



Humanities and Western Civilization Program

Fall 2007

Director's Letter

At the end of the fall semester we will welcome the arrival of Dr. Christopher Forth as the first Jack and Shirley Howard Teaching Professor of Humanities & Western Civilization. In 2003 KU alumnus Jay Howard of Austin, Texas, made a financial gift to the KU Endowment Association to establish the professorship in honor of his parents and to strengthen and maintain the teaching of the Western Civilization curriculum that had meant much both to his father, a 1951 graduate, and to him. Mr. Howard's gift was matched by funds from the Hall Family Foundation.

Christopher Forth received a B.A. degree in History *summa cum laude* from Niagara University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in History from the State University of New York at Buffalo. His areas of specialization are European intellectual and cultural history, the history of gender, sexuality, and the body, and modern France. He is currently Reader in History at the Australian National University in Canberra, where he has taught for the past ten years. Dr. Forth has authored and co-authored more than forty journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries. He is the author or editor of seven books, among them *Zarathustra in Paris: The Nietzsche Vogue in France* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2001), *The Dreyfus Affair and the Crisis of French Manhood* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), *Cultures of the Abdomen: Diet, Digestion and Fat in the Modern World* (with Ana Carden-Coyne;

Palgrave, 2005), and the forthcoming *Civilization and its Malcontents: Masculinity and the Body in the Modern West* (Palgrave, 2008). He has made numerous professional and public presentations, including radio, television, and newspaper interviews in Australia.

An outstanding teacher as well as researcher, in 2006 Christopher Forth received the national Carrick Institute Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning, and also the Australian National University Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is an expert on the use of information technology in teaching. At KU Dr. Forth will be regularly teaching the Western Civilization courses, as well as a variety of interdisciplinary Humanities courses.

Dr. Forth and his family will arrive in Lawrence in November. His wife, Jennifer Forth, with degrees in French and education, is an English as a Second Language specialist with extensive experience as a teacher and program director in a university context. They have two sons. We look forward eagerly to welcoming the Forth family to Lawrence, KU, and HWC.

—Jim Woelfel can be reached at woelfel@ku.edu



Christopher Forth
joins HWC Faculty

Journal Reveals Lessons Learned from Study Abroad

submitted by Dale Urie, Director of HWC's Spring '07 Study Abroad

Shelly Cline, GTA representing HWC, and Tera Lee Hedrick, GTA from Art History, and I led our students through "an adventure of a lifetime" as many of them have said. Rather than my describing our trip to Florence and Paris I will let one of our students, Christina Martinez, share her impressions. Her thoughts are taken from the conclusion of the journal she kept as part of her "European Culture and Society 1945 to the Present" coursework.

"Here's what I know:

I know about the ideas that Western Civilization was founded on, important time periods in art and modern European culture—things that 'educated people know.'

(continued on page 5)

Médecins Sans Frontières Field Coordinator to Speak

Our 2007-08 Peace & Conflict Studies Lecturer will be Michael Barringer-Mills of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), the independent, international medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters, or exclusion from health care in over 70 countries. MSF was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize. This past summer Mills was MSF project coordinator in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where he managed all aspects of a 72-bed trauma center in a context of escalating urban violence. In the summer of 2006 he designed and implemented an MSF vaccination campaign for 180,000 people in Jigawa State, Nigeria. Previous MSF assignments include work in Uganda and Sudan. He will

(continued on page 5)

On the Move

David Dewar, HWC's Assistant Director since 2003, accepted a tenure-track position at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. David began his new career this fall teaching American History II and a sophomore-level course in historical methods. In future semesters he will teach colonial America and early national America to undergraduates and graduate students, as well as courses in American economic history and constitutional history.

Carol Dewar, David's wife, is teaching choral music at a San Angelo middle school—some six classes daily! The Dewars had been an important part of the HWC family since 1997, when David began in the program as a GTA.

Also “gone to Texas” is **Jeff Bremer**, who is teaching a heavy load of 150 students in three surveys of U.S. History and one upper-level class on the U.S. West at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Jeff reports that he will revive his HWC 300 “Studies in: Natural History” course under the name “Heritage of Western Science.”

