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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The Hall Center staff and I have spent the best part of the summer preparing for the Center’s Fall five-year review, 2009-2014. What typically starts as a tedious task of pulling data on events, attendance, and grant awards gradually assumes a more uplifting quality as one begins to see what has been achieved in the past five years, and what ought to be the vision for the next five. The first outcome of our labors was a lengthy self-report study of the years under review and of future directions.

The Annual Report for 2013-14 is not the place to rehearse the self-study, but it bears stating that the past five years have seen some important achievements for the Hall Center. Our desire to attract a third challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities succeeded on the second attempt in 2011. Two years on, we’ve secured the match of $1,275,000, and hence the challenge grant of $425,000. A third NEH challenge grant, and a new endowment of $1,700,000 for new programs in collaborative and digital scholarship, is a signal achievement by the standards of the best humanities centers. To this, we added the Hall Family Foundation’s major gift of $2,500,000, which will in due course result in a number of new postdoctoral and faculty fellowship opportunities. Indeed, gradual implementation of the programs made possible by the challenge grant and the Hall Foundation’s gift is one of the main goals of the next five years.

In April 2013, we hosted the twentieth annual conference of the international Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes. 150 center directors from around the world came to KU for two days of conference with the title: “Humanities, Publics, and the State.” Plenary speakers, panelists, and participants examined a number of vital issues: the public mission of the research university; how to restore the democratic vision of the university’s service to the public good; what role the university should play in the social transformation of the state of which it is part? It was, by common report, a successful conference, and one that allowed us to showcase the KU campus and the Hall Center.

En route we have strengthened our partnerships with The Commons and the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. We improved our staffing profile, with new hires in the humanities grant development office and for communications work. We increased our support of graduate students. And we implemented a three-year cycle of appointment and review for the faculty and graduate student seminars. Between 2010 and 2014, the seven seminars (plus two one-year seminars), hosted 248 speakers, including 102 visiting speakers from universities near and far.

These achievements are the product of the efforts and support of many people. Faculty colleagues have given of their time and talent to help us with many of our programs. Friends of the Hall Center have provided new levels of expendable funds, underwriting a number of our programs. And the Advisory Board, on which sit leaders of the main Kansas City foundations and many generous individuals, have put the Center on a sounder financial footing than ever before. I am truly grateful for all this support, without which the Hall Center would do much less, and do less well what we do.

VICTOR BAILEY
DIRECTOR
public events

The Hall Center held many popular public events during 2013-2014. Audiences heard lectures from scholars discussing the interpretation of medieval illustrated manuscripts; contesting interpretations of the beginning of World War I; the efficacy of Margaret Thatcher as leader of Britain; and the trajectory toward success taken by KU’s Chancellor.

“Only through peaceful global interfaith dialogue can we help further advance our collective human conversation.”

— Arsalan Iftikhar
The Humanities Lecture Series 2013-2014

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 2013-2014 speakers in the Series were Arsalan Iftikhar, Jill Lepore, Junot Díaz, Anne D. Hedeman, Peter Brown, and Jeffrey Toobin.

Arsalan Iftikhar

International human rights lawyer, author, and founder of TheMuslimGuy.com Arsalan Iftikhar kicked off the 2013-2014 Humanities Lecture Series with the impassioned lecture “The Role of Islam in Post 9/11 America.” Detailing numerous examples of anti-Muslim sentiment in politics in the media, both in America and abroad, and unpacking what an everyday “brown person” might experience upon hearing news of a violent attack, Iftikhar sketched out ways to heal growing hostility toward Muslims.

Jill Lepore

David Woods Kemper ’41 Professor of American History Jill Lepore carefully traced the evolution of what comprises the “private” in “Unseen—The History of Privacy.” Lepore contended that “secrecy” was born from the secularization of “mystery,” or protected religious knowledge. Once more information became accessible through technology, protecting powerful information, or “secrets,” gained significance. From this democratization of knowledge grew the desire for “privacy,” the ability to select what personal information is kept exclusive from “the selves we have so entirely contrived to expose.”
Junot Díaz

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award-winner and Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing Junot Díaz led a high-spirited, interactive conversation with record attendees at “An Evening with Junot Diaz: Literature, Diaspora, and Immigration.” Over 800 participants listened to Díaz talk about the importance of embracing one’s unique culture and of civic engagement and responsibility. “It’s elsewhere and others that produce the best art. No one understands a given moment in a given place better than the outsider peering in.”

