**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 University’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.
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The 2005-2006 academic year has been for me the most gratifying period I have had as the director of the Humanities Center; and my busiest. It has been truly gratifying to see the Center attain and maintain the stature of a central academic institution on this campus. It is my sense that this year the Center enjoyed an unprecedented level of respect and support from WSU humanities and arts faculty and students; and from the central administration as well. Because of this heightened interest in the Center’s work, the attendance at our public events has increased significantly and we have been encouraged to widen the scope of some of our programs. Thus, we have been busier than ever, but we have enjoyed this attention since we see it as evidence that the Center is fulfilling its mission and that its work is highly valued. In the rest of this message I’ll share with you my sense of what the Center has achieved this year and also indicate areas that require our attention in the ensuing months.

I’m pleased that the Center’s new location on the second floor of the Faculty/Administration Building has been confirmed as our permanent home. This venue now provides more space for our Resident Scholars and we are able to use the conference rooms in the building for our meetings. It is also proving to be more accessible than our Old Main location, although I still have very fond memories of 2147 Old Main, our ancestral home, so to speak. In our present location we have been able to accommodate nine Resident Scholars, all of whom have had good things to say about the facilities the Center provides. My thanks again go out to Provost Nancy Barrett for providing us with this attractive address.

Our accomplishments this year have more to do with the quality and quantity of our programs than with novel offerings. Most noticeably, our Brown Bag Colloquium Series grew from 45 talks in 2004-2005 to 53 presentations this year. The program will expand even further next year since we have already filled the schedule with 59 talks, and have 8 potential speakers in reserve. These quantitative improvements have been accompanied by an increase in the diversity of the disciplines represented and, in my view, in the overall quality of the presentations. As I read the professional records of speakers to introduce them, it struck me that the quality of our humanities and arts faculty has been steadily improving in recent years. I found it gratifying to witness this growth, and I am proud that the Humanities Center’s Brown Bag series has become a showcase for this intellectual talent. Next year’s Brown Bag series will include several faculty from the University of Windsor. This development results from a new and promising collaboration between our Center and the Humanities Research Group of Windsor (HRG). This liaison is the result of conversations I had last year with Kathleen McCrone, the director of the HRG and Stephen Pender, its associate director, about ways our centers can work together to develop programs and encourage research collaborations between our humanities faculties. I am particularly gratified by this renewed association with the HRG since that center provided the model for the establishment of our center in 1993. I wish to thank Associate Dean Donald Spinelli of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for his role in reconnecting the two humanities centers.

Our conferences, too, have improved in quality as measured by an increase in the number of keynote speakers we have been able to attract, the caliber of presentations by our own faculty, and by larger audiences. Our Fall symposium on “Hope & Fear” brought to our campus Reza Aslan from University of California at Santa Barbara, Kevin Boyle from Ohio State University, Mark Danner from University of California at Berkeley and Bard College, and Carol Jacobson from University of Michigan, who together with our own faculty provided our audiences with a variety of perspectives, disciplinary and interdisciplinary, on the notions of hope and fear. Our conference on “Globalization and the Humanities” this Spring was no less successful both in terms of the quality of the keynote presentations, this time by Brent Edwards from Rutgers University and Obioma Nnaemeka from Indiana University, and the exceptional scholarship of our own internal speakers. I mention these conferences because I sincerely feel that they highlight the central mission of the Center, which is to be a catalyst for the creation, examination and promulgations of ideas, theories and positions of humanities scholars across disciplines. Thus, these conferences are pivotal to the Center’s raison d’etre.

Also pivotal to the Center’s work are our competitions for faculty and student funding. These competitions provide the motivation for the best thinking, analyses and writings of our faculty and students. This year the theme of our Faculty
A Message From the Director

2005-2006 Overview

Fellowship Competition, “Translation and Representation,” was particularly evocative, attracting a near-record (for us) total of 31 proposals submitted by faculty from 15 departments in the humanities, arts and social sciences. Not only was the number of applications impressive, but the quality of the proposals was remarkable. Our Advisory Board was sternly exercised in selecting eleven of these faculty as recipients. This augurs well for an outstanding conference next year on this theme. Our other faculty programs, the Munusculum, Working Groups and Innovative Projects, all continue to thrive, as you will see later in this annual report. Our most successful student program continues to be our Graduate Travel Fund. This year, our budget for that program was exhausted by mid-academic year, after we had supported twenty-one students to travel to conferences within the continental United States and Canada. Next year, we plan to expand this program to include international travel and to increase its budget to accommodate this high demand.

I wish to report with special pride one other accomplishment this year, namely, the imminent publication of the edited anthology Remapping the Humanities: Identity, Community, Memory, (Post)Modernity, which started life in 2004 as the Center’s 10th anniversary commemorative volume. After a vicissitudinous process of reviews and resubmissions, the volume was unanimously approved for publication on May 22, 2006 by the Wayne State University Press Board. I congratulate and thank the editors Sandra VanBurkleo (History), Mary Garrett (Communication) and Heidi Gottfried (Sociology) for their scholarship, hard work and persistence, and also the fifteen Wayne State University contributors for their patience.

I was also pleased that the Center was able to collaborate with the Office of International Programs in fostering this university’s outreach to foreign universities for student recruiting, and for faculty and student exchanges. In March of this year I was privileged to facilitate the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Guyana (UG) and WSU and then to take that instrument to Guyana for its signing by UG’s Vice Chancellor, Dr. James Rose. One immediate outcome of that MOU was a visit in June by Ms. Coreen Jacobs, a UG faculty member. She visited WSU under the joint sponsorship of the Office of International Programs and the Humanities Center.

Alas, even in a good year there are challenges; and we have had several. On the budgetary side we are challenged to continue to fund our projects adequately in the face of a diminished operating budget. Like every unit on this campus, the Center’s resources have been reduced, for us by 11 percent in the current year; and as I contemplate 2006-2007 ideas for cost-cutting are prominent in my mind. We will have to reduce funding for our conferences, shelve our plans to furnish a lounge in the Center’s suite, and limit funding of our Working Groups program. Academically, we are challenged to find ways to make some of our programs more effective. For example, we would like to see the academic and intellectual syntheses that result from the collaborations in our Working Groups impact the university curricula as new interdisciplinary courses. In this regard, I am delighted that the Working Group in Science and Society, headed by Professor Marsha Richmond, has prepared a draft proposal to create a Science and Society minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I hope that the dean will give this proposal favorable consideration.

All in all, 2005-2006 has been a productive, busy and exciting year. I continue to be blessed with a very bright and supportive Advisory Board of faculty and doctoral students who provide me with wise counsel and who also donate their time and intellectual talent to the very crucial work of reviewing and ranking proposals. Because of the wisdom of their advice and the integrity and objectivity of their evaluations, the Center continues to enjoy campus-wide support, for which I am pleased and grateful. I also continue to be fortunate to have a gifted and dedicated staff to assist me in managing the Center.

I look forward to working with you all in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Regards,

Walter F. Edwards, Director
2005-2006 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 2006-2007 academic year the talks will 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, almost 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 $10,000 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 will be “Sovereignty, Law and Justice.”

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 2006-2007 academic year, providing up to $1,000 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational expenses.

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS The purpose of Innovative Projects awards is to promote and encourage new ideas and projects in the humanities and the arts. Each year, the Center funds up to four proposals that chart new research or artistic territory. These new projects may be proposed by individual faculty or by collaborative teams, with preference given to projects involving collaborative efforts by two or more faculty. Awards average $4,000.

MUNUSCULUM - HUMANITIES CENTER SMALL GRANTS The Center sets aside up to $5,000 per year for a “Small Grants” program. The program offers 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 does not fund travel expenses. Requests are funded on a first come-first-serve basis until the budget is exhausted.

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 $6,200 for miscellaneous expenses related to his or her work. The visitor is assigned an office in the Center and assistance with obtaining library privileges. In return, the visitor will be 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 Wise Estate.

TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS The Humanities Center budgets $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, gain valuable presentation experience, and add to their curriculum vitae. Students may apply throughout the year for travel assistance of up to $400 to present their work at conferences.

HONORS-HUMANITIES CENTER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS  In collaboration with the university’s Honors Program, the Center provides funds to support Honors theses and projects in the humanities and arts. The maximum award is $500.
The Humanities Center’s annual competition for Resident Scholars in the 2005-2006 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 their achievements during 2005-2006.

