USF
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Humanities Institute

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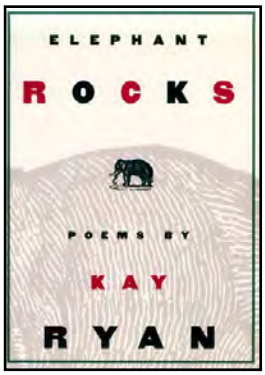
Spring 2009

USF Celebrates National Poetry Month

In 1996, the Academy of American Poets established April as National Poetry Month in order to "highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets" and to "bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways" [www.poets.org/]. The Humanities Institute has joined many other organizations in recognizing the value of poetry. Since 2006, the Institute has brought two former U.S. Poet Laureates to the USF campus: Billy Collins and Louise Glück. Last year, 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for Poetry, Nastasha Trethewey, helped USF to celebrate the month.

In April 2009, the Humanities Institute will celebrate National Poetry Month with Readings, Lectures, and Workshops. Recently appointed U.S. Poet Laureate **Kay Ryan**, the 16th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, will open the celebration on Wednesday, April 1. Ryan has published six collections of poetry, including *Flamingo Watching* (1994), a finalist for both the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize, *Elephant Rocks* (1996), *Say Uncle* (2000), and *The Niagara River* (2005). She has won the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Union League Poetry Prize, the Maurice English Poetry Award, and four Pushcart Prizes, while receiving fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.



Kay Ryan will meet informally with students and faculty in the afternoon and present an evening event discussing and reading her poetry in Traditions Hall, Alumni Center at 7:00 p.m.

Photo by: Christina Koci Hernandez

On April 7 and 8, **Dana Levin**, Chair of Creative Writing and Literature and Associate Professor at the College of Santa Fe, New Mexico, will visit USF. Her poetry collection includes *In the Surgical Theatre* (1999) and *Wedding Day* (2005). She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Writers Award (2004), Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress (2004), the Whiting Writers' Award (2005), and a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry (2007). Levin will give a poetry reading on April 7 and will meet with students and faculty on the 8.

Kimberly Johnson (Brigham Young University), who read and discussed her poetry at USF in the Fall, 2006, returns on Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday April 15. She is the author of *Leviathan With a Hook* (2002), the recently published *A Metaphorical God* (2008), and a translation of Virgil's *Georgics* (Penguin Classics, 2009). Her work has appeared recently in *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *The Iowa Review*, and the *Yale Review*, and she has received prizes from the Merton Foundation and the Utah Arts Council and a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Johnson will discuss and read her poetry on Tuesday, April 14 in TECO Room (6:30 p.m.) and meet informally with students and faculty on April 15.

Erica Bernheim (Florida Southern College) and **Robyn Schiff** (University of Iowa) will end the month-long celebration on April 22. Bernheim has published the chapbook entitled *Between the Room and the City* (2006) and poetry in many journals, including *The Black Warrior Review*, *Bridge*, *The Canary*, and *Volt*. Schiff, director of the undergraduate creative writing program at the University of Iowa, has published two books of poetry, *Worth* (2005), winner of an award from the Greenwall Fund (American Academy Poets) and *Revolver* (2008).

Bernheim and Schiff will read and discuss their poetry in the Grace Allen Room (3:00 p.m.).

Visiting Lecturers

During the Spring Semester, the Humanities Institute will co-sponsor with the USF Library three lectures by visiting scholars. On Thursday, January 29, **Ruth Behar** (University of Michigan), a cultural anthropologist, will present "Still Searching for the Jews of Cuba: On the Island, in Israel, In Miami." Professor Behar was born in Havana, Cuba, a daughter of two very distinct Jewish civilizations, her mother an Ashkenazi Jew and her father a Sephardic Jew, but her family left Cuba when she was five. Beginning in the 1990s, she traveled often to Cuba to study its Jewish community. Her latest book, *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba* (Rutgers University Press, 2007) explores her trips and her account of what her life was in the United States and what it may have been if she had stayed in the Jewish community in Cuba.

Other books by Behar are *The Presence of the Past in a Spanish Village: Santa María del Monte* (1986, 1991), *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story* (1993, 2003), *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart* (1996).

Her recent awards include the MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellowship (1988), a Guggenheim award (1995), a Fulbright award (2007), and many faculty grants from the University of Michigan. During Spring Semester 2009, she is a visiting distinguished professor at the University of Miami, holding the Henry King Stanford Chair in the Humanities.

