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New Initiatives, Continued Favorites

The Humanities Institute invites you to attend and participate in its spring programs, which incorporate several new initiatives. In January, Director Gaggi will comment at a film event for residents in the new undergraduate dorm, Juniper-Poplar Hall. In addition **Franco Lodato, renowned pioneer of Biodesign** and patent holder currently at USF's College of the Arts, will discuss "The Nature of Design."

In February and March the Institute will collaborate with Jack Wilkins and USF's Jazz Ensemble II and Jazz Combo to host "**A Stam-**

pede of Culture: Jazz, Art and Food" on the Marshall Center Plaza.

Science Fiction is the focus of mid-February as we host a **Sci-Fi Symposium** in collaboration with the School of Mass Communications, The Coalition for Science Literacy, and several science departments. In addition to Science Fiction

Grand Master **Harry Harrison**, attendees will hear

presentations and readings by scientists who are also award-winning science fiction

writers. **Gregory Benford**, Professor of Physics at the University of California, Irvine, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and author of more than 20 novels, will give the keynote lecture. The third symposium speaker is **Ben Bova**, Fellow of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science.

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Poet Robert Pinsky
(Credit: Emma Dodge Hanson)

Director's Statement

Early in my term as Director of the Institute my staff and I were meeting with a member of University Com-

munications and Marketing. This individual was genuinely supportive of the Humanities and eager to be helpful, but she indicated that it was easier to get public interest in some other fields that

were less "esoteric." I was surprised by this, because it has always seemed to me that few things are less esoteric than the Humanities. After all, if you have ever gone to a movie and later argued about what it meant or if it was any good, if

you like one kind of art or music and not another and have tried to express your reasons for these preferences, then

you have acted as a critic of the arts, and that's a major part of what the Humanities are about. If you've sat around with siblings or cousins and dug through an old box of photos and letters, compared your memories, and de-

bated about who was who, who married whom, and whether a person in a faded picture was an uncle or an older cousin, you've done what historians do—you've looked at texts, artifacts, and memory and tried to construct a reasonable nar-

rative of the past. If you've ever walked around feeling that existence on this planet was pretty miraculous and inexplicable, but then, nevertheless, tried to figure it out anyway, how it got started or what the stuff of life really was, then you've done a bit of what philosophers do. And if you've ever stopped yourself before you acted on a response based on fear or prejudice, hesitated to hurt someone simply because they seemed different, you've learned a major principle of ethical behavior, something Dr. Hawkins discusses in more detail below.

The only difference is that we "professional" humanists get a little nutty about these things. We try to deal with them more thoroughly and systematically than others, whose responsibility it

Cont. on Page 2...



Director Silvio Gaggi

Director's Statement, Cont. ... Cont. from Pg. 1.

is to deal with the Rest of Life. And, in doing so, it's true that at times we develop a specialized vocabulary or use everyday words in non-everyday ways, and this can set up a barrier between us and non-professional humanists, who may come to see us as "esoteric." But we're involved in the same, fundamental, totally human and non-esoteric questions that everyone deals with all the time. If the Humanities sometimes

seem ignored or discounted, it can't be because they're esoteric, but just the opposite: they're so much a part of the fabric of our lives that they get unnoticed, taken for granted, too familiar to be notable.

But they are the things that drive us to wonder, to grapple with questions we know we'll never answer in a way that can be fully demonstrated to someone else, to love or hate something for reasons we can only partly explain, to desire something we call beauty even

though we can't precisely say what beauty is, and to believe some things we can't prove. All these things may be "soft" forms of belief. But they are the most important things in life, the things that motivate us to behave in certain ways, decide who to love, what goals to seek, and what to use our brief lives for, even here, amid the utter messiness of the world and the uncertainty that exists within every choice we inevitably have to make. Maybe the Humanities are soft, but you have to be tough to deal with them.

Human Rights and the Humanities

By Dr. Hunt Hawkins, chair of English, University of South Florida.

