



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Humanities Institute

Volume II, Issue 2

Spring 2006

Collins, Diamond for USF's 50th Poet Laureate, Pulitzer Prize winner coming to Tampa

The Humanities Institute will present Billy Collins and Jared Diamond during USF's 50th anniversary year.

Billy Collins, who will be on the Tampa campus on February 8th, is a Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman College, City University of New York,

where he has taught for the past 30 years.

He is also a writer-in-residence at Sarah Lawrence College and has served as a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library.

On June 21, 2001, he was appointed at the Library of Congress as the 11th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry and was reappointed for a second term through 2003. His books of poetry include *Pokerface* (1977), *The Apple That Aston-*

"Collins' accessible often hilarious and deeply human poetry would make a poetry lover out of anyone."

ished Paris (1988), *The Art of Drowning* (1995), which was a Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize finalist, *Sailing Alone Around the Room* (2002), and his most recent one, *The Trouble With Poetry* (2005). As one critic has written, "Collins' accessible often hilarious and deeply human po-

etry would make a poetry lover out of anyone."

On March 2, Jared Diamond, Professor of Geography and Physiology at UCLA and winner of a MacArthur Foundation genius grant and numerous other awards and honors, will speak on "How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed," a talk based upon his recent book, *Collapse*. Among his awards and honors are the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for his best seller *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Japan's International Cosmos Prize,

the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, and in 1999, President Clinton bestowed the USA's highest civilian award in science, the National Medal of Science, for Dr. Diamond's landmark research and breakthrough discoveries in evolutionary biology.

As Dr. Diamond states, in his work he set himself "the modest task of trying to explain the broad pattern of human history, on all the continents, for the last 13,000 years."



From *Guns, Germs, and Steel* a National Geographic three part series televised on PBS.

Science Fiction 50/50/50

Award-winning fantasy novelist Elizabeth Hand will read from her work and take part in a panel discussion with other science-fiction and fantasy writers and editors on Monday, March 20, in an event co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and the USF Library.

The event, "50/50/50: USF and Science Fiction and Fantasy --Past/Present/Future," will take a look at the past fifty years of both USF and the science-fiction and fantasy genre, and then utilize the panelists' expertise to predict the next fifty years for their field, the university, and the



world at large. This event will be held in Traditions Hall from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Hand, the author of seven novels including the James Tiptree Jr. Award-winning "Waking the Moon," "Mortal Love," and many shorter works, including "Last Summer at Mars Hill," which won both the Nebula and the World Fantasy awards, will read from the forthcoming novel,

"Generation Loss," and then share the stage with author Kathleen Goonan and critic/author John Clute.

Goonan, a long-time Floridian, is the author of "Queen City Jazz,"

"The Bones of Time," "Crescent City Rhapsody" and other novels and a number of short stories. Her stories frequently focus on nanotechnology and its moral, ethical and technological implications.

Clute, perhaps the foremost critic in science-fiction and fantasy, is the co-editor of the highly influential "Encyclopedia of Science Fiction" and a regular columnist for several top magazines and websites. His novel "Appleseed" was a *New York Times* Notable Book for 2002.

USF journalism professor and USF Library Writer-in-Residence Rick Wilber will moderate the panel discussion.

Director's Cut

By Dr. Bill Scheuerle



2006 marks the 50th anniversary of USF, and the Humanities Institute is proud to be part of the celebration. The array of events that the Humanities Institute has scheduled for the Spring semester shows that the Institute joins that celebration with a list of distinguished speakers and events. Elsewhere in the *Newsletter* is a complete list of the planned events for Spring semester 2006 sponsored or co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute, and a separate article on two of the distinguished speakers: Billy Collins, US Poet Laureate 2001-2003, and Jared Diamond, winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for his best seller *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

Also the Institute is celebrating its receiving a number of competitive grants that enabled the Institute to schedule major events for the Fall and Spring. The

Institute wants to thank the following for their financial assistance: Florida Humanities Council and the Art Council of Hillsborough County for co-sponsoring "Art in the Public Realm: A Dialog" on October 7, 2005.

