925-1992
Award Amount: $1000

$14,000 Fellowship Awards Made

The Humanities Center’s first Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship of $12,000 was awarded in the Fall of 2001 to Julie Towell, PhD candidate in English, for her dissertation “The ‘Rise and Progress’ of Anglo-Saxonism and English National Identity.” Her dissertation advisor is Elizabeth Sklar, Associate Professor of English.

Towell’s work entailed the identification of the Anglo-Saxon literary works chosen for publication during the nineteenth century; appraisal of the views expressed in commentary about the Old English texts; scrutiny of the scholarly works associated with those texts; study of the literary works influenced by concepts of Anglo-Saxonism written during the nineteenth century; and analysis of prevailing nineteenth-century ideologies. The dissertation provides an examination of the effect of “Anglo-Saxonism” upon nineteenth-century cultural, social, and political discourses operating in Great Britain, and the effect of these discourses on “Anglo-Saxonism.”

Because of the high quality of dissertations submitted for this award, the Humanities Center made two additional awards of $1000 each to PhD candidates Mark Huston of Philosophy, and Craig Smith of English. Smith’s dissertation is entitled, “Eustace Tilley’s Closet: Gay and Lesbian Writers at The New Yorker 1925-1992.” Huston was awarded for his dissertation entitled “Intuitions and Concepts.”

The candidates presented their dissertations at the annual Fellows Conference in March 2002.

About the Award
Plants, Animals, Insects in Human Culture

Plants, Animals, and Insects are the living creatures with whom we share the earth. Their place in human cultures has been varied through history, but their presence is constant. From art and literature to legal precedent and psychology, these creatures are integral to understanding our place in the world.

2002 Fellows Conference Draws Over 100

The Humanities Center hosted its annual Fellows Conference on March 8, 2002 in the McGregor Conference Center. This year’s theme was “Plants, Animals, and Insects in Human Culture.”

The conference was opened by the Vice President for Research, George E. Dambach, who welcomed the audience to the annual event and noted that Peter Williams, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, who was scheduled to participate in the conference, was in New York because some paintings he had created with Humanities Center funding had been selected for display at the prestigious Whitney Biennial exhibition in New York City which opened on March 7.

The keynote delivery for the conference was made by Professor Donna Haraway of the University of California at Santa Cruz. Haraway is a renowned author of books and articles on science, technology, gender, and race. In 2000 Haraway received the J.D. Bernal Prize for outstanding contributions to the field of science. Her presentation entitled “From Cyborgs to Companion Species: Kinship in Technoscience” drew an audience of over 125 students, faculty, staff members, and members of the public. Haraway’s multidisciplinary approach to research, and her recent work on “companion species” (dog breeding in particular) in the modern, technology-driven human world, provided a perfect note on which to begin the day-long event.

Following Haraway’s presentation, the Humanities Center’s Faculty Fellows presented on their funded projects. Gerald MacLean of the English department discussed the perception of exoticism in Renaissance European accounts of the Near East. His presentation, “The Sultan’s Beasts: English Encounters with Ottoman Fauna, 1580-1720” examined both written texts and drawings of animals that were...
unfamiliar, exciting, and frightening to the traveling English.

William Harris, also of the English department, gave an engaging recitation of his own compositions, which he entitled, “Hip-Hop Adaptations of Brer Rabbit Tales.” This creative presentation consisted of Harris’ reworkings of the Brer Rabbit Tales of the Old South into modern, hip-hop format.

Anca Vlasapolos, also of the English department, was represented by Craig Smith, PhD candidate in English. He presented Dr. Vlasapolos’ work entitled, “Ring of Fire: Opening Japan to Western-Style Species Extinction” in which she examines the increased rate of species extinction in Japan in this century.

After a break for lunch, conference attendees were treated to a performance by Christopher Collins and his musical companions, based on his compositions which combined Irish Celtic structure and story with elements from jazz. This fascinating and unique presentation entitled “Animals, Beasts, and Banshees in Celtic Folklore: Expressions of an Irish-American Composer” was enjoyed by a captivated audience, with Collins explaining the storyline and history of each piece before performing it.

Donna Landry, Professor of English spoke next on the topic of “The Making of the English Hunting Seat” and its place in English literature. After Dr. Landry’s presentation, Donna Haraway provided a brilliant summary and analysis of the presentations, and invited comments from the audience. The Faculty Fellows Conference was immediately followed by the Edward Wise Dissertation Fellows Conference.
Following the 2002 Faculty Fellows Conference, the awardees in this year’s Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship presented their work.