Brian Drake is the Franklin Postdoctoral Fellow and Temporary Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia at Athens. In addition to a very large lecture class in U.S. History he teaches a 400-level class in his discipline, Environmental History. Of this class Brian tells us, “I must say that the high intellectual level in the HWC Program has really prepared me to teach these upper-level courses here at Georgia. Hats off to you! In fact, I'm going to be pulling parts of Descartes, Locke, Shelley and the Romantics, and Marx ... to use in my environmental history class— talking about Enlightenment attitudes towards nature.”

Playwright, Film Director is 2008 Seaver Lecturer

The 21st annual Seaver lecturer is **Kevin Willmott**, Associate Professor of Theatre & Film. Willmott, an acclaimed playwright and filmmaker, was raised in Junction City, Kansas, in the Ninth Street neighborhood—an area as notorious in the 20th century as Front Street in Dodge City was in the 19th. Ninth Street was also the town's center for African American commerce. After graduating with a degree in drama from Marymount College in Salina, Willmott returned to his hometown and, as a civil rights activist, worked to integrate the fire department, and organized a sit-in to publicize racial discrimination in the awarding of city construction contracts. His experience growing up in Junction City inspired an independent feature film—a comedy/drama he wrote, produced, and co-directed entitled “Ninth Street,” starring Martin Sheen and Isaac Hayes. Willmott's “CSA: The Confederate States of America,” a documentary that imagines the South as the winner of the Civil War, has brought him national recognition. He is presently working on a new film, “The Only Good Indian.”

Professor Willmott received an MFA at the Tisch School of Fine Arts. He has written, directed, and acted in numerous plays and films, has more projects in the works, and carries a full teaching schedule. His work aptly represents the Seaver Lecture's theme of promoting “continuing issues in Western Civilization.” His lecture will take place on February 7 in Alderson Auditorium.

Calling All Readers!

Academic year 2007-08 is an exciting and challenging one for HWC. This fall will mark the conclusion of a two-year-long review of the College's general education requirements, one of which is of course the two Western Civilization courses. Then in December we will celebrate the arrival of Dr. Christopher Forth, the new Howard Professor, to our faculty, who will regularly be teaching Western Civ. HWC is also among the first group of College units to undergo an external review that will culminate in the spring semester. We invite you, our readers, to write a short statement telling us of your experience with Western Civilization at KU, whether as student or as teacher, and its value to your education and your life after graduation. You can email your reflections to hwc@ku.edu or by regular mail to: Humanities & Western Civilization Program, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 308, Lawrence, KS 66045-7574.

Fall and Winter Calendar of Events

- Sept. 18 **HWC Film Series**, *The Matrix*, 7:30 p.m., 3139 Wescoe
- Oct. 17 **HWC Film Series**, *A Knight's Tale*, 7:30 p.m., 330 Strong
- Nov. 7 **Dean's Instructor Lecture**, Rozanne Stringer, 7:30 p.m., Malott Room, Kansas Union
- Nov. 15 **HWC Film Series**, *The New World*, 7:30 p.m., 3139 Wescoe
- Feb. 7 **James E. Seaver Lecture** on Continuing Issues in Western Civilization, Kevin Willmott, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Film, 8:00 p.m., Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
- Feb. 25 **Peace & Conflict Studies Lecture**, Michael Barringer-Mills of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), 7:30 p.m., Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Using the Rebecca Robinson for Graduate Travel Research Award from the Department of History and a Dissertation Research Scholarship from the KU Graduate School, **Christine Anderson** funded her dissertation research in London and Oxford during the summer. She has received the Richard and Jeannette Sias Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities and will spend this fall and spring in residence at the Hall Center completing her dissertation.

Shelly Cline presented a paper at the Mid-America Conference on History last fall, a graduate school first for her. She taught European Studies 302 in the HWC Study Abroad Program in the spring

Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer, HWC's Associate Director, presented a paper entitled "Robin Hood: Merry Among Men, Mad About Women" at the sixth biennial conference of the International Robin Hood Association. The conference was sponsored by Cardiff University and was held July 19-22 at the University of Wales Conference Center in Gregnog, Wales.

Diane Fourny traveled to Europe twice this summer: she directed the European Studies Summer Institute in Brussels and Strasbourg in June and returned in July to participate in a professional development seminar on the European Union at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Last spring Diane presented a paper in Atlanta at the American Society for 18th Century Studies.

