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: Sir John and Lady Aleyne de Creke, 1340, Westley Waterless, Cambridgeshire, brass rubbing by Victor Bailey
Photo by Shala Stevenson.

Page 2: Sir Roger de Trumpington, c. 1289, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire, brass rubbing by Victor Bailey.
Photo by Shala Stevenson.
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Sir Roger de Trumpington, c. 1289. Photo by Shala Stevenson.
2011–2012 was, by any measure, a good year for the Hall Center. In December, we were successful with our application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Challenge Grant we entitled, “Advancing Research Collaboration in the Humanities.” We asked the NEH for support to develop programs that will advance collaborative, interdisciplinary research, and that will model methods for collaboration among scholars in the humanities. This is the third challenge grant the Center has won, two of them in the last twelve years.

Of course, the real challenge lies ahead, which is to match the NEH’s grant of $425,000 with $1,275,000 of private monies. It’s a tall order to find quite so much private funding for the humanities, but we have the full participation of the Center’s 20-strong Advisory Board, and the efforts of the Friends Council, which has committed the Friends of the Hall Center to raise $250,000 of the required match. Yet again, the Hall Family Foundation led the way with a generous gift of $360,000.

Also last year, we hosted six distinguished speakers in the Humanities Lecture Series; sponsored talks by KU distinguished professors, Raj Bhala and Susan Harris; and brought to campus historian, Virginia Scharff, and literary critic, Lawrence Jackson, among other visiting speakers. We administered the fourteen Hall Center competitions for research fellowships, travel grants, research seed grants, book publication awards, and graduate research awards. New York jazz pianist, Randy Klein, held the Simons Public Humanities Fellowship with real distinction. And we continued to lend financial and organizational support to two important campus ventures: The Commons at Spooner Hall, and the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities.

We have a busy academic year ahead of us, cresting in the April 2013 annual meeting of the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. I’ve recently returned from the CHCI meeting in Australia, at which we discussed the theme of the 2013 conference. The theme is the role and value of the humanities in the public sphere, an especially urgent topic in view of the many threats to the valuation of the arts, humanities, and social sciences. I’m extremely grateful for the funding provided by the university’s leaders for this important occasion, when 120 or more humanities center directors from many parts of the world will be on the KU campus. It promises to be an enjoyable and enlightening few days, to which the KU community will be invited.
The Hall Center for the Humanities continues to be recognized nationally and internationally for excellence in scholarly development and humanities programs for the public. This year, its innovative proposal to broaden the scope and impact of humanities research across the university and in communities was rewarded with an unprecedented third Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The combination of grant and private matching funds will provide the Hall Center with an endowment of $1,700,000 underwriting programs that will put the Hall Center at the forefront of collaborative, cutting-edge humanities research. In addition to supporting interdisciplinary humanities research within the university, the programs will also pair scholars with community organizations. What better way to generate new ways of thinking about and solving the very complicated and inter-related problems currently facing communities, states and nations.

Many people in this state and around the country value and support the Hall Center. The task of raising $1,275,000 for the private match of the NEH grant is a challenge that I am confident will be met. The Hall Family Foundation continues to support the Center with a generous pledge of $360,000. The Friends of the Hall Center are committed to raising $250,000, and the Campaign Committee for the Hall Center (part of the larger KU capital campaign, *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*) will raise the remaining funds.

The award of the NEH Challenge Grant confirms what is already known—the Hall Center is something that can be pointed to with immense pride. Not only does it support and elevate academic excellence for faculty and students, it provides a rich resource for the study of the human condition. That benefits all of us.

The great challenges facing humanity creates opportunities for, indeed demands, new ways of thinking about and gaining new insight into problems facing us. That is the opportunity the Hall Center provides as it fosters interdisciplinary research in the humanities. This is an exciting time for the Hall Center and for those who understand how critical the humanities are to broadening our perspective and awareness of our world.

From the Chair of the Friends Council

Beth Stella
HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES

"The era of the witness is over," Laurence Rees declared during his lecture “Talking with Nazis.” Rees interviews Nazi perpetrators for his award-winning documentaries on World War II. Despite the difficulty of interviewing these individuals, their first-hand accounts were necessary for two reasons: first, we are reaching a point in history where many witnesses from World War II are beginning to die, meaning that their testimony is on the edge of being lost; and secondly, “for anyone seeking to understand the past, the opportunity to question eyewitnesses can offer insight that is truly valuable.” Punctuating his lecture with powerful film clips, Rees outlined why extracting reliable accounts of World War II was such a complicated affair. When asked why interview Nazis at all, Rees explained that oral testimony, even when imperfect, is the way human beings navigate their lives. Talking and explaining helps us contextualize events, and “we are social animals that rely on communication in most of our lives—it’s as fundamental as that.”

