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NEWS

of the National Humanities Center

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NEWS

of the National Humanities Center



When Worlds Collide

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From a popular culture point of view, **Gerald Early** (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow) may be the most popular Fellow yet. In just the first semester of 2001–02, he appeared on National Public Radio twice, once to comment on the retirement of baseball star Mark McGwire and a second time for an interview with Terri Gross about a book he recently edited, *The Sammy Davis Reader*. He also learned that he had been nominated for a Grammy for writing the liner notes to accompany a new compilation of music and spoken word from the Harlem Renaissance and spoke at the National Humanities Center about Muhammad Ali's impact on the Third World. Early's published works survey American culture from boxing to jazz to literature, with a particular emphasis on the African American experience. He has also written about his hometown of St. Louis and about being the father of two daughters. Early, who is the Merle

Kling Professor of Modern Letters at Washington University in St. Louis, spoke to *News of the National Humanities Center* in December about his fellowship project, Sammy Davis, essayists he has admired, and what it means to be free when everything has a price on it.

What is the project that brought you to the Center?

The project that brought me to the Center is called "When Worlds Collide." It's about racial integration from 1950 to 1953. I had originally thought about going from 1950 to 1954 but since I've been here I've decided to focus on the Korean War era, exclusively. A good portion of the book will focus on the Korean War itself, but what I really want to do is look at American race relations through the prism of the Korean War. I was attracted to this because the social

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One of those infrequent but nasty snowstorms closed down the Center (and most everything else in North Carolina)

for a few days. I was snowbound at our farm outside Hillsborough. I loved every minute of it, splitting wood for the woodstove, cross-country skiing over fields where winter wheat had germinated a few weeks before, and holing up in my study, back with my books and with articles our ever efficient library staff had copied for me weeks before.

It was like a free trip back to Athens—without the jetlag. (Soon after, Athens was snowbound in the deepest snow in sixty years.) After a few days of more or less uninterrupted time in the study, I realized again how invigorating fresh learning can be. That's important for all of us, but especially for those who teach. Day in, day out they pump out information, ideas, knowledge, advice, caring. Time for fresh learning is the best source of renewal, and for a return to the classroom and the office with new energy, approaches, and ideas.

Uninterrupted time for scholarship is the best gift we can give to a teacher-scholar. The results, which reach far and wide, are important, especially at a time when we know that education in the humanities badly needs renewal.

The snow has melted now; the winter wheat has made the fields green again, and I'm back in the office, trying to leave this place in good shape for my successor and for those teachers and scholars who in years to come will experience the renewal and invigoration that the Center makes possible.

W. Robert Connor

impact of the Korean War has not been talked about too much but I think the integration of the armed forces is a huge moment, politically and socially, in American life. Also there were some interesting figures culturally in the very early 1950s that I wanted to look at, people like James Baldwin at the very beginning of his career. Ralph Ellison and Gwendolyn Brooks wrote major, prize-winning works at this time. Jackie Robinson was at mid-career and Sugar Ray Robinson was a star. I want to look at these people against the backdrop of the story of the Korean War.

You've joked that your editor has insisted you finish another project before you delve too deeply into the Korean War.

I have also worked on the project called *The Motown Reader*, which is a compilation of pieces, articles about Motown Records and interviews with the various artists who worked for Motown Records. I have also finished another project on African Americans in Europe between the wars, between 1919 and 1939. Another thing I have been working on as a lark is a novel for teenagers about jazz.

To get back to the Korean War project, what are your sources for the book?

I intend to do interviews with veterans, although there are so many first-person taped narratives of Korean War veterans that are available in various archives that doing the interviews myself is not as pressing as it might seem. I want to do it to meet people, not so much because I am desperate for the information. At this point I have gone through much of the secondary materials. Even though it is called the forgotten war, there are a lot of books that have been written about it. There has been a spate of recent books because of the 50th anniversary of the war. Most of this stuff is interesting to read. But I must be clear that I'm not writing a military history of the war, or a foreign pol-

icy analysis of the war. Basically, what I want to find in the archives are accounts by American prisoners of war, and particularly accounts about relations between blacks and whites in prisoner-of-war camps. Also, I want to provide some account of the important courts-martial of black soldiers during this period.

Where are these accounts leading you?

What I want to do is look at social aspects of the war. I want to look at how soldiers, black and white soldiers, interacted, how they fought together, what the tensions were, where the lines of cohesion existed.

You have been a hot interview on National Public Radio lately, in part because of your expertise on the St. Louis Cardinals and in part because of *The Sammy Davis Reader*, which had the good fortune to be published just before the new version of the movie *Ocean's 11* was released. I don't want to push a pun too far, but you have said that there is more to Sammy Davis than meets the eye, especially his involvement in civil rights. What attracted you to Davis as a subject of an essay collection?

