Kelly Cherry

KELLY CHERRY, well-known to the university and larger Huntsville community from her earlier visits, will return to UAH this fall as Visiting Scholar in the Humanities and Professor of English. Professor Cherry has published over 20 books, including fiction, poetry, and autobiography, and a collection of essays. Her most recent titles are We Can Still Be Friends, a novel (Soho Press, 2003) and Rising Venus, poems (Louisiana University Press, 2002). Her short fiction has been represented in the anthologies Best American Short Stories, The O. Henry Awards, and The Pushcart Prize. She is Eudora Welty Professor Emerita of English and Evjue-Bascom Professor Emerita in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Her work (which has been translated into a dozen languages) has taken her all over the world, and through most of the United States. When not traveling, she lives on a small farm in Virginia with her husband, the fiction writer Burke Davis III. Professor Kelly will teach a course in creative writing in the fall semester and conduct a short-term writer’s workshop late in the term.

David Weissman

DAVID WEISSMAN, Professor of Philosophy at City College (City University of New York), will visit campus for a week in October. Widely known in this country and abroad for his writings and lectures on a variety of fundamental philosophical topics, Professor Weissman has established a reputation as a speaker who is able to bring difficult philosophical issues to life for both specialized and general audiences. A remarkably comprehensive grasp of the Western tradition in philosophy and science has provided the base for his distinctive contributions to systematic philosophy. In Eternal Possibilities, Intuition and Ideality, and Hypothesis and the Spiral of Reflection, he developed a critique of some of the central ontological and epistemological presuppositions of the tradition. In his more recent work, particularly in Truth’s Debt to Value and A Social Ontology) he has turned his attention to basic questions of value, arguing that our conceptions of value require a foundation in a world whose fundamental nature is independent of subjective experience. Most recently, in his book Lost Souls, he suggests a way of moving beyond the mind-body dualism that has plagued much of the modern tradition. Professor Weissman will be visiting various philosophy classes during the week and will give a public lecture in the evening on October 15th in Roberts Recital Hall.
In an effort to support faculty and student research, the Humanities Center continues to provide funds to expand the humanities collections held at the Salmon Library. This year, the Center provided in excess of $20,000 to fund proposals made by the following faculty members:

**Dr. Molly Johnson**, History:
Two grants, the first for the purchase of materials in German history with an emphasis on the post-1945 period of publication and the second for the purchase of materials focusing on European Women's History.

**Dr. Rose Norman**, English:
Studies concerning Virginia Woolf—a series of annuals and selected papers from the annual Woolf conference.

**Dr. Mitch Berbrier**, Sociology:
Materials on Social Movements including historical analysis.

**Dr. Bill Wilkerson**, Philosophy:
Monographs and volumes of essays on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual studies.

**Dr. Jeff Nelson**, English:
Materials on World Literature with emphasis on non-Western literature.

**Dr. Mary Piersmo**, Education:
The entire collection of Newberry Award and Caldecott Collection in children's literature.

**Dr. Julie Ferris**, Communication Arts:
Materials on Cultural Studies Theories and Methods and Women's Studies as related to Media and Cultural Studies.

**Dr. Merrill Price**, English:
Monographs on the place of women in the Middle Ages.

**Dr. Andree Reeves**, Women’s Studies:
Materials focusing on Women's Studies in a variety of disciplines including Technology and Communication, Sociology, Religion and Spirituality, military, sports, etc.

At the request of the students of the Society for Ancient Languages, the Center was pleased to co-sponsor the visit of KARL GALINSKY, Floyd A. Callirou Centennial Professor of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Galinsky, who has published widely on Ovid, was an obvious choice for the students of the Society who had spent most of the year in a special study of Ovid's Metamorphoses. His general public lectures were enthusiastically received as was his special address to the students of the Society at their annual Convivium, the annual celebratory dinner held at the end of each academic year.

