The Hall Center’s primary mission is to stimulate and support research in the humanities, arts and social sciences, especially of an interdisciplinary kind, at the University of Kansas. The Center brings together faculty and graduate students with common interests from various disciplines to enable them to build on each others’ ideas and to share their knowledge within the university and with the wider community.

The Center’s collateral mission is to sponsor special programs that engage the university and the wider community in dialogue on issues that bring the humanities to bear on the quality of life for all citizens. It creates events on and beyond campus that seek to understand our past, present and future, our values and identities and the essential issues we face as individuals and communities.

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**Public Events**
- Humanities Lecture Series
  - Adrian Goldsworthy
  - KU in Wichita: Gregory Cushman
  - Estelle Freedman
  - Adam Hochschild

**Scholarly Development**
- Research on the Leading Edge
- New Faculty Reception & Workshops
- Celebration of Books
- Applied Humanities Initiatives
- Scholars on Site
- Research & Creative Works Fellows
- Simons & Sias Fellows
- Humanities Award & Grant Winners
- External Funding
- Hall Center Scholars
- Seminars

**Partnerships**
- The Commons
- Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities

**Friends of the Hall Center**
- From the Chair
- Becoming a Friend
- Membership List & Giving Levels

**NEH Challenge Grant Donors**

**Financial Overview**

**People**
- Advisory Board
- Executive Committee
- Hall Center Staff
If numbers alone can reflect a year’s activity, then the Hall Center had a busy 2014-15. The Humanities Lecture Series attracted well over 1,000 people; the nine faculty and graduate student seminars played host to 26 visiting academics (in addition to the many more KU paper-givers), attracting almost 1,000 participants; and we administered no fewer than 22 competitions for faculty and student fellowships, travel grants, collaborative research seed grants, book publication awards, et al. Hall Center competitions are judged by peer review, and each year every committee is formed de novo.

Yet numbers can describe only so much. Of larger import, the Hall Center emerged with flying colors from the five-year review (2009-2014) now required of all designated research centers. Faculty and Friends helped inestimably by completing survey instruments and meeting with external examiners from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I’m pleased to say that the externals’ report reached the conclusion that the Hall Center is a model of what a vibrant humanities center can accomplish.

For the next five years, beyond sustaining the Center’s core faculty and public programs, we have committed to implementing the new NEH Challenge Grant programs, all of which will seed faculty research projects of a collaborative or digital nature. Already, the challenge grant has awarded a Scholars-on-Site grant to Nils Gore, associate professor of architecture, who will work with KU faculty and community partners in Kansas City to promote better public health through physical activity and healthy food. This time next year, we hope to announce the roll out of the second main challenge grant program, the Research Collaboratives seed grants.

We are also beginning to implement the Hall Family Foundation’s 2013 major gift. This Fall, we welcome Andrew Lison (Ph.D., Brown U.), in New Media Studies, as our inaugural postdoctoral researcher in the digital humanities. We will also be calling for KU applicants for the first year-long, Mid-Career Research Fellowship to be held in 2016-17, which aims to help associate professors move more rapidly to full professor rank. Already, the Hall Foundation has added to this major gift by asking us to pilot four doctoral fellowships, each of which will provide four years of support, to help humanities departments recruit the strongest applicants to their graduate program. For many years we have suffered from a shortage of multi-year doctoral fellowships for graduate students. This pilot scheme is a long-awaited opportunity to strengthen recruitment to our humanities graduate programs.

Finally, last April, we held our annual Wichita event. The speaker was Greg Cushman, associate professor of History, who talked about his prize-winning book, Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History (Cambridge, 2013). Only days later, we learned that Greg was one of 32 Andrew Carnegie Fellows in the inaugural class of a new fellowship program in the social sciences and humanities. Susan Hockfield, MIT President Emerita, who chaired the selection jury, said she was impressed by proposals that were confronting some of the most demanding issues of our times, and added: “Solutions to the complex issues of today and tomorrow will not emerge simply through technology and science, but require humanistic and social science scholarship to use lessons of the past to devise paths to future peace and progress.” Amen to that.

With your support and participation, the Hall Center will continue to be the vibrant humanities center the five-year review acknowledged.

As this report went to press, we learned that former KU Chancellor, Robert Hemenway, had passed away. Bob was a true scholar and champion of the humanities. In all our dealings with Bob, he was invariably wise and pragmatic, with a tiny dash of mischievousness. The Hall Center has lost a stalwart and generous friend.

From the Director

VICTOR BAILEY DIRECTOR
We must consider the ultimate significance of our work, our thought, and our creative activity. What are we to make of our practice of valuing, caring, investing, and building, given our impending nonexistence?

