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## Upcoming WIPs

We continue our series of **work-in-progress** talks by OHC faculty and graduate research fellows on their current or recent work on **Fridays at noon** in the Humanities Center Conference Room, **159 PLC**. Brown-bag lunches are welcome!

**January 14—Irmay Reyes-Santos**, Ethnic Studies: "Intimate Economies: Imagining Caribbean Regional Integration"

**January 21—Gordon Sayre**, English and Folklore: "Car Cultures"

**February 4—Gwendolyn Hyslop**, Graduate Dissertation Fellow, Linguistics: "A Grammar of Kurtöp"

**February 11—David Wacks**, Romance Languages: "Double Diaspora in Sephardic Literature 1200-1700"

**February 18—Megan Benner**, Graduate Dissertation Fellow, English: "Polite Fictions and Pious Frauds: Gift Exchange in Nineteenth-Century British Literature"

**February 25—Colleen Ahland**, Graduate Dissertation Fellow, Linguistics: "The Embodied Mind: How the Gumuz of Ethiopia Categorize Their World"

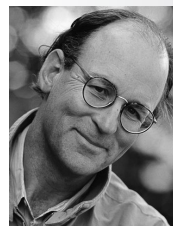
**March 4—Carol Silverman**, Anthropology: "Global Gypsy: Patronage, Representation, and Appropriation in World Music"

All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to attend. The conference room seats twenty-seven; early arrival is recommended.

*The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To arrange disability accommodations for Humanities Center events or to obtain this newsletter in an alternative format, call 541-346-3934.*

## Tracy Kidder: the plight of the suffering poor is surmountable

In keeping with the "Sustenance" theme, the OHC is proud to be a co-sponsor of this year's UO Presidential Lecture by author Tracy Kidder on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at 7 p.m.**



in the newly completed **Matthew Knight Arena** on Franklin Blvd. In his talk "Mountains Beyond Mountains," Kidder will discuss the life and work of Dr. Paul Farmer, a man who has dedicated his career to providing health care to the poor in Haiti. The talk will be drawn from Kidder's book of the same title. A book sale and signing will follow the lecture.

The inspiration for Kidder's visit to Eugene, and for selecting *Mountains Beyond Mountains* for the UO's 2010-11 Common Reading Program, came from former biology student Alex Goodell. Kidder's book helped Goodell clarify his reasons for seeking a university education, and it also forced him to grapple with some serious questions such as "Is health care a universal human right?" and "Do we have a moral obligation to help the poor?" After graduation, Goodell went on to volunteer for a year as a health care worker in Africa.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and is co-sponsored by the Honors College, OHC, Housing, Undergraduate Studies, CAS, Journalism and Communication, Cultural Forum, and Student Affairs. For more information, contact [mchong@uoregon.edu](mailto:mchong@uoregon.edu) or (541) 346-0847.

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# Oregon Humanities Center

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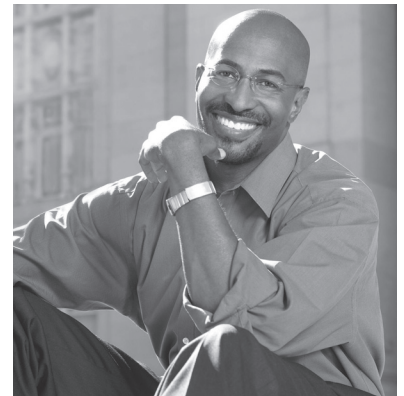
## Green jobs advocate Van Jones to speak about creating a sustainable and equitable economy

*"You can't have a sustainable economy when only 20 percent of the people can afford to pay for hybrids, solar panels, and organic cuisine, while the other 80 percent are still driving pollution-based vehicles to pollution-based jobs and struggling to make purchases at Wal-Mart. For the sustainable economy to be successful, it has to be a full-participation economy."* —Van Jones on the problem of "Eco-apartheid"

Yale Law School graduate, civil and human rights activist, and clean-energy advocate **Van Jones** states his view of our situation as a nation simply and compellingly: "Our country is in the depths of an economic recession and ecological crisis. We need nine million new jobs in the United States. They must be jobs that can support families and jobs that do no harm to the

environment. America needs her best minds generating smart and innovative ideas to create more jobs." Jones asserts that we have reached the limit of what can be done with individual life-style changes. In order to save both our economy and the environment, Jones says, we must create a new political center of gravity where the government and the private sector work together to solve our most

*continued on page 2*



## Last Child in the Woods author to speak about the need to balance technology with nature

"The future," says author **Richard Louv**, "will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world, and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need."