I became interested in Sammy Davis several years ago. I read his autobiography, *Yes I Can*, which came out in 1965 and ranked along with the *Autobiography of Malcolm X* as one of the most popular black autobiographies of the era. After I read his book, I kept thinking I would like to write an essay on Sammy Davis at some point. The opportunity arose about three years ago when I was approached to write the liner notes for a compilation of his music. So I did. The liner notes were nominated for a Grammy. I didn't win the Grammy, but it was nice to be nominated and it was nice to know Grammys were awarded for liner notes. I was thinking as I was writing the liner notes and had done all of this research, it would be a nice thing if I could put out a source book about Davis. I partly got the idea from *The*

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Speaking Ethics to Power

In 1993, two years after he published a book on political secession called *The Morality of Political Divorce*, **Allen Buchanan** (John G. Medlin, Jr., Fellow 2001–02) was one of several scholars invited to consult with Ethiopian politicians as they wrote a new constitution. “I was amazed to see leaders of the government who a few months before had been in military fatigues, carrying AK-47s, and fighting for their lives in the countryside now wearing Italian suits and carrying copies of the Federalist papers. A few of them even had a copy of my book,” he says.

“Now you don’t want to be naïve,” he adds. “I think one of the reasons the Ethiopian government had this constitutional conference with Western scholars was that they were trying to sound democratic and get funds from donor countries to rebuild their country, but nonetheless it was interesting that writing a scholarly book on secession led to that kind of situation.”

Buchanan, a professor of philosophy at the University of Arizona, hopes the book he is writing this year at the National Humanities Center will also draw the attention of statesmen who prefer Italian suits and the Founding Fathers to fatigues and semiautomatic weapons. In *Humanitarian Intervention, Ethics, and the Rule of Law*, Buchanan will take an interdisciplinary look at possible ethical and legal remedies for an international system that struggles to preserve the self-determination of states without compromising the human rights of threatened groups within states.

A good example of the problem that *Humanitarian Intervention* will tackle is NATO’s intervention against the Serbs in Kosovo. NATO may have saved thousands of lives when it sidestepped a cumbersome international legal system that allows any permanent member of the U.N. Security Council to veto a proposed humanitarian intervention. At

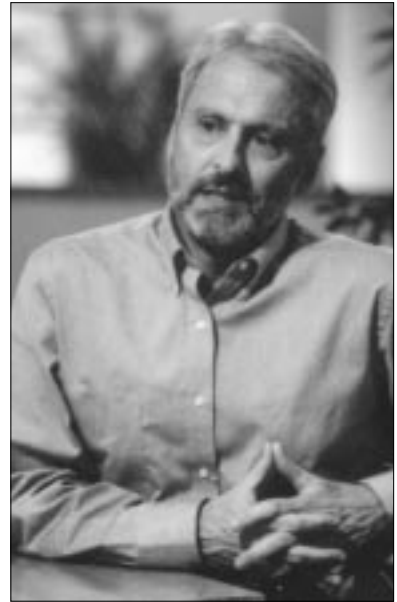
the same time, it technically violated international law by doing so. In a flawed international system, an arguably moral act may also be demonstrably illegal.

Sometimes it may be necessary to act illegally to obtain a moral end—the book will draw parallels between international law and domestic cases such as Martin Luther King, Jr.’s campaign of civil disobedience—but Buchanan argues that establishing a new ethics of humanitarian intervention is essential both to permit urgent action in humanitarian disasters and to establish under international law a workable framework for when and how to carry out such actions.

“The NATO action raises serious questions about what it means to be committed to the rule of law in international affairs,” Buchanan explains. “One question is whether a powerful country such as the United States should break international law for the sake of humanitarian intervention or whether it would be better to devote more energy to try and reform international law to make it a better instrument for humanitarian intervention in appropriate cases.”

It remains to be seen whether the coalitions formed in the aftermath of September 11 will hold long enough to lead to significant changes in international law, Buchanan notes. “One big question will be whether we will stand alone when it comes to humanitarian intervention and combating terrorism, or whether we will adopt a more global approach.” He is considering expanding the focus of his book to look at cases such as the invasion of Afghanistan, where the intervening force intends not to protect the rights of a threatened group within a state, but to prevent groups harbored within that state from committing atrocities in other countries.

Buchanan also speaks to public officials as a bioethicist, recently coauthoring a book called *From Chance to Choice: Genetics and Justice*. Whether speaking



about international law or genetic issues, it is exciting to bring ethical theorizing to bear on practical issues, but there are dangers, Buchanan warns. “I think that bioethicists, or other policy consultants, have to realize that they have biases, too, and that as a group they may have biases that relate to their corporate interest.”

On the other hand, Buchanan believes that governments might avoid some costly policy mistakes if they paid more attention to independent scholars. “I think that scholars who are experts on the Balkans saw the collapse of Yugoslavia coming from the early 1980s,” he says by way of example. “The U.S. State Department and the administration just didn’t pay attention to that, and we were caught by surprise by the speed and the violence of the collapse.”

With political upheaval seemingly always in fashion, and debates over bioengineering and cloning unlikely to abate soon, Buchanan should have many opportunities ahead to address the ethical questions that underlie political choices. As his Ethiopian experience demonstrates, he never knows who is listening.

Center Names New Trustees

The National Humanities Center has appointed four new Trustees: **Jean Bethke Elshtain**, **Shepard Krech III**, **Robert B. Strassler**, and **Herbert S. Winokur, Jr.**

Elshtain is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago and the author of several books, including *Democracy on Trial*, a 1995 *New York Times* Notable Book. She was a 2000–01 Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities at the Center, where she completed an intellectual biography of Jane Addams and prepared an anthology of Addams’s writings. She also began a new book, *Sovereign God, Sovereign State, Sovereign Self*. Elshtain frequently appears in the media, bringing philosophical and religious insights to bear on contemporary social and political problems. Her article “Just War and Humanitarian Intervention” appears in the Center’s magazine, *Ideas*, vol. 8, no. 2.