— John Symons, “What Can We Teach Our Posthuman Descendants?”

Michael Krueger. Spiderland, acrylic, gesso & colored pencil on linen, 60” (D)
HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES 2014-2015

Founded in 1947, this series has consistently been a hallmark for quality, providing a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue between renowned speakers, the university, and the surrounding communities. Partial funding for the Humanities Lecture Series is provided by The National Endowment for the Humanities’ 2000 Challenge Grant.

The 2014-2015 speakers in the Series were Katherine Boo, John Symons, Amy Wilentz, Natasha Trethewey, James Oakes, and Anna Deavere Smith.

Katherine Boo

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Katherine Boo led the audience through the sometimes funny, occasionally tragic, and always fascinating process of writing her award-winning book Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity. Boo touched on the moments that were most personally affecting to her, including the painstaking process of befriending Abdul the garbage collector, before reflecting on what it was like to be a white woman experiencing physical disability while striving to write the most balanced ethnography possible.

John Symons

University of Kansas Professor and Department Chair of Philosophy John Symons posed the question, “What Can We Teach our Posthuman Descendants?” The answer, the audience discovered, was not as obvious as one might think. Symons sketched out what our more-than-human, almost certainly computer-based progeny might look like, noting that their ethical system may be shaped by rules unanticipated by human designers. He then proposed that, instead of worrying about normativizing the ethics of an unpredictable AI, we focus on understanding “a non human-centered perspective on value, in which, no matter who’s thinking about these questions, there will be some better or worse way for the future to go.”
Amy Wilentz

Journalist and author Amy Wilentz delivered a wry and reflective account of her time in Haiti during “Haiti: Tragedy and Hope.” Based largely on her National Book Award-winning autobiography Farewell, Fred Voodoo: A Letter from Haiti, Wilentz’s talk cast a critical eye towards American intervention in Haiti post-earthquake, noting that American ways of understanding the earthquake more accurately reflects our way of perceiving ourselves as international heroes, rather than what “tragedy” and “recovery” meant to actual Haitian citizens.

Natasha Trethewey

Natasha Trethewey, professor and Poet Laureate of the United States (2012-2014), took the audience on a personal journey through her most recent collection of poetry, Thrall. Partly a vivid autobiographical exploration and partly a look at works of art depicting mixed-race relationships, Thrall, she explained, seeks to connect Trethewey and, by extension, the reader, to the specific historical, cultural, and geographical context of Trethewey’s childhood on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Her work is especially informed by her complicated relationships with her late African American mother and white father.

James Oakes

CUNY Distinguished Professor of History James Oakes presented “Rethinking Emancipation: Freedom National,” emphasizing that the road to emancipation was a tumultuous one, fraught by vigorous legal debate, not a guaranteed product of a linear change in national thinking, as argued by other historians. Lincoln and his supporters worked tirelessly to construct a water-tight constitutional theory of abolition which could withstand attacks by hostile Congressmen and the seceded Southern states. Specifically, supporters of abolition argued that, because the constitution did not specifically sanction slavery, it could only be allowed in states that had explicit laws allowing its existence, making freedom national, and slavery legal only locally.

Anna Deavere Smith

Anna Deavere Smith, author, playwright, and activist, performed an electrifying series of dramatic monologues at the Lied Center, keeping a rapt audience almost totally silent until the conclusion of the final performance. After revisiting some old favorites, including a rambunctious talk by Studs Terkel, Smith debuted several new monologues based on educators, the incarcerated, and community members interviewed for the School-to-Prison Pipeline project. Her finale gave the audience a firsthand look at what it means to be caught in a system of injustice, racism, and persecution.
Adrian Goldsworthy
Augustus: First Emperor of Rome

“For all his achievement and the crucial importance of his actions, somehow Augustus is no longer among the figures from the ancient world who still register in the popular imagination,” said Adrian Goldsworthy, ancient historian and novelist. “Yet there is no lack of drama in Augustus’ story.”

Goldsworthy detailed the long and colorful life of one of the most powerful and longest-ruling men in Roman history. The reason modern popular history ignores him is the very reason he made such an excellent ruler: he kept Rome more peaceful over his forty-four year reign than ever before and suffered no real challengers to his rule. His subjects universally mourned him when he died, and poetry and art flourished under his stern, yet peaceful rule.

Gregory Cushman
KU in Wichita

Gregory Cushman delivered an entertaining and informative lecture about the role of guano and the unfolding of the modern ecological world as we know it. Guano was a valuable commodity, one which originated in the Pacific Basin and utterly transformed the area’s global economic status, while also transforming the world’s ecological profile. Cushman argued that the guano trade is one of the primary drivers behind the Western Industrial Revolution. Guano’s importance also reached into the development of the conservation movement, as the phosphate and nitrate runoffs which resulted from guano’s harvesting began to have a demonstrable impact on the world’s ecosystem.