Diane Ravitch, bestselling author and former assistant secretary of education under George Bush, kept a captivated audience as she described how she shifted from accepting to criticizing so-called “school choice.” A “bad news chorus” writes the current national school reform narrative. Ravitch used to be a part of this narrative, scrutinizing test scores, studies, and outcomes and seeing bad news everywhere. While critics formerly sought to change public schools for the better, “corporate reformers” now desire the privatization of education. Under the corporate model, parents are consumers, children are products, and test scores become profits and losses. However, evidence suggests that this model does not result in a higher level of performance. Ravitch suggests that reformers are looking for improvement in the wrong places. Higher test scores should not be the goal of education. Instead, we should be strengthening the education profession and supporting, not penalizing, our teachers, paying much more attention to “recruitment, support, development, and retention.”
Louis Menand claimed only to “attempt to unpack a very short piece of film,” a clip from Bonnie & Clyde (1967) where a bank teller gets shot in the face, signaling a shift in tone from slapstick humor to violent anxiety. Yet Menand’s analysis sketched a cultural history of post-World War II France, European filmmaking, the history and analysis of noir, and finally an understanding of American film as a reaction to French aesthetic theory. But more is at stake in understanding how films at this period work than just understanding abstract aesthetics. Competing theories of understanding reality, struggling to define the politics of cinema, are implicit in the debate. What is the essence of the cinema as a mode of representation? The historical moment called for this kind of political analysis, Menand concluded, because any movie from the 1960s in which a man is shot would have evoked a specific cultural memory: John F. Kennedy being shot.

Kansans, began Professor of History Jeff Moran, already have a passing familiarity with antievolution controversies, referencing the 2005 ruling by the Kansas Board of Education to change its science education standards so that intelligent design could be included in textbooks. Starting with this example and working backwards, Moran detailed different instances of anti-evolution controversy, from the Scopes trial to current contention about Intelligent Design theory. Moran located the backlash against evolution, which has remained strong since its inception in the nineteenth century, in religious fundamentalism and its three key tenets: the primacy of Jesus, the centrality of humanity, and the fear of social disorder. Intelligent design theorists are also guilty of this thinking: despite a shift in rhetoric, critics of evolution today are as concerned with upholding social order as their ancestors.
Philosopher Alain de Botton proposed a “Religion for Atheists,” a moral and aesthetic middle ground that selects the best facets of religion for enriching secular life, offering an assessment of education, time, rhetoric, art, and social organization using religious frameworks to support his “enlightened secularism.” Religious rituals provide structure unavailable elsewhere. “Humans are always on the edge of chaos, constantly buffeted by shocks and doubts. What we need is very active guidance in a system of wisdom.” Repetition, ritualistic action, appeals to one’s inner life, the recognition of the frailty and irrationality of man—all are used to construct and promote social organization. “At their best moments, religions are too interesting, beautiful, subtle, and complex, to be abandoned to those who actually believe in them.”

The audience attending Jamaica Kincaid’s lecture “Landscapes and Memory” was surprised by a rare treat: a reading from Kincaid’s upcoming novel. Suffused with humor, compassion, and a lively voice, Kincaid’s writing enchanted the audience, and landscape and memory colored the excerpt read aloud. When asked if this was a personal landscape—in other words, if the excerpt was in any way biographical—Kincaid laughed and replied, “Everything I write is autobiographical, including the punctuation.” Novels aren’t “true” in the same way evidence in a court of law is “true,” she elaborated, but novels communicate information about life that one wouldn’t get in a straightforward way. “My writing has a way of saying something about myself that I don’t want myself to really know.”
Kelsey Murrell graduated with a degree in English. She studied both literature and creative writing with an emphasis in social justice literature and playwriting. During her time at KU, Kelsey was involved in several student organizations, including the CAST, a developmental group for student playwrights, the Center for Community Outreach, and Student Senate. Kelsey was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 2012 and will study at Oxford University in the fall.

Luke Brinker, senior, is majoring in History with an emphasis on 20th century American political and intellectual history. He is a member of the Honors Program, a Summerfield Scholar, the 2011 winner of the Philip Whitcomb essay contest, and a member of the University Scholars 2011 class. Luke is an opinion columnist for the University Daily Kansan and a member of the Student Advisory Board at the Dole Institute of Politics.

Stephanie Jian graduated with a degree in Cognitive Psychology. She was Alternative Breaks co-director and President of the Service Learning Ambassadors. She volunteered with and coordinated the Music Mentors program, and was a member of the University Honors Program, serving as an Honors Ambassador and Honors Peer Mentor.

Greg Loving graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering and Economics. He was a University Scholar, member of the SELF Engineering Fellowship program, and was a Charles Oswald Fellow in Economics. In 2009, Greg founded and directed a student philanthropy that raised over $38,000 for Lawrence Habitat for Humanity. Greg served as co-president of the KU Energy Club.

Kelly Crosby graduated with degrees in Political Science and English. She was the president of Amnesty International at KU and was the Amnesty International Student Area Coordinator for the state of Kansas. She was involved with the Center for Community Outreach, the Queers & Allies Educational Outreach Task Force, and the state of Kansas Young Democrats. She served as a mentor for the US Institute on Women’s Leadership at KU for two summers.