Krech is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University. As a Fellow of the Center in 1993–94, he wrote a provocative, widely reviewed book, *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*. He returned as a MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow in 2000–01, working on a book about the intersection between birds and American Indians. Krech has led summer institutes for high school teachers at the Center and contributed to *TeacherServe*[®], its on-line resource for teachers. Since 1982, he has also been a Research Associate in the American Museum of Natural History’s Department of Anthropology.

Strassler is an independent scholar and businessman. He is the editor of the Landmark *Thucydides*, which is widely acclaimed for making the work of this ancient Greek historian accessible to modern readers through careful and extensive annotation and an imaginative format that includes, among other

things, 140 maps. He is now working on editions of Herodotus and Xenophon’s *Hellenica* in the same Landmark format. A graduate of Harvard University and its business school, Strassler is General Partner of Weston Associates in Great Barrington, Mass. He is currently Chair of the Medici Archive Project and the Aston Magna Foundation for Music and the Humanities, Inc., and serves on the advisory councils to both the departments of astrophysics and classics at Princeton University.

Winokur is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Capricorn Holdings, Inc., a private investment firm. He holds three degrees from Harvard University,

including a Ph.D. in decision and control theory, and is a member of the Harvard Corporation and a Director of Harvard Management Company. He has served as director or trustee of the UCLA Medical Center, Greenwich Academy, and the New York Historical Society, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Council.

The Center’s Board of Trustees is chaired by **John P. Birkelund**, Senior Advisor, UBS Warburg LLC, and is composed of leaders from the academic and business communities.

Education Programs Notes

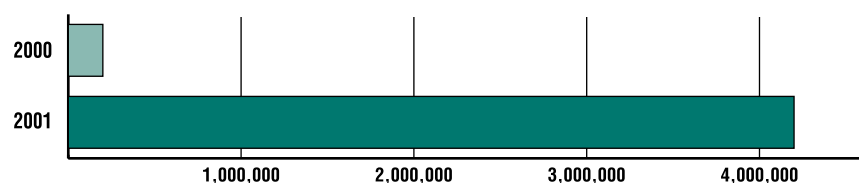
- Bigchalk, a commercial service that directs people to online educational services, has featured “Nature Transformed” in its Homework Central directory of exceptional educational sites on the Web, ranking it in the top 2 percent of more than 110,000 sites reviewed. “Nature Transformed,” which focuses on how Americans have viewed and interacted with their landscape, is the second program on *TeacherServe*[®], an interactive curriculum enrichment service offering teachers practical help in planning courses and presenting rigorous subject matter to students. Bigchalk’s services include personal and school library research products, teacher resources, homework help, on-line field trips, standards information, and on-line tutoring services.
- A gift of \$125,000 from an anonymous donor has increased the Education

Programs endowment. Income from the endowment, which is now more than \$1.4 million, helps support all of the Center’s Education Programs.

- A two-year grant of \$60,000 from GlaxoSmithKline will help the Education Programs continue to test a new model of professional development for teachers. The new program merges the summer institutes for high school teachers held at the Center with the Teacher Leadership for Professional Development Program, which helps teachers design rigorous seminars in their own schools with the help of the Center’s staff and faculty from nearby colleges and universities. GlaxoSmithKline’s gift will support teachers from North Carolina who participate in the new program, which the Center launched last summer.

Number of Hits to *TeacherServe*[®] Web Site

www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/tserve/tserve.htm





In April 1999, the composer **T.J. Anderson** premiered “Huh! What Did You Say?”—the first piece of music composed during a fellowship at the National Humanities Center. Anderson’s new work, “Slip-Knot,” is another first—an opera inspired by one of the Center’s public lectures.

“Slip-Knot,” with music by Anderson (Fellow 1996–97) and a libretto by Yusef Komunyakaa, had its genesis on March 14, 1996, when Anderson attended a talk by **Timothy H. Breen** (Fellow 1983–84, ’95–96), William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University and a leading scholar of colonial America. After the question and answer session, Breen recalls, audience members were invited to the Center’s Point Lounge for further discussion. “A tall, well-dressed African American man approached me and said, ‘With your permission, I would like to turn your lecture into a full-length opera.’ I was astounded.”

“Making History: The Force of Public Opinion and the Last Years of Slavery in Revolutionary Massachusetts” might not sound like a title that would summon the musical muse. What captured Anderson’s imagination was Breen’s account of the life and death of Arthur, a slave who was hanged in Massachusetts in 1767 for the rape of a white woman.

Arthur’s story survives only in a four-

From Paper to Opera:

T.J. Anderson and Tim Breen Collaborate on “Slip-Knot”

column broadside published in 1768 under the title, “The Life and Dying Speech of Arthur, a Negro Man,” transcribed—and possibly embellished for religious effect—by the leading Congregational minister of Worcester, Mass. While he was almost certainly innocent of the crime for which he was hanged—Breen calls his death a “judicial execution”—Arthur’s adventures read like a dime novel, or perhaps a comic opera: petty theft, escapes to sea, sexual escapades with white and Indian women, fistfights with cuckolded husbands, and much strong drink.

