

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

- Advanced Registration for Spring 2009 courses is November 10–21 for currently enrolled students and November 24–December 16 for admitted students.
- Meet, Greet, and Eat Report
- Recent Graduates
- The Glenwood Project enters Phase II.
- Visit with Tim O'Brien
- Course schedule

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Graduate Humanities

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FALL 2008

Globalization Class Offered by Andu Meharie

By Kathryn Santiago


Photo courtesy of A. Meharie

Coming Spring 2009

CULS 600-232—Linking Local With Global: Anthropology, Globalization, and Development

We might all have some idea of what globalization is and how it affects us daily, but our concepts may be vague or intimidating. Some may believe that they aren't directly affected by the processes of globalization. But most moments of our daily lives

have been altered by globalization. When was the last time you ordered Italian food, bought bananas at the market, watched news segments from Iraq, bought a shirt made in Taiwan, or surfed the Internet? "Have you wondered," asks Anduam-lak (Andu) Meharie, "how education is being shaped by global processes? What does this mean to education and curriculum development? What is the connection between poverty and globalization? Can globalization be both good and bad? What can an individual do if she or he is negatively affected by it?"

Andu's class, "Linking Local with Global," will look at the issues of globalization and how it affects people worldwide—from Ethiopia to Charleston.

Globalization affects every aspect of the Humanities. "We're going to use sources," Andu explains, "from a lot of different disciplines . . . I also want to be flexible enough to design the class around the students' interests." According to Andu, he and his students will explore this process through "scholarly texts, novels, films, and documentaries."

"I think we have a tendency," says Andu, "to think of globalization solely in economic terms. We usually think about trade and commerce and transnational corporations . . . Globalization is a lot more than that. It's also the flow of ideas, culture and people."

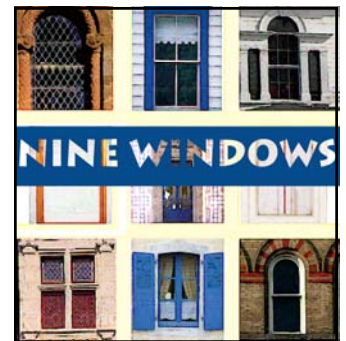
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Nine Windows Anthology

By Gabriella Williamson

During the Spring of 2008 a small class of interested writers and readers converged to begin a journey of discovery and writing. The Creative Writing seminar, taught by Dr. Frances Simone, began with the class attending to the art of poetry. None of us were poets, and while some of us had written

poetry in high school or college, we managed to learn how the art of poetry is made, and the craft of sharing poems in a class. What might seem incredibly terrifying to some was a surprising and enjoyable experience—especially hearing the poems from the beginning stages to the end. It was more than a journey; it was a true


Cover by Martha Mozingo

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Friends of the Humanities' "Meet, Eat, and Greet"

By Trish Hatfield

Envision, or revisit, a cool August evening, a park shelter situated beside a creek, people engaged in multi-layered conversations interspersed with laughter and live music, and, oh, the best home-made, home-grown potluck ever to crowd a picnic table.

It was an evening exactly as envisioned by the organizers: fun conversations, delicious food, talented

musicians, and a comfortable space for connecting with one another and celebrating the Humanities.

Many thanks to those who graced us with their presence and shared their cooking and fresh garden produce. We hope that those who came and those who weren't able to attend will be able to join together in the spring for another

Friends of Humanities' "Meet, Eat, and Greet."



Recent Graduates

Trish Hatfield (May 2008), Cultural Studies. Project Title: "Holding Smoke in Your Hands: Stories of Home and Purpose."

Greta Perrine (May 2008), Literary/Cultural Studies. Project Title: "Appalachia Folklore: A Generational Comparison."

Angelica Settle (May 2008), Arts & Society. Project Title: "Daniel Boone: A Comic Strip and a Cultural Connection with Appalachia."

