The Humanities Foundation News

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Supporting Humanities at Boston University since 1981

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New Director, New Administrator, New Office, New Policies

The Humanities Foundation has undergone many exciting changes this academic year. Starting in September 2008, we welcomed Professor James Winn as our incoming Director, with Professor Katherine O’Connor continuing as Co-Director for the 2008-2009 year. As of September 2009, Professor Winn will be the sole director of the Humanities Foundation. Long-time Foundation Administrator Frances Heaton retired over the summer, and Christine Loken-Kim became the new Administrator in October 2008. The Humanities Foundation also moved to a new office suite located in room 107 at 725 Commonwealth Avenue across from the Dean’s Office.

To assist Professor Winn in selecting persons and projects for Foundation support, and to set new policies going forward, Dean Sapiro has appointed a new Foundation Executive Committee, whose names are listed below. We are deeply grateful to them for their service.

Newsletter Spotlight

- New Director, New Administrator, New Office, New Policies
- Letter from the Director
- Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows 08/09
- 08/09 Junior Fellows
- 08/09 Executive Committee Members

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows 2008/2009

Clockwise from top left: Charles Capper, Sofia Perez, Bruce Schulman, Michael Prince, Shahla Haeri, and Susan L. Mizruchi.

Projects

Charles Capper — Professor, History
The Transcendental Moment: Romantic Intellect and America’s Democratic Awakening

Shahla Haeri — Associate Professor, Anthropology
Women, Religion, and Politics: Crafting Grassroots Democracy in Iran

Susan L. Mizruchi — Professor, English and American Studies
Risk and Contemporary American Culture

Sofia Perez — Associate Professor, Political Science
Immigration, Welfare States and the Left in Europe

Michael Prince — Associate Professor, English
Aesthetics and the Novel in Eighteenth-Century England

Bruce Schulman — Professor, History
“Reawakened Nation”: The Birth of the Modern United States, 1896-1929

The Humanities Foundation supported a number of faculty projects over the 2008/2009 academic year. Here are a few of the highlights.


BU Center for the Study of Asia — Spring Conference April 2—3, 2009
Presenting the innovative Balinese Shadow Play Wayang Kali, featuring Balinese puppeteer I Made Sidia with Balinese and Western Musical Accompaniment

Puppeteer I Made Sidia, Dr. I Made Bandem, and BU Music Professor Brita Heimarck.

The International Center for East Asian Archaeology & Cultural History — The East Asian Archaeology Forum, a year long series of lectures including:
“A Yuan Dynasty Tomb at Dong’ercun: Changing Identities in the Chinese Afterlife” by Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt;
“Cultural Heritage Management in China: General Trends and a Micro-focus on Luoyang Municipality” by Luca Zan.

Religion Department — author Mary Gordon discussing her memoir Circling My Mother.
Humanities Foundation Junior Fellows 2008/2009

From left: Brooke L. Blower, Robert Chodat, Meg Tyler, Irit Kleiman, and Arianne Chernock

Projects

Brooke L. Blower—Peter T. Paul Assistant Professor, History
Becoming Americans in Paris: Transatlantic Politics and Culture between the World Wars

Arianne Chernock—Assistant Professor, History
Champions of the Fair Sex: Men and the Creation of Modern British Feminism

Robert Chodat—Assistant Professor, English
Symbolic Action in a Cognitivist Age

Irit Kleiman—Assistant Professor, Romance Studies
Traitor, Author, Text

Meg Tyler—Assistant Professor, College of General Studies
Broken Sonnets

Junior and Senior Research Fellows 2009/2010

The Humanities Foundation Executive Committee has selected the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows and the Junior Fellows for the 2009/2010 academic year. Congratulations to:

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows

Charles Griswold, Philosophy
Dorothy Kelly, Romance Studies
Christopher Martin, English
Nina Silber, History

Michael Zell, Art History
Mark Alonge, Classical Studies
Peter Bokulich, Philosophy
Deborah Burton, Music Theory
Gina Cogan, Religion

Christopher Lehrich, Religion
Paolo Serivano, Art History
Andrew Shenton, Music
Keith Vincent, MLCL

Letter From Director James Winn

Dear Friends,

As my first academic year in this position draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude towards many. My thanks to Gina Sapiro for her faith and support, to the hardworking Executive Committee for their high standards and fresh ideas, to Katherine O’Connor for her institutional memory, to Chris Loken-Kim for her passion for detail, to the resident Fellows for their vigorous intellects, and to all our colleagues for their forbearance as we have worked to learn our jobs.

In this transitional year, we have sought to improve our communications with all our constituencies: with chairs and administrators, faculty colleagues, students, alumni, and the wider humanities community. We have learned much from organizing the competitions for junior and senior fellowships, humanities projects, and student awards. Next year, we shall try to put that knowledge to work in order to improve the clarity and efficiency of our programs.

We have also taken an important step in announcing a Foundation theme for the 2009–10 academic year: “Judgments of Value.” Several funded projects will explore that theme as it relates to specific disciplines, periods, and regions, and the Foundation itself will sponsor a reading group and a conference to foster sustained interdisciplinary discussion.

Projects Continued

Lectures in Criticism, April 6th lecture by Rey Chow “Making Diaspora Visible: The Provocation of Asian Cinema.”

Religion Department — author
Mary Gordon discussing her memoir Circling My Mother.


Modern Languages and Comparative Literature Department — Bernard Schlink, author of The Reader, speaking on “The Presence and the Past.”

Humanities Foundation Executive Committee 2008/2009

Clockwise from top left: Allison Blakely, Fred Kleiner, Bonnie Costello, Abigail Gillman, Patricia Johnson, Dorothy Kelly, Allen Speight, Joshua Rifkin, Frank Korom

Allison Blakely, Professor of History and African American Studies
Bonnie Costello, Professor of English
Abigail Gillman, Professor of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature
Patricia Johnson, Professor of Classics
Dorothy Kelly, Professor of Romance Studies
Fred Kleiner, Professor and Chair of Art History
Frank Korom, Professor and Religion
Joshua Rifkin, Professor of Music (College of Fine Arts)
Allen Speight, Professor of Philosophy
The Foundation belongs to the groups it serves, and we earnestly solicit your ideas for future themes, improved programs, and continuous innovation.

Yours faithfully,
James A. Winn

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<th>Student Awards</th>
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<td>The Humanities Foundation will present Merit Awards to 20 undergraduate students and 13 graduate students at our annual student award ceremony, which takes place on Tuesday May 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at the Castle.</td>
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