Once their collaboration began, it took a year for Anderson and Breen to find Komunyakaa, who is Professor of the Council of the Humanities and Creative Writing at Princeton University and a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, but had never written for opera. The libretto took a year to write, and Anderson spent the following two years composing the score. In the meantime, Breen helped search for the financial backing that would bring “Slip-Knot” to the stage. The Dean of Northwestern’s School of Music, Bernard Dobrowski, became Arthur’s angel. “Northwestern picked up the ball,” Breen says. “They had the wonderful vision to see that this highly unusual collaboration across disciplines, involving a white historian and two African Americans, a poet and a pure composer, could amount to something.”

The resulting work reflects the strengths of the two artists, Breen says. “Komunyakaa is shy, reflective, and scholarly. His libretto is what he is; it’s a very poetical piece of work, haunting and lyrical.” The music, too, is typical Anderson, Breen says, modernist, demanding, and extremely experimental. Despite the 18th-century setting, Anderson adds, the work is not a restoration project. “I set it in a 21st-century style,” he says, “and Yusef recreated the story in a way that made sense to his creativity.”

Many people have asked Breen what it is like to watch a scholarly paper alchemize into opera. “Early on, T.J. took me aside and told me that what happens to Arthur in the opera won’t necessarily be what I wrote,” he says, “but that I should be happy I provided an inspiration—and that I would recognize it.” Komunyakaa’s inventions are fine with Breen. “Art has to grow and change,” he says. “It’s not for me to put a lock on Arthur’s story.”

The importance of Arthur’s story, Anderson says, lies in its focus on an unknown, nearly forgotten man who nonetheless played a role in the transformation of a new nation. “Tim is one of the leading writers of a historical perspective that focuses on little people and their contribution to history,” Anderson says. “You have the big names and they tell the story, but that’s not the whole story. The whole story is that little people ferment things. And Arthur fermented a change. He steals, he drinks, he does all the things people shouldn’t do, but at the same time he becomes a catalyst for the change from slave state to free state, because of the injustice of the way he was treated.”

Arthur’s social fluidity also intrigued Anderson. “People think of segregation as it became institutionalized, not as it existed at the time,” he says. “There is a big difference. What you have in colonial Massachusetts is associations among many peoples—white, Indian, and black. People automatically think of segregation and slavery, but Arthur had an association with a whole lot of people who weren’t black. This isn’t the typical opera about a black man struggling against slavery. It is more than a black man. It’s the struggle for independence for the United States from Britain. It’s also the struggle of class and sexism.”

“Slip-Knot” will have its premiere at Northwestern next fall, with a set designed by the artist Richard Hunt.



Not Just Waiting for Plato

“Be careful what you ask for,” warns **Patricia Kenig Curd** (Research Triangle Foundation Walter Hines Page Fellow 2001–02). That’s the watchword for historians of the Presocratic philosophers, who long for more and yet wonder if the next discovery will change everything.

For the first semester of the 2001–02 academic year, Curd, a professor of philosophy at Purdue University, was in residence at the National Humanities Center, working on a translation of and commentary on the fragments and *testimonia* of Anaxagoras of Clazomenae. Anaxagoras was likely the first member of the so-called Presocratics—the early Greek philosophers who preceded Plato—to settle in Athens. He was also the first philosopher to go afoul of the authorities there, being charged with impiety and forced to flee.

Their name may suggest they were sitting around waiting for Socrates to appear, but the Presocratics were actually quite exciting, Curd insists with her customary enthusiasm. “The people I’m interested in were the first people in Western thought, as far as we know, to try to give systematic rational explanations to the phenomena—the world—around us,” she explains, “and to try and give these explanations of the world in terms of the world itself rather than looking at an extra-natural or supernatural explanation.” Interested in everything “from the surface of the earth up and

the surface of the earth down,” she says, the Presocratics “tried to explain it all.”

As with all scholars of the Presocratics, Curd is limited to the available evidence—in Anaxagoras’ case, roughly 22 fragments, or quotations believed to be from the philosopher’s own book, and about 27 pages of *testimonia*, or reports by other philosophers about his work. Although his discussion of “Nous,” mind, is the longest surviving piece of pre-Platonic philosophical prose—“which sort of gives me goose bumps when I think about it,” Curd says—the record is scant. Hence the admonition to be careful about expressing your desires.

“All of us who work with the Presocratics have found ourselves saying, ‘Just four more words, I would sell my soul for four more words,’” she says. Should they turn up, however, those four words might undermine everything; worse yet, they might only cloud the picture further. “An interesting thing happened with Empedocles, who was probably fairly contemporary with Anaxagoras,” she notes. “More Empedocles did turn up; they found 60 new lines in a previously unreconstructed and uninterpreted papyrus in Strasbourg. It didn’t help very much. It solved some problems and raised a number of new ones.”

One of the existing fragments of Anaxagoras’ work consists of five words. The representations of the philosopher’s thought in the *testimonia* are not always

reliable. And there hasn’t been—until now—a good English translation of what does exist. Nonetheless, for Curd, the joys of taking on the challenges outweigh the frustrations. “The dirty secret about this is that it is fun. I tell my students when we deal with these things that it is like doing a jigsaw puzzle with no picture on the box and an unknown number of pieces missing. The question is what do you make of it. I’m trying to give a rational reconstruction of Anaxagoras’ thought.”