Glenwood Update

By Annette Conner

Hi there. My name is Annette Conner, and I am the Graduate Assistant for the Glenwood Project. But what is this project, you ask? Well, a glance at the website dedicated to this project (<http://www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/GlenwoodProject>) tells us that "*The Glenwood Project* is a Graduate Humanities Program initiative to facilitate public engagement with the rich history of the Glenwood Estate in West Charleston, now owned and maintained by the Marshall University Graduate College Foundation."

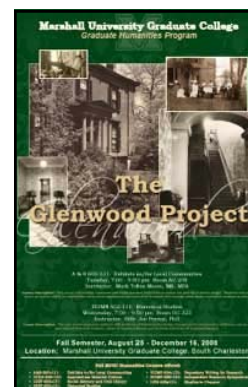
So what's going on now is that there are two classes involved in Phase II of this project, which will eventually lead to an ex-

hibit that will tour the area for two years at various locations. The classes involved are Mark Tobin Moore's seminar A&S 600-131: Exhibits in/for Local Communities (the class that is building the exhibit) and Dr. Billy Joe Peyton's seminar HIST 602-131: Introduction to Historical Research (this class is organizing the information that will be included in the piece).

As for my role on this ride, not only am I a student in Mark Tobin Moore's seminar, as the GA I am an elevated, yet proud research assistant. Whatever needs done (copies, transcription of court documents, run to Lowes, research, etc.), I do it. I even have a blog dedicated to

For weekly updates of *The Glenwood Project*, visit Annette's blog at:

<http://glenwoodproject.wordpress.com/>



the construction of the exhibit. I update the blog every night after class and include pictures and sometimes video. So stop on by and see what we are doing and have a look-see at how things are going!

Spring 2009 Courses

MU GRAD COLLEGE
(SOUTH CHARLESTON)

HUMN 680-231: Independent Research Symposium (Lassiter) CRN 2840

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

HUMN 605-231: Western Traditions and Contemporary Cultures (Richards) CRN 2839

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

Using primary materials from different cultural periods, as well as contemporary critical analysis, this core course explores epistemological questions that underlie conflicts between cultures. Open to non-degree students.

CULS 600-231: Advanced Ethnographic Research* (Lassiter) CRN 2109

Th, 4:30-6:50 p.m., KANGC 323

This course will be taught in conjunction with EDF 626, "Advanced Qualitative Research in Education: Advanced selected topics in qualitative research. Emphasis on application of qualitative research knowledge and skills." Humanities students are strongly encouraged to speak with the Program Director before signing up for this course.

CULS 600-232: Linking Local with Global: Anthropology, Globalization, and Development (Meharie) CRN 2110

W, 4:30-6:50 p.m., KANGC 323

The goal of this course is to explore the various aspects of globalization and how it affects communities

around the world. In addition to anthropological perspectives on globalization, this course draws ideas and perspectives from other disciplines in order to examine globalization and its consequences. The class will utilize various humanities-based mediums in an attempt to build a more comprehensive understanding of a process that has and continues to transform the world we live in.

CULS 612-231: Time and Place in Appalachia (Maslowski) CRN 2111

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

This interdisciplinary course orients students to the importance of geography, topography, and geology to the history and development of the Appalachian region. (This core course in the Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies may be taken by degree students in the Humanities.)

LITS 600-231: Personal Narrative and Memoir (Simone) CRN 3087

M, 7-9:50 p.m., KANAC 104

This course will explore content, form and style of the personal essay and memoir. Students will read, respond to, and critique a variety of personal essays and selected memoirs. They will explore craft and style, compose essays and memoir chapters, and participate in writing workshop.

LITS 600-232: Documenting Appalachia (Green) CRN 3088

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

This course asks students to evaluate and build documentary representations of Appalachia. Typically, documentaries are taken to mean photos or films. Yet, in what way is reality actually captured in a "document"? In order to gain per-

spective, the course will read about the history and theory of documentaries and representation, examine and evaluate key documentaries in Appalachia (made both by 'insiders' and 'outsiders'), and learn to create, evaluate, and present their own documentary representations. Students will document—via a variety of media—some place, person, or aspect of Appalachia, which they will then make available via public presentation on a website built on Wordpress.com.

