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Distinguished Scholars-in-Residence: Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Li-Young Lee

Thanks to generous funding from the Office of the Provost, our successful Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence program continues in 2014. For this Spring, our first Scholar is historian Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, a noted authority on women’s history, labor history, and the American South.

Hall, who will be at USF for the week of February 24-28, is the Julia Cherry Spruill Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is past President of the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the Labor and Working Class History Association, and an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served as the founding director of the Southern Oral History Program from 1973 to 2011.

Her several books include Revolt Against Chivalry: Jessie Daniel Ames and the Women’s Campaign Against Lynching, and she has written many influential articles, including methodological discussions of oral history. In 1999, she was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Bill Clinton for her efforts to deepen the nation’s understanding of and engagement with the humanities. In 2013, she received the Mary Turner Lane Award for outstanding contributions to the lives of women at UNC-Chapel Hill.

During her week at USF, Hall will visit several undergraduate and graduate
Continued on page 4...

HI Inaugurates USF/Exeter Humanities Exchange

This Spring, we’re excited to welcome several scholars from the University of Exeter, U.K., who will offer public talks on topics as diverse as comic books, medieval castles, landscape and memory, and Ice Age migrations to the Americas.

Exeter is one of USF’s Global Academic Partners, and is consistently ranked among the top 10 U.K. universities. As part of the larger institutional relationship, we have developed a Humanities faculty exchange program to allow USF and Exeter faculty to visit each other’s universities for short periods. As well as giving talks, they will visit classes, meet with students about study opportunities at Exeter, and develop collaborations with USF colleagues.

Last Spring, the Provost offered some competitive funding to allow several faculty to present work at an interdisciplinary conference in Exeter, and from there, the residential program was built, with funding from Exeter, USF World, and HI.

This year, USF faculty Phil Levy (History), John Lennon (English), and Tom Pluckhahn (Anthropology) have visited Exeter, or will do so later this year. This Spring, we welcome the following, all of whom will be at USF for a week or more:

Paul Williams (English), will speak on “Turning Comics into Novels in the 1970s: The Growth of the Graphic Novel.” He notes that “Will Eisner’s A Contract with God (1978) is frequently hailed as the threshold text popularizing the ‘graphic novel’, but it was only one of several projects to publish comics in book form for adults in the 1970s. I’ll survey the many ways in which ‘the novel’ was used to conceptualize ambitious comic projects, and will show that the sheer variety and volume was far greater than is generally appreciated.” He will speak Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. in CWY 107 (Military Science Building). Continued on page 5...
Bay Area Premiere for “The Act of Killing”
Signature Theme: History, Myth, and Memory

“I have not seen a film as powerful, surreal, and frightening in at least a decade… It is unprecedented in the history of cinema.”

- Werner Herzog

Herzog is describing The Act of Killing, a documentary addressing the Indonesian genocide that also brings a universal message about the banality of evil, while providing a horrifically engrossing cinematic experience. This January, we offer the only opportunity to see this astonishing film in the Tampa Bay area, accompanied by a panel discussion by USF experts.

The film’s “hero” is Anwar Congo—a mass murderer. When the government of Indonesia was overthrown by the military in 1965, Congo and his friends were promoted from small-time gangsters who sold movie theatre tickets on the black market to death squad leaders. These squads killed more than a million alleged communists, ethnic Chinese, and intellectuals in less than a year, while the international community stood by or tacitly condoned the killing.

Congo and his associates were devoted Hollywood fans, who used gangster films as inspiration; Congo preferred to strangle his victims with wire, borrowing his technique from a mafia movie. Director Joshua Oppenheimer somehow won Congo’s confidence, and persuaded him and his friends to re-enact their murderous rampages, under the guise of allowing them to make a movie. In the profoundly disturbing result, the killers draw on their favorite genres – dancing and hamming their way through musical numbers, film noir gangster scenes, and Western scenarios.

The film is about killers who have
The Act of Killing is a nightmarish vision of a culture of impunity.

The documentary has been showered with accolades at film festivals and showings around the world, and invariably spurs viewers to discuss its human implications, as well as its controversial filmic techniques. Our showing will be followed by a panel and audience discussion, led by USF Humanities and Cultural Studies faculty Bill Cummings and Amy Rust, who bring expertise in Indonesian history and film studies respectively, and Stephan Schindler (World Languages), who has a special interest in documentary films, especially those addressing post-conflict issues.

