NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURES AT RICE UNIVERSITY

Major Gifts Awarded to CSC

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Awards $1,475,000 Matching Grant
The CSC’s new postdoctoral program received support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with the approval of a $1.475-million matching grant in March 1999. The funds will be permanently restricted to support three CSC postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences. These funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar within three years.

"Like so many of their grants, this one’s benefits will be felt on many levels,” expressed the CSC’s director David Nirenberg. “Their action is a welcome confirmation of the center’s programs and aspirations. And, of course, their generosity will inspire others to help ensure that the Rice community of faculty and students is exposed to the best of a new generation of scholars and teachers.”

Including this latest grant, the foundation has awarded more than $7 million to Rice to support a wide variety of programs that have strengthened the university’s offerings to graduates and undergraduates alike.

National Endowment Awards Prestigious Challenge Grant
The National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) awarded the CSC a $400,000 four-to-one matching grant to attract distinguished visiting faculty. CSC has the challenge of raising $1.6 million over four years. The total endowment of $2 million will allow the center to bring six internationally known scholars to Rice each year for visits from two weeks to a full semester. "The award will enable Rice to invite some of the top scholars in the nation to help enrich our scholarly and educational activities in the humanities and social sciences," explained Judith Brown, dean of the School of Humanities. “At the same time, the visiting scholars will also benefit from their interactions with Rice faculty and students and contribute to Rice’s growing reputation throughout the nation. This is a wonderful award and a tribute to the center associated with it.”

Taking up the challenge presented by the NEH, Teveia Barnes, Malcolm and Elizabeth Gillis, Neil O’Brien, James and Sandra Robbins, Aimee Truchard, and an anonymous donor have made generous gifts to the endowment, bringing CSC closer to its goal.

Rockwell Fund Grants Another $100,000
Matching its initial $100,000 gift in 1998, the Rockwell Fund, Inc., a Houston based trust and long time supporter of Rice, awarded another $100,000 to CSC for its new postdoctoral program. Last year’s Rockwell gift was the first toward the center’s $3 million postdoctoral fellowship endowment. Both gifts will help with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation challenge.

From the Director

Any reader of these pages cannot help but be struck, as I am, by the diversity of the activities they describe. If the CSC is part of the ivory tower, it is a many-windowed one, providing a marvelous variety of perspectives on nearly every aspect of human activity. I urge you to flip through the newsletter, which reports on the center's activities for last year and describes plans for the coming one. I think I can guarantee that whatever your interests, whether in the environment or in the art market, in the New Age taste for Gregorian chant or in the economic development of the former communist states, you will find something to interest you here. All these activities, of course, are bound together by a common goal: to bring as many methodologies as possible to bear on complex problems. I know of no other

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institution that encompasses practitioners of the humanities and the social sciences in an attempt to achieve this goal, and I think you will agree that the work reported on in this newsletter testifies to the fruitfulness of the approach.

Last year in this space, I wrote about plans for expanding the CSC in three new directions: a program for distinguished visiting professors, another for postdoctoral fellows, and a third for graduate student fellowships. This year, I can report that those plans are well on the way to becoming a reality. For its visiting professor program, the CSC received one of only eight challenge grants awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities last year in the amount of $400,000, requiring a match of $1.6 million to be raised over the next three years. In the first year, the generous support of Rice alumni and friends brought us almost a third of the way toward that goal. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded the CSC a $1.45 million matching grant for its postdoctoral programs. Thanks to the generosity of the Rockwell Fund, Inc., we are a third of the way there, also. This means that by next year we should have our first visitors on campus. In addition, next year we will also welcome to the CSC a Woodrow Wilson Foundation (WWF) postdoctoral fellow, jointly funded by Rice and the WWF, who will join us for a two-year term.

Visitors to the center will notice other changes. This summer Pam Walker, the CSC’s first assistant director, retired to pursue her fiction writing full-time. The center could not have run without Pam, nor expanded without her dedication. I hope you will all join me in thanking her and in wishing her the best. It is a testimony to her magnificent work that, upon her retirement, the position of assistant director was expanded from half to full-time. If you find yourself near the CSC office, do introduce yourself to Colleen Morimoto, the center’s new assistant director, and extend her a warm welcome.

There is much more to be said, but I will let the pages that follow speak for themselves. Please do come, and attend any of the forthcoming events they describe that interests you. I look forward to seeing you there.

— David Nirenberg

### New Staff Member for the CSC

Colleen Morimoto joined the CSC as assistant director in early May. For the past seven years, Morimoto served as executive director of Young Audiences of Houston, the largest nonprofit arts-in-education organization in the greater Houston area. She also has ten years of experience in commercial banking and human resources management. With an academic background in South Asian Studies and comparative literature from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and UT Austin, Morimoto comes to the center with enthusiasm for advancing scholarship in interdisciplinary studies. "I want to use my background in business and fund raising to benefit the center’s exciting new initiatives as well as help promote these programs to the community in general. I will also enjoy helping administer the programs that are already thriving," explained Morimoto. On the personal note, she relayed, "I find my work as board member for several nonprofits, the American Leadership Forum, Houston/Gulf Coast, the YMCA International Services Branch, and the Institute for Media Literacy, very rewarding."

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### The Mission of the Center for the Study of Cultures

The Center for the Study of Cultures exists to promote the study of cultures across time and around the world, both as unique examples of human behavior and creativity and as interconnected phenomena that can illuminate one another. The goal of the center is to provide a forum for the comparative and interdisciplinary conversations that make visible the connections among cultures and the particularities that divide them. The center seeks to advance humanistic knowledge both by supporting research that deepens our understanding of particular cultures and by encouraging the exploration of new configurations of materials, methods, theories, or cultures through interdisciplinary and comparative collaborations.
1998–99 Conferences and Events

Painting Under Pressure

An exciting, day-long symposium “Painting Under Pressure,” cosponsored at Rice by the CSC, the dean of humanities, and art and art history department, brought the Houston arts community together on November 14, 1998. Following a welcome reception organized by Rice University Art Gallery, Los Angeles-based artist and critic Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe opened the symposium with his paper, “Perhaps It Depends Upon the Pressure.” Gilbert-Rolfe articulated the pressures—historical, economic, curatorial, and theoretical—that inform and influence the practice of painting. The day's events included slide presentations and commentary by each of five invited artists—Amy Sillman (New York), Rochelle Feinstein (New York), Aaron Parazette (Houston), Ingrid Callame (Los Angeles), and Fabian Marcaccio (New York)—and a panel discussion entitled, “Why Paint?” with moderators Dana Friis Hansen, senior curator at Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum (CAM), and John Sparagana of Rice.

Later in the program, Peter Schjeldahl, currently senior art critic for the New Yorker magazine and frequent contributor to the New York Times and the Village Voice, discussed the subject of painting in general terms. Engaging and entertaining, Schjeldahl spontaneously and dramatically tore up his prepared text while exclaiming that the preceding panel was the best discussion he had ever heard on painting. For the next hour, Schjeldahl extemporaneously responded to the issues that arose from the panel discussion.

A very lively discussion ensued among the presenters and the audience, only to conclude due to the pressure of time rather than any waning of interest. The large, standing-room-only audience of 200 students, faculty, artists, curators, scholars, and the general public was invited to a reception at the CAM, whose exhibition, “Abstract Painting Once Removed,” a survey of contemporary painting, had established a context for the day’s discussion. The symposium was video taped for future use by faculty and students.