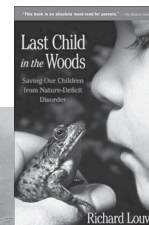
Louv goes on to ask, "What would our lives be like if our days and nights were as immersed in nature as they are today in electronics? How can each of us help create that life-enhancing world, not only in a hypothetical future, but

right now for our families and ourselves?"

Louv will explore these and other questions concerning the connections between family, nature, and community in his talk "**Beyond Nature Deficit Disorder: The Restorative Power of the Natural World**" on **Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom**. His talk, the **2010-11 Robert D. Clark Lecture in the Humanities**, will be based on his forthcoming book, *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder*, due to be released in May 2011.

Louv is a journalist and the

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## “Sustenance” series nourishes your mind

“Sustenance” is a year-long, campus-wide exploration of the things that sustain us and the earth in every sense: body, mind, and spirit. Join us this year for a wide array of lectures on topics ranging from spiritual wholeness to environmental justice.

**January 19, 2011—Fireside Conversation Series: “Growing Food and Making a Living: Latino Gardeners and Farmers in Lane County,”** Stephen Wooten, International Studies and Anthropology, 5 p.m., Many Nations Longhouse. Contact: Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, (541) 346-3845.

**February 9, 2011—Fireside Conversation Series: “Fringe Urbanism: Compact Development in Suburbia,”** Nico Larco, Architecture, 5 p.m., Many Nations Longhouse. Contact: Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, (541) 346-3845.

**March 16, 2011—Fireside Conversation Series: “Sustainable Business: Transparency, Risks, and Innovation,”** Tom Osdoba, Managing Director, Center for Sustainable Business Practices, 5 p.m., Many Nations Longhouse. Contact: Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, (541) 346-3845.

**April 7, 2011—“Human Rights as the Socialism of the 21st Century,”** William Forbath, Lloyd M. Bentsen Chair in Law, University of Texas at Austin, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Oregon Humanities Center, (541) 346-3934.

**April 13, 2011—Fireside Conversation Series: “Terreforms: New Visions of Sustainability,”** Allison Carruth, English and Environmental Studies, 5 p.m., Many



Nations Longhouse. Contact: Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, (541) 346-3845.

**April 18-23, 2011—Earth Week “Eco-challenge,”** a campus-wide event utilizing a website (in development) to allow UO students, faculty, and staff to commit to eco-actions. Contact: Office of Sustainability, (541) 346-0605.

**April 26, 2011—UO campus April 27, 2011—UO in Portland** James E. McWilliams, History, Texas State University, San Marcos; author of *Just Food: Where Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly*; times and locations TBA. Contact: Oregon Humanities Center, (541) 346-3934.

**May 20–June 4, 2011** “**Salmon is Everything,**” a play by Theresa May that celebrates the important role of salmon in native culture and spirituality, and explores the intimate, profound, and ecologically critical relationship between people, land, river, and biotic communities. Robinson Theatre. Contact: University Theatre, (541) 346-4363.



## Jones *continued from front page*

pressing problems—in essence, we need to create a “new-deal coalition.”

Jones will share his vision for this new social, economic, and environmental contract for America in his **Tzedek Lecture, “Beyond Green Jobs: the Next American Economy”** on **Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **EMU Ballroom** at the **UO in Eugene**, and again on **Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 5:45 p.m.** at the **UO in Portland, White Stag Block, 70 N.W. Couch St.**

As the founder of Green For All, a national organization working to get green jobs to disadvantaged communities, Jones was the main advocate for the Green Jobs Act, which George W. Bush signed into law in 2007. The

Act was the first piece of federal legislation to codify the term “green jobs.” Under the Obama administration, it has resulted in \$500 million for green job training nationally.

Jones’ prescription for a return to social and economic health is both straightforward and complex: he says we need to return to being a nation of producers rather than consumers; we need to replace an economy based on credit with one based on thrift, and we need to quit plundering the environment and instead learn to protect and steward the earth and

its resources.

Jones is the co-founder of three non-profit organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change, and Green For All. He is the best-selling author of the definitive book on green jobs, *The Green-Collar Economy*. He served as the Green Jobs advisor under the Obama administration during 2009.

Jones’ talk is part of the Oregon Humanities Center’s “Sustenance” series—a year-long, campus-wide exploration of the things that sustain us and the earth in every sense: body, mind,

and spirit. The series presents a wide array of lectures on topics ranging from spiritual wholeness to environmental justice.