Professor Behar will speak at 5:00 p.m. in the Grace Allen Room, USF Library.

The second visiting scholar is **Michael A. Sells** (University of Chicago) who will speak at two major events. On Wednesday, February 18th, he will participate in the "Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center" Lecture Series and will talk on "Religion and Genocide in Bosnia." This event will be at 4:00 p.m. in the Grace Allen Room. On Thursday, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in Traditions Hall, Alumni Building, he will be the keynote speaker for the Third Annual Sacred Leaves Symposium, discussing "Comparative Mysticism of the Middle Ages: Textual Traditions, 1000-1600." Author of seven books and more than 60 articles, Sells teaches in the areas of qur'anic studies: Sufism, Arabic, and Islamic love poetry; mysticism (Greek, Islamic, Christian, and Jewish); and religion and violence (divinity.uchicago.edu/faculty/sells.shtml). His books include *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations* (new edition, 2007), *Desert Tracings: Six Classic Arabian Odes* (second printing, 1996), *The Bridge Betrayed: Religion and Genocide in Bosnia* (new edition, 1998), and *The New Crusades: Constructing the Muslim Enemy* (2003). His honors include Guggenheim, Fulbright, and National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowships, the Columbia Arabic-English Translation Prize, and two American Academy of Religion book awards.

The Mailer Review

The University of South Florida and its Department of English are the proud co-sponsors of *The Mailer Review*, a journal that "publishes articles, notes, creative works, cultural/biographical commentary, and book reviews relevant to the life and work of Norman Mailer." *The Mailer Review* was conceived in 2005 by the Founding Editor, Phillip Sipiora, and was submitted to the membership of The Norman Mailer Society in 2006 for approval, which was unanimous. The editorial offices are located in the English Department.

The inaugural issue of 2007, at 266 pages, was met with critical acclaim from publications such as the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *New York Times*. The press run was 1,000 copies. Notable contributors include Norman Mailer, Christopher Ricks, Morris Dickstein, and Lawrence Schiller. At this time it was decided that the *Review* would be an annual publication for the foreseeable future as a distinctively substantive scholarly journal, a yearly "double issue."

The second issue of the *Review*, at 563 pages, features approximately sixty memorial tributes to Mr. Mailer in addition to a significant number of scholarly articles. Contributors include Günter Grass, Don DeLillo, Philip Roth, E.L. Doctorow, William Kennedy, Sean Penn, Christopher Hitchens, and many others. This press run was 1,600 copies.

The Fall 2009 issue promises to be of exceptional high quality. This volume features a number of scholarly essays on Mailer's nonfiction, particularly *Oswald's Tale*, as well as a special section on Mailer's work in cinema (he directed four films). A significant number of distinguished scholars are contributing to this volume. This issue is expected to be between 400 and 500 pages and will be published in late August. For information on how to subscribe to and purchase *The Mailer Review*, visit http://www.normanmailersociety.com/mailer_review.htm.

International Graduate Student Conference

On March 6-8, 2009, at the University of South Florida's Marshall Center, the Humanities Institute will co-host a national graduate conference with an interdisciplinary repertoire of papers and discussions responding to the conference's theme and title: "Anything But Safe: Sex, Sexuality, and Gender." The keynote speaker for this event is **Kate Bornstein**, a renowned speaker and performer on the complexities and nuances of sexuality. Local artists, including USF students, will exhibit complementary artwork during the conference. Conference presenters represent graduate students from programs as diverse as Biology and History, coming from U.S. and international universities.

The conference will include faculty roundtable discussions and graduate panels presenting papers on the conference's theme. Bornstein will present two events: a gender workshop entitled "Your Gender: Now You See It, Now You Don't," in which she will engage the conference participants in a discussion of gender orientation, and a matinee gender performance entitled "Kate Bornstein: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us," which is open to the public. This is an autobiographical performance, which includes personal stories, a chapter from Bornstein's upcoming memoir, and comic and dramatic monologues.

This multidisciplinary graduate conference is organized and co-sponsored by the English Graduate Student Association. In addition to the Humanities Institute, other co-sponsors are the First-Year Composition Program, the Committee on Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and the Departments of Anthropology, Communication, English, History, and Sociology. For additional information, contact Taylor Mitchell at tmitche2@mail.usf.edu.