The symposium spawned other opportunities that benefited Rice faculty, students, and others in the Houston community. Sillman and Feinstein each gave slide shows and discussions of her work and critiqued student work from the advanced painting studio at Rice. Gilbert-Rolfe spent a day critiquing the work of University of Houston’s graduate students. Schjeldahl critiqued the work of the Glassell School's Core Fellows of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH).

In addition to encouraging serious and incisive discussion about the current state of painting, the symposium provided an opportunity for the studio art program as well as other departments at Rice to cooperate with other arts and educational institutions in Houston. With the support of the CAM, an equal partner in the funding and organizing the symposium, as well as with MFAH, which helped sponsor Schjeldahl’s visit, and the University of Houston, which partially sponsored Gilbert Rolfe’s visit, the collaboration succeeded and attracted a broad audience. Marti Mayo, CAM’s executive director, applauding the success of the symposium, enthusiastically proposed another collaboration for the next season. Allison de Lima Greene, 20th-century curator at MFAH, echoed Mayo’s remarks.

Constructing Hildegard: Reception and Identity

1098–1998

“A weekend full of stimulating scholarship, beautiful music, and lively discussions (sometimes lively debate)!... What a fantastic conference line-up and a tremendous gift to our community... It is so wonderful to see that Hildegard is receiving the much overdue attention she deserves.” These comments aptly describe “Constructing Hildegard: Reception and Identity 1098–1998,” a symposium and related activities held on November 20 and 21, 1998.

Celebrating the 900th anniversary of the birth of Hildegard of Bingen, the second Neil J. O’Brien Triennial Symposium in Medieval Studies focused on her life and works. Renowned as founder and leader of two monasteries, preacher, visionary, theologian, prophet, exorcist, hagiographer, prolific correspondent, poet, composer, performer, creator of a new language and a new alphabet, natural historian, healer, author of the world’s first morality play, and spiritual and political advisor, Hildegard, twelfth century polymath, was the ideal subject for this interdisciplinary symposium. The symposium was sponsored by the CSC, the Neil J. O’Brien Endowment in Medieval Studies, the Shepherd School of Music, and Houston Early Music, and faculty organizer Honey Meconi was heartily congratulated by students, speakers, faculty, and community members for realizing an invigorating symposium highlighting “American scholarship at its best.”

Distinguishing itself from the other anniversary symposia held around the country celebrating Hildegard’s individual works or describing her in the context of the twelfth cen-
tury. Rice's symposium explored the many ways Hildegard and her works have been interpreted in the nine centuries since her birth. Because Hildegard was the first great composer of Western art music and the most prolific known composer of plainchant, the symposium featured an extensive musical component, made possible through collaboration with Houston Early Music. Noted British early music group Sinfonye, which has undertaken a complete recording project of all of Hildegard's compositions, presented a concert of some of her works to a full-house in the Shepherd School of Music's Stude Hall. Continuing the interdisciplinary focus of the symposium, the concert incorporated projections of her illuminations and readings from her prose works. Preceding the concert, Stevie Wishart, Sinfonye's founding director, discussed aspects of interpreting Hildegard's music. Sinfonye also provided a lecture/demonstration to Rice students and members of the Houston community.

Popular keynote speaker Barbara Newman (Northwestern University), renowned for her scholarship on Hildegard, opened the symposium by dissecting Hildegard's Vita, outlining the many stages and the varieties of material that comprise the finished work that the various authors had a hand in its shaping. It is only when we are aware of these complexities and conflicting motives that we are able to read Vita properly.

Three of the other speakers emphasized medieval or early modern readings of Hildegard. Drawing on the apocalyptic eleventh vision from the third book of Hildegard's first visionary work, Scivias, Richard Emmerson (Western Washington University) described how, even at this very early stage, Hildegard's descriptions of her visions already differed from the illuminations that accompany the manuscript. Ray Clemens, acting director of the Newberry Library, discussed the ways in which Lefèvre d'Étaples altered Hildegard's text when Scivias was first published in 1513. Monica Green (Duke University) placed similar emphasis on the sixteenth century in her overview of the contrasting receptions of Hildegard's medical writings and those of the other famous medieval female medical author, Trota.

Current research was the focus for three other speakers. Bruce Holsinger (University of Colorado at Boulder) drew on an extensive series of images and written excerpts associating music with pain and suffering and argued that some of Hildegard's music was a physically torturous experience for both performer and listener. Jeffrey Schnapp (Stanford University) featured music as well as art, e.g., Judy Chicago's Dinner, in his talk and discussed the ways in which twentieth-century artists and performers have turned to Hildegard for inspiration, interpreting her in works to suit their own artistic goals. Schnapp suggested that artifacts such as David Lynch's recent recording incorporating automated sounds, rather than desecrating Hildegard's work, do justice to the originals by providing appropriate contemporary commentary. Madeline Caviness (Tufts University) focused on the shifting, 19th- and early 20th-century German visual representations of the mystic. She argued convincingly for the still unacknowledged influence of Hildegard's own illuminations on artists such as Gustav Klimt.

Frequently in demand nationally for her explanations of Hildegard's spirituality, independent scholar Elizabeth Dreyer gave the final paper. Dreyer contrasted the reality of medieval saints' actions and our twentieth-century selective and sanitized view. Her talk led into a lively closing round-table discussion, which included audience questions and participation, on the problems that face our understanding and reception of Hildegard.

KUHF 88.7's sponsorship of the program, through public service announcements and an interview with Meconi, greatly encouraged public participation in this successful symposium.

"Asian American Stories on Film"

Inspired by José Aranda's Asian American literature course and reading groups, four enterprising students organized a successful film festival held at the Rice Media Center during January 29–31, 1999. Student leaders Sylvia Van Ziegert (anthropology), Shannon Leonard (English), Jennifer Wei Lin (biology and Asian studies), and Walter Li (chemistry and president of Rice's Chinese Student Association) and their faculty advisors, George Marcus (chair, anthropology) and Hamid Naficy (art and art history), were sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Rice Media Center (in-kind), as well as the CSC.

"Asian American Stories on Film" presented a compelling array of documentaries, fictional histories, and tales by and about the diverse group known collectively as Asian Americans. A goal of the festival was to engage participants, especially those from Asian American communities, in an intergenerational discussion of important political, cultural, and artistic issues, promoting learning and exchange among young and old. The festival also encouraged building coalitions and partnerships across ethnic identities, generations, and interests.
The Road to Plandom: Non-Socialist and Pre-Socialist Economic Planning in Republican China and Europe, 1935–1950

On January 30, 1999, the CSC and the Baker Institute for Public Policy cosponsored a symposium investigating the ideology and institutions of national economic planning through papers presented in two panels.

The idea of the central plan is associated with the planning institutions and experiences of the Soviet Union. The symposium sought to reveal and study the moment when planning as an alternative to capitalism was raised, to show how much the idea transcended left–right divides, and to suggest how planning became a political myth or a technical measure without any hint of substantial political and social transformation. Rice's Carl Caldwell provided an introduction that focused on the complex of criticisms raised by Friedrich Hayek to the idea of planning: the overlapping technical, political, and historical criticism of planning as the "road to serfdom" and to poverty. The simple opposition between "freedom" and "planning," he argued, obscures many of the specific problems and ideological demands to which planners were responding at mid-century.

The first panel dealt with the debates and contexts of the pre-1938 and post-1945 discussions of economic planning in Western Europe. Gerd-Rainer Horn (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) characterized the complexity the planning debates in "International Efforts to Promote Economic Planning, 1934–36." Focusing on several international planning conferences in the mid-1930s, Horn explained how the Great Depression helped mobilize politicians, social and political thinkers, and economists to reconsider the relationship between economic planning on a large scale and political democracy.

