



KU
HALL CENTER
FOR THE HUMANITIES
The University of Kansas

ANNUAL REPORT
2010-2011

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Hall Center Mission

The Hall Center's primary mission is to stimulate and support research in the humanities, arts and social sciences, especially of an interdisciplinary kind, at the University of Kansas. The Center brings together faculty and graduate students with common interests from various disciplines to enable them to build on each other's ideas and to share their knowledge within the university and with the wider community.

The Center's collateral mission is to sponsor special programs that engage the university and the wider community in dialogue on issues that bring the humanities to bear on the quality of life for all citizens. It creates events on and beyond campus that seek to understand our past, present and future, our values and identities and the essential issues we face as individuals and communities.

*On the covers: Hall Center Reception Area. Photos by Earl Richardson.
Page 2: Wichita Art Museum. Photo by John Ellert Photography.*





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*Hall Center Conference Hall.
Photo by Earl Richardson.*

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From the Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Victor Bailey *Director, Hall Center for the Humanities*

My good colleague, Dr. Kristine Latta, and I are recently returned from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) conference, which this year was held in Toronto. These conferences are valuable occasions to talk with the leaders of fellow humanities centers about common concerns. Gratifyingly, we continue to receive kind comments from center directors about the innovative work of the Hall Center, and in particular about the role of our Advisory Board and Friends organization. Nothing better illustrates the caliber of the membership of these bodies than the adjoining column by Deanell Tacha. Her *cri de coeur* on behalf of the humanities is surely a message to inspire us all.

Both the Advisory Board and the Friends will be vital to our success in the upcoming University comprehensive campaign. The campaign is still in the 'quiet' phase, but next spring will go 'noisy,' though I doubt this is the correct antonym! The Hall Center staff is currently working on the development of a case for support, which will include a request for the required match to an NEH challenge grant we have recently submitted. If successful, these funds would support a new set of programs to encourage collaborative or team research, including collaborations with public partners.

The case for support will also request funding for a small number of visiting post-doctoral fellowships. For over thirty years, the Center has appointed

resident fellows exclusively from within KU. This approach has been important to the research productivity of our own faculty. It is now time to add the 'intellectual stretch' that visiting fellows provide. Attracting young post-doctoral fellows can only help to invigorate the community of scholars within the Center. This initiative will, in turn, require us to convert the expansion space on the second floor, which Hall Family Foundation president, Bill Hall, wisely enacted when the new building was in design, into three new offices.

Last but not least, we aim to find funding for a new workshop for graduate students who wish to take advantage of opportunities for training in the field of public humanities practice. The aim is to explore the rewards of community-based research, teaching, and engagement, and the diverse careers to be found therein.

Also in our future is hosting the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes' annual conference in 2013. The theme of the conference is still under consideration, but I hope it will be the humanities in relation to the concept of the state. To do the conference well will test our mettle, since over one hundred directors from around the world attend for two full days of conference activities. It is a great privilege to have this opportunity to showcase the Hall Center at the same time as helping sustain the indispensable role of the CHCI.

From the Dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law



Deanell Reece Tacha

Deanell Reece Tacha

It is my privilege to have been involved with the Hall Center for the Humanities since its inception. Nearly thirty years ago, I witnessed firsthand the amazing generosity and foresight of the Hall Family Foundation of Kansas City when it recognized that scholarship in the humanities was one of the most important cornerstones of an enlightened future. Through the Foundation's support, the Hall Center for the Humanities has emerged as one of the preeminent supporters of humanities and interdisciplinary scholarship.

The central mission of the Hall Center is to challenge the traditional boundaries of academic organization in order to generate new perspectives and to enlighten thinking in ways that will equip us to confront an unknown future in an informed and thoughtful way. What could be more important in a society that seems overwhelmed—and sometimes even paralyzed—by the economic, cultural, religious, ideological, and historical challenges of our time? Those who might describe the humanities as an unnecessary indulgence have been blinded by a short-term rewards mentality at the expense of a long-term investment in our very existence as a civilized society.

We must step up as advocates for preserving the legacy of rigorous study, for a continued

evaluation of human history, and for the support of the scholars who engage in those inquiries. As the Hall Center moves forward to reach new levels of interdisciplinary collaboration, I believe it is incumbent on all of us to articulate more clearly the necessity of scholarship in the humanities and related disciplines. It is not about whether we can afford this kind of undertaking; it is about whether we can afford, as a society, not to support it.

In my work as a judge, I have seen over and over again the interrelatedness of the issues that confront humankind. Whether it is the influence of the French philosophes on our understanding of the Constitution and the work of the Founding Fathers, or the ramifications of family and neighborhood conditions that manifest themselves in criminal cases, we are all called to shed our narrow personal perspectives and view our world through the lens of the humanities disciplines. That is the everyday work of the Hall Center for the Humanities. I have returned to academic life in part to be able to be an advocate for the values the Hall Center so effectively models. I salute all who had the prescience to know the value of the Center's work and challenge all of us to carry forward its essential mission.

HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES



Elizabeth Kolbert



Science, Politics, and Climate Change

“We will quite literally determine the future of the world,” Elizabeth Kolbert informed a packed house during her September 17, 2010 lecture “Science, Politics and Climate Change.” A journalist and frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, Kolbert, launching the 2010-2011 Humanities Lecture Series, detailed her research concerning man’s pivotal role in hastening climate change. She is most noted for her book, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*.

Although identifying other contributing factors, Kolbert presented evidence that the burning of fossil fuels has been largely responsible for the “enhanced greenhouse effect” that underlies global climate change. This unprecedented, man-made ecological transformation constitutes a potentially

irreversible shift, Kolbert warned. It is a change of such magnitude that she and others have dubbed it the “Anthropocene,” the first time that humans are effectively producing a transition into a new geological epoch.

There is hope, she insisted, but change needs to happen on an international level to keep the temperature of our planet from continuing to rise. This is easier said than done. “Modern life uses a tremendous amount of energy” and it is difficult to find a way to replace it. What is clear to Kolbert is that the United States and other wealthy countries need to lead the way. As she wryly responded to a question concerning moral responsibility, “until privileged Americans start taking action, I don’t see why anyone else on the planet should take action.”

Ross Douthat



The Obama Presidency in the Shadow of the Midterms

Ross Douthat's call for a "constructive argument about where conservatives need to go" was the key to his October 19, 2010 lecture, "The Obama Presidency in the Shadow of the Midterms." Douthat began with a history of conservative political domination, explaining why the Republican party experienced realignment under Reagan. Political crises of the seventies, Douthat argued, made proponents rally around Reagan's "marriage of conservative philosophy to a specific plan."

