



ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

KU
HALL CENTER
FOR THE HUMANITIES

The University of 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: Wichita Art Museum on the occasion of a Hall Center lecture by Susan Earle, Curator of European & American Art, Spencer Museum of Art; "Beyond Harlem and Modernism: Aaron Douglas and Art History." Photos courtesy of John Ellert Photography.





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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*

Another energetic year for the Hall Center is over. Many of the year's highlights are documented in this report. The Humanities Lecture Series attracted a combined audience of 3,000 people. The Women's Leadership Lecture, featuring Donna Brazile, filled the 500-seat Woodruff Auditorium to capacity, as did the Kenneth A. Spencer Memorial Lecture, featuring designer Bruce Mau. The Oral History Workshop presented a Ten Year Retrospective of its important role in enthusing a host of individuals and groups around the state to become oral chroniclers. We also reprised the "Difficult Dialogues at The Commons" series with lectures and a student debate on race, education and American politics, as the presidential election reached its climax.

We went on the road to the impressive Wichita Art Museum, where Susan Earle, curator of European and American Art at KU's Spencer Museum of Art, spoke about the artistic signature and influence of Aaron Douglas; and to the Kansas City Public Library where Sias graduate fellow, Monique Laney, spoke about her research on the German scientists who moved to Huntsville, Alabama, after the second world war.

In the Center, we had in residence two outstanding Simons Public Humanities Fellows, world-class musician David Balakrishnan and renowned non-fiction writer Ann Hagedorn,

whose contributions demonstrated how valuable it is to open our doors to those beyond the academy.

We have continued to receive substantial private support for Center programs and activities. The financial overview for this fiscal year illustrates, indeed, the extent to which we now leverage funding from the Office of Research & Graduate Studies with support from private sources, which contribute one and a half times our RGS funding annually. Private money comes largely from the Hall Family Foundation, the Sosland Foundation, the William T. Kemper Foundation, and the Friends of the Hall Center. These funds will allow us to weather the storm of state budget crises and protect the Center's core programs. It is highly appropriate, therefore, that the president of the Hall Family Foundation should author this year's guest column. There has been no greater friend to the Center than Bill Hall. He stewarded the construction of the new building with sense and sensibility, and continues to guide our efforts by service on the Advisory Board. Bill is a true friend of the humanities.

I cannot sign off without recognizing the arrival of the new chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little. KU has been fortunate in attracting an academic and administrator of Gray-Little's experience and achievements. She impressed the socks off the search committee and the Board of Regents, and I'm confident she will do the same with all who come into her presence.

From the President of the Hall Family Foundation



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William A. Hall

“If this foundation is interested in building a great university, support the library and the humanities.” Those words were spoken almost thirty years ago by former Chancellor Franklin Murphy and were echoed by former Chancellor Clarke Wescoe. Both ex-chancellors served on the board of what is today the Hall Family Foundation and their guidance and leadership were instrumental in the foundation supporting the humanities at Kansas University.

The physical reflection of that support is the Hall Center for the Humanities building – of which we are very proud. That building reflects the efforts of many talented designers, none more so than John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Dean Gaunt envisioned what the old power plant could become, architecturally, functionally and as a symbol that the humanities are central to the university and the education of its students.

Yet, more than the building, it is the faculty who bring the humanities to life. It is the faculty who will help students and others understand how our past influences our future, how cultures and values differ, or are the same, and how through a broad and diverse base of knowledge we will better understand the world around us. We, along with other donors, support the faculty who provide the substance of the Hall Center.

Today there is great emphasis upon the teaching of math and science. The thinking is to compete globally in a technological world we must develop scientists and engineers. This is true. But we also need historians, philosophers, poets, and linguists. We certainly need scientists and engineers who are humanists. This need for educating the whole person is what the Hall Center is about. It is why the joint programming with science is important and it is why we reach out to the university community and public to address provocative issues.

The Hall Center has been fortunate to have outstanding leadership. The engagement of the board and faculty and the leadership of Victor Bailey have been extraordinary. Through that leadership, the Hall Center has taken its place among the leading humanities centers in the country.

Next year, former Chancellor Hemenway will office in the Hall Center during his sabbatical year. A great supporter of our work for the past fourteen years, his presence underscores the importance of the humanities and the Hall Center in the life of the university.

The Hall Center honors the memory of Joyce and Elizabeth Hall but it lives today through the intellect and efforts of an outstanding faculty and effective leadership. Mr. and Mrs. Hall would be proud, as would Chancellors Murphy and Wescoe.

HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES



Susan Estrich



The 2008 Election: What's at Stake?

“How do I enjoy being the token liberal on Fox News? It’s a little like being a Democrat here in Kansas, I imagine,” Susan Estrich quipped during her September 23 lecture. Estrich, who is the Robert Kingsley Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of Southern California, began the 2008-09 Humanities Lecture Series by participating in the forum “The 2008 Election: What’s at Stake?” Opinions ran high throughout the evening as Estrich entertained questions from the 2008-09 Hall Center Scholars and offered her thoughts about the groundbreaking election.

When asked her opinion about the electoral college, she laughed, “You could curse the weather or buy rain boots. Would any rational person today come up with the electoral college? Probably not.” The reality, she says, is that it has already

been decided. Eliminate three-quarters of the country from the start, because it all comes down to swing voters in swing states—but why should that alone determine who wins?

