

# NEWS

of the National Humanities Center



## Back to Oxford: Tim Tyson on *Blood Done Sign My Name*

Director's Column	2
Fourth Lyman Award Given	3
Women of the Web	4
Trustees Match Challenge	5
New Trustees and Chairman	6
Interview: Francis Oakley	7
Summer 2005 Reading List	8
Poet Piotr Sommer	9
Recent Books by Fellows	10
Featured Book	11
2005–06 Fellows Named	11
In the Next <i>News</i>	13
Kudos	14
In Memoriam	15

*On a chilly Thursday evening in February, more than two hundred people packed the National Humanities Center to hear Timothy Tyson (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow) deliver a public lecture, "Miss Amy's Witness: Why the History of the Civil Rights Movement Is (Mostly) Wrong." Miss Amy's story is part of Blood Done Sign My Name, Tyson's account of the murder of a young black man in Oxford, North Carolina, in 1970 and the racial conflagrations that followed in its wake. The book was selected as the 2005 Summer Reading Program selection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, named a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award, and hailed as a masterful, passionate story—part memoir, part history, part detective story. In a recent interview, Tyson, who was the ten-year-old son of a Methodist minister in Oxford when the events he describes in Blood Done Sign My Name took place, talked about his recent bestseller, the book he planned to write this past year, and the book he began instead.*

You planned to write a reexamination of the black freedom movement from the turn of the twentieth century into the 1970s, but you have spent this year writing a different book, a hybrid of family memoir and historical novel that revolves around an attempted lynching and the 1948 presidential election. What were the real-life events that set the story in motion?

Dorothy Allen Bryant, eighteen, a blonde-haired, blue-eyed beauty queen of Rich Square, North Carolina, is on her way home from the movie theater in

1948. She tiptoes down a dark alley and just about steps on Godwin Bush, a twenty-five-year-old World War II veteran sitting against the wall waiting for a friend. It startles her. She screams, he runs, she runs. Nobody touches anybody. He gets arrested for attempted rape. At 2:00 a.m., her kinsmen raise a mob to come to the jail and drag him out. They stuff him in the back seat of the car and roar off toward the swamp. He pops the latch on the door and rolls

*continued on page 12*



## From the President and Director

I don't spend much time dwelling on my past newsletter columns, but I did so this past February, when, trying to kill a couple of hours in New York, I wandered over to Central Park. I found myself amid vast crowds of excited people, most of whom had cameras and smiles on their faces. This was the brief moment of the Gates, and thousands of people had come out for the experience. And I recalled writing in the newsletter a year ago about serendipity, the term that describes those occasions when what seem to be chance circumstances produce creative events—the overheard comment that illuminates everything, the book that falls open to precisely the page you need. What better example of serendipity could there be, I asked myself, than this unscheduled encounter with public ecstasy?

In fact, the serendipity factor was even deeper than I first realized. For the key point about serendipity is that the happy event happens as if by chance. After all, you had somehow gotten in a position to overhear that comment, the book was nearby, and, in general, you had prepared yourself to receive the "chance" stimulus. Serendipity can be planned; one can create the conditions in which events of an unspecified good kind are likely to occur. Thinking about serendipity on this occasion was itself serendipitous, because the time I happened to be killing was the time before a meeting of the Center's Planning Committee. If you're going to be planning, it's useful to think about serendipity.

In a future newsletter, I will say more about this committee's ongoing deliberations. Chaired by Carl Pforzheimer and including Bud Baker, Pauline Yu, Drew Faust, Bill Moore, Frank Oakley, Andrew Delbanco, Steven



Marcus, Colin Palmer, and Herbert Winokur, this group has been

tasked with charting the next phase of the Center's development. But I can say now that we are trying not just to construct specific plans, but also to create the conditions under which good things can happen that we don't anticipate.

In any planning process involving a complex organization, you must try not only to see the future and make it happen, but also to make it possible for the organization to discover and create itself in ways you couldn't have planned. You have to think in the future perfect tense, trying to create conditions that will be seen to have been perfect for the emergence of some good result whose exact form was not anticipated.


The history of the Center illustrates the process. In the beginning, the Center was centered on the fellowship program and the concept of advanced study, and little thought was given to precollegiate education. But at some point, it became apparent that the growing cadre of former fellows constituted a resource, a wealth of talent and experience that could be deployed to some purpose other than the furtherance of their own careers (precious as those were, and are); and precollegiate education emerged as the purpose for which they, and the Center, were best suited. We began to run summer seminars for teachers, led by our fellows. There was, in other words, a moment—which extended over several years—when it became apparent that,

in planning for a fellowship program, the founders of the Center had also created the basis for a program in professional development for teachers.

Then, many years later, Richard Schramm, our vice president for education programs, recognized that, serendipitously, while he was perfecting the art of professional development for a handful of teachers, the world had changed, and computer technology and the Web now made it possible to create resources that could be made available to one and all. Thus was born the *TeacherServe*® archive and the "toolbox," an interlaced collection of texts, images, and pedagogical aids that can be used to create professional development seminars. This summer, over 250 teachers in five states will be using the Center's growing library of toolboxes, and the Center is recognized as a national leader in this important field.

We can envision quite clearly a bright and rapidly expanding future for our programs in education. But we must also plan for the future we cannot envision, and one way to do this is to imagine ourselves five years from now, looking back at the present moment. What will appear as blindingly obvious to us then that we cannot quite bring into focus now? What will have turned out to be serendipitous—a fortuitous gateway, or Gate, to the future?

If all goes well, we should be able to look back on this moment—including, perhaps, this very newsletter column—as an occasion when an institution dedicated to the vitality of the past turned itself to the future, welcoming it in all its uncertainty. In fact, I look forward to it.





## Innovator in Electronic Scholarly Publishing Receives 2005 Richard W. Lyman Award

John M. Unsworth is the 2005 recipient of the Richard W. Lyman Award, presented by the National Humanities Center to recognize scholars who have advanced humanistic scholarship and teaching through the innovative use of information technology. Unsworth accepted his award on May 10 in a ceremony at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

His peers in the digital humanities field describe Unsworth, who is dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as both visionary and selfless, a leader with a gift for collaboration.

“John Unsworth,” says James O’Donnell, provost of Georgetown University and chair of the Lyman Award selection committee, “was a pioneer in the early ’90s and remains a pioneer today. He has done more than any other single individual to make it possible for others to do rich and original work in the humanities that draws on the best of current technology and the best of current scholarship.”

Noting both Unsworth’s scholarship and his leadership, Stanley N. Katz, professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, and president emeritus of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), says “John has in many ways been the crucial institutional player in the development of the digital humanities in the United States over the past decade.”

“Receiving the Lyman Award means a great deal to me,” says Unsworth. “This time around, the award is being given for work that, in an earlier era, might

have been considered service rather than research—but, in fact, we have much research to do in learning how to collaborate, publish, and do scholarship on the network, in new media.”

