



UAH Humanities Center

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Celebrated Author and Poet Kelly Cherry Visits UAH as Eminent Scholar in the Humanities

The highlight of the 1999-2000 academic year for the Humanities Center has been the presence of Kelly Cherry. Professor Cherry came as the Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities and Professor of English, teaching a class in poetry, participating in a colloquium, and appearing at workshops and public readings in Huntsville, Florence, and Auburn. Prior to her debut at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Cherry held the positions of Eudora Welty Professor of English and the Evjue-Bascom Professor in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She has also held several distinguished visiting professorships including Distinguished Visiting Professor, Rhodes College; Distinguished Writer-in-Residence and Visiting Professor, Western Washington University; and Visiting Writer-in-Residence, Southwest State University. This spring she is visiting at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

Most notable among Cherry's many accomplishments are her volumes of poetry including *Death and Transfiguration* and *God's Loud Hand*, as well as several novels and short stories, *Augusta Played*, *My Life and Dr. Joyce Brothers*, and *The Exiled Heart*. Her most recent work is *Society of Friends*. She has received

numerous awards--Prize Stories: The O. Henry Award, Arts America Speaker Award, The James G. Hanes Foundation Poetry Prize, Chancellor's Development Award in the Creative Arts, and, three times, winner of the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award-- just to name a few.

For more information about Kelly Cherry visit her personal page on the Humanities Center website.

Humanities Center Permanently Funded

The Humanities Center was established in 1991 with the aid of an award from the National Endowment from the Humanities (NEH). The NEH award took the form of a challenge grant. Donors in Huntsville and other parts of the state accepted the challenge, subsequently raising funds from other sources--public, corporate, and private--to create the three endowments that support the Center's activities. The income from these awards and the matching funds that were raised support the Visiting Eminent Scholar Program, Library Enhancement Grants, Faculty Research Grants, Faculty Travel Grants, and Guest Lecturers and Symposia.

With these endowments, the Humanities Center has added several hundred thousands of dollars in support for humanities activities at UAH. In the past year the Center spent more than \$14,000 for faculty travel, over \$6,000 for faculty research, more than \$10,000 for library enhancement grants, and over \$7,000 for guest lecturers and other public programs--and this in addition to funding Kelly Cherry's visit.

We're located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uah.edu/humanities>

H.H. Crippen Murder Trial to be Used as Case Study for Urban Anxiety in Edwardian England



Julie Early, Associate Professor of English at UAH and recipient of a research grant from the Humanities Center, will be traveling to London, England, in March 2000. Early, who was invited to speak at the 11th Colloquium of the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, will be taking this opportunity to study "the effects of frenetic mass journalism, and the erosion of distinct social and professional markers."

Early believes her research will show how specific forms of urban anxiety played a role in "shaping the Edwardian 'frame of mind' and its effect on Edwardian Literature." The sensational case of H.H. Crippen which occurred in the early 20th century featured nearly as much sex and violence as supermarket tabloids offer today. As Early says, it "touched on multiple subject areas, all reflecting modern--and disturbing--features of urban life."

Richard Gerberding Updates a Classic Text

Professor Richard Gerberding, who teaches Latin as well as history at UAH, traveled to London, England, in June, after having received a grant from the UAH Humanities Center. Gerberding intends to adapt Cicero's *De Senectute* for modern retirees or those of us contemplating retirement.

In Gerberding's words, he will update Cicero, "doing some injustice to his idiom, but without doing any injury to his ideas." In his work, tentatively titled "The Thinking Person's Guide to Retirement," Gerberding hopes the perceptive commentary of Cicero on the aging process will be of benefit to us as we approach middle age and beyond.

An Historical Overview of Our Research Program

Since 1991 the UAH Humanities Center has used its endowment to award more than \$50,000 in research grants to individual faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts. Limited to short-term research projects, which usually take place during the summer, the grants often help faculty members launch a new field of research. Researchers may use funds for travel to large libraries, archives, or museums, where they can consult rare documents or artifacts. They may also use the Center's award for other expenditures related to research such as the cost of re-printing material or obtaining data on microform or in electronic format.

Some of the research projects the Center has funded in the past include: a history of the French Caribbean; a study of the Space Shuttle Challenger accident; a history of the Merovingian Period (650-720 A.D); an analysis of class and national identity in divided Germany; the 11th and 12th century uses of manuscript art; economic development and social stratification in Cuba; and Harry S Truman's Post-Presidential Years.