Moderated by Sandra Burkleo, Associate Professor of History, this conference was the first in honor of Edward M. Wise, for whom the fellowship is named. Dr. Burkleo began the conference with a tribute to her husband, the late Edward Wise.

Julie Towell, a PhD candidate in English and the first Edward M. Wise Fellow, gave the first presentation on her dissertation, “The ‘Rise and Progress’ of Anglo-Saxonism and English National Identity.”

Towell was followed by awardee Craig Smith, also a PhD candidate in English. Smith summarized his dissertation entitled “Eustace Tilley’s Closet: Gay and Lesbian Writers at the New Yorker 1925-1992.”

Finally, Mark Huston, the third awardee and PhD candidate in Philosophy, discussed his dissertation, “Intuitions and Concepts.”

A brief question and answer session followed each presentation.

This year’s Humanities Center Fellows Conference had an overall attendance of about 250 people throughout the day. The conference was followed by a reception, which gave the audience an opportunity to talk with the presenters in a one-on-one fashion.
2001-2002 Sponsored Programs

Working Groups

In the 2001-2002 year, the Humanities Center awarded grant funds to seven interdisciplinary Working Groups. These groups met regularly to discuss particular topics of interest to their members, with the aim of furthering their individual and collaborative research.

End of Life
The End of Life working group met monthly throughout the academic year. Among its accomplishments were the development of a collaborative research project; development and submission of abstracts for paper presentation at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America; a comprehensive review of the literature on spirituality and end-of-life; completion of one article on the development of the working group for submission to the American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care; evaluation of the interdisciplinary course in end-of-life studies offered in 2001 and planning for an offering in Fall 2002.

In addition, this working group was successful in arranging for Dr. Christine Puchalski of George Washington University to attend their May 14 meeting to discuss issues related to End of Life.

“Although it is difficult organizing a new group, I believe that a good foundation has been built for continued work in the philosophy of mathematics ... I would like to see the group continue next year. Our project has the potential to be of considerable interest in the philosophy of mathematics community.”
- Susan Vineberg, Philosophy

Philosophy of Mathematics
The Philosophy of Mathematics working group was organized in Fall 2001. They used their funding support to bring two outstanding philosophers of mathematics to Wayne State to participate in the collaboration: Stewart Shapiro of Ohio State University and St. Andrews, and Steven Wagner of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In addition, Bob Titiev of the WSU Department of Philosophy gave a paper on Church’s Thesis and Sean Stidd, also of the Department of Philosophy, presented a paper on the identification of mathematical objects across theories. These working group sessions were well attended by faculty and students from Wayne State and other local universities, and led to the initiation of a symposium on this topic for the American Philosophical Association meeting.

Production and Reception of Folktales and Fairy Tales in Visual Culture
Using visual and critical texts purchased with the Working Group grant, this group undertook a survey of the fairy tale in film, video and television. This working group, now in its third year, moved from textual representation to visual in its examination of the folk and fairy tale in modern culture. The group met regularly to view and discuss works ranging from feature-length classics to more modern popular adaptations such as Faerie Tale Theatre and Disney productions. Says leader Donald Haase, “It became evident from our discussions that many of the texts we acquired and discussed would be utilized in our teaching and research.”

Justice Studies
Over the course of the year, this working group met six times. Members discussed published political philosophy works.
such as Antonin Scalia’s *A Matter of Interpretation*. The group also discussed their own individual works in progress for constructive feedback. These discussions were important to accomplishing the group goal of redefining its interests in terms of the culture and language of justice. This goal was identified as most important as a way of infusing new interdisciplinary concerns into discussions and to make the group more productive. The group began negotiations with legal scholars from the University of Michigan and the University of Toledo to come to the Wayne State campus.

**Digital Culture**


**Detroit Voices: Race and Labor Activists, 1930 to Present**

The work of this group focused on activists who remain engaged in the fight for social justice but whose stories have not been adequately understood or recorded. By conducting a series of interviews, with accompanying analyses and historical context, the group hopes to make available for a wide audience material crucial to an understanding of the cultural and political riches that have made Detroit a site of struggle and special commitment for African Americans and leftist labor formations. In 2001-2002 the planning of the interviews was completed. Three of hours of interviews with Quill Pettway, a leftist activist for over thirty years, have been recorded and are in the process of transcription and editing.