Because changes were tailored to particular crises, however, Republicans began to lose their hold. In Douthat's view, concerns about "health care, wage stagnation, economy, and climate change" made a shift to the political left inevitable. Yet he is confident that the Obama

administration won't experience the kind of broad political realignment that Reagan was able to forge. Three main points of contention stand in the way: his administration's desire to use the flagging economy to gain popular approval over Republicans, which Douthat characterized as "perilous;" a specific agenda centering on concerns that Americans, given the economic climate, don't equally share; and the shadow of deficits, which would have dogged any politician who won in 2008.

From this analysis, Douthat looks forward cautiously, emphasizing that Obama's success depends on how the economy recovers. Either way, he concluded, "the liberal dreams of a New Deal 2.0, or a Republican realignment, are going to take a backseat" to stabilizing the economy.

Joseph O’Neill



An Evening with Joseph O’Neill

In Joseph O’Neill’s November 16, 2010 lecture, the cricket aficionado and author of the acclaimed novel, *Netherland*, discussed the writing process, what it means for a book to be understood, and the tragedy that generated his most notable work to date.

The most profound influence on the novel is 9/11. It is, in O’Neill’s words, “impossible to disentangle [the story] from this catastrophic and horrible crime.” *Netherland* counterpoises the disaster with the “quiet, very ordinary, well-behaved” Hague, where the author spent his own childhood and where the hero of the novel began his life. But an author can only give so much information about the specifics of the production of the novel, O’Neill cautioned,

declining to answer questions about the meaning of *Netherland*.

“The point of writing a novel is to flee the world of explanations and reductive statement, and instead to bring you to this object, this novel, which has extraordinary powers that alternative forms of communication don’t have.” This extraordinary power exists, in part, because of the solitary nature of the novel’s reception. No matter what intent an author had when writing the story, once he finishes a novel, he “ceases to have parental control over it.” Therefore, O’Neill concluded, discussing the birth of a novel is futile. What is truly interesting is the way audiences react to and interpret the story.

Susan Harris



Pious Hypocrisies

Though most famous for his acerbic wit, Mark Twain was also a vocal critic of American politics. It is his intense concern over the annexation of the Philippines by the United States at the start of the 20th century that captured the scholarly attentions of Hall Distinguished Professor Susan Harris. Her February 9, 2011 lecture, “Pious Hypocrisies: Mark Twain, the Philippines, and America’s Christian Mission,” constituted one of the most engaging presentations of the Humanities Lecture Series.

Harris, who has taught at KU since 2002, began with an overview of President McKinley’s decision to annex the Philippines, and its cultural and political reverberations. McKinley, for his part, justified this colonizing action by claiming that he wished to “Christianize” the incipient nation. But as Twain saw it, acquiring a foothold in Pacific market expansion interested the United States more than assisting a country struggling

for political freedom. Only the latter was a cause that Twain could stand behind. He rejected McKinley’s case for annexation, describing it as “hogwash and pious hypocrisies.”

Harris argued that “the language of benevolent outreach had become... intertwined with the language of consumer capitalism,” and it was this financial motivation, along with the crude characterization of America as a white Protestant nation, that prompted Twain and other critics. “He understood the contradiction at the heart of American self-identification,” Harris explained. Although America claimed to be upholders of Constitutional freedom, the selective nature of that freedom led Twain to write his most excoriating prose.

Harris’ book on the topic, *God’s Arbiters: Americans and the Philippines, 1898–1902* was published in 2011 with Oxford University Press.

Mae Ngai



Illegal Immigration: Origins and Consequences

On March 10, 2011, audiences were treated to an historian’s perspective on the current immigration debate when Mae Ngai delivered her lecture, “Illegal Immigration: Origins and Consequences.” Ngai, who is the Lung Family Professor of Asian-American Studies and Professor of History at Columbia University, offered the public an historically contextualized view of contemporary issues, focusing upon the shifting status of immigrants and immigration in America.

Migration exists as a result of unequal development in a globalized system, Ngai argued. When a country tries to restrict immigration in some limited way, it will “create streams of migration: one legal, one illegal.” Illegal immigration is not inevitable, nor is it monolithic; rather, Ngai

asserted, it is a “normative feature of immigration *policy*.”

Ngai provided a look at how the United States has regulated immigration differently at different historical junctures, and in response to distinct immigrant populations. As a new world colony, America was ethnically diverse, but also divided by race hierarchies. When America industrialized, it enacted *formal* equal rights, but accommodated a labor system stratified by race. Today, illegal immigration has created a caste system—migrants come here to work, yet are marginalized. This inequality, concluded Ngai, has led to immigrants shouldering immigration reform as their own kind of civil rights movement.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



African American Lives

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s presentation, "African American Lives: Genealogy, Genetics and African American History," left his audience roaring with laughter, as he peppered his lecture with colorful anecdotes. The Harvard professor and renowned cultural critic filled Woodruff Auditorium on April 14, 2011, a fitting end to a highly successful series.

Gates' own history featured prominently in his narrative, as he traced his love of genealogy back to an obituary of his great-grandmother, where she was described as "an estimable colored woman." Gates noted that this was an unusual discovery for a group of people whose pasts had suffered erasure at the hands of slave owners.

Gates' presentation, featuring excerpts from his PBS documentary series, *African American Lives*, emphasized the ubiquity of genetic admixture. He took audiences through a number of myths of African American ancestry, stories of purity and royal descent, only to gently unravel them through the application of state of the art genetic testing.

Gates showed how genetic testing, even as it serves to undo these myths of race and belonging that have plagued American history, may also provide a unique resource for African-Americans, who have been denied records of their heritage taken for granted by others. They are able, Gates argued, to use genetic testing not only to recover lost facets of their identity, but also to bridge the gulf of belonging in a country where a distant Civil War still echoes.

Supported by the Friends of the Hall Center

Hall Center Scholars

Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center sponsor a small number of Hall Center Scholars. The program provides opportunities for KU undergraduates with strong academic credentials who have demonstrated significant activity within KU to meet with the influential public intellectuals that participate in the Humanities Lecture Series.



Loren Cressler, Emylisa Warrick, Hannah Vick

Chelsea Brown graduated in May with degrees in English and Sociology. She was a Dean's Scholar and member of the Honors Program, and completed an honors senior thesis in both English, under the guidance of Gisselle Anatol, and Sociology, where Ebenezer Obadare supervised her research.

