



# The Oregon Humanities Center

## Summer 2004 Report

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Summer greetings from the Oregon Humanities Center! We hope you enjoy this brief recap of some of the highlights from the past academic year. *Please note: We are updating our mailing list, and need to hear from you. If you like receiving our newsletters and reports and wish to remain on our mailing list, please see the important message on page 5.*

### Endowed Lectures

One of our most enjoyable and well-attended lectures this year was the historical reenactment of the adventures of Lewis and Clark Expedition river guide and musician Pierre Cruzatte, presented by fiddler and living historian **Daniel Slosberg** as our **2003-04 Clark Lecturer**.

Slosberg delighted the audience, whose members ranged in age from four to ninety-four, with songs, dances, and stories about the expedition. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge was packed beyond capacity, and in addition there were nearly 200 people seated in an “overflow” room next door, which we had outfitted with chairs and a large-screen video projector.

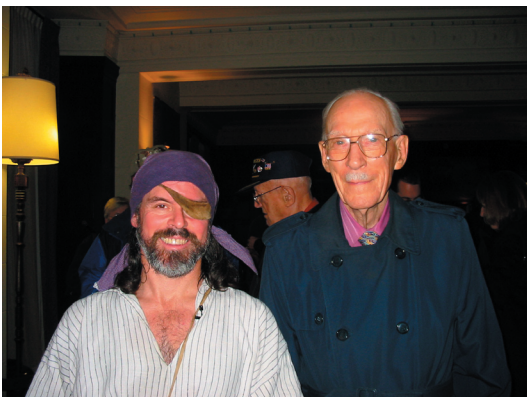


Daniel Slosberg as Pierre Cruzatte

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In the character of Pierre Cruzatte (complete with period clothing, an eye patch, and a French accent), Slosberg danced, played, sang, and talked his way around the room for 45 minutes, charming everyone in the process and often inviting the audience to join in. He topped off his performance with a masterful handling of audience questions, including one from a little girl (probably a student from Fox Hollow French Immersion School) seated on the floor in the front of the room, who asked somewhat skeptically, “Do you REALLY know how to speak French?” (Daniel admitted that he knew only enough to get through his show!)

The Oregon Humanities Center strives to involve K-12 students and teachers in our events whenever possible and appropriate, and to that end Daniel Slosberg graciously agreed to give his performance at Spencer Butte Middle School earlier in the day. It was an undeniable testimony to his skill as an educator and performer that he was able to hold the attention of 250 eighth-graders for an hour with his music and stories. Many of the youngsters enjoyed the performance so much that they brought their parents to campus to see the show again that evening.



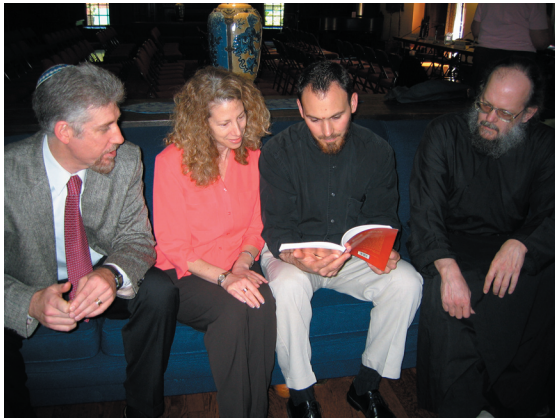
Daniel Slosberg with Robert D. Clark

Our other 2003-04 endowed lectures also drew good crowds and addressed interesting and important subjects. This year’s Kritikos Lectures with classicist and war historian Victor Davis Hanson were among the best attended Kritikos presentations ever. Hanson discussed the very timely topic of war, and explored questions about why we go to war, who typically wins and who loses, and why and how the victors prevail.

Hanson’s command of his material and his ability to retain and communicate both the big picture and the supporting details were astonishing—he gave two hour-long public lectures and a classroom session without using a single note. He couched his discussions in an histori-

cal context, but he also related his ideas to the present, responding to pressing questions about 9/11 and our current military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. Not everyone shared Hanson's political orientation or his views concerning war, but everyone agreed that his presentations were well-grounded in scholarship and that he was an excellent and thought-provoking speaker—which is exactly what we strive for in the Kritikos Lecture series.

### 2003-04 Symposium Series



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Jonathan Seidel, Deborah Green, Timothy Gianotti, and Alexander Golitzin participate in the Inner War Symposium.

During winter term we launched the multi-year “Struggling for God” symposium series. This important and timely series is the brainchild of Religious Studies professor Timothy Gianotti, and began with our winter symposium entitled “War and Martial Metaphor in Scripture,” in which scholars discussed martial language and imagery in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur’an. The two keynote lectures and the morning panel discussion all drew capacity audiences and stimulated much thoughtful discussion. Clearly, both on campus and in the wider community, there is a deep interest in and curiosity about these subjects.