Catherine M. Barrette
Associate Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures
“Measuring Student Use of Electronic and Paper Workbooks: Implications for Student Achievement”
During the 2005-2006 academic year I have enjoyed the opportunity to focus on my research, collaborate, and learn from my fellow Resident Scholars. During this time my priority has been the coding and analysis of data for two projects. The first project compares students’ use of paper versus electronic versions of a Spanish workbook to determine whether there are differences between the versions that may affect the quality and quantity of students’ work. In May, I presented a paper on this project at the CALICO Annual Meeting and subsequently submit the paper for publication to the Modern Language Journal. The second data set is an empirical study that evaluates the predictions of Paesani & Barrette’s (2005) model of language program articulation by comparing the instructional delivery and curricular content for a single course across three instructors, a project that Kate Paesani, another Resident Scholar, and I presented at the ACTFL Annual Convention in November 2005. We expect to submit our drafted manuscript for publication shortly. Finally, this year I have expanded my archival research for a book-length project on language program direction that brings theories from other disciplines to bear on the scholarship and supervisory duties of language program directors. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this project, conversations with other Resident Scholars have been extremely productive.

Donald Haase
Chair & Professor, German & Slavic Studies
“Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales”
As a Resident Scholar in the Humanities Center during 2005-2006, I have been working on a globally based Encyclopedia of Folktales and Fairy Tales. The project involves a large international, multidisciplinary team of scholars whose work I have been directing. This multivolume encyclopedia on which we are working will be the first reference work in English that offers a global treatment of the folktale and fairy tale based on the new knowledge and perspectives that scholars have developed since the emergence of critical fairy-tale studies and oral narrative research in the 1970s. This enormous undertaking, which is on a very strict time table, has required intense focus and uninterrupted periods of work, both of which have been facilitated by my Resident Scholar grant. As research sanctuary, the Humanities Center offers precisely the kind of protected space and time necessary to focus on and carry out this work. During the period of residency I been conducting research on those parts of the encyclopedia that I will be writing myself, in addition to assigning, guiding, and editing the work of the international team of scholars cooperating on this project. More than 300 of the 700+ encyclopedia entries have been completed and undergone initial review and editing during my residency. Given the nature of this interdisciplinary project, I have also welcomed the opportunity to interact with other Resident Scholars informally during office hours and to benefit from their ideas and suggestions during the monthly roundtable sessions, when we report to each other on the nature and progress of our work.

Suzanne K. Hilgendorf
Assistant Professor, German & Slavic Studies
“English in Germany: The Other Tongue in the Federal Republic”
In the past year as a Resident Scholar, I have been able to make significant progress on my current monograph project, which is a qualitative, macrosociolinguistic profile of the English language in Germany. The Center’s excellent facilities and supportive staff allowed me to do focused work on my research while on campus, and the exchanges with fellow Residents were extremely useful as I worked on my project. This year, my focus was on finishing two additional chapters of my volume, examining the linguistic impact of Hollywood in the domain of cinema/film and the role of English in the German business domain. Through the financial support of the Center, I was able to conduct crucial research at the Cinema/Television Library at the University of Southern California. Funding from the Center in part also has enabled me to present my findings this year at two conferences. In April I attended the Twelfth
Resident Scholars Roundtables were held once per month in the conference room 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) Brad Smith, Marvin Zalman and C.J. Peters attend the March Resident Scholars Roundtable.

2005-2006 Annual Report
Resident Scholars

Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, which was held at the University of Illinois, and in July I will be attending the 16th Sociolinguistics Symposium at the University of Limerick, Ireland. In the fall I also completed a proposal for my book, which is now under contract for publication with Multilingual Matters.

Lisabeth Hock
Assistant Professor, German & Slavic Studies
“Caught Between Genius and Illness: Melancholy and German Women Writers (1800-1917)”
My appointment as a WSU Humanities Center Resident Scholar has been invaluable for my research project on German Women and Melancholy in the Nineteenth Century. My residency helped me to complete the final revisions on an article on different forms of melancholy in Gabriele Reuter’s 1895 novel, From a Good Family. I also wrote a conference paper entitled “Melancholy, Reproduction, and Artistic Production in Franziska zu Reventlow’s Ellen Olesjestjerne (1903) and Gabriele Reuter’s Das Tränenhaus (1909),” which I presented at the annual German Studies Association Conference. I submitted a revised version of this paper to the Women in German Yearbook for consideration for publication. I also helped to co-organize a panel on Women, Health, and Medicine for the 2006 Annual Conference of the Coalition of Women in German. Humanities Center funding covered the costs of my attendance at the GSA conference, and the office space has allowed me to work on my current book project. Finally, I attended all of the monthly meetings with fellow residential scholars. At one of these meetings, I shared and received valuable feedback on a draft of my article on Reventlow and Reuter; at the others I enjoyed engaging with my colleagues as they presented on such wide-ranging topics as criminal justice, fairy tales, and constitutional law.

Robert P. Holley
Professor, Library & Information Sciences
“The Internet and the Out-of-print Book Market”
This project is the second step in my analysis of how the Internet has increased the availability and lowered the price of out-of-print books. My first study dealt mostly with items in the humanities and social sciences that would be of interest first to book collectors and secondarily to scholars and libraries. I found 95%+ availability and a 45% decline in prices in inflation adjusted dollars. For my second study, I am applying the same methodology to scholarly materials in the sciences by analyzing the availability and prices of a sample of science books from the 1988 edition of Books for College Libraries. While my hypothesis was that these materials would be much harder to find, my results to date show the same high availability. While the second study will not compare prices across time, I will be giving average prices for the various scientific specialties. For me, talking to my colleagues about my research was the main advantage of being a resident scholar though having a quiet place to work away from my normal distractions and a messy office came in as a close second. I will be presenting the results of my research at the fall 2006 Charleston Conference, the premier annual conference for issues in collection development.

Kate Paesani
Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures
“Foreign Language Program Articulation and Curriculum Design: Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives”
During my 2005-2006 resident scholarship, I have regularly used my Humanities Center office to work on two projects: (1) an empirical study that tests predicted interactions in Paesani & Barrette’s (2005) model of program articulation; and (2) studies on the use of literature to develop content knowledge and language proficiency skills in foreign language learners. Work toward the first project – on which I collaborate with Cathy Barrette, also a Resident Scholar – has included a presentation at the 2005 meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Baltimore. We are currently drafting an article-length manuscript of this study for publication in the Modern Language Journal. In addition, we are expanding this study through further data collection, and will be presenting some of this new data at the 2006 ACTFL conference in Nashville. Work toward the second project has included the completion of an article-length manuscript on the use of literary texts to develop learners’ grammatical competence and to foster skills in foreign language writing. This manuscript has been conditionally accepted for publication in Foreign Language Annals, and I am currently completing the requested revisions. I have also
engaged in a collaborative project (with Kimberly Boys of the University of Michigan and Cathy Barrette) on the use of literary texts to develop knowledge in literary analysis, culture, and stylistics across the FL curriculum. We have presented aspects of this work at the 2005 ACTFL conference in Baltimore, and are currently preparing two article-length manuscripts that report on this research.

CHRISTOPHER J. PETERS
Associate Professor, Law School
“A Matter of Dispute: Law, Disagreement, and American Democracy”
I am using my Humanities Center Resident Scholarship to support a major project of legal and political theory, which will include a full-length scholarly book and probably one or two related law review articles. The project, which builds on my scholarship over the past decade or so, seeks to understand American law as a process of acceptable dispute resolution and to apply that understanding to a number of persistent problems in legal and political theory. Those problems include the question of what duties, if any, participants in democracy owe to one another; what responsibilities a judge owes to the litigants and to society when she decides a case; whether and how constitutionalism and judicial review can be justified in a democratic system; and what methodology of constitutional interpretation is appropriate. During Winter 2006, the first semester of my Residency, I have made substantial progress toward completing a book proposal, which I hope will result in a contract from a major academic publisher. I also have written a stand-alone law review article of approximately 25,000 words that is related to the subject of the book and which I intend to submit to law reviews over the summer. In April, I presented portions of the overall project to a Humanities Center roundtable and at a workshop at the University of Minnesota Law School. The office space, administrative support, and collegial interaction offered by the Humanities Center have been invaluable to my work on the project.

BRAD SMITH
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
“Race, Threat and Police Brutality”
My year as a resident scholar at the Humanities Center has provided me with an excellent place to conduct my research on the social psychological dynamics of police brutality. During the past year my coauthor and I have worked toward completion of a published research monograph employing social psychological theory and research on cognition and emotion to explain police brutality. I have completed extensive background research for the book, including a significant amount of library research. We have completed drafts of four chapters and partial drafts of two additional chapters. In sum, I have completed a substantial portion of the manuscript in a relatively short period of time thanks, in part, to the Humanities Center and its staff. The Center provided a place to work uninterrupted on my research. Funding from the Center will allow me to travel to work with my coauthor during the final few months of my residence. In addition to the direct support of my research, I have also benefited from interacting with faculty from diverse fields. The monthly roundtable meetings with other Resident Scholars provided a glimpse of varied research that I otherwise would have been unaware. My residence at the Humanities Center has been a positive and productive experience.