Faculty Honors and Awards

The Humanities Institute is pleased to learn of the following honors and awards of faculty in the Humanities. In **Anthropology**, Antoinette Jackson, received a McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship for her project "Cracks in the Cornerstone: Interpreting Heritage in America," and won the Vera Green Publication Award for "Changing Ideas about Heritage and Heritage Resource Management in Historically Segregated Communities." Karla Davis-Salazar won USF's Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award. In **Art History**, Noel Schiller received USF's Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, and Riccardo Marchi won USF's Outstanding Research Achievement Award. **English** is proud to announce that Pat Rogers (pictured), DeBartolo Professor, has been elected to the prestigious British Academy, chartered in 1902 by King Edward VII. Hunt Hawkins was elected to the presidency of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, while Gurleen Grewal (previously **Womens' Studies**) won a Contemplative Practice Fellowship for 2007-2008 for her project "Beyond Victimhood: Liberating the Past, Encountering the Present." David Schenck is the Co-PI on a $90, 000 Grant to study oral cancer in migrant farmworkers in eastern Hillsborough County, and Jay Hopler was nominated for a fellowship at the American Academy of Rome. Ira Sukrungruang won the Briar Cliff Review Creative Nonfiction Contest, while Shirley Toland-Dix was awarded a McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship for her project "Disenchanting the Discourse: Caribbean Women Novelists and the Representation of History."

Communication announced that Arthur Bochner is now Distinguished University Professor at USF. **History** announced that Giovanna Benadusi won USF's Outstanding Research Award. Maria Cizmic, **Humanities and American Studies**, has won USF's Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. In **Philosophy**, Rebecca Kukla was awarded a 3-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for her project "Autonomy and the Negotiation of Information in Reproductive Health Care." Eric Winsberg was awarded a Fellowship for Spring 2008 at the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Durham. **World Languages** is pleased to announce that Anne Latowsky (pictured) has won a coveted year-long NEH Fellowship for her book project "Holy Land Fictions: The Voyage to Jerusalem and Constantinople in the Medieval French Tradition." Kersuze Simeon-Jones was awarded a McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship for her project "19th-20th Century Literary and Socio-Political Writings of the Black Diaspora." Christine M. Probes is Co-PI with Mark Greenberg (**Special Collections**), Paul Dosal (**History**) and **ENLACE** on a Florida Humanities Council Grant, "Interpreting Cultural Heritage: Tampa's Cubans and Their Club, 1886 to Present." Probes was recently re-elected to the Executive Council of two international societies, the North American Society for Seventeenth Century French Literature and the Centre International de Rencontres sur le Dix-Septième Siècle.

Schedule of Events Spring 2009

JANUARY

January 13 — **A Main Event** with **Case Boterbloem** (History) discussing his book *The Fiction and Reality of Jan Struys: A Seventeen-Century Dutch Globetrotter.*
Grace Allen Room
2:00 p.m. Reception
2:30 p.m. Talk

January 21 — **Established Scholar Lecture** with **Rebecca Kukla** (Philosophy) discussing "The Transformation of Women's Health Care into Reprodutive Medicine: a cautionary tale"
Grace Allen Room
12:00 p.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. Talk

January 29 — **Ruth Behar** (University of Michigan) discussing "Still Searching for the Jews of Cuba: On the Island, in Israel, In Miami"
Grace Allen Room
5:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored with USF Library

FEBRUARY

February 3 — **New Faculty Research Panel** with **Eric D. Duke** (Africana Studies) discussing "Black Diaspora Politics and Transnational Nation-Building in the 20th Century" and **Vikas Mehta** (Architecture) discussing "The Street as Place"
Grace Allen Room
12:00 p.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. Talk

February 6 — **Yves Michaud** (Université de Paris 1) discussing "L'individu contemporain: La Beauté" ("The Contempory Individual")
TECO Room
6:30 p.m.
Co-sponsored by Les Alliances Françaises de Tampa et Pinellas and La Délégation générale de l'Alliance Française aux États-Unis

February 9 — **David William Foster** (Arizona State University) discussing "Raymundo Gleyzer: From Jewish Buenos Aires to the Mexican Revolution"
Grace Allen Room
3:00 p.m. Reception
3:30 p.m. Talk
Co-sponsored with Departments of Humanities/American Studies, World Languages, and ISLAC

