

**WHAT'S NEW
IN THE HU-
MANITIES
PROGRAM:**

- We have a new website! Check out www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/
- Registration for Spring 2006 courses begins Nov 7 (for currently enrolled students) and Nov 21 for admitted students. More inside.
- "Religious Liberty: For Some or For All?" Symposium on November 14. More below.
- MU's Appalachian Oral History Collection/Program now "officially" part of the Graduate Humanities Program. See "From the Director" for more.
- The new 2006 - 2008 Graduate Humanities Guide is complete. If you are a degree student and do not have a Guide, please let us know!

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From the Director . . .

Hello to all, faculty and students!



Since beginning my new position as Director of the Graduate Humanities Program in August 2005, I've been hard at work "learning the ropes" and getting to know the faculty and students who have made this such a great program.

More than anything, I've learned just how lucky we are to have one of the finest humanities programs in the country — and I'm not just blowing smoke (see my report of the AGLSP meetings on page 2). Thanks to the

previous Director, Dr. Joyce East, and the many other faculty who have been long committed to building this fine program, we have a solid foundation for continued growth and expansion.

From this well-established base, I hope to add new courses in all areas of emphasis (arts & society, literary, cultural, and historical studies); increase on-line humanities and professional development classes; develop new certificate programs; create applied and public humanities curriculum; and augment our relationship with the Huntington campus.

One of my biggest areas of planned growth concerns finding ways to expand our connections to community- and regionally-based initiatives.

Many of our faculty and students have been doing work like this for a long time, and it's among our greatest strengths. For example: Marshall University's oral history collection (housed on the Huntington campus) has recently come under the purview of Graduate Humanities. This opportunity, combined with our Appalachian Studies Certificate program, will only strengthen our connections to West Virginia communities and organizations. These collaborative relationships will also provide new opportunities to combine academic and community projects, create new curriculum, and enhance ongoing collaborative relationships between students and local communities.

Graduate Humanities to Co-Sponsor Fall Symposium

Thanks largely to the efforts of Graduate Humanities faculty member Dr. John Richards (WVSU), the Graduate Humanities Program will co-sponsor a Fall Symposium entitled "Religious Liberty: For Some or For All?" Speakers Clayton McNearney (MU), Gerald Beller (WVSU), Andrew Schneider

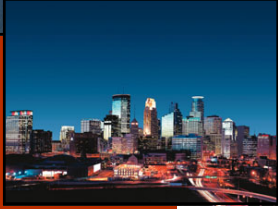
(ACLU-WV), and John Richards (WVSU) will explore topics ranging from "Civil Religion" to "Dangerous Religions." Each presentation is scheduled for 15 to 20 minutes. A panel discussion will follow, moderated by Luke Eric Lassiter (MUGC).

Please join us on **Monday, 14 November 2005, 7-9 PM** in

the **MUGC Administration Building, Room 319**, at the MU Graduate College for a discussion of the freedom, threats, and future of religious beliefs and practices in America.

Download a detailed flyer for the event on our website at www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/. Click on "Programs and Events."

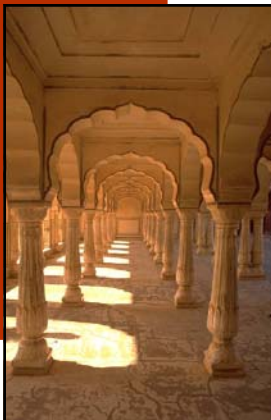
AGLSP 2005



This year's AGLSP meeting was held in Minneapolis.

"Enrollment and response will determine where we go from here,"
—President James Rowley, West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, 1977

Congratulations to our recent MA graduates!



By Luke Eric Lassiter, Director

I recently attended my first annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs (AGLSP), held this year in Minneapolis from October 5 to October 8, 2005.

The Graduate Humanities Program has been a full member of AGLSP since 1995. Our program's director attends each year for a business meeting, as well as to assess current issues in graduate liberal stud-

ies, compare notes with other programs, and learn new administrative and teaching strategies.