MARVIN ZALMAN
Professor, Criminal Justice
“Wrongful Convictions: Trial Methods, Costs of Reforms”
The space, funding, and support afforded by my term as Humanities Resident Fellow, 2005-2006, allowed me to deepen my research on wrongful convictions. Funds made possible travel to the Yale University archives to gather information on law professor Edwin Borchard who published a seminal study of wrongful conviction in 1932 and who stimulated the first federal law compensating the wrongly convicted. Funds also supported travel to the annual meeting of the National Innocence Network at the University of Washington Law School, to observe the interest group that I am studying and to network with this group. I completed four article manuscripts on wrongful conviction and criminal justice system reform.
The 2005 Fall Symposium centered around the twin concepts of “hope” and “fear” which have received a great deal of attention in academic circles. Speakers engaged in the discussion from a variety of disciplines, including literature, history, art, psychology, linguistics and film.

The Humanities Center’s 2005 Fall Symposium took an interdisciplinary approach to “Hope & Fear.” The conference took place at Wayne State’s McGregor Memorial Conference Center on November 18, and featured four keynote speakers who are experts in their fields.

**TORTURE ABROAD AND AT HOME: CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE DURING WARTIME AND IN WOMEN’S PRISONS**

Donald Spinelli, Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, opened the conference in the morning and welcomed the audience. Moderator Alfred Cobbs, the Department of German & Slavic Studies, introduced the first keynote speaker of the day, Mark Danner, a professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, and of Human Rights, Democracy, and Journalism at Bard College. Danner is a journalism scholar who has covered events in Central America, Haiti, the Balkans, and the Middle East and had recently spent time covering the Iraq War. He discussed his insights from the latter trip in his talk “Torture and Fear: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror” and afterward answered questions from the audience. Danner was followed by Donald Haase from the Department of German and Slavic Studies, who spoke on “Fairy Tales, Hope, and the Culture of Defeat from the Postbellum South to Postwar Germany.” The morning session concluded with the second keynote speaker of the day, Carol Jacobson from the University of Michigan. Jacobson, an associate professor of Art and Design and Women’s Studies, also serves as Director of the Michigan Women’s Clemency Project. In the latter capacity, she advocates for the human rights of women prisoners and seeks freedom for women wrongly incarcerated. She presented parts of her powerful documentary on the subject in a talk entitled “Clemency and Human Rights in Michigan Women’s Prisons.”
HOPE AND FEAR: PERCEPTIONS OF ISLAM IN AMERICA

After a break for lunch, moderator Ken Jackson from the English Department introduced keynote speaker Reza Aslan. Aslan was Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Iowa from 2000 to 2003 and now writes full time. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Slate Magazine, Boston Globe, the Washington Post, and the Nation. His first book, No God but God (Random House, 2005), has earned him international acclaim and he has appeared on Meet The Press, Hardball, The Daily Show, and Nightline to discuss it and his other work. Aslan expanded upon the material in his book with a talk entitled “The Islamic Reformation in America.”

Joseph Fitzgerald from the Psychology Department then injected a Social Science perspective into the conference with his talk “Emotional Expression in Autobiographical Memory.”

The third session of the day was moderated by Lisabeth Hock of the Department of German and Slavic Studies. The session began with a joint talk by Ellen Barton of the Linguistics Program and Ken Jackson from the English Department entitled “Hoping against Hope in the Discourse of Medicine.” They were followed by Kirsten Thompson, an assistant professor of Film Theory in the English Department, who showed film footage as part of her talk on “Fear and Trembling: The Exorcism of Emily Rose (2005).” The final speaker of the day was keynoter Kevin Boyle, a professor of History from the University of Ohio. Boyle’s book Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age (Henry Holt, 2004) won the National Book Award for non-fiction, the Society of Midland Authors Book Award, and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Boyle spoke on “The Great White City: Hope and Fear in the Heart of Modern America.”

Below: Kevin Boyle from Ohio State University

Below: Reza Aslan from UC Santa Barbara

Below: Ken Jackson from Wayne State University

Below: Lisabeth Hock from Wayne State University

The 2006 Fall Symposium will address the subject of “Immigration: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2006.
2006 Faculty Fellows Conference

Globalization and the Humanities

Each spring the recipients of the previous year’s annual Faculty Fellowships participate in a conference based on that year’s theme. The 2006 conference on “Globalization and the Humanities” addressed the issue of globalization from cultural, literary, political, philosophical and educational standpoints.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

HOWARD N. SHAPIRO
Welcoming Remarks
Associate VP for Undergraduate Programs and General Education

OBIOMA NNAEMEKA
Keynote Speaker
French, Women’s Studies, and African-American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

BRENT EDWARDS
Keynote Speaker
English, Rutgers University

CHRISTOPHER SOUTHGATE
Special Guest
Theology, University of Exeter (U.K.)

KEN JACKSON
Moderator
Associate Professor, English

DURRENDA ONOLEMHEHEN
Moderator
Associate Professor, Social Work

BACRETT WATTEN
Moderator
Professor, English

This Conference gave winners of the 2005-2006 Faculty Fellowship Competition on “Globalization and the Humanities” an opportunity to discuss their research. The conference took place at the Alumni House on March 24th, and included keynote lectures by Obioma Nnaemeka and Brent Edwards along with a guest talk by British poet and scholar Christopher Southgate.

GLOBALIZATION HERE AND ABROAD

Howard N. Shapiro, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Programs and General Education, opened the conference by saying a few words about globalization and how current scholarship addresses the concept. Moderator Durrenda Onolemhemhen, associate professor of Social Work, introduced the first speaker of the day, keynote Obioma Nnaemeka. Dr. Nnaemeka is a professor of French, Women’s Studies and African/African Diaspora Studies and a former Director of the Women’s Studies Program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

An international scholar, she has studied French, German, and African Studies at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Nigeria), the former Université de Dakar (Senegal), Université de Grenoble (France), and the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). Professor Nnaemeka explored conceptualizations of globalization based on the individual in her talk “Humanizing Globalization.” Professor Nnaemeka was followed by Catherine Ash Bogosian, an assistant professor in the History Department, who gave a talk on “Labor, Obligation and Empire: Public Works in Colonial French West Africa.” The next talk was given by Beth Kangas, of the Anthropology Department, whose presentation on “Valuing Life and Death in a Global World: Technological Medicine in Yemen and Arab Detroit” included illustrative photographs of individuals from Yemen and Dearborn, Michigan. The morning session concluded with a presentation by Vidya Ramaswamy, Research Associate for the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, on the project she co-directed with Frederic Pearson, Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Her talk was entitled “The Impact of Immigration Patterns in Local Community Schools.”
Each talk was followed by a Question and Answer period to encourage interaction between the speakers and audience members.

The Language of Globalization

The first afternoon session was moderated by Barrett Watten, professor of English, who introduced the second keynote speaker of the day. Brent Edwards is an associate professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University and the author of The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism (Harvard University Press, 2003) and co-editor of Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies (Columbia University Press, 2004). His translations include essays, fiction, and poetry by celebrated authors including Jacques Derrida, Edouard Glissant, Sony Labou Tansi, and Monchoachi. Edwards explored selected writings by Langston Hughes in the context of Globalization studies in his talk entitled “Langston Hughes and the Futures of Diaspora.” Sarika Chandra, assistant professor of English, then gave a talk entitled “The End(s) of Travel: Re-Assessing Americanism in the Age of Globalization.” Richard Marback, associate professor of Composition Theory in the English Department, ended the second session with the talk “What Place the Taalmonument in the New South Africa? South African Language Policy and the Culture of Language.”

Media and Globalization: Practical and Artistic Concerns

Ken Jackson, associate professor of English, moderated the final session of the conference. The first speaker of the third and final session was Gordon B. Neavill, associate professor of Library and Information Science, who presented on “Scholarly Communication in the Global Digital Environment.” Michael Scrivener, professor of English, spoke next on “Habermas and the Cosmopolitan Ideal,” followed by Robert Burgoyne, professor of Film Theory in the English Department, who showed video footage as part of his talk entitled “The Epic Film in World Culture: Gladiator.” David Austell, Executive Director of International Programs, introduced the final speaker of the conference, Christopher Southgate, who was visiting the university under the auspices of the Office for International Programs. Southgate was trained originally as a research biochemist and has also been a poet, editor and bookseller. Since 1993 he has lectured at the University of Exeter and is also involved in an ecumenical scheme to train clergy in southwest England. His presentation was entitled “Poetry, Globalization, and the Ambiguous Role of Science.”