Estrich also confronted issues like the appointment of future Supreme Court Justices, the effect of Sarah Palin on John McCain’s campaign, the future of the economy, and voter turnout. “If we really wanted everyone in this country to vote, would we hold our elections on Tuesdays?” she asked. We don’t make it easy to vote, according to Estrich, and this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Still, Estrich seemed hopeful for the future of our democracy and emphasized how far we have come in this important election year.

Michael Chabon



Conquering the Wilderness

“This is, in a sense, a call for deregulation!” exclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon in his lecture in the Kansas Union Ballroom on October 27. Chabon’s talk, titled “Conquering the Wilderness: Imaginative Imperialism and the Invasion of Legoland,” focused on what he called the “wilderness of childhood,” and the way the wilderness has been transformed in recent years.

According to Chabon, who grew up in suburban Maryland, “the wilderness of childhood had nothing to do with trees or nature. I could lose myself on fields and playgrounds, in alleyways, I could lose myself anywhere I could reach by my bicycle.” Childhood, Chabon believes, has been thought of as the great, original adventure. But in recent times, this is unfortunately no longer the case. He remarked, “A very grave, very

significant shift in our idea of childhood has occurred recently. The wilderness of childhood is gone. The days of adventure are past. The land ruled by children has been taken over, co-opted, colonized.”

The so-called “dangers” of the world that cause today’s parents to be hyper-cautious have always been there and Chabon worries that we are now in danger of depriving our children of that great adventure that childhood is supposed to be. He lamented, “We schedule their encounters for them. We send them out to play, if they are lucky, in the backyard, where they can be safely fenced in, and even in extreme cases, monitored by security cameras.” We must do what we can to allow our children access to this adventure, or they may end up missing out on a great deal.

Jeannette Walls



The Glass Castle

“Treasure your stories. Your life is whatever you choose to make of it,” urged Jeannette Walls in her November 18 Humanities Lecture to a crowd of 800 people. The author of the popular memoir *The Glass Castle*, which tells her tale of growing up in poverty, overcoming the odds and ultimately achieving success as a writer, Walls spoke of her journey in confronting her difficult past, the art of writing a memoir, and dealing with challenges that face us all.

Walls considers herself incredibly lucky, but not because of her success as a writer. “My parents, even with all of their flaws, would never have made fun of my dreams. Some children aren’t as fortunate in that respect.” In examining her past, Walls learned that everything in life is both a blessing and a curse—and it’s up to us what we choose to focus on.

According to Walls, her goal in writing down her story was to “make one person understand what it’s like to grow up poor—to make them understand this weird combination of shame and pride about who you are.” Telling her story has changed the way she sees both the world and herself. Her demon, she noted, was her past; the trick is to look your demons in the eye and realize that they can’t hurt you. Walls thought she had escaped her past after having carved a life out for herself, but eventually realized that escaping from your past is an exercise in futility. She has since embraced her difficult history and become an inspiration to many. “This here is a fine white trash story,” she grinned.

Anthony Corbeill



The Invention of Heterosexuality in Ancient Rome

Anthony Corbeill, Professor of Classics at KU, began his February 5 Humanities Lecture with an image from a Roman sarcophagus of a man who chose to be depicted as a woman on the outside of his tomb. What is the reason, Corbeill asks, for this shift in depiction? Much of Corbeill's talk, based on a book he is working on about the boundaries of sex and gender in Ancient Rome, explored the connection between nouns, gender and human bodies. "What is the relationship between words and things in the world signified by those words? What is the relationship between language and the external world?" Corbeill wondered.

"Learning a second language creates problems when encountering gender of nouns. We only encounter gender in English in the form of pronouns, but the concept of gender pervades many of the world's other languages," said Corbeill. We can note a feminine bias in words like liberty and justice in English, however. Fluctuations in gender within the Latin language are not a holdover from Ancient Greek, which is odd, according to Corbeill. Variations in gender should be regarded not as errors, but as evidence of ancient practice. Understanding these is key to enhancing our understanding of not only Latin grammar, but of many aspects of the Ancient world.

James McBride



The Color of Water: Search for Identity

“While you’re students here at Kansas, I’m asking you to learn how to fail.” While this may have seemed like an unconventional request from author and musician James McBride, his Humanities Lecture on February 24 “The Color of Water: Search for Identity” was full of hope and advice for both those who are about to enter the “real world” and those who have been there for quite some time.

McBride’s lecture, while based in part on his groundbreaking and unforgettable memoir *The Color of Water*, was just as much about the journey we all take in finding ourselves, our “search for identity.” That search takes place for many people during their time at the university, but it doesn’t end there. “This is not the place to train you for

a job. When you leave here, you create your job. Do that by doing the things you like to do; doing them so much, and eventually someone will pay you to do them. If you leave here with the ability to think, then you’ve gotten your money’s worth. This is the place to experiment—responsibly. Give yourself the opportunity to fail,” urged McBride.

On writing, McBride had plenty of valuable advice to offer. About his own writing, he remarked, “I write until I can’t write anymore. That’s just what I do. I don’t sit around talking about writing with writers.” He spoke about the particular difficulties involved in penning a memoir, because “When you write a memoir, there’s always going to be someone who remembers what happened. Learn the importance of accuracy, and get the story right!”

Dipesh Chakrabarty



The Prospect of Universal History

The idea that one can speak in the name of a universal human being is a claim that has been increasingly challenged since World War II. But according to scholar Dipesh Chakrabarty, the Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago, events in recent years may cause us to revise the way we think about human history.

