

# Humanities Institute

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Fall 2006

## Tolkien Scholar to Speak

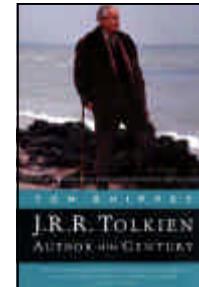
**O**n September 28, 2006, Thomas A. Shippey, who holds the Walter J. Ong Chair of Humanities at Saint Louis University, will deliver a talk on C. S. Lewis and J. R.R. Tolkien entitled “Narnia and Middle-earth: Lewis, Tolkien, and Magic Art” in Traditions Hall at 7:00pm.. This talk will explore Lewis’ and Tolkien’s attitudes to magic in relation to the intellectual context of their time and their unexpected success and appeal in our time. The talk is free and open to the public.

Dr. Shippey, who received his graduate degrees from Cambridge University, has mainly pursued academic interests in medieval British literature, especially the earliest literature of Anglo-Saxon England, and in modern fantasy and science fiction. His publications in these areas are numerous. Dr. Shippey is well

known for his studies on *Beowulf*, Old and Middle English verse and his very popular books on J.R.R. Tolkien: *The Road to Middle-earth* (1982, 4<sup>th</sup> enlarged edition 2005) and *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century* (2001). A collection of Dr. Shippey’s papers and articles on Tolkien is to be published by Walking Tree Press. He has edited many books on science fiction, fantasy stories, and medievalism and has written many reviews for the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *London Review of Books*. Dr. Shippey’s recent publications and projects have shown an expansion of his academic interests with a collection of essays on Jacob Grimm entitled *The Shadow-walkers: Jacob Grimm’s Mythology of the Monstrous* (2005) and an upcoming book on speech in early Ger-

manic literature, provisionally titled *How the Heroes Talk*.

Dr. Shippey’s academic vita reveals that there are similarities between his academic background and Tolkien’s. Both attended King Edward’s School in Birmingham and both played rugby for “Old Edwardians.” Then in 1972, Dr. Shippey was appointed to a Tutorial Fellowship in English, St. John’s College, Oxford, where he overlapped with Tolkien’s last years of retirement. In 1979, he was appointed to Chair of English Language and Medieval English Literature at the University of Leeds, where he inherited Tolkien’s chair and syllabus. Recently, Dr. Shippey has been a consultant for Peter Jackson’s very successful movie adaptations of *The Lord of the Rings*.



## Director's Cut

**F**or the Fall semester 2006 the Humanities Institute has scheduled a variety of events with visiting professors and speakers and USF faculty that should have a wide appeal to the University and Tampa Bay communities. The subjects of the events this Fall semester range from Russian literature through C.S. Lewis and Tolkien, Melville J. Herskovits, and F. Scott Fitzgerald to the manuscripts and journals of Frank Hamilton Cushing to Santa Claus. And added to the mix are discussions of Confucius and Kant and the Middle East situation and a celebration of Jorge Luis Borges’s contribution to World Literature with faculty and students performing read-

ings from his works.

I want to mention an event that is in the planning stages for the Spring semester. The Humanities Institute along with the University Lecture Series has scheduled an “Evening with Peter Straub,” for Thursday February 15, 2007 in the Marshall Center Ballroom. Peter Straub, along with Clive Barker, Ramsey Campbell, and Stephen King, is honored as a major novelist of modern horror fiction. Straub has written eighteen novels, four books of novellas, five books of poetry, and several nonfiction works. He has won seven Bram Stoker awards for best novel or fiction collection of the year, with the

most recent one being for the novel *In the Night Room* (2004).

Also on June 17, 2006, Peter Straub was honored with the prestigious “Life Achievement Award” by the Horror Writers Association at the 2006 Stoker Banquet. Titles of some of Straub’s novels are *Ghost Story*, *Mystery*, *Mr. X*, *Lost Boy Lost Girl*, *Shadowland*, *Floating Dragon*, and two co-authored with Stephen King, *Talisman* and *Black House*.

The topic of his talk is :“Why Would Anyone Read That Stuff?,” a defense of horror literature as well as a discussion of genre writing in general.

# Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award

**O**n March 9, 2006, Dr. Roberto González Echevarría, Sterling Professor of Hispanic and Comparative Literature at Yale University, received the first Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award sponsored by the Humanities Institute. Dr. González Echevarría had graduated from the University of South Florida in the charter class with a degree in languages. At the award ceremony, he spoke of the influence of his undergraduate education in the humanities at the University of South Florida on his continuing academic successes. With his permission, the Institute is pleased to publish some of his comments about this influence:

"Upon our exile from Cuba and our arrival in Tampa], I had a ...stroke of good luck: the opening of this great University of South Florida....Had it not been for that fortuitous event...I would not be standing here today. We could not have afforded a private university such as Tampa U., and I could not have gone to Gainesville or Tallahassee and paid room and board....I entered South Florida in January of 1961, the second semester of the first year, but I caught up and graduated in 1964 with the charter class. I received degrees after that from Indiana and Yale, and later three honorary doctorates, including one from South Florida and another from Columbia University. But that 1964 South Florida degree is the most important one in my life.

The defining stroke of good luck, however, was that, when I entered, South Florida was excellent in the area that I soon found out I was not only best suited for, but that would become my most consuming passion: the humanities, specifically language and literature. I am convinced now that a major contributing factor to my going in that direction...was the shock of having to learn English—real, living English—in a hurry and on the go. I had...studied English in Cuba, but by the old fashioned method known as

**"I received degrees after that from Indiana and Yale, .... But that 1964 South Florida degree is the most important one in my life."**

"grammar and translation...." Spoken English was a huge, daily obstacle for me at first. Learning English from ages sixteen to eighteen while in college was a deeply traumatic and, at the same time, absorbing experience. The disappointments and rewards were immediate and not just in the practical sense. I savored English, relished English, suffered English. I was embarrassed and exhilarated by English, and this drove me to learn other languages and experience anew

the same process....

The College of Basic Studies that South Florida had then, a kind of Core Curriculum like the one at Columbia and the one we tried to institute at Yale a number of years ago, was the beginning and foundation of everything that I did then—and have done since—in my work in language and literature. The centerpiece of that program was the year-long humanities course that we all had to take. What that course accomplished for many of us was nothing less than an inversion of values, a real turn around: it taught us that what is commonly thought of as an adornment to one's education, a finishing touch of culture on top of the professional skills we acquired, was instead the very essence of a college education.

The humanities are what distinguish the university from a vocational or technical school, and a college graduate from a technocrat. The humanities allow us to wonder about why and how we know, not so much about what to know, and provide us with what I would call the

good manners of learning and knowledge: in one word, wisdom....

But what is, after all, the core of that humanistic education? What is that inversion of values that I said the humanities course brought about in us? In a nutshell, I think that it amounts to learning to think "outside the box" and outside ourselves....The humanities allow us to think the impossible as being possible; it urges us to view things differently than we are accustomed to seeing them and to derive pleasure and knowledge from the intellectual and aesthetic experience. I don't mean just practical knowledge, though that can be an added bonus, but knowledge about knowledge itself....The humanities also allow us to think and feel from the perspective of another, even if momentarily and perhaps as make believe. This process is most apparent in learning another language, which teaches us to think through a code not our own, with a whole array of built-in assumptions that are literally foreign to us.

Those of us who speak several languages know that we even have a different personality in each of them....[H]umanities can teach us to view the world and ourselves differently. It is a lesson about the inherent value of knowing about arts and ideas...that is not only practical and even therapeutic but profoundly satisfying and enriching. It is a lesson, too, about how, at the highest levels, art and science seek the same answers, that they are not independent of each other; that for every Einstein there is a Picasso or a Wallace Stevens to entice us to think and to feel unconventionally. In learning that, one learns how to



Dr. Roberto González Echevarría receiving the Distinguished Humanities Graduate award from Dr. Bill Scheuerle, Humanities Institute Director. Photo by Tom Porter

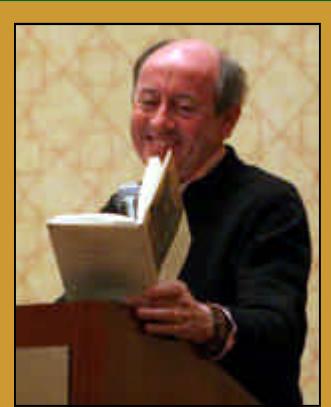
look at oneself critically, even if with resignation, compassion, and irony."