Anne D. Hedeman

Anne D. Hedeman, Judith Harris Murphy Distinguished Professor of Art History at KU, treated audiences to a close examination of several colorful French medieval manuscripts in “Imagining the Past: Interplay between Literary & Visual Imagery in Late Medieval France.” By looking at two case studies, a 15th century version of the ancient Roman Comedies by Terence and the French translation of Boccaccio’s Of Famous Men and Women, Hedeman showed that these manuscript illustrations functioned to make the text accessible and the manuscript enticing to a contemporary audience.

Peter Brown

Philip and Beulah Robins Professor Emeritus of History Peter Brown presented “Through the Eye of a Needle: Wealth, the Fall of Rome, and the Making of Christianity in the West, 350-550 AD,” tracing the shifting conception of the relationship between wealth and the burgeoning Christian church in late antiquity. By framing appropriate and inappropriate ways to deal with wealth, early Christian churches dealt with the difficult Biblical command to “sell what you possess and give to the poor, [so that] you will have treasure in heaven.”

Jeffrey Toobin

Jeffrey Toobin, senior legal analyst for CNN and author of The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court, interspersed cogent analysis of current trends in the Supreme Court with humanizing anecdotes during his lecture “The Supreme Court in the Age of Obama.” Toobin traced briefly the trajectory of each current justice’s approach to Constitutional analysis, then showed how these guiding principles either strengthened or imploded during the presidency of Obama.
Max Hastings
Catastrophe 1914

Attempting to understand the beginnings of World War One is a difficult task, considering the veil of history. As eminent historian Sir Max Hastings pointed out in his talk “Catastrophe 1914,” “every great historical event becomes shrouded in myths and legends.” Yet, Hastings argued, the Germans should claim responsibility for the beginning of the Great War. Perhaps they didn’t intend for all of Europe to be embroiled in such a large conflict, but Germany was an autocratic kingdom led by a group of generals who knew that war had served them well in the past, and knew that forces of democracy and socialism were a threat to their existence. When France and Britain hesitated to defend the Serbians, Germany went on the offensive by seizing French border defenses and marching through Belgium, leaving the two countries little choice but to become embroiled in the conflict.

Sean McMeekin
July 1914: Countdown to War

While Hastings pointed overwhelmingly to the Germans and Austrians as the orchestrators of World War One, launched in retaliation for the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Serbia, historian Sean McMeekin argued that there’s more to the story than any single nation carrying the burden of guilt for the war. His lecture explored the role of historical contingency, the idea that historic events cannot be pinned to a specific, unavoidable cause, but instead are the result of many seemingly random events adding up to crisis. Russia’s role in the crisis, McMeekin argued, has been ignored in order to cast sole blame on the Germans. In particular, Balkan uneasiness around Sarajevo preceding the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, and the responses by European leaders to Russia’s overtures of aggression, show that the beginning of the Great War was more complicated than explained by historians like Hastings.
Aminatta Forna

“Being a writer has allowed me to tell stories that aren’t being told,” explained Aminatta Forna, author of *The Hired Man*, a novel tracing the effects of war in a small Croatian town of Gost. Drawing parallels between the Yugoslav wars and the civil war which wracked Forna’s native Sierra Leone, “Writing War: Civil Conflict and Memory,” focused on the artistic challenges of depicting post-war life. In particular, coming to an uneasy peace with perpetrators represented a unique opportunity for exploration. For, as Forna puts it, “We live in these tiny worlds where everyone has done something with somebody else. We’ve found a way to make peace with it, but we’ve become so acclimatized that we forget about the elephant in the room.”

The Frances & Floyd Horowitz Lecture devoted to issues related to our multi-cultural society

Margaret Thatcher will go down in history as a dose of medicine, required but not liked, leaving over half the patients wondering whether the cure was worse than the disease.

Victor Bailey

KU in Wichita

Victor Bailey offered a trenchant analysis of Margaret Thatcher’s efficacy as prime minister in his presentation “The Iron Lady: How Should We Rate Margaret Thatcher?” Admirers of Thatcher insisted she transformed Britain’s economy and politics following the dysfunctional 1970s, while detractors argued, in contrast, that she drove the nation apart, allowing the manufacturing base to decline and the unemployment rate to rise, promoting the interests of the rich against the poor. Bailey looked critically at her tenure, applauding her single-mindedness but offering serious criticisms of the way she handled unemployment and the privatization of Britain’s economy.