While Horn's paper focused on the period before World War II, Maria Mitchell (Franklin and Marshall College) examined the period after the defeat of Nazism. In "Social Market Economy or Christian Socialism? The Ideological
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Face of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), 1945–47," she began by describing how the Christian Democrats advocated some notion of socialism, implying a kind of central economic planning. With the coming of the Cold War, however, the CDU wing that favored economic planning became marginal. For political rather than economic reasons, the idea of the "Plan" fell into disrepute among the conservatives in West Germany.

The institutional and ideological origins of China's planned economy were addressed in the second panel. Linsun Cheng (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) described the development of centralized economic planning under the Nationalists in prerevolutionary China in his paper entitled "Economic Planning and the Initiation of China's Planned Economy: The National Resources Commission and Its Industrial Activities, 1932–47." The Nationalists implemented a new planning system and even began to plan the production of planning officials with the aid of the Nazi Germans in the mid-1930s and of the United States in the early 1940s. By the time the Communists took control, the Nationalists had already erected a system of economic planning that bore many of the characteristics associated with post-1949 China.

Wen-hsin Yeh (UC–Berkeley) approached the development of planning from a very different angle. Concentrating on the representations of everyday life from letters written to a left-wing newspaper in Shanghai, her paper "Prewar Shanghai and the Rise of a Communal Society" retold how new societal values arose. Liberal individualism and family-oriented communal economics were discredited in favor of a paternalistic political system that promised economic security. Yeh's paper culminated in the image of a new "army of ants" that would struggle for the development of the nation as a whole.

Baker Institute's Steve Lewis delivered the concluding paper, which summarized the implications of all the papers on the notions of social and economic transformation in general. "Making History As We Please: Evaluating Path-Dependency in Theoretical and Empirical Studies of Privatization Programs" called for reorienting attention to the dense institutional structures that determine historical actors' choices—even in times of socio-economic rupture, such as after 1989 in Eastern Europe. Lewis called for political scientists and economists to take note of history and to recognize the power exercised by the dead weight of the past over the future.


The Enigma of Gift and Sacrifice

Internationally acclaimed anthropologists and continental philosophers came to Rice to consider new interpretations of the relation between gift and economy at this CSC-sponsored conference held on March 26 and 27, 1999. Organized by Rice faculty Edith Wyschogrod (religious studies) and Jean-Joseph Goux (French studies), the conference was interdisciplinary in the best sense of the term by bringing a variety of perspectives to bear upon a single theme, that of the gift. Inspired principally by the classic work The Gift (Marcel Mauss, 1950), the theme was analyzed in relation to urgent contemporary issues such as the relevance of the gift as understood in traditional societies as compared to its meaning in the current global economy. The difference between economies of exchange and those of gift and the relation of the latter to the sacred, as well as the ethics of "gifting" were explored in a variety of contexts.

Mauss' 1950 work is an account of social exchanges based on observations ranging from the potlach ceremonials of the Haida and the Tlingit of the Northwest coast of the American continent to Melanesian groups. "The form and reason for exchange in archaic societies," Mauss contends, belong to an elaborate system of exchange in which there is, colloquially speaking, "no free lunch," i.e., a system in which both the spiritual and material status of each and every member of the community are affected.

Following dean of humanities Judith Brown's welcome, Wyschogrod delivered opening remarks to the three panels of speakers, respondents, and guests. "The Economy of Sacrifice" was the first panel. Maurice Godelier's (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris) illuminating paper considered the notion in relation to the Baruya. He described the key role of women in that society and the importance placed on the legacy of the founding female ancestor of the clan as an everlasting substance that determines the
clan's identity. Godelier characterized his own research as centering on the meaning of sacred objects that must not be sold or given but stored away. He revealed that here are comparable objects imbued with special power even in highly developed capitalist societies.

Following Godelier, Rice anthropologists George Marcus and Benjamin Lee considered the relation of gift to some of the deleterious social effects of the globalization of the economy. Mark C. Taylor (humanities, Williams College) considered the globalization process as inevitable and argued that modes of entering into this economy on the part of academics needed to be found. Along somewhat different lines in his follow-up paper, Taylor devised a dialogue in which, through a complex series of moves showing the influence of Heidegger's and Derrida's analyses of death, changing moods, and negation, he demonstrated the ways in which time (for better and worse) is itself a gift.

The next panel titled, "Community, Gift, and Sacrifice," consisted of Stephen Tyler (anthropology, Rice), Genevieve Vaughn (Center for the Study of Gift Economy, Austin), and respondents Diana Strassman (editor, Feminist Economics), and Elias Bongmba (religious studies, Rice). In an interesting turnabout, Tyler demonstrated that "reciprocity and redistribution" are not the whole story. He pointed to what he termed "inauspiciousness," a "poison" that the giver wishes to discard. Inauspiciousness is endemic to societies and must be purged.

"The Gift of Philosophical Discourse" was the theme of the final panel. John D. Caputo (philosophy, Villanova), Goux (Rice), Adrian Peperzak (philosophy, Loyola of Chicago), and respondent Steven G. Crowell (philosophy, Rice) delivered papers, and concluding remarks were offered by Phillip Wood (French studies, Rice). Caputo turned to an analysis of the relation of the gift and economy. He argued that this linkage is already embedded in Western theology: Sin or offense is overlooked, forgiven, as a result of confession and/or contrition. Thus, Caputo further stated, "forgiveness functions as an economy; it is exchanged for repentance." How the act of forgiveness should occur without overlooking responsibility and yet avoiding the calculus of repentance and forgiveness is this paper's theme.

Because each panel's papers and themes did not meet, and were not meant to meet, with universal agreement, lively discussion followed each panel and formal the commentaries. Wysschogrod and Goux, conference organizers, are confident that all papers, including some not mentioned in this summary, will be published.

Workshops and Study Groups Reports 1998–99

African Studies Workshop (AfsW)
Coordinator: Atieno Odhiambo (history)

The AfsW lecture series, seminars, and events have helped knit together a true community of scholars, graduate students, and faculty from the University of Houston (UH) and Texas Southern University (TSU) as well as Rice, devoted to the study of Africa. Through major presentations of work-in-progress by some of the most senior and important figures in the field, AfsW's program also attracted interest in the broader Houston community. Successful collaboration and cooperation among the three universities led to their being named cohosts for the African Studies Association of the U.S.A. annual meetings in 2001.

Early in the fall semester, the AfsW participated in honoring Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka, the first speaker in the Rice President's Lecture Series for 1998–99. AfsW sponsored several, well-attended seminars on "World Systems and Post-Coloniality," which took place at TSU and Rice University.

AfsW also sponsored fall semester lectures by James Ogude (Witswatersrand University, South Africa). His formal presentation was on "The Print Media and the Invention of Nationalism in Kenya." Renowned Ghanaian philosopher Kweisi Wiredu (University of South Florida, Tampa) presented a paper "Determinism, Free Will, and the Concept of a Person: Some Akan Reflections," and I. N. Kimambo (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania), a senior historian of East Africa, gave a paper titled "Penetration and Protest in Tanzania."

Local scholars also presented papers to the group, including Elias Bongmba (religious studies, Rice) on "Life on the Boundaries: Religion, Science and Magic in Africa" in the Rice Scientia series and Emlyn Norman (economics, TSU) on "The Political Economy of Africa." The fall semester closed with "The Spiritual Dimension of African Martial Arts of the Diaspora," a lecture and a series of demonstrations of the African martial art of capoeira angola at the University of Houston (UH) by UCLA doctoral candidate T. J. Desch-Obi.