The event brings the scholarship of faculty at KU’s Lawrence campus to Wichita. It is made possible by the generous support of the Lattner Family Foundation, and is co-sponsored by the KU Alumni Association and its Wichita Chapter.
Estelle Freedman
Redefining Rape

The nature of rape, ranging from Todd Akin’s infamous “legitimate rape” comment in reference to abortion access, to the redefinition of the word in the FBI’s 2013 Crime Report, has been a contentious topic in the media for some time. But this has always been the case, argued Estelle Freedman in “Redefining Rape.” Defining the boundaries of sexual violence has always been an important political maneuver. Freedman, the Edgar E. Robinson Professor in United States History at Stanford University, traced a history of the struggle to expand the nineteenth-century definition of “rape” beyond the forcible attack of a chaste white woman at the hands of a male stranger, usually depicted as a man of color. Both supporters of women’s and African American rights have fought to untangle the rights of bodily autonomy from constraints imposed by racism and sexism. Eventually, Freedman concluded, defining what constitutes rape is a question not only of legal definition, but of citizenship—who counts as a person being “raped,” as well as doing the attacking itself? This personhood debate continues today on the battlefield of abortion rights, Freedman concluded, with politicians pitting mothers against their unborn children as being guaranteed a right to bodily autonomy.

Adam Hochschild
To End All Wars:
Looking Back on 1914-1918

Just over 100 years after the beginning of the First World War, intellectuals still struggle to understand the impact of such a massive and bloody conflict. Adam Hochschild, author and journalist, delivered an absorbing talk on an often-ignored group: the war’s critics, including pacifists, conscientious objectors, and even military leaders who believed that the war would come at too high a price. Hochschild took a novel narrative approach, pitting those who were eager for war ideologically, economically, and ethically against those who were “wise enough to foresee, in 1914, the likely bloodshed that a war among the world’s major industrial powers would cause.” Using moving images and haunting sound clips of families, soldiers, and everyday citizens, Hochschild spent the evening telling the individual stories of those who opposed the war, at times at great personal cost, bringing to life an alternate understanding of a war that is often seen as having been a foregone conclusion.
Solutions to the complex issues of today and tomorrow will not emerge simply through technology and science, but require humanistic and social science scholarship.

— Susan Hockfield, MIT
Research on the Leading Edge

This new program brings visiting scholars to campus who have published research that is boundary shifting within the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

Julian Go, Boston University
Patterns of Empire: The British and American Empires, 1688 to the Present

*Patterns of Empire* argues that, contrary to popular notions of American exceptionalism, America is indeed an empire, and one that has many characteristics in common with Britain. Go’s ambitious work develops a general theory of imperial behavior by comparing the two countries and laying out their commonalities, despite seemingly disparate histories. Panelists Sheyda Jahanbani (History), Joshua Rosenbloom (Economics), and David Roediger (American Studies) then led a stimulating discussion of the work, asking questions and allowing Go to elaborate on some of the richest parts of his argument. The afternoon then concluded with a question and answer session with the audience.

Edward Baptist, Cornell University
The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism

*The Half Has Never Been Told* identifies the slaveholding South as a seat of “dynamic, thriving, and thoroughly capitalist” activity, an argument distinct from the prevailing idea that slavery was an impediment to capitalist growth. Instead, Baptist argued, slavery was crucial to the generation of trade networks and capital throughout the world. Recognizing this relationship allows historians to gain a better understanding of the exploitative nature of capitalism. Panelists Shawn Alexander (African and African American Studies), Adrian Finucane (History), and Kim Warren (History), unilaterally lauded Baptist’s work, particularly praising the ways in which the book links American slavery to America’s successive economic prowess.
New Faculty Reception & Workshops

Each fall, the Hall Center welcomes new and returning junior faculty with a reception and with the opportunity to participate in new faculty workshops. Participants meet other new faculty from different departments and have the opportunity to question a number of senior faculty and staff about concerns they may have regarding teaching, research, and service.