University Lecture Series and the Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions for co-sponsoring "An Evening with Jared Diamond," upcoming on March 2, 2006.

During the Spring semester, the Institute is awarding its first grant to an undergraduate research student. Through the generosity of William (Skip) and Holly Thomas' endowed scholarship, Julie Ayers, a history and humanities major, will receive a travel grant that will enable her to attend an academic conference.

2006 also marks the Institute's initia-

tion of a new award: the Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award. This award will be given to a USF graduate who had majored in a humanities discipline and since graduation from USF has received great distinction in her/his field. The faculty committee for the Humanities Institute has nominated as the first recipient

"The array of events that the Humanities Institute has scheduled for the Spring semester shows that the Institute joins that celebration with a list of distinguished speakers and events."

of this award Roberto González Echevarría, who graduated from USF in the charter 1964 class, majoring in languages. He received an honorary degree

from USF in summer 2000 and has had a very distinguished academic record at Cornell University and at Yale University, where in 1995 he was named Sterling Professor, the highest ranking chair at Yale University. Dr. Echevarría will be on campus for an awards ceremony during USF's 50th anniversary year.

Advisory Committee Spotlight

The USF Humanities Institute is proud to have a 15-member Advisory Committee, including 13 USF faculty members, a graduate student, and a member of the community. Each newsletter highlights some of these dedicated members.

Christine McCall Probes (Associate Professor in World Languages) holds a Ph.D. in French Literature from Tulane University. Her research and teaching take her regularly to France where her work has been supported by the French government, several French universities, and by various awards from USF. She serves on the Executive Councils of two international societies in her field of specialization, the *Grand Siècle*, and on the Modern Language Association of America's Executive Committee on 17th Century French Studies. In 2003 she was the P.I. for a state grant which supported three conferences across Florida in addition to faculty and student exchanges. She obtained for her department an earlier MLA/NEH grant focus-



ing on "Preparing a Nation's Teachers." Her published research on the early modern (poetry, patristic sources, theatre, letters, rhetoric, the emblem) regularly appears in refereed books and journals here and abroad, such as: *Medievalia et Humanistica*, *Seventeenth Century French Studies*, *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, and *Papers on French Seventeenth Century Literature*. In 2003 she co-edited the volume *La Femme à l'âge classique* (Tübingen) and is a long-standing contributing editor of the annual MLA-sponsored critical bibliography *French 17*. In 2002 Dr. Probes received the USF "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award." She is currently preparing two papers on emblematic literature for international conferences at Kiel and Oxford in 2006.

West Gurley, the Graduate Student Liaison of the USF Humanities Institute, is a Ph.D. student in the Philosophy Department. He holds a BA in Philosophy and French (1980) from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and completed his MA in Philosophy (2004) at the University of

New Mexico. His detours from academia during the intervening years took him through a career in the Real Estate business. West, largely because of his detours, understands and is committed to the idea that Philosophy is profoundly practical in its attempts to examine the kinds of lives we lead. He believes the Socratic caveat that the unexamined life is not worth living. He teaches Critical Thinking, Introduction to Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, and Philosophy of Religion—all classes in which the driving motivation involves the examination of the presupposition that make possible the beliefs that we hold. West's interests in Philosophy have tended toward 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy with specific sustained interests in the works of Husserl, Proust, Heidegger, and Derrida. His primary course of study has led him to consider the conditions that make it possible for us to pay attention to our relationship with the world in which we live. He looks forward to a never-ending course of study, but he should wrap-up his doctoral work by the Spring of 2008.

DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies

by Dr. Laura L. Runge

The 20th Anniversary DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies will be held at the Embassy Suites at USF February 16-18, 2006, organized around the theme of "The Book."

Sponsored annually by the English Department, the DeBartolo Conference attracts scholars from around the world who specialize in a variety of disciplines, including English, European and American Literatures, European and American History, Art History, History of Science, and Philosophy. The single-session format and the cohesive structure around an interdisciplinary eighteenth-century theme have allowed for an intimate intellectual engagement throughout the years. USF is planning a grand event this year to celebrate the twentieth and final year of this unique conference.