LITS 600-234: Shakespeare: Time, Place, and Space (Heaton)

CRN 3090

WEBCT & Live Meetings
(Saturday workshops).

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

This course will engage students in the life and works of Shakespeare through the lens of time, place, and space.

NR C&T College
(SUMMERSVILLE)

LITS 600-233: Explorations in Victorian Studies (Simmons) CRN 3089

Tu, 7-9:50 p.m.

This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive knowledge of the major writers and genres of the Victorian Period in English literature (1830-1901). The class will focus on the impact of the industrial revolution, social and economic change, advances in natural science, challenges to traditional values, and the reactions of the major writers to these dynamic times. A study of these changes sheds much light on the major challenges of the twentieth century and the present day.

THE SPRING LINEUP:

- **Independent Research Symposium**
- **Western Traditions and Contemporary Cultures**
- **Advanced Ethnographic Research**
- **Linking Local with Global: Anthropology, Globalization, and Development**
- **Time and Place in Appalachia**
- **Personal Narrative and Memoir**
- **Documenting Appalachia**
- **Shakespeare: Time, Place, and Space**
- **Explorations in Victorian Culture**

Blast From the Past—Summer 2002

The following article first appeared in the Graduate Humanities Program Newsletter in the Summer of 2002..

“Humanities: A Twenty-five Year Perspective”

By Arline Thorn*

In December 1978 the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies presented a proposal to the West Virginia Board of Regents for a Master of Arts in Humanistic Studies. There were no other similar graduate programs in the state. It was described as “a degree whose primary purpose is personal enrichment.” The proposal noted that other master’s degree programs prepared students for academic professions or

doctoral study, which “does not suit the intellectual needs of a growing number of individuals whose interest in post-graduate study stems from a desire to expand their intellectual horizons for personal as well as professional reasons.”

The concept was interdisciplinary from the start with required seminars in historical studies, literary studies, history, and theory of the arts; as well as expository writing for research and a thesis. Students would have individual plans of study. There would be one full-time faculty member who would also direct the program; the other faculty would be joint appointees or adjuncts drawn from other public and private institutions

With the 1994 merger of the Graduate College and Marshall University, traditional graduate degrees in the disciplines became more available, but the Master of Arts in Humanities continues to draw students seeking personal enrichment and professional development. From the beginning through May 2002, the program has graduated 113 students. Despite certain changes in requirements, it remains faithful to the original vision of an interdisciplinary and individualized course of study

*Dr. Arline Roush Thorn passed away in 2006 after battling cancer. See Vol. 29 Issue 2 of the newsletter.



Tim O'Brien signing autographs for Humanities students



Construction of the Glenwood Exhibit at the Blue Door Studio



Group discussion at the first Humanities Meet, Greet, and Eat

New Directions

By Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter

Our past has provided a solid foundation upon which to grow the Graduate Humanities Program. We continue to develop and expand as 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. This open, exploratory, and experimental educational environment has in the past and continues to engender many exciting possibilities, among them several projects, partnerships and programs. Here are a few that we’re working on:

The Public Humanities Project—a long-term initiative to augment, strengthen, and grow a curriculum in public humanities, one meant to directly benefit

both our students and the communities and organizations surrounding the Marshall University Graduate College. See http://www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/public_humanities_project.htm for more information.

The Glenwood Project—funded in large part by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the project engages students, faculty, and community members in the history of Charleston and the Kanawha Valley through the interdisciplinary study of the Glenwood Estate on Charleston’s West Side. Students and faculty are now working through Phase II of the Project, building a traveling exhibit to go on display at sites across Charleston beginning in Spring

2009. See <http://www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/GlenwoodProject/> for more information.

Collaborative Anthropologies—a new journal published by the University of Nebraska Press, edited by the Director, with Editorial Offices at MUGC. See <http://www.marshall.edu/coll-anth/> for more information.