New Faculty Workshops
“Building a Teaching Portfolio”
“External Funding: Why Should I Bother?”
“Promotion & Tenure”
New Faculty

Left Column
(top to bottom)

Rafael Acosta Morales, SPANISH & PORTUGUESE
Tamara Baker, PSYCHOLOGY
Jane Barnette, THEATRE
Catherine Batza, WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
Jamene Brooks-Kieffer, KU LIBRARIES
Patrizio Ceccagnoli, FRENCH & ITALIAN
Christopher Cushing, PSYCHOLOGY
Devon Dear, HISTORY
Elizabeth Esch, AMERICAN STUDIES
Angela Gist, COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Alexander Hall, CLASSICS

Right Column
(top to bottom)

Ayesha Hardison, WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
Michael Kirkendoll, MUSIC
Ari Linden, GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
Corey Maley, PHILOSOPHY
Rachel McDonald, PSYCHOLOGY
David McVey, SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
Heba Mostafa, HISTORY OF ART
Magali Rabasa, SPANISH & PORTUGUESE
Erik Radio, KU LIBRARIES
David Roediger, AMERICAN STUDIES
Colin Roust, MUSIC

Not Pictured

Joseph Brewer, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
Samuel Brody, RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Kelsie Forbush, PSYCHOLOGY
Nathaniel Freiburger, SOCIOLOGY
Tyler Galloway, DESIGN
Sandra Olsen, MUSEUM STUDIES

Christopher Ramey, PSYCHOLOGY
Reginald Robinson, DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION
David Slusky, ECONOMICS
Pamela Sullivan, GEOGRAPHY
Rachel Vaughn, WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
Kelly Vogel, THEATRE
Celebration of Books

The Center hosted its annual celebration on March 31 to recognize the accomplishments of the 31 humanities, social science, and fine arts faculty members who published a total of 32 books in 2014.

Their works explored such varied topics as Georgia O’Keeffe, police stops and racial inequality, the musical theater of Stephen Schwartz, marital strife in Chinese film, and African literature and environmental justice. The 13th Annual Celebration of Books featured a reception, display of books, and brief program. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center.

The annual Celebration of Books is highly valued by junior and senior faculty alike, giving them an opportunity to mark publicly the substantial accomplishment of having completed a scholarly volume or creative work.

David Cateforis, Art History, discussed his book *Rethinking Andrew Wyeth*. 
Sherrie Tucker, American Studies, concluded with a discussion of her book *Dance Floor Democracy: The Social Geography of Memory at the Hollywood Canteen*.

Celebration of Books

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Jill Kuhnheim, Spanish & Portuguese, described her book *Beyond the Page: Poetry and Performance in Spanish America*.

Sherrie Tucker, American Studies, concluded with a discussion of her book *Dance Floor Democracy: The Social Geography of Memory at the Hollywood Canteen*. 
Applied Humanities Bootcamp

The Hall Center’s first-ever Applied Humanities Boot Camp took place May 18-22, 2015. Fourteen competitively selected KU humanities graduate students participated in an intense week-long practicum featuring lectures, field visits, and collaborative workshops that demonstrated how their skill sets could be re-conceptualized to achieve satisfying careers beyond the professoriate in libraries, archives, museums, cultural institutions, public broadcasting, and a host of non-profits. Conceived by Victor Bailey, Hall Center director, and developed and orchestrated by Henry Fortunato (g’03), director of public affairs at the Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library and a visiting fellow at the Hall Center, the Applied Humanities Boot Camp was made possible by a grant from the Hall Family Foundation that includes funding for a second version to be held in May 2016.

Applied Humanities Initiatives

Panel on Non-Academic Careers

Graduate students enjoyed an expansion of last year’s series of panels “Pursuing Careers in the Applied Humanities,” with more opportunities for hands-on training in how to find jobs in the arts, museum, and nonprofit worlds. To kick off the series of expanded initiatives, former Simons Public Humanities Fellow Henry Fortunato hosted “Panel on Non-Academic Careers,” focusing on core questions raised by graduate students: what kinds of non-academic jobs exist? How does one translate academic experience into the kinds of applications in which a private institution might be interested? What is the best way to make use of one’s PhD or MA outside of the university?
Scholars on Site

Scholars on Site seeds research projects that involve collaboration between KU faculty members and community partners. The intent is to support collaborative research projects that mutually benefit community organizations and the university, and generate best practices in collaboration between humanities scholars and public partners. This year, two winners were selected.

Dave Tell
Whose Emmett Till

Dave Tell, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, received the Fall 2014 Scholars on Site award. Tell, along with community collaborator Patrick Weems and digital humanist Christian Spielvogel, will use Scholars on Site funding to begin preliminary work on developing a smartphone app titled “Whose Emmett Till.” The app provides an “electronic commemorative infrastructure” for a community grappling with the legacy of Emmett Till’s 1955 murder.