Kellen Bolt graduated with degrees in English and American Studies. He was the co-director of the Center for Community Outreach and served as the Pride Week and Activities Coordinator for Queers & Allies. He participated in the Honors Research Development Program and University Scholars and was awarded an Undergraduate Research Award to research his senior thesis.
PUBLIC OUTREACH
Raj Bhala, author of the important legal textbook *Understanding Islamic Law*, analyzed Sharīa law using several interconnected theses. The first is that law and religion are inseparable. Sharīa stems from four sources: the Quran, the *sunnah* (example) of the prophet, analogical reasoning, and the consensus of Muslim legal scholars. Law and religion are inseparable, for attempting to separate the two “would ascribe too much to human reason.” Therefore, differentiation between authentic and inauthentic law is an essential practice for understanding Sharīa. By understanding the difference between authentic and inauthentic teachings, legal scholars are “narrowing our points of difference…and expanding on our commonalities.” Why is this important? Bhala explains: we need, in a post-9/11 society, to reopen the door to different kinds of reasoning in Islamic law, particularly *ijtihād*, or independent reasoning, both to allow for more tolerant interpretations of scripture, and to promote understanding and conversation in American legal scholarship.

_Bhala is the Rice Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Kansas._

Lawrence Jackson

*A Narrative History of African American Writers and Critics and A Black Virginia Family After the Civil War*

Community relationships served as important grounds for black writers in the 20th century, yet critics have consistently ignored the importance of the Harlem Renaissance’s intelligentsia. What was the relationship between educators, students, writers, and critics? Lawrence Jackson dismissed claims that no meaningful activity existed. Instead, he investigated pieces of important figures’ lives that were conspicuously absent from archival research. Jackson described tracing these silences and piecing together the story of vibrant political activity, which shaped black consciousness indelibly. Jackson uncovered silences in his personal history, as well. He sought to understand the genealogy of his father, who had descended from slaves—a nigh on impossible task. What must his ancestors have known and done to survive? Presenting a tale of secret birth certificates, surprising adoptions, and hostile record keepers, Jackson detailed the history of his great-grandparents and their settlement in post-Civil War Virginia.

_Jackson is Professor of English and African American Studies at Emory University._
Students in Selinger’s ethics class at the Rochester Institute for Technology are expected to put their ethical principles into action. Using games where moral choice has immediate consequence, Selinger has found that students are more engaged and willing to think through the moral implications of their choices when working collaboratively on a specific project. Selinger understands the cooperative nature of this gameplay through the frame of the Occupy Wall Street movement, theorizing that an ethics of fairness has permeated the way students think about their game strategies since the protests began.

Selinger is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Who were the women in Thomas Jefferson’s life? What were the women Jefferson loved like, and what was this closely scrutinized founding father like around them? What happened in Jefferson’s private life, Virginia Scharff argued, had a real impact on the way his governmental policies were formed. Jefferson lived in an isolated patriarchal paradise, with his own home at the center of smaller buildings occupied by his mother, wife, and mistress. In Jefferson’s idyllic vision for the new country, men would protect and provide, while women existed to please, nurture, and obey. Protecting property was a sacred component of Jefferson’s ideal society, requiring a “wall of separation” between the private and the public. Dominion over one’s family and property, including the ability to protect them from invasive outside forces, remained central to Jefferson’s political motivations.

Scharff is Professor of History at the University of New Mexico and Director of the Center for the Southwest.
Attorney and lecturer Sarah Weddington entertained her audience with anecdotes and pieces of advice gathered from her long political and legal career during the 2012 Emily Taylor and Marilyn Stokstad’s Women’s Leadership Lecture. Weddington is most famous for her role as one of Jane Roe’s attorneys in *Roe v. Wade*, which she argued when she was only 26. Weddington explained that, despite her inexperience, she was selected for the case because she was the only person unafraid and willing to do the case for free. It is this kind of initiative, Weddington notes, that allows women to become strong leaders. She pursued a path of leadership for the rest of her career. She emphasized how important it is for women “to take risks and do things that they may not succeed at, but that they know it is important to try.”

*Weddington is the founder of the Weddington Center, which facilitates speaking, teaching, and writing engagements.*

Susan Harris shared the story of Mark Twain’s heated reaction to the Philippine-American War with KU alumni in Wichita. Unpacking Twain’s commentary on the U.S.’s involvement, which he labeled “hogwash” and “pious hypocrisy,” Harris sketched the cultural, historical, political, and religious landscape surrounding this foray into American colonization. The presentation, augmented by numerous striking political cartoons, painted a picture of an America interested in capitalistic expansion and white Protestant colonization. Twain, initially enthusiastic about the purported liberation of the Philippines, felt his enthusiasm begin to wane as the real financial reason for U.S. annexation became clear. 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.