Soon after completing his doctoral studies in English at the University of Virginia in 1988, Unsworth was already defining the brand new field of digital humanities scholarship. In 1990, he co-founded *Postmodern Culture*, the first peer-reviewed electronic journal in the humanities.

engaged in building the future, not merely spectators at the event.”

Conceived as a laboratory for humanities scholars interested in exploring and expanding the potential of information technology as a tool for humanities research, IATH “has been an important force in the field of digital scholarship,” says William G. Thomas, associate professor of history and director of the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.

Braced by both the intellectual and



Greeters, Presenters, and Honoree: James O’Donnell; former Rockefeller Foundation Chair Alice Stone Ilchman; John Unsworth; Newberry Library Vice President for Research and Education James Grossman; Center President and Director Geoffrey Harpham; and MacArthur Fellows Program Director Daniel Socolow

Three years later he became the first director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) at the University of Virginia, a project that reflects his long-held belief that “those with a critical interest in the emergence of new media should be practically

technological infrastructure of Thomas Jefferson’s university, IATH thrived under Unsworth’s leadership. During his ten-year tenure, IATH developed such groundbreaking digital projects as the Walt Whitman Archive, the Dante Gabriel Rossetti Archive, The Valley of the Shadow, and the William Blake Archive.

Robert Bireley (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow 1998–99) and James McNulty chat at the reception honoring John Unsworth.



In his most recent research projects, Unsworth continues to be guided by the collaborative spirit that defines his mark on the digital humanities. Working with others, Unsworth has recently produced *A Companion to Digital Humanities* (Blackwell, 2004), which provides the first comprehensive overview of humanities computing, and *Electronic Textual Editing* (forthcoming, 2005), which presents practical advice from editors of electronic editions along with guidelines

*continued on page 13*

---

## Women of the Web

Throughout much of the winter and early spring, Marianne Wason and Linda Morgan (pictured at right) sent each other more than eighty e-mail messages a day. They aren't corresponding quite as frequently now that they have completed the next Teacher Professional Development Program's toolbox, "The Gilded and the Gritty: America, 1870–1912," which was about to be uploaded onto the recently revised and upgraded website of the National Humanities Center as this publication went to press.

Wason, assistant director of education programs, and Morgan, website administrator, have been working together at the National Humanities Center for almost a decade—"The Gilded and the Gritty" is the fourth toolbox they have added to the Center's website. The Center's staff collaborates with alumni fellows and lead teachers to create these online resources, which contain historical documents, literary texts, works of art, and discussion questions. Teachers,

collaborating with local scholars, use the toolboxes to custom-design their own local professional development seminars.

Morgan has worked at the Center since 1983, holding several positions before becoming website administrator in 1994. Wason joined the staff in 1997. Together, they are committed to making the toolboxes as user-friendly as possible. Early in her professional life, Wason taught American history, and she is always thinking about how busy teachers can most easily access and use the toolbox resources. As technology changes, she and Morgan have been especially concerned with making materials easy to print, converting older materials into a more user-friendly "PDF" format.

In addition to the toolbox library, Morgan and Wason are the design team behind *TeacherServe*<sup>®</sup>, an interactive curriculum enrichment service for teachers. At present *TeacherServe*<sup>®</sup> has two instructional guides, "Divining America: Religion and the National Culture" and "Nature Transformed: The Environment



in American History." Both include essays by leading scholars, content overviews, discussion guides—and bibliographies. *TeacherServe*<sup>®</sup> may be the most invisible product of the Center's education programs, but it has the greatest online visibility. In January 2005, for instance, the site received more than 38,000 unique visits. While few people understand the details of Morgan and Wason's work, the tremendous feedback they receive from users of these sites assures them that their attention to detail and concern for the end-user is much appreciated.

To learn more about the Center's education programs, and to see its newly redesigned website, visit [www.nhc.rtp.nc.us](http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us).



The Center's trustees honored John Birkelund at their fall meeting for a dozen years of outstanding service, the past eight as chairman of the board. On Thursday afternoon, November 4, five of the scholars who have held the John

P. Birkelund Senior Fellowship spoke at a conference held in his honor, "The Old Europe and the New." That evening, the trustees announced that they had contributed \$150,000 to the Center's endowment to name the space at the north end of the Center's Commons the John P. Birkelund Lounge. The honoree (far right) appears below with Birkelund Fellows Roger Chickering, Bernard Wasserstein, Thomas Brady, Randolph Starn, and Thomas Laqueur. Conference moderator Francis Oakley stands between Wasserstein and Brady.



Trustee Sally Robinson, shown here at the April board of trustees meeting with Vice President for Education Programs Richard Schramm, hosted a luncheon in Charlotte that raised nearly \$20,000 to support a summer seminar for Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school teachers. The seminar was based on the Center's online seminar toolbox "The Making of African American Identity" and was supported by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, the Duke Energy Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Wachovia Foundation, and Robinson herself.



### Trustees Match \$1 Million Challenge

Members of the board of trustees of the National Humanities Center have pledged more than \$1.2 million in new endowment funds to exceed a \$1 million challenge from an anonymous donor.

The nearly \$2.3 million in gifts and pledges raised through the challenge is part of an ongoing effort to build an endowment reserved for the Center's education programs, which primarily serve high school teachers of history and literature.

"We are very grateful to our anonymous donor, and to our trustees for meeting this challenge," said Geoffrey Harpham, president and director. "They recognize the importance of our education programs to teachers and students and have made an investment that will ensure that these programs continue to thrive."

With the addition of the new gifts, the Center's endowment—which also provides support for the Center's fellowship program, public events, and general operating costs—will exceed \$50 million, with more than \$4 million dedicated to its education programs.

The Center's flagship education program is the Teacher Professional Development Program, designed to

improve teaching and learning in American history and literature. At the heart of these programs is a library of "seminar toolboxes." These online resources contain historical documents, literary texts, works of art, and discussion questions with which teachers, collaborating with local scholars, custom design their own local seminars. Eventually the library will span the entire range of typical American history and literature curricula.

"Teachers use our toolboxes to construct seminars that increase their knowledge of American history and literature," said Richard Schramm, vice president for education programs. "They come away with new materials to teach, and new ideas about how to teach them."

The Center recently launched its fourth online toolbox, "The Gilded and the Gritty: America 1870–1912." A fifth, "American Beginnings: America, 1492–1760," will be available in 2006. More than 250 teachers in Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Vermont will use three of the four existing toolboxes to conduct their own seminars this summer.

For more information, visit the Center's website, [www.nhc.rtp.nc.us](http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us).



More than twenty education professionals from Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina convened at the National Humanities Center in March for the second Teacher Professional Development Program training seminar. See the calendar at right for schools that will use the online seminar toolboxes this summer to conduct seminars.