Nils Gore
Mobile Infrastructure for Participatory Design Ethnography

Nils Gore, Associate Professor of Architecture, received the Spring 2015 Scholars on Site award. Gore will work with university collaborators Shannon Criss (Associate Professor of Architecture) and Matt Kleinmann (Adjunct in Architecture) and community collaborators Steve Curtis (Epic Arts) and writing facilitator Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg. They will use Scholars on Site funding to build mobile pieces for their project, “Mobile Infrastructure for Participatory Design Ethnography.” Since 2012, this group of scholars has worked with numerous community partners in Kansas City, KS to help them visualize and design infrastructure that promotes better public health through physical activity and healthy food.
Jacob Dorman
During his Hall Center research fellowship, Dorman worked on completing his second book manuscript, tentatively titled “Black Orientalism: Circus, Magic, and the Rise of Black Muslims.” In August he annotated several thousand images that he had taken at various circus archives. Dorman also visited the Circus and Allied Arts Collection of Illinois State’s Milner Library and collected a thousand additional images.

Michael Krueger
Krueger’s fellowship allowed him to focus on “Flickering Wilderness, Paintings & Animations,” which set out to reexamine 19th Century depictions of the American West in art. He also worked to create new works of art that consider the past and present, and to ruminate on the future of this beguiling landscape. In the summer of 2014, he began to research the subject and prepare the canvases for painting. In the Fall, through daily studio practice that often stretched late into the evening, Krueger created 15 paintings. The first group were exhibited in a solo exhibition at Haw Contemporary in Kansas City on January 30, and a second exhibition is scheduled for the Steven Zevitas Gallery in Boston.

Margot Versteeg
While in residence at the center, Versteeg re-conceptualized her project, “After Empire: Emilia Pardo Bazán’s Theatrical Vision of a New Spain,” and finished two chapters. The extensive reading she did led her to the conclusion that she would have to foreground the concept of “empire” in her analysis. Versteeg discovered that Pardo Bazán’s plays, produced in the years that Spain lost its final colonies, allowed for a postcolonial reading. The Hall Center presentation Versteeg gave in November offered her the possibility to share her ideas with others.

Iris Smith Fischer
Fischer spent most of the award period reading and writing for her project “Theatre at the Birth of Semiotics: The Role of Aesthetic Expression in 19th-Century U.S. Philosophy,” with a few short trips to present findings and investigate selected documents at the Houghton Library (Harvard), the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and the Museum of the City of New York. She advanced her book significantly and is publishing sections of it in article form. Fischer completed chapters two and three, plus two articles related to them. She also drafted a third article currently in revision.

Benjamin Chappell
Chappell is working on two draft articles related to his project “Mexican American Fastpitch: Softball as a Cultural Resource Against Forgetting,” and has submitted one proposal for additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and another for participation in an advanced seminar to the Newberry Library in Chicago. The collaborations that developed during his fellowship have produced plans for a joint panel presentation on Mexican American sports with colleagues from Kansas City and Texas Tech University, and to co-author a photo-history book about Midwestern Mexican American baseball with a colleague in California. While on fellowship, Chappell served as a consulting scholar for a Kansas Humanities Council project that awarded funding to El Centro, Inc. and Dr. Gene Chavez of Kansas City to work on a documentary video project built around oral histories of Mexican American softball leagues.
Simons Public Humanities Fellow
Angela Elam

Angela Elam, the producer of New Letters on the Air on KCUR, used the Simons Fellowship to focus on Kansas writers of poetry, fiction, plays and memoir, including several from KU’s Creative Writing Program, the Kansas Poets Laureate, and various communities across Kansas. The produced programs are interspersed throughout the regular New Letters on the Air weekly broadcasts. When all the productions are complete, they will be offered together as a special series on the Public Radio Exchange (PRX). Elam has also interviewed several visiting writers at the Hall Center, while spending time contemplating the power of narrative. She plans to produce a culminating thematic show on the use of storytelling throughout the genres in early 2016.

Sias Graduate Fellow
Claire Wolnisty

Wolnisty’s fellowship enabled her to accomplish two goals while in residence at the Hall Center during the fall 2014 semester. While working on her dissertation, “Austral Empires: Southern Migration to Central and South America, 1845-1877,” she completed a draft of her third chapter about southern commercial expansion during the Civil War Era. She also took a Portuguese class during this semester, allowing her to start navigating three archives in Brazil crucial for dissertation research in the winter break after her semester-in-residence: The National Archive of Brazil, The National Library of Brazil, and the libraries at UNICAMP.

Sias Graduate Fellow
Angela Moots

With the support of the Sias Fellowship, Moots was able to focus on research and writing for her dissertation, entitled “Perceptions of Syncope in Medieval French Literature of the High Middle Ages: The Function and Cultural History of Fainting.” In the fall semester of 2014, she completed the third and fourth chapters of her dissertation. Moots then revised her dissertation draft in the spring semester, and successfully defended in April 2015. She has accepted an appointment as associate director of International Programs and Services at Pittsburg State University.
The Hall Center provides awards to humanities scholars of all ranks to support research, writing, and publications.