The first DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies was held in 1986, shortly after the creation of the University of South Florida DeBartolo Chair in the Liberal Arts, endowed by the late Edward J. DeBartolo. In 1984, DeBartolo donated land valued at more than \$600,000 to the University of South Florida, allowing for the creation of the De-

Bartolo Chair; the donation was matched by the State of Florida. The DeBartolo Endowment continues to provide partial support for this annual conference. The renowned eighteenth-century scholar Pat Rogers became the first USF DeBartolo Professor in the Liberal Arts, and he continues in that role today. For the past nineteen years, Rogers has given the inaugural conference lecture. This year he will have the honor of introducing three other distinguished scholars in the field of eighteenth-century book studies.

The keynote lectures for the 2006 conference feature **Robert C. Darnton**, the Shelby Cullom Davis '30 Professor of History at Princeton; **Margaret J. M. Ezell**, the John Paul Abott Professor of Liberal Arts, at Texas A&M University; and **David D. Hall**, Bartlett Professor of New England Church History at Harvard Divinity School.

Darnton's accomplished career has focused on French and European history, particularly of the eighteenth century. He will be speaking on "The Trade in Slander: Libels and Grub Streets in Paris and London," 1770-1794, Friday February 17 at 1:00 pm.

Ezell is a professor of English whose research involves the history of women's writing, handwritten culture and modes of authorship, particularly in seventeenth and eighteenth-century England. She will deliver the address "Invisible Books" at 5:30 pm on Thursday February 16 in the Grace Allen Room in the USF Library.

Hall is a historian of American culture and religion; his special interests include the seventeenth century and the history of the book. His lecture is entitled "The Colonial American Writer in the Atlantic World," and it is scheduled for 1:00 pm on Saturday February 18.

These lectures are co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and are free and open to the public. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Registration information for the full program can be found on the DeBartolo Conference website: <http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/debartolo> or by contacting the Conference Director, Dr. Laura L. Runge at runge@cas.usf.edu. The registration fee for the entire conference is \$95.00.



Photos by Dr. Tim Bajkiewicz

Divulging Secrets

(From Left) Science Fiction authors Joe Haldeman, Rick Wilber (Mass Com), Harry Harrison, and Piers Anthony discuss writing techniques.



Sponsors Gather with Authors Before Talk

(From Left) Derrie Perez, Bill Scheuerle, Rick Wilber, Joe Haldeman, Piers Anthony, Harry Harrison, Robin Bajkiewicz, and Mark Greenberg (seated)

Support the Humanities

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Schedule of Events

Specific events of the Humanities Institute for Spring 2006 are co-sponsored in part by the Alumni Association; the Department of English; the Department of Philosophy; the Office of Undergraduate Research; the Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions; the "Peace through Diversity" Lecture Series Committee; the Suncoast Writers Conference; the University Lecture Series; the USF Library; the World Language Education Department.

JANUARY

January 13-15 **Descartes and Pascal Conference** by the USF Philosophy Department. Major speakers include **Vlad Alexandrescu**, Professor (French Studies) Univ of Bucharest, **Roger Ariew**, Professor & Chair (Philosophy) USF, **Vincent Carrud**, Professor (Philosophie) Universite de Caen; **Daniel Garber**, Professor & Chair (Philosophy) Princeton University; **Douglas Jesseph**, Professor (Philosophy) North Carolina State
Embassy Suites Hotel, USF Campus

January 15 **Graduate Student Session**
On "History and Historiography of Early Modern Philosophy"
Contact Tom Brommage at brommage@freeshell.org

January 19 **Archbishop Desmond Tutu:** a USF 50th Anniversary event and MLK celebration. Organized & Sponsored by the "Peace through Diversity" Lecture Series and its donors and the University Lecture Series. Sun Dome 7pm

FEBRUARY

February 2 A talk by **Gary G. Porton**, (Charles and Sarah Drobny Professor of Talmudic Studies, University of Illinois), entitled "I am Jewish but ...".
Grace Allen Room Noon-1pm



February 7 **Great Books Series** with **Silvio Gaggi** (Humanities/American Studies Department) Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*
Traditions Hall, Alumni Center 6pm
Admission Fee