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.
Michael Neill & Gordon MacMullan
Shakespeare the Recycler

Audiences were treated to hearing two world-class Shakespeare scholars discuss “Recycling Shakespeare,” focusing on the ways Shakespeare reimagined works in his own writing, and the way that contemporary writers recycle Shakespeare into their own works. Michael Neill, Professor of Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent, England, investigated updates of Shakespeare’s works, beginning with Restoration era works by Dryden and Tate and ending with recent movies such as A Thousand Acres and Clueless. Neill pointed out that Shakespeare himself recycled King Lear from the True Chronicle History of King Lir, adding that the notion of authorship as a distinguished individual is really only invented in the Early Modern period.

Gordon MacMullan, Professor of English at Kings’s College, London, and editor of the Norton Shakespeare, conceived of “Recycling Shakespeare” in a more textually specific way, giving a close reading of Shakespeare’s use of the cormorant as metaphorical stand-in for Shylock in The Merchant of Venice. By playing with contemporary audience’s ideas about cormorants, whom Jacobeanes believed to be inquisitive and insatiable birds, and pelicans, who were seen as representations of self-sacrificing martyrdom, MacMullan argued that The Merchant of Venice complicated the traditional notion of Shylock being the “usurious Jew,” using mirrored depictions of cormorants and pelicans as textual evidence.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little
Women’s Leadership Lecture

The Emily Taylor and Marilyn Stokstad Women’s Leadership Lecture is named for two women who were prominent leaders at KU. The fund they established supports lectures by prominent women on women’s leadership issues.

Attendees of this year’s Women’s Leadership Lecture were treated to an intimate glimpse of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little’s life and intellectual development, as Pepperdine School of Law Dean and KU alumna Deanell Reece Tacha moderated a “fireside chat” with KU’s 17th Chancellor. Chancellor Gray-Little reflected on her education as a child, the influence of teachers and her mother, an “extraordinarily bright and resourceful person,” and her shift from her rebellious youth to being “studious and pious.” Vision is key to achieving success or reaching lofty goals, Gray-Little noted, explaining that one must be prepared to have bold ideas about attaining a goal, but also to work hard and with focus to reach those goals. Gray-Little spoke briefly of the challenges of being a working mother, noting that finding adequate childcare was always a specter of worry in the background of her rise in university administration.
Inequality in the Post-Civil Rights Era

A KU Symposium Commemorating the Sixtieth Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education

Although 60 years have passed since the landmark decision *Brown v Board of Education*, panelists participating in the symposium “Inequality in the Post-Civil Rights Era” demonstrated that the inequality it sought to eliminate still firmly remains a problem today. The symposium, featuring President of Columbia University Lee C. Bollinger of *Grutter v Bollinger* and *Gratz v Bollinger* fame, focused on the impact of Brown v Board, as well as the ways inequality still haunts education, employment, and civil law today. Panelists included historians, lawyers, social scientists, and activists. Bollinger concluded the presentation with “Race, Higher Education, and Civil Rights: Restoring the Promise of Brown v. Board of Education” in which he detailed the careful thought that went into passing affirmative action. The current assault on affirmative action suggests that we are in a “postracial” era, ignoring decades of discriminatory practices which affirmative action intended to counter. Focusing only on educational diversity, without understanding the historical underpinnings of why affirmative action is necessary, said Bollinger, “decontexutalizes everything we are doing, removes the substance, and sheds the ideals that are really at stake here.”

Co-sponsored by the Chancellor’s Office, the Provost’s Office, the School of Law, the School of Education, the School of Social Welfare, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Institute for Policy & Social Research, the School of Public Affairs & Administration, and the Hall Center
scholarly development
Pursuing Careers in the Applied Humanities
A Panel Series for Graduate Students

Graduate students quizzed museum curators, documentary film makers, arts organizers, archivists, radio hosts, and even historical reenactors in a series of three panels, entitled “Pursuing Careers in the Humanities,” spearheaded by Simons Public Humanities Fellow Henry Fortunato. Panelists touched on topics as varied as the current terrain of the public humanities, finding and benefitting from internships, retrofitting a CV to become a workable resume, and interview etiquette, and students left with a broader understanding of the huge range of possibilities available to them outside the academy.