*Harris is the Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Kansas.*
More than 100 members of the KU and Lawrence communities came together on March 8, 2012, to celebrate the accomplishments of the 33 humanities, social science, and fine arts faculty members who published a total of 37 books in 2011. Their works explored such varied topics as the Civil Rights struggle before the NAACP, blackness in Peru, interest group politics, Galla Placidia, and hippies, representing the depth and breadth of humanities research at the University of Kansas. The 10th 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.
• Tanya Golash-Boza, Associate Professor of Sociology and American Studies, discussed her book *Immigration Nation: Raids, Detentions, and Deportations in Post-9/11 America*
• John Tibbetts, Associate Professor of Film & Media Studies, presented on his book *The Gothic Imagination: Conversations on Fantasy, Horror, and Science Fiction in the Media.*
• Thomas Tuozzo, Professor of Philosophy, concluded the program with a discussion of his book *Plato’s Charmides: Positive Elenchus in a “Socratic” Dialogue.*

The annual Celebration of Books is highly valued by junior and senior faculty alike, giving them an opportunity to mark publicly the substantial accomplishment of having completed a scholarly volume or creative work.
Clockwise from top left: Digital Media Lecture Series guest Siva Vaidhyanathan; 2011 Friends of the Hall Center Fall Social; Jeyla Sneed and Friends Annual Meeting speaker Paul Sneed; Randy Klein and student accompaniment; Imagining America Director Jan Cohen-Cruz
Clockwise from top left: KU in Wichita; Friends Council Chair John Pierce; Bangere “Purna” Purnaprajna; Victor Bailey, Barbara Ballard, Marilyn Stokstad, Sarah Weddington, Ann Gardiner, and Bev Smith Billings; Danny Anderson & Jim Mielke
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT
In her award-winning book *Conceiving the Old Regime: Pronatalism and the Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern France*, Leslie Tuttle argues that eighteenth-century France was the site of two revolutions: not just the rejection of absolutist monarchy and the ensuing experimentation in governance, but also of government-guided, deliberate fertility control. The “Edict on Marriage” offered fiscal incentives to encourage French men to marry younger than usual, and to reward fathers of ten or more living legitimate children. Why might we care what happened “behind the bed curtains?” Because, Tuttle revealed, the cultural rules that governed kings’ and subjects’ notions of when and how to use the state’s power of force is key to understanding the concept of the nation-state. Intervention belongs on the list of milestones of state formation, along with military, bureaucracy, and economic regulation. The Byron Caldwell Smith Book Award is offered each year to honor an outstanding work of scholarship or creative literature authored by a Kansas resident during the previous two years.
The Commons continues to be a strong partnership between the Hall Center, the Spencer Museum of Art, and the Biodiversity Institute. In 2011–2012, The Commons partners invited the University and local communities to explore the topic of “Urban Palimpsest: Destruction and Renewal.”

The year included a number of programs related to the theme, which culminated in an address by Rebecca Solnit, “Civil Society, the Phoenix in the Ruins: Disaster, Carnival, Revolution, and Public Joy.” She continued the conversation by asking her audience to consider “Do We Need Crisis to Have Citizenship?” in her Idea Café. The Commons also hosted two days of film in conjunction with the theme, which included a talk by Carl Deal, KU alumnus and co-creator of “Trouble the Water.”

The Commons also distributed its third round of interdisciplinary seed grants. The fund provides support to teams of faculty pursuing innovative research that cuts across the sciences, arts and humanities. Recipients included two faculty teams led by Jay T. Johnson (Geography/Indigenous Geographies Research Center) and Gene Rankey (Geology), and A. Townsend Peterson (Biodiversity Institute).

The seed grant program has enjoyed the financial support of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies since its inception, and beginning in 2011–2012, has also benefitted from the support of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

For more information about the commons, visit their website at thecommons.ku.edu.
The Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, co-directed by Arienne Dwyer and Brian Rosenblum, had an accomplished year. The Institute established communication resources, including a newly-expanded website, listserv, social media accounts, and a library guide. They also hosted their popular Digital Humanities Forum in September. This 3-day-long event featured 10 hands-on workshops, a full day of "unconferencing" in a THATCamp, and a day of presentations on the topic of "Representing Knowledge in the Digital Humanities." They also offered Digital Jumpstart Workshops and Digital Literary Studies workshops.

The Institute also developed and awarded several funding opportunities for scholars in the digital humanities. Stephen Egbert (geography) received partial funding from the Digital Humanities Seed Grant to create a workshop on GIS for historical research in Fall 2012. Three faculty members also earned $1000 stipends to develop new courses in the digital humanities. Crystal Hall (French & Italian) will teach Manzoni in the Digital Age; Jonathan Lamb (English) will teach Digital Shakespeare; and Doug Ward (Journalism) will teach Infomania: Harnessing Information in the Digital Age.

Finally, IDRH co-sponsored several events, including the Hall Center Digital Humanities Seminar, a discussion with Kathleen Fitzpatrick on digital networked texts, and a workshop with Corrie Claiborne.

The IDRH is a partnership between the Hall Center, KU Libraries, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information about IDRH, please visit their website at idrh.ku.edu.
During the time of her fellowship, Jill Kuhnheim was able to complete a third chapter and write the introduction to her book manuscript. She also took a trip to Mexico City to see the “Poesía en voz alta” festival, which will figure in her fourth and final chapter. Kuhnheim continued to do research for this last chapter, which will deal with recent performances and poetry from Uruguay, Peru and Mexico during the fall. She also presented her work-in-progress at the Hall Center and at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the fall. She presented some ideas from her trip to Mexico at a merienda in Latin American Studies in February and presented another section from this last chapter at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in San Francisco. Kuhnheim will revise the introduction, get book prospectuses out and make more progress on the final chapter this summer.

