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Oregon Humanities Center 2005 Summer Report

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Reflections on the Past Year

Greetings from the Oregon Humanities Center! As we reflect upon the Center's recent activities and accomplishments, it occurs to us that part of what made this past academic year so productive, challenging, and rewarding was that we were involved in an extraordinary number of collaborative efforts. During the course of the year we partnered with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Oregon Bach Festival, the Geography department, Romance Languages, Religious Studies, the School of Music, and the UO Bookstore. In addition, we collaborated with a group of faculty from across campus who have participated in an interdisciplinary course which the Center was responsible for launching more than a decade ago through our Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professorship; hosted an international contingent of scholars and peace

activists from Russia, Latvia, and Austria who visited the UO and the West coast this past winter; and participated in a regional consortium of universities and professionals who gathered in Seattle in January for a conference on "Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture."

It's no wonder we feel like we had an especially busy year! But it was satisfying to realize that we had spent our time and energy on what we do best: bringing people together to enrich and enliven minds, expand horizons, and explore what it means to be human. We hope to continue to offer to the university and the broader community opportunities such as those described in the following pages. We thank you for supporting us in these efforts.

—Steve Shankman, Director

—Julia J. Heydon, Associate Director

2004–2005 Endowed Lectures

The OHC began the year by joining forces with geography faculty and students to host **historian** and **Lewis and Clark Journal editor Gary E. Moulton** as the 2004-05 **Cressman Lecturer**.

While in Eugene, Moulton met with local map collectors and specialists from the community in

the morning, and spoke to geography and history faculty and graduate students at an afternoon colloquium. In the evening he

gave a fascinating public lecture to a standing-room-only audience (which included a large number of local high school students) about the characters and personalities of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark entitled "**Lewis and Clark's New Look**." Shortly after Moulton's visit to campus, a gift was made to the Museum of Natural and Cultural History of a first edition copy of the *Journals* of the Lewis and Clark expedition—a remarkable addition to the Museum's holdings, and a treasure for the University and community.

Art and cultural critic **Lucy Lippard** was our featured guest during the winter term, with her **O'Fallon Lecture** entitled "Red Roadsides." A prolific writer on a number of subjects,

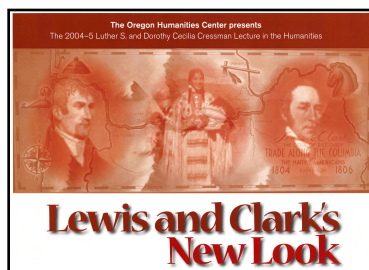


Image from Cressman
Lecture poster

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“Engaging Europe”

One of the high points of the past year was a special program we organized and hosted in May in honor of two loyal OHC donors, and in celebration of the publication of a book, *Engaging Europe*, edited by two UO humanities faculty members and former **Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professorship** recipients. The elegant luncheon event, attended by President Frohnmayer, Vice President Linton, and about 40 UO faculty, provided an eloquent and exciting example of the what the Humanities Center is and does.



George Sheridan and Evlyn Gould

About 10 years ago, Professors **Evlyn Gould** (Romance Languages) and **George Sheridan** (History), with the support of one of the first OHC **Coleman-Guitteau teaching fellowships**, launched an experimental cross-disciplinary humanities course called “**The Idea of Europe**,” involving faculty from several departments on campus. The innovative course was a great success, and has been offered nearly every year since its inception, with different faculty participating each year. In May 2005, an edited volume containing chapters by several of the faculty involved in the course (including Center director **Steven Shankman**) was published. Our May 27th event was thus a joint celebration of our generous donors **Nancy Guitteau** and **David Stern**, who made the Coleman-Guitteau fellowship possible; the long-term success of the course; and the publication of the book *Engaging Europe*.

As part of the program, the book’s editors, George Sheridan and Evlyn Gould, presented a dramatic dialogue about the many possible meanings of “Europe.” Then several faculty members who had been involved in the course (**Alec Murphy**, Geography; **John Nicols**, History; and **Robert Kyr**, Music) offered their own interpretations of “the idea of Europe.” Two former students from the class also spoke, providing powerful testimonies to the value of such innovative and thought-provoking humanities courses. The afternoon was beautifully punctuated by harpsichord music by graduate student **Rose Whitmore** and several movements from a Bach suite for unaccompanied cello played by UO music professor (and faculty participant in the “Idea of Europe” course) **Marc Vanscheeuwijck**. It was a memorable occasion for all involved.



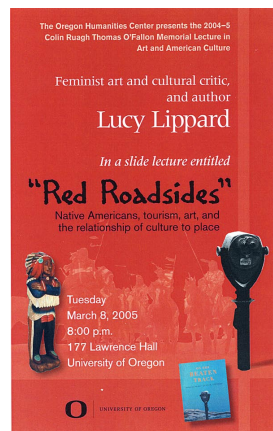
Left to right: Nancy Guitteau, David Stern, and Evlyn Gould

Endowed Lectures

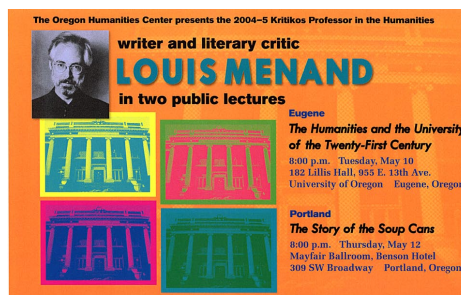
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including Native American culture, tourism, and art criticism, Lippard drew a full house to her slide lecture, including many art and art history students.

