



**WHAT'S NEW
IN THE
HUMANITIES
PROGRAM:**

- November 9—
November 20:
Advance Registration
for Currently Enrolled
Students.
- November 23—
January 8:
Open Registration for
Admitted/Re-Admitted
Students.
- December 11, 2009:
MUGC Library 7:00
p.m. Graduate Hu-
manities 30th Anniver-
sary Celebration.



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Graduate Humanities

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2

FALL 2009

Celebrating 30 Years

by Luke Eric Lassiter

This year we celebrate our 30th anniversary as the Graduate Humanities Program. The Graduate Humanities Program was first established in 1979 when an interdisciplinary collaborative of faculty received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to establish an M.A. in Humanistic Studies (now the M.A. in Humanities) at the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies (or COGS, as it was often called). At that time, COGS was based in Institute, West Virginia; but in 1992, COGS moved to South Charleston. In 1997, the graduate center merged with Marshall University and was renamed the Marshall University Graduate College (MUGC). Before the merger, the Humanities Program was a division of the School of Education at COGS, which, after the

merger, was renamed to the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development (GSEPD); the Graduate Humanities Program then became a division of Marshall University's College of Liberal Arts. Today, the Graduate Humanities Program is an interdisciplinary program that brings together faculty and students from a variety of backgrounds to collaboratively explore the intersection of the arts, culture, literature, and history within an open, exploratory, and experimental graduate-level educational environment.

Since 1980, when the Program graduated its first student, to the present, 134 people hold an M.A. in the Humanities from our Program. To high-

light these achievements, and to help mark the anniversary, Graduate Assistant Katie Santiago graciously took up the task of compiling a volume of creative and scholarly work by students and faculty over the past thirty years. As I write this, the volume is headed to the University of Nebraska Press for printing, and at around 150 pages, I can attest that it is a fitting tribute to the diverse perspectives of our Program's students and faculty. Indeed, this collection of articles and essays aptly reflects the varied interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches that have long made our Program one of the most distinctive in the region.



December 11, 2009 MUGC Library 7:00 p.m.

by Trish Hatfield

Thirty years ago, the College of Graduate Studies developed a program that worked to actively cultivate the capacity to change, improve, deepen, and elevate the civic and individual lives of West Virginia residents.

Like air, the Humanities is all around us—it is not a set of disciplines as much as the way we relate to each other, the language we use, the ways we construct our daily lives individually and

collectively in thought and conversations.

We define the Humanities by our humanity. We define it by yearning to understand others, and ourselves, by analyzing literature, art, philosophy, religion, and aspects of the physical and social sciences. We articulate our learning through multiple expressions, revealing even more aspects of the Humanities

through our own interpretation and life experiences.

Please join us on December 11, 2009, at the MUGC Library at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate this anniversary. We will have available the Humanities anthology, *Constellations*, and Mark Moore's collage students plan to exhibit their work.

Collage at the Blue Door Studio

by Jennifer Lynch



Mark Moore's 20th Century Collage seminar explores the historical context of the evolving work of artists; with students exploring paths to self-discovery through the creation of their own collage. Combining bits of things and chunks of meaning to create something along with the other students is a central part of the seminar: it covers a wide range of topics from form and color to how Picasso's life affected his work; to Dada; to what it means to be human.



We meet in downtown Charleston, at Mark Moore's Blue Door Studio, where students have access to the guiding talent of this accomplished artist. The setting adds to the uniqueness of the seminar and the authenticity of the experience.

The hands-on work is refreshing. Students may build their own

canvases or frames, which complements other learning styles and gives students pride in their work.

The seminar is becoming one of the most interesting courses I



have ever taken. It is not designed for art majors who already have knowledge and experience with art methods, but instead designed from an interdisciplinary humanities perspective.

In lessons about assembling meanings, students apply their own unique issues and interests

to examine and assemble in different ways. Moore suggests methods and materials to enhance student's ideas, rather than to diminish them. Students gain more of an appreciation for art by pulling in their larger goals as Graduate Humanities students, which involve subjects as diverse as literature, music and history. This seminar complements and enriches each student's path.

I would recommend this seminar to students within and outside the Graduate Humanities Program. Anyone interested in human expression, developing a real appreciation and enjoyment of art, understanding the historical context in which artistic styles developed, or living a creative life, could gain something useful from this seminar.

Recent Graduates

Jason Stewart
(December 2008)
Cultural Studies. Project Title: "Through the Magic Glass."

Zachary S. Borovicka
(December 2008)
Cultural Studies. Project Title: "The Sigma Theta Epsilon, Alpha Gamma Chapter Oral History Project"

Constellations to Launch

by Kathryn Santiago

On December 11, 2009, the Graduate Humanities Program will launch *Constellations*, an anthology to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary. The anthology showcases the work of those people involved with the program past and present. Several pieces here have their roots in Graduate Humanities seminars.