Dave Tell’s resident fellowship at the Hall Center for the Humanities was very productive, resulting in two concrete achievements. The first was a published essay in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* (by some measures, his field’s most important journal.) The essay is titled “The Meanings of Kansas: Rhetoric, Regions, and Counter Regions.” It is for a special issue of *RSQ* dedicated to the intersection of regional identification and rhetorical practice. Beyond the specific essay, Tell’s fellowship allowed him to pursue external funding. Based on research done in residence, he has crafted his next book proposal. Capitalizing on current interest in his field in regionalism (and his proximity to the Kansas Historical Society), Tell is planning a book tentatively titled “Rhetoric, Regionalism, and Cultural Politics.”
Thanks to her fellowship, H. Faye Xiao has done substantial research and made significant progress on her book project “Family Revolution in Post-Revolutionary China: Divorce in Literature and Visual Culture, 1980–2010.” Her project activities during the fellowship period include: revision and publication of two full-length peer-reviewed journal articles; a talk on her research project at a conference; completion of a new chapter of her book manuscript and a subsequent Hall Center Resident Fellow Seminar; and a revision of her book manuscript on the basis of newly collected data and valuable feedback gathered at the Hall Center Resident Fellow Seminar. At this point, Xiao’s book manuscript is completed and under consideration by the University of Washington Press.

During her fellowship, Maria Carlson read over 7000 pages, created more than 1200 notecards (part of which hold outlines, citations, and paraphrases, and part of which contain her original material), drafted an additional 45 pages of original text as she came to understand the issues involved, and translated into English two dozen Slavic and East European legends, memorates, and tales dealing with returning dead. She hopes either to a) include these in an appendix, or b) translate three dozen more and get a separate publication. None of these texts has ever been available in English, and many of them are hard enough to find in the original languages. They will be very useful to both folklorists and “vampirologists.” They are also fun reading.

During this semester long hiatus from the daily, Tanya Hartman awoke early and immediately went to the studio, where she spent most of each day. This concentrated period of time allowed her to reconfigure the physical presentation of the art that will frame and contain Lual Deng Akoon’s survival narrative. Each hand-held object is larger than Hartman had originally envisioned, and more mobile. Shaped to the human body, each work of art that she has made thus far is both large (4 feet to 6 feet is typical) and light-weight, thus allowing her to travel to Sudan with Lual, to photograph him holding the art in the locations in which his major life events took place. Another development in the project that took place during the fellowship period was the decision to include Awein Lual Wol, Lual’s wife’s survival narrative, into the project.
The Hall Center has played a critical role in my graduate studies and now in the early launching of my career. In 2008 the Center’s Graduate Summer Internship first introduced me to the exciting field of the public humanities, which allows me to share my love of history with an audience that extends far beyond the boundaries of the KU campus. For the internship, I worked at the Kansas City Public Library to produce website articles under the heading, “This Week in Kansas City History.” The articles soon became a popular feature on the library’s site, and it led me to additional opportunities to write for area organizations.

In the last academic year, the Hall Center’s Sias Graduate Fellowship provided me with funding to complete my dissertation, sans teaching, and helped me return to the public humanities fold. Now that I have finished my Ph.D., I have returned to the Kansas City Public Library, where I work as project coordinator for a website project called “The Missouri-Kansas Conflict: Civil War on the Western Border.” This could lead to any number of career paths that emphasize publicly engaged scholarship. A journey that started with a Hall Center internship has come full circle and helped me begin a career as a public scholar.

When I found out that I had been selected as the Simons Fellow to the Hall Center of the Humanities, University of Kansas for the 2011–2012 academic year, I made a conscious choice to use every moment of this opportunity to the fullest. My plan was to compose music, work on my forthcoming book titled, You Can Write A Song, play piano in concerts, teach students and interact with the KU community. During my wonderful visit to KU, I accomplished the following:

- Seven lectures to music and music business students on varying subjects from improvisation to the business of music,
- Four concerts including: two at the Hall Center and a Two Duos concert featuring Chris Washburn and Ole Mathison at Murphy Hall,
- Radio interviews on KPR (Kansas Public Radio) and KU Radio KJHK,
- Composed two new songs, and
- First drafts—eleven of the twenty-one chapters for my book.

So, all in all, my experience was a 10 plus and the feelings from my fellowship period are embedded in my crazy overactive brain. I want to thank all of the folks from the Hall Center again. Without you and your support, I would not have been able to achieve as much as I did.
Luis Corteguera, Associate Professor of History, was awarded the 2012 Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies Book Publication Award for his upcoming publication *Death by Effigy: A Case from the Mexican Inquisition*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

The book centers on a scandal that took place in 1578 in the Mexican town of Tecamachalco when a doll-like effigy appeared hanging from the door of the town’s church, adorned with signs and symbols and hung above firewood. Taken together, the effigy, signs, and symbols conveyed a deadly message: the victim of the scandal was a Jew who should burn at the stake. Ordinary men and women were capable of appropriating these symbols of the Inquisition for their own deadly purposes, and the relentless pursuit of the authors of the scandal alerts us to the extent to which the Inquisition’s political mission required defending its symbols.