The conference was followed by a reception in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center where speakers and guests socialized and discussed the conference presentations. Next year’s Faculty Fellowship Conference will address the theme of the 2005-2006 competition: Translation and Representation.

Above: Guest Speaker Christopher Southgate
The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center’s most successful and visible programs. This year the series included fifty-three talks given by Wayne State University faculty members and visiting professors.

Abstracts for talks are posted on the Center’s website and can be accessed at www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown_bag/05-06.html.

FALL SEMESTER

September 14: Sergio Rivera Ayala, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures
“RACE AND POWER IN XVII CENTURY COLONIAL MEXICO”

September 20: John Corvino, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
“How to be a Humean Moral Realist”

September 21: Renata Wasserman, Professor, English
“The Color of History: Black Brazilian Writers Machado de Assis and Lima Barreto”

September 27: David Moxley, Professor, Social Work & Olivia Washington, Associate Professor, Nursing
“NARRATIVES OF RECOVERY: HOW OLDER AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN EMERGE FROM HOMELESSNESS”

September 28: Joe Calarco, Professor, Theater
“The Modern Poet as Mage and Musician: From W. B. Yeats to Dylan Thomas and Beyond”

October 4: Ken Jackson, Associate Professor, English
“Is It God or the Sovereign Exception? Giorgio Agamben and Shakespeare’s King John”

October 5: Haiyong Liu, Assistant Professor, Near Eastern and Asian Studies
“The Initial Stage and Parameter-resetting in Second Language Acquisition of Chinese”

October 11: Jeff Rice, Assistant Professor, English
“Digital Detroit”

October 12: Nancy Christ, Director, Research Collaborations, Office of Research & Vance Briceland, Information Officer II, Office of Research
“Research Collaborations: How to Find Partners and Funding”

October 18: Bob Sedler, Distinguished Professor, Law School
“Freedom of Speech: United States vs. The Rest of the World”

October 19: Robert P. Holley, Professor, Library and Information Sciences
“You Can Always Get What You Want and Usually Pay Much Less than You Expected: The Out-of-print Book Market in the Internet Age”

October 25: Terese M. Volk, Associate Professor, Music
“Congdon’s Early Music Education Materials”
November 1: Monte Piliawsky, Associate Professor, Education  
“AN INVISIBLE VOICE OF THE NEW LEFT: LIFE CYCLE POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION OF A WHITE, WORKING-CLASS RADICAL WOMAN”

November 2: Loraleigh Keashly, Associate Professor, Communication  
“AGGRESSION AT THE SERVICE DELIVERY INTERFACE: THE EVOLUTION OF PATIENT-STAFF HOSTILITY”

November 8: Anca Vlasopolos, Professor, English  
“INTERCOURSE WITH ANIMALS: FEMINIZED NATURE AND SADISM IN BALZAC, MELVILLE, WHALING JOURNALS, AND 1920’S FOOTAGE OF ALBATROSS HUNTS”

November 9: Bruce Russell, Chair, Philosophy  
“AGAINST RELATIVISM”

November 15: Alvin Saperstein, Professor, Physics  
“SCIENCE AND RELIGION: THE TWO-BRAIN STUDENT”

November 16: Robin Boyle, Chair, Geography and Urban Planning  
“PLENTY OF EMPTINESS: CITIES AND VACANT LAND”

November 22: Danny Postel, Journalism, Columbia College Chicago  
“READING HABERMAS (AND LOLITA) IN TEHRAN: IRAN’S INTELLECTUAL ENCOUNTER WITH MODERNITY”

November 29: Bill Harris, Professor, English  

November 30: Frances Ranney, Associate Professor, English  
“MAKING GOOD ON OUR PROMISE(S): WOMEN’S STUDIES ACROSS FEMINISMS AND DISCIPLINES”

December 6: Christopher J. Peters, Associate Professor, Law School  
“CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND DISAGREEMENT”

December 7: Brad R. Roth, Associate Professor, Political Science  
“STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL LEGALITY”

December 13: Janine Marie Lanza, Assistant Professor, History  
“SHARING THE WEALTH: FAMILIES AND INHERITANCE IN EARLY MODERN PARIS”

December 14: Sarika Chandra, Assistant Professor, English  
“The BODY AND THE GLOBAL DOCUMENTATION OF IDENTITY”
2005-2006 Events

The Year in Photos

Right: Humanities Center Director Walter Edwards (far right) attended the CHCI Conference at the University of Chicago where he discussed collaborations with other Humanities Centers across the country.

Right: The Fall Symposium attracted a large audience, including faculty members from the University of Windsor Humanities Research Group.

Left: Advisory Board Member Ken Jackson, English, did double-duty at the Fall Symposium, moderating the second session and giving a talk with Ellen Barton, Linguistics, during the third session. Professor Jackson also moderated the third session of the Faculty Fellows Conference.

Right: Bill Harris, English, chats with Humanities Center Director Walter Edwards at the closing reception for the Faculty Fellows Conference attended by speakers and guests.

Above: Coreen Jacobs-Chester, a lecturer in English from the University of Guyana, visited the Humanities Center and Wayne State University for three weeks in June. Her visit was sponsored jointly by the Humanities Center and the Office of International Programs.

Right: The Humanities Center’s annual Holiday Potluck was attended by the Center’s scholars, staff, and friends. Several people brought dishes native to their homelands and the countries in which they conduct research.
2005-2006 Events

The Year in Photos

Left: Beth Kangas, Anthropology, gave a talk at the Faculty Fellows Conference that included photographs taken both in Yemen and Dearborn, Michigan.

Left: Victor Green, Director of Community Affairs, Office of Government and Community Affairs, reads a special proclamation from the university in honor of Black History Month before a Brown Bag talk by Ollie Johnson, Africana Studies.

Left: WSU Humanities Center Director Walter Edwards shakes hands with Vice-Chancellor Dr. James G. Rose of the University of Guyana over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between their two universities. Dr. Edwards visited Guyana between March 10 - March 19.

Above: Marilyn Zimmerman’s Brown Bag talk included a photo exhibition featuring Detroit residents discussing their experiences with healthcare in the city.

2005-2006 Events
Brown Bag Colloquium Series

Brown Bag talks are now held twice a week in Faculty Administration Building’s second floor conference room. This year’s series also included an organ recital by Norah Duncan IV held in the Community Arts Auditorium and a dance presentation choreographed by Jeff Rebudal held in the Maggie Allesee Studio Theater in Old Main.

January 25: Marilyn Zimmerman, Associate Professor, Art and Art History
“PEOPLE OF DETROIT: A LIVING PROJECT”

January 31: Ronald Aronson, Distinguished Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
“LIVING WITHOUT GOD”

February 1: Juanita Anderson, Assistant Professor, Communication
“AFRICAN CINEMA”

February 7: R. Khari Brown, Assistant Professor, Sociology
“RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE PROVISION OF BLACK AND WHITE RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS”

February 8: Victor Figueroa, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures
“A KINGDOM OF BLACK JACOBINS: ALEJO CARPENTIER AND C.L.R. JAMES ON THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION”

February 14: Stanley Shapiro, Professor Emeritus, History
“CHARLES LINDBERGH’S IMAGE AND CELEBRITY”

February 15: Donyale Griffin, Lecturer, Communication
“HIP-HOP’S MESSAGES AND IMAGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: COMMODITY, CONFLICTS, AND CONTRADICTIONS”

February 21: Jorge Chinea, Associate Professor, History & Director, Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies
“TRANSATLANTICISM: RE-HISTORICIZING PUERTO RICO AND CUBA FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE”

Below: Arthur Marotti, English

Above: Jorge Chinea, Director of the Chicano-Boricua Studies
2005-2006 Events

Brown Bag Colloquium Series

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

February 22: Ollie Johnson, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies
"AFRO-BRAZILIAN POLITICS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

Thursday, February 23: Durrenda Nash Onolehemhen, Associate Professor, Social Work
"A SOCIAL WORKER’S INVESTIGATION OF CHILDBIRTH INJURED WOMEN IN NORTHERN NIGERIA"

February 28: Norah Duncan IV, Associate Chair, Music
"ORGAN RECITAL WITH COMMENTARY ON AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC"

March 1: Jeff Rebudal, Assistant Professor, Dance
"TRADITIONAL AND THE POST-CONTEMPORARY IN DANCE: FILIPINO INDIGENOUS DANCE FORMS IN CONTEMPORARY MODERN DANCE"

March 7: Jeffrey Abt, Associate Professor, Art & Art History
"RETURNS OF THE REPRESSED: MUSEUMS AND RELIGION"

March 8: Peter Riley Bahr, Assistant Professor, Sociology & Porsche VanBroeklin-Fischer, Graduate Student, Sociology
"ONLINE SURVEY RESEARCH: EXPEDIENCE AT THE COST OF VALIDITY?"