#### Jessie Ball duPont Summer Seminars for Liberal Arts College Faculty

**June 6–June 24** at the National Humanities Center  
**Space: Familiar, Sacred, Contested, Compulsory**

Annabel Wharton (Mellon Fellow 1985–86; Allen W. Clowes Fellow 2002–03), William B. Hamilton Professor of Art and Art History and Director of Graduate Studies, Duke University

#### **Sport, Culture, and Society**

Lewis A. Erenberg (Frank H. Kenan Fellow 2003–04), Professor of History, Loyola University Chicago

#### Summer Institute for High School Teachers of History, Literature, and Art

**June 27–July 8** at the National Humanities Center

#### **American Beginnings: America, 1492–1760**

Emory Elliott (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow 1979–80), University Professor of English, University of California-Riverside; Karen Ordahl Kupperman (Fellow 1984–85), Silver Professor of History, New York University; Maurie McClinnis, Assistant Professor of Art History, University of Virginia

#### Summer Institutes in Literary Studies for College and University Faculty

**July 11–July 15** at the National Humanities Center

#### **Benjamin Franklin: Reader, Writer, Printer**

Peter Stallybrass, Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania

#### **Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy***

Deidre Lynch (Benjamin N. Duke Fellow\* 2000–01), Associate Professor of English, Indiana University

#### SIAS Summer Institutes

**July 25–August 5** at Yale University

#### **The Political: Law, Culture, Theology**

Ulrich Haltern, Professor and Chair of German and European Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Hannover, Germany; Paul W. Kahn, Robert W. Winner Professor of Law and Humanities, Director of the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School

**August 8–August 19** at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

#### **Hierarchy, Marginality, and Ethnicity in Muslim Societies (7th Century to the Second World War)**

Mark R. Cohen, Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University; Gudrun Krämer, Professor of Islamic Studies, Institute for Islamic Studies, Free University, Berlin

#### Professional Development Seminars, Based on Online Seminar Toolboxes

#### **Living the Revolution: America, 1789–1820**

Northwestern Educational Consortium, Thief River Falls, MN

Cleveland County Schools, Shelby, NC

Horry County, Conway, SC

Spaulding High School, Barre, VT

#### **Making of African American Identity: 1865–1917**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools, Charlotte, NC  
Horry County, Conway, SC

#### **The Gilded and the Gritty, America: 1870–1912**

Roanoke Rapids Graded School District,

Roanoke Rapids, NC

University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, NC

## Center Welcomes New Trustees, Chairman

The board of trustees of the National Humanities Center elected five new members at its fall meeting, and named Francis Oakley to succeed John P. Birkelund as chairman.

The new trustees are Richard Brodhead, Frances Ferguson, Thomas J. Scherer, Hedrick Smith, and Robert K. Steel.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome five individuals who collectively have distinguished themselves in the academy, in journalism, and in international finance," said Geoffrey Harpham, the Center's president and director. "We are pleased, too, that in Frank Oakley our board has chosen a successor to John Birkelund who is both a distinguished scholar and an experienced executive. Frank exemplifies the worldly wisdom that characterizes the board as a whole."



Richard Brodhead

Brodhead joins the board as the president of Duke University. Before coming to Duke in July 2004, he was at Yale University for nearly thirty-five years, earning three degrees and becoming a distinguished member of the department of English before being named dean of Yale College in 1993. A specialist in nineteenth-century literature, Brodhead is the author of *The Good of This Place: Values and Challenges in College Education*; *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America*; and *The School of Hawthorne*.

Ferguson, who held the GlaxoSmithKline Senior Fellowship in 2003–04, is the George W. Pullman Professor of English at the University of Chicago, where her teaching and scholarship focuses on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century materials and twentieth-century literary theory. Her books include *Wordsworth: Language as*

*Counter-Spirit; Solitude and the Sublime: Romanticism and the Aesthetics of Individuation*; and *Pornography, the Theory: What Utilitarianism Did to Action*.

Scherer is general counsel and senior managing director at Swiss Re Financial Services Corp., which he joined in 2002 after serving as a managing director at Morgan Stanley. He specializes in legal matters relating to international financial services. Scherer holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Princeton University and a law degree from Columbia University.

Smith is a Pulitzer Prize-winning jour-



Frances Ferguson



Thomas J. Scherer



Hedrick Smith



Robert K. Steel

American South, Smith was a member of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for producing the Pentagon Papers series. His books include *The Russians*; *The Power Game: How Washington Works*; *The New Russians*; and *Rethinking America*. Smith served as a trustee of Williams College from 1982 to 1997.

Steel is an advisory director at Goldman Sachs, where he previously served as vice chairman. A native of Durham, North Carolina, Steel has served as a member of the New York Stock Exchange and a member of the board of directors of the Securities Industry Association. He is a graduate

nalist, the author of several bestselling books, and the creator and host of nineteen award-winning PBS prime-time specials and miniseries, many of which are in wide use in university-level courses. A *New York Times* correspondent for twenty-six years in Washington, Moscow, Cairo, Saigon, Paris, and the

of Duke University, where he chaired the university committee that selected Brodhead to replace Nannerl O. Keohane as president. Having served as vice chair of Duke's board of trustees since July 2000, on July 1 he will become its chair.



More than a century of teaching, writing, and making American history was on display at the Center on April 7, when William Leuchtenburg introduced John Hope Franklin, who read from his forthcoming and long-awaited memoirs. Franklin (center) and Leuchtenburg (right), shown here with Director Geoffrey Harpham, are alumni fellows and emeriti trustees.

# A Leader among Leaders: A Conversation with Francis Oakley

Francis Oakley, *the new chairman of the National Humanities Center's board of trustees, is the Edward Dorr Griffin Professor of the History of Ideas Emeritus and president emeritus at Williams College, where he is currently a senior fellow at the Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences. He is also president emeritus and past chair of the American Council of Learned Societies in New York. Oakley is the author of numerous books, articles, and reviews on medieval*



*and early modern intellectual and religious history and on matters pertaining to contemporary American higher education. His most recent book, The Conciliarist Tradition: Constitutionalism in the Catholic Church, 1300–1870, received the Sixteenth Century Society's Roland H. Bainton History Prize for 2004. Also in 2004, this much-honored scholar received a Mellon Emeritus Research Fellowship. Oakley spoke to News of the National Humanities Center about the Center and its board, his recent scholarship, and why humanities scholars never really retire.*

**You served on the National Humanities Center's board for some time before becoming chair. What made you willing to lead this particular group of scholars and businesspeople?**

My view of the National Humanities Center and of its board is very much shaped by comparative experience as a fellow at other research centers and as a member of other nonprofit boards. Having been a fellow in the early 1990s and a member of the board for much of the past decade, I have come to believe that the Center is the best of the American centers focusing on the humanities and social sciences. It is one that breeds in its fellows not only gratitude but also genuine affection for the place. Certainly, it's very close to my own heart. And over the years it has been served supremely well by a dedicated board of unusually high quality and possessed of an

enviable balance between the scholarly and business worlds. Comparable boards often aspire to such a combination; few, in my experience, succeed in achieving it. It is an honor to be called upon to lead such a fine group of leaders.