**Gender and Workplace**

This group was established in the summer of 2000 to support individual and collaborative interdisciplinary research and grant development focused on the study of gender and workplace issues. The group aims to provide a space where scholars and practitioners can interact informally, hosts research presentations, forums, and conferences, and fosters interdisciplinary research partnerships, as well as develop connections with scholars at other institutions both in the U.S. and internationally. To date the group sponsored Brown Bag lectures, developed a CULMA working paper series, sponsored a symposium on gender and workplace policy forthcoming in the journal *Policy Studies Review*, prepared an edited book under contract and established a space within the Reuther Library to allow for meetings, collaborative research, and the development of closer ties between the Center and the Reuther Archives.
Co-sponsored and Supported Programs 2001-2002

Throughout the year, unscheduled events and programs outside the Center’s normal schedule often provide opportunities for further support of worthy projects in the Humanities and Arts. During 2001-2002, the Center provided additional support to these activities through financing, providing space for events, and time and labor.

Co-sponsored Events and Programs 2002-2003

Workin’ Words in Hip-Hop: The Rebirth of African American English Research

Travel for Ron Aronson and Anca Vlasapolos

Visiting Scholars
Aparajita Nanda and Edmondo Lupieri

Pullman Porters & Motor City Poetry

Marcyliena Morgan, Associate Professor of African-American Studies at Harvard University, visited to present her talk, “Workin’ Words in Hip-Hop: The Rebirth of African American English Research.” The Humanities Center joined with the Linguistics Program to sponsor this event and the reception following.


In cooperation with the Italian Consulate of Detroit and the local Mandean community, and the Humanities Center sponsored the visit of Edmondo Lupieri, Professor of History of Christianity at the University of Udine, Italy.

Former Humanities Center Fellow Anca Vlasapolos received financial assistance from the Center in order to make a trip to Japan to study dolphins as part of her ongoing research into endangered and extinct species in Japan.

The Center helped to sponsor a trip to South Africa for Ron Aronson, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa in the Spring of 2002.

Aparajita Nanda, a visiting professor from the University of Jadavpur, Calcutta, India, made a visit to Wayne State for an unscheduled Brown Bag lecture on the literary similarities between post-colonial Muslim and post-slavery African-American literatures,
National experts came to Wayne State, our experts went to other countries; conferences and seminars were planned and supported. The Humanities Center cooperated with many other programs within the University and in greater Detroit.

Nanda’s talk was co-sponsored by the English Department, the Africana Studies Department, and the Humanities Center.

Acclaimed author Ishmael Reed was on campus for a week in March 2002, and the Humanities Center sponsored a day of conferences and critiques with student writers. Reed was provided an office and Humanities Center staff helped to coordinate his appointments with students.

An Italian Film Festival at General Lectures Hall commemorated the conclusion of the term of office of the Italian Consulate, Dr. Giancarlo Alberini. The Humanities Center was one of the sponsors of this event.

“Responding to September 11,” a program of events presented by the Academy of Scholars over the weekend of March 1-2, was sponsored in part by the Humanities Center. In addition, Director Walter Edwards teamed up with Richard Grusin to lead a discussion of the short film, “I, Too, Sing America.”

“Responding to September 11,” a symposium to examine the causes and effects of the terrorist attack on the USA.
2002-2003 Activities
A Look Ahead

Scheduled Programs 2002-2003

Resident Scholars
Deadline: July 19, 2002

Fall Symposium: The Meaning of Citizenship
Tentative Date: Nov. 8, 2002

2002 Faculty Fellows Conference: The City and Civic Virtue
Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship
Deadline: October 18, 2002

Ongoing Programs
Graduate Travel Visiting Scholars
Deadline: July 19, 2002 for Fall; November 15, 2002 for Spring

Working Groups
Deadline: Sept. 27, 2002

Innovative Projects
Deadline: Dec. 6, 2002

Brown Bag Colloquia

New Program
Faculty Grant Mentorships in the Humanities
New for the Fall 2002, the Humanities Center has instituted a program to assist faculty in securing external grant funding by appointing two Faculty Mentors. The mentors will have proven success in writing external grant proposals for humanities and arts projects. They will be responsible for holding office hours and giving one lecture on grant-seeking strategies. In keeping with the Humanities Center’s mission, the aim of this new program is to foster cooperation, communication and sharing of knowledge among WSU faculty in the Humanities and Arts. By providing the opportunity for experienced faculty to mentor others in grant writing, we hope to improve the quality of research and dialogue among our Humanities faculty. The deadline for applications for this program is July 19, 2002.