The film showing begins at 6 p.m. in the Oval Theatre, Marshall Student Center; light refreshments will be served at 5:30 outside the theatre. The event is co-sponsored by the USF Libraries Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center. For more information about the film, including the theatrical trailer, see: http://theactofkilling.com

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**Welcoming the “Master of Alternate History”**

**Signature Theme: History, Myth, and Memory**

We continue our annual science fiction tradition by welcoming a writer who has been hailed as the master of the “alternate history” genre – Harry Turtledove.

In alternate history, sometimes known as “alternative reality,” writers explore what might have happened if certain historical events had unfolded differently than they did in the real world, allowing authors to play with notions of truth, reality, and imagination. After earning his Ph.D. in Byzantine history from UCLA, Turtledove began as an academic historian, but soon turned to writing full-time; since the 1990s, he has established himself as one of the most prolific and accomplished authors in the genre.

His books include series such as Timeline 191, in which the Confederacy won the American Civil War, and Worldwar, in which aliens invaded Earth during World War II. Other writing addresses historical eras from the Byzantine Empire to Shakespearean and American Colonial times. Turtledove’s numerous recognitions include the Homer Award for Short Story, the John Esten Cooke Award for Southern Fiction, and the Hugo Award for Novella.

Turtledove will be speaking and reading from his work on Tuesday, February 18, at 6 p.m. in the TECO Room (College of Education), followed by a reception. On February 19 at 2 p.m. in MSC 3705, he will be joined by USF faculty members for an interdisciplinary discussion of alternate history. The panel will include Michael Decker (History) and USF’s own nationally-known author Rick Wilber (Mass Communication), who in 2013 won the most prestigious award for the genre – the Sidewise Award for Best Short-Form Alternate History – for his story, “Something Real.”

To see Harry Turtledove speak about alternate history at the 2012 Comic-Con, visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sSUG66SGrM

The event is co-sponsored by the School of Mass Communication and ResearchOne.

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**DARWIN DAY 2014**

The Institute is pleased to be among several co-sponsors for USF’s annual Darwin Day celebration, headed by the Dept. of Integrative Biology. Charles Darwin’s birthday, Feb. 12th, is a time to celebrate science and reason; this year’s speaker is Kevin Padian, Professor of Integrative Biology at the UC, Berkeley.

Padian’s research focuses on the evolutionary adaptations of vertebrates; he will give two public talks. The first, “What Darwin said … and didn’t say,” is at 3:30 p.m., Thurs. Feb. 13, in CWY 107. The second (time and location TBD) addresses the scientific contributions of Richard Owen, the 19th century scientist who coined the term “dinosaur” and who questioned Darwin’s ideas on evolution as too simple.

Padian will also participate in several workshops on science education, open only to high school students and teachers. Visit Padian’s webpage at: www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/people/padian/home.php

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NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2014
Signature Theme: The Power of the Poetic

NPM@USF
National Poetry Month 2014

The Power of the Poetic. It’s been one of the Institute’s earliest areas of emphasis and is now one of our signature themes, growing into a month-long celebration every April to coincide with the Academy of American Poets’ “National Poetry Month.” NPM@USF has evolved from a small series of readings into a wide range of readings, lectures, performance events, and an annual poetry contest. We are excited to unveil this year’s NPM lineup—a diverse set of events that should appeal to poetry lovers everywhere. Once again, we thank the Florida Humanities Council for its support and Jay Hopler in the Department of English for his dedication to this series.

NPM@USF will begin with a week-long visit from Li-Young Lee as part of our Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence program. Lee has authored numerous books of critically-acclaimed poetry and has received the Lannan Literary Award, a Whiting Writer’s Award, NEA grants, and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. During his residency he will meet with students in a number of different departments and hold two public events. The first will be a poetry reading on April 1st and the second event will be an on-stage interview and Q&A held on April 3rd. Both events begin at 6:00pm and will be held in the Patel Center Auditorium, followed by a reception.

Please visit the NPM@USF website for a complete list of events, author bios, photos, and more: www.humanities-institute.usf.edu/poetry/

April 7: Micheal O’Siadhail. Renowned Irish poet, author of ten collections, and winner of the Irish American Culture Prize and the Marten Toonder Prize for Literature. His Collected Works was recently launched by former President of Ireland, Dr. Mary McAleese at Trinity College, Dublin. 6:00pm, TECO Room (College of Education).

April 9: Ira Sukrungruang. Winner of the Tampa Press Anita Claire Schraf Award for In Thailand It Is Night. 3:30pm, Grace Allen Room (4th floor of the USF Library).