The series continued with a second symposium in spring 2004 on “The Inner War: Spiritual Transformations of Martial Imagery in Scripture.” The keynote talks given by Martin Jaffee and Alexander Golitzin on the subjects of the “inner war” in the Jewish and Eastern Orthodox Christian traditions were so illuminating and well-presented that the Center has decided to publish them. We hope to make the lectures available in print form before the end of the year.

The Martial Metaphor symposium series will continue next fall and winter on the subjects of “Martyrdom” (fall, 2004, hosted by the Department of Religious Studies) and “Conflict, Harmony, and Unity: Asian Perspectives on War and Martial Language” (winter, 2005, hosted by the Oregon Humanities Center).

### Co-Sponsored Public Programs

In addition to the lectures and symposia which the Oregon Humanities Center administered and hosted during the year, we also co-sponsored more than thirty-five speakers, lecture series, conferences, musical performances, and other events with units from all over campus. OHC event co-sponsorship represents a major contribution to the support of the humanities on campus; many departments would not be able to host the events they administer without our financial help.



©Luis Salazar, 2003

The Yuri Yunakov Ensemble

Among the programs we co-sponsored were conferences on “Medical Ethics in Cross-Cultural Perspective” and “Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America”; the Comparative Literature 2003-04 “Subjects and Objects” lecture series; the “Community Conversations” held by the Clark Honors College in collaboration with UO Housing; the School of Music’s “World Music” series; the campus visit of former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, co-sponsored with the Savage Professorship; a reading and lecture by Honors College guest author Paule Marshall; a series of speakers on the Holocaust, hosted by Judaic Studies; and a UO Bookstore reading by OSU philosophy professor and nature essayist Kathleen Dean Moore.

A few of our 2003-04 co-sponsored public programs stand out as being especially memorable. The “Dead Sea

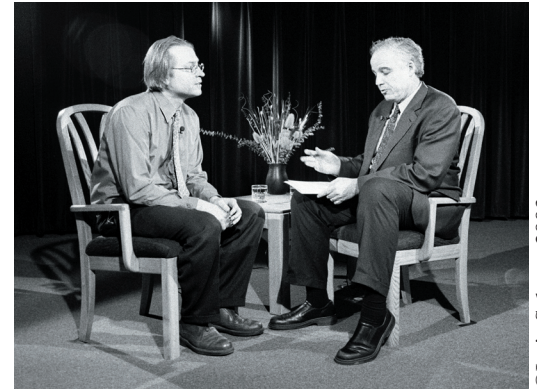
Scrolls Symposium,” co-sponsored with the Religious Studies Department in October 2003, enjoyed a remarkably high attendance, as did the utterly spellbinding concert by the renowned Italian vocal ensemble, *La Venexiana*. In their free campus lecture-demonstration, the Yuri Yunakov Ensemble delighted the audience with an incredibly virtuosic performance and a discussion of “forbidden” Romani (“gypsy”) wedding music, and they even invited members of the audience to dance!

## UO Today

We continue to offer citizens throughout the state an opportunity to stay in touch with what goes on at the university through our weekly television program, “UO Today,” which just completed its seventh season on the air. During the past year we produced 31 half-hour programs and interviewed 45 guests.

In addition to interviewing many outstanding UO faculty, Steven Shankman, the program’s host, interviewed such distinguished visiting guests as Mary Robinson; Victor Davis Hanson; Richard Falk and Neil Smith, two of the Law School’s 2003-04 Morse Professors; John Carroll, editor of the LA Times; Giuseppe Mazotta, Sterling Professor of Italian Literature at Yale University and one of the world’s leading Dante scholars; and William Schniedewind, author of *How the Bible Became a Book*.

Most of the back episodes of “UO Today” are available at the UO Knight Library, and the April 2004 shows are now available in streaming video version on the web, with more programs to be available on-line soon. If you were unable to see any of the shows when they first aired, please check the UO library for their availability.



Prof. Ted Toadvine with show host Steve Shankman

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## New Faculty Fellowship Programs

This year also saw the inauguration of two new fellowship programs: the Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Literary Studies, and the Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Fellowship.

On April 23, 2004, the Center hosted a reception which served both as a celebration of William Shakespeare’s 440th birthday, and as the inauguration of the **Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Literary Studies**. The reception—complete with a birthday cake for Will and live Elizabethan music—was attended by many current and former professors from the English department and from Germanic



Thelma Greenfield, discussing a poem by Ernest G. Moll

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Byrdsong Renaissance Consort playing at the April 23rd event.