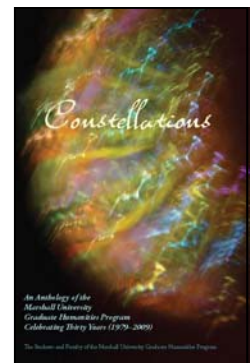
In true style of the Graduate Humanities Program, the idea of an anthology transformed into a program-wide project, one to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of our Program. Students and faculty subsequently submitted

their pieces in the arts, literary, historical, and cultural studies.

Many students, faculty, and alumni took part in submitting their work. Many gave time and energy to the development of *Constellations*.

Thanks to the generosity of the College of Liberal Arts, the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center and the Historic Glenwood Foundation, we were able to work with Detta Penna from Penna Design and Manjit

Kaur and Terence Smyre from the University of Nebraska Press, where the anthology is now being printed. Thanks to everyone involved!



SPRING 2010 SEMINARS

MU GRAD COLLEGE (SOUTH CHARLESTON)

ARRANGED

HUMN 680-231—Independent Research Symposium (Lassiter)
CRN 2699
KANGC

A pro-seminar required of all Humanities degree students who are beginning the thesis or final project. Arranged with the Program Director.

CULS 600-231—Song Traditions and Musical Experience (Lassiter)
CRN 1982
W, 7-9:50 KANGC 323

This course will explore song traditions from a variety of perspectives and cultural contexts. It will focus, in particular, on understanding musical experience as an individual as well as a shared, social phenomenon.

HIST 601-231—Historic Preservation (Peyton)
CRN 2564
T, 7-9:50 KANGC 323

This course broadens historical awareness and provides practical applications of historical knowledge. It covers the built environment and focuses on the history, processes and legal basis of the historic preservation movement.

HUMN 603-231—History and Theory of the Arts (Ovrebö-Welker)
CRN 2698
Th, 7-9:50 KANGC 323

This core course provides chronological survey of the arts, emphasizing the social, political and/or religious motives that underlie ar-

tistic production. Emphasis on theories of modern art. Open to non-degree students.

LITS 600-231—Creative Non-Fiction (Simone)
CRN 2881
M, 7-9:50 KANGC 323

This course explores contemporary works of creative nonfiction as a form of literature which encompasses a full spectrum of genres: personal essay and memoir, literary journalism, and academic/cultural criticism. Selections from essayists, memoirists, literary journalists, cultural critics, poets and novelists who work in this fluid and evolving genre will be examined.

LITS 600-233—Appalachian Literature and Culture (Ladner)
CRN 2883
WEBCT with 3 live meetings

This course will explore what makes Appalachian literature one of the most vital and distinctive regional literatures. By reading, analyzing, and discussing works by Silas House, Henry Louis Gates, Denise Giardina, and Sharyn McCrumb, among others, students will construct a tentative definition of the term "Appalachian" and identify several key elements in Appalachian literature and culture, critically analyze issues of cultural distinctiveness and cultural stereotypes, and reflect upon the multicultural heritage of the Appalachian region. Assignments include web-based essays and discussion postings, a web "presentation," and an individual research paper. There will be three live meetings: **January 16, April 3, and May 1.**

See the SuperSaturday website for more information including meeting location.

www.marshall.edu/supersaturday

NR C&T College

(SUMMERSVILLE)
LITS 600-232—Southern Appalachia: Promise and Betrayal (Simmons)
CRN 2882
Tu, 7-9:50

Often characterized as a region of contradiction, of extraordinary natural beauty, abundant natural resources, extreme poverty, and home of yesterday's people, Southern Appalachia remains an American frontier where the dreams of an independent and freedom-loving people come against the demands of the business and industrial world. Students in this course will examine this region's history, character, promise and betrayal by reading and discussing various literary works by Appalachian writers and by critics of the cultural and sociological aspects of this geographic area. Some of the readings to be included are: Caudill—Night Comes to the Cumberlands; Still—River of Earth; Plumley—Things Appalachian; Yeager—Stories From the Hills; Isaacs—Rosebuds; Stuart—Come Gentle Spring. Guest lectures on some issues concerning Southern Appalachia will be included.

SPRING LINEUP

- **Independent Research Symposium**
- **Song Traditions and Musical Experience**
- **Historic Preservation**
- **History and Theory of the Arts**
- **Creative Non-Fiction**
- **Appalachian Literature and Culture**
- **Southern Appalachia: Promise and Betrayal**



Building Bridges Across Time and Space

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Graduate Humanities Program



Would You Like to Support the Graduate Humanities Program?

Graduate Humanities Student Research and Travel Fund

The Graduate Humanities Program recently established a new travel fund for Graduate Humanities students, to be used for research and/or professional development (e.g., conference attendance). The program welcomes support from friends and alumni. Please consider making a donation to help further this fund and support Graduate Humanities students. Thank you for considering a donation to our department.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____ Other

Please make check payable to the Marshall University Foundation (Humanities Academic Program Funds).