Jacob Dorman
2013 Byron Caldwell Smith Award

Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions (Oxford University Press 2013)

Jacob Dorman framed his presentation “Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions” with the idea of “polyculturalism,” suggesting that some hybrid cultures are “not bounded systems, but fluid…processes…taking advantage of similarities between cultures” to create and reinterpret new ways of understanding. Dorman examined the historical rise of Black Israelites using this frame. He argued that Black Israelites did not first begin with the belief that they were descended directly from ancient Israelites. Instead, they attempted to emulate scriptural depictions of early Israelites to practice a more authentic Christianity. By looking at the case of Rabbi Wentworth Matthew, who added Jewish symbols and “cabalistic science” to his Christian ministry, Dorman demonstrated that Black Israelites were in fact shaping a creatively “polycultural religion.”

The Byron Caldwell Smith Book Award is offered each year to honor an outstanding work of scholarship or creative literature authored by a Kansas resident during the previous two years.
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
"Staying Research Active"
"External Funding: Why Should I Bother?"
"Building a Teaching Portfolio"
"Time Balance: Teaching, Research, Service"

New Faculty

Left Column (top to bottom)
Mariana Candido, HISTORY
Vitaly Chernetsky, SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
Abbey Dvorak, MUSIC THERAPY
Deanna Hanson-Abromeit, MUSIC THERAPY
Ari Linden, GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
Paul Nahme, RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Eileen Nutting, PHILOSOPHY
Brad Osborn, MUSIC THEORY

Right Column (top to bottom)
Shannon Portillo, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION
Betsaida Reyes, KU LIBRARIES
Sarah Robins, PHILOSOPHY
Antonio Tosta, SPANISH & PORTUGUESE
Maya Stiller, HISTORY OF ART
Benjamin Uchiyama, HISTORY
Edward Russell, HISTORY
Peter Zazzali, THEATRE

Not Pictured
Nazli Avdan, POLITICAL SCIENCE
Zongwu Cai, ECONOMICS
Daniel Coburn, DESIGN
Joseph Colistra, ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, & PLANNING
Sarah Frisof, MUSIC
Timothy Hossler, DESIGN
Megan Kaminski, ENGLISH
Maria Kanyova, MUSIC
Rachel Krause, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION
Bradley Lane, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADMINISTRATION
Ward Lyles, URBAN PLANNING
Veronique Mathieu, MUSIC
Patrick Miller, POLITICAL SCIENCE
Andrea Quenette, COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Armin Schulz, PHILOSOPHY
Huw Thomas, DESIGN
Celebration of Books

The Center hosted its annual celebration on April 1 to celebrate the accomplishments of the 33 humanities, social science, and fine arts faculty members who published a total of 37 books in 2013.

Their works explored such varied topics as law in dynastic China, the early modern Atlantic world, crime and policing in modern England, American Black Israelite religions, and Muslim Women’s education. The 12th 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.

Christina Bejarano, Political Science, explaining her book *The Latino Gender Gap in U.S. Politics.*
Keith McMahon, East Asian Languages & Cultures, presenting his book *Women Shall Not Rule: Imperial Wives and Concubines in China from Han to Liao*.

Bruce Hayes, French & Italian

During his tenure at the Hall Center, Hayes met his proposed fellowship goal of producing two chapters. In the spring semester, he wrote the introduction, the first chapter, and over 20 pages of another chapter for his book “Casting Comedy: Polemical Humor at the Start of the French Wars of Religion.” Additionally, Hayes presented a portion of his research at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in New York City.

Kij Johnson, English

Johnson used her Creative Work fellowship to complete a novel, *Kylen*. The Fellowship gave her the time to complete a third of the book with minimal distraction and to make research trips to The Bakken Museum in Minneapolis, visiting their collections and working with their curator and archivist -- trips that improved sections of the book immeasurably. Best of all, it moved Johnson past a period of personal confusion about writing into a productive state that has remained with her; since the completion of the Fellowship, she has written another forty thousand words on this book.

Ani Kokobobo, Slavic Languages & Literatures

While in residence at the center, Kokobobo completed significant portions of her book “Freakish Outsiders and Monsters Within-- Russian Realism and the Grotesque, 1869-1899.” Through an analysis of the grotesque style in the span of three decades, Kokobobo addressed the effects of social reforms (like the 1861 Liberation of the Serfs) on how national identity is conceptualized in Russian realism. Kokobobo presented on her research at the Hall Center in a well-attended Resident Fellows Seminar.

Laura Mielke, English

Mielke completed and/or revised drafts of two chapters in her project “Provocative Eloquence: Theatre, Oratory, and Collective Violence in America, 1830-1860,” and made significant progress on two other chapters. Time at the Hall Center allowed her to do a substantial amount of research not previously anticipated as well. She also gave three presentations on her work at the KU COMS Colloquium, the resident fellows seminar series, and the C19 conference. She anticipates completion of the manuscript by the end of 2014.