During the spring semester, AfsW brought four outstanding scholars of national repute to Houston. Delia Pitts, director of International Education at Texas Christian University, gave a presentation of West African textiles at UH. University of Virginia's Joseph Miller, past president of

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the American Historical Association, spoke on all three campuses on the slave trade and the South Atlantic system. Equally engaging was the presentation by the Caribbean scholar Fitzroy Baptiste on “The African Presence in the Indian Subcontinent.” Baptiste proposed that “invisibility” of continental Africans and denial of their presence by East Indians are rooted in the caste system. In her presentation titled “Afrocentrists, Eurocentrists, and the True Nature of Scholarly Self-Deception Regarding Africa,” Constance Hillard (University of North Texas) explored the creation of scholarly knowledge about Africa, drawing on her work on early African intellectual history.

In “British Medical Ideas on Africa,” Karl Ittman (UH) demonstrated how the disease regime of Africans was invented as part of the discourse on colonization. In opposition, the African response to these inventions was represented by TSU historian Nupir Chaudhuri, who led a discussion on “Gendered Colonialism in African History,” and by Emory University doctoral candidate in anthropology Benjamin Odhoji, who gave a paper titled “Images of the Self and Representation among the Luo of Kenya,” a preview of his work on African autobiographies.

**Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (AMC)**

**Coordinators:** Michael Maas (history) and Harvey Yunis (Hispanic and classical studies)

The “Symposium on Text and Commentary,” held on March 17 was the focal point of AMC as well as JS (see Judaic Studies Workshop). The symposium explored issues surrounding the establishment of canonical texts and textual traditions: the hierarchies of authority invoked to legitimize transmission of texts, how those traditions of authority are created and maintained, and how systems of textual interpretation invoke and challenge the authority on which they rely. AMC examined the Greco-Roman literary tradition in Late Antiquity at the time of the conversion to Christianity and Hebrew biblical exegesis in the formative years of the Rabbinic age.

Approximately 40 participants from Rice and the community assembled to hear Steven Fraade (chair, religion, Yale) deliver his paper “Comparative Midrash Revisited: The Case of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Rabbinic Midrash,” and Mark Vessey (English, British Columbia) give his talk titled “The Culture of Commentary and the World of Books: Christian Readers and Writers in Late Antiquity.” Harvey Yunis (Rice) and Talya Fishman, visiting scholar at Stanford and formerly of Rice’s history department, responded to the papers. Fraade compared early rabbinic commentaries on legal portions of the Bible with legal materials from the Qumran community. Fishman pointed to some intriguing parallels in the legal terminology of the Qumran community and the Tosafists, a medieval school of Franco-German commentators on the Talmud. Vessey discussed how patristic authors established hierarchies of authority in their literary and pastoral activities. These hierarchies determined and controlled transmission of texts from antiquity to later ages. In his response, Yunis evaluated this model of textual transmission from the perspective of classical Greek culture. A lengthy question-and-answer period and reception gave organizers, guests, and participants an opportunity to further discuss the issues.

**Asian Studies Workshop (ASW)**

**Coordinator:** Richard J. Smith (history, director of the Asian Studies Program)

Discussions at the regular ASW meetings were catalyzed by several major Asia-related public events at Rice sponsored by the Baker Institute and other groups. CSC cosponsored events included a visit and lecture by Wang Chi on her retrospective exhibit “Trans-Pacific Art” in October 1998 and a public lecture by David Keightley (history, UC–Berkeley), “Death and Birth of Civilizations: Ancient China and Ancient Greece.” One of the founders and editors of the interdisciplinary journal Early China, Keightley also gave a seminar at a luncheon on his most recent manuscript dealing with the birth of Chinese civilization in the Shang dynasty.

The ASW hosted a two-day workshop in May 1999 on “Teaching Chinese Languages, Literatures, and Cultures” that involved colleagues from other Texas universities, including UH, UT–Austin, and Trinity University, as well as Rice faculty.

Meeting in clusters to develop Rice’s two team-taught Asian studies courses, “Introduction to Asian Civilizations” and “Contemporary Chinese Culture,” ASW members continue to address issues regarding curriculum development. The addition of Sarah Thal (Japanese history) to the faculty provides another valuable member.

A number of Asian Studies faculty continue their involvement in the Baker Institute’s Transnational China Project, including project director Steven Lewis, project advisors Benjamin Lee and Richard Smith, and project translator Marshall MacArthur. Please visit the project website at http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~tinchina/. The ASW also laid the groundwork for a collaborative project involving Thal, Smith, and Toshiyuki Kono of Kyushu University’s history department.
Concepts and Categorization Workshop (CC)
Coordinator: Richard Grady (philosophy)

CC activities were organized around two major guests, Douglas Medin (psychology, Northwestern) and Ruth Garrett Millikan (philosophy, U Connecticut). With recent work focusing on the way in which people organize their work by formulating, learning, and updating concepts, Medin is one of the leading cognitive scientists studying the processes of memory and learning. His research is expected to significantly advance understanding of how conceptual behavior differs between novices and experienced individuals in a particular subject. Medin also connects with work in artificial intelligence, focusing on how knowledge and experience are coordinated. Medin shared his papers and research on folk taxonomies, expert taxonomies, and related phenomena with faculty and students and delivered a public lecture, “Comparative Studies of Categorization and Reasoning: Culture and Expertise,” on November 6.

The group met in spring 1999 to discuss Millikan’s books, Language, Thought, and Other Biological Categories and White Queen Psychology: Essays for Alice, as well as other materials she had sent from her book-in-progress. Millikan, a former a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and president of the American Society for Philosophy and Psychology, is attempting to derive naturalistic analyses of language and thought by founding them on a technical concept of “proper function,” which is rooted in evolutionary psychology. The discussions focused heatedly on basic definition, its application in biology, and on the transfer of the biological notion to abstract phenomena such as sentences. CC also had several discussions with Millikan on differences between identification and categorization, the nature of belief, and differences between “real value” and reference. Millikan met with a philosophy of language class and delivered a public lecture, “Abilities,” that argued that abilities are not reducible to dispositions but must be understood as irreducibly historical.

For the 1999–2000 year, CC will invite Elizabeth Spelke (brain and cognitive sciences, National Academy of Sciences), the world’s foremost researcher on cognition in very young children, to Rice. Spelke’s current research involves exploring the nature and limits of young infants’ number representations and the changes in number representations that occur as children learn verbal counting as well as probing both the perceptual and conceptual basis of studying infants’ representations of the actions of human agents.

Continental Theory Workshop (CTW)
Coordinator: Jack Zammito (history)

CTW followed its established practice of devoting the year to the consideration of one ongoing theme in its readings and discussions. The theme for the year was the question of philosophy as a way of life, or new conceptions of asceticism as therapy. CTW met over the course of the semester to explore this theme, reading Alexander Nehamas, The Art of Living; Pierre Hadot, Philosophy as a Way of Life; Michel Foucault, Ethics, Subjectivity, and Truth; and Martha Nussbaum, The Therapy of Desire. The readings raised important questions about the role of subjectivity, of “care of the self” in both the writing and the living of philosophy. It also raised a question very important in the tradition of this workshop, namely the relevance of ancient thought to contemporary theory, both as provocation and as resource.