March 21: Kypros Markou, Professor, Orchestral Studies
"NATIONALISM IN MUSIC IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD"

March 22: Sandra Hobbs, Assistant Professor, French
"NATIONALIST DISCOURSE AND THE COLONIAL SUBJECT IN NOEL AUDET’S 1992 NOVEL L’EAU BLANCHE (WHITEWATER)"

March 28: Hans Hummer, Associate Professor, History
"LAY LITERACY IN EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE"

March 29: Anne Rothe, Assistant Professor, German and Slavic Studies
"BEYOND HALBWACHS: COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND/AS COUNTER-MEMORY"

April 4: Jacalyn Harden, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
"DARK MOUTH, WHITE BREAST: RACE, NATURE, MOTHERHOOD, TECHNOLOGY"

April 5: Peter Riley Bahr, Assistant Professor, Sociology
"POSTSECONDARY REMEDIAL MATHEMATICS: WHAT IS IT, WHAT DO WE KNOW, AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?"

April 12: Joe Rankin, Chair, Criminal Justice
"FAMILIES AND CRIME"

April 18: Sarah Bassett, Associate Professor, Art and Art History & Brian Madigan, Associate Professor, Art and Art History
"THE NUMINOUS IMAGE IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD, BEING A COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DESIGN AND FUNCTION OF HOLY IMAGES IN THE POLYTHEISTIC AND MONOTHEISTIC CULTURES OF THE NEAR EAST, EGYPT, GREECE, ROME AND BYZANTIUM, PART II: GREECE, ROME, BYZANTIUM"

April 19: Bob Yanal, Professor, Philosophy
"HITCHCOCK’S VERTIGO AND THE TRISTAN LEGEND"

Above: Jeff Rebudal’s talk included a dance recital punctuated with a powerpoint presentation and video footage.

Above: Jacalyn Harden, Anthropology
The purpose of the project is to examine how the Haitian Revolution and its aftermath has been represented in literary works from the Caribbean region, and more specifically, how intellectuals from the writers’ specific contexts. Dr. Figueroa has chosen works and its aftermath has been represented in literary works from the Caribbean region, and more specifically, how intellectuals from the writers’ specific contexts. Dr. Figueroa has chosen works

The aim of the project is to examine

that allow a better understanding of the events in Haiti from multiple perspectives that nonetheless share geographical, historical, and socio-political concerns, and allow us to examine the way Caribbean intellectuals have articulated a sense of Caribbean identity/identities by means of representing certain historical and cultural events as having significance and implications for the whole archipelago.

Jeffrey Abt, associate professor of Art and Art History, has received a Faculty Fellowship for his project “Picturing Writing Pictures: From Representation to Translation in the Historiography of Egyptology.” He hopes to complete a historical and critical overview of the representation, transcription, and translation of Egyptian hieroglyphs, beginning with their earliest publication during the Renaissance and concluding with development of the “Chicago House” epigraphic method in the 1920s. The study will focus 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. These challenges will be set in the context of the rise of Egyptology as a scholarly discipline during a period when hieroglyphs had become a common way of representing occult knowledge, the mystery of the “Orient” to the western European imagination, and an increasingly popular motif in the visual culture of Egyptomania. This history will serve as part of a book.

Anne E. Duggan, associate professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, was awarded a fellowship for “The Tragic Story: An Exercise in Translation.” She explores 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. Francois de Belleforest collaborated on the first volume of Boaistau’s tragic stories and then went on to publish six more volumes on his own following Boaistau’s example. The study will focus on Boaistau’s and Belleforest’s processes of translation, to be understood not in terms of transparency or adequation between the original and its copy but rather in terms of transposition and transformation, a reshaping of the original material that necessarily occurs in any translation, and which in this case resulted in the creation of a new genre.

Victor Figueroa, assistant professor of Spanish, has received a grant for his project entitled “A Revolution by Any Other Name? Pan-Caribbean Representations of the Haitian Revolution.” The purpose of the project is to examine how the Haitian Revolution and its aftermath has been represented in literary works from the Caribbean region, and more specifically, how intellectuals from the region have translated the events into sometimes broader, sometimes narrower social and cultural preoccupations that arise from the writers’ specific contexts. Dr. Figueroa has chosen works

that allow a better understanding of the events in Haiti from multiple perspectives that nonetheless share geographical, historical, and socio-political concerns, and allow us to examine the way Caribbean intellectuals have articulated a sense of Caribbean identity/identities by means of representing certain historical and cultural events as having significance and implications for the whole archipelago.

Mary Garrett, associate professor of Communication, and Haiyong Liu, assistant professor of Near Eastern and Asian Studies, have been awarded a grant for their joint project, “The ‘Translatable’ and the Translated between China and the U.S.” They will investigate the issue of translator choice, what is selected to be translated, through a detailed analysis of four case studies of translation of Chinese (both Classical and modern) and English. The question is significant because, as noted by Lefevere (1995) and others, “certain translations have been extremely influential in the development of certain cultures/literatures.” In addition, readers tend to construct their image of the source culture based on the translated works, but these are not necessarily typical, comprehensive, or accurate. To keep the scope of the project manageable they will restrict themselves to non-technical, written materials such as novels, works of philosophy, and political tracts.

Michael Goldfield, professor of Political Science, has received a grant for his project “Translation, Representation, and (Mis) Interpretation in Marx’s Kapital.” He is currently working on a new translation of Kapital, particularly the most theoretical section, part one of volume one. This project will consist of the translation and an interpretive essay which discusses the issues of translating this text. Specifically, he will 1) highlight those terms which he believes are key to the interpretation of Marx’s argument, 2) show how these terms have been translated in the most important translations of Kapital, from the 19th century to the present, and 3) spell out what the most vexed interpretive and translations issues are in Kapital.

Suzanne K. Hilgendorf, assistant professor of German and Slavic Studies, has received a fellowship for “English in the German Media: The Language’s Impact in Television, Cinema/ Film, and Popular Music.” The aim of the project is to examine the phenomenon of English as the global media language and to assess the language’s impact in that role within the Federal Republic of Germany. Being among the most popular and prevalent forms
of entertainment in the country, television, cinema/film and popular music are significant in that they reach a large percentage of the population and therefore are an important indicator of the depth of the spread of English in Germany and the societal bilingualism now emerging in the country. She will use statistical information that deal with what is being shown on television and in cinemas, as well as what music is sold in the country and broadcast on the radio, and conduct interviews with artists and industry managers in Germany.

Aaron B. Retish, assistant professor of History, has received a grant for his project entitled “Peasants in a Modern State: Power and Identity in Russia’s Age of War and Revolution, 1914-21.” The purpose of the project is to revise his dissertation into a book manuscript, which will be a case study of the interaction between peasants and political and cultural elites in the Russian province of Viatka from the beginning of World War I to the end of the Civil War in 1921. He explores the process of how elites defined peasants and peasants in turn translated, accepted, and resisted these definitions. As the first study of the significant, yet overlooked Viatka peasant populations, the project will show that notions of status, ethnicity, gender, and civic nationalism are integral in fully understanding peasant participation in Russia’s transformations.

Cannon Schmitt, associate professor of English, has been awarded a fellowship for his project “Victorian Oceans: Translations and Representations of an Atopia.” He proposes to anatomize a signal moment in the genealogy of the sense that the sea is uniquely intransigent and therefore difficult to translate or represent. The theoretical goal of the project is to place under scrutiny what has heretofore been relegated to a conceptual space between center and periphery, developed and developing worlds, colony and metropole: the sea. The Victorian era (1837-1901) is especially important because the British effectively controlled the world’s oceans during that era, enforcing their ban on the slave trade, protecting and expanding their imperial holdings in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, and charting the edges of continents as well as, eventually, the depths of the sea floor.