In his April 20th lecture in Woodruff Auditorium, Chakrabarty offered an account of the suspicion of the notion of a common history, and of employing abstract universal categories like “human beings.” Decolonization played a role in causing this suspicion, as formerly colonized peoples rejected histories that had been written for them by their oppressors and embraced their own testimonies. The trend of globalization has given rise to a new understanding of difference in light

of this. One of the central questions, according to Chakrabarty, is “How do we live with people who seem different and have different histories?”

Chakrabarty noted that “We now live in a time where we feel the cross pressures of globalization and global warming.” In terms of globalization, the emphasis is on difference. But in terms of global warming, the emphasis is on a certain sameness of human beings; the biosphere is the commons, and we are one in the way we impact it. “We now can’t avoid the fact that we have to think of the human being in two ways; as being endowed with cultural differences, but as one entity acting together on this planet,” Chakrabarty argued. His solution is to develop another way of thinking about a shared history, with an emphasis on the commonality in our history—what he calls the “prospect” of universal history.

Supported by the Friends of the Hall Center

Hall Center Scholars, 2008–2009



Dan Thompson, Zach Abramovitz, Katie Oberthaler, Joel Burnett

Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center sponsor a small number of Hall Center Scholars. This provides opportunities for KU undergraduates who have strong academic credentials and have demonstrated significant activity within KU, to help with the Humanities Lecture Series and to meet with prominent scholars.

Zach Abramovitz, senior, is majoring in English and writing an honors thesis on the literature of the First World War. He also writes poetry.

Joel Burnett, senior, is majoring in Philosophy and Spanish and hosts his own jazz program on the student-run radio KJHK. He is a volunteer with the KU Biodiesel Initiative.

Katherine Oberthaler, junior, is majoring in Creative Writing and Psychology. She currently holds an intern position with Kansas Public Radio and serves as the Vice President for the Natural History Museum Student Advisory Board.

Dan Thompson, senior, is majoring in Economics and Political Science with an International Studies co-major and a minor in English. He has studied abroad in Britain, Mexico, and Hong Kong.

PUBLIC OUTREACH



Difficult Dialogues: Race, Education & American Politics



Left to right: David Roediger, Shawn Alexander, Randal Jelks, Maryemma Graham

This past fall, the Hall Center partnered with The Commons to offer a series of events focusing on race, education, and American politics. To launch the series, David Roediger, Professor of History and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, spoke about the historically significant presidential candidacy of Senator Barack Obama in, “Will Race Survive in the US? The Possibilities and Impossibilities of the Obama Phenomenon” on September 15 at The Commons in Spooner Hall. “Where does the hopefulness come from? Where does Obama’s success come from?” Roediger asked. The answers are, needless to say, complicated.

The second installment of the series found KU’s own award-winning debate team equally matched in a non-competitive forum with the debate team from Texas Southern University. The event, held on October 10 at the Commons,

opened up an important dialogue about the current role and impact of race on education. Each team discussed issues ranging from the important 1974 Supreme Court case *Milliken v. Bradley*, multiculturalism as an education tool, *de jure* vs. *de facto* discrimination, and black athletes in collegiate sports.

Finally, Charles Johnson, the S. Wilson and Grace M. Pollock Professor for Excellence in English at the University of Washington, Seattle, lectured on “The Obsolescence of the Concept of Race,” on October 22 in the Spencer Museum of Art. Johnson noted the ubiquity of race and how its presence pervades our everyday lives; race is commented on with seeming authority by nearly all Americans. “The experience of race is universal—everybody belongs to at least one,” he remarked with a smile.

Women's Leadership Lecture



Women in American Politics: Are We There Yet? —Donna Brazile

“It is time that we hurry history. That we move forward. That we take advantage of this new season of possibilities, new season of hope, of change,” urged political commentator and strategist Donna Brazile during the The Emily Taylor & Marilyn Stokstad Women’s Leadership Lecture. Brazile’s infectious inspiration drew close to 500 people to the Woodruff Auditorium on March 9.

The answer to Brazile’s question? We aren’t *quite* there yet. She noted that women still represent less than 20% of the U.S. Congress, despite all the strides they have made. The solution? According to Brazile, “Women need to stop treating ‘ambition’ as a dirty word. Women are still waiting for permission to take their seats at the proverbial

table. I know that it’s our turn!” Old traditions have a way of holding women back, said Brazile. Cultural bias, media bias and institutional sexism continue to constrain women. She does believe that women can break the old patterns of the past, but “first we must break old patterns within ourselves. We have to be ready to lead, to move out of the so-called gender box.”

The good news: for the time being, we have a President who will champion causes that are important to women—we must work with him and support him. There may still be a long road ahead, and for this reason it is no time to rest on our laurels. “We can do better,” smiled Brazile. “We can always do better.”

10th Annual Oral History Workshop



In his keynote address on March 13 at the Tenth Annual Oral History Workshop in the Kansas Union Ballroom, scholar Alessandro Portelli, Distinguished Professor of American Literature at the University of Rome, struck a chord with the audience as he discussed the oral histories he conducted in researching the 1972 coal miners’ strike in Harlan County, Kentucky. As a young man growing up in Italy, Portelli recalled, he had “a great passion for America,” fueled by an interest in the civil rights movement and rock and roll music.