Jorge Pérez, Spanish & Portuguese

When Pérez started his fellowship period, his goal was to complete two chapters of his manuscript, entitled “Confessional Cinema: Religion and Film in the Spanish Public Sphere (1957-1975).” He ended his semester of residence at the Hall Center with five (including the introduction) out of six chapters completed (around 260 pages). Pérez plans to complete the last chapter and the conclusion during the summer months, and his goal is to have a draft of the completed manuscript by the early fall semester. He plans to submit a book proposal at that point to several presses that consistently publish books on Spanish cinema and culture.
Simons Public Humanities Fellow

Henry Fortunato

Fortunato's primary intellectual objective was to perform significant preliminary research necessary for his long-contemplated trans-Kansas trek. He was able to devote time to gathering information, insights, and contacts that will aid him in his journey and illuminate the book he expects will result. (Working title: Kansas on Foot: A Long and Winding Walk across the Sunflower State.) Fortunato was also able to conceive and convene a panel discussion series featuring senior executives and young up-and-comers from museums, libraries, archives, arts organizations, foundations, non-profits, and entrepreneurial ventures that offered detailed practical advice and sincere encouragement to students contemplating pursuing careers outside the professoriate with their advanced humanities degrees.

Sias Graduate Fellow

Josh Nygren

Nygren’s fellowship enabled him to write two new chapters of his dissertation and substantially revise another. Of these three chapters, two of them will appear in his final dissertation with relatively minor revisions. Nygren has since rewritten his third chapter almost entirely, yet the issues that arose in his original draft yielded perhaps the most beneficial lessons of his time as a Sias Fellow. The Sias fellowship allowed Nygren the time he needed to test his initial ideas, abandon them (without panicking) when they became unviable, and finally to work toward a compelling, persuasive answer to the “so-what” question that might otherwise still be haunting him.

Sias Graduate Fellow

Stephanie Krehbiel

Krehbiel’s semester as the Sias fellow was divided between writing and going through the personal archive of interviews and ephemera that she has assembled over the past three years of dissertation research. She also spent time following up with interviewees and other research-related contacts. Krehbiel gave two Hall Center presentations during her Sias residency. The first was part of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop, and was entitled “The In-House Scholar: Sharing Your Analysis with the People You Study.” She used this workshop as an opportunity to work on articulating her interdisciplinary methodology and particularly on the role that her public scholarship plays in her academic work. Krehbiel also delivered a Sias lecture entitled “Naming the Violence of Process: Writing For and About Pacifists in Conflict.”
Collaborative Research Seed Grant winners

**Sara Gregg**, Assistant Professor of History, and **Rhonda Houser**, GIS and Data Specialist for KU Libraries, were awarded the Collaborative Research Seed Grant to further their project “Mapping the Landscape of U.S. Homesteading, 1863-1986.” Gregg and Houser are collaborating on creating a raster dataset, or a model representing information spatially as points on a graph, that merges thirteen maps into one image, overlaying it with modern environmental data such as topography, soil type, and land management layers. Through this research project, they will develop new methods of working with GIS (geographic information systems) in historical projects (called hGIS). The seed grant provided funding for the partnership of Gregg and Houser, as well as a student assistant, whose complementary skills will contribute to the unique interdisciplinary nature of a digital humanities project.

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.

**Akiko Takeyama**, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies/Anthropology, traveled to Japan to complete archival research and conduct interviews for her book project “Affect Economy of Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Hope, and Risk Endeavor in Japan.”

**Jacob Dorman**, Associate Professor of History/American Studies, will travel to Sarasota, Florida to access the Ringling Brothers Museum and Circus Archives for his book project “Black Orientalism: Spiritualists, Muslims, Minstrels, Masons & the Making of Black Cultures.”

**Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award**

The 15th Annual Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award was awarded to **Erik Scott**, Assistant Professor of History, for his forthcoming publication *Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora in the Soviet Union*, to be published by Oxford University Press. Scott’s study challenges the conventional wisdom regarding national minorities in the Soviet Union and the nature of the Soviet Empire. Georgians in the USSR represented less than 2% of the Soviet population, yet they constituted an extraordinarily successful and powerful minority. This groundbreaking book tells their story.
Friends Book Publication Award
Associate Professor of English Stephanie Fitzgerald was the recipient of the 2014 Friends Book Publication Award for her forthcoming book Land Narratives: Native Women and Dispossession from Removal to Climate Change, to be published by the University of New Mexico Press. The book will look at different representations of land loss, dispossession and environmental devastation, primarily by Native women in literature, but also in newsletters, brochures and social media.