**Karl Galinsky**

CHARLES MILLS, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, visited UAH for a week during the 2004 spring semester as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar supported by the Center. It was an honor to host Professor Mills who has broken new ground in the field of philosophy and race. His first book, *Blackness Visible*, contained many of his important essays in this field, including essays that examine the metaphysics of race and why philosophy in America has had to struggle to attract African-American students.

Perhaps best known for *The Racial Contract*, which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and for a National Book Award by Cornell University Press, Professor Mills has lectured extensively throughout the United States on race and political theory. After spending a week in discussion with philosophy faculty and students, Mills capped his visit with an outstanding public lecture in which he brought his insights to bear on the difficult topics of race and racism with remarkable intelligence and grace.
The Chapbook Project

When Kelly Cherry last visited UAH as an Eminent Scholar, she happened to see some of Michael Crouse's work in an exhibit and immediately felt a sympathetic chord struck. It seemed to her Crouse's work captured in an entirely different medium some of the same sense of things that she has tried to express in her poetry. When she met Professor Crouse, the printmaker in UAH's Art Department, they began to consider possible ways of drawing some of their work together. Cherry and Crouse discussed the matter with Sue Kirkpatrick, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and the three conceived the idea of producing a small volume that would include some of Cherry's poetry and some of Crouse's artwork. Dean Kirkpatrick found a printer (see below) who could put together a special edition, and Cherry and Crouse began polishing some work that each already had in progress for the volume. Through the generous support of a private donor, Mrs. Julian Davidson, (together with some funding from the Humanities Center), the project was undertaken and came to fruition. The result, a beautifully crafted boxed edition entitled Welsh Table Talk will be available early in the fall, and will be offered as a gift to College supporters who donate $500.00 or more to the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Excellence Fund.

Poetry by Kelly Cherry

WELSH SONG
Rain blew against the window pane. The kestrel's shadow quarters the air. A rooster crowed. The dra in pipe banged against stone. The child brushed her hair.

A winged darkness crossed the dark night, Blue glass on Bardsey prohibited the sea up to the pasture. In Welsh Table Talk Kelly Cherry last saw some of her work in an exhibit and immediately felt a sympathetic chord struck. It seemed to her Crouse's work captured in an entirely different medium some of the same sense of things that she has tried to express in her poetry.

WELSH SONG

Without television, comics, movies, video games, or toys to distract them, they simply, nonchalantly, created a universe of other worlds—detailed and dramatic worlds that popped into being with a sentence, a gesture, an accidental rhyme. The girls became intensely immersed under a canvas in the yard; doctor and patient; walk-to schoolmates at high tea; singers and singing ruts. To me, their conversations seemed magical, filled with mythical beasts and making wild leaps. I began writing poems about the girls. They didn't know I was about them, but when I saw a child writing poems, they began to write poems, too. Even my friend, who had written a number of books but not poetry, began to write poetry.

And meanwhile, there really was a mad fear, and there really was a ruined abbey; there really was a pigeon in the church rafters. The enchantment of the girls and their theatrical and narrative intentions stayed with me and is still with me. In Welsh Table Talk—some of the poems written on the island, others afterward; some a reflection of fact, others more a reflection of spirit—I tried to convey both the sadness and the playfulness of that time. I tried to capture the simplicity of childhood, and the extravagant imagination of childhood, and place them side by side with a darker, adult story that is semi-submerged, like the island itself.

Kelly Cherry

Visiting Eminent Scholar and Professor of English

Mrs. Iris Butler Portal to Become Subject of Biography

In the life and work of Mrs. Iris Butler Portal, historian and biographer, Dr. John Severn (Dept. of History) has found an intriguing subject for a biographical study. Although her name may not be familiar to most Americans, Mrs. Portal published several well-received biographies in Britain during her long life. She died just last year at the age of 97. Two of these, focusing on the lives of Alice, Countess of Reading, and Marquess Wellesley, drew on her intimate knowledge of the politics and life of the British in India. As the daughter of the governor of the Central Provinces, she was exposed to the elite of the Raj, and for the children of the Mountbattens (then Governor-General of India) and did welfare work for the impoverished families of Indian soldiers. She broke with tradition and defied convention with regard to her associations with the natives. As sister to the eminent politician R.A. Butler, she had firsthand knowledge of the political climate of the mid-twentieth century.

