REHUMANIZING THE UNIVERSITY
New Perspectives on the Liberal Arts
Speaker Series 2011–2012

Organized by the:

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Fall 2011 Inaugural Lecture
12 September, UF
"Something Wicked This Way Comes: How to Save the University"
Cary Nelson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
In the face of coordinated political assaults on universities, Prof. Nelson discussed how faculty and students can unite in solidarity to counter and defeat these destructive forces.
9 October, Millhopper Branch Library
Leslie Harris (Emory University)
“Hurricane Season: Life in Twentieth-Century New Orleans”
Prof. Harris, an historian of urban America, interwove her own family's history with the history of New Orleans to understand better the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

10 October, UF
Leslie Harris (Emory University)
"Using Diverse Histories to Transform University Communities"
Prof. Harris discussed Emory University’s Transforming Community Project, which uses the history of racial inequality at the institution to inspire individuals to promote ethical practices around the core values of diversity and accessibility.

(Image from Dawoud Bey’s “The Emory Project” done in conjunction with the Transforming Community Project at Emory University.)
Final Event of Fall 2011

14 November, 7:30pm, Smathers Library 1A, UF
Emily Apter (New York University)
“In-comparative Literature: On the Problem of Untranslatability in Literary Studies”
Prof. Apter will examine how the inability to translate certain terms or concepts challenges international diplomacy, runs security risks, and creates a dangerous gap between speakers’ intentions and what is actually understood.
Spring 2012 Inaugural Lecture

12 January 2012, 7:30pm, Smathers 1A, UF
Chris Lorenz, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
‘If you’re so smart, why aren’t you rich?’ The market, European universities and the ‘Bologna Process’
Dr. Lorenz will address the consequences of the EU’s ‘Bologna Declaration’ (1999), which aims to create an integrated educational market in which future students will be able to do their Bachelors-degree in Amsterdam, their Masters-degree in Athens and their PhD-degree in Aarhus without any formal impediment, or any doubt as to differences in quality (and thus, in theory, enable the EU to compete with American universities).
8 February 2012, 7:00-8:00pm, Millhopper Branch Library
Carla Fehr, University of Waterloo
“What Evolution Can't Tell Us about Women and Work”

9 February 2012, 7:30pm, Ustler Hall Atrium, UF
Carla Fehr, University of Waterloo
“Ignorance, Women and Excellent Science”

Members of the ISU ADVANCE Institutional Transformation program (Iowa State University), which aims to increase recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty workforce in STEM fields.
26 March 2012, 7:00pm, Smathers 1A, UF
Suzanne Marchand, Professor of History, Louisiana State University
"History and Empathy, or, What We Can Learn from the Forgotten Orientalist Georg Ebers"
In this lecture, Prof. Marchand will speak from her award-winning book on Orientalism to point to the thin light between academic fields like history and philology and those once outside of academia like archaeology and Semitic studies, and argue that casting ourselves back into the past through these disciplines gives us the opportunity to experience and learn empathy, something the world badly needs at present.
Gregory Crane, Editor in Chief, Perseus Project, Winnick Family Chair in Technology and Entrepreneurship, and Professor of Classics, Tufts University

"To Advance the Common Understanding: Reinventing the Humanities in a Digital Age"

Prof. Crane, creator of the Perseus Project, will explore the challenges and opportunities that have arisen from the exponential growth of digitized collections and increasingly sophisticated analytical methods. He will discuss how the digital humanities have transformed the depth and potential scale of humanities research and its ability to advance the intellectual life of society as a whole.
Final Event of Spring 2012

17 April 2012, 6:00pm, Harn Museum Auditorium
Anthony Shelton, Director, Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia
"Re-Humanizing Babel. Museums and the Re-enchantment of the Arts and Sciences"

University museums are, Prof. Shelton shall argue, in a unique position to act as catalysts in drawing together the arts and sciences in order to re-situate and humanize science, while at the same time bringing new conditions of knowledge production into existence.
Upcoming Talks Fall 2012

13 September 2012
Cary Wolfe, Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English and Department Chair, Department of English, Rice University
“The Biopolitics of the Posthumanities”

8 October 2012
David Schuyler, Arthur and Katherine Shadek Professor of the Humanities and Professor of American Studies at Franklin & Marshall College
“Civilizing Students, Civilizing Communities: Frederick Law Olmsted's Plans for Colleges and Universities”

22 October 2012
“From the Margins to the Mainstream: Jewish Students and Administrators at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton”
Marcia Synnott, Professor of History Emerita, University of South Carolina

November 2012 (date TBD)
Mala Singh, Open University, United Kingdom
“Narratives of Loss and Possibility: Re-imagining the Humanities in South African Higher Education”
We won’t figure out how to live the good life without wisdom

MAINE VOICES

Annapa Malini is a founding director of the Center for Global Humanities at the University of New England.

New England communities are quite different. To us, there has never been a more immediate time to launch a program that is as essential in the humanities with a global focus. When a great number of people are calling the humanities a lost art, we are thinking of the expenses, and we are truly disheartened, knowing what we are talking about.

In the past two decades, UNE has built a strong reputation in the sciences and medical sciences, and we know what the value of a practical education is. Our students are doing well in various health professions, including medicine. However, others are not as concerned about the fragile ecosystem and are dedicating their lives to preserving our natural environment. Our business majors and health managers are doing well, too.

So why design and launch a center for global humanities when people are looking to trim down such programs? The answer is simple: We can’t afford not to. Much of what we consider to be health or business-related has a strong cultural component.

We need many more healthy bodies and well-balanced minds to have a good life. People are motivated to work by a set of cultural values and expectations, and they express themselves as individuals, producing texts that are as revealing of our conditions as are the various medical symptoms. We can reasonably say that religion and nationalism are the most powerful ideologies that determine much of our future. Business students should know more about religion, only because religion is big business.

Fig. 16. Percentage of Positions in the October English JLL in Five Specialty Areas, 1985–2008

- British literature
- Rhetoric and composition
- Multilingual literature
- Creative writing
- American literature

NOT FOR PROFIT

Why Democracy Needs The Humanities
Our Co-Sponsors
This series of twelve lectures is co-sponsored by the UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (Rothman Endowment), the Harn Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History Program, the UF Honors Program, the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History at UF, the UF International Center, the UF Office of Research, UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the UF Center for Jewish Studies, the UF Libraries, the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions, the UF France-Florida Research Institute, the Hyatt and Cici Brown Endowment for Florida Archaeology, the UF Department of History, the UF Department of Classics, the UF African American Studies Program, the UF Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, the UF College of Design, Construction, and Planning, and the Alachua County Library District.
We need your help!

• If there is a speaker and/or topic addressed by the series that intersects with your work or interests in your department, please contact us! humanities-center at ufl.edu.

• Do you have an interest in participating in an exploration – whether through a talk, exhibition, course, etc. of these topics as they apply to UF? Please contact us! humanities-center at ufl.edu.

• For more info: www.humanities.ufl.edu/calendar