Cynthia Brown, junior, is majoring in Psychology. She has volunteered with the VNA Hospice of Douglas County and Hilltop Child Development Center, and is a member of the Honors Program.

Loren Cressler graduated in May with degrees in English Literature, Creative Writing and Classical Languages. He was the vice-president and co-founder of the Classics Club and editor of *Comma Splice* magazine. He also served as a Student Senator and has studied abroad four times while at KU.

Sarah Shier, senior, is majoring in Political Science and History. She has served on the Student Rights Committee in Student Senate, the Student Legislative Awareness Board, Dole Institute Student Advisory Board, the advisory board for Legal Services for Students, and as vice-president of Phi Alpha Delta. She is also in the Honors program.

Ryan Thornton, senior, is majoring in English and Classics. He has hosted a poetry show on KJHK, and is a member of the Honors Program. His research interests are in criticism and theory of literature, modern poetry and ancient Greek civilization.

Hannah Vick, senior, is majoring in English and Social Welfare. She has served as an Alternative Breaks Site Leader, a DJ for KJHK, the Director of Entertainment for KU Dance Marathon, the Lambda Sigma Community Service Chair and a PriceLess Pal with the Boys and Girls Club.

Emylisa Warrick graduated in May with a degree in English. She was a Dean's Scholar, the editor of KIOSK magazine and has been published in the University of South Carolina's undergraduate literary review, *The Lettered Olive*. She also interned at Andrews McMeel Publishing Company in Kansas City.

Megan Watson, junior, is majoring in English and Chemistry. She was the sophomore class President, member of the Board of Class Officers, and the Assistant Director for Participant Relations for KU Dance Marathon. She has also served on the steering committee for the Blueprints Leadership Conference and is a member of the Honors Program.

PUBLIC OUTREACH



Jim Leach, NEH Chairman



Bridging Cultures

*Victor Bailey, Bernadette Gray-Little,
Jim Leach, Bill Hall*

“If we lose an emphasis on the humanities,” warned Chairman Jim Leach of the National Endowment for the Humanities, “we will lose the ability to put things into perspective.” During his September 13, 2010 talk “Bridging Cultures,” Leach praised the Hall Center, calling it “one of the greatest humanities centers in the country, and possibly the emblematic one,” before going on to address the main theme of his talk, the problem of civility in politics. The humanities, he asserted, are crucial for maintaining a civil framework for American governmental policy.

Citing examples from history, philosophy, and literature, Leach, who is a former Republican Congressman from Iowa, emphasized how crucial a culturally aware governing body is in times of political extremism, and how the humanities are

integral to the development of such knowledge. Among other things cultural awareness encourages civility in political interactions. Civility is, Leach insisted, not merely the veneer of politeness, but a genuine interest in understanding different perspectives. This is a model for public debate that stands in stark contrast to the current political discourse, which has created a degree of hostile bipartisanship that has not been seen since the Civil War.

Leach concluded his lecture with an exhortation to the audience: “This is a time that, as a nation, we have to think through whether there is virtue in modesty of judgment, and virtue in doing more listening than we have before.”

David Crystal



Language Play

“Literature and language are two sides of one coin,” David Crystal mused after a dizzying display of verbal games during his lecture “Language Play” on September 21, 2010. The renowned linguist spent 10 days in residence at KU hosted by the Department of Theatre. In addition to lectures on various themes, he served as an adviser on the University Theatre’s November production of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” which was performed in original pronunciation.

A sense of humor pervaded Crystal’s talk at the Hall Center, which focused on language play in social contexts. Although language play reaches its apotheosis in the study of literature, explained Crystal, it is traceable through a multitude of social interactions. Language play helps people to create and maintain social bonds of varying kinds. Humor, especially, is necessary for establishing social relationships. “Discovering that we share

a sense of humor is important in determining if you’ll get on with someone.”

While playful, language play is also quite serious, involving investments of time and emotion. Crossword puzzles and more elaborate games, for example, bring people together for competition. Language play also helps develop language in children. Lip rounding, pitch range fluctuation, repetition, and other games are integral to both the acquisition of linguistic patterns and to the development of bonds between parent and child. This love of playful language often continues into adulthood, flowering into an appreciation of word puzzles, jokes, or literature.

But the greatest language players of all, notes Crystal, are the authors. Literature is built upon a playful sense of language, which is closely related to humor; there is a continuum between everyday and ludic language that all people experience.

Marisol Cortez



On the Academic-Activist Divide

How to connect the knowledge worlds of the university and the community, the activist and the academic, and how to ally the humanities' powers of critique with "on-the-ground struggles for social and environmental justice," is the challenge that ACLS New Faculty Fellow Marisol Cortez identified in her talk on December 7, 2010, "Nature, Culture, and Power from Either Side of the Academic-Activist Divide." Cortez was uniquely qualified to address the topic. Prior to coming to KU, she worked as a climate justice organizer for the Southwest Workers Union in San Antonio.

The "grafting" of the critical skills that the humanities provide onto the more scientific modes of inquiry that currently dominate the approaches of many community organizations, she argued, is important for achieving social justice. It allows community activists a way to critique and evaluate their methodology and results. Yet the sharing of practices needs to be a two-way street, Cortez insisted, breaking down the dichotomy of the "academic" and the "practical." The "corporate university" model, one that creates a surplus of "permatemp" positions dependent upon the labor of graduate students and untenured faculty, frequently devalues the work of these

emerging scholars. But there is in this intractable situation an opportunity: rather than viewing the application of university-nurtured critical practices as being useful solely for teaching and scholarship, freshly minted humanities scholars might consider alternative ways in which their training might be of use, in the guise of organizing, advocating for, and engaging with one's community.

The community can and does benefit as much as scholars, Cortez affirmed. Organizations focused only on achieving an end goal, without the ability or willingness to question their methods and results, run the risk of becoming monolithic and stagnant. Humanities scholars need to support the causes of social justice to remain useful, and social justice needs the humanities to remain self-critical.

When confronted with the inevitable question, "But of what use are the humanities?," the interrogated must turn the tables, Cortez argues: how can scholars help organizations to re-conceptualize what being "useful" is? The humanities cannot—should not—remain an ivory tower, but should open a dialogue between the university and the community.

