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Spring 2005



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Humanities Institute

Margaret Atwood

On Thursday, February 3, 2005, the Humanities Institute, in conjunction with the Suncoast Writers' Conference and the University Lecture Series, will present the poet and novelist Margaret Atwood in the Special Events Center at 7:00pm. Atwood, who currently lives in Toronto, has written more than twenty-five volumes of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Her best known novels are *The Edible Woman* (1970), *The Handmaid's Tale* (1983), *The Robber Bride* (1994), *Alias Grace* (1996), *The Blind Assassin* ((2000), for which she won the

Booker Award in that year, and her most recent novel, *Oryx and Crake* (2003). In discussing her novels, Atwood was recently questioned about the "many word-plays and moments of deadpan humour" that occur in her serious and, as some would say, pessimistic works. She responded by stating that it may be called "'Anglo-Saxon humour.' It isn't

the same as wit. It's dark; it's when something is funny and awful at the same time. 'Gallows humour' is called that partly because highwaymen about to be hanged were much admired if they could crack a joke in the face of death.... When things are really dismal, you can laugh or you can cave in completely.... [I]f you can laugh, you're still alive. You haven't given up yet."



Sci-Fi Authors Creative Process Chat

by Rick Wilber

Three of the most famous writers in the science-fiction and fantasy fields will be appearing together on February 9 in the Marshall Center Ballroom on the Tampa campus of USF. Piers Anthony, Joe Haldeman, and Harry Harrison will discuss their work and the general appeal of science fiction and fantasy in a panel discussion from 10 a.m. to noon.

Piers Anthony is the best-selling author of the immensely popular Xanth series of fantasy novels and has written or collaborated on more than 125 books since the first Xanth novel, "A Spell for Chameleon," in 1977. He lives in Florida and his papers are held in a special collection at the Tampa campus

library.

Starting with 1975's classic "The Forever War," which won the Hugo, Nebula and Ditmar awards as best science-fiction novel of the year, Joe Haldeman has won the top awards in the field for novel, poem, or short fiction more than a dozen times and has been a finalist for the top awards dozens of other times. He lives in Gainesville and Boston.

Harry Harrison's classic anti-war satire "Bill, the Galactic Hero," and his hugely popular and darkly humorous Stainless Steel Rat series are part of a writing career that started with his writing the Flash Gordon comic strip before his first nov-

el, the classic "Deathworld," became the first of many novels, including the famous "Make Room! Make Room!" (which became the movie "Soylent Green") and the recent Stars and Stripes alternate-history series.

USF journalism professor and science fiction author Rick Wilber will moderate.



The Director's Cut

As you may see from the list of scheduled events for Spring semester 2005, the Humanities Institute is again offering a variety of activities for the USF community. As Director, I hope that you will be able to attend some of these events. On one hand, the semester will be a Shakespearean one with the presentations by Michael Shapiro, Sara Deats, and Brian Bedford. On the other hand, the science fiction/fantasy genres are well represented by Rick Wilber, Piers Anthony, Harry Harrison, Joe Haldeman, and even Margaret Atwood, although she likes to call her novels that take place in the future, such as **The Handmaid's Tale** and **Oryx and Crake**, "speculative fiction" since they are not "science fiction proper." Some of you are probably aware that both Piers Anthony and Harry Harrison have donated their private papers to Special Collections, USF Library. The Humanities Institute is also pleased to assist in sponsoring conferences/ colloquies on campus. Last semester, the Institute co-sponsored a two-session colloquium on the Argentine

writer Julio Cortazar, and this semester in conjunction with several other co-sponsoring departments, the Institute will be involved with the day-long Southeast Conference on Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory. Although not co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute, the DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies, sponsored by the Department of English, will hold its 19th annual conference from February 17-19, 2005 at the Embassy Suites. This year the keynote speakers are Margaret Jacob (UCLA), Julia Douthwaite (Notre Dame), and Pat Rogers (the DeBartolo Professor in the Liberal Arts at USF). For further information contact Laura Runge (runge@chumal.cas.usf.edu). With this Newsletter, I want to alert you to a scheduled talk early in the Fall semester 2005. On Thursday, September 29, 2005, the Humanities Institute will co-sponsor the paleo-anthropologist Peter Brown from the University of New England, Australia. Dr. Brown and his team discovered the existence of a pre-historic subspecies of tiny

humans (*Homo floresiensis*) that lived, and may have co-existed with modern humans, some 18,000 years ago on a remote Indonesian island (Flores). These are the sub-humans who have been nicknamed "hobbits" by the popular press. These diminutive creatures used primitive tools and hunted a now-extinct species of dwarf elephants. His presentation will be his tale of his adventure along with an overview of his findings and the far-reaching implication of those findings in the light of evolution.