Corteguera’s study traces the four years during which inquisitors conducted nine trials and interrogated dozens of witnesses, who revealed a vivid portrait of friendship, love, and hatred in a Mexican colonial town. A story of dishonor and revenge, *Death by Effigy* also reveals the power and susceptibility of the Inquisition’s symbols.

Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center provide support for a second book publication award. Doreen Fowler, Professor of English, is the recipient of the 2012 Friends Book Publication Award for her forthcoming book, *Drawing the Line: Boundary Negotiation in Faulkner, Wright, O’Connor, and Morrison*. Boundaries distinguish identities, but how do they perform this differentiating function? The widely accepted notion of boundary-setting is that boundaries differentiate by excluding. The forthcoming book offers a more nuanced model of psychoanalytic boundary formation, arguing that a boundary is common ground, a site that is both the one thing and the other, and that boundary-formation always involves mediation.

Fowler’s work applies this model to literary texts and to American cultural history, illustrating both the way psychoanalytic theory can be used to interpret fiction and cultural history, as well as the ways that literature and history can reshape theory.

“I am delighted that my manuscript has been selected for a publication award sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center,” Professor Fowler remarked. “I deeply appreciate this award, and will acknowledge my debt to the Friends of the Hall Center in my book’s acknowledgments.”
2012 was the first year the Revise & Resubmit Incentive Fund was awarded. The Hall Center provides funding to assist scholars in the humanities, arts, and humanistic-oriented social sciences to revise and resubmit promising institutional grant applications. This year, two projects were funded.

Tamara Falicov (Film and Media Studies/Center of Latin American Studies) and Giselle Anatol (English) will revise and resubmit their application to the NEH Summer Seminars and Institute program for a two week on-site seminar at KU for high school teachers in Caribbean literature, film, and popular culture. Their application comes at an auspicious time to be focusing on the Caribbean region, due to the 50th anniversary of independence for many island nations.

Ivana Radovanovic (Anthropology), Rolfe Mandel (Anthropology), and several Co-PI outside of KU will revise and resubmit their application to the NEH Collaborative Research Grant program to support Phase I of a long-term study of the settlement and coastal/inland interaction in the Iron Gates Mesolithic. Phase I will involve a systematic survey of archaeological sites in the Iron Gates region of Eastern Serbia to build upon previous research of other coastal Mesolithic sites.
In April 2011, Peter Grund, Margo Burns, and Matti Peikola were awarded a Hall Center Collaborative Research Seed Grant. Their plan for the seed grant period was to develop their work on the recorders who wrote documents during the witch trials in Salem, MA, in 1692–1693. In particular, in order to make the project viable for external funding, they wanted to chart previous research relevant for contextualizing the project, to update and migrate their current database, and to make an initial survey of contemporaneous documents from colonial America that are extant in New England archives. The funding enabled the researchers to accomplish all of these goals. This has given the project a very solid foundation and has undoubtedly put the researchers in a much better position of successfully applying for external funding. Without the seed grant, this initial research would most likely have taken several years, and probably would not have been possible to carry out in such detail. The visit to Boston proved especially valuable.

The next step in their project is to apply for an NEH Collaborative Research Grant. In addition to the aspects discussed above, the seed grant enabled the researchers to do significant preparatory work for this application. During their trip to Boston, they outlined the application and sketched a time plan for preparing it. Peter subsequently met with Kathy Porsch and Sally Utech to work out a submission schedule to make it possible to finish the application in time for the December 2012 deadline. They are poised to finish a first draft of the application by September, which will be vetted by colleagues, grant development staff, and the NEH pre-screening panel before final submission.
External Funding for Humanities Projects

Hall Center constituent faculty submitted 117 grant and fellowship applications for fiscal year 2011–2012. 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 hallcenter.ku.edu/~hallcenter/hgdo/external/2012.shtml.


**Dale Dorsey,** Philosophy: Tulane University, Murphy Institute Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, “The Limits of Moral Authority.”


**Bruce Hayes,** French and Italian: American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Award, “Castigating Comedy: Polemical Humor at the Start of the French Wars of Religion.”


**Marni Kessler,** Art History: Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Schlesinger Library, “Preserving Claude Monet’s ‘Jar of Peaches’ 1866.”

Deborah Kirk (graduate student), Geography: National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, “Visualizing the Cherokee Homeland through Indigenous Historical GIS: An Interactive Map of James Mooney’s Ethnographic Fieldwork.”


Elizabeth MacGonagle, History: New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Travel Award, “Remembering Africa: Situation Slavery at Sites of Memory”


Roberta Pergher, History: Institute for Advanced Study, “Fascist Borderlands: Nation, Empire and Italy’s Settlement Program, 1922–1943.”


Paul Scott, French and Italian: Calgary Institute for the Humanities, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; University of California Los Angeles, Clark Short-term Fellowship, “The Poetics of Subversion: Breaking Institutional Codes in Ancient Régime France.”

Alesia Woszidlo, Communication Studies: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program-Germany, “Cultural differences in older American and German couples’ perceptions of resources and the dyadic influence of partners’ health on their marital quality.”