This was a very busy year for **Jason Barrett-Fox**. He was awarded the Helm Visiting Fellowship at Indiana University in summer 2006. He has had numerous articles and encyclopedia entries accepted for publication this year. Jason also presented "What the Editor's Wife is Thinking About: Marcet Haldeman-Julius's Post-Liberal Feminist Socialism and her 1927 Campaign against Racism in Kansas" as the Dean's Instructor Lecture in Humanities and Western Civilization in the spring. He presented papers to The Joint Meeting of the American Journalism Historians Association conference at NYU, the Mid-America American Studies Association Conference at UMKC, the North American Conference on Radicalism sponsored by the Journal of the Study of Radicalism at Michigan State, the Hall Center for the Humanities Philosophy and Literature Faculty Development Seminar here at KU, and the Semiotic Society of America at Purdue University. Jason also served the program as departmental representative for the United Way. He is teaching an HWC 300 class called "Studies in American Socialism: 1870-1954" this fall. And, most importantly, Jason and Rebecca and their son, Gus, welcomed **Mae Hazel Barrett-Fox** on May 25.

In the summer of 2006 **Ryan Gaston** completed research in Madrid and Simancas thanks to the Harry S. Truman Research Award, the McCoy Dissertation Award,

and the Robert Oppenheimer Award. He presented a paper to the Sixteenth-Century Society conference in October. With the aid of the Andrew Debicki International Travel Scholarship and an IIE/Fulbright grant Ryan is spending this academic year in Madrid and Valladolid visiting archives for his dissertation and participating in two research institutes at the Autonomous University of Madrid. He has received the 2007 Latin American Field Research Grant offered by KU's Latin American Studies Program.

Luba Guinzbourg defended her dissertation prospectus and gained ABD status in the American Studies Program. Her paper "Imagining America in the 21st Century: A Russian View from the Final Resting Place of William S. Burroughs" has been accepted for publication in the anthology *REAL: The Yearbook in English and American Literature* in a special issue of "Transnational American Studies." In the spring she presented papers at the Third Annual Colloquium of the KU Interdisciplinary Jazz Studies Group. Two papers have been accepted for presentation at conferences in New Orleans and Lisbon. Finally, Luba participated in a grant application to the American Studies Association designed to encourage international scholars to attend its annual meeting and share foreign perspectives on American Studies.

In August, **Ryan Jensen** successfully defended his thesis for an M.A. in International Studies. He and his wife are now fledgling entrepreneurs.

Heather LaBash received a Graduate Direct Exchange fellowship to Stuttgart, Germany, where she will be studying German and Art History this fall. She will also be doing research in the Hans Sohm Archive which contains materials related to avant-garde art movements of the 1960s in Europe and the United States.

Dean's Graduate Instructor **Nicolas Shump** delivered his lecture "Thirteen Ways of Looking at an Icon: Visions and Re(visions) of La Malinche" in January. Daughter



Mae Hazel Barrett-Fox



Debra Thimmesch (center) accepts award from Ted and Mary Johnson

Bella and Nic's unplanned surgery did not keep Nic from writing his weekly column for the Topeka Capital-Journal and he taught an online course for Drury University called "Global Awareness and Cultural Diversity." Nic continues his association with the University Honors Program, as Director of the Dean's Scholars program.

Kim Schutte spent the month of July in Cambridge, England as the GTA for the Pre-Law Institute sponsored by the KU History Department. She and fourteen other students explored aspects of the historical development of the British legal system and received a general overview of U.S. law.

In fall 2006 **Rozanne Stringer** directed the HWC Study Abroad Program in Florence and Paris. In the spring she taught an HWC 300 course "Studies in Framing the Female Body." She presented her paper "Modernity and Myth in Edouard Manet's *Gypsy with a Cigarette*" at two conferences. She is a Dean's Instructor for 2007-2008.

Debra Thimmesch received the very first Ted Johnson Interrelations of the Humanities and the Arts Award in May and left immediately for Paris for her dissertation research. Her dissertation is entitled "Women, Crime, and Social Deviance in Fin-de-Siècle French Visual Culture."

Doctoral candidate in History **Sally Utech** received an Andrew Debicki International Travel Scholarship in the Humanities and next spring will visit archives in Provence for her dissertation, "Noblewomen and Household Management in Eighteenth-Century France."

