

The Humanities Foundation News

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Supporting Humanities at Boston University since 1981

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Letter From the Director

Dear Colleagues,



It is difficult for me to believe that I am approaching the end of my third year as Director of your Humanities Foundation. This newsletter is a compact summary of events and activities completed this year, with a glance forward at next year. Let me take this opportunity to thank the thoughtful and hardworking members of the Foundation's Executive Committee, especially the four stalwarts now completing their three-year terms, who have done much to shape the Foundation's policies and practices; they are Allison Blakely, Fred Kleiner, Joshua Rifkin, and Allen Speight. We continue to welcome questions, ideas, and applications.

Yours faithfully,
James Winn

2010/2011 Highlights

- Letter from the Director
- 2010/2011 Fellows
- BUHF News & Event Highlights
- 2010/2011 Executive Committee
- 2011/2012 Fellows

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellows 2010/2011



Top Row: Breiner, Johnson, Kahn
Middle Row: Kopp, Keuhn, Mehlman
Bottom Row: Siemon, Smith, Zatlin

Laurence Breiner: Professor, English & African American Studies
Thomas Watson and the Historiography of the Sonnet

James H. Johnson: Associate Professor, History
Disguised Intentions. Masks in the City of Light

Deborah Kahn: Associate Professor, Art History
Taking up the Chisel: the Sculpture of Romanesque England

David Kopp: Associate Professor, College of Fine Arts, Music, Music Theory
Past the Printed Page: Musical Analysis in Performance

Manfred Kuehn: Professor, Philosophy
Johann Gottlieb Fichte: An Intellectual Biography

Jeffrey Mehlman: University Professor, Romance Studies
Paul Valéry's Second Return to Poetry

James Siemon: Professor, English
Social Hierarchy and Distinction in Shakespeare and Early Modern English Drama

Alan E. Smith: Professor, Romance Studies
For An Edition of the Letters of Benito Pérez Galdós

Jonathan Reed Zatlin: Associate Professor, History
For Jews and Money, Economic Change and Cultural Anxiety in Germany 1870-1990

Humanities Foundation Junior Fellows 2010/2011



Top Row: Nez, Preston
Bottom Row: Sreedhar, Star

Ketty Nez: Assistant Professor, College of Fine Arts, Music, Department of Composition and Theory
Chamber Opera – The Fiddler and the Old Woman of Rumelia

Carrie Preston: Assistant Professor, English and Women's Studies Program
Noh Modernisms: Pedagogies of Transnational Performance

Susanne Sreedhar: Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Women and Contract in Modern Political Thought

Daniel Star: Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Knowing Better: Moral Principles in Theory and Practice

Humanities Foundation Executive Committee 2010/2011

Kecia Ali, Religion
Allison Blakely, History and African American Studies
Fred Kleiner, Art History
Irit Kleinman, Romance Studies
Joshua Rifkin, Professor of Music (College of Fine Arts)

Stephen Scully, Classical Studies
Sunil Sharma, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature
Matthew Smith, English
Allen Speight, Philosophy

Faculty Project Highlights 2010/2011

Boston University Humanities Foundation supports a number of projects throughout the year. Here are some of this year's highlights:



Participants at the opening reception of "South Africa: Artists, Prints, Community: 25 years at the Caversham Press"

College of Fine Arts, BU 808 Gallery & Stone Gallery: The two exhibitions: *South Africa: Artists, Prints, Community: 25 years at the Caversham Press* and *Three Artists from the Caversham Press* encompassed a month-long series of gallery talks, panels, and performances providing a glimpse into the history and impact of the Caversham Press and the rich visual history of South African printmaking.

African American Studies Program and the African Presidential Archives and Research Center presented a conference on *African Americans and US Foreign Policy*, which addressed the role of African Americans in U.S. foreign policy, dating from the Civil Rights Era to the present situation with Haiti. Special keynote speakers included the Assistant Secretaries of State for African Affairs from both the Bush and the Obama Administrations: the Honorable Jendayi Frazer and the Honorable Johnnie Carson. The conference was attended by hundreds of

people from the BU and Boston community over the course of three days.