While these short-term projects may require years to reach fruition, a number of professional papers, articles, and books have resulted from these grants or are in the process of being published.

In the words of one faculty member, "without Humanities Center support, I could not have pursued manuscript and archival research . . . that is the backbone of my work . . . This is simply a stunning resource for us." We are grateful to all here at UAH and in the larger community who have contributed in the past and continue to contribute in the present to the funding of the Humanities Center Research Program.



ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL de HISPANISTAS

King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia of Spain Open International Conference

Attending the International Association of Hispanists was UAH Associate Professor Linda Maier. Maier, who teaches Spanish, presented a paper at the conference entitled, "The Anxiety of Influence: *Modernismo* and Pablo Neruda's *Crepusculario*."

The Center also helped several other faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville travel abroad recently. Rolf Goebel, Professor of German, attended conferences in Berlin and Prague. During his visit he presented "*Beschreibung eines Kampfes*" (*Surrealismus, Ethnographie, Parodie bei Franz Kafka*). David Stewart, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, presented a paper "Gibbet in the Landscape: Gothic Sham Ruins and the '45" at the 10th International Congress on the Enlightenment in Dublin, Ireland. Serving as a committee member and administrator, Andrew Dunar, Professor of History, traveled to Toronto, Canada, for the Annual meeting of Organization of American Historians.

Domestic Travel

The Humanities Center sponsored 23 other members from the College of Liberal Arts faculty in their travels to professional conferences. Some of these included: the Society for Philosophy and Existential Philosophy, Annual Conference of College Reading Association, Comparative Literature and Film Conference, International Business and Foreign

Language Workshop, the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, Mid-South Philosophy Conference, American Association for Applied Linguistics, the Metaphysical Society of America, Southeastern Psychological Association, American Historical Association, International Reading Association, Victorian Studies Association, International Congress on Medieval Studies, and the French Colonial Historical Society.

Center Announces New Interdisciplinary Series

This year, the Center inaugurates an annual program celebrating scholarship at UAH. Each year, we will designate a Union Grove Scholar, a faculty member who has written an outstanding article or book, and we will sponsor a public program featuring the Scholar and student commentators. The first Union Grove Scholar is Laurel Bollinger, Associate Professor of English. We will examine her excellent paper "Heart versus Conscience: The Languages of Morality in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*" on **Friday, April 7th, from 1:00-3:00 at the Union Grove Gallery**. By focusing modern theories of psychology on Twain's novel, Bollinger shows how the writer wavered between conflicting ethical standards, and she relates these to the racial politics of the period following the Civil War. We should have a lively discussion!

M. Louis Salmon - Humanities Center Endowment Designated

In 1997, UAH designated the last of three endowments which fund the Humanities Center's programs. The endowment is named after the late chairman of the University of Alabama Huntsville Foundation, M. Louis Salmon, in consideration for his outstanding service and many contributions. It provides income used for the purchase of library books and related materials. For example, in the past several years we have purchased collections in classical and medieval literature, French cinema (videotapes and books) and African-American women writers, since these have been subjects of new scholarly interest or increased teaching activity in the college.

Dr. Delores Aldridge Speaks on “The Burning of Black Churches”



Among the many speakers who have come to UAH over the years with the assistance of the Humanities Center was Dr. Delores Aldridge of Emory University. Aldridge spoke at the invitation of the Sociology department during their 1997 Social Issues Symposium. The subject of her address was “The Burning of Black Churches.” She is seen here between Dr. Mitchell Berbrier, Assistant Professor of Sociology at UAH, and a student who attended the lecture.

Visiting Speakers

During the 1998-1999 academic year several Humanities Center awards helped to provide the opportunity for speakers to come to UAH. Among those that visited were Linda Martin Alcoff, Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence, Syracuse University; Sandra Lee Bartky, Professor of Philosophy, University of Illinois in Chicago; Rick Bragg, author of *All Over but the Shoutin*; Barry Burkhart of Auburn University; Donald Shaw, Forman Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia; Bonnie Roberts, Pulitzer Prize nominee and author of *To Hide in the Light*; Ian Wood, historian from the University of Leeds in England.

In addition to co-sponsoring guest lecturers, the Humanities Center helped sponsor a Student Art Show featuring the works of over 40 different students from UAH. The Center also helped sponsor the Annual Essay Contest in celebration of Black History Month.