Bill Scheuerle



Spring 2005

Specific events of the Humanities Institute for Spring Semester 2005 are co-sponsored in part by the Alumni Association; the College of Visual and Performing Arts; the Distinguished Master Artists Series; the Florida Suncoast Writers' Conference; the Honors College Student Association; the University Lecture Series; the USF Library System; the World Language Education Department. The Southeast Conference on Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory is being co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Office of Research, the Latin American/Caribbean Studies Program, and the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research and Scholarship.

January 20 A Talk by **Michael Shapiro**, Shakespearean scholar and Director of Judaic Studies (University of Illinois) entitled "Jewish (& Other) Revisions of the *Merchant of Venice*"
Location: Grace Allen Room
Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.



February 3 An evening with novelist and poet **Margaret Atwood**
Location: Special Events Center
Time: 7:00 p.m.

February 9 "Close Encounters," Science Fiction/Fantasy Panel with **Rick Wilber** (moderator) and science fiction/fantasy writers **Piers Anthony, Harry Harrison, and Joe Haldeman**.
Location: University Ballroom, Marshall Center
Time: 10 a.m.-noon

Booking Signing Reception in Grace Allen room, USF Library 2 - 4pm

February 12 **Southeast Conference on Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory**, an all-day conference with 16 local & visiting faculty and keynote speaker David Grove (University of Florida)
Location: TECO room, Education Building
Time: 8 am- 8pm

February 22 **Great Books Series** with **Sara Deats** (English Department) and Shakespeare's *King Lear*
Location: Traditions Hall,
Time: 6:00pm
[Admission Fee](#)

March 3 Classical actor **Brian Bedford** in a one-person presentation "The Lunatic, the Lover, and the Poet"
Location: Theater I
Time: 7:30 p.m.
[Admission Fee](#)

March 30 "**A Main Event**": An evening with **Elisabeth Frazier** (Art Department) discussing her recently published book *Delacroix, Art and Patrimony in Post-Revolutionary France*.
Location: TECO Room, Education Building
Time: 7 :00 p.m.

April 6 **Great Books Series** with **Silvia Ruffo-Fiore** (emerita, English Department) and Dante's *The Divine Comedy*
Location: Tradition's Hall
Time: 6:00pm
[Admission Fee](#)

April 13 "**A Main Event**": An evening with a panel of present and/or former USF faculty discussing their recently published book *War and Words: Horrors and Heroism in the Literature of Warfare* by **Rosalie Baum, Sara Deats, Daryl Fasching, Mary Helen Harmon, Lagretta Lenker, Tom Ross, Ellen Kimmel, Ellen Kimmel, and Charles Heglar**.
Location: TECO Room, Education Building
Time: 7 :00 p.m.

The Humanities Institute is pleased to list a few of the awards and honors that faculty in the Humanities have recently achieved: **John Anton** (Philosophy) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy and Pedagogy from the University of Patras, Greece, **Gäetan Brulotte** (World Language Education), **Susan Greenbaum** (Anthropology), and **Pat Rogers** (English) received Outstanding Research Achievement Awards granted by the USF's Office of Research. **Dell DeChant's** (Religious Studies) recent book "The Sacred Santa: The Religious Dimensions of the Consumer Culture" was a finalist for the Benjamin Franklin Award and is nominated for the Brawmeyer Award. **Maria Esformes** (World Language Education) will be spending the Spring Semester 2005 in Spain on a Senior Fulbright in Teaching and Scholarship. **David K. Johnson's** (History) recent book "The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays in the Federal Government" has won a 2004 Myers Outstanding Book Award. **Kwasi Wiredu** (Philosophy) was awarded the rank of Distinguished University Professor.