Graduate Student Achievements

Andrew Debicki International Travel Awards in the Humanities
George Klaeren, doctoral candidate in History, traveled to Madrid, Spain to conduct archival research on inquisition trials dealing with witchcraft and superstition in relation to medical knowledge. Irene Olivares, doctoral candidate in History, also traveled to Madrid, Spain to access archives of letters and petitions that women wrote to the king through the reigns of Philip II through Philip IV (1554-1665).

Jim Martin Travel Award in the Humanities
Amber Roberts, doctoral candidate in History, visited San Marino, CA to conduct research for her dissertation “Graced with Being Good Horse-men: The Discourse of Horsemanship and the Elite Ideal in Early Modern England.”

Humanities Summer Graduate Internships
Humanities Summer Graduate Internships were given to James Baker (African & African American Studies; Kansas City Public Library); Meredith Wiggins (English; Kansas Humanities Council) Angela Murphy (English; Watkins Museum) and Taylor Hersh (History; Mid-America Arts Alliance).

Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Awards
Hall Center Graduate Summer Research Awards were given to Pooya Naderi (Sociology); Claire Wolnisty (History); Kenton Rambsy (English); and Jaclyn Miller (History).
External Awards

External Individual Awards

- **Anthony Corbeill**, Classics: Vassar College, Blegen Research Fellowship, “Poetic Authority in Ancient Rome.”
- **Arienne Dwyer**, Anthropology: John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, “Inner Asian Convergence.”
- **Arienne Dwyer**, Anthropology: National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship, “Narratives and Meta-narratives of the Silk Road.”
- **Margaret Pearce**, Geography: The Davis Family Foundation, Cultural/Arts Organizations, “Penobscot Nation Cultural and Historic Preservation: This is how we name our lands.”
- **Hagith Sivan**, History: W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Annual Professorship, “In the Shade of Our Ancestors: Jewish Childhood in Antiquity.”
- **Nina Vyatkina**, Germanic Languages and Literatures: Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), Fulbright Scholar Program: Germany, “Studies in second language acquisition; Longitudinal learner development in German as a second language.”

External Institutional Awards

- **Jill Kuhnheim**, Spanish and Portuguese: Tinker Foundation Incorporated, Tinker Field Research Grants for Graduate Student Research in Latin America and the Caribbean.
NEH Fellowships:
Two faculty members received National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowships to pursue their research in the upcoming year.

**Arienne Dwyer**, Professor of Anthropology, will use her NEH Fellowship to produce a book “Camel Spring: Narratives and Meta-Narratives of the Silk Road,” which explores the stories told by and about Central Asians. She will analyze more than 150 fictional and historical oral texts by Central Asian tellers, as well as the narratives of early Western explorers and the modern Chinese state.

**Iris Smith Fischer**, Professor of English, will complete her study on “Charles Peirce and the Role of Aesthetic Expression in 19th-Century U.S. Philosophy and Semiotics” with the assistance of the NEH Fellowship. Peirce’s interests in both theater and semiotics, or the study of how phenomena attain meaning, led him to develop a mode of inquiry that combined scientific study with acting and performing methods.

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships:
The American Council of Learned Societies awarded three University of Kansas faculty members fellowships for humanities research to be undertaken in academic year 2014-15.

**Jay T. Johnson**, Associate Professor of Geography, 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. Johnson and his colleague, Soren Larsen (Geography, University of Missouri-Columbia), will use the Collaborative Research Fellowship funding to complete fieldwork and write collaboratively for their book project, “Being-together-in-place.”

**Jacob Dorman**, Associate Professor of History and American Studies, received an ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship to work on “Black Orientalism: Representing Islam in American Popular Culture and African American Religion.” The fellowship is open to junior faculty who have passed their third year review but not yet gone up for tenure. By examining 19th century depictions of Black Orientalism in sheet music, circus performances, minstrelsy and magic, Dorman seeks to prove that African-Americans not only consumed these images but helped to create them, and that Orientalist scholarship and performance informed their critique of white supremacy and led to the Black Nationalist and Black Muslim movements.