The following is an excerpt from the Presidential speech of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Nov. 7, 2009. The full speech will be published in *The South Atlantic Review*. We would like to thank Matthew Roudané of SAR for allowing us to publish these excerpts.

The teaching of ethics has traditionally been regarded as a major function of literature. Providing a special vehicle for travel into other minds, literature fits Martha Nussbaum's argument for humanities and the arts since "public education at every level should cultivate the ability to imagine the experience of others." Similarly, Richard Rorty advocates an education that "acquaints people of different kinds with one another so that they are less tempted to think of those different from themselves as only quasi-human."

While it may be true that the Other is ultimately unknowable, we can still learn a lot. That's what school is for, not to mention life. And our ethics need to be based simultaneously on that knowability and unknowability. The unknowability leads us not to



Dr. Hunt Hawkins

impose on others; the knowability inclines us to help. At its most obvious level literature promotes knowing by taking us into the minds of characters. Thus while you may not be a woman, you can get some appreciation for being one by reading Buchi Emecheta's fine novel *The Joys of Motherhood* and getting the perspective of Nnu Ego. And while you might not be a wife in a polygamous marriage, you can see how she feels and manages. And at its most concrete the novel shows

how polygamy was changing for her in Nigeria in the 1930's and 40's under pressure from British colonialism and urbanization. Presumably by going into the minds of characters, especially those in foreign cultures, we can gain greater understanding and empathy.

This empathy, of course, has many hazards. It may be distorted by our own needs or entirely misplaced. But literature tells us about those hazards as well. Thus we see Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* making the disastrous mistake of identifying with the murderous white man Gentleman Brown while neglecting the safety of the people of Patusan. We need to learn to empathize but to do so carefully.

In addition to going into the minds

of the characters, we go into those of the authors as they struggle to imagine their characters. We realize that Emecheta, writing long after Nigerian independence, is recreating the situation of her parents' generation. And Conrad was in part imagining the life of Augustus Williams, a man he glimpsed in Singapore and probably heard about on ships he crewed. Thus we can appreciate the obstacles, strain, and provisional nature of imagining others but also the worth. Five years after publication of *Lord Jim* Conrad, in most respects a deep pessimist, wrote that "sympathetic imagination" provides humanity's ultimate hope for "concord and justice." Other factors certainly contribute, notably treaties and laws, but without sympathy they are hollow. As Nussbaum puts it, compassion is the "indispensable ally of legal rationality."

In 1535 Oxford University established its first lectures in Humanity, then singular and consisting of classical literature. From the beginning, study of the humanities has been connected with the idea of making people more humane. The two are linked conceptually as well as etymologically. In literary study people have traditionally become more humane by recognizing their commonality, even with those distant in space and time. Being kind has been based, both

Cont. on Page 3...

Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker to Receive Second Distinguished Humanities Scholar Award

Following a process of nominations and an election by the Humanities Institute Advisory Committee, Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker will receive the second Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award from the Institute.

Dr. Brooker, who received her English Ph.D. from USF in 1976, is a world-renowned specialist of T. S. Eliot's poetry. She has written or edited nine books and more than 100 articles, essays and reviews about his work and related aspects of modern literature. Additionally, she has presented dozens of conference papers and lectures internationally and received numerous high-profile awards such as the three-year Knight Foundation Faculty Enrichment Grant, two National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grants and a Pew Scholars Fellowship.

During her career, Dr. Brooker has held visiting research appointments at schools such as Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, and the University of London. She is currently Professor of Literature at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. In addition to teaching, she has chaired

numerous National Endowment for the Humanities committees and recently completed a six-year term as member of the National Humanities Council.



She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the International Association of University Professors of English (2007-2013).

Dr. Brooker visited USF and the Humanities Institute in Fall 2009 to present a lecture entitled "The Fire and the Rose: The Problem of Evil in T.S. Eliot and Julian of Norwich." In it she

discussed Eliot's *Four Quartets*, a seminal work of twentieth-century poetry. The Institute is proud to bring Dr. Brooker back to USF to receive the second Dis-

tinguished Humanities Graduate Award.

The Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award was first presented in March 2006, the year of USF's 50th anniversary celebration, to USF graduate Dr. Roberto Gonzalez Echevarría. Dr. Echevarría is Sterling Professor of Hispanic and Comparative Literature at Yale University and was a member of USF's first graduating class in 1964. Dr. Brooker joins Dr. Echevarría as a USF graduate who has significantly contributed to humanities scholarship. Former Institute Director Dr. William Scheuerle originated the award as a way to honor USF alumni who have made major contributions to the liberal arts.

Current Institute Director Silvio Gaggi said, "It's great to see junior faculty who are working successfully to establish reputations in their fields, but it's equally important to recognize, with awards like this one, past graduates who have achieved recognition as being among the leading world scholars in their disciplines."

This year, Dr. Brooker's award ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 18 at Traditions Hall in the USF Alumni Center. A reception will begin at 3:30 p.m., with the presentation ceremony to begin at 4 p.m.

By the Numbers

- 19** fellowships/grants
- 9** books/monographs
- 66** essays in books and scholarly journals
- 5** NEH committees chaired
- More than **80** papers presented
- More than **20** programs organized or chaired
- Lecture series** presented in Colorado, Japan, and Jerusalem
- President of:**
 - South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2000-01)
 - Richard Wilbur Society (1996-2004)
 - T. S. Eliot Society (1985-88)

Human Rights, Cont.

... Cont. from Pg. 2.

conceptually and etymologically, on some notion of being kin.

In the wake of the horrors of World War II, the United Nations in 1948 adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which begins with an image of kinship. Its first sentence affirms "the equal and inalienable rights

of all members of the human family." Interestingly, this premise is taken both as given and something to be attained, especially through education. The Declaration goes on to state that "every individual and every organ of society . . . shall strive by teaching . . . to promote respect for these rights." Activists from Mahatma Gandhi to Martin Luther King, from Nelson Mandela

to Aung San Suu Kyi, have sought to establish such respect. These leaders have worked toward, in the words of Aimé Césaire, "a true humanism—a humanism made to the measure of the world."

FALL 2009 HIGHLIGHTS



Andy Huse (USF Library) discussing his book *The Columbia Restaurant*. Photo by: M. Formentin



Sasenerine Persaud reading from his recent book of poetry *In a Boston Night*.

Photo by: M. Formentin



Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker discussing her work on T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*.

Photo by: M. Formentin



Dr. William Cummings (History) discussing his Institute-supported research about Islam in Makassar, Indonesia.

Photo by: M. Formentin



(L to R) Drs. Art Bochner, Carolyn Ellis, Lodovico Balducci and Jacqueline Hinckley discuss the power of narrative medicine at a Humanities Institute panel event.

Photo by: M. Formentin

Schedule of Events, Spring 2010

JANUARY

Fri. Jan. 22 **Franco Lodato** discussing "The Nature of Design."
Grace Allen Room
2:00 p.m. Reception
2:30 p.m. Talk

FEBRUARY

Thur. Feb. 4 **"A Stampede of Culture: Jazz, Art, and Food at the Center"**
The USF Jazz Ensemble II and various student organizations will gather outside the Marshall Student Center.
Marshall Center (MSC) Amphitheater.
5:00 p.m. Performance



Tue. Feb. 16 - Thur. Feb. 18
Sci-Fi Symposium

Feb. 17 **Panel Discussion** featuring Gregory Benford, Ben Bova, and Harry Harrison discussing science fiction.
MSC 2708, Plaza Room
1:00 p.m. Talk

Feb. 17 **Keynote Address** with Gregory Benford, discussing scientists writing science fiction.
Traditions Hall (Alumni Center)
6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Talk

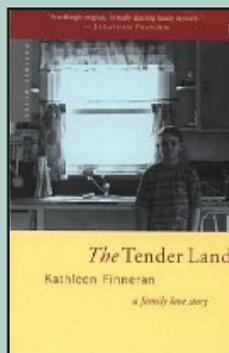
All events are free and open to the public unless specified. For more information call (813) 974-3657. The Grace Allen Room is located on the 4th Floor of the USF Library, to the left of the main elevators.