College of General Studies: in celebration of the 100th birthday of Elizabeth Bishop, Massachusetts native, Pulitzer Prize winner, and United States Poet Laureate, the Poetry Reading Series presented *Elizabeth Bishop at 100*. Dozens of scholars and writers read from Bishop's most celebrated works to pay homage to the indelible mark she made on the world of poetry.

English Department: French actress and director Corinne Jaber's



Corinne Jaber during her lecture.
Photo by Carla Pack-Bailey.

week-long residency at BU included lectures on: the status of women in Afghanistan, her production of the first Shakespeare play performed in Afghanistan since the Soviet Invasion of 1979, and the future of Afghani arts.

American and New England Studies Program: In September, Kim Sichel introduced the series, *House and Home in American Culture*, which brought together faculty from several disciplines to discuss the wide range of ways Americans define "home." Topics included: "Skid

Junior and Senior Research Fellows 2010/2011

Jeffrey Henderson Senior

Research Fellows:

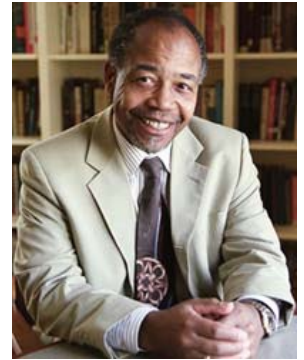
Julia Brown, English
William Carroll, English
Sarah Frederick, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature
Eugenio Menegon, History
Charles Rzepka, English
Catherine Yeh, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature

Junior Faculty Fellows:

Peter Alrenga, Romance Studies
Wiebke Denecke, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature
David Liebesman, Philosophy
Ashley Mears, Sociology
Thomas Michael, English
Teena Purohit, Religion
Dylon Robbins, Romance Studies

BUHF Executive Committee Member Allison Blakely joins the National Council on the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced January 10th that historian Allison Blakely, Professor of European and Comparative History at Boston University and a member of the Humanities Foundation's Executive Committee, has been appointed to the National Council on the Humanities. Blakely was nominated by President Barack Obama on August 5 and confirmed by the Senate December 22.



The National Council is the 26-member advisory body of the NEH. Blakely replaces entertainment executive Craig Haffner, whose term had expired. He will serve until Jan. 26, 2016.

Faculty Project Highlights 2010/2011 cont.

Skid row: Poverty and Place" with Ella Howard (Armstrong Atlantic State University), "At Home in High Rise Middle Class New York" with Rosalie Genevro (Architectural League of NY), "Thoreau's Domesticity" with Charles Capper (BU), and "At Home with Harriett Beecher Stowe" with Hunt Howell (BU).

BU Center for the Study of Asia: *Leisure and Social Change across Asia: State, Money, Gender, and Generations* is a multi-year project examining the function of leisure in parts of Asia. This year, in addition to individual lectures and discussions, the group sponsored a one-day workshop on "Leisure and the State in Eurasia."

Romance Studies: in conjunction with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's September Symposium and Cultural Festival Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, Professor Adela Pineda helped to organize a film festival with discussions on *Creating an Ar-*

chetype: The Influence of the Mexican Revolution in American Film, presented in Washington and at BU.

Modern Languages and Comparative Literature: presented a *Screening of the 1954 Japanese film "Godzilla"* with an accompanying lecture by Gregory Pflugfelder of Columbia University on how this early postwar cultural export from Japan, with its serious anti-nuclear, pro-peace message became transformed into a kitschy stereotype in its global circulation.

Musicology Department, CFA: BUHF Junior Faculty Fellow Ketty Nez presented her new chamber opera, *The Fiddler and the Old Woman of Rumelia*, in combination with the Xanthos ensemble. Ms. Nez used the folklore and folk music of the Balkans as inspiration for her composition.