Additionally, CTW hosted the visit of Satya Mohanty (English, Cornell) in November 1998 and participated in the visit of Mark Bevir (politics, Newcastle, UK) in March. Mohanty delivered a public lecture on an ethical–political debate between Michel Foucault and Noam Chomsky, and he also met with the workshop to lead a three-hour seminar to discuss his book Literary Theory and the Claims of History. On Friday, March 5, 1999, Bevir presented a paper titled “Foly Psychology, Narrative and Historical Explanation” at a history department seminar.

Feminist Reading Group Workshop (FRG)
Coordinator: Susan Lurie (English)

The members of the FRG met in the fall semester to discuss essays by prominent theorists on the year’s theme of “Feminism and Democratic Community.” FRG members discussed a chapter from Saidiya Hartman’s Scenes of Subjection in the first meeting, and other discussions included Judith Butler’s essay on theorizing a rationale for affirmative action and Norma Alarcón’s essay on feminism and multiculturalism.

On February 19, Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, visiting professor at George Washington University and fellow at the Center for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi, presented “Unwanted Children in Rural Tamilnadu: Children of the State,” which was cosponsored by the English department and the CSC. Sunder Rajan discussed the contradictory predicament in which Indian feminists find themselves when demanding redress from a postcolonial state. She framed her remarks around the general question: How one might avoid making the state the “protector” of women (and children) without also falling into the pitfalls of a Foucaultian analysis that pits a sovereign subject against an inescapably hegemonic state?

The distinguished feminist philosopher Iris Marion
Young (public and international affairs, Pittsburgh) gave a public lecture, “Public Address as a Sign of Political Inclusion: On Feminist Ethics,” on March 25. Her visit was cosponsored by the philosophy department and the Program for the Study of Women and Gender (SWG) as well as the CSC. Young looked at the democratic community in the context of a rhetorical analysis of what she calls “greeting,” or rhetorical behaviors that acknowledge the presence of disenfranchised others as an audience. In the lively discussion that followed, participants asked Young about everything from the philosophical traditions from which she was speaking to questions about specific acts of greeting in recent debates over welfare reform. Young also led a separate discussion on her article “Mothers and Citizens” that delineates long-standing traditions in political theory equating citizenship with independence. While both events attracted mainly faculty and graduate students, SWG’s undergraduate seminar on Young’s “Mothers and Citizens” article contributed to undergraduate participation and pedagogy.

The spring semester involved discussions regarding essays by FRG’s guest speakers as well as a work-in-progress lecture by Carol Quillen (history, Rice), titled “Feminism and the Lure of the Human.” The group chose “Feminism and Public Culture” as the theme for 1999–2000, and a conference, “The Future of Feminist Critique,” is planned for fall 2000.

Judaic Studies Workshop (JS)
Coordinator: Matthais Henze (religious studies)

JS hosted a lecture series with three scholars and a symposium, “Text and Commentary.” The first guest, Johannes Heil, associate director of the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, Technische Universität, Berlin, spoke on December 3 on “Jews and Judaism in 9th-Century Commentaries on the Letters of Paul.” In his talk, Heil spoke about the ways in which Carolingian exegetes interpreted Paul’s discussions of Jews. From this evidentiary base, he elaborated a schematic of anti-Jewish positions in the Carolingian period.

Peter Flint of Trinity Western University and the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute spoke on December 7, 1998, on “The Dead Sea Psalms Scrolls and the Biblical Psalter.” Flint, a renowned Dead Sea Scrolls specialist who recently published an important monograph, The Dead Sea Psalms Scrolls and the Book of Psalms (Brill, 1997), spoke about the most important of the 40 Psalms scrolls discovered at Qumran, 11QPsa. Flint suggested that the order of the individual Psalms as preserved in this scroll, which differs significantly from the order in the Bible, was in fact considered “canonical” by the covenanters from Qumran.

Haifa University’s Menachem Kellner spoke on February on “‘Song of Songs’: Erotic Love Poetry or Aristotelian Philosophy?” Kellner explained that, for medieval philosophers, the essence of the human being is the intellect. The purpose of human life, therefore, is the actualization of the intellect and the knowledge of God. The Jewish tradition had always understood “Song of Songs” as an allegory of the love between God and Israel. Medieval Aristotelian philosophers such as Gersonides interpreted it as an allegory of the journey of the human intellect towards its full realization.

Steven Fraade (Yale) and Mark Vessey (University of British Columbia) were highlights of a symposium cosponsored by the AMC. (See AMC Workshop.) The symposium generated a discussion on common themes on a diverse spectrum of disciplines within the humanities and stimulated rich dialogue among both presenters and audience. The future topic of “Text and Commentary” will be pursued in the form of a series of colloquia to be held at various institutions.

Medieval Studies Workshop (MS)
Coordinator: Honey Meconi (Shepherd School of Music)

MS presented six events in the academic year. It opened the year with a presentation by the CSC’s 1998–99 postdoctoral fellow Samantha Kelly, who spoke on “The Theory and Practice of Late-Medieval Kingship: Politics and Propaganda at the Court of Robert of Naples (1309–1343).” MS members were greatly involved in the second Neil J. O’Brien Triennial Symposium in Medieval Studies. (See full report under “Conferences.”) MS and the Judaic Studies Workshop (JS) also cosponsored a talk by Johannes E. Heil. (See report under JS.)

In the spring semester, the workshop hosted a luncheon at which Mark Jordan (theology, Notre Dame) spoke about his book-in-progress on Christian sexual ethics. This event was followed by Dyan Elliott (history, Indiana), who delivered a talk, “Seeing Double: Jean Gerson, Female Spirituality, and the Discernment of Spirits.” Elliott used the case of Joan of Arc to illustrate how male clerics, suspicious of the growing number of female mystics, attempted
to evaluate and regulate what they perceived as a serious problem. The final talk was by John Knasas (Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas), who spoke on “The Metaphysical Basis of Aquinas’s Natural Law Ethics.” Knasas’s presentation was especially noteworthy in generating a lively debate that lasted for more than an hour before it had to be forcibly concluded.

**Nineteenth-Century Enquiry (NICE)**
Coordinator: Alan Grob (English)

NICE chose the law and trials as a reflection of the law as its theme this year, which attracted broad interdisciplinary interest. The subject for the first discussion group was an essay that appeared in the Yale Journal of Law and Humanities, “Representing Lizzie Borden: Cultural Conviction in the Trial of Lizzie Borden.” NICE’s first speaker was historian Daniel Cohen of Florida Atlantic University, author of Pillars of Salt: Monuments of Grace: New England Crime Literature and the Origins of American Popular Culture. Titled “Beautiful Murderesses,” Cohen lectured on February 26 from work-in-progress. On February 27, the group discussed his forthcoming essay on accounts of interracial rape trials in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

On April 23, Hilary Schor of the University of Southern California gave a lecture titled, “Show Trials: Character, Conviction, and the Law in Victorian Fiction.” The next day, Schor led a discussion of two recent essays, one on legal fictions in Bleak House by Charles Dickens and Bastard out of Carolina, a contemporary novel by Dorothy Allison. In both novels, the legal status of illegitimate children figure prominently. A recent essay on Samuel Richardson’s Clarissa was also discussed.

NICE also had a meeting with Elsa Michie (LSU), a feminist critic of 19th-century fiction, to discuss her recent essay on Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy. Deborah Harter (French studies, Rice), reporting on her work-in-progress, was the final presenter for the year.

**Central Europe Study Groups (CESG)**
Coordinator: Ewa Thompson (German and Slavic studies)

Four well-attended lectures were devoted to the changing status of the Russian Federation and to its history as a major colonial power. On October 28, Rice’s visiting lecturer in Russian, Katya Hirvasaho, gave a presentation on the phenomenon of contiguous colonization by the Russian Empire that was based on her dissertation, “Finland in Russian Colonialist Discourse.”