Faculty Achievements

**Hall Center Travel Grants**
Hall Center travel grants provide faculty members with the opportunity to conduct research and scholarly consultation that cannot be accomplished in any other way than by travel to appropriate locations where materials and collaborators reside.

**Patricia Manning**, Associate Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, traveled to Madrid, Spain to study seventeenth and eighteenth-century editions of “courtly novels” in the Biblioteca Nacional for her book project “Booksellers’ Influence: Marketing and Editing Novella Collections in Early Modern Madrid.”

**Maya Stiller**, Assistant Professor of Art History, traveled to P’ongyang, North Korea to conduct critical field research at three museums and at Kŭmgangsan’s mountain range for her book project “Transformational Visions and Encounters: Pilgrimages to Kŭmgangsan in early modern Korea.”

**Adrian Finucane**, Assistant Professor of History, traveled to London, England and Seville, Spain to conduct archival research for her book project “Founding Georgia: Labor, Debt and Science in an American Borderland.”

**Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award**
The Annual Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award was awarded to **Emma Scioli**, Associate Professor of Classics, for her forthcoming publication *Dream, Fantasy, and Visual Art in Roman Elegy*, to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press. Scioli’s study analyzes select dreams and related phenomena such as fantasies and visions in the elegiac poetry of Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid, the principal authors of elegiac poetry during its short but explosive flourishing in Augustan Rome. In particular, Scioli explores the ways in which these poets negotiated the challenges of representing the visual experience of dreaming in textual descriptions of that experience.

**Friends Book Publication Award**
Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Katie Rhine** was the recipient of the 2015 Friends Book Publication Award for her forthcoming book *The Unseen Things: Women, Secrecy, and HIV in Northern Nigeria*, to be published by the University of Indiana Press. The book captures the rich and complicated lives of HIV-positive Nigerian women who desire the same things that all people seek—social connection, love, prosperity, security, health, and longevity.
Graduate Student Achievements

Andrew Debicki International Travel Award in the Humanities
Claire Wolnisty, doctoral candidate in History, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to access the Biblioteca Nacional in Rio de Janeiro and the interdisciplinary research center, the Núcleo de Estudos de População “Elza Berquó,” at the University of Campinas in the province of São Paulo, Brazil. Wolnisty examined archival materials essential to her doctoral dissertation, including Brazilian voices in her discussion of American Southern identity formation, using migration studies to frame her analysis of community cohesion.

Jim Martin Travel Award in the Humanities
Elizabeth Sallinger, doctoral candidate in Musicology, visited New York City, NY to conduct research for her dissertation “Broadway Starts to Rock: Musical Theater Orchestration and Character, 1968-1975.” Sallinger traveled to New York City to explore the Billy Rose Theatre Collection of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and to access other supplemental collections, which provided her with materials to compile intensive score study, biographical research, instrument histories, study of the recordings, reviews, work with the libretti, considerations of historical context, and interviews with surviving orchestrators and composers.

Humanities Summer Graduate Internships
Humanities Summer Graduate Internships were given to Harley Davidson (History; National World War I Museum); Amber Roberts Graham (History; Truman Library Institute); Rebecca Dickman (Museum Studies; Mid-America Arts Alliance); Alyse Bensel (English; Kansas Humanities Council); Meaghan Kelly (English; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art); and Katrina Lynn (History; Franklin County Historical Society).

Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Awards
Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Awards were given to Alison Miller (Art History); Evgeny Grishin (History); Renee Harris (English); and David Trimbach (Geography).
Faculty Spotlight

As of publication of this report, fourteen faculty members have received announcements of individual awards, and two faculty members have received announcements of institutional awards. Faculty will continue to be notified of awards throughout the year. For more detailed descriptions of faculty projects, please visit the Hall Center’s website and click on “Grant Office,” then “External Awards.” The following pages highlight particularly prestigious awards secured by humanities and social science faculty.

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships

The American Council of Learned Societies awarded two University of Kansas faculty members fellowships for humanities research to be undertaken in academic year 2015-16.

John Rury

John Rury, Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies/History (courtesy), received an ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship. The fellowship offers small teams of two or more scholars the opportunity to collaborate intensively on a single, substantive project. Rury and his colleague, Derrick Darby (philosophy, University of Michigan), will use the Collaborative Research Fellowship funding to conduct research on and write collaboratively for their book project, “The Color of Mind: Why the Origins of the Achievement Gap Matter for Justice.”