During the spring semester Curd will take her jigsaw puzzle with her to Clare Hall in Cambridge, where, she says, she will be among a group of scholars of ancient philosophy who are happy to listen to new ideas about old philosophers. “It is important when you are in philosophy to be able to have someone say, ‘What? That sounds wrong. Go think about that again.’” Though working in Cambridge will be a blessing, it is another example of the need to be careful what you ask for, Curd notes, because she has to leave North Carolina a semester before her colleagues in the class of 2001–02. “Being at the Center is like being handed the most wonderful gift,” she says.

The quality and enthusiasm of the other Fellows has impressed Curd, as has the opportunity to test ideas on the Center’s Director—she calls Bob Connor “the white-haired gentleman who is a student of the 5th century who has been a great help to me.” She also has enjoyed mingling with the friends of the Center over lunch and dinner: “It is thrilling to me to meet people to whom the response, ‘I do ancient Greek philosophy’ is not the end of the conversation but the beginning.” Curd promises to be back from England for the traditional year-end party with Fellows and staff.

What They Were Reading

In the days following September 11, the media reported scattered demographic indicators of a national emergency: Church attendance was up, as were sales of alcohol and cigarettes. Amazon.com couldn't keep books on Islam in stock. Also on the rise, for the first time in recent memory, were sales of poetry volumes, as readers sought comfort, reassurance, and wisdom in verse. With that increase in mind, *News of the National Humanities Center* asked several people associated with the Center what they were reading in the days following the attack on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Here's what they reported:

Allen Buchanan (John G. Medlin, Jr., Fellow) says, "I found myself going back to the just war tradition literature—in fact, there is a book edited by a recent Fellow of the Center, **Jean Elshtain** [Lilly Endowment Fellow in Religion and the Humanities 2000–01], *Just War Theory: Readings in Social and Political Theory* [New York University Press, 1991]." Buchanan also recommends Yossef Bodansky's *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America* (Prima, 2001) and *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*, by David Fromkin (Owl Books, 2001) about the power struggles that gave rise to the modern Middle East.

Director **Bob Connor** turned to a 2000–01 Lily Fellow for suggested readings. "**Muhammad Zaman** recommended to me R. Stephen Humphrey's *Between Memory and Desire: The Middle East in a Troubled Age* (University of California Press, 2001) and *The Koran* in the Penguin edition (Penguin USA, 2000). I also went back and reread books III and IV of Arrian's *Anabasis*, his history of Alexander's journey through what is now Afghanistan."

Andrew Delbanco (Trustee, Fellow 1990–91) writes, "After September 11, I found myself reading *Crime and Punishment* and *The Possessed*, and found myself amazed at the prescience with which Dostoevsky portrayed the fanatic mind, with its ability to rationalize acts of cruelty under the name of justice."

Joel Elliott (Humanities Information Technology Specialist) also returned to Dostoevsky, especially the passage in *The Brothers Karamazov* entitled "Rebellion." Elliott, a doctoral candidate in religious studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as the Center's computer guru, also cited two passages from Nietzsche: "Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And when you look long into an abyss, the abyss also looks into you," from *Beyond Good and Evil*, Number 146; and "Is it not your piety itself that no longer lets you believe in a god?" from *Also Sprach Zarathustra*.

Gerald Early (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow 2001–02) reports finding comfort in the King James Bible in the days after September, and gaining a new appreciation for James Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son*, particularly its insights into Americans in relation to the rest of the world. Early also listened to the trumpeter Miles Davis and the pianist Keith Jarrett. Of Davis he says, "His music has always spoken to me since I was a boy but particularly when I feel troubled or confused. Even now, I like to go to his music and really, deeply listen, because there is such a lyrical beauty in his playing, but also an intense sense of experience and pain, probably because Davis was such a troubling and troubled man himself. It is not peace this music gives me but the affirmation that we must go on."

Kent Mullikin (Deputy Director) reports, "I have been reading Phillip Hitti's classic *History of the Arabs* and V.S. Naipaul's *Among the Believers* [Random House, 1982]. Both highly recommended."

Marianne Wason (Assistant Director of Education Programs) was preparing for a trip to France when the attacks took place. "I went into several European newspapers' web sites to get their perspectives. To my surprise (at that point in early October) I found that everything was 9/11, Afghanistan, and anthrax. Even the French newspapers delegated the deadly 9/16 Toulouse factory explosion to the back pages. As I write this in the winter, I am surprised that it was a surprise, but it was." Wason also reports relying on the *New Yorker* for a "mandatory post-9/11 catch-up course on the Middle East and Islamic/ist fundamentalism."

News of the National Humanities Center

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Kudos A sampling of good news from our Trustees and Fellows

K. Anthony Appiah (Trustee; Andrew W. Mellon Fellow 1990–91) has joined the faculty of Princeton University, where he will hold appointments in the department of philosophy and the Center for Human Values, which is engaged in the broad study of ethics. A native of Ghana who holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, Appiah has been a member of the faculty at Harvard University since 1991.

An article by **John P. Birkelund** (Chairman of the Board of Trustees), “Doing Good While Doing Well,” appears in *Foreign Affairs* 80.

Trustees **Caroline Walker Bynum** and **Kirk Varnedoe** have accepted permanent faculty positions at the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. Bynum will hold a chair in medieval European history; Varnedoe accepted a chair in art history in January.