Harry Walsh (UH) spoke on Andrei Kurbskii, “the first Russian political refugee,” and his “repatriation” into contemporary Russian literature. Waclaw Mucha, lecturer in Slavic Studies at Rice, spoke in January on Mikhail Zoshchenko, a Soviet writer who attempted to undermine the communist state through humor and satire. Edward Keenan (history, Harvard; director of Dumbarton Oaks Center, Washington, D.C.) gave a brilliant presentation on April 23 on the disappearance in official Russian historiography of Ukraine and Belarus as separate and distinct. His visit was cosponsored by the CSC, the dean of humanities, history, German and Slavic studies, and the Baker Institute.

Piotr Wilczek’s lecture on “Catholics and Heretics: Some Aspects of Religious Debates in the Old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth” opened a series of meetings concerning Central Europe’s history and culture. Wilczek, the 1998–99 Kosciszko Foundation Fellow at Rice, contends that Reformation in Poland could not be reduced to the debates between Protestants and Catholics. In a later presentation, Wilczek described the Silesian Arts Festival, which he helped organize, and presented a vivid picture of contemporary Polish politics and cultural preferences among the different social classes.

**Cultural and Social Theory Study Group (CST)**
Coordinator: Daniel Sherman (history)

CST met regularly for informal discussions on critical theory and its promises and problems for research and writing in the humanities and social sciences. Fall meetings were devoted to a discussion of Michel Foucault’s work on governmentality and to a recent historical work, Sylvia Schaffer’s Children in Moral Danger and the Problem of Government in Third Republic France, which it influenced. In the spring, CST focused on sections of Michel de Certeau’s The Practice of Everyday Life and of Pierre Bourdieu’s The Logic of Practice.

CST sponsored one guest speaker, Elizabeth Lunbeck (history, Princeton University), who spoke on “‘Identity’ and the Politics of the Self in Post-War American Psychiatry” on September 11. Despite the official closure of the university because of Tropical Storm Frances, there were about 20 people in attendance, and a lively discussion followed. Members of the group held a lunchtime discussion of Lunbeck’s talk the week after her visit.

For the 1999–2000 year, CST will focus in the fall on the topic “The Semiotics of Space,” with presentations by Hecnar Watenpaugh, other Rice faculty, and at least one visitor in the field of architecture or geography. Spring discussions will focus on the theme of “Gender, Subjectivity, and Post-Colonial Studies,” with presentations by Carol Quillen, Betty Joseph, and Lynne Huffer, all Rice faculty members. Discussion will also focus on common theoretical problems.
Environmental Studies Workshop (ES)
Coordinator: Walter Isle (English)

Primarily devoted to discussion of selected readings, which usually focused on bridges between the natural sciences and the humanities and social sciences—the so-called “two cultures”—the 30 meetings ES held throughout the year were directed toward developing an understanding of what teaching and research on “environmental studies” should involve. For example, what should humanists know about the sciences and vice versa in order to understand human interaction with the nonhuman environment and the consequences of that interaction? Other reading topics ranged from environmental ethics, problems of overpopulation, global warming, and the study of social insects to the work of writers like Edward Abbey and Barry Lopez, both concerned with developing a sense of place and ecological awareness. ES members, including faculty from ecology and evolutionary biology, geology and geophysics, environmental science and engineering, English, sociology, anthropology, policy studies, chemistry, and the Center for the Study of Science and Technology (CSST), as well as a few undergraduate students, also read the works of guest speakers.

The major event of the fall semester, the visit of the Orion Society’s “Forgotten Language Tour,” was jointly sponsored with UH and the Citizens’ Environmental Coalition (CEC), with additional financial support from the Office of the Provost through the Environmental Programs Steering Committee (EPSC). The “Forgotten Language Tour” brings leading nature writers and poets to the university and the community to promote “nature literacy”—a deeper, more dynamic, and creative understanding of our relationship with the natural world. Six writers—poet and essayist Alison Deming, essayist and ecocritic Sue Ellen Campbell, ethnobotanist Gary Paul Nabhan, anthropologist Richard Nelson, lepidopterist Robert Michael Pyle, and poet Janisse Ray—presented a panel discussion on environment and community for faculty and students as well as attended classes.

Other visitors included Baird Callicott from the University of North Texas, author of many works on environmental ethics. Cosponsored by the CSST and the philosophy department, Callicott’s lecture was entitled “Implications of the Shifting Paradigm in Ecology for Environmental Ethics.” He sketched the changes in ecological thinking during the past fifty years and argued that Aldo Leopold’s well-known “land ethic,” which asserts that ethical standards be extended to all living things, represented a static sense of nature and needed to be revised to reflect a more dynamic ecological paradigm.

Tony Burgess, a desert ecologist affiliated with the University of Arizona and Columbia University’s Biosphere 2 Center, described the construction of the desert habitat in Biosphere 2 and the results of the original experimental project. Burgess’s visit was cosponsored by the EPSC.

“Giving Expression to (Human) Nature: Reflections on the Aims and Achievements of Ecocriticism,” was the title of Scott Slovic’s talk. Director of the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities at the University of Nevada, Reno, Slovic gave an overview of environmental literature, with examples from various writers who represent in their work the interaction between the writer and the natural world.

ES activities are supplemented and energized by various environmental initiatives on campus. These include the environmental programs, Rice’s partnership with Columbia University’s Biosphere 2 Center’s environmental studies programs, the involvement of several members in interdisciplinary team-taught courses in environmental studies, and Malcolm Gillis’s selection of the environment as one of the major areas for further development at Rice.

Inquiries Study Group (Inquiries)
Coordinator: Colleen Lamos (English)

Inquiries held 16 meetings throughout the year that included lectures, film screenings, work-in-progress talks, and discussions of readings selected by participants. Inquiries has concentrated on the themes of lesbian and gay popular culture and politics, the academic role of queer theory, the relation of feminism to queer theory, cross-cultural and multicultural configurations of same-sexuality, and lesbian/ gay ethical and economic issues.

A major event of the year was Karla Jay’s public lecture held during her visit in October 1998. Director of women’s studies and professor of English at Pace University, Jay is a well-known scholar, feminist, activist, and pioneer in the field of lesbian and gay studies. Among her nine books are the influential Out of the Closets (1972), The Gay Report (1979), Lesbian Texts and Contexts (1990), and Dyke Life, winner of the Lambda Literary Award for the Best Lesbian Studies Book of 1995.

Jay’s major lecture, “In Theory and in Practice, but Not in Deed,” addressed the current disjunction between academic queer theory and popular conceptions of homosexuality. The lecture focused on the connections and conflicts between the goals of lesbian and gay political
activism and the aims of lesbian and gay academic theory as developed over the past 30 years. Her engaging, first hand stories shed light on the haphazard links between antiwar and civil rights agitation, feminism, leftist radicalism, and the gay rights movement in the United States as well as offered a sympathetic critique of late 1990s lesbian and gay political culture.

Inquiries ended the year with a lecture by Patricia Juliana Smith (UCLA) on April 28. Her lecture, "Icons and Iconoclasts: Figments of Lesbian Popular Culture," focused on the development of a queer subculture within mainstream pop culture and film, and complemented Jay's lecture on radical politics of the 60s.

As part of its exploration of the queer aspects of popular culture, the group held two film screenings and joined with other groups, including Rice's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender organization and the Interethnic Festival of Asian-American Stories on Film, to present other films and discussions.