Matt Waldschlagel passed his doctoral comprehensive exam in December. This fall Matt is teaching PHIL 288, Ancient Philosophy, for the Philosophy Department in addition to Western Civ. He reports that he has prepared and taught seven different courses at KU.

Jim Woelfel has had a productive writing year. He was one of the editors of the 4th edition of *Patterns in Western Civilization* (Pearson Custom Publishing). Volume I came out in August of 2006 and Volume II in January of 2007. Last April he presented a paper at the

annual conference of the Association for Core Texts & Courses, held in Williamsburg, VA. The paper was entitled "The Socratic Journey: Liberal Education as Demythologizing." His essay, "Culture and Patriarchy: The Egalitarian Vision of Woolf's *Three Guineas*," was accepted for publication in a volume edited by Ronald J. Weber entitled *Core Texts, Community and Culture* (University Press of America).

Doretha Williams received a Mellon Mays Graduate Fellowship Program grant to help fund books and other materials for her comprehensive exams. Last fall she served on a panel at the 40th Annual Oral History Association Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas and her paper, "Any Place But Here: Mobility and Migration in the Williams Family" recounted the story of her family's migration to Kansas during the Great Migration. During spring break this year Doretha attended the Social Science Research Council/Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Program Proposal Writing and Dissertation Development Seminar in Philadelphia. She also presented and helped to organize the Oral History Workshop and Project on the History of Black Writing hosted by the Hall Center for the Humanities. Later in the spring Doretha presented at the College Language Association Conference in Miami, Florida. While there she took part in the recruitment program that she had organized that helped KU's graduate school to actively recruit students of color. This fall she is teaching an HWC 300 course, Black Fists and Sports Bras: Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Collegiate and Professional Sports.

Service may well be **Karenbeth Zacharias's** middle name. She is a graduate student voting member in the History Department, has served on the department's Pre-Modern China search committee, and is a graduate representative for the British Seminar at the Hall Center for the Humanities and for the European Standing Field Committee and the History Department's Advisory Committee. She has been appointed co-director for the British Seminar for this academic year. Last fall Karenbeth designed and taught an HWC 300 course, "Envisioning the Oriental."



Jim Woelfel and GTA Teaching Award recipient, Anne Dotter (left) with nominees Frank Cai and Shelly Cline. Other HWC nominees were Christine Anderson, Ryan Fagan, Ryan Gaston, Howard Graham, and Ryan Jensen.



Jim and Virginia Seaver with 2007 Seaver Lecturer, Marnie Kessler

HWC Welcomes New Assistant Director

Jennifer Heller is our new Assistant Director, succeeding David Dewar. She knows her way around KU, having earned her B.A. degree with distinction in Religious Studies, B.S.Ed. and M.S. Ed. degrees in English Education, and a Ph.D in American Studies. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 1995.

Jenny is well acquainted with Humanities and Western Civilization as an undergraduate student, Graduate Teaching Assistant, and recently as a part-time Lecturer. Her father, George Heller, Professor of Music Education, also taught Western Civilization as a volunteer faculty member. His office was in Bailey Hall for many years when it housed the School of Education. So, Jenny feels that she has truly come home.

The program will be enriched by the teaching and administrative experience that Jenny brings. She taught English at Oak Park High School and courses in the departments of Humanities and Education at Avila University—both in Kansas City. At Donnelly College Jenny was Director of Assessment for Institutional Research and Strategic Planning, and a Developmental Studies Specialist charged with coordinating a Title V Grant Program. Donnelly's students are mostly minority and first-generation college students, and Jenny's very active involvement in curriculum development and the creation of a learning community in developmental education will enhance her additional HWC duties as co-director of the Humanities Multicultural Scholars Program. Most recently Jenny was Assessment Analyst for the Office for University Planning and Assessment at Rockhurst University.

"Jenny brings to the assistant directorship a wealth of administrative experience as well as teaching excellence," says Jim Woelfel. "I look forward to working with her in the months and years ahead."

A CHANCE TO GIVE

The Humanities & Western Civilization Program has touched us all. As students, we've been challenged to think critically, speak and write articulately, and to display intellectual and cultural breadth. As faculty members we have had the privilege of sharing our passion for our scholarly work, and watching our students' intellects catch fire. We have all taken away something important from the program.

Private gifts through our Endowment account enrich the life of the program—among them faculty and GTA support for conference participation, the annual Seaver Lecture and other public events we sponsor.