One of the most important lessons I learned at AGLSP is how well the MU Graduate Humanities Program stacks up when compared to some of the most prestigious graduate liberal studies programs in the country.

Few programs have the extensive core courses that we provide—in the humanities, in

expository writing, and in the area studies of arts & society, cultural, historical, and literary studies. Many do not provide an option for students to choose either a project or a thesis. Several lack capstone research-based courses like our two independent research seminars. And very few require comprehensive exams.

I left the conference with a deep sense of appreciation for our program and the possibilities that lay before us.

Volume 28?

Yep, this **IS** Volume 28 of the Graduate Humanities Newsletter—well almost.

The first "newsletter," of sorts, appeared in the summer of 1977. Mailed from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies (the birthplace of the MUGC), it boldly announced that a "new program in the Arts and Humanities, starting in May, will offer

courses with intriguing titles such as 'Comedy and the Origins of Laughter,' 'Women and the American Experience,' and 'Understanding Human Behavior through Literature.'"

The mailing also included information on the professors teaching in the program, tuition costs (\$12.80 per credit hour for WV residents — those were the days!), and a

calendar of events.

"Enrollment and response will determine where we go from here," the president of the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies is quoted as saying, "It is conceivable that a request for degree programs will be submitted to the Board of Regents, depending upon response this summer and fall."

The rest, of course, is history.

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to our most recent MA graduates!

Sandra L. Foster (May 2005), Literary Studies. Project Title: "Mother-Daughter Relationships in Jennifer Johnston's Novels."

Lisa A. Hechesky (May 2005), Cultural Studies. Thesis Title: "Return to Main Street: An Assessment of the Main Street Revitalization Program"

Christopher Mullens (May 2005), Arts & Society. Project Title: "Karen Vuranch, Teller of Tales."

Shanna (Isner) Mullens (August 2005), Literary Studies. Project Title: "In Their Own Words: WV Soldiers and Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Spring 2006 Courses

ARRANGED LOCATIONS AND TIMES

HUMN 680-231 (CRN: 2658): Independent Research Symposium (Lassiter)

Prerequisites: 24 hours in Humanities, required courses, and comprehensive examination. Permission of Program Director required. A pro-seminar required of all Humanities degree students who are beginning the thesis or final project. The course offers students the opportunity to discuss matters of technique, methods of research and applied theory. S-U grade.

KANAWHA (SOUTH CHARLESTON CAMPUS)

A&S 600-231 (CRN 1001): Song Traditions and Musical Experience (Lassiter)

T, 7-9:50 p.m. 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. (Note: Due to an error, the online and print class schedule lists this course's schedule for 7-9 PM. The course is actually scheduled for 7-9:50 PM.)

CULS 540-231 (CRN 2001): World Religions (Richards)

W, 7-9:50 p.m., KANAC 203

Study of several religions as they developed within their individual times and cultures.

CULS 600-231 (CRN 2002): Rhetoric and Public Policy (Nicholson)

M, 4-6:50 p.m., KANAC 203

This course focuses on the values and assumptions that underlie public policies, the rhetorical factors that shape their formulation and implementation, and the links between rhetoric and political decision-making.

CULS 611-231 (CRN 2003): Appalachian Studies: Themes and Voices (Ewen)

WEBCT & Live Saturday Workshops (Jan. 14, Feb. 25, and Apr 22: 9:30 AM - 4 PM).

See <http://www.marshall.edu/SUPERSATURDAY/> for room assignments, and other information.

This interdisciplinary course orients students to the significant issues and research in Appalachian studies. Important political, social, and cultural issues will be considered. Research areas are introduced.

HIST 600-231 (CRN 2508): Social Memory and Oral History (Lassiter)

W, 4-6:50 p.m., KANAC 205

This course will explore the process of memory and how it is negotiated in community and social contexts. Students will also learn about and engage in oral history methodologies.