James Thomas, professor of Theater, has received a grant for his project “Translation of ‘The Wisdom of Rehearsal’ by Russian director Anatoly Efros (1925-87).” Playwright Anatoly Efros belongs to a group of Russian artists, writers, and intellectuals that created the era between 1950 and 1980 know as the “Thaw.” Politically, the Thaw inspired the work of rebuilding socialism by “restoring” the ideals of Lenin from their Stalinist “distortions,” and more practically it witnessed the rebirth of artistic freedom after a long period of ruthless censorship. One of the most influential artists of the thaw generation, Efros’ life and work has been virtually unknown in the West until recently. Besides being valuable to those actively presenting theater, the translation will also be of a potential interest to students of Russian theater, literature and history.

Susan Vineberg, associate professor of Philosophy, has been awarded a grant for her project “Mathematical Representation in Empirical Science.” The aim of the project is to investigate the properties that well confirmed mathematical models or theories possess. In the first of two papers, she will develop the criticism of the view that successful models must involve an isomorphism, or partial isomorphism, with the physical structures that they represent. This piece will consider the fact that there are many kinds of models in science, and will emphasize that their adequacy as models depends, at least in part, on the purposes to which they are put. The second paper will discuss more generally the idea that specific scientific aims govern the adequacy of models that represent physical phenomena. Different aims dictate different models, and thus there is no simple criteria for the adequacy of theoretical models.

Barrett Watten, professor of English, has received a faculty fellowship for his project entitled “Translating Authority: Adorno’s Cultural Work in The Authoritarian Personality.” Theodor W. Adorno, an exile from the Nazi regime in the United States, served as chief investigator in a ground-breaking and famously controversial 1950 study of the relation of structures of “personality” to the capacity of Americans to accept “fascism.” In this project, Watten rereads the study in order to 1) recover its place in Adorno’s work and reception, 2) disclose the moment of cultural translation it enacts in terms of Adorno’s work and on the development of Cultural Studies, and 3) revive interest in the study of the relationship of social authority to literary authorship, on the one hand, and to the acceptance of what Adorno termed “fascist ideology” of mass culture, on the other. This study will serve as a chapter in a larger work-in-progress, The Poetics of Modern Authority.
2005-2006 Grant Projects

Innovative Projects

Through its Innovative Projects program, the Humanities Center continues to fund faculty members from various disciplines who perform innovative research in the humanities and arts. This year, the Center’s Advisory Board selected six projects for funding, awarding them a total of $16,500. Descriptions of the funded projects are below.

2005-2006 Recipients

Ellen Barton
Linguistics

Eugenia Casielles
Romance Languages & Literatures

Kate Paesani
Romance Languages & Literatures

Ljiliana Progovac
Linguistics

John Corvino
Philosophy

Gwen Gorzelsky
English

Lavinia Hart
Theatre

Stephen Stone
Dance

Chris Collins
Music

Lavina Hart, assistant professor of Theatre, Stephen Stone, lecturer of Dance, and Chris Collins, associate professor of Music, have been awarded a grant for their project “An Interdepartmental Approach to Brian Friel’s Theatrical Masterpiece, Translations.” Friel’s play tells of the British army’s 1833 attempt to colonize the Irish people by force, by law, the use of English over Gaelic. In addition to the main convention of the play, that all the characters speak English but require a translator to interpret what the British and Irish characters say to each other, they will enhance and expand additional layers of translation through three means: a form of staging signed interpreted performances called shadow signing, the use of both English and American Sign Language, and a musical score using instruments indigenous to the British Isles. The theatre department will produce Translations at the Hillberry Theatre in April, 2007.

Ellen Barton, professor of Linguistics, Eugenia Casielles, associate professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Kate Paesani, assistant professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, and Ljiliana Progovac, associate professor of Linguistics, have been awarded a grant for their joint project entitled “The Syntax of Nonsententials: Multidisciplinary Perspectives.” Their project takes a multilingual approach to the subject of nonsententials, utterances that are smaller than a sentence, and use Chomsky’s (1995) Minimalist Program and its later developments (Chomsky 2001, 2002) as their theoretical framework. Their analysis suggests that the defining property of nonsententials is the absence of the syntactic Tense node, and, with it, all the syntactic phenomena that rely on Tense such as nominative case assignment, the appearance of determiners, etc. They are currently compiling their work for a book on the subject which will be published by John Benjamins, a leading publisher in the field of Linguistics.

John Corvino, assistant professor of Philosophy, has been funded for his project “How To Be a Humean Moral Realist.” His project defends what he terms a “somewhat controversial” realist reading of the eighteenth-century Scottish philosopher David Hume. (Moral realists believe that there are moral truths that are, to some extent, independent of our beliefs about them and that our moral beliefs answer to these truths.) He has three goals in this project: to uncover how Hume begins with sentiments and concludes with authoritative moral prescriptions, to examine Simon Blackburn’s attempt to do the same in his 1998 book Ruling Passions, and to discuss how Hume’s theory may provide a useful model for framing current debates.

Gwen Gorzelsky, associate professor of English, has received a grant for her book-length project entitled “How Literate Practices Promote Individual and Social Change.” Her study includes a qualitative component that focuses on two university-level intermediate writing courses and a component treating a large-scale social movement that analyzes the pedagogy embedded in the work of Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. The two aspects of the project represent macro- and micro-level analysis and include reflexive and collaborative components. From parallels between the two, she develops a heuristic for designing courses that use literature practices to engage all participants (students and teachers) in active, holistic change that both supports and revises individuals’ initial goals and has larger social implications.

Lavinia Hart, assistant professor of German & Slavic Studies, has awarded a grant towards her book-length project “Melancholy and German Women Writers (1800-1917).” This period is of particular interest because German psychiatry was becoming a leading force in the study of melancholia as a disease and at the same time women were beginning to gain access to the public sphere in significant numbers. Her project involves the exploration of four areas: 1) primary sources by German women writers including literary texts, autobiographies and memoirs, private correspondence, and political writing; 2) nineteenth-century psychological and medical texts on melancholia as an illness; 3) discussions of melancholy and sadness in nineteenth-century encyclopedias, conduct books, and popular magazines; and 4) the extensive secondary literature on melancholy as a temperament and cultural phenomenon.

Terese Volk, associate professor of Music, has been funded for “Work with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra doing historical research on the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Music Project from the 1930s.” Her project will combine historical and musical research to explore the large collection of WPA orchestra music housed at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Library and the library of the Grand Rapids Symphony. In addition to collating these two collections, the project will include research into the historical background of the WPA and the specific copyists involved, including interviews with the individuals who produced the collection.
Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship

In an effort to foster exemplary doctoral dissertation work among humanists at Wayne State, the Humanities Center offers an annual fellowship competition for PhD candidates. For 2005-2006, the Humanities Center selected one dissertation fellow and two awardees.

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). Ross Pudoloff, Graduate Director of the English Department, moderated the event which was well attended by conference participants and the three recipients’ dissertation advisors, department chairs and friends. Sandra VanBurkleo, Associate Professor of History and widow of the late Edward M. Wise, was also in attendance. Joan Mahoney, Professor of Law, presented certificates to this year’s fellow, Tara Hayes, and awardees Candace Mary Beutell Gardner and Bonnie A. Speck, and then each of the winners gave a brief presentation on the content of her 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 $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.

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.

2006 Awardees

Edward M. Wise Fellow Tara J. Hayes
English Department Jonson and Women

Additional Awardees Candace Mary Beutell Gardner
German and Slavic Studies Department Infinite Optimism: Friedrich J. Bertuch’s Pioneering Translation (1775-77) of Don Quixote

Bonnie A. Speck
History Department Minor Courts and Legal Culture at the Frontier

Above: The late Edward M. Wise

Below: Fellow Tara Hayes summarizes her dissertation.
Working Groups

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 2005-2006 academic year.

A Cross-Linguistic View of the Nature of Nonsentential Speech, Part IV
7 members from 4 different units
Group Leader: Ellen Barton

The Working Group on Nonsententials is pleased to report that our co-edited volume *The Syntax of Nonsententials: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* has been accepted in the Linguistics Today series at John Benjamins. The volume contains 12 chapters by authors from Wayne State and elsewhere, plus an Introduction and Epilogue co-written by the editors of the volume (Ljiljana Progovac, Kate Paesani, Eugenia Casielles, and Ellen Barton). We hope the volume will appear in late 2006, and we expect that it will become an influential volume in the field. The series editors report that they were “very impressed; we much like the philosophy behind the book and variety of data; an exciting volume!” The funds from the Humanities Center will be used to support activities preparatory to the publication of the volume.