Celebration
Humanities Center 10th Anniversary
A conference will be held in the fall of 2003 to celebrate the Center’s 10th Year. Plans are underway for a weeklong series of events in cooperation with Arts and Humanities institutions of Detroit. Watch for announcements later this year.

Faculty Fellows 2002-2003
These Faculty Fellows will present papers at the 2003 Fellows Conference:

Jeffrey Abt
Art & Art History
Artists, Museums, and the Civic Audience for Art

Dora Apel
Art & Art History
Lynching Imagery in America

John Corvino
Philosophy
Homosexuality, Education, and Public Values

Margaret Franklin
Art & Art History
Classical Heroines and Civic Virtue in Renaissance Society

Gwen Gorzelsky
English
Echoes Half Heard: Community Activists, Collective Movements

Richard Marback
English
Narratives of Place and the Making of Civic Virtue in Capetown

Laura Reese
Geography & Urban Planning
Reconstituting Civic Virtue

*Chishamiso Rowley
Sociology
Urbanization, Globalization and the Salient Expression of Traditional Cultural Values

Barrett Watten
English
Civic Ideals and City Life in the New American Poetry

*pending HIC approval

The Humanities Center will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2003. In addition to our ongoing and annual programs, we have added a Faculty Mentor Program to assist WSU humanities faculty in securing external grants. The 2002-2003 year will center around the general theme of citizenship.
The Brown Bag Colloquium Series for next year promises to be as exciting as the 2001-2002 season, with many of the speaker slots already filled. Below is the list of scheduled talks (subject to change.)

### Brown Bag Colloquia Planned for 2002-2003

**September 14**
Donald Spinelli, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
“Who Is This Beaumarchais and Why Do We Still Owe Him Money?”

**September 24**
Peter Williams, Associate Professor, Art & Art History
“Art and Language: The Art of Not Knowing Yourself”

**October 1**
Paula Wood, Dean, Education
*Title TBA*

**October 8**
Pamela Reid, Professor of Psychology and Director of Women’s Studies Program, University of Michigan
*Title TBA*

**October 15**
Thomas Killion, Chair, Anthropology
*Title TBA*

**October 22**
Robert Silverman, Assistant Professor, Sociology
“Community-Based Organizations: Where Social Capital and Citizen Participation Fit in”

**October 29**
Arlene Weisz and Beverly Black, Associate Professors, Social Work
“Social Work, Care, Justice, and Helping: Research on Middle School Youths’ Thinking about Dating Violence”

**November 5**
Michael Scrivener, Professor, English, “Emma Lyon: Anglo-Jewish Poet”

**November 12**
Ross J. Pudaloff, Associate Professor, English
“Scandalizing Society: Sex, Art, Witchcraft and Murder in 1930 Buffalo”

**November 19**
Ron Aronson, Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
“Camus vs. Sartre: 50 Years After”

**November 26**
Lisa Gurr, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
“The Partial Truth of a Conspiracy Theory: A Union Confronts the Coming of Capitalism in Poland”

**December 3**
Sandra Petronio, Professor, Communication
“The Boundaries of Privacy”

**December 10**
Todd Duncan, Lecturer, English
“Who Cares? Old Timers”

**December 17**
Loraleigh Keashly, Associate Professor, CULMA
“Emotional Abuse in the Work Place”

**January 14**
Jerry Brandell, Professor, Social Work “Relationship of Child and Adolescence Psychotherapy: Images in Celluloid”

**January 21**
C J. Peters, Assistant Professor, Law
*Title TBA*

**January 28**
Sandra Yee, Dean of Libraries
*Title TBA*

**February 4**
Blair Anderson, Chair, Theatre
*Title TBA*

**February 11**
Guern Montilus, Professor, Anthropology “African Religions and Syncretism in Cuba, Haiti and Brazil”

**February 14**
John Reed, Distinguished Professor, English, “Poetry and Prose for Celebration and Memory” (Tentative Title)

**February 18**
Robert Aguirre, Assistant Professor, English
*Title TBA*

**February 25**
Louis Jones, Reuther Archives & Darryl Shreve, Producer/Director I, University Television
“The Detroit African American History Project”