Three Alabama Women Who Made a Difference

Dr. Rose Norman recently received grants from both the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Ala-

bama State Council on the Arts. These awards along with private and corporate donations, and matching money from the Humanities Center will culminate in a theatrical production. The Equality Day play, presented by Bette Yeager, will celebrate the lives of three Alabama women who worked for political reform: Hallie Farmer, Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, and Virginia Foster Durr. The performance will be in the **Chan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on August 26th.**

An Evening with H.E. Francis

Herb Francis, Professor Emeritus of English at UAH, will read from some of his works during a presentation **Thursday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Union Grove Gallery.** He has authored *The Itinerary of Beggars*, *The History of A Man in Despair*, *Had*, *Naming Things*, *A Disturbance of Gulls and Other Stories*, and *Sudden Trees and Other Stories*. His most recent novel is entitled *Goya, Are You with Me Now?* His stories have appeared in the O. Henry, Best American, and Pushcart Prize volumes. He was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters from UAH in 1989.

Consortium on Revolutionary Europe 1750-1850

The thirtieth annual meeting of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe will take place this year at the **Hilton Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama March 2-5.** The consortium is being sponsored by the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Jacksonville State University. There will be 28 separate sessions during the consortium. Some of the topics to be discussed are “Art in the First Empire,” “Paris and the Press During the Revolution,” “Religion and the Revolution,” “Revolutionary Germany,” and “From Enlightenment to Revolution”. For more information contact Dr. John Severn at the University of Alabama in Huntsville History Department, 890-6310.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the late 1980s, when UAH faculty members and administrators began plans for the Humanities Center, we had a vision, but we truly could not have imagined how well it would succeed. Through the Center, UAH now provides support to the humanities that state funds alone could not achieve.

Because of our endowments, the Center has a stable, slowly growing income, but the cost of our programs continues to rise. The price of books and journals has soared, and high-tech systems for students' research are costly. Our travel and research grants open libraries and archives around the world for UAH scholars, but their travel is increasingly expensive--as is that of the distinguished scholars we bring to Huntsville. We must plan carefully for our future.

Our plans originate in the Humanities Center Steering Committee, a representative body of faculty members, whose names appear to the right. I am happy to report that Ms. Deborah Nelson has joined the Center as its Program Assistant and has quickly made herself irreplaceable. Please feel free to talk with any of us about how we may increase the influence of the humanities in our area.

The new Union Grove Scholar series signals the Center's intention to sponsor more programs on its own. While the Center's co-sponsorship is indispensable for most humanities departments, we also want to highlight issues not bounded by the theory or

methods of one academic discipline. We will increase our efforts to make you aware of our programs, nearly all of which are free and open to the public. And we will continue pursuing our long-range goal of creating facilities that match the quality of our programs.

We invite your comments and suggestions for how we can improve the Center's work. We also ask you to help us grow by your financial contributions. In this way, every donor becomes a part of our future.

Johanna Nicol Shields

UAH Humanities Center

Director:

Johanna Shields

Program Assistant:

Deborah Nelson

Steering Committee:

Philip Boucher, History
Glenna Colclough, Sociology
Glenn Dasher, Art & Art History
Brian Martine, Philosophy
Peter Meister, Foreign Lang. & Literatures
William Munson, English

UAH Humanities Center

Donation Form

Yes, I would like to make a contribution to the Humanities Center. My tax deductible check is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the UAH Humanities Center, and mail to:

UAH Development Office, 122 Alumni House, Huntsville, AL 35899

Name: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

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Please mail this form with your check.

Thank you for supporting the humanities.



Daedalus XXI
Humanities Project

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Origins of a logo

The Humanities Center has adopted as a new logo a modified version of one developed for our initial campaign to match the NEH Challenge Grant. The original appears on the left.

As we began, we chose a design that captured the spirit of the mythological figure Daedalus, who was a master craftsman, architect, and artist. Human flight was his greatest achievement, but it had tragic results. To escape imprisonment, Daedalus constructed splendid wax and feather wings. They carried him to freedom, yet brought death to his rash son Icarus, whose wings melted when he flew too close to the sun. Was Daedalus to blame, for trying to fly like a god? Or was Icarus, for ignoring his father's warning of the dangers of flight?

We chose to evoke the myth of Daedalus because the ethical issue it raises represents a challenge we all face. Our technology far surpasses that of the Greeks, but we share their concern for using it wisely. While UAH leads in technical and scientific fields, it remains committed to the humanities, which remind us that material progress must be a means to a better life, not an end in itself.

UAH

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

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