Jonathan Earle



KU in Wichita

On April 27, 2011, Jonathan Earle, KU Associate Professor of History, shared with an audience of Wichita citizens and KU Alumni “a story that affirms the centrality of Kansas in the politics of the United States during its most pivotal crisis.” Earle’s KU in Wichita lecture, “If I Went West, I Think I Would Go to Kansas’: Abraham Lincoln, the Sunflower State, & the Election of 1860,” recounted the story of Lincoln’s meteoric recovery from an inauspicious first term in Washington DC. His success, argued Earle, was largely due to his popular political speeches and debates regarding anti-slavery in Bleeding Kansas. Stephen Douglas, Lincoln’s Democratic opponent, had been favored for success, yet stumbled when he introduced the controversial Kansas-Nebraska act, which allowed settlers of these territories to vote on whether they would be slave states or not. This inflamed Bleeding

Kansas, where the border with Missouri was already the site of constant conflict, and drove the issue to national attention. By contrast, Lincoln’s impassioned rhetorical demonstrations, defending the right of Kansas and other territories to remain free of slavery, launched him on a trajectory toward the presidency.

KU in Wichita is an annual event supported by the Lattner Family Foundation and co-sponsored by the KU Alumni Association and its Wichita Chapter. The public symposium provides a unique opportunity for the Hall Center to reach out to alumni and friends in the Wichita area, extending our public humanities mission beyond Lawrence. Each year, the Hall Center selects one of KU’s most accomplished faculty members to deliver the lecture.

Celebration of Books



More than 100 members of the KU and Lawrence communities came together on March 30, 2011 to celebrate the accomplishments of the 43 humanities, social science, and fine arts faculty members who published a total of 48 books in 2010. Their works explored such varied topics as the cultural history of *Seventeen* magazine, Slavic verbs of motion, Cherokee ball games, gay and lesbian politicians, and feminist approaches to capitalism, representing the depth and breadth of humanities research at the University of Kansas. The 9th Annual Celebration of Books Published by Humanities, Social Science, and Arts Faculty featured a reception, display of books, and brief program. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center.

Attendees were treated to short presentations by faculty authors. Eric Rath, Associate Professor of History, discussed his book *Japanese Foodways Past and Present*, which focuses on the development of Japanese cuisine from 1400 to 1868. Delving into the writings of medieval and early modern Japanese chefs, cookbooks, recipe collections, and gastronomic writings of the period, Rath's analysis considers the complicated relationships

between the globalization of food and the integrity of national identity through eating habits. Professor of English Geraldo de Sousa presented on his book, *At Home in Shakespeare's Tragedies*, detailing the interplay of house, home, household, and family life in Shakespeare's great tragedies. "I always look forward to learning about my colleagues' research and to spending a pleasant evening with my colleagues and friends," de Sousa noted. Samira Sayeh, Assistant Professor of French, concluded the program with a discussion of her book *From the Province to the Nation: Rethinking the Literary Identity of Algerian Literature in the French Language before Independence*, which examines three Algerian authors within the context of the complex departmental period of Franco-Algerian relations.

The annual Celebration of Books is highly valued by junior and senior faculty alike, giving them an opportunity to publicly mark the substantial accomplishment of having completed a scholarly volume or creative work. As Victor Bailey, the Hall Center Director notes, such a publication is "the end goal of much of what we support at the Hall Center, and it deserves to be celebrated."



Friends & Faculty

Clockwise from top left: Friends Fall Social;
2010–2011 Friends Council Chair Barbara
Schowen; Fetter String Quartet; Kathleen
Fitzpatrick; Nicole Hodges Persley
and Derrick Darby; Akiko Takeyama





Friends & Faculty

Clockwise from top left: Susan Harris and Jonathan Earle; Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop; Friends Annual Meeting; Randal Jelks with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little; Nancy Baym at a Digital Media Workshop; KU in Wichita; Roberta Pergher and Afshin Marashi



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



The Commons



Braden Allenby. Photo by Andrew Hoxey

The mission of the Commons, a partnership between the Hall Center, the Spencer Museum of Art, and the Biodiversity Institute, is to bring together scholars and students from the sciences, humanities and arts to explore the reciprocal relationships between natural and cultural systems. In 2010-2011, the Commons partners invited the University and local communities to consider the theme of “Mind, Body, Machine: Human Design Space.”

Visiting speaker Braden Allenby of Arizona State University challenged his audience to weigh the implications of technological advances on what it means to be human in his *Lecture Interruptus* in February. The Commons also introduced a new program, the Idea Café, intended to provoke and generate dialogue between speaker and audience. The program debuted with Brian Boyd from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, with a dialogue on the question “Can Evolution Explain the Arts?”

The Commons also awarded three Artist Project Grants, offering financial support and installation space for the recipients. In April, an interdisciplinary team including Kip Haaheim (Music), Nolan Lem, (Electrical Engineering), and Tristan Telander (Spencer Museum of Art) created *Mutatis Mutandis*, an exhibition that explored representations of data on glacial movement and melting. In May, the students of Motion Graphic

Design 560, taught by Design faculty members Jeremy Shellhorn and Shannon Criss, created *An Experimental Provocation about the Screens We Use Every Day*, a multi-part video installation that asks visitors to consider projected images and the pervasiveness of screens in daily life.

Finally, the Commons distributed its second round of seed grants. The fund provides support to teams of faculty pursuing innovative interdisciplinary research that cuts across the sciences, arts and humanities. Recipients included three faculty teams led by: Ford Ballantyne IV (Kansas Biological Survey), “The Texture of Desert Landscapes: Visualizing Interactions Between Humans and Their Environments;” Paul Atchley (Psychology) and Gregory Thomas (Architecture and Design), “SmartGrid/SmartHome/SmartCar: The New American Dream;” and Mary Dusenbury (Spencer Museum of Art), “Color as Power in Ancient and Medieval East Asia.”

The seed grant program has enjoyed the financial support of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies since its inception. Thanks to an additional commitment from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the funding level for the program will increase for 2011-2012. It will also incorporate a new mentoring process designed to assist applicants in working with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities



Spring 2011 saw the official launch of the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. Co-directed by Arienne Dwyer, KU Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Brian Rosenblum, Associate Librarian for KU Libraries, the Institute is a partnership of the Hall Center, KU Libraries, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Its mission is to promote the use of computing technology to advance humanistic scholarship across disciplines, to publish and disseminate scholarly research through new web-based models, and to study the impact of technology on society and on the scholarly record.

The Institute's first activity, on March 3rd and 4th, 2011, was a two-day Digital Jumpstart Workshop, which provided hands-on instruction in digital tools and practices to help researchers utilize technology for the analysis and presentation of research. With approximately sixty-five attendees participating in four training sessions, those present learned about the capture and digitization of text, audio, and images; text mining technologies; and visualization tools. One participant noted that the presentation of individual projects, offering real world examples

of the technologies' applicability to humanities research topics, was especially useful. "We could hear how others were using new technology, which sparked new ideas."