Plans for 1999–2000 include more cooperative ventures with other CSC groups, such as meeting with the Transnational Circulations and Cultures Workshop (TCC) to discuss the work of Jasbir Puar. Plans also include a study of queer ethnicity in Daniel Boyarin’s acclaimed book, Unheroic Conduct: The Rise of Heterosexuality and the Invention of the Jewish Man, as well as continuing debate and discussion concerning the ethical and legal implications of queer theory by reading Janet Halley’s essays. Work-in-progress talks by Jacob Speaks (“‘I Am Leafy Speafing’: Camouflaged Phallocentrism in Finnegans Wake”) and Deborah Needleman Armintor (“The Brobdingnag Complex: Psychoanalysis, Queer Theory, and the Eighteenth-Century Novel”) are also planned.

**Perspectives on the Eastern Mediterranean (POEM)**

Coordinator: Usama Makdisi (history)

POEM, a study group formed in 1998–99, discusses problems of the history, culture, and politics of the eastern Mediterranean from medieval times to the present.

The study group met five times last year, including an initial organizational meeting to set the agenda for the group’s activities. In November, the group discussed Andrew Shryock’s Nationalism and the Genealogical Imagination (University of California, 1997), an exploration of transition from oral to written history among the Bedouin tribes of Lebanon. The work deals also with the creation of national identities out of highly local identities in Jordan. Two meetings were devoted to discussing Michael Gilsenan’s Lords of the Lebanese Marches: Violence and Narrative in an Arab Society (University of California, 1996). POEM ended this year by discussing the Louis Cantori/ Augustus Richard Norton debate on civil society in the Middle East.

**New Studies in Transnational Circulations and Cultures (NSTCC)**

Coordinator: José Aranda, Jr. (English)

The most successful aspect of NSTCC has been the realization of cross-disciplinary discussions among a variety of students and faculty from the humanities and social science divisions of Rice all year long. Benjamin Lee (anthropology) was a major part of this workshop, lending his considerable expertise on current discussions of the globalization of capital, and was instrumental in bringing Charles Taylor (McGill University) to our group in the fall for just such discussions. (See more under “Guest Lecturers.”)

NSTCC found itself deeply engaged on the issue of comparative ethnic studies as a potential framework for examining domestic concerns alongside transnational trends. The visit of Norma Alarcon (ethnic studies, UC–Berkeley), whose research concerns the current conflict in Chiapas, Mexico, vividly dramatized the potential of a comparative global model of capitalism and ethnicity.

Alarcon conducted two successful workshops in March.

For 1999–2000, the NSTCC will study transnationalism as it relates specifically to certain modes of activist interventions. In particular, NSTCC will work more closely with the Inquiries to bring in feminist scholars/activists to campus and also work alongside the Environmental Studies Workshop, to invite feminist environmentalist Noel Sturgeon from Washington State University at Pullman. Plans also include the study the latest offerings of legal race theory. In short, for next year, NSTCC will endeavor to think more concretely about the consequences of globalization.
1999–2000
Conferences, Workshop Series, and Special Events

“Path-Dependency and Transition Economics”
Mid-November, 1999; February 19, 2000; other dates to be announced
Organizers: Carl Caldwell (history) and Steve Lewis (Baker Institute for Public Policy)

This workshop series will gather scholars to discuss the effect of institutions on economic development and trace the development of transition economics. Invited speakers to this workshop series include: David Good (history, Minnesota), Paul Gregory (economics, Houston), and Timur Kuran (economics, USC). Gregory will present his latest work on the Russian economy in mid-October. Good is currently involved in studying the effect of communism by measuring the GNP of the East-Central Europe, the old Hapsburg Empire. His lecture on February 19, 2000, will explore to what extent the current underdevelopment of Eastern Europe is the result of path-dependent structures related to long-term underdevelopment and/or of centralized planning after 1945. Kuran’s talk, also scheduled in February, will be on his work-in-progress, a manuscript that looks at the effects of “collective conservatism” on development over the last millennium of economic norms and customs in Islamic societies.

Path-dependency, a term developed in political science and economics, refers to the way existing institutions—conceptualized as a set of relatively formalized and repeated actions—objectively organize exchange and communication systems and subjectively provide criteria of recognition for participants in such systems as well as help determine the ways a society or economy develops. Path-dependency amounts to the idea that historical origins and cultural systems are important and help determine whether attempts at innovation succeed. Transition economics refers precisely to the economic study of those moments of change, whether consciously engineered or merely observed.

Spring 2000

“Cairo: An Authentic City for a Modern World”
Dates to be announced
Organizer: Paula Sanders (history)

This day-long symposium will bring together art historians, architects, architectural historians, and historic preservationists to discuss the process by which the medieval city of Cairo was reconstructed and canonized in the late 19th century by European architects and engineers. The papers will address a variety of questions concerning the construction of the medieval in general, and this medieval city in particular, as a product of modernity. It will also address the competing notions of authenticity in the construction of the city and the continual contests in the 19th and 20th centuries over the meaning of the city and its monuments. While Cairo has been the subject of considerable scholarly attention, no publication to date has looked at the intersection of preservation practices in a historical context, contests over meaning in the present, and the scholarly production of knowledge about constructed historic cities for any Middle Eastern city. The program will include guest speakers Irene Bierman (art history and director of the Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA), Donal Preziosi (art history, UCLA), Nasser Rabat (architecture, program of history, theory and criticism of architecture, MIT), Nezae al-Sayyad (architecture and chair, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC–Berkeley), and Nairy Hampikian (director, Conservation Project of Bab Zuwayla, Egyptian Antiquities Project).

“Collaborative Urbanisms”
Dates to be announced
Organizer: Nitin Deckha (anthropology)

This series of five public workshops will pair local and national urban scholars with key players in the revitalization and economic growth of downtown Houston. The themes selected, including global markets, cultural industries, community development, multicultural citizenship, and historic preservation, will appeal to a range of audiences from both the private and nonprofit sectors.

“Landscapes Through Asian Pacific/American Media”
February 2000, specific dates to be announced
Student Organizers: Shannon Leonard and Jae Chung
Faculty Sponsors: George Marcus (anthropology) and Hamid Naficy (art and art history)

Three-days of new Asian and Asian American films, performances, speakers, and discussions to promote awareness of Asian American social and cultural issues.
“Written Text and Transformations of Thought and Expression in Classical Greece”
April 13–16, 2000
Organizer: Harvey Yunis (Hispanic and classical studies)

The manner in which knowledge and the artifacts of intellectual culture were produced and disseminated underwent a fundamental change from oral to written in Greece during the period from the 440s to the 320s B.C.E. This change affected history, religion, literature, law and politics, philosophy and science, and other areas as well. This will be one of the first multidisciplinary attempts to understand the impact of the growth of written texts on the art and thought that was produced in the classical period. The conference will put before the scholarly public a compelling statement of origin, scope, patterns, oddities, and consequences of the transition as well as examine the widest array of intellectual and cultural activities that experienced in some form and to some extent a transition to the written text. Another aim of the conference will be to achieve new insights into the rise of classical literary culture and knowledge by bringing together and comparing the different viewpoints, methodologies, and spheres of activity.

Invited speakers for the three and one-half-day conference include David Cohen (UC–Berkeley) to discuss the legal practice in Athens, Andrew Ford (Princeton) on literary and artistic criticism, Albert Henrichs (Harvard) on religion, Richard Hunter (Cambridge) to discuss transition from classical to Hellenistic literature, Dirk Obbrink (Oxford) on late archaic and early classical poetry, Lesley Dean-Jonnes (UT–Austin) on rhetoric and medical texts, and Michael Gagarin (UT–Austin) on Antiphon and early prose.