President Judy Genshaft with Dr. Roberto González Echevarría, the Distinguished Humanities Graduate awardee, encircled by members of the President's Latin Advisory Committee. Photo by Tom Porter

Deborah Plant, Africana Studies, discussing her research on Zora Neale Hurston.

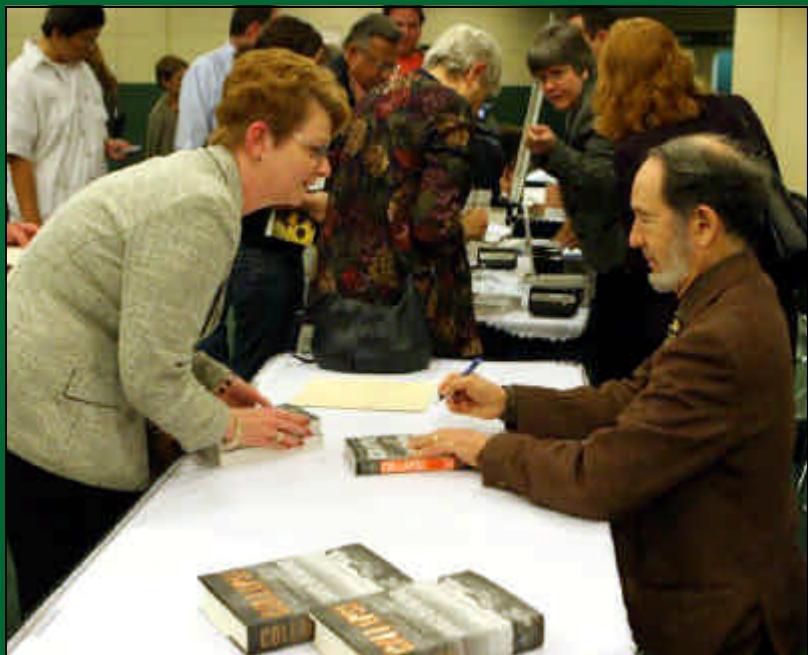
Photo by Robin R. Bajkiewicz



An evening with Poet Laureate Billy Collins. Photo by Tom Porter.

Pulitzer Prize winner Jared Diamond autographs his book, "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" for USF Library System Dean Derrie Perez.

Photo by Tom Porter



## Highlights



CAS Dean Skvoretz with Billy Collins. Photo by Tom Porter



Second Annual Sci-Fi Writers Symposium panelists: Kathleen Goonan, Elizabeth Hand, and John Clute led by Rick Wilber, Mass Communications. Photo by Kenyatta T. Harris

# Schedule of Events

Specific events of the Humanities Institute for Fall 2006 are co-sponsored in part by the Alumni Association, the USF Library, the World Language Education Department and the Tampa Bay History Center.

## SEPTEMBER

- September 19** Great Books with Victor Pappard (World Languages)  
Dostoevsky's  
*Notes From the Underground*  
Traditions Hall, Alumni Center  
6 pm Admission Fee

- September 27** Florida Conversation, a panel discussing 50 years of USF's growth with panelists **Sam M. Gibbons, Liana Fernandez Fox, Mark I. Greenberg, and State Senator Les Miller** and moderated by **William Scheuerle** as part of USF's 50th Anniversary events.  
Lifsey House  
6:30pm

- September 27** **Thomas Shippey** (St. Louis University) lecturing in Rick Wilber's Mass Communication and Society class (2:00) and John Hatcher's Tolkien's Theory of Fiction class (3:00)

All events are free and open to the public unless specified. For more information call 974-3657.

- September 28** An Evening with **Thomas Shippey** (Saint Louis University) discussing "Narnia and Middle-Earth: Lewis, Tolkien, the Magic Art"  
Traditions Hall, Alumni Center  
7 pm

## OCTOBER

- October 10** Research in the Humanities with **Kevin Yelvington** (Anthropology) "From the New Negro to the New World Negro: Melville J. Heskovits and the Making of Afro-American Anthropology"  
Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor, Library  
12 pm

- October 12** Great Books Series with **Larry Broer** (English) F. Scott Fitzgerald's  
*The Great Gatsby*  
Traditions Hall, Alumni Center  
6 pm  
Admission Fee