Portelli spoke of the challenges he faced conducting oral history research as a foreigner, an outsider coming into rural America, shedding his naïve expectations and gaining the trust of the people he interviewed. Despite the challenges, he noted, “What you have in common makes the interview possible, what makes it interesting is what you don’t have in common. There are lines between us,” and the ability to build bridges between those lines is what makes oral history work different from other kinds of research. Oral history is also distinct, remarked Portelli, because of the strong personal element involved.

Sponsored by the Commons

The Kenneth A. Spencer Memorial Lecture



Massive Change: The Future of Design & Life on Earth –Bruce Mau

This year's Kenneth A. Spencer Memorial Lecture, featuring designer Bruce Mau, drew a large crowd of over 750 people on April 8 at Woodruff Auditorium. Mau's lecture, titled "Massive Change: The Future of Design and Life on Earth," touched on the topics of the recent design projects he has tackled as Creative Director of Bruce Mau Design, as well as issues of sustainability and the environment.

"We produced Massive Change, but in some ways, it produced *us*," noted Mau with a grin. The objective of *Massive Change* was to start a global movement of people committed to supporting

a new vision of sustainable life on our planet. Mau outlined some of the key ideas behind his project, and at the heart of these ideas was the understanding that the status quo is not working. "The American way of life, if we continue as we are now, would require that we have four additional planet Earths to support it," Mau remarked grimly. With this in mind, we need to focus on what we can do to remedy the situation. Since we're doubling our technological capacity every 12 months, Mau likens the 21st century to the equivalent of living through 20,000 years of human progress. We need to harness that progress and use it to turn things around.



*The Commons is a partnership between
the Biodiversity Institute, the Hall
Center for the Humanities & the
Spencer Museum of Art.*

Simons Public Humanities Fellows



Ann Hagedorn

Composer and musician David Balakrishnan and author and journalist Ann Hagedorn were the Simons Public Humanities Fellows for 2008–09 at the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Balakrishnan was in residence at the Hall Center August 18 to September 13, January 12–22 and April 13–26. Hagedorn was in residence in February and March 2009.

Balakrishnan, founder of the Turtle Island String Quartet, worked in conjunction with the Creative Campus Project, “Tree of Life—Origins and Evolution,” which brings resident and touring artists together in the creation of a new artistic work. Balakrishnan graduated from the University of California-Los Angeles with a bachelor’s in music composition and violin and earned a master’s degree in music composition from Antioch University West. He is a world-class violinist and has earned two Grammy nominations.

Hagedorn is the author of several books and has been a staff writer for *The Wall Street Journal* and an investigative reporter for the *New York Daily*



David Balakrishnan

News. She holds a bachelor’s in history from Denison University, a master’s in information science from the University of Michigan and a master’s in journalism from Columbia University. Hagedorn is the author of *Wild Ride: The Rise and Fall of Calumet Farm, Inc.*, and *Savage Peace: Hope and Fear in America, 1919*. During her residency, Hagedorn worked on her fifth book and lead a narrative nonfiction writing workshop.

The fellowships were made possible by a gift from the Simons family of Lawrence, together with matching funds from a National Endowment for the Humanities’ Challenge Grant. The Simons family has been in the newspaper business in Lawrence since 1891. The Simons are proud supporters of KU and longtime exponents of the view that education is a lifelong experience.

The mission of the Simons fellowship is to bring a citizen of experience, accomplishment and promise from such fields as journalism, business, health care, law, politics, the arts or nonprofit work to the Hall Center for the Humanities to participate in the intellectual life of the university for one semester of the academic year.



Friends & Faculty

Clockwise, from top left:
Interdisciplinary Graduate Research
Workshop; New Faculty Reception;
Kathy Porsch & Kim Schutte; Barbara
Nordling; Don & Alice Ann Johnston,
receiving the 2009 Friends of the Hall
Center Award; Cynthia Carroll



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



2008–2009 Hall Center Research Fellows



**Marta
Caminero-
Santangelo**
*Associate
Professor of
English*

In Fall 2008, I worked on my book manuscript, “Illegal: Narrating the Non-Nation,” which examines recent literature by U.S. Latinos and Latinas dealing with the issue of undocumented immigration. I completed one long chapter of this project, “The Lost Ones: Literature of Migrant Disappearances in the Post-Gatekeeper era,” as well as drafting sections of two other chapters.

A short version of “The Lost Ones” is currently under consideration for publication. In addition, I was able to complete revisions on another article, “Central Americans in the City: Goldman, Tobar, and the Question of Panethnicity,” forthcoming in *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* (Summer 2009). A third article was also completed: “At the Intersection of Trauma and Testimonio: Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*.” This article is forthcoming in *Antípodas: Journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies*. Finally, I wrote a shorter article related to my project, “Responding to the Human Costs of US Immigration Policy: No More Deaths and the New Sanctuary Movement,” which has now been published in *Latino Studies*.



**Sherry
Fowler**
*Associate
Professor of
Art History*

Thanks to the Hall Center Fellowship, I was able to make great progress toward my book project “Accounts and Images of the Six Kannon Cult in Japan.” The cult of the Six Kannon flourished in Japan from the tenth through the sixteenth centuries and my manuscript examines the development of its associated sculptures, paintings, and prints. At the start of the fellowship, I was

able to finish the article “Travels of the Daihoonji Six Kannon Sculptures,” which was published in the journal *Ars Orientalis*. After that I was able to concentrate on a group of fourteenth-century sculptures from the temple of Tomyoji, located in the countryside of Southern Kyoto prefecture. My talk “Forming and Reforming the Tomyoji Six Kannon Sculpture Group” for the Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Los Angeles in February helped me prepare two articles: “Locating Tomyoji and Its ‘Six’ Kannon” for *Capturing the ‘Original,’* which will be published by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Tokyo and “The Five Kannon of Tomyoji,” in the *Blackwell Companion to Asian Art*. I will be modifying these articles to include in my book in the coming months.