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and Romance Languages, as well as other faculty in the field of literary studies. Maribeth Collins (B.A. English, 1940), a former student of Ernest Moll, made the gift of the fellowship to the Humanities Center in memory of her beloved former professor. Mrs. Collins, along with several members of the Moll family, were guests of honor at this memorable event.

As part of the afternoon’s program, English Professor Emerita Thelma Greenfield and Professor Emeritus Kingsley Weatherhead read and explicated poems by Ernest Moll, himself a UO English professor from 1928 until 1966. Evlyn Gould and Dianne Dugaw, the first two Moll Fellowship recipients, spoke about what the award meant to them as scholars and teachers, and

a former UO student and daughter of Robert D. Clark, Ginny Reich, spoke of how her study of Shakespeare under Professor Moll was the beginning of a life-long love affair with the works of The Bard.



John Gage (right) with students

This was also the inaugural year for another new Humanities Center fellowship program, the **Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Professorship**. This innovative new fellowship provides a faculty member with a teaching fellowship during one academic quarter, and then in the following term it provides the same faculty member a term in residence at the Center to pursue a research project related to one or more of the topics explored in the course.

One of the main objectives of this new and prestigious professorship is to underscore the vital relationship between teaching and research. We want to challenge faculty to be more daring and experimental in their teaching, and to think of the classroom as a laboratory for their

research. Coleman-Guitteau professors are expected to envision clear connections between their teaching and research. They must also articulate clearly the relationship between their course and the research project, and involve their undergraduate students in that project.

**John Gage**, Professor of English, held the first Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Professorship, and in the process helped set the standard for the future of this program with his very successful course and research project entitled, “Being Reasonable: Theories and Practices of Ethical Argument.”

By seeking recommendations for prospective students from his colleagues in English, the Honors College, Journalism, and Philosophy, Gage recruited ten exceptional undergraduates for the small, seminar-like course. Enrollment was by instructor’s permission only, and as a result Gage ended up with two students who, he says, were among the best undergraduates he has ever taught. The students came from a range of majors including English, Comparative Literature, Political Science, and Mathematics. This group of students formed a “discourse community” which read and discussed the course materials, including the primary texts which are foundational to Gage’s research, and two essays by Gage himself.

In reflecting upon his research term, and on how teaching the course had affected his subsequent scholarly work, Gage noted, “Since my project was in its conceptual stages, and since the students in the class had challenged me to reconsider aspects of the approach I had previously taken to my research questions, I spent a lot of the term reading, taking notes, and thinking. Along the way I began to write parts of a book which I conceive in an entirely new way from how I envisioned it when I applied for the professorship. This is either a sign of my naive optimism on re-entering an intense research life after being an administrator, or of my seriously entertaining a wider range of views based on the challenges I faced when my students read some of my own work in progress.

“I offered a bare-bones defense of a tentative thesis in this new direction in my Work-in-Progress talk for the Center. This resulted in very fruitful discussions with several of my colleagues who attended the talk. In that talk I also encouraged some of the students from the fall class to describe their experience studying this subject and participating in my research. Some of their statements were eloquent, and proof that the idea of engaging undergraduate students in real research through this professorship is practical.”

### *Work-in-Progress Talks*

The Center continued its brown-bag series of Friday noon Work-in-Progress talks by UO faculty and graduate students. Over the course of the year ten informal talks were given on a range of subjects such as forgery and capital punishment in 18th-century England, the language of healing in 15th-century medical texts, the Chicano movement in Oregon, religious imagination and poetry, and the art of translation.

## Donors

Much of the work we do would not be possible without the help of private donors. The Oregon Humanities Center gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their support during the past year:

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Steve Shankman presents Maribeth Collins with photos of former UO English professor Ernest G. Moll.

Dolores Holmes and Robert J. Schleeelan  
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You may also contact us by phone at 541-346-3934, or by email at: [jheydon@uoregon.edu](mailto:jheydon@uoregon.edu) to stay on the mailing list. **If you do not contact the Humanities Center, your name will be removed from the list.**

You can help ensure that the Oregon Humanities Center continues to offer its many outstanding public programs and faculty fellowships by making a gift to the Center. Gifts can be made to the Oregon Humanities Center through the UO Foundation or by contacting the Humanities Center at 541-346-1001.

Thank you.

**If you would like to continue to receive our newsletters, event reminders, and other publications, we need to hear from you by September 30, 2004!**

You must contact us in one of the following ways if you want to stay on our mailing list:

- 1) Mail us your information using the form on page 5;
- 2) Call us at 541-346-3934; or,
- 3) Email us at [jheydon@uoregon.edu](mailto:jheydon@uoregon.edu).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Our newsletters are available on the web at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~humanctr/>

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Oregon Humanities Center  
5211 University of Oregon  
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