MARCH

Thur. Mar. 4 **"A Stampede of Culture: Jazz, Art, and Food at the Center"**
The USF Jazz combo will perform outside the Marshall Student Center.
Marshall Center (MSC) Amphitheater.
5:00 p.m. Performance

Thur. Mar. 18 **Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award**
Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker (Eckerd College) will receive the second Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award.
Traditions Hall (Alumni Center)
3:00 p.m. Reception
3:30 p.m. Ceremony

Thur. Mar. 25 **Kathleen Finneran** (Washington University in St. Louis) discussing her memoir *The Tender Land: A Family Love Story*.
USF Graphicstudio
7:00 p.m. Talk
Co-sponsored by English Graduate Student Association



Fri. Mar. 26 **Chris Voparil** (Lynn University) discussing "Richard Rorty on Intercultural Conversation and the Problem of Speaking for Others"
Grace Allen Room
1:30 p.m. Reception
2:00 p.m. Talk
Co-sponsored by Department of Philosophy and the Department of Communication.

APRIL

Fri. Apr. 9 **Holocaust and Genocide Symposium**
Panel discussions, keynote address about holocaust and genocide studies at USF.
Grace Allen Room
All-day event. Panel times TBA.

Fri. Apr. 16 **Victorian Conference**
Panel discussions, keynote address by Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter (Texas State University). Examining the interdisciplinarity of Victorian Studies.
Grace Allen Room
All-day event. Panel times TBA.

MAY

Fri. May 21 **Milly Buonanno** (University of Florence) discussing "TV Drama in the Dramatized Italy: Family and Mafia, Religion and History."
Italian Club, Ybor City
7:00 p.m. Talk

APRIL: Poetry Month

Valzhyna Mort

Wed. April 7: Poetry Reading 7:00 p.m.
Thur. April 8: Poetry Workshop

Aaron Baker (Lynchburg College)

Wed. April 14: Poetry Reading 7:00 p.m.
Thur. April 15: Poetry Workshop

Katie Ford (Franklin & Marshall College)

Wed. April 21: Poetry Workshop
Wed. April 21: Poetry Reading 7:00 p.m.

Wed. Apr 28 **Robert Pinsky** (Boston Univ.)

Discussing his poetry.
Traditions Hall (Alumni Center)
6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Ceremony

NOTE: TBD poetry month events will be held at the Marshall Student Center (MSC). Rooms for readings, and rooms and times for workshops, are to be determined.

Check the Institute Web site closer to event dates for event information.

Poetry Month events co-sponsored by University Lecture Series.

MAJOR EVENTS, SPRING 2010

U. S. Poet Laureate Pinsky, Poetry Month at USF

In April 2010 the Humanities Institute will continue its annual celebration of National Poetry Month. For four consecutive weeks during the month, the Humanities Institute, the Department of English, and the University Lecture Series will co-sponsor a series of readings and workshops by four major, contemporary poets.

Belarusian poet **Valzhyna Mort** will visit USF on April 7 and 8. Mort, author of *Factory of Tears* (Copper Canyon Press, 2008) and the youngest person to be featured on the cover of *Poets & Writers Magazine*, currently teaches at the University of Baltimore. She has been the recipient of the Crystal of Vilenica award (Slovenia, 2005) and the Burda Poetry Prize (Germany, 2008).



Valzhyna Mort
Photo by Doug Barber

Aaron Baker, the author of *Mis-*

sion Work (Houghton Mifflin, 2008), will speak at USF on April 14 and 15.