During the spring term, **Kritikos Professor** and Pulitzer Prize-winner **Louis Menand** gave two well-crafted and thought-provoking public lectures (one in Eugene and one in Portland) to large and attentive audiences. While on campus, Menand also met with students in Creative Writing and English to talk about the art of writing and the importance of a liberal arts education. The public lectures were well-received, and both classroom conversations were wonderfully candid and informative. Menand related especially well with the students, who seemed to appreciate having the opportunity to talk with a writer of international stature. The printed texts of Menand’s lectures, “**The Humanities and the University of the Twenty-First Century**” and “**The Story of the Soup Cans**,” will be available some time this fall. Check our web site or give us a call (541-346-3934) for details.



O'Fallon Lecture poster



Kritikos Lecture poster

Center-Sponsored Symposia

The “**Militant Word and Martial Metaphor**” series continued during 2004-05 with two symposia. During fall term the Department of Religious Studies, with support from the Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace, hosted a symposium on “**Persecution, Militancy and Martyrdom: Witnessing to Faith in the Three Traditions**,” which drew large audiences.

During the winter term the Humanities Center, in collaboration with UO Religious Studies professor Mark Unno, continued the series with a symposium entitled “**Conflict, Harmony and Unity: Asian Perspectives**,” also with generous support from the Savage Endowment. In conjunction with the winter symposium, the OHC also hosted talks by several **international visitors**, including Austrian scholar and peace activist Karl Kumpfmüller, who spoke on the pursuit of peace both in theory and in practice.

The Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellow in Literary Studies: Dianne Dugaw

It can be difficult for busy humanities faculty to find adequate time for reading, writing, and reflecting—which is precisely why Humanities Center Research fellowships are so valued and sought after. English Professor **Dianne Dugaw**, our 2004–05 **Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellow**, found a creative way to extend her one-term OHC fellowship into a two-term leave that ultimately took her to Spain in search of answers to her research questions.

Prof. Dugaw spent fall term 2004 in residence at the Center working on her current project, “**The Hidden Baroque in Britain and the Gendering of Literary History.**” In this projected book, Dugaw argues that there was a 17th-century “Baroque Britain”

that has been erased from mainstream cultural history, but which was potent in its day, and is still traceable through the visual arts and literature. Her particular focus is on the central, powerful role women played in this movement. Thanks to a

term in residence at the Center, where she could work without interruption, Professor Dugaw was able to complete two essays, an article, and a book chapter related to this project.

At the conclusion of her fellowship term, Dugaw continued her research during a sabbatical term in Granada, where she investigated literary and aesthetic movements in 16th- and 17th-century Spain and their relationship to what was going on in England at that time. The cultural importance of Spain to Britain during this era is, Dugaw believes, often overlooked.

Dugaw argues that there was a little-acknowledged baroque aesthetic in Britain which was linked to an international baroque culture of the 16th and 17th centuries that especially drew upon cultural forms and ideologies from Spain, the dominant power of the early modern era. In her study, Dugaw investigates the “forgotten” cultural undersides of both Britain and Spain through the works of writers and visual artists.

While in Spain, Dugaw was able to meet and collaborate with art historians in Granada, Seville, and Madrid to investigate the works of the artist Alonso Cano (1601-67), as well as several other Andalucian artists who were among the ‘stars’ of the Spanish baroque. She also visited the National Library and the Prado Museum in Madrid. During her travels to various museums and archives, Dugaw uncovered information connecting Cano and other Spanish baroque artists with Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales (later Charles I), and Charles II of England. She will continue to follow these research leads when she goes to London to teach in the Spring of 2006.



Dianne Dugaw (center) with UC Berkeley colleagues in Spain.

Public Programs Co-Sponsored by OHC

During 2004-05 the Oregon Humanities Center provided co-sponsorship support for more than **30 humanities events**, ranging from music lecture-demonstrations and performances to readings by famous authors such as **Barry Lopez** and **Eric Hansen**, and from individual guest lecturers to national and international conferences. Humanities Center co-sponsorship support enables departments to host important speakers and events that they would otherwise be unable to afford, and at the same time provides the public with a rich array of free, high-quality humanities programs.

Our most significant co-sponsorship this past year was our very successful and enriching collaboration with the **Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art** in April 2005.

Together we hosted a return visit to Eugene by **art critic Theodore Wolff**, who spent a week in residence on campus studying and working with the Museum’s Morris Graves collection. Wolff presented two seminars during the week while working with the collection, and at the end of the week he gave a public



Left to right: Julia Heydon, Larry Fong, and Theodore Wolff.

slide lecture summarizing his findings and shedding light on the extensive Graves holdings in the Museum of Art.

This year we also collaborated for the first time with the **Oregon Bach Festival** to offer a seminar to invited faculty and community members with Argentinian composer **Osvaldo Golijov** to discuss his *Pasión Según San Marcos*. **Helmuth Rilling** spoke briefly about the commissioning project that began in 2000 in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the death of J. S. Bach, for which Golijov’s work was originally written. Golijov talked about his own creative process in composing music for a modern-day Passion setting.



A scene from Golijov’s La Pasión.

Having grown up in Argentina, he was deeply affected by the street processions during Holy Week, and he wanted to reflect his Latin American heritage and experiences in his music. Because he grew up in a Jewish family, however, he was unfamiliar with the Passion story, so the first thing he had to do was purchase a copy of the *New Testament* and familiarize himself with the text! In a very candid and unassuming manner, Golijov spoke about his music and generously answered questions for more than an hour. It was a rich and thought-provoking conversation among people from many different walks of life who represented several different academic, religious, and cultural traditions. We hope to continue to collaborate with the Oregon Bach Festival in the future.



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Sincere Thanks to Our Donors

We are deeply grateful for the support we receive from private donors and friends, without whom we would not be able to offer many of our programs. The Oregon Humanities Center would like to thank the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their support during the past year:

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