Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Humanities Institute. Don't forget to add mephamam@wfu.edu to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Wake Forest University Humanities Institute

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Humanities Institute Newsletter

The Humanities Institute establishes programs and provides funding for faculty in the humanities and their collaborators in other fields of study, fostering collaboration among scholars in the humanistic disciplines, and promoting cross- and interdisciplinary research and other creative activity. It also supports joint faculty-student research and activities, and builds partnerships with the public community outside Wake Forest. The Institute aims to advance the university's commitment to education and scholarship that is pro humanitate and to underscore the value of the humanities for the common good.

New Ventures in Humanities Program is Bringing Scholarship on the Eighteenth Century to the Public

This fall, a group of Wake Forest University faculty members have received a Humanities Institute Ventures in Humanities Research seed grant to fund their new digital initiative, The Eighteenth-Century Common: A Public Humanities Web Project. Associate Professor of English, Jessica Richard, an Eighteenth-Century scholar, is the faculty team leader for this project. Her faculty colleagues on the team are Margaret Ewalt, Associate Professor of Spanish, Grant McAllister, Associate Professor and Chair of German, Morna O'Neill, Assistant Professor of Art History, Elizabeth Ann Way, Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Heather Welland, Assistant Professor of History, and Byron Wells, Professor and Chair of Romance Languages. The Eighteenth-Century Common is a collaboration with Andrew Burkett, Assistant Professor of English at Union College.
The Eighteenth-Century Common was developed from discussions generated in the interdisciplinary faculty seminar, The Age of Wonder in the Eighteenth Century, also convened by Richard. The group was further inspired to develop this digital project after hearing Dr. Edward Ayers deliver the keynote address at the launch of the Humanities Institute in March of 2011. Ayers, American historian and President of the University of Richmond, is highly regarded for his pioneering work in and advocacy of digital history projects.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Eighteenth-Century faculty seminar studied the intersection of science and the arts in the eighteenth century as represented in Richard Holmes' The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science. While the group was intrigued by the popular appeal of the text, they found that Holmes' representation of the subject too often took a simplistic approach. The seminar participants wondered how they might communicate the complexities of the material to an audience outside of the academy. From this initial question, the idea for "The Eighteenth-Century Common" was born.

The Eighteenth-Century Common will provide a medium for Eighteenth-Century scholars to communicate with a popular audience. The website that is underway will present a periodic, thematic series of short articles, images, blog posts, and other content aimed at the audience that engaged so enthusiastically with Holmes' book. Beginning with content based on the responses to the book generated in the faculty seminar, the website will present additional material on a range of themes from contributors on campus and beyond. One of the main goals of the project is to use the Internet to bridge the gap between the academy and general audiences with a focus on the necessity of building public humanities scholarship.

For more information about the Ventures in Humanities Research
Digital Humanities Initiative

The Digital Humanities Initiative is sponsored by the WFU Humanities Institute and receives support from the WFU Provost’s Office, the Humanities Institute and a Triad Inter-university Planning Proposal (TIPP) Grant.

The new Digital Humanities Initiative website (http://www.wfu.edu/dh) is a clearinghouse for resources, descriptions of current faculty projects and research, and general information about the digital humanities initiative at Wake Forest. We look forward to your feedback!

Initiative Committee Members:
David Phillips, Committee Chair, Humanities
Laura Aull, English
Ann Cunningham, Education
Rachael Deagman, English
Andrew Engel, The Teaching and Learning Center
Jerid Francom, Romance Languages
Thomas Frank, University Professor
Katherine Gill, CER/University Advancement
Cara Pilson, Communication
Ryan Shirey, English, Interim Director, WFU Writing Center
Rebecca Thomas, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, German & Russian
Steven Virgil, Director, Institute for Public Engagement, Law
Phoebe Zerwick, English

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Humanities Institute Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar Symposium will be held on Friday, April 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m., in DeTamble Auditorium, with a reception immediately following.

At this year’s symposium, we will hear from each of our faculty seminars and Ventures project, as well as special guest Sarah Banet-Weiser, editor of the interdisciplinary journal, American Quarterly, and Associate Professor of Communication & American Studies and Ethnicity at the Annenberg School for Communication,
USC. Don't miss this always rewarding annual event!