- October 19** "Main Event": with **Brent Weisman** (Anthropology) discussing his book *The Lost Florida Manuscript of Frank Hamilton Cushing and The Florida Journals of Frank Hamilton*  
Grace Allen Room  
5 pm

- October 24** Research in the Humanities with **Martin Schönfeld** (Philosophy Department) "Confucius and Kant: Transfer from China to the West"  
Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor Library 4 pm

## NOVEMBER

- November 6** "Borges and the Spanish Language: A Celebration," an event celebrating Jorge Luis Borges's contributions to Hispanic and World Literature  
Grace Allen Room  
4 PM

- November 15** A reading and discussion by the poet **Kimberly Johnson** (Brigham Young University)  
Grace Allen Room 4pm

- November 16** "UNWRA" and the Moral Hazards" with **Fred Gottheil** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)  
Grace Allen Room  
11:30am

- November 30** "Main Event": with **Dell deChant** (Religious Studies) discussing his book *The Sacred Santa*  
Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor Library  
5 pm

## Johnson to Read, Discuss Poetry

A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the Johns Hopkins M.A. program, and the Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley Kimberly Johnson is an assistant professor at Brigham Young University. Her first published book of poetry, *Leviathan With a Hook: Poems* (Persea Books, 2002), examined her thoughts on love, Christian symbolism, fruit, and birds that have been influenced by her interest in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century poetry. Reviewers of *Leviathan*



*With a Hook: Poems* have written:

"Searing and musical, this book is one of the best I've read in some time."

"Kim Johnson is one of the most intelligent and thoughtful writers out there today. She speaks every sentence with knowledge, form, and creativity that brings life alive."

"If you were to read just one book this year... 'Leviathan With a Hook' would be

the only one capable of satisfying your hunger for words that sparkle. Kim writes with passion, fire, and thought."

"Searing and musical, this book is one of the best I've read in some time."

Kimberly Johnson will read from *Leviathan With A Hook* and her new book of poetry *A Metaphorical God*, and discuss her poetry on November 15, 2006 in the Grace Allen Room, 4th floor of the USF Library, at 4:00. This event is free and open to the public.

# Humanities Undergraduate Student Award

During Spring semester 2006, the Humanities Institute awarded its first undergraduate research grant that enabled an undergraduate student majoring in the humanities to present a scholarly paper at a national/regional convention. This award reflects one of the original Initiatives set up by a faculty Humanities Brainstorming Group that had initially recommended the establishment of the Humanities Institute: to increase research and learning experiences in the humanities for undergraduate students. The recipient of the award was **Julie Ayers**, a double major in history and humanities who plans to graduate from USF in Spring 2007. In thanking the Hu-

manities Institute for the award, Julie, in this excerpt for the readers of the Newsletter, recounts her favorable experience at the conference:



"In April 2006, I participated in the Austin College Undergraduate Conference for the Humanities, a small conference with the topic this year of "Gender in the Humanities." I had participated in larger conferences before this trip, but I must admit that smaller conferences are more intimate, and the topics discussed are often more interesting. This year the topics ranged from "women in rock" to "queer theory" and from "Dali's misogyny" to the "benefits of conservative

dress." The topic of my paper was "Social Constraints on the Personification of Love: Apelles's 'Venus Anydomene' and Botticelli's 'Birth of Venus'." The ideas and the papers presented were among the most intellectual, the most poignant, and the most thought-provoking of any that I had heard at the previous conferences that I had attended. In addition, each of the sessions allotted a thirty-minute discussion period for each of the twelve undergraduate presentations. This conference was a wonderful experience, and I highly recommend this type of conference to those who want an experience presenting papers and engaging in extended discussions."

## Faculty Publications and Awards

### PUBLICATIONS

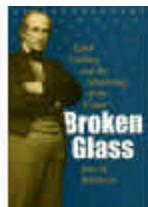
#### English

**Regina Hewitt.** *Symbolic Interactions: Social Problems and Literary Interventions in the Works of Baillie, Scott, and Landor.* Bucknell University Press, 2006

#### History

**Golfo Alexopoulos.** "Soviet Citizenship, More or Less: Rights, Emotions and States of Civic Belonging," in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, vol. 7, no. 3 (Summer 2006).