---

**“I have come to believe that the Center is the best of the American centers focusing on the humanities and social sciences.”**

---

**How do you envision the Center growing and changing during your term as chair?**

I should not try to anticipate the conclusions that the Planning Committee, under Carl Pforzheimer's able leadership, is closing in on. But it would be fair to say that change in a mature institution like the Center is likely to be essentially incremental in nature, involving an adamantly focused effort to do steadily better what has been done very well in the past. More specifically, I would expect it to involve a vigorous effort to ensure for the long haul the quality and reach of our fellowship and educational programs, to heighten our institutional profile, and, if at all possible, to sharpen and extend the impact we make both on the academy and on the public consciousness at large.

**In the past you have expressed some impatience with talk about the “crisis in the humanities,” a recurring theme for the past forty years. Do you not think it appropriate for humanistic scholars to stop from time to time to reflect upon their calling and the challenges confronting them?**

Yes, of course I do. It is not only appropriate but mandatory that we as humanists should periodically cast a critical eye on what we have been about and where we

seem to be heading. But not, I strongly believe, in such a way as to undercut our efforts to get on with our substantive humanistic endeavors. It is my hope that we at the National Humanities Center will continue to strike a healthy balance between passionate engagement in the substantive scholarly and intellectual quest, and mature, adequately probing, and responsibly informed reflection on the quality and significance of what we are doing. By their deeds, after all, ye shall know them.

**What is your current scholarly project?**

I am just finishing a short book commissioned by Blackwell for its New Perspectives on the Past series (now edited by Constantin Fasolt [Delmas Fellow 1996–97] of the University of Chicago). Written from a global/world-historical perspective, the book is concerned with kingship, the most common form of government known to humankind. My focus, in particular, is on its sacred dimension—for long millennia the factor underpinning its claim to legitimacy. The title: *KINGSHIP: The Politics of Enchantment*.

**Will a scholar and administrator as active as you have been ever retire? If so, do you have any plans for that retirement?**

I have, in fact, retired several times already—from the Williams presidency in 1994, from the Williams faculty in 2002, and from the interim presidency of the American Council of Learned Societies in 2003. I'm not sure I have much retiring left to do. Academics, I think, and especially those in the humanities, are very fortunate in that “retirement” is likely to mean little more (apart from the cessation of salary!) than the reorientation of priorities among the various things they have been doing throughout their careers. In my case, all it has meant is a shift away from teaching and administration and in the direction of a more intense focus on scholarship and writing, as well as service on an array of nonprofit boards—mainly in the museum world and the world of higher education.

## From Shakespeare to Sherlock and More

The National Humanities Center's fellows and staff recommend the perfect book for that long-awaited trip to the beach, mountains, or hammock.

Philip Barron (Information Technology Analyst) enjoyed John Stilgoe's *Outside Lies Magic: Regaining History and Awareness in Everyday Places* (Wallace & Co., 1999). "It's a primer in what he calls 'exploring,'" Barron explains, the art of getting yourself perplexed about the everyday things you see but never stop to think about." He adds that he recently read Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (Penguin Books, 2003) for the first time, reporting, "Gawd, it was fun to read."

Michael Gillespie (Duke Endowment Fellow) calls *The Dream of Scipio* (Riverhead Books, 2003) by Iain Pears "one of the most interesting novels I've read in a long time. Set in southern France in the fifth century, the fourteenth century, and the 1930s–1940s with philosophers, poets, and scholars as its chief characters, it has everything—love, war, religion, excruciating moral choices, and exquisite historical detail." He also recommends Ron Rosenbaum's *Explaining Hitler: The Search for the Origins of His Evil* (Perennial Press, 1999), "a fascinating and deeply troubling book that leads one into the heart of evil and leaves one wondering whether there is any evil at all." A third recommendation, C. D. Payne's *Youth in Revolt* (Main Street Books, 1996) "is one of the bawdiest and most hilarious books I have ever read," Gillespie enthuses. "Clouds of garlic smoke rising over Oakland, a teenager who adopts Jean Paul Belmondo as his alter-ego, a BMW filled with cement, and the advantages of cross-dressing in California high schools."

Deborah Harkness (John E. Sawyer Fellow) says Neal Stephenson's *Quicksilver* (Perennial Press, 2004) "is the only book you'll need to pack for

your vacation if you are interested in Isaac Newton and the Scientific Revolution." She also recommends Caleb Carr's new Sherlock Holmes story *The Italian Secretary* (Carroll & Graf Publications, 2005) and Jon Fasman's *The Geographer's Library* (Penguin Press, 2005), which is based on the true story of twelfth-century Spanish-Muslim philosopher Al-Idrisi and his priceless collection of objects relating to alchemy. Stolen by a cat burglar, the items disappear from the historical record, until a policeman searching a deceased friend's apartment finds evidence that someone is willing to kill to put Al-Idrisi's alchemical collection back together. "The story takes an even more mysterious turn," Harkness adds, "when the policeman discovers his friend was MUCH older than he looked."

Thomas Kaiser (Gould Foundation Fellow) highly recommends Iain Pears's historical whodunit *An Instance of the*



*Fingerpost* (Berkley Books, 1999), in which four not entirely reliable narrators recount their versions of the murder of an Oxford don in Restoration England. Kaiser's summary: "Terrific in providing a sense of the political, religious, and academic culture of the period, and it keeps the reader on tenterhooks till the end."

James Lesher (Delmas Fellow) suggests Richard Russo's *Straight Man* (Vintage Books, 1998), an academic novel in the tradition of *Lucky Jim*, *Changing Places*, and *Nice Work*. "Henry 'Hank' Deveraux, Jr., struggles with the usual range of administrative nightmares while serving as chair of the English Department at mythical Western Central Pennsylvania University," Lesher says. "Exasperated by his inability to get a summer school budget from the dean, he goes on TV holding in his hand one of the geese from the school's ceremonial duck/goose pond and threatens to kill a goose a day until he gets his summer school budget."

Kent Mullikin (Vice President and Deputy Director) calls Stephen Greenblatt's *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2004) "a beautifully written and imaginative (some of the reviewers suggest too imaginative) attempt to get at what we can infer of Shakespeare's life from his work." On a lighter note, he says, *How to Build a Tin Canoe: Confessions of an Old Salt* (Hyperion, 2003) contains "irreverent and opinionated autobiographical recollections by Robb White, a Georgia boat-builder who will make you laugh right out loud."

Felisha Wilson (Staff Accountant) enjoyed Spencer Johnson's *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Life* (Penguin Putnam, 1998) so much that she plans to reread it once a year. "The book really moves you to evaluate your life and where it's heading," Wilson reports.

# Piotr Sommer – Between Them

Poetry, says Piotr Sommer (Hurford Family Fellow), is the “basic cognitive instrument” by which he measures life, “almost a way to deal with the misunderstandings and miscommunications of the world.”

Editor of the Warsaw-based journal *Literatura na Swiecie*, Sommer divides his time between writing poetry, writing about poetry, and translating Anglo-American poetry into his native Polish. *Literatura na Swiecie* gathers together foreign literature into Polish translations, most often but not always contemporary literature. Sommer translates the journal’s title as “somewhere between ‘Literature in the World’ and ‘World Literature.’” To Sommer, the “somewhere between” symbolizes that even simple cultural concepts do not translate comfortably.