Maya Stiller

Maya Stiller, Assistant Professor of Art History, received an ACLS Post-doctoral Fellowship in the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies at Harvard University to work on “Kumgangsan: Regional Practice and Religious Pluralism in Pre-Modern Korea.” The fellowship will provide two years of funding to recent recipients of the PhD for residence at a university for the purpose of revising the dissertation into a publishable manuscript or for beginning the first new project after completion of the PhD degree. This project is a case study of Kumgangsan’s Buddhist communities surviving in the hostile environment of early modern Korea (1650–1900). Survival strategies included collaborating with the cultural elite, appealing for state support, and maintaining an extensive support network of wealthy donors.
Andrew Carnegie Fellowship

**Gregory Cushman**

Gregory Cushman, Associate Professor of History/Environmental Studies, received an inaugural 2015 Carnegie Fellowship. The fellowships aim to provide new perspectives on the program’s overarching theme for 2015: Current and Future Challenges to U.S. Democracy and International Order. Cushman will use the Carnegie fellowship to complete a second book, “The Anthropocene and the Age of Revolution: A People’s History of the Earth Under Human Domination.” The book will explore the historical causes and human values that have brought human-nature relations to this juncture.

NEH Fellowship

**Vitaly Chernetsky**

Vitaly Chernetsky, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, will use his NEH Summer Stipend to produce “Globalization and the Euromaiden: Ukraine’s Ongoing Social Transformation and its Literary Representations,” which examines the emergence of a new Ukrainian identity from ongoing trauma and uncertainty in the country during recent months. Chernetsky’s project seeks to provide a focused, in-depth analysis of the role of contemporary Ukrainian writers and other public intellectuals in the recent events surrounding Ukraine.
Each year, the Friends of the Hall Center sponsor a small number of Hall Center Scholars. The program provides opportunities for KU undergraduates with strong academic credentials who have demonstrated significant activity within KU to meet with the influential public intellectuals that participate in the Humanities Lecture Series.

“Being a Scholar was an incredibly enriching experience—both academically and personally. Through the program, I studied literature from a variety of different disciplines, and had the privilege of meeting renowned authors featured in the Humanities Lecture Series.”

– Corbin Stephens

“It was a pleasant surprise to find out how easy (and fun!) it is to talk to ‘famous authors.”

– Sebastian Schoneich

“I enjoyed being a scholar because it encouraged me to discuss ideas and concepts with students from a variety of different fields. Having the authors contribute to the conversation made our discussions even more rigorous.”

– Emma Halling
The Hall Center sponsors several ongoing seminars that bring together faculty and graduate students from different departments for interdisciplinary dialogue and discussion and to present research. The seminars also invite visiting speakers from other US universities and from overseas. Three new seminars were introduced in 2014-2015.

**New Seminars in 2014-2015**

**disABILITY STUDIES**

- **Disability Studies Seminar**
  This seminar provides a much-needed forum for scholars to explore and share research on topics relevant to disability within and across the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Co-directed by Sherrie Tucker (American Studies), John Derby (Visual Art), and Ray Mizumura-Pence (American Studies).

- **Place, Race & Space Seminar**
  This seminar explores the interplay of social, historical, psychological, and spatial forces in configuring racial formations, identities, and experiences throughout the world. Co-directed by Shawn Alexander (African & African American Studies), David Roediger (American Studies), and Ludwin Molina (Psychology).

- **The Urban Experience Seminar**
  This seminar focuses on urban social and cultural space and attendant relationships, both as a result of ideas and imagination, and as a function of historical, social, economic, and political forces. Co-directed by Clarence Lang (African & African American Studies), John Rury (Education Leadership & Policy Studies), Marie-Alice L’Heureux (Architecture), and Bradley Lane (Public Affairs & Administration).
In 2014-2015, The Commons saw more than 10,000 visitors at its 173 events, which included lectures, conferences, faculty workshops, student events, and many new collaborations. Instead of choosing one theme around which to base programming, The Commons invited guests and facilitated events that touched on a number of topics, which benefited from the perspectives of scholars and students from across campus and the community.

This year’s Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture featured renowned writer and thinker Margaret Atwood, who focused her lecture on the ambitious title “Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?: The Arts, the Sciences, the Humanities, the Inhumanities, and the Non-Humanities. Zombies Thrown in Extra.” This event led to a collaboration with the Lawrence Public Library, which selected Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale as the 2015 Read Across Lawrence book and hosted a panel at The Commons related to feminism, a central theme in the novel.

Red Hot Research continued to bring together scholars from across the university, as faculty and researchers introduced their new research ideas to one another and discussed connections and opportunities for projects. The series expanded to nine separate events, and two were hosted in collaboration with other campus partners and focused on specific themes.

In partnership with the Center for Sustainability, New York Times blogger and science and environmental writer Andrew Revkin delivered a lecture titled “The New Communication Climate” and an Idea Café, “Why We Should Be Optimistic About the Anthropocene.”