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Academic Integrity Issues and Internet Plagiarism

Finding cultural differences with students from foreign countries is not unusual. However as Dr. Madeline Youmans (Dept. of English) points out, "there is a pressing need to apprend ESL students into U.S. norms of academic integrity and plagiarism as part of their acculturation."

Dr. Youmans plans to conduct research in this area with the ultimate goal of finding ways to reduce plagiarism among ESL students by using ethnographic approaches and emphasizing ownership of one's own writing.

Art History from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Some of the most interesting discoveries are found when one thinks "outside of the box" and considers not only what is apparent, but what is not easily observed. Dr. Jillian Joyce (Dept. of Art and Art History) continues to pursue her research in the area of Roman Art, turning what she describes as a "significant gap in the scholarship" into a "Gender Study in Roman Art.

Throughout the course of her research, Dr. Joyce found what suggests a connection with the house of Fabius Rufus and works of art located on the property which share the same subject—Arachne. As a previous recipient of humanities' grants, Dr. Joyce has researched and written articles such as "Arachne Transformed in Pompeii's House of Fabius Rufus," to be published by the American Academy in Rome for their annual journal Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome and "Ecstasy in Miniature: Satyrs and Maenads on Gems," published by SECAC.

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Public Programs

The Core Ensemble
Touring throughout the United States and elsewhere around the world, this fine ensemble of musicians and actors has established a reputation for a unique blend of music and biographical drama. Last year, they performed a work called "Tres Vidas" to a packed house in Roberts Auditorium. A wonderful score provided the backdrop against which actress and singer Georgina Corbo captured the spirits and ideas of three extraordinary Latin American women: Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist Rufina Amaya, and Argentinian poet Alfonsina Storni. The music, performed by Tahira Whittington (cello), Hugh Hinton (piano), and Michael Parola (percussion) was exhilarating and enthusiastically received as Ms. Corbo's performance. The Center will provide part of the support again this year when the Core Ensemble returns to perform another piece for chamber music ensemble, "Of Ebony Embers." In this work, the ensemble examines the lives of African American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Claude McKay as seen through the eyes of pianist Aaron Douglas. (Co-sponsored by the College of Engineering and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.)

History Forum
Entitled "The United Nations, Peacekeeping, and Nation-Building," this year's History Department Forum brought three prominent scholars (Professors William Stuck, Howard Adelman, and Peter Hahn) to UAH to discuss the impact of the UN in three global regions: North Korea, Africa, and the Middle East. The forum presented a multi-cultural, historical examination of the UN's role as peacekeeper and nation builder as well as the organization's future as an emblem of global stability and order.

Archaeological Institute of America
UAH hosts the North Alabama Society of the AIA and its events have been hugely successful with students and the larger Huntsville community. The Center helped to bring underwater archaeologist Chris-Amer to campus to discuss his most recent finding on the HL Hunley, the Civil War submarine built in Mobile that sank with its crew in Charleston Harbor and was recently recovered in fact. The Center also co-sponsored a visit by eminent Etruscologist Dr. Il Nagy, who gave a fascinating lecture on the "Demons of the Etruscan Underworld."

Philosophy Forum
Sponsored once again by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the Philosophy Forum brought two well-known thinkers to campus to discuss the relation between philosophy and mysticism. Professor Aileen Coudert traced the impact of the Kabbalah on philosophy and science during the Enlightenment, and Professor Bruce Janz discussed the relevance of historical mysticism for contemporary philosophical problems. Exploring a topic often neglected by the mainstream philosophical tradition, these speakers illuminated the important relationship between philosophy and mysticism.