The Institute also began its work of supporting early-stage research projects in the digital humanities, awarding its first seed grant. The Institute's seed grant program is intended to encourage KU faculty & academic staff to pilot a collaborative project using digital technologies, and to ready the project for submission to a more competitive external funding agency. This year's grant was awarded to Nina Vyatkina, Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Dr. Vyatkina received \$15,000 to use data annotation and data mining to investigate how learners' language develops over time. The project, "Digital Resources for Second Language Acquisition Research: an Annotated Longitudinal Corpus of Learner German," will annotate a large digital database of texts produced by learners of German, evaluate the output of this annotation, and publish the findings, as well as the corpus itself.

Hall Center Research & Creative Work Fellows

Luis Corteguera

During the spring of 2011, Associate Professor of History Luis Corteguera's work as a Humanities Research Fellow centered on his book project "Talking Images in the Spanish Empire," a study about how early modern Spaniards viewed and used sacred and royal images. The fellowship allowed him to revise two chapters, which were the basis of two presentations. He presented a version of one of the chapters at the Hall Center Resident Fellows Seminar, titled "The Lascivious Gaze and the Power of Images in the Early Modern World." Work on the second chapter will be part of a presentation titled "The Gender of Mystical Visions in Sixteenth Century Spain," which he will read at the Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies.

Perhaps most importantly, the time afforded by the fellowship allowed Corteguera to

reconceptualize his project. He concluded that it will be better to focus the book exclusively on royal images. He intends to publish the work he has already completed on religious images as journal articles or chapters in edited collections, and has retitled the book project to reflect the new, narrower focus, "The Royal Image in the Spanish Empire." Corteguera also found time during the Spring semester to submit an application to the NEH Fellowship program to continue his work.



Dorice Elliott

Although Associate Professor of English Dorice Elliott's Hall Center Research Fellowship semester did not begin until January, she started by using the research money she was allotted in September to travel to London to conduct research in the British Library for two and a half weeks. She came back with her computer filled with notes and photocopied images of broadsides, a literary form that is critical to her book project, "Transporting Class: Reinventing Social Relations in Australian Convict Literature."

Elliott spent the fellowship semester working on two chapters of her study. She examined the materials she had gathered during her research trip and completed background research for the first

chapter on broadsides. She presented a short draft of the chapter as a conference paper at the North American Victorian Studies

Association convention and a longer version as her contribution to the Resident Fellows Seminar. Elliott then turned to the second chapter of her book project concerning published writings by convicts under sentence in Australia. "The research support provided by the Hall Center Research Fellow program has been invaluable for me," Elliott noted. "Being a Hall Center Fellow allowed me to work on my project full-time and make serious progress toward completion of the manuscript."



Joe Harrington

Associate Professor of English Joseph Harrington was the recipient of the 2010-2011 Creative Work Fellowship. Harrington spent the Fall semester finalizing the production of his book *Things Come On* (an amneoir), which is now published by Wesleyan University Press. He also finished the manuscript of a book entitled “No Soap,” which is currently under consideration for the Iowa Poetry Prize; one portion of this manuscript was published by a journal during the Fellowship semester, and two others are forthcoming. Finally, the fellowship allowed him time to complete the research for “Goodnight Whoever’s Listening,” part of his four-book project, *Dead Mom Scrolls*.

Harrington noted that the Creative Work Fellowship semester was invaluable in moving a very large project forward. He also sought to continue the work with an application to the Howard Foundation Fellowship, for which he was a finalist, and an NEA Fellowship, which is still pending. He has been awarded a sabbatical in spring of 2012, during which he intends to finish the writing of the remaining two volumes of *Dead Mom Scrolls*.



Brent Metz

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Brent Metz spent the Spring fellowship conducting secondary research for his multimedia ebook on indigeneity in the former Ch’orti’ Maya-speaker region of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, tentatively titled “Indigeneity in a Mestizo Region: The Politics of Identity in the Former Ch’orti’-speaking Area.” His research included a comprehensive review of the literature on indigeneity outside of Latin America, and the history of indigenous Central America. This research time, Metz stated, has led to an evolution in his perspectives on indigenous

Central America, and he has been able to fine tune his theoretical approach, particularly his approach to traditionalism, modernism, and postmodernism as it pertains to ideas about indigeneity.

Metz used this research to complete the introduction and part of a chapter providing historical background for the study. He also developed the organization for a chapter on Honduras.



Emma Scioli

During her Fall 2010 fellowship semester at the Hall Center, Assistant Professor of Classics Emma Scioli worked towards completing the manuscript for her first book project, “Dream, Image, and Fantasy in Latin Elegy,” thoroughly revising and improving two chapters, “Fashioning the Lover: *Phantasia* in Tibullus 1.5” and “Nightmare and Commentary in Propertius 2.26a.” She also presented preliminary work on a third chapter, entitled “The Poetics of Sleep in Latin Love Elegy,” at the October Resident Fellows Seminar, allowing her to use the feedback from her colleagues and the remaining months of her fellowship to complete a draft of that chapter.

Scioli also used the fellowship research fund to travel to London for four days to study and photograph the Archelaos Relief in the collection of the British Museum. She will publish her photographs of this piece in an article entitled “The Visual Dreamscape of Propertius 3.3,” forthcoming in *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, 2011. Material from this article also forms the basis for Chapter 4 of the book. Since the fellowship period, Scioli has completed two additional chapters and is well advanced toward the completion of the project.



Simons Public Humanities Fellow

Shirley Christian

Shirley Christian, journalist and former Pulitzer Prize winner, was the 2010–2011 Simons Public Humanities Fellow in residence. The fellowship, Christian explained, offered her the opportunity to concentrate on a project she had been struggling with for two years, a study of the young Indian women who became the “country wives” of white men during the two centuries in which the American frontier was opened. She spent much of her time at the Hall Center reviewing the literature and primary documentation, allowing her to fine tune the scope of her study, which will now focus upon a specific group of women and families. Christian was also able to make considerable progress in identifying and locating resource material for additional research.

Christian found it stimulating to be able to submit her ideas to “the rigor of academicians” through informal conversations with KU faculty and the Resident Fellows Seminar. Hearing the suggestions and criticisms of academicians, she stated, has helped her approach her topic with greater exactitude. Since leaving the Hall Center at the end of March, Christian has been making arrangements for a research trip to the Southwest in October and is preparing an application to a private foundation for a grant to finance a year of research travel.



