Sustenance: Terry Tempest Williams to share stories about the power and grace of witnessing

Writer, naturalist, and activist Terry Tempest Williams believes deeply in the importance of taking an ethical stance towards life. Through her eloquent and lyrical writing, she convinces us that environmental and social issues are ultimately matters of justice, and that power should be distributed equitably not only among humans, but among other species as well.

As this year’s Cressman Lecturer, and the opening keynote speaker in our year-long examination of the theme of “Sustenance,” Williams will give a talk entitled “The Sustaining Grace of Witness” on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. Williams says: “We often think that to bear witness is a passive act, but…it leads to a shift in consciousness and consequence. [This] will be an evening of stories, from the artistry of Lily Yeh, who worked in collaboration with women who survived the genocide in Rwanda and built a monument out of the rubble of war; to the people in the Gulf of Mexico who bring voice to lies and loss; to the power of witness in wild nature. We can take that which is broken and create something whole. Sustenance becomes the art of not averting our gaze but facing our lives directly, with continued on page 2

Fuel-efficiency advocate to speak about “clean cars”

The course description for a fall term Folklore 399 course titled “Car Cultures” begins with some startling facts: “One billion cars were manufactured during the last century. There are currently over 700 million cars roaming the world. World car travel is predicted to triple between 1990 and 2050. Country after country is developing an ‘automobility culture’ with the most significant currently being that of China.... Yet strangely the car is rarely discussed in the ‘globalization literature.’” (John Urry, “The ‘System’ of Automobility,” 2004). “Car Cultures” is being taught by Professor Gordon Sayre with the support of the OHC’s 2010-11 Coleman-Guitteau Professorship. In conjunction with the course, visiting environmental advocate Daniel F. Becker will be giving a public talk titled “Cars and Climate Change: How We Can Help Cut Global Warming Pollution Through New Fuel Efficiency Standards,” on Monday, November 1, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room.

Director of the Sierra Club’s Global Warming and Energy Program from 1989 to 2007, Becker continued on page 3
“Sustenance” series will offer food for thought

September 27, 2010
“Jamaica for Sale,” documentary film about tourism and unsustainable development, screening and discussion with filmmaker Esther Figueroa, and commentary by Maxine Burkett, 2010-11 Wayne Morse Chair, 7 p.m., 110 Knight Law Center. Contact: Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, (541) 346-3717.

September 29, 2010

October 4, 2010
“In Search of Refuge: Climate Justice and Climate-Induced Migration.” Maxine Burkett, 2010-11 Wayne Morse Chair, 7 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center. Contact: Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, (541) 346-3717.

October 16, 2010
“Global Warming Time Bomb: How to Avert Disaster,” James E. Hansen, NASA, Morse Distinguished Speaker, 3 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center. Contact: Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, (541) 346-3717.

October 20, 2010
Fireside Conversation Series: “Learning Sustainability in the Classroom and Beyond.” Nancy Shurtz, Law, 5 p.m., Many Nations Longhouse. Contact: Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, (541) 346-3845.

October 20, 2010

October 27, 2010
NOMAD Speaker and Viewing Series “What Sustains Us: Shelter,” a new series in collaboration with the OHC’s 2010-11 theme “Sustenance,” Robin Holmes, Vice President for Student Affairs, discussing “Thoughts to Dwell Upon: Living and Learning at the UO,” 7 p.m., 110 Willamette Hall. Contact: Comparative Literature, (541) 346-0937.

November 10, 2010
Food Justice Conference, keynote by Dr. Vandana Shiva, Founder and Director, Navdanya: Research Foundation on Science, Technology and Ecology; Knight Law Center. (OHC cosponsorship with the Wayne Morse Center.) Information: (541) 346-3700.

November 10, 2010
NOMAD Speaker and Viewing Series “What Sustains Us: Shelter,” Leah Middlebrook, Romance Languages and Comparative Literature, discussing “Shelter for a Sterile Promontory: HAIR and the Canon,” 7 p.m., 110 Willamette Hall. Contact: Comparative Literature, (541) 346-0937.