Mission Work was selected by Stanley Plumly as a winner of the Bakeless Prize in Poetry. It also received the 2009 Glasgow/*Shenandoah* Prize for Emerging Writers. The son of missionaries, Baker has lived in Mexico, Germany, and Papua New Guinea, and is a native of Graham, Washington.



Aaron Baker

Katie Ford, Assistant Professor of English at Franklin & Marshall College and author of *Deposition and Colosseum* (Graywolf Press, 2002 & May, 2008) and a chapbook, *Storm* (Marick Press), will visit USF on April 21. Ford is a graduate of Harvard's Divinity School and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She has received awards and grants from the Lannan Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, and the Pen American

Center. In 2009 she was given the Larry Levis Reading Award from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Culminating the series on April 28 will be world-renowned poet, translator, essayist and editor **Robert Pinsky**. Pinsky, whose numerous awards and honors include an American Academy of Arts and Letters award, both the William Carlos Williams Award and the Shelley Memorial prize from the Poetry Society of America, the PEN/Voelcker Award

for Poetry and a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, was the United States

Poet Laureate from 1997 to 2000.



Katie Ford

Victorian Studies Conference, April 2010

On April 16, the Humanities Institute, partnering with Special Collections of the USF Library, will host a **Victorian Studies Conference in honor of the Institute's former director**. Dr. Bill Scheuerle, who is Professor and Dean Emeritus at USF, received in 2007 the national Nineteenth Century Studies Association's President's Award "for sustained service to the association and significant contributions to nineteenth-century studies." Special Collections



Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter

will curate an exhibit of USF's holdings on the Victorian Era. We are pleased to welcome as keynote speaker Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter of Texas State University, who is editor of *Victorian Periodicals Review*, a periodical which Dr. Scheuerle himself edited for several years. We expect Dr. Ledbetter to be an engaging speaker as she brings not only her academic expertise (author or editor of four books and numerous articles) but also her years of professional experience as a radio broadcaster and freelance writer. Inter-

disciplinary panels with faculty from USF and the University of Tampa will contribute important dimensions related to music, art, history, theatre performance, literature, and social movements (USF's Provost Ralph Wilcox will talk on Muscular Christianity). As we go to press, confirmed panelists include the following: Annette Cozzi, Elisabeth Fraser, Marty Gould, Regina Hewitt, Zoe Lang, Cynthia Patterson, Stephen Turner, Elizabeth Winston (U Tampa), Tamara Zwick, and Richard Matthews, Dana Professor of English (U Tampa). Dr. Dan Rutenberg, former Humanities Department Chair and Interim Dean, will moderate one panel.

HUMANITIES AT USF

Hopler Receives Whiting Writers' Award

In October 2009 English professor **Jay Hopler** received the prestigious **2009 Whiting Writers' Award**. Hopler was recognized for his early poetry, receiving the \$50,000 award annually given to young writers for their extraordinary talent and promise.

Hopler's first collection of poems, *Green Squall*, was chosen by then Poet Laureate Louise Glück as the winner of the 2005 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. Since then, his work has appeared in numerous magazines and journals including *The American Poetry Review* and *The New Yorker*. This year, Yale University Press will publish his *Yale Anthology of Younger American Poets*.

"The granting of this award to Professor Hopler, a teacher in USF's new Creative Writing M.F.A. program, is one

more significant indication of the growing stature of USF's arts and humanities faculty," said Silvio Gaggi, Humanities Institute Director. "His achievement serves as an inspiration to remain productive, not just for young faculty, but also to those of us who have been around a while."

Hopler has taught creative writing and poetry in the English department since 2006.

"We are extremely proud of our colleague," said Hunt Hawkins, Department of English Chair. "We know his

career will continue to bring him great distinction because he truly is a gifted writer and justly deserving of this recognition."

The Whiting Award has been given to 250 poets, fiction and nonfiction writers, and playwrights since its inception in 1985. On Oct. 28, Hopler was among 10 winners of the award, announced at the 25th anniversary ceremony at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City.