**Stephanie Fitzgerald**, Associate Professor of English, received an ACLS Fellowship, which recognizes outstanding scholarship in the humanities and allows awardees to undertake full-time research and writing. Fitzgerald’s ACLS Fellowship will support her book project “Red Letters: Print Culture, Alternative Presses, and the Rise of Contemporary Native American Poetry, 1968-1984.” Her book project will be the first interdisciplinary study to explore the formation and rise of contemporary Native American poetry during its most crucial early moments, from 1968 to 1984, using the material form of the poetry chapbook as its site of interrogation.

Guggenheim Fellowship:

**Arienne Dwyer**, Professor of Anthropology, received a prestigious 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. She will take the fellowship during the 2015-16 academic year to work on a book on Inner Asian “convergence,” which argues for an areal grammar, in which the dominant languages, Tibetan and Chinese, both influenced and were influenced by non-dominant languages of the area. During her Guggenheim Fellowship, she will apply text-mining techniques to the languages of Inner Asia in order to assess similarity and difference in linguistic, literary and historical aspects of the area.
Hall Center Scholars

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.

Front Row, left to right:
Joyce Bohling,
SENIOR, ENGLISH
Hannah Sitz,
SENIOR, PSYCHOLOGY/JOURNALISM
Heathyr Johnson,
JUNIOR, SECONDARY ENGLISH EDUCATION
Tasha Cerny,
SENIOR, ENGLISH/CREATIVE WRITING
Katherine Gwynn,
JUNIOR, ENGLISH/WOMEN, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

Back Row, left to right:
Allen Schaidle,
JUNIOR, EDUCATION
Jenny Curatola,
SENIOR, ENGLISH/GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Ryan Smith,
SENIOR, ENGLISH/HISTORY

Not Pictured:
Isabella Herrera,
SENIOR, NEUROBIOLOGY/FRENCH

“I was absolutely bowled over by Junot Díaz’s lecture, which was amazingly pertinent. Díaz responded and interacted with his audience very directly, and in doing so, challenged some of the institutional inequality that still exists at KU.”
– Joyce Bohling

“I enjoyed being able to learn from a number of distinguished experts in their field on a more personal, intimate basis. It was great hearing them speak less formally, in a conversational manner.”
– Katherine Gwynn

“Meeting Arsalan Iftikhar as a Hall Center Scholar greatly influenced me to do more to fight discrimination in our society. His influence is directly responsible for my current internship with the Council of American-Islamic Relations in Chicago.”
– Allen Schaidle
Seminars

The Hall Center sponsors several ongoing seminars that bring together faculty, staff, and graduate students from different departments for interdisciplinary dialogue and discussion and to present research. Many of the seminars also invite visiting speakers from other US universities and from overseas. Two new one-year seminars were introduced in 2013-2014. These seminars are funded by the Friends of the Hall Center and by the William T. Kemper Foundation.

Digital Humanities Seminar
Co-directed by Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology) and Brian Rosenblum (KU Libraries)

Early Modern Seminar
Co-directed by Patricia Manning (Spanish & Portuguese) and Luis Corteguera (History)

Gender Seminar
Co-directed by Ann Schofield (Gender) and Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology/WGSS)

Latin American Seminar
Co-directed by Jill Kuhnheim (Spanish & Portuguese/LACS) and Tony Rosenthal (History)

Nature & Culture Seminar
Co-directed by Byron Caminero-Santangelo (English) and Sara Gregg (History)

Peace, War, & Global Change Seminar
Directed by Ted Wilson (History)

New Seminars in 2013-2014

Reimagining the City Seminar
This seminar focused on exploring the concept of the city from multiple angles. Co-directed by Clarence Lang (African & African-American Studies) and John Rury (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies)

Facing Genocide and Its Aftermath Seminar
This seminar offered a forum within which to explore the trauma of genocide and how performance, expression, and narrative may address the processes of reconciliation and resisting “cultural genocide.” Participants examined the topic through various disciplines, and focused on historical, cultural, and collective trauma and memory. Co-directed by Rebecca Rovit (Theatre) and Margaret Pearce (Geography).
In 2013-2014, The Commons adopted the theme of “Data & Democracy” for a second year, and visiting scholars addressed many topics related to this theme. The year began with Coffee @ The Commons, a new event intended to give audience members the chance to have an informal conversation with a visiting scholar. Author Nicco Mele, an expert in big data as it relates to politics, presented a lecture and an Idea Café, which asked “Can Democracy Survive the Digital Age?” In April, Professor of Communication at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Robert McChesney spoke about “Dollarocracy: How the Money and Media Election Complex is Destroying America” and taught a class in political science during his visit. The Commons hosted Artist in Residence David Rokeby, a Toronto-based installation artist, who transformed The Commons with a portion of his most signature work, Very Nervous System, which he has been exhibiting and adapting since 1986.