Donations may be made by logging on to <https://kuendowment.org> or by sending a check to Lisa Jackson, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044. Checks are to be made payable to Humanities & Western Civilization Program Fund.

Médecins Sans Frontières (continued from page 1)

speak on the work of MSF and his own reflections on its mission and challenges. A native Kansan from McPherson, Michael Barringer-Mills is a 1997 graduate of KU, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with a B.A. degree in History. He is currently in the Master of Public Policy program in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Journal Reveals Lessons (continued from page 1)

I know I can live comfortably without my cell phone and laptop.

I know that no matter how big the world seems someone in your group will happen to know someone you happen to know...

I know that places where incredible historical events took place have a special aura about them...

I know that it will never get old (at least to me) to start a sentence 'When I lived in Florence and Paris...'

I know that it is very important to have the proper soundtrack for watching the Tuscan hills or the French countryside go by.

I know that when foreign money is pretty and colorful, it doesn't seem like real money and therefore it spends itself more quickly...

2007-2008 Kingsbury Scholarship Awarded to Tasha Dare

The Donna Evans Kingsbury Scholarship for Women in the Humanities provides a portion of in-state tuition for one year for a meritorious student. The 2007-08 award was given to Tasha Dare, from McPherson, a senior majoring in Art History. She plans to go to graduate school and hopes to work as a curator or art historian in a museum setting.

University of Kansas
Humanities and Western Civilization Program
1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 308
Lawrence, KS 66045

Spring 2008 HWC Course Guide

HWC 110 INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES

TR 1:00-2:15 107 SMI Line # 82848
Sandra Zimdars-Swartz szimdars@ku.edu

HWC 115, 204 & 205 WESTERN CIVILIZATION I, II course offerings are listed at www.opensections.ku.edu

HWC 300 STUDIES IN: RUSSIA & THE WEST

TR 1:00-2:15 119 FR Line # 69051
Lioubov Guinzbourg lag@ku.edu

HWC 308 MASTERPIECES OF WORLD LITERATURE II

TR 1:00-2:15 4012 WES Line # 82864
Marika Janzen mjanzen@ku.edu

HWC 380 MODERN THEMES, ANCIENT MODELS

TR 11:00-12:15 4033 WES Line # 79071
Michael Shaw mhshaw@ku.edu

HWC 420 INTERRELATIONS OF THE HUMANITIES & THE ARTS

MW 11:00-12:15 212 BL Line # 79889
Diane Fourny dfourny@ku.edu

HWC 424 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN HUMANITIES & WESTERN CIVILIZATION

By appt. Line # 59219
Anthia Cotten-Spreckelmeyer arcs@ku.edu

HWC 430 EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION IN A WORLD CONTEXT

W 3:00-5:30 119 FR Line # 75877
Dale Urie durie@ku.edu

HWC 500 STUDIES IN: ANCIENT SANCTUARIES

MW 3:00-4:15 211 SMA Line # 82869
John Younger jyounger@ku.edu

HWC 500 STUDIES IN: AMERICAN COMMUNES

MW 6:30-9:00 p.m. 208 SMI Line # 82867
Tim Miller tim46553@ku.edu

HWC 500 STUDIES IN: MASCULINITY

MW 3:00-4:15 315 BA Line # 82873
Christopher Forth hwc@ku.edu

HWC 510 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

R 4:00-6:20 202 BA Line # 75405
Chris McKitterick, Philip Baringer cmckit@ku.edu

HWC 520 LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION: RUSSIAN

TR 9:30-10:45 Location tba Line # 59221
Stephen Parker sjp@ku.edu

HWC 524 CHINESE THOUGHT

T 2:30-4:20 4065 WES Line # 59223
Wallace Johnson wjohnson@ku.edu

HWC 600 BIOGRAPHY OF A CITY: ST. PETERSBURG

W 7:30-9:00 p.m. 4065 WES Line # 75891
Gerald Mikkelson gemikk@ku.edu

HWC 650 SR. SEMINAR IN PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES

W 1:00-4:30 315 BA Line # 80095
Martha Rabbani mrabbani@ku.edu

HWC 850 PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES: RESEARCH SEMINAR

W 1:00-4:30 315 BA Line # 80097
Martha Rabbani mrabbani@ku.edu