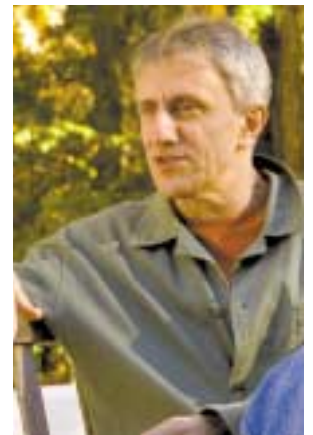
Through *Literatura na Swiecie*, Sommer is responsible for introducing or reacquainting Polish readers with such luminaries as Jacques Derrida and John Cage. A 1986 issue of *Literatura na Swiecie* on the New York Poets has been cited as perhaps the single most influential collection of American poetry on the Polish literary community.

Sommer has published two books during his residence at the Center and is spending his fellowship working on two others. *Continued* (Wesleyan University Press, 2005), his first book-length collection of poetry translated into English, gathers poems from his previous Polish publications. *Po Stykach* (Słowo/Obraz Terytoria, 2005) is a collection of his essays on Polish and Anglo-American poetry and on the art of translation.

In Polish, Sommer explains, ‘po stykach’ is a “concise slangy phrase, so rich that I really cannot translate it into English in one phrase. It suggests doing something along delicate lines, which can be lines of contact or lines of argument. It contains the concept of borderlines as well. And also a sense of touch—in Polish, ‘styk’ means touch.”

His current projects include a book-length examination of the influence of twentieth-century American poets such as Frank O’Hara, John Ashbery, Robert Lowell, and Charles Reznikoff on contemporary poets in Poland. He’s also finishing a Polish-translation anthology of American poets he’s “been excited by in the last twenty years.”

A poet who writes and a poet who translates, he claims, are completely different people. “Writing poetry in your own language, you both control it and let it behave the way it wants to behave,”



he explains. “You can allow it quite a bit of pleasure and freedom. You can even let it outpace you.” A translating poet, on the other hand, doesn’t want to give the foreign text a lesson, or correct the author’s voice. “You study the original, see what you can do with it, and find a way to bring things into your own language,” Sommer says.

When translating, he continues, “you must be prepared to take into account every single ingredient that works for the desired result in your language, to find the multiple levels of meaning, beginning with, let’s say, such a basic unit as the sentence.” Being careful, however, he cautions, “doesn’t exclude freedom in the new language, naturally, because the result still must be beautiful. And because the new language doesn’t have to—or sometimes cannot—

behave like the original.”

It takes tremendous effort but also serendipity for a poem to translate well into another language, Sommer notes. Between double meanings and colloquial expressions, translating is a process that constantly asks the question, “How much can we stretch our syntax and still keep it beautiful in our language?” Finally, Sommer adds wistfully, a thoughtful translator also must be willing to accept that something beautiful in one language may not be possible in another.

## Morning on Earth

Morning on earth, light snow, and just when  
It was so warm, practically spring.  
But the thermometer in the kitchen window  
says seven degrees,  
and pretty sunny.

Here’s

The electric company guy I like,  
And no sign of the gas guy  
I can’t stand.  
And all of a sudden two Misters M.—  
One I’ve fallen for, the other  
A bit of a hotshot—  
Coming back, both nine years old,  
Just passing the jasmine bush,  
A huge bouquet of sticks.

Behind the door  
The dog’s excited, nothing’s  
At odds with anything.

from *Continued* (Wesleyan University Press, 2005)

## Recent Books by Fellows

Buchanan, Allen (John G. Medlin, Jr., Fellow 2001–02). *Justice, Legitimacy, and Self-Determination: Moral Foundations for International Law*. Oxford Political Theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Bullard, Melissa Meriam (Delta Delta Delta Fellow 1998–99), ed. *Lettere*, by Lorenzo de' Medici. Vol. X (1486–1487). Firenze: Giunti-Barbèra, under the auspices of Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed. *Lettere*, by Lorenzo de' Medici. Vol. XI (1487–1488). Firenze: Giunti-Barbèra, under the auspices of Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento, 2004.

Buzard, James (NEH Fellow 1997–98). *Disorienting Fiction: The Autoethnographic Work of Nineteenth-Century British Novels*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Clark, Elizabeth A. (Luce Fellow 2001–02). *History, Theory, Text: Historians and the Linguistic Turn*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004.

Drijvers, Jan Willem (Josephus Daniels Fellow\* 2000–01). *Cyril of Jerusalem: Bishop and City*. Supplements to Vigiliae Christianae, vol. 72. Leiden: Brill, 2004.

Flynn, Thomas R. (Mellon Fellow 1991–92). *Sartre, Foucault, and Historical Reason*. Vol. 2, *A Poststructuralist Mapping of History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Gert, Bernard (Frank H. Kenan Fellow 2001–02). *Common Morality: Deciding What To Do*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Morality: Its Nature and Justification*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Gill, Meredith J. (Lilly Fellow 2003–04). *Augustine in the Italian Renaissance: Art and Philosophy from Petrarch to Michelangelo*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Gluck, Mary (Rockefeller Fellow 1998–99). *Popular Bohemia: Modernism and Urban Culture in Nineteenth-Century Paris*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Gowing, Laura (Josephus Daniels Fellow\* 1999–2000). *Common Bodies: Women, Touch, and Power in Seventeenth-Century England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. First Place,

New England Museum Association Publication Design Competition, 2003; awarded the Joan Kelly Memorial Prize by the American Historical Association, 2004; selected by *Choice* as Outstanding Academic Title, 2005.

Liu, Lydia H. (Lilly Fellow 1997–98). *The Clash of Empires: The Invention of China in Modern World Making*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004.

Popkin, Jeremy D. (Delta Delta Delta Fellow 2000–01). *History, Historians and Autobiography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

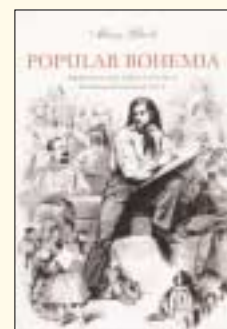
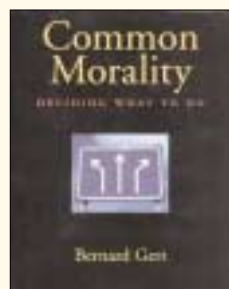
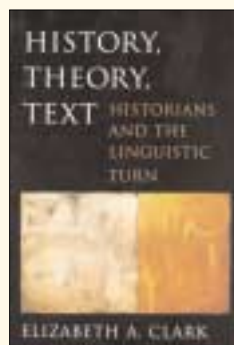
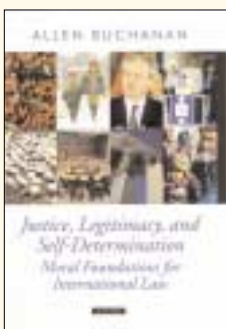
Sensbach, Jon F. (NEH Fellow 2001–02). *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Smith, Jay M. (Josephus Daniels Fellow\* 1997–98). *Nobility Reimagined: The Patriotic Nation in Eighteenth-Century France*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.