Gender and Sexuality Studies
7 members from 6 different units
Group Leader: Frances J. Ranney

The Working Group in Gender and Sexuality Studies was formed in October, 2005 of faculty across disciplines from English to History, Sociology, and Communication. After a series of online discussions concerning its tasks, format, and subjects of interest, the group formed a Blackboard site as a central research repository and communication site. Three meetings took place during Winter 2006, during which we discussed issues of gender and technology; technology and human relationships; and cinematic representations of the triad of gender, technology, and relationships. A core group then met to set a prospective agenda for the upcoming academic year, including selection of topics for reading and discussion and identification of potential outside speakers and events to which the Working Group’s areas of focus may be tied. We have not yet used any of the budget allocated to us, and ask that it be carried over into the Fall 2006 semester, when we will use the funds to bring in speakers and, possibly, a small media event on gender and culture.

Justice Studies Normative and Empirical Approaches
5 members from 4 different units
Group Leader: Todd Duncan

In 2005-06 the Working Group on Normative and Empirical Approaches to Justice Studies (Justice Studies Working Group) sponsored the following events. On September 23, the Group held a follow-up discussion with Prof. Sandra VanBurkleo of the Department of History regarding her Keynote Address on Gender and Citizenship, given at the Citizenship Center’s September 14 Constitution Day event. Also participating were her official commentators from the event, with Prof. Frances Rannney of the Department of English and Professor Brad Roth of the Department of Political Science and the Law School. On October 17, Prof. Bruce Russell of the Department of Philosophy presented his work on insights into John Stuart Mill’s “harm principle” that can be gained from an examination of the movie *Pleasantville*. (Says Bruce: “*Pleasantville* might be called the film version of John Stuart Mill’s *On Liberty.*”). November 18, Mark Danner, Professor of Literature, Politics & Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, and author of a leading book on the current controversy over treatment of detainees in the U.S. war on terrorism, held a follow-up discussion with the Group after his keynote lecture for the Humanities Center Fall Symposium, entitled “Torture and Fear: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror.” Prof. Brad Roth of the Department of Political Science and the Law School serves as discussant.

On January 19, Todd Lucas, WSU Ph.D. 2005,
who completed his dissertation under the direction of Prof. Sheldon Alexander in the Psychology Department, presented his research on “Distributive and Procedural Justice as Predictors of Stress and Health.” Finally, on February 22, Prof. Marvin Zalman of the Department of Criminal Justice presented his draft book chapter on “Adversary System’ and Wrongful Convictions.”

**People of Detroit: A Living Project**

5 members from 4 different units  
Group Leader: Marilyn Zimmerman

"The People of Detroit: A Living Project" Working Group incorporated the new changes (in format, etc) which were filed with HIC. Dr. Hankin met with the enlarged and current group of students from the medical school, sociology and Art Department, initiating them in the interview process. Interviewing and photographing will be continued into the summer. The DVD "People of Detroit: A Living Project" was exhibited at the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit on April 1 during the opening exhibition of PORTRAITS IN ACTIVISM.

**The Philosophy of Mathematics**

8 members from 2 different units  
Group Leader: Susan Vineberg

This year the Philosophy of Mathematics Working Group hosted three outside speakers. We brought in Alan Baker of Swarthmore College and Chris Pincock of Purdue University on the same day for a special joint session. The title of Pincock’s paper was "Mathematical Idealization", and the title of Baker’s paper was "Mathematical Accidents and the End of Explanation". We also had Jamie Tappenden from the University of Michigan out to give us a talk on mathematical explanation. For convenience, all of the talks were held in the Philosophy Department. They were well attended by both faculty and students. We continued our discussion for some time over dinner after both talks. I believe that this year’s talks were among the best that we have had since beginning the group. The feedback, especially from the students, has been very positive.

**Science and Society**

8 members from 7 different units  
Group Leader: Marsha Richmond

The Working Group on Science and Society has been supported by the Humanities Center for the past four years. In the current academic year, the group carried out a number of activities. At our November meeting, we discussed a book that we had all read, Sergio Sismondi, *An Introduction to Science and Technology Studies* (Oxford, 2004). This book would be used as a textbook for a proposed core course should we form a Science and Society minor program at Wayne. We decided to write up a draft proposal to create a Science and Society minor program to be submitted first to the membership and, with their approval, to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition, we sponsored a series of campus-wide presentations. Philip Mirowski, Carl Koch Professor of Economics and the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame gave a talk entitled “Rethinking the Commercialization of Modern Science. Pt 1: The Laboratory” in the fall semester. Working Group member Beth Kangas, Anthropology, gave a brownbag talk in February on “Engendering Technology: Seeing the World in a Whole New Way.” Group Member Larry Scaff, Political Science, spoke in April on “From Weber to Latour.” Our group membership list continues to grow, reflecting an increasing interest in our group campus wide. As such, we hope to continue our group in the coming academic year and will submit a renewal application this coming fall.
MUNUSCULUM GRANT RECIPIENTS

JEFFREY ABT
Associate Professor, Art and Art History Department

ERIC H. ASH
Assistant Professor, History Department

TAMARA BRAY
Associate Professor, Anthropology Department

HEIDI GOTTFRIED
Associate Professor, Sociology Department

MARSHA RICHMOND
Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies Department

MICHELE RONNICK
Associate Professor, Classics, Greek and Latin Department

STANLEY SHAPIRO
Professor Emeritus, History Department

MUNUSCULUM (SMALL GRANT PROGRAM)

Beginning in 2002-2003, the Center has set aside $5,000 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 seven faculty received small grants: Jeffrey Abt, Eric H. Ash, Tamara Bray, Heidi Gottfried, Marsha Richmond, Michele Ronnick and Stanley Shapiro.

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. 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 $6,200 for miscellaneous expenses related to his or her work. The visitor is assigned an office in the Center and assistance with obtaining library privileges. In return, he or she is expected to give a talk on his or her project.

No visiting scholars were chosen for the 2005-2006 academic year but the Center hosted Ms. Coreen Jacobs-Chester, a lecturer from the University of Guyana, for three weeks during the summer. She observed classes in the English Language Institute and the College of Education. The Humanities Center is currently receiving applications for the Fall 2006 semester.

PREVIOUS VISITING SCHOLARS HAVE INCLUDED:

Ida Stamhuis, Department for the History and Social Studies of Science, Vrije University, Amsterdam. Spring/Summer Semester, 2004.

Deryck M. Bernard, Dean, School of Education and Humanities, University of Guyana. Winter Semester, 2004.

The Humanities Center annually budgets $8,000 every year 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 offers up to $400 in travel assistance to successful applicants. The following twenty-one graduate students took advantage of this program:

**CANDACE BEUTELL GARDNER**  
German & Slavic Studies Department

**AMY GOLDMACHER**  
Anthropology Department

**DIANA HADAD**  
Communication Department

**AMANDA HANLIN**  
Political Science Department

**TARA J. HAYES**  
English Department

**MARIE KLOPFENSTEIN**  
Linguistics Program

**TERRI KOVACH**  
Sociology Department

**KATHERINE L. LAVELLE**  
Communication Department

**MARIA R. ROTI**  
Anthropology Department

**STEVEN SOSNOSKI**  
English Department

**ANDREA LOVE SUMPTER**  
Sociology Department

**BEATRICE M. THOMAS**  
Sociology Department

**RICHARD WORK**  
Romance Languages & Literatures

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

Acoustical Society of America Meeting  
Alizen Conference (International Association for Multidisciplinary Approaches and Comparative Studies related to Émile Zola and his Time, Naturalism, Naturalist Writers and Artistes, Naturalism and the Cinema Around the World)  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
American Comparative Literature Association Conference  
Boston University Conference on Language Development  
Central States Communication Association Conference  
Eastern Sociological Society’s Annual Meeting  
Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference  
Annual Conference of the Gerontological Society of America  
Interdisciplinary Symposium in Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Studies  
International Conference on Social Science Research  
International Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference  
Joint Conference of the American Literary Translators Association & Translators Association of Canada  
Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association  
Modern Language Association of America’s Annual Meeting  
National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference  
National Communication Association Convention  
North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Annual Meeting  
North Central Sociological Association Conference  
South Eastern Medieval Association Conference
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 has continued its annual award of $7,000 to support the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship. However, in the 2005-2006 academic year, the Center suffered an 11% cut to its operational funds. We also made the one-time expenditure of $3,640 to divide a double room into two discrete offices in order to accommodate another Resident Scholar within our current office space. Despite these challenges, we were able to maintain funding for all of our programs.
The Brown Bag Colloquium Series for next year promises to be as exciting as the 2005-2006 season, with a record 59 talks scheduled. Below is the list of scheduled talks (subject to change).