February 19-21, 2011
Food Justice Conference, keynote by Dr. Vandana Shiva, Founder and Director, Navdanya: Research Foundation on Science, Technology and Ecology; Knight Law Center. (OHC cosponsorship with the Wayne Morse Center.) Information: (541) 346-3700.

Williams continued from front page

Terry Tempest Williams is the author of several books, including Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place; Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field; Desert Quartet; Leap; Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert; and The Open Space of Democracy. Her most recent book, Finding Beauty in a Broken World, was published in 2008. As noted in the Utne Reader, there is a common theme of restoration that runs throughout all of Williams’ work—"restoring our connection to the land, to the sacred, and to each other.”

Williams is the Annie Clark Tanner Scholar in Environmental Humanities at the University of Utah. In 2006 she received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society, their highest honor given to an American citizen. She is the recipient of several other awards including a Lannan Literary Fellowship and a Guggenheim. Her writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, Orion Magazine, and numerous anthologies.

The lecture is free and open to the public (no tickets or reservations), and will be followed by a book sale and signing. Seating is limited to 700. Please see our website for answers to frequently asked questions about parking and other event information. For disability accommodations (which must be made by Oct. 26th), please call (541) 346-3934.
OHC welcomes four new Advisory Board members

The Oregon Humanities Center is pleased to introduce four new members of the Faculty Advisory Board. The new members are (pictured in order): Susan Anderson, German and Scandinavian; James Elliott, Sociology; Paul Peppis, English; and Judith Raiskin, Women’s and Gender Studies. The new board members will be serving a three-year term beginning Fall term 2010.

Outgoing Advisory Board members are: James Crosswhite, English; F. Regina Psaki, Romance Languages; and Anita Weiss, International Studies. We extend our sincere thanks to all outgoing members for their service.

The Faculty Advisory Board is vital to the effective functioning of the Center. Board members assist the director and associate director with several important functions, including reviewing fellowship applications, advising on policy issues affecting the Center, suggesting lecturers and conference topics, and helping disseminate information and announcements to other humanities faculty and graduate students. We seek nominations for the board each year in early May. We encourage faculty to nominate colleagues or consider serving on the board themselves. (Self-nominations are accepted.) For more information about the OHC Advisory Board, please contact Julia Heydon at (541) 346-1001.

Becker continued from front page

has been engaged in environmental and political action and lobbying for more than 30 years. He earned his J.D. degree from Northeastern University Law School, and served under the Clinton administration as an advisor on the “Car Talks” panel. Rolling Stone magazine and Salon.com have named Becker as one of the world’s 28 “Climate Heroes,” along with Tony Blair, Al Gore, and James Hansen.

Becker is currently the director of the Safe Climate Campaign, which he launched in 2008. The goal of the campaign is to fight global warming by pushing governments to adopt strict laws regarding auto emissions; press automakers to build cleaner cars and support sound environmental policies; and urge consumers to switch to cleaner cars and alternative forms of transportation.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information or for disability accommodations (which must be made by October 25), call (541) 346-3934.
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! [Please note special location of November 19 talk.]

October 22
Fabienne Moore, Romance Languages, “Chateaubriand’s Lost Paradises: Discourse/Counter-Discourse on Colonialism (1791-1830)”

November 12
Alison Groppe, EALL, “Not Made in China: Inventing Local Identities in Contemporary Malaysian Sinophone Fiction”

November 19

December 3
Karen Ford, English, “Ing Grish, Ang Grish, Um Glish: Forms and Identities in Avant-Garde Poetries”

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

Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome: Lasting Impressions from the Age of the Grand Tour

The OHC is proud to be a co-sponsor of “Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome,” curated by James Tice, Architecture and research fellow at Studium Urbis (a center in Rome devoted to study of the city’s urban history) and James Harper, Art History. “Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome” is the first major exhibition devoted solely to Vasi’s work. Coinciding with the 300th anniversary of his birth, the exhibit features a new media component that invites viewers to use touch screens to view Vasi’s work, compare them to those of other artists of the period, and explore Rome, then and now, through georeferencing. A series of educational programs, including an international symposium, are planned in conjunction with the exhibition [see calendar].

“Giuseppe Vasi’s Rome” will be on exhibit at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art from September 25 through January 3, 2011. For information, call (541) 346-3027.