Richard & Jeanette Sias Graduate Fellow in the Humanities

Chikako Mochizuki

Chikako Mochizuki, a doctoral student in East Asian History, was the 2010-2011 Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellow in the Humanities. Mochizuki used the fellowship to work toward completing her dissertation, “The Path to the Lighthouse: A History of Blind People in Modern Japan.” Mochizuki’s project is a social history of blind people in Japan, spanning from early post-World-War-II to present times. She examines the social status of blind people, and the welfare services provided to them, tracing the trajectory of a growing awareness about disability that culminated in a national organization of the blind. From this organization, Mochizuki has discovered, came welfare changes of broad

impact, profoundly affecting education and employment opportunities for the blind in modern Japan.

Mochizuki presented part of her research at a Resident Fellows Seminar, and visited the National Federation of the Blind Headquarters to do research on the relation between that organization and organizations for the blind in Japan. She presented a public lecture entitled “Acupuncture and Dog Guide: Blind People During Wartime through Early Postwar” at the Lawrence Lions Club in April 2011.



Book Publication Awards



Vice Chancellor for Research

Sally J. Cornelison, Associate Professor of Italian Renaissance Art, was awarded the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies Book Publication Award for her upcoming publication *Art and the Relic Cult of St. Antoninus in Renaissance Florence*, to be published by Ashgate.

The book is an interdisciplinary study that traces the visual and ritual culture of the relic cult of Florence's sainted archbishop, Antoninus Pierozzi, during the Renaissance. The work addresses the production of religion, architecture, and artwork honoring the archbishop, and examines the history and meaning of the St. Antoninus Chapel's patronage, iconography, and ritual functions. The study recognizes, for the first time, a strong tradition of female devotions to the saint that contributed to the success of his cult and significantly influenced the presentation of his life and image. One of the book manuscript reviewers noted that Cornelison's book is "precisely the sort of art history one would like to see more of."

The Friends of the Hall Center

Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center provides support for a second book publication award. Assistant Professor of History Jacob Dorman is the recipient of the Friends Book Publication Award for his forthcoming book, *Chosen People: African Americans and the Rise of Black Judaism*. The study, to be published by Oxford University Press, focuses on the diverse history and influence of various religious movements on the rise of twentieth-century African-American Judaism. Dorman's work is especially concerned with what he describes as the existence of a "diverse faith drawn from esoteric practices," including the Holiness-Pentecostal Movement, conjuring, Holiness Christianity, New Thought, and Rastafarianism.

"I am honored to be selected for the Friends of the Hall Center Award," Professor Dorman remarked, "which only makes official my very real debt to the Hall Center for fostering a vital intellectual community on campus, and for providing the timely and tactical assistance needed to compete successfully for outside funding."

External Funding for Humanities Projects

Hall Center constituent faculty submitted 154 grant and fellowship applications for fiscal year 2010-2011. As of publication of this report, the following faculty members have received announcements of awards. For more details, go to the Hall Center's website listing at www.hallcenter.ku.edu/grants/external/2011.shtml, and click on the individual faculty member's name to read a project abstract.

Individual Awards

Elif Andac, Sociology: American Sociological Association Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, "Reconciling Diversity Amidst Nation Building: A Comparative Study of Ethno-religious Conflict in Turkey."

Santa Arias, Spanish and Portuguese: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program-Columbia, "Space, Place and Territory: Geographical Thinking in Colonial Latin America."

Hannah Britton, Political Science: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program-South Africa, "State Strategies to Address Gender-Based Violence in South Africa."

Derrick Darby, Philosophy: National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, "What is Wrong with Racial Inequality?"

Bart Dean, Anthropology: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program-Peru, "Facing the Challenges of Conservation and Sustainable Community Development: Amazonian Studies at the Universidad Nacional de San Martin."

Jacob Dorman, History: University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center Research Fellowship, "A Black Actor on the English Stage and the Birth of Black Nationalism."

David Fedele, School of Music: ROKI-ZFFF Foundation, "Wuorinen Chamber Music Recording by Trio Fedele."

Adrian Finucane, History: University of Southern California-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the history of early modern North America and/or the Atlantic world, 2011-2013, "The South Sea Company and Anglo-Spanish Connections, 1713-1739."

External Funding for Humanities Projects *(continued)*

Sherry Fowler, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Association for Asian Studies Travel Grant, “Accounts and Images of the Six Kannon Cult in Japan.”

Crystal J. Hall, French and Italian: Huntington Library, Dibner History of Science Short-Term Fellowship, “Starry Knights: Galileo’s Literary Heroes.”

E. Bruce Hayes, French and Italian: Newberry Library Short-Term Fellowship, “Castigating Comedy: Polemical Humor before and during the French Wars of Religion.”

Maki Kaneko, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Japan Foundation Long-Term Fellowship, “Art at the Service of the State: Japanese Art in the War, 1930–1960.”

Marni Kessler, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Boston Medical Library Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Medical Library Residency, “Edgar Degas’ Family Album: The New Orleans Paintings, 1872–1873.”

Terry Koenig, Social Welfare: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program-Kazakhstan, “Cross-Cultural Social Policy: The Role and Future of Social Work, Social Policies, and Social Services in Kazakhstan.”

Amy McNair, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, “Catalogue of the Imperial Painting Collection in the Proclaiming Harmony Era: An Annotated Translation of Xuanhe huapu 宣和畫譜.”

Yajaira M. Padilla, Spanish and Portuguese: Arizona State University Institute for Humanities Research Fellowship, “Central Americans in the US: The Politics of Belonging and Non-Belonging.”

Margaret W. Pearce, Geography: American Philosophical Society, Franklin Research Grant, “Indigenous Place Names Mapping: Developing Best Practices.”

Ann Rowland, English: Harvard University Houghton Library, Joan Nordell Fellowship, “John Keats in America.”

Gitti Salami, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia Visiting Fellowship; Boston University West African Research Association Grant, “Postcolonial Yakurr Studies: An Aesthetics of Mud, Soot and Sharp Blades.”

Antonio Simoes, Spanish and Portuguese: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Specialist Award-Brazil.

Akiko Takeyama, Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Japan Foundation Scholars and Researchers Fellowship, “Affect Economy: Labor, Commodity, and Consumer Capitalism in Millennial Japan.”

Dale Urie, Humanities and Western Civilization: CIES Fulbright, Fulbright German Studies Seminar.