Gerald Early (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow 2001–02) has been nominated for a Grammy award for writing the liner notes to a CD box set, *Rhapsodies in Black: Music and Words From the Harlem Renaissance*. The nomination is Early’s second.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has selected **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** (Fellow 1988–90) to deliver the 31st annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, the federal government’s highest individual honor for scholars in the humanities. Gates is the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University and Chairman of Harvard’s Afro-American studies department.

William T. Golden (Trustee Emeritus) received the 2001 Scholar-Patriot Award for Distinguished Service, presented by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his central contributions to U.S. science policy and his half-century of public and private leadership.

Duke University Press has published *The Hauerwas Reader*, edited by John Berkman and Michael G. Cartwright, a collection of scholarly papers about ethics,

narrative, and the postmodern condition by **Stanley Hauerwas** (Fellow 1992–93).

President Bush has appointed **Leon Kass** (Fellow 1984–85) to head the President’s Council on Bioethics. Kass is professor of social thought at the University of Chicago.

A new book, *Historians and Ideologues: Essays in Honor of Donald R. Kelley*, edited by Anthony T. Grafton and J. H. M. Salmon (University of Rochester Press, 2001), pays tribute to the recently retired **Kelley** (Fellow 1984–85). The volume includes essays by **Sarah Hanley** (Fellow 1990–91) and **Perez Zagorin** (Fellow 1978–79).

Ohio State University has conferred its Distinguished Scholar Award on **John N. King** (Fellow 1997–98). King is professor of English at the university.

Gladys Engel Lang and **Kurt Lang** report new editions of two books, including the book project that occupied them during 1983–84 fellowships at the Center. *Etched in Memory: The Building and Survival of Artistic Reputation* (University of Illinois Press, 2001) has been updated with a new introduction on American women etchers; and *Politics and Television*, first published in 1968, appears with a new introduction in the Classics in Communications Research series (Transaction Publishers, 2001).

Martin V. Melosi (Fellow 1982–83) reports the publication of two books: *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), and *Effluent America: Cities, Industry, Energy, and the Environment* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2001). *The Sanitary City* was awarded the American Society for Environmental History’s George Perkins Marsh Prize for the best book in environmental history for 2000; the Abel Wolman Prize of the Public Works Historical Society for the best book in public works history for 2000; and the Urban History Association Prize for the best book in North American urban history for 2000.

Each year the Times Literary Supplement asks writers to select the books that impressed them most during the previous year. In the 2001 “International Books of the Year” issue, Jonathan Lear named **Richard Moran**’s (Fellow 1994–95) *Authority and Estrangement: An Essay on Self-knowledge* (Princeton University Press, 2001). Lear calls it “an elegant book about a funny feature of human life which people tend to take for granted: I seem to know my own mind in a way that I can’t know yours.”

William M. Moore, Jr. (Trustee) is serving as interim president of MCNC (formerly the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina). MCNC, the National Humanities Center’s neighbor on Research Triangle Park’s TUCASI campus, wired the Center with fiber optic cable for Internet service.

Alexander Nehamas (Trustee 1996–99) is one of the first five recipients of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s new distinguished achievement award for scholarship in the humanities. The awards, worth up to \$1.5 million each, are given to the honorees through their institutions, which administer the funds. Nehamas, professor of philosophy and comparative literature at Princeton, was honored for his contributions to understanding classical and modern philosophy.

Isidore Okpewho (Fellow 1997–98) has received the Doctor of Literature degree from the University of London, the university’s highest academic degree in the humanities, given upon review by the university of key publications in a specialized field by candidates who have previously earned a degree from the university. Okpewho has also published two books: *Once Upon a Kingdom: Myth, Hegemony,*

and Identity (Indiana University Press, 1998), and *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities*, coedited with C.B. Davies and A.A. Mazrui (Indiana University Press, 1999).

Gunther Peck (NEH Fellow 2001–02) has won three awards for his book *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West, 1880–1930* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). They are: The Ray Allen Billington Prize from the Organization of American Historians, given biennially to the best book in frontier history; The Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, from the American Historical Association, for the best first book by a historian west of the Mississippi; and The Taft Labor History Prize for the best book in U.S. labor history.

In Memoriam

Geoffrey Blodgett (Fellow 1980–81) died on November 16, 2001, after a long struggle with cancer. Blodgett was Robert S. Danforth Professor Emeritus of History at Oberlin College, where he taught from 1960 until his retirement in 2000.

John W. Cell (Fellow 1988–89) died on October 26, 2001. Cell was a professor of history at Duke University, where he served on the faculty for 36 years. At the Center, he wrote *Hailey: A Study in British Imperialism, 1872–1969* (Cambridge University Press, 1992).

John D'Arms (Trustee) died on January 21 of brain cancer. D'Arms was a classicist whose work focused on the history of ancient Roman cities, culture, and society. From 1997 until his death, he was president of the American Council of Learned Societies, a nonprofit federation of 64 scholarly organizations. Prior to joining the Council, he held several posts at the University of Michigan from 1965 to 1997, including professor of classics,

Ronald Sharp (Fellow 1986–87) has coedited two books since *The Norton Book of Friendship*, coedited with Eudora Welty (Norton, 1991), which he worked on during his fellowship year: *Reading George Steiner*, with Nathan Scott (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995) and *The Persistence of Poetry: Bicentennial Essays on Keats*, with Robert Ryan (University of Massachusetts Press, 1998). Sharp is John Crowe Ransom Professor of English at Kenyon College, where he also serves as Provost.