Friends of the Humanities—a new project (spearheaded by former student Trish Hatfield and Senior Administrative Secretary, Carolyn Quinlan) to form a group of MUGC faculty/staff/students and local community members interested in enlarging the local impact of the Humanities.

<http://www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/>

“Anthology” continued from page 1

glimpse at the process of creating and engaging in our shared works.

The seminar then shifted its gaze to the short story form. We began reading short stories and discussing them with the help of exercises that took what we had read and transformed that into the art and craft of writing. We began to shape a short

story and share it in small groups that would also help us craft our stories into their final forms. We worked like this for the semester and engaged each other and our writing in manners that were amazing and wondrous.

By the end of the semester we were left with a provocative glimpse into

“nine windows”: the nine of us put together nine short stories that reflected our own challenges, interests, and talents, culminating in a book of our finished stories entitled *Nine Windows*, published for the class by the Program. These stories reflect our diversity, our talents and our amazing journey into the realm of the creative process.

Contributing authors for **Nine Windows**:

Jeanette Ahangardezfooli

Beth Campbell

Steve Cook

Lin Yisheng

Martha Mozingo

Pan Ying

Kathryn Santiago

Celene Seymour

Gabriella Williamson



Tim O'Brien Comes to MUCG

By Kathryn Santiago

On Saturday, August 20, 2008, Tim O'Brien spoke at the MUCG campus about his book, *The Things They Carried*. First published in 1990, this book is the



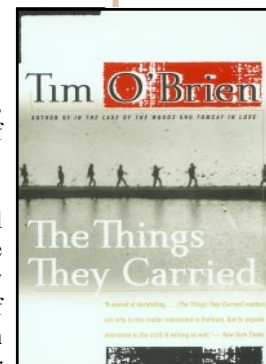
2008 Marshall One Book Selection.

The Things They Carried was a 1990 finalist for the National Book Critics Award Circle, and in 1991 became a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

O'Brien began his visit with a brief overview of his life and inspirations before he opened up a dialogue with the audience. During this conversation, he spoke of his

writing processes and experiences, his time in Vietnam, and his view of telling truth through fiction.

We would like to give special thanks to Dr. Barbara Winters, the Dean of Libraries, and to Dr. Rudy Pauley, the Interim Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, for their instrumental contributions in organizing this event.



“Globalization” continued from page 1

“I want people to come away from this class with a broader understanding of globalization outside of the economic aspect,” Andu says, “but also the different ways that people resist it or use it for their own needs. I definitely want people to think of globalization . . . as manmade and directed by specific ideologies . . . It’s powerful,

but we’re not helpless.” Andu, originally from Ethiopia, is GSEPD’s new Minority Faculty Fellow. He is working on his Anthropology doctorate through the University of Kentucky. There he won the Outstanding Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. His doctoral

work is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Andu provides a distinctive perspective in the Humanities program.

See page 3 for the course description.



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Fax: 304-746-1942

Phone: 304-746-2022

South Charleston WV 25303-1600

100 Angus E. Peyton Drive

Graduate Humanities Program



NEWS AND NOTES



Dr. John Richards, WVSU/MUGC, co-edited and wrote the introduction for *Esotericism, Art, and Imagination* by [Arthur Versluis](#).



The Chinese translation of Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter's book, *Invitation to Anthropology*, is being offered through Peking University Press.



The first issue of *Collaborative Anthropologies*, edited by Dr. Luke Eric Lassiter, with Kathryn Santiago as the Editorial Assistant, is being published by the University of Nebraska Press, and is due out in November.



The Graduate Humanities program would like to welcome Dr. David Pittenger, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

- Christine Seger, 2007 Humanities Graduate, was awarded Instructor of the Year at West Virginia Junior College.
- Mark Moore, MUGC, recently opened his Autobiography exhibit at the Clay Center, now open until November 16.