September
12 Richard Grusin, Chair of English, “Affect, Mediality, and Abu Ghrabi”
13 Leon Wilson, Chair of Sociology, “Western Media and Adolescent Development in Guyana”
19 Melba Boyd, Chair of Africana Studies, Distinguished Professor, “Poetry and Scholarship: Research for Creative Expression”
26 Arifa Javed, Sociology, “Paces and Patterns of Acculturation among post 1990 immigrants in America”
27 Caroline Maun, Interdisciplinary Studies, “Mapping Interior Spaces: the Evolution of The Sleeping”

October
3 Avis Vidal, Geography and Urban Planning, “Interactions between Race and Space: South Africa and Detroit”
4 Catherine Barrette, Romance Languages and Literatures, “Scholarship Within Language Program Direction”
10 Rayman Mohamed, Geography and Urban Planning, “Possession at the Heart of Land Use Law: A Behavioral Perspective”
11 Lisa Maruca, Interdisciplinary Studies, “Text/Trade/Technology: Constructing Print Literacy in Eighteenth-Century England”
17 Fred Wacker, Interdisciplinary Studies, “Reflections on Gambling in Detroit: Humanistic Costs and Benefits”
18 Anne Rothe, German and Slavic Studies, “Constructing Post-Holocaust German Identities in Israel/Palestine, 1946-2004 - An Oral History Project”

November
1 Amy Adamczyk, Sociology, “Friends’ religiosity and the Timing of First Sex”
2 Steven Palmer, History, University of Windsor, “Slavery and the Production of Medicine in Cuba, 1800-1880”
8 Mary A. Wirschusen, Music, “Franz Schubert and the Popular Style”
14 Josee Jarry, Psychology, University of Windsor, “Body Image Experimental Research”
21 Anca Vlasopolos, English, “American Patriotism: Nathaniel Bowditch and the End of Monarchy at Sea”
23 Thomas Killman, Chair of Anthropology, “Architecture of Power: Social landscapes and political integration on Mexico’s southern Gulf Coast (circa A.D. 700)”

December
5 Frances Ranney, English, “Technology as Surrogate: Mothers, Daughters and ‘Labor-Saving’ Devices”
6 Sandy Pensneau-Conway, Basic Course Director of Communication, “Eros in the Classroom: Desire and Passion as Foundations of Teaching and Learning”

Brown Bag Colloquium Series

January
9 Roslyn Schindler, Interdisciplinary Studies, “(Re)vision of a Life: My Mother’s Holocaust Story”
10 Steven Shaviro, Professor of English, DeRoy Chair, “Age of Aesthetics”
16 Kathleen McCrone, History, University of Windsor, “Victorian Women and Music”
17 Ronald Brown, Political Science, & Wassim Tarraf, Political Science, “Is racial solidarity possible among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks?”
23 James Hartway, Distinguished Professor of Music, “Three Myths for Piano:”
30 Jennifer Olmsted, Art and Art History, “TBA”
31 Richard Marbach, English, “Unclenching the Fist: Regarding Rhetoric’s Embodiment”

February
6 Monica White, 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”
7 Norah Duncan IV, Associate Department Chair of Music, “Songs of Liberation from African and African American Sources”
13 Michele Ronnick, Classics, Greek and Latin, “The Classical Education of William Pickens, NAACP Field Director”
16 Guerin Montilus, Anthropology, “Person and Body: An Ethnographical Study Among the Adja Fon of Southern Benin, West Africa”
20 Monte Piliawsky, Education, “The Killing of Clyde Kennard: Mississippi’s Forgotten Martyr”
27 Donyale Goss, Communication, “Crisis preparation, media use and information seeking: Patterns across Katrina evacuees and lessons learned for crisis communication”

March
6 Erica Stevens Abbott, Dramatic Arts, University of Windsor, “Resisting Bodies: Promise and Change in the Representation of Girls in Theatre and Performance Art”
7 Sandra VanBurkleo, History, “Words as Hard as Cannon-Balls’: Race, Gender, and Experiences of Public Speech in American History”
19 Ken Jackson, English, “Is this not the same as...?: Zizek’s Materialism and Derrida’s Religion”
27 Jeff Rebudal, Dance, “Role of Dance and Choreography in Contemporary Opera”
28 Bruce Russell, Chair of Philosophy, “Limits of Philosophy in Film”

April
3 James Michels, Interdisciplinary Studies, “The Satire of Dario Fo”
4 Stephen Pender, English, Director of the Humanities Research Group, University of Windsor, “Rhetoric and Emotion, Antiquity to Early Modernity”
6 Melvin Small, Distinguished Professor, History, “Abraham Lincoln Brigade in WWII”
10 Raffaele De Benedicts, Romance Languages and Literatures, “Revisiting ‘Inferno III’”
17 Jeff Noonan, Head of Philosophy, University of Windsor, “Life-grounded Ethical & Political Philosophy”
24 Suzanne Hilgendorf, German and Slavic Studies, “English in the Global Market: The Impact in the German Business Domain”
25 Bill Harris, English, “Reading from a Work in Progress”

May

29
EXPLANATION

The notions of sovereignty, law, and justice can provide frames of analyses in a variety of humanities and arts disciplines, including literature, religion, history, music, theatre, philosophy and art. Thus, the Humanities Center is inviting full time WSU humanities and art faculty to submit proposals to its 2007 Faculty Fellowships Competition on the theme “Sovereignty, Justice and the Law”.

The relationship between sovereignty, law, and justice is, of course, an ancient concern, but it has been receiving significant academic attention across disciplines for the last twenty years or so, much of it organized around a surprising reconsideration of Carl Schmitt’s treatment of “political theology.” (Schmitt was the conservative Catholic jurist who became the legal architect of National Socialism by drafting Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution, concerning the state of emergency – the Nazi regime was “legal” under this article, operating as a sovereign power in a “state of emergency,” one that lasted some twelve years). Schmitt was interested in the sovereign as the body that makes possible a particular juridical-political order through an initial act of force or violence before withdrawing to allow governance by the “law” of that particular juridical-political order. The sovereign is thus both inside and outside the law, located in an extra-legal sphere, occupying what Giorgio Agamben refers to as a “zone of indistinction” between the law and pure, political violence or force. The sovereign is thus, in some sense, an “exception” to the rule of law, capable in states of emergency when the law is suspended for some reason, of making law or, at least “decisions,” without the law. Modern democratic nation-states have tended to avoid or ignore the problem of sovereignty as Schmitt frames it in their own governments, and, for the most part, post-WWII, were able to do so. But the end of the twentieth-century has produced more and more “states of emergency” or “states of crisis” that make the problem of the sovereign exception increasingly visible and impossible to ignore, revealing the fragility of cherished and seemingly foundational concepts like democracy and citizenship. During the Katrina hurricane and flooding, for example, modern “citizens” can quickly become “refugees”, without rights or privileges, at the mercy of the sovereign power. Other questions have emerged that highlight the persistent paradoxes of sovereignty and its relationship to law and justice:

· To what authority, outside the law, does one appeal when a democratic presidential race ends in a virtual tie?
· To what authority does one appeal to judge disputes between two “sovereign” states, including democratically elected sovereign states?
· What political relations are possible when large groups of people do not respect or adhere to the boundaries and logics of sovereign nation-states, appealing, for example, to a higher “sovereign” either in the form of a deity or an imagined political entity?
· Is there a legitimate distinction between the violence that founds and sustains a democratic sovereign state and other acts of political violence?

Implied in all of these questions is a sense that justice, or a just system, exists somewhere. Ultimately, however, this sense of “justice” that operates in the background of so many political and legal discussions is nowhere to be found in concrete terms or actions. We have no “justice” without law, but no law without the sovereign: and the sovereign is violent, but not necessarily just. How then do we talk in a rigorous and scholarly way about justice? Indeed, a sense of justice drives and informs much academic work in the humanities and while that sense of justice is often experienced and invoked, it is rarely examined. The paradox of the sovereign provides a focused way to address justice. While many of these questions seemingly point toward specific disciplines in the humanities – law, political science, history, philosophy – the troublesome logic of the relationship between sovereign, law, and justice is certainly not limited to just the legal and political sphere. For example, the so-called “laws” governing creative activity in the arts are frequently suspended by the “sovereign” decision of the artist in the pursuit of a more perfect (just?) form. The competition is particularly interested in how the dynamic relationship between sovereignty, law and justice manifests itself across the disciplines and enthusiastically invites contributions from all forms of humanities scholarship and artistic practice.

The above explication is intended to be suggestive rather than exhaustive. The Humanities Center invites applications from all humanities and arts faculty who are interested in the topic “sovereignty, justice and the law” from any disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective.

The deadline for this competition is 5:00 PM on March 23, 2007.
Humanities Center

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