2008–2009 Hall Center Research Fellows

Continued



Caroline Jewers
*Associate Professor
of French & Italian*

My fellowship was devoted to a book project analyzing the performance of emotion in medieval French literature of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries as it is expressed in a variety of genres (principally romance, feudal epic and lyric poetry). I worked on contextualizing the literary encoding of emotion by looking at contemporary medical, philosophical and theological discourses,

blending literary analysis with sources from interdisciplinary fields including history, history of medicine, classical studies, philosophy and theology, history of art, music, gender studies and cultural/performance studies. My argument is that while much of what is later termed psychology is, in the Middle Ages, largely restricted to theosophical discussion (e.g. the vices and virtues), contemporary imaginative literature becomes a secularized psychomachia (a “war within the soul”) that performs and reiterates in praxis what was evolving in contemporary thinking about the ways in which the mind and body worked.



Burdett Loomis
*Professor of
Political Science*

The Hall Center Research Fellowship gave me the opportunity to work hard on my research project, which addresses changes in Kansas politics and policy-making between 1960 and 1975. At the same time, I could sit back and reflect about my research, which may prove even more important. My thinking matured with the time afforded

me by the fellowship, to say nothing of useful reactions to my research presentation at the Hall Center. And a month after finishing my Hall Center stint, I signed a book contract, from a most enthusiastic University Press of Kansas, that reflected my revised thinking. In addition, I got to talk with fellow fellows about a wide array of subjects, which ranged from Asian art to the mechanics of constructing a book narrative. All in all, the Hall Fellowship allowed me to focus on my research and think broadly about it, with the companionship of other fellows and the support of the always-helpful Hall Center staff.



Creative Work Fellowship
Yoonmi Nam
*Associate Professor
of Art*

I used the Creative Work Fellowship to work on my project entitled “Arranged Flowers,” a portfolio of five prints using a traditional Japanese water-based woodblock printmaking technique. The prints are inspired by pictorial representations of flower arrangements and the artistry of flower arranging. I researched seventeenth century Dutch

flower paintings and Japanese prints that depict the art of Japanese flower arrangement (Ikebana), and made reference to this imagery in my own work. Flowers, once cut from their roots, have only a short remaining time to live. They will quickly wither and die, but before they do, they are beautifully and elaborately arranged, and ultimately captured through paintings and prints by artists meaning to preserve their beauty, as well as suggest the fragility and impermanence of life. Beauty, artificiality, structure, abundance and impermanence are concepts I had in mind as I worked on this project.

Book Celebration of Faculty Authors



Left to right: Michelle Hayes, Kathy Porsch, Allan Hanson

In 2008, 39 members of the humanities, social sciences and arts faculty published 43 works, on topics ranging from the history of electroshock therapy to gender in jazz studies. Many of these books were on display in the Hall Center during the Seventh Annual Celebration of Books on March 25, 2009. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center.

Close to 90 attended the reception and program honoring KU faculty authors. The Celebration featured a short program where four faculty members spoke briefly about their published works. Associate Professor of Music & Dance, Margaret Marco discussed the inspiration behind her audio CD recording *Hidden Gems: Oboe Sonatas of the French Baroque*. Marco's intention was to bring a number of unpublished music scores to the attention of modern oboists. Laura Mielke, Assistant Professor of English and author of *Moving Encounters: Sympathy and the Indian Question in Antebellum Literature*, spoke of the challenges she faced in understanding the portrayal of Native Americans in antebellum

literature. Professor of Journalism & Mass Communications, David Perlmutter discussed the emergence and role of political blogging and shared some of the findings that appear in his book *Blogwars: The New Political Battleground*. And according to Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, Don Worster, no fully-researched biography on early environmentalist John Muir had appeared in over half a century, which was his motivation behind writing *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir*.

Each of the presenters noted that support from the Hall Center had been especially influential in contributing to their success in both writing and research, from ongoing faculty seminars to the Humanities Grant Development Office. Hall Center director Victor Bailey expressed the need to recognize faculty for their achievements in publishing, noting that published books and artistic works require "enormous energy, perseverance and creativity."

What Does a Liberal Society Owe the Disadvantaged?



Richard Arneson

In a three-part lecture series this past fall, prominent thinkers addressed the increasingly pertinent question “What Does a Liberal Society Owe the Disadvantaged?” The series, co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Policy and Social Research, attracted a wide audience and raised and answered a number of important questions.

Gerald Gaus, James E. Rogers Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona, started off the series on October 3rd with a lecture titled “Is Public Policy Possible?” Gaus examined the relationship between philosophy, economics and public policy, noting that even philosophers can provide normative conclusions with help from economic and policy theory. He asked, “Why does public policy often create effects that we don’t expect?”

Loren Lomasky, Cory Professor of Political Philosophy, Policy & Law at the University of Virginia, continued the series on October 24th

with “What Do We Owe the World’s Poor?”