Sommer, Piotr (Hurford Family Fellow 2004–05). *Po Strykach*. Gdańsk: Słowo/Obraz Terytoria, 2005.

Sterba, James P. (Archie K. Davis Fellow 2001–02). *The Triumph of Practice Over Theory in Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

\* Endowed by the Research Triangle Foundation

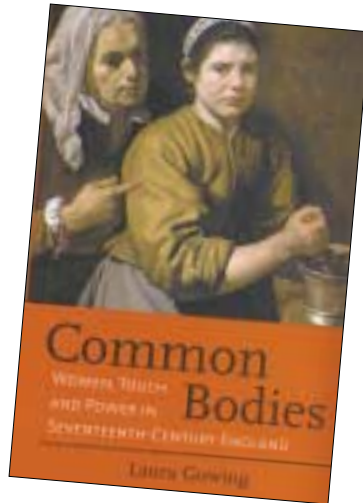


## Laura Gowing on *Common Bodies*

Laura Gowing spent 1999–2000 at the National Humanities Center, working on her book *Common Bodies: Women, Touch, and Power in Seventeenth-Century England*. Her exploration of how ordinary women of the early modern period in England understood and experienced their bodies has won several honors, including first place in the 2003 New England Museum Association Publication Design Competition, the 2004 Joan Kelly Memorial Prize of the American Historical Association, and a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for 2005. *News of the National Humanities Center* recently asked Gowing, who teaches in the history department at King's College in London, three questions about her recent addition to the Robert F. and Margaret S. Goheen Collection of books written at the National Humanities Center.

How is *Common Bodies* different than it would be had you not been able to work on it for a year at the Center?

Without the six months I had at the Center, I don't know that I'd have been able to get this book moving at all. It needed solid time with my own primary sources and the immense range of secondary material available at the Center, with days so well structured as to offer no distractions. The whole environment gave me the confidence to believe in the book. The book is based on close readings of legal records, in the context of the popular and literate cultures of early modern England. Having so many colleagues in medieval and early modern literature and history to talk with really enabled me to envisage it more widely, and to



make the links I needed with other disciplines.

Is there an individual, an event, or a moment during your fellowship year that was especially critical to the direction your book would take?

The hurricane weekend—I can't recall what the hurricane was called that year, but the threatened onslaught left us walled up in our apartments for the weekend. I spent the time planning the structure of the book—there was nothing else to do! And then perhaps equally significant was having to sum the project up in five minutes [for the series of project talks in which new fellows introduce their works in progress to one another and the staff]. The shape I worked out for it then stuck throughout the writing.

If you were awarded a new fellowship at the Center, what project would you pursue?

I need another year to even think what it would be! But something that tried, as my previous work has done, to reconstruct the lost histories of the poor and voiceless of the past.

## National Humanities Center Names Fellows for 2005–06

The National Humanities Center has announced the appointment of thirty-nine fellows for the academic year 2004–05. Representing history, literature, philosophy, and half a dozen other humanistic fields of study, these scholars will come to the Center from the faculties of colleges and universities across the United States and also from Israel, Norway, and Poland. They will work individually on research projects in the humanities, and will exchange ideas in seminars, lectures, and conferences.

The Center received 526 applications in its fellowship competition for 2005–06. The appointed Fellows will also include two scholars who have received Burkhardt Fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies.

The Center will grant \$1.3 million to enable the 2005–06 Fellows to take leave from their normal academic duties. Funding for these fellowships is made possible by the Center's endowment, by contributions from alumni fellows of the Center, and by grants from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Photos of the class of 2005–06 will appear in the fall edition of *News of the National Humanities Center*. For the complete list of the 2005–06 fellows, visit the Center's website, [www.nhc.rtp.nc.us](http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us).

out onto the street. They stop, he runs, they shoot at him, they miss. He hides in the swamp for several days, while hundreds of armed white men search for him. Armed black World War II veterans assemble and march on the town, while the governor sends a hundred state troopers with machine guns to prevent race war in Rich Square. Meanwhile Godwin is presumed to have been lynched. Deputies and townspeople search for the body.

As the search continues, this town of a few hundred becomes the center of international attention, and possibly the fulcrum for a change in political power in Washington.

The Soviet Union puts the word out that there has been another lynching in the American South, creating an international crisis. The NAACP puts Truman on notice that if he expects to get the black vote he has to handle this right. The Democratic Party is cracking apart. Strom Thurman is threatening to run for president as a “Dixiecrat,” imperiling Truman’s reelection strategy. Meanwhile, just a few miles down the road, my grandfather is busting out of the Freewill Baptist church and falling in love with an English teacher who is not his wife—and getting mixed up with race radicals and rural sociologists and left-wing preachers—and gets tangled in these events. These human beings are caught up in these large forces, and how that unfolds is the tension in the story.

The idea for the novel came out of *Blood Done Sign My Name*, which centered on what one critic described as a “modern-day lynching” in the North Carolina town where your father served as a Methodist minister. That story occupied you in one form or another for two decades, and essentially brought you back to Oxford as a detective. What was it like to interrogate the people you knew as a child?

It was daunting. On the one hand I grew up in a bitter race struggle and on the other hand I grew up blanketed with love and acceptance and joy in the church and in a small community

among people who were very kind and bighearted and whose vision of the world has a lot to be said for it, but for the fact that it was marred by white supremacy and was on a collision course with disaster. It is always hard when you are torn by your feelings of loyalty and admiration for people, but are dealing with times when they didn’t always conduct themselves admirably.

Your father is in many ways the hero of *Blood Done Sign My Name*, but he often stands in contrast to Thad Stem, a hard-drinking poet with a three-hour-a-week sinecure at the Veteran’s Administration. You wrote about them with so much fondness and about the issues the book raises with so much passion, that this reader couldn’t help but wonder whether you have in some way modeled yourself after both men.

My great-great-grandfather was a minister, my great-grandfather, my grandfather, my father, all five of my uncles, all of my father’s uncles—all of them are ministers. And at some point, I was quite determined I was not going to be any damn preacher. It appears that I have not escaped this quite as cleanly as I thought. Although in many ways I am more comfortable with our bourbon-swilling poet’s religion than with my father’s, in some ways they are not that different. I think that the poet and the preacher are really in the same line of work, they’re just working different sides of the street. I am privileged to be able to draw on both of those things and also my work as a scholar. I would add that Thad wasn’t a bad theologian and my father’s a pretty damn good poet.

How has Oxford changed, or not, over the past thirty years?

Like most of America, Oxford has changed a great deal since the civil rights era, and yet this chasm of race persists. White people still own most everything and have a lot more power in the community, but black people are full citizens. And an amazing conversation has sprung up around the book. I went up

there and spoke at the high school to about five hundred local folks this fall and we had a very forthright conversation about the past. Hundreds of people are reading the book and praying together and talking together and having what appears to me to be a really healthy conversation. So, while Oxford has a uniquely painful racial history, I think they are making great strides in dealing with it. That’s far more notable than their violent past, which is quite ordinary by American standards.

