

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

- Registration for Spring 2008 courses begins November 5 (for currently enrolled students) and November 19 (for admitted students). More inside.
- Check out our new Glenwood Project website at: www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/GlenwoodProject/
- Dr. Fran Simone has a new article in *Wonderful West Virginia*. See the back flap.
- Maslowski and Boyd's *Ghosts of Green Bottom* receives Emmy nomination. See the back flap.



From Oregon to West Virginia

by Gabriella Williamson

I came from Portland, Oregon, to Charleston, West Virginia, in February of 2003, and have lived in Charleston ever since. I actually did not know what I would do in Charleston once I got here, but as life would have it I have since found that there is no better place to be.

Soon after arriving, I began trying to find a Master's program that would fit my more eclectic lifestyle and "mode of being." As luck would have it, I ran into Beth Campbell, who teaches the Program's Literary

Theory and Criticism course. She directed me to the Graduate Humanities Program Director, Luke Eric Lassiter. I scheduled an appointment with Eric and upon leaving, I realized that there was no place quite like the Marshall University Graduate College and the Graduate Humanities Program.

I had no idea that such a program actually existed. Honestly, it is such a treasure to behold—the classes focus on real world activities and applicable subject matters, taught by amazing professors who love their fields and who love to work and live in West Virginia. I have been amazed at what I have learned, and how I

have grown in the year that I have been working toward my degree.

When people ask me in what area I am getting my M.A., their next question is invariably what will I do with a Humanities degree. My answer to that is anything my heart and mind desires to create: this is the gift of the Graduate Humanities program, that if you can create it, it can be a reality. The field is wide open for those with backgrounds in liberal arts, and with diverse life experiences such as mine. With the support of fabulous and world-renowned professors the only limit is my imagination.

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Sometimes a Class or Two Can Make a Difference

by Dr. Robert Maslowski

While our Program newsletter often stresses the accomplishments of our students and graduates, we have many students from other departments and non-degree programs who also benefit from our classes. One person who comes to mind is Darla Spencer, the Publications Director for Cultural Resources Analysts, an archeological consulting firm in Hurricane, West Virginia. Darla took the courses "Appalachian Archeology" and "Native Americans of the Appalachia." She expanded her class

paper on Protohistoric Shell Masks into a thesis and graduated with a Masters Degree from the Marshall University Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her thesis was subsequently published in *West Virginia Archeologist*, and she has continued to publish and present papers at local, regional and national conferences.

Roger Wise, senior archeologist for the West Virginia Department of Highways, was in the same classes as Darla Spencer,

and published two of the book reviews he did as class assignments.

Steve Shaffer is still contemplating his application to the Graduate Humanities Program, but last year he took the "Appalachian Archeology" course, and his term paper on the Indian's Head Petroglyph was accepted for publication in the *West Virginia Archeologist*. Steve has been in

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Sometimes a Class or Two . . .

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the news quite a bit lately since his diving team raised the petroglyph from the bottom of the Ohio River and delivered it to the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

Jessica Potter took the "Glenwood Estate" seminar this past summer. Though she has transferred to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, she will be presenting a version of her class paper, "Making it Her Own: Lucy Quarrier and the Craft Movement" at the Appalachian Studies Conference in March.

Jeffrey Jack, who graduated in 2005, took the course, "Time and Place in Appalachia," and

wrote an article for *Wonderful West Virginia* on Graham's Fort; and then took the "Food and Culture" seminar, and wrote another article on wild mushrooms for the same magazine. The best part about it is that Jeffrey got paid for writing both articles, a good way to jumpstart a writing and teaching career. Hopefully, we will be reading more of Jeffrey's articles in the future.

All the Graduate College programs stress life-long learning, and this goes well beyond the publication of articles and book reviews. Brett Wooten is a good example from the "Food and Culture" class. Brett, has often admitted that, perhaps like other students from Appalachia, he was a picky eater. In that seminar, students had the opportunity to

taste some of the foods that were discussed in class. Brett was reluctant to taste many foods, but gradually added a few items to his diet, and began to wonder how he had grown up to be such a picky eater. He started reading articles on the sociology of food habits, did his class paper on eating habits, and came away with a much better understanding of how his own eating habits had evolved over time. By mid-semester Brett said his wife had even noticed a change in his approach to food. Toward the end of the semester, we took our guest speaker on the domestication of rice to a local Asian restaurant and Brett even tasted a few items that I ordered from the Sushi Bar. Who'd ever thought!



Our Glenwood Estate Symposium was a great success. Over 50 faculty, students, and community members of the Kanawha Valley attended. Thanks to all who have participated in the Glenwood Project! (Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Hedrick and Luke Eric Lassiter.)