D. Vance Smith (NEH Fellow 1998–99) has received tenure in Princeton University's department of English.

John C. Whitehead (Former Trustee) chairs the commission charged with the rebuilding of lower Manhattan.

vice provost for academic affairs, and dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. As president of the ACLS, D'Arms was credited with leading the effort to enlarge and strengthen its prestigious fellowship program for scholars. In recent years, several of the National Humanities Center's younger Fellows have been recipients of the Council's Burkhardt Fellowships.

Charles Segal (Fellow 1993–94), Walter C. Klein Professor of the Classics at Harvard University, died January 1 after a long struggle with cancer. He was 65. Segal, whose scholarly career spanned almost four decades, specialized in the interpretation of Greek tragedy, Greek and Roman epic and lyric poetry, and the role of contemporary criticism in the study of classical literature. At the time of his death, he was completing a book on Ovid's "Metamorphoses," with a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Recent Books by Fellows

Cole, Jennifer (Fellow 1997–98). *Forget Colonialism?: Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar*. Ethnographic Studies in Subjectivity, 1. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

French, John D. (Fellow 1995–96). *Afogados em leis: A CLT e a cultura política dos trabalhadores brasileiros*. Translated by Paulo Fontes. História do povo brasileiro. São Paulo: Fundação Perseu Abramo, 2001.

Longino, Michèle (Fellow 1997–98). *Orientalism in French Classical Drama*. Cambridge Studies in French, 69. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Moran, Richard (Fellow 1994–95). *Authority and Estrangement: An Essay on Self-Knowledge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Popkin, Jeremy D. (Fellow 2000–01). *Press, Revolution, and Social Identities in France, 1830–1835*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.

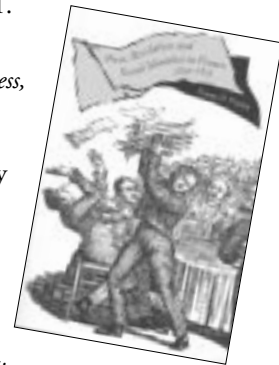
Reddy, William M. (Fellow 1995–96). *The Navigation of Feeling: A Framework for the History of Emotions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Rogers, Eugene F., Jr. (Fellow 1998–99), ed. *Theology and Sexuality: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2002.

Röhl, John C. G. (Fellow 1997–98). *Wilhelm II: Der Aufbau der Persönlichen Monarchie, 1888–1900*. Munich: C. H. Beck, 2001.

Taylor, Timothy D. (Fellow 1999–2000). *Strange Sounds: Music, Technology and Culture*. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Tucker, Herbert F. (Fellow 2000–01). *Victorian Literature, 1830–1900*. By Dorothy Mermin and Herbert F. Tucker. Fort Worth: Harcourt College Publishers, 2002.



Early *continued from page 2*

Frank Sinatra Reader. I thought Davis would be as interesting to the public because he was the only black guy in the Rat Pack and because he was unusual. He lost one of his eyes in an automobile accident. He converted to Judaism. He married a white woman at a time—the 1960s—when that was a very nonconformist thing to do, very dangerous. And he was also known as the world’s greatest entertainer. He probably came on television more than any other black person in history. During his heyday in the ’50s and ’60s, he was unquestionably one of the three or four most famous black people in the United States.

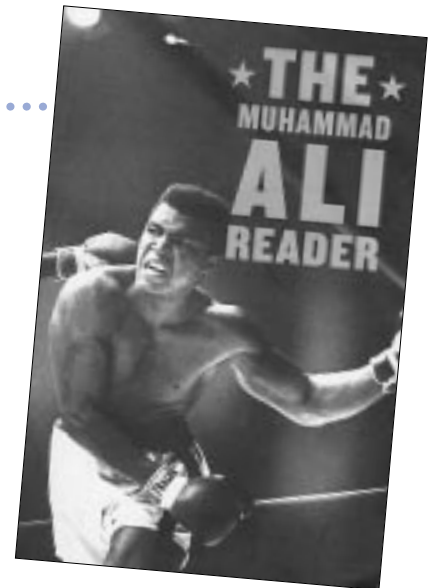
In addition to *The Sammy Davis Reader*, you have edited collections of essays on race in America, Muhammad Ali, and boxing. What draws you to the essay form and who are some of the essayists who most influenced you or impressed you?

I would say the essayists I most admire are James Baldwin, George Orwell, Virginia Wolf, Stanley Crouch, Henry James. I would say William Hazlitt impressed me when I was younger, as did the music criticism of George Bernard Shaw. I also like Norman Mailer. Another person who had a big influence on me was Ralph Ellison. The way Ralph Ellison wrote essays, at a certain point in my life I really wanted to write essays like that. William James is my hero, as essayists go. I have always been drawn to the essay because I think it is a wonderfully elastic form. You can do anything with it. You can be intensely intellectual or you can be intensely personal. You can mix both to form a particular type of passionate writing. The essay is a form that gives you an opportunity to do something, much more so than an academic article, in that you can actually try to write something to move people, to inspire people. To be a good essayist you have to think not like an academic necessarily, you have to think like a cre-

ative writer. The other thing I like about an essay is that it’s a piece of writing that can be read in one sitting. So in writing and editing essays over the years I have been driven partly by an academic urge to unearth stuff and bring it to light. It is archeological and a way of arranging knowledge in a certain way and presenting it to people. I think those urges are academic. But some of it is purely literary—the way you use language, the way you invent characters.