External Funding for Humanities Projects *(continued)*

Jessica Vasquez, Sociology: Russell Sage Foundation, Visiting Scholar Program and Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship, “Marriage Vows and Racial Choices: Family Dynamics and Assimilation among Latinos.”

Maria Velasco, Visual Art: Proyecto ‘ace, Artist in Residence International Program (ARIP), “A Very Long Night.”

Nina Vyatkina, Germanic Languages and Literatures: Language Learning Research Grant, “The Dynamics of Second Language Writing Development: Measuring Complexity and Variability.”

Nathan Wood, History: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Grant, “Backwardness and Rushing Forward: Bicycles, Automobiles, and Airplanes in Poland, 1890–1939.”

Institutional Awards

Edith Clowes, Center for Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies: The Institute of Turkish Studies grant, “Matching Seed-Money Grant for New Positions in Turkish Language Instruction.”

Karen Cook, KU Libraries: National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, “Exploring the History of 19th-Century Ornithology and Scientific Illustration through the Works of John Gould.”

Arienne Dwyer, Anthropology: National Science Foundation, Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) Conference Grant, “Co-Lang: Institute for Collaborative Language Documentation Training.”

Saralyn Reece Hardy, Spencer Museum of Art: National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, “Photographing and Creating Access to Collections of Global Art and Culture at the Spencer Museum of Art.”

Thomas Heilke, Political Science and Center for Global and International Studies, and **Geetanjali Tiwari**, Religious Studies: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) grant, “Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program in Hindi.”

Jeffrey P. Moran, History (in collaboration with Lisa Wolfwendel, School of Education): Philanthropist David Stout, “The Founding and Early History of the Lawrence Gay Liberation Front (GLF): 1970-1979.”

Ivana Radovanovic, Anthropology: National Science Foundation, “Settlement and coastal/inland interaction in the Iron Gates Mesolithic: PHASE 1–SURVEY.”

THE YEAR AHEAD



2011 Fall Faculty Colloquium



Consciousness in Interdisciplinary Perspective

The Fall Faculty Colloquium is designed to enliven the intellectual atmosphere of the university and contribute to the interdisciplinary training of KU faculty. This fall, seven faculty members and one graduate student will meet under the leadership of co-directors Anna Neill and Leslie Tuttle in the Hall Center's annual Fall Faculty Colloquium. The topic for this year is "Consciousness in Interdisciplinary Perspective."

Participants will consider how new insights about our evolutionarily shaped human minds might enrich understanding of the classic subjects of humanistic scholarship, such as reading, storytelling, reasoning and believing. At the same time, they will reflect on the flowering of cognitive sciences within a specific environment—liberal, post-war Western science—with its own embedded historical and cultural precedents for making the human "I" an object of study.

The format will be unique, exploratory and interrogative, with the principal aim being to generate novel ideas for further investigation. Participants will read excerpts from important recent work, engage in interdisciplinary discussion, and eventually produce short, individual or collaborative essays for a collection aimed at a general audience, to be made available through KU ScholarWorks.

Participating in the Colloquium are Sherrie Tucker (Associate Professor, American Studies); Iris Smith Fischer (Associate Professor, English); Mark Landau (Assistant Professor, Social Psychology); Glenn Adams (Associate Professor, Social Psychology); Ann Rowland (Associate Professor, English); Ben Sax (Associate Professor, History); Brian Daldorph (Assistant Professor, English), and Nicholas Simmons (doctoral candidate, Philosophy).

THE 2011–2012 HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES



Laurence Rees

September 20, Woodruff Auditorium

In-depth conversations with Japanese soldiers, Nazi officers, and Russian fighters forced into silence during Stalin's reign make the films of historian and documentarian Laurence Rees unique among the many accounts available of WWII and its brutalities. In his presentation, Rees will use extracts from his Peabody award-winning television series to illustrate the benefits and pitfalls of interviewing former Nazis.

Rees is the former head of BBC Television's history programs, and the author of numerous best-selling books on World War II, including *Auschwitz* and *World War II Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West*. Rees has earned numerous awards in journalism, TV, and history, including the BAFTA, the most prestigious British film award. His works are also the mainstay of many college courses whose teachers rely on the accessibility and thoroughness that Rees' work demonstrates.

Rees' most recent project, WW2History.com, seeks to extend the public's engagement with the topic of World War II to a more interactive framework for students and enthusiasts alike. Rees believes that "you can't understand what is happening today...without understanding what also happened in the Second World War." The website provides an opportunity for more philosophical reflection, in the guise of forums and discussions.



Diane Ravitch

October 18, Woodruff Auditorium

One of our most vocal supporters of public education, Diane Ravitch has offered level-headed, nonpartisan assessments of public education for over 30 years. In her Humanities Lecture Series presentation, the former advocate of school choice will discuss how she came to the view that these and other proposed reforms actually undermine the goal of providing a first-rate public education.

Ravitch is the author of 10 books on education history and policy, including her most recent work, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education* (2010). She is also the author of *The Great School Wars* (1974), a study of historical conceptions of American education, and two works that analyze contemporary theories of education, *The Schools We Deserve* (1985) and *What Do Our 17-Year-Olds Know* (1987). Ravitch is currently Research Professor of Education at New York University and Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. In 1991, she was selected to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Education by George Bush.

The author of hundreds of journal and newspaper articles on the ramifications of political and legal action on school policy, Ravitch has received numerous awards, including "Friend of the Year" from the National Education Association.

Each lecture of the Humanities Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. on the date indicated. Several speakers will also take part in a public question and answer session on the morning following the evening lecture.

This series is co-sponsored by Kansas Public Radio and partially underwritten by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Louis Menand

November 17, Spencer Museum of Art

One of the most important cultural critics and scholars of American studies, Louis Menand's reflections on the state of American culture and the university demonstrate wit, accessibility, and insider knowledge of American intellectual trends. In his presentation, Menand, who is the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English at Harvard University, will discuss a key moment in American self-definition, exploring how changes in film style and form reflect a broader Cold War story.

Menand straddles the line between successful academic and popular cultural critic. He is perhaps best known for his Pulitzer Prize winning book *The Metaphysical Club* (2001), a history of late 19th and early 20th century American thought, hailed by critics as "an absorbing narrative about personalities and social history...about the evolution of the American mind."

Menand has also written extensively about other cultural milestones in the formation of an American intellectual identity. Most recently, he has written on the history of liberal arts education and the formation of a professoriate in *The Marketplace of Ideas: Reform and Resistance in the American University* (2010). He is currently conducting research for a cultural history of the Cold War.