Congratulations to our recent MA graduates!

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to our most recent MA graduates!

Brenda Burke-Cremean (May 2007), Literary Studies. Project Title: "The Way We Were . . . The Way We Are . . ."

Alicia Juncosa (May 2007), Historical Studies. Project

Title: "Economics and Stereotypes."

Ellen Brooke Lorish (May 2007), Literary and Historical Studies. Project Title: "A House, A Mother, and a Daughter: A Memoir of Dance."

Christine Seger (May 2007), Cultural Studies. Project Title: "Drawing Hope: An Examination of Art by Prisoners and Patients."

Spring 2008 Courses

ARRANGED

HUMN 680-231: Independent Research Symposium (Lassiter)

CRN 2762

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

MU GRAD COLLEGE (SOUTH CHARLESTON)

CULS 600-231: African Families: Diversity, Stability and Change (Shobo)

CRN 2034

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

This course will examine diversity in the African family system – structure, formation, roles of members, changes due to social change. To this end, it is imperative that we examine macro and micro forces that impact the African family system. This course will examine the colonial period in Africa from roughly 1750 to the present. Given the vast geographical breadth of the African continent, its diverse peoples and cultures, and the divergent trajectories of colonial rule, this course cannot provide a comprehensive overview of the modern era in Africa. Rather, it considers some of the most significant transformations in modern African history, including the impact of the Atlantic slave trade and the transition to 'legitimate commerce'; the causes and consequences of European imperial conquest from the 1870s; the dynamics of the colonial encounter; the struggles of African peoples for independence in the 1950s and 1960s; and the enduring impact of the colonial experience on contemporary African social, political, and economic realities. (See our website for more information.)

CULS 600-232: Introduction to Islamic Studies (Patnaik)

CRN 2035

WEBCT & Live Meetings (Jan. 17, March 13 & May 8).

See <http://www.marshall.edu/>

SUPERSATURDAY/ for room assignments, and other information

This course will introduce Islamic religion and culture and its impact on 21st century geopolitics. Since the tragic events of September 11, Islamic culture and religion has gained national prominence, and with 20,000 Islamic students expected to immigrate to this country in the next five years, a deeper understanding of Islam, both as a culture and a religious force, is needed. Despite its national prominence, Islam is a misunderstood, often polarized religion and culture. The purpose of this course is to break past the stereotypes and critically examine Islam as a religion and a culture.

CULS 612-231: Time and Place in Appalachia (Maslowski)

CRN 2036

Th, 7-9:50 p.m., GC 323

This interdisciplinary course orients students to the importance of geography, topography, and geology to the history and development of the Appalachian region.

HUMN 600-231: Introduction to Study in Humanities (Lassiter)

CRN 2760

W, 7-9:50 p.m., GC 323

Interdisciplinary core course addresses questions/concepts central to the humanities. Texts from phi-

losophy, history, literature, the arts and the sciences provide insights into selected historical periods.

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

CRN 2761

T, 7-9:50 p.m., GC 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.

LITS 520-231: Creative Writing and Practical Criticism (Simone)

CRN 3021

W, 4-6:50 p.m., GC 323

Exploration of the possibilities for communication and expression in contemporary writing with emphasis on comprehension of structure, technique and self-criticism of the writing experience.

NR C&T College (SUMMERSVILLE)

LITS 600-231: Explorations of the Short Story (Simmons)

CRN 3022

M, 7-9:50 p.m., Room TBA

This course will focus on the elements of the short story as an important literary genre. A variety of modern short stories will be read from such authors as: Eudora Welty, William Faulkner, Rudyard Kipling, James Joyce, Joseph Conrad, John Updike, Flannery O'Connor, Edith Wharton, Ernest Hemingway, and Jesse Stuart. Plot, character, setting and point-of-view will be considered.

THE SPRING

LINEUP:

- *African Families: Diversity, Stability, and Change*
- *Introduction to Islamic Studies*
- *Time and Place in Appalachia*
- *Introduction to Study in Humanities*
- *History and Theory of the Arts*
- *Creative Writing and Practical Criticism*
- *Explorations of the Short Story*



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Graduate Humanities Program



NEWS AND NOTES

- Graduate Humanities faculty Fran Simone has a new article in the October 2007 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia*, titled "Veterans on Parade."
- On May 14, 2007, the Ohio Valley Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences announced that *Ghosts of Green Bottom*, a film produced by Graduate Humanities faculty Bob Maslowski and Danny Boyd, has been nominated for an Emmy Award in the Historical Documentary Program category. The 43rd Annual Midwestern Regional Emmy Awards are scheduled for June 23, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio.
- Faculty and students: Do you have news to share? Let us know!