The book constantly seems to telescope from the events in Oxford in 1970, which you describe in a very personal way, to the larger issues of race in America, which you approach as a scholar and, perhaps, a reformer.

I’m trying to say that white supremacy is like the water and we are like the fish. It makes little sense for us to be pointing fingers at one another and saying, “Hey, you are wet.” We have to understand that it is hard for fish to think about water. But if we can become more conscious of that and we understand, not that you are a racist in some kind of essential way, but how white supremacy has shaped your thinking, then you can just sort of pluck out that thread—“Oh, it’s just a little white supremacy there”—and fling it aside. Whereas if you’re framing it as “This person IS a racist,” then it becomes very hard to have an honest conversation because you are condemning the whole person instead of just condemning a framework of thought, which after all began about five hundred years ago and isn’t anybody’s fault who is alive today. Too much of the conversation in this country around race revolves around ideas about purity and saintliness and crusades and heroes, rather than ordinary, flawed people like ourselves, trying to do the best that they can, and often failing. What progress we’ve made has not been made by the saints, but by people just like us. If we remember that, it actually is more hopeful, even though some people at first blush might

*continued at right*

Tyson *continued from left*

find that grim. If you don't need fairy tales to get through the day, it's good news.

What sort of conversations do you hope your book will provoke when thousands of freshmen and transfer students meet and discuss it in the fall at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill?

I think the most important thing that they can learn from *Blood Done Sign My Name* is that you can't have an honest conversation about race in a mixed-race setting in 2005 and be comfortable the whole time. When you feel racial discomfort your first instinct may be to pull away, but if you will just lean into it and listen to your mind and your heart and to the people you are talking to, you can learn a great deal and we can actually get somewhere in terms of healing these scars that still linger in our society. So I am hoping that an honest confrontation with their society's past, coupled with an

honest conversation with their fellow citizens, black and white, will give these freshmen a good place to start their college career.

For your next fellowship at the National Humanities Center, will you come back to write a history book or something slightly more creative?

If the National Humanities Center were willing to have me for another fellowship I would cooperate, that's for sure. But narrative has always been at the heart of my work. I don't understand why people would write books except with readers in mind. I'm not interested anymore in narrowly scholarly books. The purpose of language is for us to communicate with one another and it is hard enough without rendering life in unrecognizable jargon. How our stories unfold is how we find out who we are. So I think the smart money is on the more imaginative approach, but I've

learned better than to try to predict my behavior. Whatever I am supposed to do, I will probably do something else.

### In the next *News of the National Humanities Center*

Roger Chickering on total war in a city in Germany, Cara Robertson on our continuing fascination with Lizzie Borden and her ax, photos of the 2005–06 fellows, new director of development Joshua Bond, 2004–05 Annual Fund Results, and much more.



### 2005 Lyman Award Winner *continued from page 3*

from the Text Encoding Initiative and scholarly editing guidance from the Modern Language Association.

Unsworth currently serves as chair of the Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences, a project of the ACLS. Funded in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the commission is the humanistic voice

John Unsworth, center, with wife Maggie and parents Richard and Joy



guiding the design and construction of the digital infrastructure that the academy will use in the future to represent humanities scholarship.

The term “cyberinfrastructure” refers to the digital versions of the infrastructure on which the humanities have grown for millennia: universities, libraries, and archives. The goal of the Commission on Cyberinfrastructure is to “articulate the requirements and the potential contributions of the humanities and the social sciences in developing shared human and technical resources for teaching and research,” says Unsworth.

Unsworth is also one of the principal investigators for the National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program, a \$2.6 million project joining academia with flagship public and private

institutions to address what Unsworth calls “one of the most vexing problems of the next ten years—collection and preservation of digital information.”

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, along with the library at the University of Illinois, is partnering with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and the Library of Congress, as one of nine teams nationwide, “proof, I think,” says Unsworth, “that the big problems need to be tackled by collaborative teams.”

The Lyman Award honors Richard W. Lyman, who was president of Stanford University from 1970–80 and of the Rockefeller Foundation from 1980–88, and is made possible through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation. Recipients receive awards of \$25,000.

For more on the Lyman Award, visit <http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/newsrel2005/prlymanaward2005.htm>.



## Kudos A sampling of good news from our Trustees and Fellows

T. J. Anderson (Fellow 1996–97) has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Carla Antonaccio (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow 1999–2000) will leave the department of classical studies at Wesleyan University to join the faculty of Duke University.

Jodi Bilinkoff (Mellon Fellow 1999–2000) has been made a full professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

John P. Birkelund (Trustee Emeritus), Robert Hollander (Trustee Emeritus), Harriet Ritvo (Walter Hines Page Fellow\* 1989–90; MacArthur Ecological Humanities Fellow 2002–03), and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick (Rockefeller Fellow 1991–92) have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Molly Broad (Trustee) has announced plans to retire as president of the University of North Carolina system by the end of the 2005–06 academic year.

Allen Buchanan (John G. Medlin, Jr., Fellow 2001–02) has been named James B. Duke Professor of Public Policy Studies at Duke University.

The Fellows of Magdalen College, Cambridge have elected Nicholas Canny (Pew Fellow 1986–87) to be Senior Parnell Research Fellow for 2005–06.

Edward Curtis (Josephus Daniels Fellow\*) will leave the religion department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Margreta de Grazia (NEH Fellow 1982–83) has been named the Joseph B. Glossberg Term Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania.

Andrew Delbanco (Trustee; Mellon Fellow 1990–91; Lilly Fellow in Religion and the Humanities 2002–03) was named a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for 2004–05.

Duke University presented Ernestine Friedl (Fellow 1985–86) its University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Service to the University. A cultural

anthropologist, Friedl in 1980 became the first female dean of arts and sciences at Duke.

Carmela Vircillo Franklin (Mellon Fellow 1990–91) has been named the twentieth director of the American Academy in Rome.

Andrea Frisch (Gould Foundation Fellow) gave birth to Gabriel Sebastian on February 21, 2005.

Eugene Goodheart (NEH Fellow 1987–88) reports the publication of two books, *Confession of a Secular Jew: A Memoir* (Overlook Press, 2000 [hardcover]; Transaction, 2004 [paperback]) and *Novel Practices: Classic Modern Fiction* (Transaction, 2004).

Jonathan M. Hess (John E. Sawyer Fellow 1999–2000) received an honorable mention for the Modern Language Association's Prize for Germanic Languages and Literatures for his book *Germans, Jews, and the Claims of Modernity* (Yale University Press, 2002).

Gertrude Himmelfarb (Trustee Emerita) and John R. Searle (Trustee Emeritus) accepted the 2004 National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush.

Linda K. Kerber (Delta Delta Delta Fellow 1990–91) has been voted president-elect of the American Historical Association, the country's largest and oldest organization for professional historians.

Louise McReynolds (NEH Fellow 1995–96, 1999–2000) is leaving the department of history at the University of Hawai'i to join the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Patricia O'Brien (NEH Fellow 1988–89) became executive dean of the UCLA College on July 1, 2004.