Institutional Awards

Each year, the Hall Center hosts a Fall Faculty Colloquium, designed to enliven the intellectual atmosphere of the university and contribute to the interdisciplinary training of KU faculty. “Consciousness in Interdisciplinary Perspective,” co-directed by Anna Neill (English) and Leslie Tuttle (History) was a particularly fruitful collaboration, eventually yielding a group-authored text available on the Hall Center’s Colloquium page on KU ScholarWorks, KU’s digital repository for scholarly work created by KU faculty and staff.

Because humanities faculty came together to discuss cognitive neuroscience, the format of the colloquium was methodologically unique. Seeking to find a way to allow humanities faculty to talk about hard science, Neill and Tuttle first instituted a rigorous course of reading, which led to spirited discussion. To try to preserve this spirit of enthusiastic collaboration, the group produced writing together, writing “a dialogue on a consciousness-related issue of shared interested that would represent the divergent approaches available.”

The format best suited to the group was blogging, which helped inspire collaborative work across time. Participants wrote a reflective essay on a particular facet of the discussion, then two others would argue, agree, or qualify what they had said in a dialogue. Neill and Tuttle concluded the colloquium impressed by the intellectual output stimulated by the unusual format, convinced that more traditional methods would not have produced the sustained interdisciplinarity and discussion produced by blogging and dialogic communication.
THE YEAR AHEAD

The Commons at Spooner Hall
**THE 2012–2013 HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES**

**Nikky Finney**

“Making Poetry in Our Anthropocene Age”  
September 6, 2012  
Woodruff Auditorium

National Book Award-winning poet and Professor of Creative Writing Nikky Finney seeks to explore the act of “Making Poetry in our Anthropocene Age.” The Anthropocene is a term coined to suggest that humans now act as a geophysical force changing the climate of the planet, and ushering in a new geological period. What is the damage done to the earth’s ecosystems that might concern a contemporary poet? How does the Anthropocene ultimately matter to our human intersections with each other, the natural world, art, and culture? Finney, a child of activists, came of age during the civil rights and Black Arts movement, and through her childhood and education, became fascinated by the powerful synergy between creativity and history.

**Sarah Vowell**

“An Evening with Sarah Vowell”  
October 10, 2012  
Woodruff Auditorium

Sarah Vowell, former contributing editor for NPR’s *This American Life*, is the *New York Times* bestselling author of six nonfiction books on American history and culture. By examining the connections between the American past and present, she offers personal, humorous accounts of everything from presidents and their assassins to colonial religious fanatics, as well as thoughts on American Indians, utopian dreamers, pop music, and the odd cranky cartographer. She is most recently the author of *Unfamiliar Fishes* (2011), the intriguing history of our 50th state, Hawaii. Replete with a cast of beguiling and tragic characters, Vowell’s history is told with brainy wit and droll humor.

**Robin Rowland**

“From Hope to Audacity: The Evolution of President Barack Obama’s Rhetoric and the 2012 Presidential Campaign”  
October 24, 2012  
Woodruff Auditorium

Barack Obama built a reputation as the most eloquent public leader since Ronald Reagan, beginning with his Keynote Address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and culminating with a series of moving addresses in the 2008 presidential campaign, in which he promised to bring both Hope and real Change. But as President, Obama has faced a devastating economic crisis and intractable opposition, leaving some to conclude that he had lost his rhetorical magic. Yet KU Professor of Communications Robin Rowland argues that Obama’s rhetoric has just evolved: the arc has moved from impassioned appeals that created a new sense of Hope, to an audacious call to reaffirm basic fairness in American economic life and therefore save the American Dream.
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.
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 director Anton Rosenthal in the Hall Center’s annual Fall Faculty Colloquium. The topic for this year is “The City Imagined: Cosmopolitan, Dystopian, Global, Adaptable.”

This colloquium will look at the ways in which the city has been imagined by modernists and is currently being re-imagined as it faces the severe challenges of the 21st century.

• What types of interdisciplinary inquiry would be most fruitful for understanding the city of the future as it is reconceived in the context of climate change and social disorder?

• Does urban renewal and adaptation necessarily require collective amnesia to be successful and comprehensive? What segments of a city’s past can contribute to a reconstruction of its social imagination and propel its residents to new ways of thinking about space and urban behavior?

• What happens to the identity of a city over time as it undergoes massive social and economic transformations? Is it possible to maintain a distinct urban culture in a global environment? Can a sense of place be preserved in a megacity of tens of millions of residents?

• Do cities that subject their residents to high levels of sensual stimulation evolve their own set of ethics?

• How does the representation of cities as dystopias in popular media serve the interests of urban reformers? Is anti-urbanism a crucial part of U.S. national culture? Are cities worth saving, or is New Orleans the first of many future abandonments?