More Programming Highlights

The Humanities Institute is excited about its new and continuing programming this fall. Below find a list of our current programs and partnerships:

Faculty Seminars:

Film Genres as Cultural and Industrial Constructions
Anne Hardcastle (Spanish & Film Studies, convener)
Saylor Breckenridge (Sociology), Woodrow Hood (Communication), Judy Kem (French), Scott Klein (English), Candyce Leonard (Communication), Kate McClancy (English), Ananda Mitra (Communication), Tom Phillips (Humanities), Dick Schneider (Law), Marc Yamada (Japanese)

Politics of Location, Transnational Feminisms and Diaspora Studies
Alessandra Beasley Von Burg (Communication, convener)
Sally Barbour (French), Mary DeShazer (English & Women's and Gender Studies), Catherine Harnois (Sociology), Sandya Hewamanne (Anthropology)

Cultural Encounters in the Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean
Monique O'Connell (History, co-convener)
Bernadine Barnes (Art, co-convener), Andrew Vogel Ettin (English),
Katherine Gill (guest scholar), Charles Wilkins (History), Susan Harlan (English)

_Historical and Cultural Approaches to the Modern Atlantic World_
Jose Luis Venegas (Spanish, convener)
Margaret Ewalt (Spanish), Anthony Parent (History), Brian Price (Spanish)

_Peace and Conflict Resolution_
Ken Hoglund (Religion, convener)
Brook Davis (Theater), Michaele Browsers (Political Science), Neil DeVotta (Political Science), Hank Kennedy (Political Science), Omaar Hena (English), Neal Walls (Divinity)

_Ventures in Humanities Research_

_Jessica Richard (English), Convener, The Eighteenth Century Common: A Public Humanities Project._ Scholarly engagement with a non-academic readership and popular audiences interested in science and the arts in the 18th Century.

_W-S Partners in the Humanities:_

_Phoebe Zerwick (English), Story of My Life._
A multi-media digital humanities project and traveling photo exhibit that lends voice to the experiences and lives of disabled adults.

_David Phillips (Humanities), Piedmont Triad Digital Portal._
A digital humanities seed grant to plan a common digital platform for local museums and universities for the benefit of university communities and the general public.

_College Collaborations:_

_Morna O'Neil (Art), Domestic Bliss: Art at Home in Britain and America, 1770-1840._
With WFU students Maryanne McGrath, Caroline Culp, Caroline Nelson.
Co-sponsor: Reynolda House Museum of American Art

_Upcoming Fall Workshops and Events_

_Research Ethics: Reexamining Key Concerns_
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 10-11, 2011
Benson University Center
Pre-conference events run from November 7-9
The Wake Forest University Center for Bioethics, Health, & Society presents a major conference to promote reflection and discussion about critical issues of ongoing importance in research ethics.
More information.

It's Not All About the Money: Applying for Grants and Fellowships in the Humanities
Thursday, Nov. 10, 12:00-1:00pm
Reynolda Hall 301
Co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs
Lunch provided
Click to register.

John's Passion/ Bach's Passion: Religion, Performance and Culture
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1:00-4:00pm
Brendle Recital Hall
An interdisciplinary symposium on Bach's St. John Passion
Bach's St. John Passion will be performed by the W-S Symphony on November 20 and 22, 2011.
More information.

Digital Humanities Projects and Research at Wake Forest
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 3:30-5:30pm
Reynolda Hall 301
Information Session/Mixer
More information can be found on the newly launched website for the Digital Humanities Initiative at Wake Forest University.

The Digital Humanities Project in the Classroom
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 3:30-4:30pm
Reynolda Hall 301
The Digital Humanities Project provides opportunities for faculty to both engage in digital humanities based research projects, as well as to utilize Digital Humanities tools in their classrooms, developing simple mechanisms to enable their students to engage in and document public engagement work, interviews, and oral histories in the surrounding community. This session will focus on the latter goal,
that of public engagement, and discuss the techniques and increased opportunities students will have through Digital Humanities projects to interact directly with community members, to record and reflect on their experiences, and to share their documentation of these experiences. Light refreshments will be available.

More information.

For further information and more upcoming events click here.

NEH Challenge Grant Update

The Humanities Institute is pleased to announce that we met our first annual commitment for the prestigious NEH Challenge grant awarded to the Institute during the 2010-2011 academic year (WFU News Story). The Institute continues to raise matching funds.

The Humanities Institute was able to reach the 2010-2011 match requirement due to a generous anonymous donation and a gift from Jim Gale P’11.

For more information and updates on future fundraising goals, contact Angela Glover, Director of Development or Mary Foskett, Director of the Humanities Institute.

Humanities Resources on Our Website
Visit our new and improved Humanities Institute website for updated information on funding opportunities, proposal forms, humanities news, upcoming events, and instructions for joining the Humanities Institute Faculty Database.

Click here for our new For Faculty page which includes a listing of funding opportunities in the humanities at WFU.

There are also opportunities for Wake Forest students through the Humanities Institute. Click here to visit the new For Students page for more information.

The recently upgraded and use-friendly Humanities Institute Faculty Database allows you to share your research interests with your colleagues and may help you find potential collaborators here at Wake Forest. If you'd like to join the database, please click here to be redirected to the Getting Started page and follow the simple directions located there.

New Office Space in Reynolda Hall

We moved into our new location at 305 Reynolda Hall on the campus of Wake Forest University this past August. The Humanities Institute is pleased to be part of the Reynolda Renew renovation project.

In addition to the Humanities Institute, the third floor of Reynolda Hall is now also home to the Institute for Public Engagement, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the Teaching and Learning Center, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Professional Development Center.

Please stop by and say hello!