According to Lomasky, Americans have so much compared to the people who live on a dollar a day. Doesn’t that alone impose some moral obligation to help the world’s poor? It seems, on one hand, that it might. Lomasky believes that we should follow the model set forth for doctors by the Hippocratic Oath: “First, do no harm.” If we at least do no harm to the world’s poor, we will be doing better than we have been so far.

Finally, Richard Arneson, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California at San Diego, completed the series on December 5th with “Varieties of Cosmopolitanism and the Ideal of Global Justice.” What we owe one another, according to Arneson, is fixed by fundamental moral principles. We *do* owe something—but what? Arneson addressed the difference between simple cosmopolitanism—giving the painkiller to the person with the worst headache—and complex cosmopolitanism—helping those geographically close to us because they are close to us.

The Art of Narrative Nonfiction



Ann Hagedorn

On February 19th, in the Hall Center, Simons Public Humanities Fellow Ann Hagedorn shared some of her secrets about writing. Hagedorn, former research librarian, journalist, and the author of several books, is well-versed in the art of narrative nonfiction; although her advice could easily be applied across genres.

Hagedorn's talk was structured around the five stages of writing: choosing a topic; research and organization of research; story structure; writing and self-editing; and source notes. She related each of the steps to her approaches in writing narrative nonfiction, which she characterized as

the process of “using literary techniques to bring alive a story based on facts.” She sees the writer as a conduit between mounds of information and the general public, and it is the narrative nonfiction writer's job to sift through historical data, records, and other types of information, in order to weave an interesting and lively account of her topic. “I love the process involved with writing narrative nonfiction,” she remarked. That process, according to Hagedorn, involves taking complicated and difficult topics and delivering them in a compelling and entertaining way, in hopes of reaching a broad audience.

Editing Week



Eli Horowitz

Editing Week, sponsored by the Hall Center and the MFA Program in Creative Writing, was a big hit last September. Both Lorin Stein, Senior Editor of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Eli Horowitz, Publisher of *McSweeney's*, drew huge crowds when they visited the Hall Center to talk about their work in editing and publishing and to offer advice to young writers. Both sessions were moderated by Deb Olin Unferth, Assistant Professor of English.

Lorin Stein, who spoke on September 19, when asked how he began his career in editing, laughed, “I always wanted to be a novelist but I was terrible at it. I realized editing was as close as I was going to get to being a novelist.” He stressed that

compared to writers, editors ultimately have the easier job. Stein also addressed concerns such as “the slow death of the book,” in noting, “I don’t think books will die in the sense of absolutely disappearing—but there really needs to be a critical mass of readers for the publishing industry to stay out of trouble.”

On September 24, Eli Horowitz addressed everything from the distinctive designs of the *McSweeney's* publications to dealing with the manuscripts he receives. “A lot of houses use stock photos for their publications. Instead, we always work with artists. We basically search for images that resonate; that offer some kind of hook,” he noted.

Book Publication Awards

Vice Provost for Research

The Tenth Annual Vice Provost for Research Book Publication Award was given this spring to **Leslie Tuttle**, Assistant Professor of History, for her forthcoming publication *Conceiving the Old Regime*.

Conceiving the Old Regime connects the French state's obsession with increasing its population to the birth of modern notions of family and government. Contemporary France is well known for its pronatalist policies—that is, programs that offer fiscal incentives to convince French men and women to have larger families. Professor Tuttle's work explores the historical roots of such policies during the age of Louis XIV. Today, benefits for French parents begin with the birth of a couple's third child; during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, by contrast, rewards began when men (because benefits were targeted at fathers) could boast ten living, legitimate children—a feat that was uncommon even in the age before the widespread practice of birth control. Despite the Herculean reproductive labors anticipated by the early modern antecedents of pronatalist laws, thousands of French couples stepped forward to claim pronatalist awards between 1666 and 1789.

Professor Tuttle explains how the French royal government's project to encourage marriage and reproduction made sense in an early modern political context. Not only were kings with more subjects believed to be naturally more powerful than their rivals, early modern political theory held that marriage and parenthood tamed the brutish, rebellious nature of men (and, to a lesser extent, women), turning them into politically loyal and responsible subjects. The book shows that as procreation came to be seen as a vital source of imperial power and political discipline, the domestic household became an ever more critical target of the modern nation-state's governing power.

The Friends of the Hall Center

Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center make possible a second book publication award. The Friends Book Publication Award went to **Michael Zogry**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies. The University of North Carolina Press will publish his book, *Playing or Praying?: The Cherokee Anetso Ceremonial Complex and the Performance of Cultural Identity*.

Zogry undertakes a well researched and theoretically informed historical-cum-ethnographic study of the Cherokee Ball Game (Anetso) to fill a gap in literature on Native American religions generally and on Cherokee religion particularly. He uses the ball game as a prism whose refraction casts light on the many colors and dimensions of Cherokee. He uses the topic to reflect deeply and critically on an array of issues of theoretical interest to the study of religion, culture, play, ritual, colonial contact, and even the impact of tourism on culture.



Unknown artist, "Noces d'or de M. et Mme de Pontagny."
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External Funding for Humanities Projects

Hall Center Constituent Faculty submitted 139 external grant and fellowship applications for fiscal year 2008-2009. As of publication of this report, the following faculty members have received announcements of awards. Click on the faculty member's name at www.hallcenter.ku.edu/grants/external/2009.shtml to read an abstract describing the project.