Participating in the Colloquium are Faye Xiao (Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures); Akiko Takeyama (Assistant Professor, Anthropology); Nathan Wood (Associate Professor, History); John Pultz (Associate Professor, Art History); Clarence Lang (Associate Professor, African and African American Studies); Jennifer Hamer (Professor, American Studies); Barney Warf (Professor, Geography); and Eric Hood (doctoral candidate, English).
The 2013 CHCI Annual Meeting, *Humanities, Publics, and the State* will explore the philosophical, political, and pragmatic dimensions of public humanities in the context both of current challenges to the university and emerging responses. What is the public mission of the research university? What role should the university play in the political and social transformation of the state of which it is part? What is the relationship between the university and other state humanities bodies, and how does this relationship differ internationally? What is the relationship between the humanities center and the public it serves? What are the implications of the arts and humanities having for long served in the role of sustaining national culture? How can we restore the democratic vision of the university’s service to the social and public good? How can we defend the public value of our teaching and research?

The role and value of public humanities is an especially urgent topic at this time. The threats are familiar: declining state support for public education; reductions in public and private funding sources; rising tuition costs and student debt; the growing strength of instrumental attitudes to education; the casualization of academic labor; and the broader devaluation of the arts, humanities, and social sciences. These identified problems take different forms across institutions and in diverse international situations, but the urgency of their force is a shared concern. These questions will be explored through the established mechanisms of plenary talks and panel discussions, and through new forms of ‘thinking aloud’ workshops and idea cafes.

Confirmed speakers as of June 2012 include Christopher Newfield (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Helen Small (Oxford University).

Christopher Newfield is a Professor in the English Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He received his PhD in American literature from Cornell University in 1988. Professor Newfield’s major previous books include: *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty Year Assault on the Middle Class* (Harvard University Press 2008); and *Ivy and Industry: Business and the Making of the American University, 1880–1980* (Duke University Press, 2003).

Helen Small is a Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. She earned a BA in English from Victoria University of Wellington and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. She was the recipient of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship from 2001 to 2004, and her book *The Long Life* (Oxford University Press, 2007) was awarded the 2008 Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism. She is currently working on a study of Defenses for the Humanities.

Established in 1988, the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes serves as an arena for the discussion of issues germane to cross-disciplinary activity in the humanities and as a network for the circulation of information and best practices related to the organizational and management dimensions of humanities centers and institutes. CHCI currently has a membership of 154 organizations in the US, Europe, Asia, and Pacific Rim. CHCI produces a major Annual Meeting of its membership, maintains a content-rich website, and produces an annual print directory. Members of the Consortium also assist one another with ideas, evaluation, and other forms of service. The organization is headed by a President, and is governed by an International Advisory Board of member directors and other leaders in the humanities.
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,

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Chair of the Friends Council this past year. That opportunity has only reinforced my deeply held impression of the importance of the humanities in general and the Hall Center in particular. The Hall Center is a wonderful place, with an important mission and high quality, dedicated staff and supporters. This has been a great year for the Hall Center, and the Friends of the Center have been an important part of that success. The Friends Council meets three times during the year, and works with the Director of the Center in assessing and planning the programs and activities to be supported by the Friends. This year, four members of the council are retiring from their service: David Bergeron, Bev Benso, Bill Crowe, and John Pierce. Four new members of the Council were elected at the Annual meeting held on April 26: Geraldo de Sousa, Marilyn Russell, Beverly Smith Billings, and Eleanor Woodyard. Beth Stella will chair the council in the coming year.

The membership numbers for the Friends remained nearly stable for the past year, with 481 members compared to 490, and gifts to the Friends increased from $72,911 to $77,166. The Friends annual budget was $70,500. Members of the Friends Council staffed tables at Hall Center events as a way of disseminating information about the Center, Friends and membership opportunities.

The resources provided by the Friends have made major contributions to the success of the Hall Center. For example, the Friends supported the Humanities Lecture Series talk given by History faculty member Jeff Moran, and the Friends of the Hall Center Book Publication Award was presented to Doreen Fowler of the Department of English. We supported six Hall Center Scholars from the Departments of English, Spanish and Portuguese, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Sociology, French and Italian, and Chemical Engineering. One of those Scholars, Kelsey Murrell, was named a Rhodes Scholar, and will study at Oxford University in the coming year. The Friends also support four graduate students with summer research stipends, this year going to students in the departments of English, Art History and Anthropology. And, new this year, we supported two graduate students to work in the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities.

Thank you to members of the Friends Council for their great work this past year. During the coming year, the Council will have the opportunity to work with the Friends members to assist the Center in its campaign to meet the goals set in the recent challenge grant received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. I strongly urge all Friends to participate in the effort to reach those goals.

John Pierce, Chair, Friends Council
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• Attend private sessions with visiting speakers.
• Enjoy invitational music recitals by KU faculty and students.
• Opportunities to socialize with those who share your commitment to the humanities.
• Be recognized as a member.
• Help to enrich the humanities programming in the university and community.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Based on an income of $830,187

- Office of Research and Graduate Studies: 20.4%
- Private Funding: 50.3%
- State: 28.1%
- Designated: 1.2%

Based on expenditures of $825,871

- Staff Salaries: 47.9%
- Faculty Development: 25.2%
- Administration: 6.83%
- Public Programs: 20%
- Staff Salaries: 47.9%
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                              Lawrence, KS 66045
Phone ..................... 785-864-4798
Fax ....................... 785-864-3884
E-mail ..................... hallcenter@ku.edu
Web ..................... www.hallcenter.ku.edu
Facebook ................ facebook.com/hallcenter

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