In the introduction to *Lure and Loathing*, a collection of essays on race, identity, and assimilation, you write about the contradictory assertions that America is a free country and that nothing is or has ever been free, and how those contradictions summarize the experience of African Americans.

I think that what attracted me to thinking about African Americans and their impact on American life has been largely looking at the paradox of America as a free country and advertising itself as a free country when there really is no freedom, only various forms of compulsion. I do not dispute that America is a free country. I believe



America is a free country, as we understand citizens being able to have the right to do certain kinds of things with their lives on their own terms and to engage their governments in certain ways that many people in the world cannot do. So when I say America is a free country, I am being neither cynical nor ironic. I believe it to be true. On the other hand, I believe that freedom is an elusive thing. I believe that America is a country where there’s nothing really free.

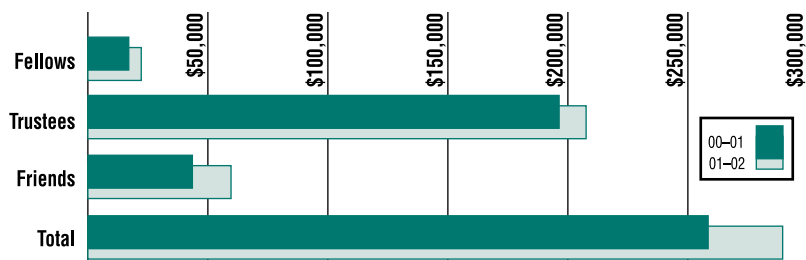
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Annual Giving on Track at Mid-Year

Gifts by individuals to the National Humanities Center totaled \$289,494 from July 1 through December 31, 2001. The Center is more than halfway to its goal of \$520,000 for the fiscal year

2001–02, which ends on June 30. A comparison of giving by Fellows, Trustees, and other friends of the Center at the end of the last two calendar years appears below.

Annual Giving by Constituency



Early *continued from page 10*

You pay for everything. You try not to pay too dearly. So I think that contradiction of freedom versus a kind of fatalism, or freedom versus necessity, or freedom versus a set of limitations that just come with human life, with human stupidity, with human evil, is what really interests me about America—and how Americans, and particularly African Americans, negotiate that contradiction. I'm only

driven slightly by the fact that I myself am an African American. I'm driven more by the fact that African Americans are interesting because they lived for a long time in a country that professes itself to be free and they weren't free. So I'm assuming that this gave them a very interesting view about the country. It gave them a profoundly interesting view about freedom and about what freedom is.

Events at the National Humanities Center, Winter 2002

January–February

North Carolina Quilts

Janice Maddox, Asheville; Gail Greene, Hillsborough

March – May

New Works by Michael Houston, New York

Thursday, March 7
5:00 p.m.

The Traffic in White Slavery: Ideas and People in Motion

by Gunther Peck, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and Associate Professor of History, University of Texas, Austin

Thursday, April 4
5:00 p.m.

House Proud: The British and Their Possessions by

Deborah Cohen, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and Assistant Professor of History, American University

Thursday, May 2
6:00 p.m.

Picnic Concert by the North Carolina School of the Arts Jazz Quintet

7 Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 919-549-0661 www.nhc.rtp.nc.us

These events, free and open to the public, are supported by the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Educational and Cultural Outreach Endowment Fund.



Two Fellows will help the Levine Museum of the New South launch two new exhibits about Victorian life in the vicinity of Charlotte, North Carolina, where the museum is located. On April 30, Deborah Cohen (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow) and Nicholas Frankel (Allen W. Clowes Fellow) will talk about Victorian traditions to friends of the museum who have come to see the exhibits, “Carolina Victorian” and “Vanishing Victorians.” The Center will hire a bus to take friends of the Center from Research Triangle Park to Charlotte and back. For more information, contact Virginia Guilfoile at 919-549-0661 or vrguilfo@unity.ncsu.edu.

Late Arriving Fellows Welcomed

Two new Fellows have joined the class of 2001–02 for the spring semester. Sylvia Berryman (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow), who teaches philosophy at Ohio State University, is writing a book called *Attraction and the “Power of the Void.”*

Donald Debats (NEH Fellow) comes from Flinders University of South Australia to work on his book, *Voting Together: Political Worlds in Nineteenth-Century North America.*

The Center welcomes them and bids a fond farewell to Pat Curd (Research Triangle Foundation Walter Hines Page Fellow), who left Research Triangle Park after the fall semester for a term at Cambridge.



SYLVIA BERRYMAN



DONALD DEBATS

In the next *News of the National Humanities Center*

In the next *News of the National Humanities Center*: The first Lyman Award winner is revealed; Thomas Brady discusses Germany during the Reformation; Deborah Cohen explains the fine line running from the Victorians to Martha Stewart; Sean McCann probes the anti-liberal imagination; and much, much more.