“What is Free Speech in the Age of Social Media?”

In collaboration with the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Office of the Provost, The Commons hosted a panel discussion on March 25 entitled “What is Free Speech in the Age of Social Media?” The panel, moderated by Deanell Reece Tacha (Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean of the School of Law, Pepperdine University) included Frank LoMonte (Executive Director, Student Press Law Center), Amy Gajda (Associate Professor of Law, Tulane University Law School), and Stephen R. McAllister (E.S. & Tom W. Hampton Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Kansas School of Law).

The Future of the University

In April, The Commons invited David Krakauer, Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, to provoke audiences to consider the future of the university. He gave a lecture and participated in a panel discussion, which imagined an entirely different university structure and concept.
Digital Humanities Forum: “Return to the Material”
IDRH’s fourth annual Forum, held in September 2013, explored the relationship between the digital and the material and also included a day of hands-on workshops and a one-day THATCamp unconference. Videos of all the Forum presentations, including the three keynote talks, and papers by local and national presenters, may be viewed on the IDRH YouTube channel.

Digital Jumpstart Workshops
Held in March 2014, this set of workshops featured five sessions covering a range of digital tools and practices, including creating a digital scholarly edition, creating online collections and exhibits, introduction to text analysis, publishing multimedia and networked content online with Scalar, and manipulating videos for research and teaching.

DH workstation
IDRH established a public digital humanities workstation for faculty and graduate students. Located in the GIS/Data lab in Watson 425, the workstation, which is available to faculty and graduate students, is equipped with an array of tools for Digital Humanities research and work, including visualization, analytic, programming and publishing software, as well as a collection of bookmarks to online digital humanities tools and resources.

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 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 composed of 12 Friends who work with Director Victor Bailey to assess, plan, and allocate funds in support of specific programs and activities at the Center. The Council is to be commended for recruiting and retaining Friends and for increasing the dollars raised through membership donations. We are especially grateful for the work and contributions made by retiring members Gunda Hiebert, Walt Menninger, Beth Stella, and Mary Weinberg. At the annual meeting, new members Jennifer Schmidt, Ed Meyen, Allan Miller, and Jerry Nossaman were elected, as was incoming chair Judy Bauer. We look forward to the energy and ideas they will bring to ensure the continued health of the organization.

The Friends raised $76,500 this year, an increase from the previous year of almost $8,800, even though the number of Friends decreased by 20 to a total of 483. The Friends annual budget of $85,500 provided resources crucial to Hall Center programming. The Friends
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.

supported the Humanities Lecture Series talk given by Anne D. Hedeman, Judith Harris Murphy Distinguished Professor of Art. The Friends of the Hall Center Book Publication Award was presented to Stephanie Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of English. Funding was also provided to nine Hall Center Scholars, undergraduates from a wide variety of disciplines. In addition, four graduate students will receive summer research stipends, as will two graduate students working in the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities.

One of the most significant ways the Friends supported the Hall Center this year was through donations toward the private match required for the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. This grant will make possible new faculty programs in collaborative and digital humanities. The Friends quickly met their goal of $250,000 and have now exceeded it by $38,000. In short, the Friends raised over 20% of the total matching funds needed. This is an enormous contribution to the future of the Hall Center and to research and education in the humanities at KU.

Your gifts have sent a strong message that you understand and appreciate the humanities’ impact on the well-being of our society. Thank you for your generosity and your continued support of the Hall Center!

Beverly Smith Billings, Chair
Hall Center Friends Council

Benefits of Becoming a Friend

• Attend private sessions with visiting speakers
• Enjoy invitational music recitals by KU faculty and students
• Opportunities to socialize with those who share your commitment to the humanities
• Be recognized as a member
• Help to enrich the humanities programming in the university and community

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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 will enable 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 has brought us the required match. Our warm thanks go to all the donors for matching the NEH Challenge Grant two years ahead of the deadline.

as of July 24, 2014
Financial Overview
Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Based on an income of $861,595

- KUEA Interest: 48.86%
- State/university salaries: 29.65%
- Expendable Gifts: 10.03%
- Friends Gifts: 7.3%
- State/University OOE: 1.84%
- State/university awards: 2.29%

Based on expenditures of $859,317

- Administration: 5.88%
- Faculty Development: 20.20%
- Public Programs: 20.36%
- Graduate/Undergraduate: 5.93%
- Staff Salaries: 47.63%
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