February 8 An evening with **Billy Collins**, Poet Laureate 2001-2003 with poetry reading and discussion.
Embassy Suites 7 pm



February 8 A talk by **César Salgado** (University of Texas, Austin), entitled "Language Death and the Latino Poet"
Grace Allen Room 4pm

February 9 A talk by **César Salgado** (University of Texas, Austin), entitled "Havana Joyce" dealing with Edmundo Desnoes' edition and "modified translation" of James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* for Cuba's Biblioteca del Pueblo
Grace Allen Room 4pm

February 16 **Research in the Humanities** with **James D'Emilio** (Humanities/American Studies Department), research discussion "The Paradox of Galicia: A Cultural Crossroads on the Edge of Europe"
TECO Room, Noon - 1pm

February 16-18 **DeBartolo Conference on 18th Century Studies.** This year's theme is "The Book"; see article page 3 for details. Embassy Suites

February 23 A talk by **Abraham Balaban** (University of Florida), entitled "Utopia and Reality in Kibbutz Life"
Grace Allen Room
Noon-1pm

MARCH

March 2 **An Evening with Jared Diamond** (UCLA), 1998 Pulitzer Prize winner for *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.
University Ballroom, Marshall Center 7pm

March 20 **50/50/50: USF and Science Fiction-Past/Present/Future.** A panel moderated by Rick Wilber (Mass Comm Dept and Sci-Fi author), discussing 50 years of science fiction writing. Panelists: **Elizabeth Hand**, award winning writer; **John Clute**, top science fiction critic and co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*; and **Katherine Goonan**, science fiction novelist.
Traditions Hall 1-3pm



March 28 **"Main Event":** An evening with **Charles Guignon** (Philosophy) discussing his book *On Being Authentic*
Grace Allen Room 5pm

APRIL

April 12 **Great Books Series** with **Bill Murray** (History Department) Thucydides' *The Peloponnesian War*
Traditions Hall, Alumni Center at 6pm
Admission Fee

April 4 **Research in the Humanities** with **Deborah Plant** (Africana Studies), research discussion "A Biography of the Spirit: Zora Neale Hurston"
Grace Allen Room
Noon - 1pm

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

Graduate Student Nook



In order to show the diversity of the research being done by graduate students in the humanities, this issue outlines the research of two graduate students: Liza Oliver, Art History, and Jared Toney, History.

Description de l’Egypte By Liza Oliver

My Master’s thesis in the Department of Art History focuses on the engravings of the Description de l’Egypte. This 23 volume encyclopedia of both texts and engravings, published from 1809 to 1828, was conceived as a result of Napoleon’s military campaign to Egypt in 1798 and marks the most exhaustive unified study ever carried out of that country. Through postcolonial theory, I attempt to uncover various travel conventions made visible in these engravings that helped promote France’s imperial ideology and that show a continuation of

certain preconceived notions of Egypt that can be traced to travelogues of the previous century. I then interpret Egyptian writings contemporary to the publication to create an alternative perspective from the one inscribed in the Description.

This summer, I had the opportunity to conduct research on primary sources at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. I’ve also made several trips to Boston, where a copy of the Description is located. This research, along with secondary research still underway and the help of my thesis advisor, Elisabeth Fraser, is certain to shape positively the outcome of this project.

‘Viva Wallace!’: Tampa Latins, the Politics of Americanization, and the Progressive Party Campaign of 1948

By Jared Toney

This master’s thesis investigates Henry

Wallace’s 1948 Progressive Party campaign in Tampa as a lens through which to explore Latin identity and the experiences of immigrant workers in the U.S. South. Acting upon cultural and experiential conceptions of democracy, first- and second-generation Spanish, Cuban, and Italian workers of Tampa’s immigrant enclave challenged hegemonic discourses of nationalism and power through their unprecedented endorsement of Wallace. While Latins embraced the Progressive Party campaign as a platform from which to contest U.S. political conservatism and social exclusivity, they did so as citizens invested in the American democratic system. The 1948 campaign in Tampa provides invaluable insights into the immigrant experience, constructions of ethnic community, and the continuous reinvention and contestation of “radical” politics and “American” identity.