The lectures are free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. The Eugene lecture will be followed by a book sale and signing, and will be live-streamed on the web beginning at 7 p.m. on January 24th at [ohc.uoregon.edu](http://ohc.uoregon.edu). For more information or for disability accommodations, please call (541) 346-3934.



**“I’m not asking for more welfare; I’m calling for more work....”**

## OHC Director's Letter

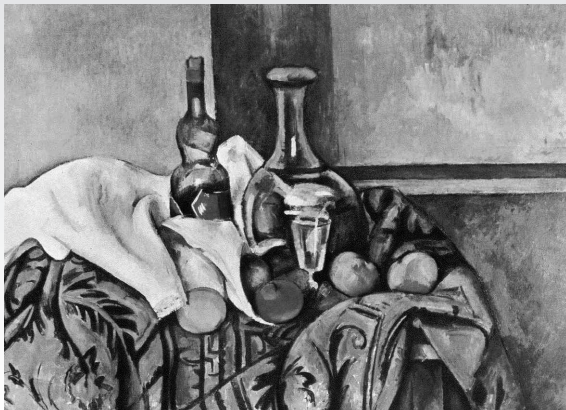
Barbara K. Altmann

Who and what sustains you? If you are fortunate enough to have comfortable shelter and tasty food, what nourishes your mind and your soul? And whom or what do you sustain?

Our "sustenance" theme this year has given me plenty to chew on, if you will, as I think about the OHC's role in the university and community and what makes this such a great place to work. Our mandate—our privilege—is to promote and sustain the humanities in all their myriad forms of expression both on campus and off, through scholarship, teaching, and public events. That allows us to support talks, performances, courses, research, all of which feed our need for beauty as well as our impulse to examine the human condition. "Sustenance" has helped bring to the calendar events that touch on many urgent issues, from environmentalism to equitable job creation, from food justice to theatre about our ecology.

I have also taken some time to mull over the sources of the Center's support. This year more than ever, especially in face of the continuing debate over the relevance of the humanities in the academy, I am grateful for the people who sustain our work. The UO Office of Research and Graduate Studies steadfastly continues our financial support. Our Board of Visitors is a group of exceptional community members deeply committed to fostering humanistic endeavor in the most altruistic ways. Our faculty Advisory Board is also invaluable in keeping us connected to all corners of the institution and for the long hours they invest in selecting our fellowship recipients. The members of both boards must be committed to the cause—good as they are, the cookies we serve at meetings aren't enough to bring these wise folks to our offices regularly to help us think through our business. Last but perhaps most important, it is you, our readers and audience members, who show up by the hundreds for all our events, a vibrant segment of the community that looks for and gives back such sustaining engagement.

"Sustenance" has proven to be a rich, provocative topic. Please join us for our winter and spring line-up! And if you have ideas for future themes, drop us a line, give us a call, or stop to chat with us at the next event you attend. We welcome food for thought.



## Conference explores history and future of our food system

The Oregon Humanities Center is pleased to collaborate with the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics as a major co-sponsor of the Morse Center's "Food Justice" conference to be held on campus February

19-21, 2011. This interdisciplinary conference, designed to create opportunities for collaboration among scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and activists, will explore the history and future of the food system, and will focus on the themes of community, equity, and sustainability. Keynote speakers include **Fred Kirschenmann**, a leader in the field of sustainable agriculture in the U.S.; Indian food activist and writer **Vandana Shiva** (pictured); and **Darra Goldstein**, founding editor of *Gastronomica*. In addition to lectures, panels, interviews, and roundtable discussions, the three-day event includes an art exhibit and a food fair. Free tickets for Vandana Shiva's talk will be available through the UO Ticket Office beginning January 19, 2011.

For detailed information about the conference, as well as a complete list of the University and community sponsors who have made the event possible, please visit: [waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu/foodjustice/](http://waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu/foodjustice/).



## Louv *continued from front page*



author of eight books. His bestselling book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* (Algonquin, 2005), has been translated into 10 languages and has stimulated an international conversation about the relationship between children and nature. The chairman and co-founder of the Children & Nature Network, Louv believes that connecting children to the natural world can ameliorate a variety of social, emotional, and physical ills—and he sees the restorative power of nature as being equally effective with adults in our modern, technology-driven world.

In 2008 Louv was awarded the Audubon Medal by the National Audubon Society, and in 2007 he received the Cox Award, Clemson University's highest honor for "sustained achievement in public service." He has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Times of London*, as well as being a regular columnist for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* from 1984 to 2007. He has appeared on many national TV shows, and on NPR.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information or for disability accommodations, please call (541) 346-3934.