April 15: Coppélia Kahn. Professor of English at Brown University. “The Making of Shakespeares: Commemoration, Cultural Memory, and ‘the Bard.’” 6:00pm, (Room TBD).

April 16: John Nieves, USF Alumnus and author of Cario, and Alexis Orgera, author of How Like Foreign Objects and Dust Jacket. 6:00pm, TECO Room (College of Education).

April 25: Jay Hopler and Kimberly Johnson. Co-editors of Before the Door of God: An Anthology of Devotional Poetry. 6:00pm, TECO Room (College of Education).

Cont. from P. 1

classes in History, Gender Studies, Communication, and Sociology, and will give a public talk, “The Challenge of Writing about Dissident Women in the Shadow of the Long Cold War” on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. (Room TBD), followed by a reception.

To hear Dr. Hall talk about the legacies of the civil rights movement, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwsEN1d0cTE.

Later in the semester, as a highlight of National Poetry Month, we welcome distinguished poet and memoirist Li-Young Lee, who will visit March 31 - April 4.

Lee was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, to Chinese parents. In 1959, the Lee family fled Indonesia to escape the anti-Chinese sentiment that later exploded in the 1965 genocides; his family settled in the United States in 1964. Lee’s poetry explores the joys and sorrows of family, home, loss, exile, and love; he is author of four critically acclaimed books of poetry, including Behind My Eye, Book of My Nights; Raise (winner of the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award); The City in Which I Love You (the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection); and a memoir, The Winged Seed: A Remembrance, which received an American Book Award.

His many other honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Lannan Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

According to a recent review of his work, “Lee is not only one of our best contemporary poets of the sacred, he is an authentic mystic … Confounding dichotomy, Lee calls into question the division between beginning/end, birth/death, past/future, man/woman, body/mind. Borders melt; language opens. These poems approach the very edge of the ineffable, that which cannot be articulated.”

Continuing our tradition started last year, Lee will present awards in the HI Poetry Competition, visit several classes, and will read and speak on April 1 and April 3.

To hear Lee read and talk about his poem, “This Room & Everything in It,” visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcAeCqCAwpo

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Cont. from P. 1

Oliver Creighton (Archaeology), addresses “Medieval Castles, Lordship and the Making of the English Landscape.” He writes: “Castles were among the most dominant features of the English medieval landscape and many remain impressive today. I will present an overview of the impacts of fortification on town and country and highlight the role of lordship in re-shaping the medieval world, presenting a case study of power and authority in the landscape.”

His talk will be 6 p.m, March 4 in the TECO Room.

Nicola Whyte (History), will speak on “Landscape and Memory in Early Modern England,” examining “everyday experiences of landscape, drawing on a rich corpus of archival material dating to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with particular reference to the memories, customs, and knowledge practices of non-elites, who are often overlooked. I conclude by considering some of the broader implications of revealing alternative narratives of landscape and place, for our modern times.”

She will speak at 3:30 p.m., March 6 in the Grace Allen Room.

Bruce Bradley (Archeology) will talk on “Paradigm Lost: A Late Glacial Colonization of the Americas.” He presents “evidence that even before ancient Siberians, the Americas were explored by Ice Age Palaeolithic people from southwestern Europe. The evidence is archaeological, ecological, oceanographic, ethnological and genetic. The idea has been considered heretical in the scientific community, but this work challenges the deeply-held beliefs of academics and the public to visualize a new paradigm of how human beings came to settle the last empty land masses on the planet.”

Bradley will speak at 6 p.m., April 21 in CWY 109.

Two additional History faculty, Sarah Hamilton and Simon Barton, will also visit for a few days in early March, primarily to work with several USF faculty with interests in medieval studies.

Pending funding, we hope to make the exchange a regular opportunity; more details will be forthcoming.

2014 Poetry Contest

Once again we invite you to unleash your inner poet, and compete in our annual poetry competition. This year’s theme is “Homeland.” Our “Homeland” is the place from which we emerge, filled with the people and culture that help shape our identity. This theme may be interpreted broadly, writing about the real or imagined, large or small-scale elements that define the poet’s homeland. The contest is divided into two categories: High School Poets and USF Poets.

- High school poets must be enrolled in either public or private high school (or home school equivalent) in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, or Manatee Counties.
- USF Poets must be students, staff/faculty members (including part-time, adjunct, OPS, etc.) or alumni, affiliated with any institution in the USF system.