HUMN 600-231 (CRN 2656): Introduction to Study in the Humanities (Harstein)

Th, 4-6:50 p.m., KANGC 323

Interdisciplinary core course addresses questions/concepts central to the humanities. Texts from philosophy, history, literature, the arts and the sciences provide insights into selected historical periods. Open to non-degree students.

HUMN 603-231 (CRN 2657): History and Theory of the Arts (Ovrebo)

M, 7-9:50 p.m., KANGC 323

Core course provides chronological survey of the arts, emphasizing the social, political and/or religious motives that underlie artistic production. Emphasis on theories of modern art. Open to non-degree students.

LITS 600-231 (CRN 2920): Appalachian Literature and Culture (Ladner)

WEBCT ONLY: Live meeting on January 7, 9 AM - 1 PM. See <http://www.marshall.edu/SUPERSATURDAY> for more information

This course will explore what makes Appalachian literature one of the most vital and distinctive regional literatures. By reading, analyzing, and discussing works by Cormac McCarthy, 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.

LITS 600-232 (CRN 2921): Creative Nonfiction: The Fourth Genre (Simone)

Th, 7-9:50 p.m., 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.

SUMMERSVILLE (SMV)

LITS 600-233 (2922): Medieval Romance Literature (Simmons)

7-9:50 p.m.

This course emphasizes the medieval romance as an important literary genre. Conventions of the romance will be studied from the earliest examples to the modern-day western. Romances to be read and discussed include *Havelock the Dane*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Chaucer's Knight Tale*, *Song of Roland*, and *Le Morte Darthur*.

"This interdisciplinary course orients students to the significant issues and research in Appalachian studies."

—CULS 611-231

"This course focuses on the values and assumptions that underlie public policies"

—CULS 600-231



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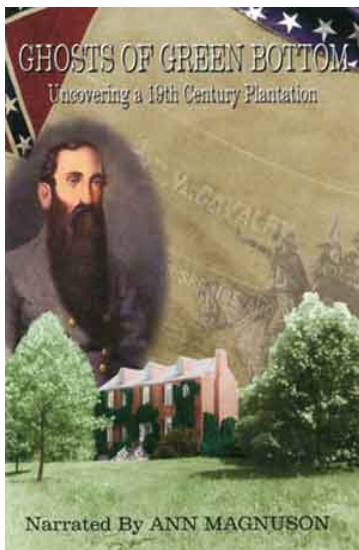
South Charleston WV 25303-1600

100 Angus E. Peyton Drive

Graduate Humanities Program



Humanities Faculty Screen New Video



Humanities Faculty Dr. Robert Maslowski (previous Interim Director of the Graduate Humanities Program) and Mr. Daniel Boyd (WVSU) recently screened a new video entitled “Ghosts of Green Bottom: Uncovering a 19th Century Plantation,” at the Clay Center (Charleston) on September 22.

A winner of the 2005 Bronze Telly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Film, “Ghosts of Green Bottom” chronicles the history of a southern-style plantation in the mountains of West Virginia. Exploring issues of slavery, the Civil War, and the current archaeology of the site, Maslowski (Executive Producer) and Boyd (Director) brought together the Paradise Film Institute (WVSU) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to co-produce the video.

“Ghosts of Green Bottom” was again shown on October 29 at the LaBelle Theatre in South Charleston in conjunction with Maslowski and Boyd’s other recent video production, “Red Salt and Reynolds”—which also won a Telly Award in 2004.

“Ghosts of Green Bottom” is scheduled for another screening on **November 8 at Marshall University’s Drinko Library on the Huntington campus.**

There will be a reception at 5 p.m., followed by a roundtable discussion at 6 p.m. The Huntington film premiere will begin at 7 p.m., with questions and answers at 7:30 p.m.

If you haven’t already, please take a moment to congratulate Bob Maslowski and Danny Boyd for their work!