Throughout the year, The Commons partnered with offices and centers at KU to provide programming on significant topics including events in Ferguson, MO; water resource management; salary disparity between genders; marriage equality; and sexual assault on campus. The Commons continued to be a site for Bold Aspirations lectures, sponsored by the Office of the Provost in support of KU’s strategic plan.

Images courtesy of the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas.
Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities

The Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities provides resources and training in the practices and tools of the digital humanities, facilitating interdisciplinary academic collaborations, innovative research, and external funding opportunities. It is a partnership between the Hall Center for the Humanities, the KU Libraries, and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Digital Humanities Forum: “Nodes & Networks”

IDRH held its annual Digital Humanities Forum on September 12-13, 2014 on the theme of “Nodes & Networks in the Humanities: Geometries, Relationships, Processes.” The Forum attracted over 80 participants and featured one day of hands-on workshops and one day of research presentations, along with three keynote speakers: Isabel Meirelles (Northeastern University), Steven Jones (Loyola University Chicago) and Scott Weingart (Indiana University).

Digital Humanities Tornado

On October 24, IDRH hosted a Digital Humanities Tornado, a research networking session aimed at developing internal grant proposals based in interdisciplinary collaboration between KU faculty. 20 faculty and graduate students participated in the event, which brought researchers together to develop proposals for seed grants of up to $15,000 in the Digital Humanities and all allied fields.

Postdoctoral Scholar Élika Ortega

In January 2015 IDRH hired Élika Ortega as a two-year postdoctoral scholar. In addition to pursuing her own research, Dr. Ortega is developing KU's first introductory digital humanities class to be offered in Fall 2015, consulting on digital humanities tools and methods, and assisting with general IDRH programming.

For more information about IDRH, please visit http://idrh.ku.edu. The website (and accompanying YouTube channel and LibGuide) contains a wealth of resources about digital humanities at KU and beyond, including over 40 videos from our conferences and seminars.
Dear Friends,

As a Friend of the Hall Center, you share a belief in the importance of education and research in the humanities. Your support helps the Hall Center continue to grow and receive recognition nationally and internationally. Throughout the year, the Friends of the Hall Center and the Friends Council have worked to complement the work of the Center by increasing its base of support.

It has been an honor to serve as chair of the Friends Council. The Council is comprised of 12 Friends who work with the Director to assess, plan and allocate funds in support of specific programs and activities at the Center. The Council has worked hard to recruit and retain new Friends and to increase the dollars raised through membership donations. We thank all members of the Council for their efforts. We are especially grateful for the work and contributions made by the four members who retired from the Council this year: Beverly Smith Billings, Geraldo de Sousa, Marilyn Russell, and Eleanor Woodyard. We welcome four new members elected at the Annual meeting and look forward to the energy and ideas they bring to ensure the continued health of the organization: Kay Brada, Tom Brown, Marilyn Gridley, and Alan Sanders. The Council will be chaired by Susan Gurley, who was also elected at the Friends annual meeting.

The total number of Friends this year was 444, and the Friends annual budget was $90,500. Resources provided by the Friends have been crucial to the programs at the Hall Center. The Friends supported the Humanities Lecture Series talk given by John Symons, Professor of Philosophy. The Friends of the Hall Center Book Publication Award was presented to Katie Rhine, Assistant Professor of Anthropology. In addition, we supported nine Hall Center Scholars, undergraduates from a wide variety of disciplines. The Friends also continue to support four graduate students with summer research stipends, as well as the IDRH Post-doctoral Fellowship.

Thank you for your continued support of the Hall Center.

Judy Bauer, Chair,
Hall Center Friends Council
The mission of the Friends of the Hall Center is to complement the work of the Center and its Advisory Board by developing a broad base of support through individual and community involvement and contributions.

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- Attend private sessions with visiting speakers
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The Hall Center received a third National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant of $425,000 with a required private match of $1,275,000. The new endowment of $1,700,000 enables the Hall Center to seed collaborative faculty research projects in the humanities via two new programs: Research Collaboratives and Scholars on Site. The following is a list of private donors whose generous support brought us the required match.

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Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Based on an Income of $1,081,356

- KUEA Interest: 48.86%
- State/university Salaries: 29.65%
- Expendable Gifts: 9.71%
- Friends Gifts: 7.88%
- State/University OOE: 1.78%
- State/university awards: 2.22%

Based on Expenditures of $930,683

- Staff Salaries: 47.57%
- Public Programs: 18.04%
- Faculty Development: 19.68%
- Administration: 6.71%
- Graduate/Undergraduate Development: 8.00%
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