Visit the NPM@USF website to read all the rules, download the required coversheet, and learn how to submit your poem. Entries must be original and unpublished and they must be received by Feb. 15th. We will award first, second, and third place prizes in both categories and winners will receive their awards at the April 1st poetry reading with Li-Young Lee. Additional finalists’ poems will be featured on the NPM@USF Website throughout the month of April, 2014.

www.humanities-institute.usf.edu/poetry/

Celebrating Shakespeare with Coppélia Kahn

With the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth approaching in April 2014, and the 400th anniversary of his death in 2016, the Institute is launching what we hope will be an annual event – the HI Shakespeare Lecture. We have found the perfect inaugural speaker in Coppélia Kahn.

Kahn is Professor of English at Brown University, and for years her research has focused on the Bard. She was among the first scholars to introduce the question of gender into Shakespeare studies, most notably in her 1981 book, Man’s Estate: Masculine Identity in Shakespeare. Her many other books include Roman Shakespeare: Warriors, Wounds, and Women (1997), and a co-edited volume, Making a Difference: Feminist Literary Criticism. She has published numerous articles on Shakespeare, as well as on gender theory, Freud, and Jacobean drama. In 2009, she was president of the Shakespeare Association of America.

Kahn will present a public talk, “The Making of Shakespeare: Commemoration, Cultural Memory, and the Bard,” in which she will draw on her current research on the creation of Shakespeare as a cultural icon in 19th and 20th century discourses of race and empire. She notes, “as the anniversaries approach, it is time to critique and theorize the range of social practices committing the iconic figure of Shakespeare to social memory. It is important to understand how the commemoration of Shakespeare has constructed him as a symbol of national identities, of European culture, even as an aspect of global ‘cultural capital.’”

The public talk will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, (Room TBD), and will be followed by a reception. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of English.
**SPRING 2014 CALENDAR**

**January 14**

*The Act of Killing* Film Screening and Discussion Panel  
MSC 2500: Oval Theater. Refreshments, 5:30pm  
Screening, 6:00pm

**February 5**

Homegrown Humanities Faculty Book Series  
Julie Langford: *Maternal Megalomania: Julia Domna and the Imperial Politics of Motherhood*  
Grace Allen Room (Library). Refreshments, 3:00pm. Talk, 3:30pm

**February 6**

Paul Williams: *Turning Comics into Novels in the 1970s: The Growth of the Graphic Novel*  
CWY 107 (Military Sciences Building), 6:00pm, reception to follow

**February 18 - 19: Science Fiction & Alternative History with Harry Turtledove**

Feb. 18: Fiction Reading by Harry Turtledove  
TECO Room (College of Education), 6:00pm, reception to follow  
Feb. 19: *Alternative History* Discussion Panel  
MSC 3705, 2:00pm

**February 24 - 28: Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall**

Feb. 25: *The Challenge of Writing about Dissident Women in the Shadow of the Long Cold War*  
Room TBD (*See website for details*), 6:00pm, reception to follow

**March 4**

Oliver Creighton: *Medieval Castles, Lordship and the Making of the English Landscape*  
TECO Room (College of Education), 6:00pm, reception to follow

**March 5**

Homegrown Humanities Faculty Book Series  
Frances L. Ramos: *Identity, Ritual, and Power in Colonial Puebla*  
Grace Allen Room (Library). Refreshments, 3:00pm. Talk, 3:30pm

**March 6**

Nicola Whyte: *Landscape and Memory in Early Modern England*  
Grace Allen Room (Library). Refreshments, 3:00pm. Talk, 3:30pm

**National Poetry Month at USF: April 2014**

**March 31 - April 4: Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Li-Young Lee**

Apr. 1: Li-Young Lee: *Poetry Reading*  
Patel Center Auditorium, 6:00pm, reception to follow  
Apr. 3: Li-Young Lee: *Interview*  
Patel Center Auditorium, 6:00pm, reception to follow  
Apr. 7: Micheal O’Siadhail: *Poetry Reading*  
TECO Room (College of Education), 6:00pm, reception to follow  
Apr. 9: Ira Sukrungruang: Homegrown Humanities Faculty Book Series  
Grace Allen Room (Library). Refreshments, 3:00pm. Talk, 3:30pm  
Apr. 15: Coppélia Kahn: *The Making of Shakespeares: Commemoration, Cultural Memory, and “the Bard”*  
Room TBD (*See website for details*), 6:00pm, reception to follow  
Apr. 16: Alexis Orgera and John Nieves: *Poetry Reading*  
TECO Room (College of Education), 6:00pm  
Apr. 25: Jay Hopler and Kimberly Johnson: *Poetry Reading*  
TECO Room (College of Education), 6:00pm

**April 21**

Bruce Bradley: *Paradigm Lost: A Late Glacial Colonization of the Americas*  
CWY 109 (Military Sciences Building), 6:00pm, reception to follow
Maternal Megalomania: Julia Domna and the Imperial Politics of Motherhood.

