

Humanities

& Western Civilization Newsletter

February 2013

University of
Kansas



A Word From...

Sandra Zimdars-Swartz, Professor and Director

Minor in Humanities. The Humanities and Western Civilization Program is pleased to announce a new **minor in Humanities**. This interdisciplinary program allows student to integrate knowledge from the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Consisting of 18 hours of coursework, the minor requires students to take three hours of introductory course work (HWC 110 Introduction to Humanities or HWC 150 Civilization and the Individual); three hours of capstone work (HWC 424 Senior Seminar), and nine hours in HWC courses numbered 300 and above. Chosen in consultation with an advisor, these nine hours are individually tailored to a student's interest and professional goals. We believe this minor will enhance students' skills in adapting to a rapidly changing global economic environment, understanding the complexities of contemporary issues and possible solutions, and assessing the impact on individuals and societies of advances in science and technology.

New Office Manager

The Humanities and Western Civilization Program welcomes **Thomas Shump II** as our new office manager. Thomas comes to us from a position in room reservations at Kansas State University.

Personnel Changes

Dr. Jennifer Heller has recently resigned as Assistant Director of HWC to take a position as Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at Benedictine College (Atchison, Kansas). Jenny served the HWC Program with distinction, working tirelessly on behalf of the graduate teaching assistants under her mentorship. We wish her every success in her new position. **Dr. Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer**, Associate Director of the HWC Program, will take on the position as coordinator of the graduate teaching assistants.

Where are they now? In May 2003, **Anne B. Wallen** received a Bachelor of Arts with highest honors from the University of Kansas. She had a minor in Slavic Culture and a double major in Germanic Languages and Literatures and Humanities. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Germanic Studies (2006) and Ph.D. in German and Scandinavian Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (2012). She has a book chapter, "Dutch Drag at the Danish National Airport" forthcoming in *Unsettling Assumptions: Tradition, Gender, Drag* (University of Utah, 2013) and another chapter, "The Cartographic Impulse in Contemporary German Culture," for *Mapping Real-and-Imagined Places* in progress. Anne is currently the Coordinator for National Scholarships and Fellowships for the University Honors Program at the University of Kansas. According to Anne, "one of the best things about the Humanities Major is that it gave me a chance to explore courses in multiple departments, and this encouraged cross-disciplinary thinking." When she began her graduate work in German and Scandinavian Studies, Anne was very comfortable "exploring other areas of study and engaging with new topics."

Upcoming Events:

March 1: Mid-America Humanities Conference

March 7: Lecture, Leonard Primiano, Professor of Religion, Cabrini College. 7-9 p.m., Malott Room, Student Union. Reception to follow.

April 8: PCS Lecture, Andrea Bartoli, Drucie French Cumbie Chair of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, 4-6 p.m., Malott Room, Student Union. Reception to follow.

April 11: Distinguished GTA Lecture, Marwa Ghazali, 5-7 p.m., Malott Room, Student Union. Reception to follow.

April 30: HWC Awards Ceremony. 4-6 p.m. Malott Room, Student Union. Reception to follow.



The Humanities and Western Civilization Program at the University of Kansas offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of intellectual traditions and cultural practices in world civilizations with an emphasis on the influence of Western Civilization on the history of ideas and other cultures. The program's focus on values, ethics, and civilized debate is also reflected in its emphasis on critical thinking, reading and writing, and on individualized student advising and a flexible curriculum.

University of Kansas

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