Jeff Moran

February 16, The Commons, Spooner Hall

KU Associate Professor of History Jeff Moran is best known for his work in two distinct but tenuously related fields, sex and evolution. In 2000, Harvard University Press published his first book, *Teaching Sex: The Shaping of Adolescence in the Twentieth Century*, which was the first and so far only book-length history of sex education in the United States. In 2002, Moran published *The Scopes Trial: A Brief History with Documents*, which was intended to be primarily an undergraduate textbook, but which won wider notice for its interpretation of the trial and its inquiry into hitherto unexamined aspects of the antievolution controversy.

Moran's work on the antievolution impulse in America is culminating in Oxford University Press's publication of *American Genesis: Antievolution Controversies from Scopes to Intelligent Design*. His Humanities Lecture Series presentation will offer new information on these controversies that have exploded in the public schools, but he is most interested in the ways in which educational controversies embody and deepen existing tensions in American culture.

Moran holds a PhD in History from Harvard University, where he won the Organization of American Historians' Louis Peltzer Memorial Prize for the best article by a graduate student in American history. He taught at Brown University before joining the University of Kansas Department of History in 1998.

The 2011–2012 Humanities Lecture Series *continued*



Alain de Botton

March 14, The Commons, Spooner Hall

Alain de Botton's work has been described as "the philosophy of everyday life." Addressing a wide variety of humanistic topics, including literature, art, philosophy, architecture, and film, his work always returns to the question of how one might use elements of high culture as consolation, or as therapy. De Botton has been praised and condemned for this practical approach to utilizing the arts. But he asserts that the university has for too long held a monopoly on the use of knowledge.

De Botton has published ten books, beginning with the precocious *Essays on Love* (1993), written when de Botton was only 23. However, it was the unlikely sensation of *How Proust Can Change Your Life* (1997) that truly established de Botton in the United States.

De Botton is also the founder of two organizations, the London-based School of Life, where like-minded individuals gather in symposia to discuss how to live life meaningfully, and Living Architecture, a non-profit architectural firm that builds affordable, innovative vacation homes in the UK designed by some of the world's most renowned contemporary architects.

In his Humanities Lecture Series presentation, "Religion for Atheists," de Botton proposes that, if one ceases to believe in a supernatural explanation for the impulse toward religion, the truly unique facets that make up the experience of worship become available for humanistic exploration.



Jamaica Kincaid

April 10, Woodruff Auditorium

Jamaica Kincaid is widely recognized as the finest West Indian writer alive. Her fifteen publications include novels, poetry, and essays. Her novels *Annie John*, *The Autobiography of My Mother*, and *Lucy* are seminal works of Caribbean literature and the postcolonial canon. She is the Josephine Olp Weks Chair and Professor of Literature at Claremont McKenna College in Bennington, Vermont.

Kincaid's experiences growing up in poverty in Antigua, under colonial forces and at the hand of an erratic and increasingly unfriendly mother, shaped her writing, resulting in "evocative, edgy, and sometimes controversial prose." Her novels are loosely autobiographical, often featuring strong maternal characters who must grapple with relationships with their own mothers and with the forces of colonization in their lives—which some have suggested are metaphorically linked. Men are infrequently mentioned. As Kincaid once famously explained, "I don't really write about men unless they have something to do with a woman."

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. once compared Kincaid to such acclaimed writers as Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka, noting "There is a self-contained world which they explore with great detail. Not to chart the existence of the world, but to show that human emotions manifest themselves everywhere." In her Humanities Lecture Series presentation, "Landscapes and Memory," Kincaid will read from her work and discuss the importance of personal landscapes, history, and cultural identity.

FRIENDS *of the*
HALL CENTER *for the* HUMANITIES



Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of the Hall Center is to complement the work of the Center and its Advisory Board by developing a broad base of support through individual and community involvement and contributions.

Letter from the Chair of the Friends Council

Dear Friends,

At the Annual Meeting on May 5th, retiring Council members Marianna Beach, Carolyn Shelton, and Geraldine (Jerry) Smith were thanked for their three years of service, and Gunda Hiebert, Walt Menninger, Beth Stella, and Mary Weinberg were elected to start their three-year terms. We are grateful to these individuals for helping to advance the Friends' mission.

We were pleased to announce receipt of 285 gifts totaling \$72,721 for the 2010-2011 year. Our membership stands at 493 Friends, including 29 new members. With this steadfast support, the Friends Council has managed to build a reserve of funds over the last several years, with the goal of having an operating reserve for a time when it may be needed.

The Friends hosted a number of events during the year. At the Friends Fall Social on September 28 we heard from Raciél Alonso (Spanish and Portuguese) and Scott Knowles (Theater), recipients of the two graduate research assistantships made possible by the Friends. The Friends Exclusive Breakfast was held on October 20 with op-ed columnist Ross Douthat, and the Friends-sponsored Humanities Lecture Series presentation on Mark Twain, by KU's Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture Susan Harris, was exceptionally well received. The March 30 Celebration of Books, a gala affair with good food and wine, featured a

remarkably impressive array of books published by KU faculty scholars. It was the last event of the year before the May 5 Annual Meeting and Light Supper, attended by some 120 members. Rebecca Rovit, recipient of the 2010 Friends Book Publication Award, and two of the 2010-2011 Hall Center Scholars, Hannah Vick and Loren Cressler, spoke at the meeting.

The Friends also supported four graduate summer research awards of \$4000 each and eight \$500 stipends for undergraduate Hall Center Scholars. The Friends Book Publication award of \$1500 went to Jacob Dorman, Assistant Professor of History, whose book *Chosen People: African Americans and the Rise of Black Judaism* will be published by Oxford University Press next year.

I wish to thank the members of the Friends Council for their dedication and good counsel, the able and dedicated staff of the Hall Center, and all the Friends who support the Center's activities and goals. As our mission statement indicates, the Friends complement the work of the Center by helping to enrich humanities programming at the University of Kansas and the wider community. It was a great privilege to serve as chair of the Friends Council this past year.



Barbara Schowen, Chair, Friends Council

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Layout and Design..... Shala Stevenson

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Queries or responses may be directed to

Mail The Hall Center
for the Humanities
900 Sunnyside Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045

Phone..... 785-864-4798

Fax..... 785-864-3884

E-mail..... hallcenter@ku.edu

Web www.hallcenter.ku.edu

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Jeanie Wulfkuhle, Victor Bailey, Kristine Latta



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900 Sunnyside Avenue
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
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