Ancient authors accuse Julia Domna, wife of Roman emperor Septimius Severus (193–211), of ambition unforgivable in a woman, of instigating civil war to place her sons on the throne, and of resorting to incest to maintain her hold on power. In imperial propaganda, however, Julia Domna was honored with unprecedented titles that celebrated her maternity, whether it was in the role of mother to her two sons (both future emperors) or as the metaphorical mother to the empire.

In Maternal Megalomania, Julie Langford unmasks the maternal titles and honors of Julia Domna as a campaign on the part of the administration to garner support for Severus and his sons. She explores how her image was tailored toward support for Severus and his sons. She employs Julia Domna as a case study to explore the creation of ideology between the emperor and his subjects.

In Thailand It Is Night

Located between Mexico City and Veracruz, Puebla has been a political hub since its founding as Puebla de los Ángeles in 1531. Frances L. Ramos’s dynamic and meticulously researched study exposes and explains the many (and often surprising) ways that politics and political culture were forged, tested, and demonstrated through public ceremonies in eighteenth-century Puebla, colonial Mexico’s “second city.”

Ramos portrays elaborate rituals such as the royal oath ceremonies, funerary rites, feast-day celebrations, viceregal entrance ceremonies, and Holy Week processions while decoding the intense debates over their expenditures, finding them to be a central part of ongoing efforts of councilmen to negotiate political relationships. Even with the Spanish Crown’s increasing disapproval of costly public ritual and a worsening economy, Puebla’s councilmen consistently defied all attempts to diminish their importance.

Wednesday, Apr. 9

Ira Sukrungruang (English)

In Thailand It Is Night

Ira Sukrungruang’s first book of poetry, winner of the first Anita Claire Scharf Award, heightens our awareness of ecology in both the natural and spiritual worlds, and it calls us to be attuned to a delicate balance. In Thailand It Is Night portrays a clearly global culture in which Buddha and karma and reincarnation are as natural as patting a dog on the head or visiting McDonald’s for a snack. It is also a world where realities collide in ways that challenge traditional expectations and stretch conventional roles.

Erika Meitner says, “To read the poems in In Thailand It Is Night is to encounter a speaker who knows that poetry lies deeply embedded in the body, and in the litany of breath itself. Sukrungruang has limned an extraordinary collection couched in the broken language of immigration and the mystical language of reincarnation, a book that is as dreamy as it is resolute. Deeply rooted in the landscape, these poems define emotion using the riches of the natural world: finches and cranes and crows, geckos and tree frogs and cardinals and moths—these creatures weave longing, memory, and family into an intricate, lyric-narrative web.”

Cont. from P. 2

series attracted USF faculty and students as well as many community members, with an average attendance of 77.

All this goes to show that the Humanities truly do matter in a mature research university, bringing enrichment and enlightenment not only to USF, but also to the community we serve. We’re proving that people are excited by academically rigorous work, presented in an engaging fashion, and going beyond the regular classroom experience.

We couldn’t do this without the support of many key people: Dean Eric Eisenberg, for continuing to support the HI infrastructure; Provost Ralph Wilcox, for funding the Scholar-in-Residence program; VP for Research Paul Sanberg, for funding the HI Summer Grant program and for matching the donations made by well-wishers; our donors, without whom we would have no funds for our regular programming. Assistant Director Liz Kicak brilliantly pulls everything together, ably assisted by our G.A. Lorraine Montagut, and (for the first time), our undergraduate intern from Humanities and Cultural Studies, Sarah Brown. Special thanks also to Christina Goldstein (CAS) for her help with major event planning and donor relations.

We have a great Spring semester ahead of us; please join us in the excitement!
Fall was a record-breaking year for the Humanities Institute! Thank you for coming out in huge numbers to support our work!

Scholar in Residence, Caryl Phillips, talks to a theater class.
Photo: Barbara Melendez, USF News

Christopher DiCarlo discusses the “new ethics” with a large audience.

Anne Latowsky (World Languages) shares her research at Homegrown Humanities.

Alumnus Jonathan Gayles lectures during Homecoming Week 2013.

Physicist, Lawrence Krauss, delivers the Fall Science & Society lecture to a full house in the Marshall Center Oval Theater. His talk was the largest single event in HI history.