**March 4**
Robert Martin, Chair and Associate Professor, Art & Art History
“Yodou: Interactive Opera”

**March 18**
Lawrence Lombard, Professor, Philosophy
*Title TBA*

**March 25**
Jennifer Sheridan-Moss, Associate Professor, Classics, Greek, & Latin
*Title TBA*

**April 1**
Ann Duggan
Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures
“Clelie, Histore Romaine or Writing the Nation”

**April 8**
Donna Landry, Professor, English
“Ruined Cottages: The Legacy of the Picturesque?”

**April 15**
Mark Krumlan, Chair, History
*Title TBA*

**April 22**
Alma Young, Dean, CULMA
“Racialized Identities in the City”
2001-2002 Academic Year
Program & Support Expenditures

The Humanities Center receives the majority of its annual budget from the interest on its endowment. During the year the Center also received a grant of $500 from the Michigan Humanities Council’s Quick Grant program to help fund its Fall Symposium on The Notions of Beauty and Pleasure. The Center was also awarded $1100 by the Ford Motor Company to help fund the Detroit 300 program. This amount was the unspent balance of a previous grant. The Center makes every effort to reserve the vast majority of its operating funds for projects which enrich the University’s research capabilities in the

Expenditures for 2001-2002
(excluding staff salaries)

- Resident Scholar Projects: $2,500
- Innovative Projects: $5,000
- Conferences and Symposia:
  - Fall Symposium, Detroit 300, Fellows Conference: $14,100.33
- Graduate Travel Awards: $4,250
- Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowships: $14,000
- Faculty Fellowships: $77,338
- Working Groups: $7,000
- Equipment & Supplies (new copier, new computers, software, office supplies): $24,539.32
- Other Project Support: $1,000
- Brown Bag Lectures (unreimbursable expenses for refreshments, sundries): $500

Total Expenditures 2001-2002
$154,727.65

Below: 2001-2002 Humanities Center Expenditures for programs, equipment, and supplies
**Walter F. Edwards, PhD**

**Director**

Born in Guyana, South America, Dr. Edwards earned a BA in English at the University of Guyana. He continued his education in England, earning a MA in Linguistics in English Language Teaching at University of Lancaster, England, and his PhD in Language and Linguistics at University of York, England.

At Wayne State University Dr. Edwards teaches several courses in linguistics. His research interests and publications include Guyanese Creole studies, African American English, the sociolinguistics of rap lyrics, and language and culture.

Dr. Edwards was formerly Director of the Linguistics program, Assistant and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and interim chair of the English Department at WSU. As director, Dr. Edwards manages all aspects of the Center’s work and chairs the Advisory Board.

Dr. Edwards can be reached at 577-2147 or walter.edwards@wayne.edu

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**Rosalind Willis**

**Secretary**

Rosalind has worked for Wayne State University since 1990, starting in the College of Urban Labor & Metropolitan Affairs. In 1995 she moved to Romance Languages & Literatures in the College of Liberal Arts, and stayed there until coming to the Humanities Center in December 2001.

As a Secretary IV, her duties for the center include monitoring and expediting the workflow in the office and acting as a liaison between the Center and its internal and external contacts. In short, Roz keeps the Center running smoothly.

A native of Detroit, Roz is also pursuing a Communications degree in her spare time.

Rosalind can be reached at 577-5471 or ad2273@wayne.edu

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**Alexandra Arnold**

**Research Assistant**

Alexandra began working at the Center in September 2001 as a Student Research Assistant. Her responsibilities at the Center include designing flyers, coordinating the Graduate Travel Program and Brown Bag Lecture Series, writing and laying out the newsletter, designing and updating the website, and publicizing the Center’s events.

Alexandra attended Wayne State University from the fall of 1998 through winter 2002. This May she graduated magna cum laude, obtaining a BA in English as well as a BFA in Art.

Alex can be reached at 577-5471 or alexandraarnold@hotmail.com

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**Leslie Ash**

**Research Assistant**

Leslie joined the Center in November 2001 as a Research Assistant. Her duties include coordinating Resident Scholar Roundtable meetings, acting as internal technical support, external grant research, new programs implementation, flyer and newsletter production assistance, and the production and editing of the Annual Report.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Leslie is a first year graduate student in the Linguistics program. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree after completing her Master’s degree at Wayne State University.

Leslie can be reached at 577-0113 or leslie.ash@wayne.edu