Publications and Awards

PUBLICATIONS

Africana Studies

Edward Kissi’s book *Revolution and Genocide in Ethiopia and Cambodia* will be released in December 2005, with a publication date of 2006.

Communication

Carolyn Ellis. “The Ethnographic I and Intimate Journalism.” *Asia Communication and Media Studies*. 2005, 175-182.

English

Silvio Ruffo Fiore. “Fictions and Reality in the Teaching of Literature.” *International Journal of the Humanities*. Vol. 2:2004, 516-24.

Humanities and American Studies

Silvio Gaggi. “Navigation Chaos.” *New Punk Cinema*. Ed. Nicholas Rombes. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University press, 2005. 113-125.



AWARDS

Communication

Mariaelena Bartesaghi’s dissertation, “Explanatory Paths, Therapeutic Directions, Conversational Destinations: On accountability and authority in therapeutic interaction” won the 2005 Language and Social Interaction Dissertation Award of the National Communication Association. **Carolyn Ellis**’s book *The Ethnographic I: A Methodological Novel about Autoethnography* won the distinguished book award for 2005 from the National Communication Association’s Division of Ethnography. Her scholarship was also featured in a section of eight papers in *Studies in Symbolic Interaction*, entitled *In Touch with Carolyn Ellis: Ellis’s Contributions to Symbolic Interaction and Communication* (Vol. 28, edited by Norman Denzin, Elsevier Science Ltd., 2005).

Philosophy

Eric Winsberg’s essay “Can Conditionalizing on the ‘Past Hypothesis’ Militate Against the Reversibility Objections?”

that was published in *Philosophy of Science* 71:489-504 won the 2004 Philosophy of Science Association recent Ph.D. essay contest.



Before Taking Stage

(From left) Paleo-anthropologist Dr. Peter Brown, Arts and Sciences Dean John Skvoretz, and Dr. Lorena Madrigal (Anthropology) before Brown’s September 29th presentation in the Marshall Center Ballroom.

Photo by Dr. Tom Porter

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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

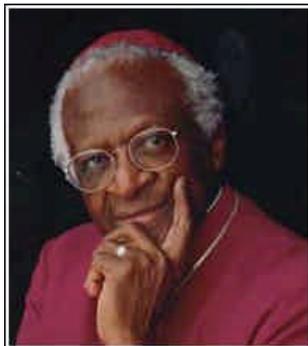
Humanities are, without a doubt, the core of that second aim of education.

“No Future Without Forgiveness” Archbishop Tutu to speak at USF

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, will speak at the USF Sun Dome January 19, 2006 at 7 pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Tutu was given the middle name “Mpilo,” from the Sotho language for “life,” because he was a sickly baby and not expected to survive. “That,” he has said, “was my first commitment to faith.”

His faith in the peaceful destiny of South Africa, and his commitment to that destiny earned Archbishop Tutu the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. For years he served as his country’s voice of conscience during its long struggle against apartheid. When that struggle was finally won, he took the first steps, as Chairman of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to minister to the ugly wounds it left behind. On October 29, 1998 the commission submitted its initial



report to President Nelson Mandela, marking a significant step in the nation’s healing process, as well as an international reminder of the commitment to the pursuit of freedom and justice.

Archbishop Tutu soothed the spirits and rallied the hearts of his people with simple words of passion and dignity. These words also served to invoke the indignity of the world against South Africa’s apartheid regime. The power of his statesmanship has been preserved in three collections of sermons and addresses: “Crying in the Wilderness: The Struggle for Justice in South Africa,” “Hope and Suffering: Sermons and Speeches, The Words of Desmond Tutu,” and “The Rainbow People of God.”

In addition to his recent appointment to Robert W. Woodruff Visiting Professor at the Candler School of Theology at

Emory University, Tutu is currently working on the publication of two books; one chronicling the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with the other about transfiguration.

His lecture, ““No Future without Forgiveness,” is part of the University Lecture Series and is sponsored, in part, by the Humanities Institute.

(From the Archbishop’s American Program Bureau profile.)

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YEARS
1956-2006