Etchings by Michael Crouse
The images for the chapbook were inspired by a previous trip to Wales and the Brittany islands. These images are line etchings with hand-ground ink washes and were based on sketchbook drawings and photographs created during the month of February, 1997. In developing the etchings for the chapbook, I intentionally chose to retain the hand-drawn integrity of the original sketchbook drawings. After several meetings, I asked Kelly Cherry's poems of Welsh Table Talk poems. I selected images that I felt would complement the mood and tone of her poems.

"Coastline" by Michael Crouse

Materials and Process for Welsh Table Talk
Designed and hand bound by John Paul Greenwald and Stephen L. Vanillo of the Book Arts Conservatory in Washington, D.C., the chapbook is made entirely of archival materials meant to last for at least 300 years. The leather binding of both the chapbook itself and the box that contains it is Italian calfskin. The interior of the chapbook is letterpress printed on fabrico rusticus art paper by the printer for the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. interspersed among Kelly Cherry's poems in the chapbook are six etchings by Michael Crouse. Also included within the box is a folder containing three more loose (frameable) etchings by Crouse. The box, chapbook, folder, all together comprise a beautifully integrated art object in themselves.
In the summer of 2001, the Humanities Center was awarded a $131,000 contract by the U.S. Department of Education to integrate some of the international programs from the College of Liberal Arts with other programs in the College of Administrative Science and the North Alabama International Trade Agency. The culmination of two years’ effort on the International Business Studies Initiative is dramatically improved resources for students seeking knowledge of foreign cultures and languages. The establishment of new internship programs (this summer alone saw 15 students travel to 9 foreign countries as interns), substantial improvements in software and laboratory equipment, as well as redesigned curriculum and enhanced library collections focusing on international subjects, have already established a new emphasis integrating global awareness with traditional business studies. Lectures at UAH by academics as well as local business leaders emphasized the importance of history, knowing the cultures of other peoples and the difficulty language barriers can provide. Through the new Global Studies grant, the Humanities Center hopes to continue the work begun by this initiative in demonstrating the importance of humanistic study for advances in science, technology and business.

Global Studies grant opens doors to the world

In recent years, a number of faculty members at UAH have been working to add more content about the world outside of the U.S. borders to the university curriculum. To support these efforts, Dr. Johanna Shields, Executive Director for Special Projects at the Humanities Center, led an interdisciplinary faculty team which last summer succeeded in securing a two-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of $148,000. Since then, great strides have been made in strengthening international studies and foreign languages at UAH under the leadership of Project Director Dr. Kathy Hawk of the Department of Political Science.

One of the most significant accomplishments over the past year has been the development of a Global Studies cognate (an interdisciplinary minor) in the College of Liberal Arts. The idea behind the development of the cognate is to provide students who are interested in pursuing serious study of the world outside the United States a formal academic program that will appear on their college transcript. The cognate requires that students take three core courses in order to develop a strong foundation in global studies, but allows students great flexibility in designing a program tailored to their individual interests.

Another significant activity has been in the development of short-term study abroad opportunities for UAH students. Because many UAH students work, have families, and are involved in other activities that often preclude them from spending a semester or a year abroad, the focus has been on developing courses that take students abroad for one to three weeks. During the 2004 spring semester, two faculty members led students abroad for part of their coursework. Dr. Don Bower arranged for students in his Jazz Ensemble course to travel to Cuba for a week over spring break where they studied about Cuban jazz and performed with musicians in the country. Dr. Rose Norman led a group to the United Kingdom in June for a course on Virginia Woolf.

Two new study-abroad opportunities for students are currently in development for spring 2005. Dr. Richard Gerberding is planning to lead a group of students to Rome, Italy, as part of a 100-level humanities course. This will be a great opportunity for lower-level students from all parts of campus to participate in a study-abroad program. The second excursion is a two-week intensive Spanish language study in Mexico, to be led by Dr. Shannon Abernethy. This course will be open to students who have completed at least two semesters of Spanish, and will allow them a unique opportunity to sharpen their conversation skills in a native setting. Each course will allow students to earn three credit hours toward their degrees. More information on these programs will be forthcoming this fall.