**John Belohlavek.** *Broken Glass: Caleb Cushing and the Shattering of the Union*, Kent State, 2005.



#### Philosophy

**Roger Ariew.** Ed. and trans. with Donald Cress *Descartes, Meditations, Objections, and Replies*. Hackett, 2006

#### Women's Studies

Gurleen Grewal. "Feminism, Poverty and Grassroots Movements in India." *Globalization and Sustainable Development: Issues and Applications*. Ed. Rebecca Lee Harris. Tampa: Dr. Kiran Patel Center for Global Solutions, University of South Florida, 2006. 133-146.

### AWARDS

#### English

At the 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association held at Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland on March 16-18, 2006, **Regina Hewitt** received the NCSA President's Award. This award was initiated in 2004 to provide an opportunity to recognize sustained service and excellence in scholarship in interdisciplinary nineteenth-century studies. Professor Hewitt, a scholar of the Romantic Era, has served on the Board of Directors of the Association for the past 14 years in various capacities, including conference planner, program director, board member, newsletter acting co-editor, secretary and vice president.

#### History

**David K. Johnson** recently received a Phil Zwickler Memorial Research Grant from Cornell University to conduct research in the University Library's Human Sexuality Collection for his project on gay consumer culture before Stonewall.

**William Murray** was appointed the Charles Eliot Norton Memorial Lecturer for 2006/2007 by the Archaeological Institute of America. The Norton Lectureship, the Institute's most prestigious

one, was founded in 1907 and endowed in 1909 by James Loeb in honor of the founder and first President of the Archaeological Institute of America.



#### Humanities

**Dan Belgrad**, a member of the Humanities Institute faculty advisory committee, is spending the 2006-2007 academic year in the Ukraine as a Senior Fulbright Fellow.

**James D'Emilio** has received the 2005 Bishko Memorial Prize by the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies for his article, "The Royal Convent of Las Huelgas: Dynastic Politics, Religious Reform, and Artistic Change in Medieval Castile," which appeared in *Studies in Cistercian Art and Architecture*. The Bishko is awarded annually for the best article published in the field of medieval Iberian history by a North American scholar.

#### Women's Studies

**Gurleen Grewal** was selected to participate in the week-long session on Contemplative Curriculum Development offered by the prestigious Center for Contemplative Mind in Society. This summer session was held at Smith College August 13-18, 2006.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

Humanities Institute  
4202 E. Fowler Ave., FAO 201; Tampa, FL 33620  
Phone: (813) 974-3657 Fax: (813) 974-0810

William Scheuerle, Ph.D., Director  
[wscheuer@cas.usf.edu](mailto:wscheuer@cas.usf.edu)

Robin R. Bajkiewicz, M.A., Program Assistant  
[rbajkiew@cas.usf.edu](mailto:rbajkiew@cas.usf.edu)

**"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.**

## “Summer 2006 Research Grants

### Ten College Faculty Receiving Funding

For Summer 2006, the College of Arts and Sciences—through the Humanities Institute—awarded competitive research grants of \$5,000 (maximum) to 10 faculty members for research in the humanities.

These awardees and their research projects were as follows:

? **Pricilla Brewer** (Humanities and American Studies) “Our Little College World: Student Life at Northern Woman’s Colleges, 1865-1930”

? **Gaetan Brulotte** (World Language Education): “A Survey of Quebec Short Story LA Nouvelle quebecoise”

? **Sara Crawley** (Women’s Studies): “Ethnography of Tampa’s African American Lesbian Community”

? **Colin Heydt** (Philosophy): “Adam Smith, and the Ethical Effects of Philosophical Prose”

? **Elizabeth Hirsh** (English)  
“Biography, Historiography, and Fiction in the work of Virginia Woolf ”

? **Derina Holtzhausen** (Mass Communication): “Public Relations as Activism: A Postmodern Exploration of Public Relations Theory and Practice”

? **Lu Ann Jones** (History) “If I Must Say So Myself: A Oral History of Southern Agriculture”

? **Adrianna Novoa** (Humanities and American Studies): “Blood Seeking the Night: The Culture of Disappearance in Argentina”

? **Laura Runge** (English) “Defining Gender: Beauty and the Body/Women’s Commonplace Books from the Brotherton Collection”

? **Nancy White** (Anthropology) “Piece Mounds: An Ancient Capital in Northwest Florida”