James J. O'Donnell (Trustee) has published *Augustine: A New Biography* (Ecco, 2005).

Sherry Ortner (Luce Senior Fellow 1999–2000) was the recipient of the 2004 J. I. Staley Prize for *Life and Death on Mount Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan*

*Mountaineering* (Princeton University Press, 1999). The School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico presents the Staley Prize annually to a living author in honor of a book exemplifying outstanding scholarship and writing in anthropology. Ortner has left Columbia University to become a distinguished professor in the department of anthropology at UCLA.

Yale historian Jaroslav Pelikan (Past Trustee) and French philosopher Paul Ricoeur (Rockefeller Fellow 1979–90; Mellon Senior Fellow 1980–81, '83–84) received the Library of Congress's second John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences. The two scholars shared the \$1 million award.

Robin Moore (William J. Bouwsma Fellow) will leave the department of music at Temple University for the University of Texas at Austin.

Peter Sigal (Rockefeller Fellow) will leave California State University to join the department of history at Duke University.

Robert K. Steel (Trustee) has been elected chairman of the Duke University board of trustees, beginning on July 1. Steel, the first Durham native to chair the board since Duke became a university in 1924, has served as vice chair since July 2000.

Timothy Taylor (NEH Fellow 1999–2000) has left Columbia University to become associate professor of musicology and ethnomusicology at UCLA.

Timothy Tyson (John Hope Franklin Senior Fellow) will leave the University of Wisconsin-Madison to join the faculty of Duke University.

Karl von der Heyden (Trustee) has been named vice chair of the Duke University board of trustees, effective July 1.

David Wallace (Mellon Fellow 1989–90) became president of the New Chaucer Society in 2004.

\* Endowed by the Research Triangle Foundation

## In Memoriam

Andrew P. Debicki (Fellow 1979–80, '92–93) died on January 20. He was 70. Raised in Cuba, Debicki joined the faculty of the University of Kansas in 1968 as professor of Spanish and Portuguese after obtaining his bachelor's and doctoral degrees at Yale University and teaching at Trinity College in Connecticut and Grinnell College in Iowa. Named a distinguished university professor at Kansas, from which he retired in 2000, Debicki also held several administrative posts, including dean of the graduate school and vice chancellor for research, graduate studies, and public service. Debicki worked on three books during his National Humanities Center fellowships, including *Poetry of Discovery: The Spanish Generation of 1956–1971* and *Spanish Poetry of the Twentieth Century: Modernity and Beyond*.

Dewey Wesley Grantham (General Electric Fellow 1982–83), the Holland N. McTyeire Professor of History Emeritus at Vanderbilt University, died on August 26, 2004. Grantham was born in the small village of Manassas, in southern Georgia. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia before serving in the Coast Guard during World War II, and earned a PhD in history at the University of North Carolina in 1949. After brief teaching stints at what were then North Texas State College and North Carolina Women's College at Greensboro, Grantham moved to Vanderbilt University in 1952, where he remained for the rest of his career. His books included one he wrote during his fellowship at the Center, *The Life and Death of the Solid South: A Political History*.

Victor John Matthews (Walter Hines Page Fellow\* 1986–87), head of the classics section in the School of Languages and Literature at the University of Guelph, died suddenly on November 28, 2004 at the age of 63. Born in Ireland, he was a PhD graduate of Queen's Belfast University and joined the faculty at Guelph in 1965. He had planned to retire at the end of the fall semester. An active run-

ner, he had coached both the cross-country and track teams at Guelph. During his fellowship at the Center, he wrote *Antimachus of Colophon: Text and Commentary*. Matthews is survived by his wife, Irene, and a son, Tom.

Harold Perkin (Pew Fellow 1982–83) died in London on October 16, 2004. He was 75. Born in Hanley, Staffordshire and educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, he taught at Manchester University and Lancaster University in England, and Northwestern University in the United States. He is recognized as the first lecturer and professor in social history in a British university, and he established the Centre for Social History and the Centre for North-West Regional Studies at Lancaster. He also launched the Studies in Social History series at Routledge and founded the Social History Society. The book he wrote during his fellowship, *The Rise of Professional Society*, was part of a highly regarded trilogy that also included *The Origins of Modern English Society* and *The Third Revolution*.

Paul Ricoeur (Rockefeller Fellow 1979–80; Mellon Senior Fellow 1980–81, '83–84) died on May 20 at the age of 92. One of the most distinguished and prolific philosophers of his generation, he published extensively on subjects ranging from structuralism, theology, and phenomenology to psychoanalysis and hermeneutics. Born in Valence in southeast France and raised in Rennes, Ricoeur read philosophy at the University of Rennes before winning a scholarship to the Sorbonne in 1934. He became a schoolteacher but was drafted into service in the French army. His unit was captured during the German invasion of France and he spent five years as a prisoner of war; in the book *Critique and Conviction: Conversations with François Azouvi and Marc de Launay*, he described how he and his fellow prisoners organized reading classes and seminars. Following the war, he taught at University of Strausbourg, the Sorbonne, and the

University of Nanterre before moving to the United States and teaching at the University of Chicago from 1970 until his retirement in 1985. During three fellowships at the National Humanities Center he worked on the first two volumes of *Time and Narrative* (University of Chicago Press, 1984), which examined the relations between time and narrative in historical writing, fiction, and theories of literature.

Andrew Mackay Scott, 82, died at his home in Chapel Hill on April 19 with his family at his side. His health had declined for several months. A graduate of Dartmouth and Harvard, Scott joined the department of political science at the University of North Carolina in 1958 and taught there until 1992, with years off as a visitor at the University of Bologna in Italy, Johns Hopkins University, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California. He edited or wrote twelve books, most of which dealt with international politics. He also published two books for children, one of which was translated into French and read in many sixth grade classrooms in France. Scott is survived by his wife, Anne Firor Scott (Trustee Emerita; Commonwealth Fellow 1980–81), to whom he was married for fifty-eight years; three children; and six grandchildren.

\* Endowed by the Research Triangle Foundation

### News of the National Humanities Center

is published twice a year and distributed to friends of the National Humanities Center.

David B. Rice,  
Director of Communications, Editor

Phillip Barron and Caryn Koplik,  
Contributing Writers

Karen Carroll, Copyeditor

Joshua Bond, Director of Development

Linda Morgan, Website Administrator

Sarah Payne, Executive Assistant  
for Communications and Development

7 Alexander Drive, P.O. Box 12256  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2256  
tel 919-549-0661, fax 919-990-8535  
www.nhc.rtp.nc.us

Book jackets reproduced by permission of the publishers.



Robin Moore (William J. Bouwsma Fellow), at right on Cuban tres, and his band Conjunto 23 packed the Center on February 18 for a concert of old-time Cuban music.

# NEWS

of the National Humanities Center

7 Alexander Drive • P.O. Box 12256  
Research Triangle Park • North Carolina 27709-2256

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Durham, NC  
Permit No. 139