February 12 — **Professor Emeriti Research** with **Rainulf A. Stelzmann** (World Languages) discussing "The Death of God and Man: Nietzsche and Unamuno"
Grace Allen Room
2:00 p.m. Reception
2:30 p.m. Talk

February 18 — **Michael Sells** (University of Chicago) discussing "Religion and Genocide in Bosnia"
Grace Allen Room
4:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored with USF Library

February 19 — **Michael Sells** (University of Chicago) discussing "Comparative Mysticism of the Middle Ages: Textual Traditions, 1000-1600"
Traditions Hall
7:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored with USF Library

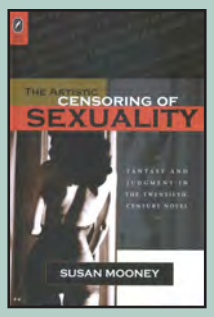
February 25 — **Research in the Humanities** with **Maria Cizmic** (Humanities/American Studies) discussing "Performing Pain: Music in 1970s and 80s in Eastern Europe"
Grace Allen Room
2:00 p.m. Reception
2:30 p.m. Talk

MARCH

March 4 — **Research in the Humanities** with **Cheryl Hall** (GIA) discussing "Freedom, Values, and Sacrifice: Overcoming Obstacles to Environmental Sustainable Behavior"
Grace Allen Room
12:00 p.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. Talk

March 6-8 — **International Graduate Student Conference** on "Anything But Safe: Sex, Sexuality and Gender"
Marshall Center
Co-sponsored by the English Graduate Student Association Departments of Anthropology, Communication, English, History, Sociology; The First-Year Composition Program; The Committee of Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

March 9 — **A Main Event** with **Susan Mooney** (English) discussing her book *The Artistic Censoring of Sexuality: Fantasy and Judgment in the Twentieth-Century Novel*
Grace Allen Room
12:00 p.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. Talk



All events are free and open to the public unless specified. For more information call (813) 974-3657.

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FALL 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

Award-winning author E. L. Doctorow spoke to more than 300 people in the Oval Theatre at the new Marshall Center. Photo by: Ashley Casey

Professor Emeritus Larry Broer (English) discusses his research on Kurt Vonnegut and Ernest Hemingway. Photo by: M. Formentin

Bob Batchelor (School of Mass Communications) listens to a question during his discussion on pop culture in the 2000s. Photo by: M. Formentin

Poet James Brock (Florida Gulf Coast University) reads from his book *nearly Florida.* Photo by: M. Formentin

(From left to right) Moderator Fraser Ottanelli (History), panelists Elizabeth Hirsh, Regina Hewitt, Shirley Toland-Dix (English), Tamara Zwick, Scott Perry (History) and moderator Hunt Hawkins (English) listen to crowd inquiries during the panel on history and literature. Photo by: M. Formentin

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"There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live."
- James Truslow-Adams

Humanities are, without a doubt, the core of that second aim of education.

2009 Spring Schedule, Continued

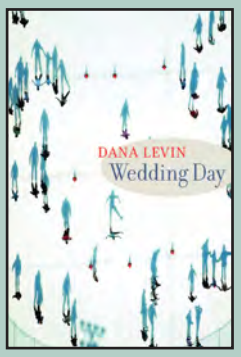
March 11 — **New Faculty Research Panel** with **Kersuze Simeon-Jones** (World Languages and Africana Studies) discussing "The Contemporary Relevance of 20th-Century Afro-Literary Movement" and **Zoë Lang** (Music History) discussing "Austrian Music: The Strauss Family Legacy
Grace Allen Room
12:00 p.m. Reception
12:30 p.m. Talk

APRIL

April 1 — **Kay Ryan** (Poet Laureate 2008-2009) discussing and reading her poetry
Traditions Hall
7:00 p.m.
Meeting with students and faculty
CPR TBA
3:00 p.m.

April 7 — **Dana Levin**, poet (College of Santa Fe) discussing and reading her poetry
TECO Room
6:30 p.m.

April 8 — Meeting with students and faculty
CPR TBA
3:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored by Department of English



April 14 — **Kimberly Johnson**, poet (Brigham Young University) discussing and reading her poetry
TECO Room
6:30 p.m.

April 15 — Meeting with students and faculty
CPR TBA
3:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored by Department of English

April 22 — **Erica Bernheim**, poet (Florida Southern College) and **Robyn Schiff**, poet (University of Iowa) discussing and reading their poetry
Grace Allen Room
3:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored by Department of English