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Advisory Committee Biography Featurettes

Dan Belgrad (Associate Professor in Humanities/American Studies), received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University (1994). His first book, *The Culture of Spontaneity: Improvisation and the Arts in Post-war America*, analyzed a variety of mid-century artistic developments, such as bebop jazz, abstract expressionist painting, and Beat writing, from a cultural historical perspective. It was entered for the Pulitzer Prize in history in 1998. He is presently working on a book-length study of cultural interactions between the United States and Mexico during the period surrounding the Second World War. To research that study, Dr. Belgrad was a Fulbright scholar to Mexico in 2000. During the Fall semester 2004, Dr. Belgrad presented a discussion of Henry Thoreau's *Walden Pond* for the Great Books Series.



for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University in Spring semester 2005. Prior to coming to USF, she worked with the President's and Provost's staff at the University of Michigan during the final planning stages of the Duderstadt Center. In 1997-2000, she was the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of a federally-funded arts program, AmeriCorps ArtsUSF, which provided hands-on arts education to some 600 underserved children in the Tampa Bay area. Nationally, Professor Lee is Chair of the College Music Society's Committee on Cultural Inclusion and the 2005 CMS Quebec City Program Committee, and she has served on the Editorial Board of the *College of Music Symposium*.



James F. Strange (Distinguished University Professor, Religious Studies), has served as Chair of Religious Studies and as Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. He earned his PhD. in New Testament from Drew University and was a post-doctoral Fellow at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jeru-

salem in 1970 and NEH Fellow at the same Institute in 1980. He was Meaker Visiting Professor for the Institute of Advanced Studies at Bristol University in 1997. Dr. Strange's research is in Biblical Archaeology, New Testament Studies, Christian Origins and post-Biblical Judaism. He has excavated in Israel since 1969 and has directed the USF Excavations at Sepphoris in Israel since 1983. Dr. Strange has published five books, the most recent of which is *Religious Texts and Material Contexts*, edited with Jacob Neusner (2004). Articles have appeared in the *Biblical Archeologist*, the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, *Revue Biblique*, the *Israel Exploration Journal*, and *Le Monde de la Bible*. Dr. Strange received the USF "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award" in 1995 and the USF "Professional Excellence Program" award in 1998.



Sang-Hie Lee (Music) has specialties in three areas: piano performance, music research, and research in higher education. Presently, she is working on "Artists at Work in the Academe: Structure and Vitality," which she will pursue during her sabbatical term at the Center

NEH Workshop by Robin R. Bajkiewicz



(From l to r): Sandra Schneider, Ian Phillips, Jane Aikin, Bill Scheuerle and Priscilla Pope at the NEH workshop

On October 19th the Humanities Institute, the Office of Research and Scholarship of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Research sponsored a workshop by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Forty-five people from surrounding colleges and universities participated in the all day program, including Eckerd College, Saint Leo University, and Universi-

ty of Central Florida.

In the morning session NEH representative Jane Aikin discussed the funding opportunities available through the NEH. The afternoon covered a mock grant review panel with attendees taking the role of actual reviewers in order to gain a deeper insight into the review process.

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***"There are obviously two educations.
One should teach us how to make a
living and the other how to live."***

- James Truslow-Adams

***Humanities are, without a doubt, the
core of that second aim of education.***

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"Parisian Research" by Elisabeth Frazier

Elisabeth Frazier (Art History) reports on her summer research project, partially funded by the Humanities Institute.

With the support of a summer fellowship from the Humanities Institute, I spent two months in Paris (from May 20 to July 15) working on my book project, Mediterranean Encounters: Travel Images and French Imperialism, 1780-1850. There I studied primary materials (about 15 multi-volume illustrated travel books) in some of the finest libraries: the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, the Bibliothèque de l'Institut de l'Histoire de l'Art, and the Département des arts graphiques of the BnF. I also read secondary literature on the

history of the French involvement in Mediterranean cultures, colonial history, and travel history. For further study back home I bought photographs and microfilm of rare books unavailable in the U.S., and numerous books and exhibition catalogues often discovered while touring Paris' many rich bookstores. I met with several specialists in my field, including curators at the Musée d'Orsay and the Louvre, and attended a conference related to my subject.

While I was in Paris I completed the rough draft of an article based on my research findings, "Innocence and Illicitness in Delacroix's Moroccan Notebooks," which I plan to submit for publi-

cation in a refereed journal sometime this spring. The research I completed allowed me to bring my project forward and gave me a clearer sense of the direction of my book. I will apply this new material and thinking to applications for major external grants and conference papers this academic year.