Librarian Huse Publishes Columbia Restaurant Book

In Fall 2009, USF librarian Andy Huse added to his growing list of publications with the release of *The Columbia Restaurant: Celebrating a Century of History, Cultures, and Cuisine*. The book is a trip through a century of history of Ybor City's famed restaurant, owned by the Gonzmart family.

"The Gonzmart family wanted a comprehensive history of their restaurant written as they reached the restaurant's centennial in 2005," Huse said. "I had been writing about historic restaurants for some time, and had col-



lected a good deal of research on the Columbia."

Huse, whose primary research interests are Florida and Tampa history, was granted permission to study the Columbia Restaurant's archives. The book details the history of the restaurant through pictures, recipes and the retelling of unique and intriguing stories.

Huse works in the USF Library's Florida Studies Center and Special Collections Department and

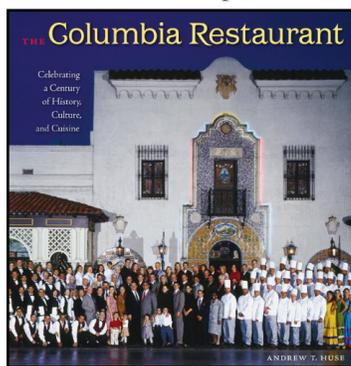
conducts interviews for the library's Oral History Program. In 2005 the Gonzmarts donated a collection to USF's Tampa Library Special Collections, and Huse used the collection as well as interviews to complete the book project.

Huse's book is an extension of his love for Florida's and Tampa's culinary history. In 2000, he co-authored *The Seabreeze by the Bay Cookbook* and he is currently writing a social history of Tampa, focused primarily on the area's

restaurants. He is a two-time USF graduate, with master's degrees in History and Library and Information Sciences. Huse is also an active historian for USF.

"I like the idea of bringing together so many different

elements of foodways: family, community, ethnicity, cookery, national trends, biography, and so on," Huse said. "I hope people who have never heard of the restaurant will be able to enjoy the book."



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"There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live."

- **James Truslow-Adams**

Humanities are, without a doubt, the core of that second aim of education.

New Initiatives, Cont.

... Cont. from Pg. 1.

In March we will be pleased to award the **second Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award to Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker**, USF alumna (Ph.D. English, 1976) and Professor of Literature at Eckerd College. Please see page 3 for more information about Dr. Brooker.

Prize-winning writer **Kathleen Finneran** will also visit USF in March for a reading and book signing. Finneran has received a Whiting Writers' Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship and is currently Writer-in-Residence at Washington University in St. Louis.

April is **National Poetry Month** and we are excited to host the 1997-2000 **United States Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky**, translator and essayist, for a lecture, reading, book signing, and Q&A session with students. Additionally, the University Lecture Series will join us in

bringing poets **Valzhyna Mort, Aaron Baker** and **Katie Ford** for readings, workshops, and classroom visits.

Conferences and symposia continue to be a highlight of Humanities Institute events. In April, we will co-sponsor the annual **World Languages Research Colloquium**. In honor of the Institute's former director, Professor and Dean Emeritus Bill Scheuerle, we will co-sponsor an all-day interdisciplinary **Victorian Studies Conference** with keynote speaker **Kathryn Ledbetter**, Editor of the *Victorian Periodicals Review* and Professor of English at Texas State University. She will be joined by an impressive array of our own scholars in Nineteenth Century Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of the Arts. Please see article on page 6

for more information. Again working with the Library, we will sponsor the symposium "**Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity**," with panels of USF professors from several colleges.

Reaching out to the Tampa Bay community, the Institute will join with L'Unione Italiana, the oldest historic leader and voice of Tampa's Italian community, to bring from Italy **film specialist Milly Buonanno** for the lecture "TV Drama in the Dramatized Italy: Family and Mafia, Religion and History" at the Ybor City location.



Milly Buonanno