Individual Awards

Marta M. Caminero-Santangelo, English: Smithsonian Institution, "‘Illegal’: Narrating the Non-Nation."

Katherine R. P. Clark, History: American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, "Identity Formation in North East England, 1500-1850: The Claverings and their Built Environment."

Anthony Corbeill, Classics: All Souls College, Oxford Visiting Fellowship, "Boundaries of Sex and Gender in Ancient Rome."

Stephanie Fitzgerald, English: The Newberry Library, Susan Kelly Power and Helen Hornbeck Tanner Fellowship, "Land Narratives: Native Histories of Land and Law."

Ruben Flores, American Studies: National Academy of Education, Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, "Forging an American Pluralism: The Mexican Revolution and American Civil Rights."

Sherry Fowler, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Japan Foundation Fellowship, "Accounts and Images of the Six Kannon Cult in Japan."

Tanya Golash-Boza, Sociology: U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship, "Age of Exile: The Transnational Ties of Deportees in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Jamaica"; Fulbright Scholar Program, "The Transnational Ties of Deportees in Goiás" (declined)

John W. Hoopes, Anthropology: American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, "Contributions to the Archaeology of Suerre."

Maki Kaneko, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies, "Art at the Service of the State: Japanese Artists in the War, 1907-1952."

Laura Mielke, English: American Antiquarian Society, "Performing Speech: The Orator and Popular Theatre in the Antebellum United States." (Declined)

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Sociology: American Councils for International Education Title VIII Special Initiatives Fellowship Program, "Azeri Women's Voices: Narratives of Refugees and IDPs from the Nagorno-Karabakh War and Implications for Humanitarian Social Policy."

Dena Register, Music Education and Music Therapy: Fulbright Scholar Program, "Development of the Music Therapy Profession and Course of Study; Perceptions of Music Therapy in the Medical Setting."

Gitti Salami, Kress Foundation Department of Art History: Smithsonian Institution, "Yakurr 'Tradition' in Postcolonial Nigeria."

Deb Olin Unferth, English: Creative Capital Foundation, Andy Warhol Grant for Innovative Writing, "Natural Citizens."

Marta V. Vicente, History: Bibliographical Society of America, Reese Fellowship for American Bibliography and the History of the Book in the Americas, "Pornography and the Spanish Inquisition: The Reading of a Forbidden Best-Seller."

Kyoim Yun, East Asian Languages and Cultures: Seoul National University, Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, "Ritual Economy: Values of Exchange in Korean Shamanic Practice."

Institutional Awards

Derrick L. Darby, Philosophy: The Spencer Foundation, "Philosophy and the Racial Achievement Gap."

THE YEAR AHEAD



THE 2009-2010 HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES

The 2009-2010 Humanities Lecture Series will include Lewis Hyde, T.R. Reid, Chris Abani, Rory Stewart, Mary Oliver, and Kevin Willmott. Each lecture is free, open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m. on the date indicated below. Several speakers will also take part in a public colloquium on the morning following their evening lecture.

Lewis Hyde

August 25, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Lewis Hyde's first and most renowned book, *The Gift*, has been described as "a masterpiece" and an "epiphany, in sculpted prose". An extended study of reciprocity and the role of the artist in a commercial society, *The Gift* remains in print more than 25 years since its first publication. In his lecture "Culture as Commonwealth", Hyde will take us through his current work-in-progress, exploring the "cultural commons," that vast store of unowned ideas, inventions, and works of art that we have inherited from the past and that we continue to create.

Hyde's credits include a book of poems, *This Error is the Sign of Love*, the non-fiction work *Trickster Makes This World*, and edited volumes on the works of Vicente Aleixandre, Henry David Thoreau, and Allen Ginsberg. He has also published essays and poetry in numerous journals. Currently, Hyde is the Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing at Kenyon College.

T.R. Reid

October 22, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

In his 2008 PBS Frontline documentary, *Sick Around the World*, former *Washington Post* correspondent T.R. Reid entered the fractious debate on U.S. healthcare reform. In this

presentation, "We're Number 37! Why Other Countries Have Better, Fairer, and Cheaper Health Care than the USA", Reid will draw from that documentary work and his 2009 book, *The Healing of America*, to explore a variety of models that other countries use to provide reliable, affordable healthcare to its populations.

T. R. Reid has become one of the nation's best-known correspondents through his coverage of global affairs for *The Washington Post*, his books and documentaries, and his light-hearted commentaries on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*. Reid has written six books in English and three in Japanese. His 2005 book, *The United States of Europe*, became a national bestseller.

Chris Abani

November 17, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Imprisoned by the Nigerian government as a teenager for his first novel, tortured and placed on death row for subsequent work critical of the government, Chris Abani will lecture on "Stories of Struggle, Stories of Hope: Art, Politics and Human Rights". Abani is one of the most admired novelists in the world today. He is also an evocative speaker whose keynotes mix the personal and the political, revealing the redemptive power of art to battle tyranny and to remind us of our common humanity.



Abani is the recipient of the PEN Freedom-to-Write Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, and many other prizes. His bestselling novel, *Graceland*, about an Elvis impersonator in Lagos, won the Hemingway/PEN Prize. Abani is currently a professor in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside.

Rory Stewart

February 16, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

In 2002, Rory Stewart covered 6,000 miles on foot across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. Stewart relates that journey in his critically acclaimed book, *The Places in Between*. In his lecture, “Afghanistan: Rhetoric and Reality,” he will share with audiences his intimate knowledge of the region.

Now serving as the Ryan Family Professor of the Practice of Human Rights and Director of Harvard University’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Stewart is also the founder and Chief Executive of the Turquoise Mountain Foundation, a non-profit organization in Kabul, Afghanistan. In 2003, he started working for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq. In 2006, drawing from these experiences with the CPA he published *The Prince of the Marshes*.

The Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture devoted to issues related to our multi-cultural society

Mary Oliver

March 23, The Lied Center

The author of 18 collections of poetry, most notably the Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Primitive* (1983) and *New and Selected Poems*,

Volume One (1992), which garnered a National Book Award, Mary Oliver will share her work and take questions from the audience in *An Evening with Poet Mary Oliver*.

Oliver’s lyrical connection to the natural world has firmly established her in the highest realm of American poets. She is renowned for her evocative and precise imagery, which brings nature into clear focus, transforming the everyday world into a place of magic and discovery. Her most recent collections are *The Truro Bear and Other Adventures* (2008), and *Evidence* (2009). *Red Bird* (2008) was an immediate national bestseller.

Supported by the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City

Kevin Willmott

April 20, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Two-time Sundance participant and KU Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies, Kevin Willmott will present, “Revolution, History and the Power of Independent Film to Change the World.” Professor Willmott is a screenwriter, filmmaker, playwright, actor and activist. His films include *C.S.A—The Confederate States of America*, a 2004 feature that imagines the fate of America had the South won the Civil War. His most recent release, *The Only Good Indian* starring Wes Studi, was selected for Sundance in 2009.

Supported by the Friends of the Hall Center

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



FRIENDS *of the*
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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,

By May 2009, we had a total of 514 Friends who contributed \$71,825 this year to support the work of the Hall Center. For 2008-2009, the Friends Council committed \$37,000 to be used to enhance the Center's faculty development programs. This provided support for the 12 faculty and graduate student seminars, additional support for faculty travel grants, a second book publication award, and sponsorship of the Book Celebration of Faculty Authors and the KU speaker in the Humanities Lecture Series. The Friends also supported four Hall Center scholars, undergraduate students who interact with the speakers in the Humanities Lecture Series. An additional \$16,000 was allocated for administration, recitals, and social and reception costs.

Highlights of the fall's programming for the Friends were the conversation with political pundit Susan Estrich, the talk by historian Anna Cienciala on the massacre of Polish prisoners at Katyn, and the fall social. Highlights of the spring's programming were the Book Celebration of Faculty Authors, Tony Corbeill's lecture in the Humanities Lecture Series, the music recital by the Fetter String Quartet from Washburn University, and Paul Laird's presentation of George Frederic Handel's life and music, with the help of the Instrumental Collegium Musicum and countertenor, Chad Payton.

The following members were elected to the Friends Council for three-year terms: Barbara Benso, David Bergeron, William Crowe, and John Pierce. Edwyna Condon Gilbert will be the new Council chair. Edwyna is an associate professor emerita in the KU English department, where she taught from 1965 until her retirement in 1993. We are grateful to all these people for agreeing to help advance the Friends' mission.

Kristine Latta presented the 2009 Friends of the Hall Center award to Don and Alice Ann Johnston. Don and Alice Ann chaired the steering committee that launched our Friends organization, and acted as the first chairs of the Friends Council. They have contributed to the Hall Center's development in many other ways, too.

As I conclude my year as chair of the Friends Council, I want to thank my fellow council members for their work on behalf of the Friends, and the Friends membership for their continued support of the Hall Center. As our mission statement indicates, the Friends complement the work of the Center by helping to enrich the humanities programming at the University and in the community.

Barbara Nordling, Chair, Friends Council

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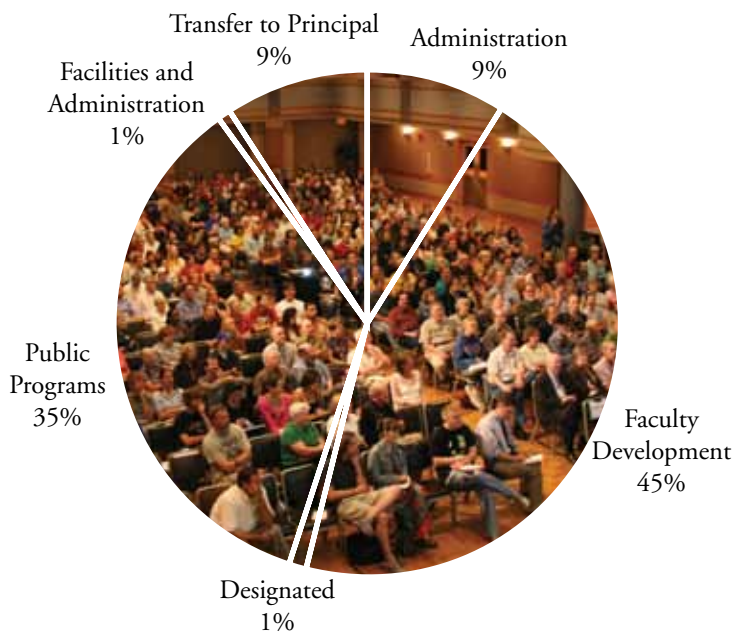
Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Based on an income of \$800,006



Income was greater than expenditures in FY09 as a result of research and internship awards that will not be expended until FY10.

Based on expenditures of \$754,934





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