Fall 2000

Dates to be announced
Organizers: Lynne Huffer (French studies), Susan Lurie (English), Carol Quillen (history)

This interdisciplinary conference will explore how feminist analyses can speak to fundamental questions about the nature of subjectivity, the ethical claims of difference, the meaning of social justice, and the efficacy of political action. It will be organized around three sequential panel sessions, each with three speakers and a commentator/moderator, two longer keynote talks, and two general discussions. The panel “Feminism and the Public Sphere” will ask who speaks for feminism in various public contexts and from whom and from where do they get the authority to speak? It will also explore the political and cultural significance of feminist discourse in a variety of contexts as well as ask what is “international feminism?” “Theorizing the Feminist Subject” and “Feminism across Difference” are two other panels that will explore the use of theoretical frameworks in analyses. Speakers and participants for this symposium are now under consideration.
Books Related to Past CSC Events

Home, Exile, Homeland: Film, Media, and the Politics of Place
Hamid Naficy, editor (Routledge, 1999)

Naficy, Rice associate professor, film and media studies (art and art history), edited this interdisciplinary study of media that deals with the shift in how we define home and community and personal, national, and transnational identities in an increasingly globalized world. The collection was based on “House, Home, Homeland,” a multimedia conference that he organized at Rice in October 1995. Along with Naficy, a majority of the conference participants contributed to the book, including Rice faculty member Patricia Seed (history).

Paranoia within Reason, A Casebook on Conspiracy as Explanation
George E. Marcus, editor (University of Chicago, 1999)

Funded in part by the CSC, this is the sixth volume of the annual, Late Editions series. It is dedicated to the exploration of paranoia, which exists not only in the conspiracy theories of extremist ideologies but also in commerce, science, economics, and popular entertainment where a paranoid style is least expected. Some works reveal the post-Cold War situations where conspiratorial explanations of national dramas were accepted, and “other pieces tackle paranoia as a style of debate in such diverse realms as science, psychotherapy, and popular entertainment.”

Late Editions is dedicated to “the widespread self-awareness of massive changes in society and culture globally, especially among those who write about the contemporary world, as we are in the facts and lived experiences of these changes themselves.” In his preface to the volume, Marcus also states his premise that self-awareness among both writers and their subjects is a major fact about the moment. “This dual interest and a particular strategy for pursuing it in producing the series are what we believe make these volumes distinctive.”

Congratulations to CSC Colleagues

Congratulations to Asian Studies Workshop member Anne Klein (religious studies) on receiving a two-year, $240,000 Ford Foundation grant for “Buddhism and Western Culture: A Living Dialogue.” The grant will fund three conferences to explore: (1) women’s roles and female imagery in traditional and present-day Buddhist contexts, (2) political and religious conversations between the Tibetan Bon and Buddhist traditions, (3) cross-cultural concepts of the body and healing practices for the body and for the psyche.

Edith Wyschogrod, an advisory panelist for the CSC and a member of the religious studies faculty, became the first humanities professor at Rice to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Election to the academy is one of the highest honors for an American scholar to achieve. Wyschogrod’s work explores difficult and complex issues regarding ethics and religion in the 20th century. Author of a number of books and articles, her most recent work is The Ethics of Remembering: History, Heterology and the Nameless Others (Chicago, 1998). The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an honorary society that recognizes achievement in the natural sciences, social science, arts, and humanities. Founded during the American Revolution, the academy also conducts studies and sponsors projects responsive to the needs and problems of society.
History, Culture, and Climatic Change: Excavations in Mali

For the past five years, the CSC has sponsored the pioneering, archaeological excavations of Rice anthropologists Roderick and Susan McIntosh in the Upper Inland Delta and Mema regions of the Middle Niger in Mali. Their recent research—two research trips and three excavation seasons—has been funded in part through the National Science Foundation, the American Association for University Women, and the National Geographic Society.

The team credits Joseph A. Tainter, project leader for Cultural Heritage Research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, for obtaining seed funding for the recent research. Tainter, the McIntoshes, and their colleagues around the world study global climate change and cultural systems. The current extensive debate on the causes and effects of global warming figures prominently in these studies as researchers seek to discuss if and how human influence has affected global climatic change. According to Rod McIntosh, the Middle Niger represents one of the most climatically sensitive areas in the world, reflecting major changes since the 2nd millennium B.C., as evidenced by archeological records and geomorphological indicators. More research, including excavations of this region’s abandoned Neolithic villages and further study of the prehistoric settlement complex of Jenne-jené (Ancient Jenne), will advance scholarship on Jenne-jené’s history and social organization as well as shed light on the broader issues of the effects of climatic change. The McIntoshes hope to collaborate and to share information with other scholars working in Senegal, Mozambique, and Chad who deal with somewhat similar circumstances.

The Way the Wind Blows: History, Culture, and Climatic Change (Columbia University Press), a collection of papers from 13 scholars at the conference inaugurating the most recent studies held at the Woodlands five years ago, is at press. More recently, a panel at a conference in Banjul, Gambia, spawned an article to appear in the Journal of Environmental History.

The McIntoshes’ research also has benefited younger students. Aimed at elementary and middle school students, the Mali Interactive Project (http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~anth/arch/mali-interactive/index.html) shares information about archaeology and ways of looking at culture as well as introducing Mali and its history.
1998–99 Fellows’ Reports

Eric Margolis (philosophy)

Margolis used his fellowship to focus on one of the central questions in the history of philosophy: How is it that we are able to represent the world to ourselves in thought? Margolis researched theories of mental representation and explored an alternative theory that postulates that concepts have no semantic structure and that their meaning is fixed entirely by their relations to things in the world.

Much of Margolis’s work is in collaboration with Stephen Laurence, a philosopher who resides in the United Kingdom. In the last year, both concentrated on knowing how unstructured concepts can be learned, a radical undertaking given the widespread assumption that they must be innate. Both are confident that their theory has sufficient empirical support to be appealing to psychologists and the cognitive science community as well as to philosophers.

Margolis and Laurence coauthored several articles, one for Blackwell’s Guide to the Philosophy of the Mind, and reviews for publication. In the coming year, they intend to bring the different strands of their theory together in a book titled The Building Blocks of Thought.

Carl Caldwell (history)

The CSC fellowship provided Caldwell with the opportunity to concentrate fully on a new research project that revolves around the first decade of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet-sponsored socialist state of East Germany after World War II.

Caldwell is studying the development of state-socialist planning and the effect of centralized economic planning on economics, law, and philosophy. Caldwell contends that the legal developments over the 1950s were much more interesting and complicated than one would imagine from the current flood of literature on the collapse of state socialism in 1989. As in the West, East German legal scholars were torn between a conception of the legal system that stressed its formal and binding character and one that noted the need for flexibility in a modern industrial society. Contracts, for example, on the one hand needed to be formal and inviolable in order to enforce economic responsibility on the part of individual socialist firms. But at the same time, just as in the capitalist world, they were subject to manipulation either by courts of arbitration or by influential political figures or institutions. The tension between strict norm and flexible social practice reflected a deeper ideological problem: The East German government claimed to break with fascism, with its despotic and capricious willingness to shape law to fit its needs. When push came to shove, however, the East German state felt compelled to bend norms, to act “capriciously” and “despotically” (from the point of view of some firms with valid contracts). Far from being a mark of “totalitarianism,” this undecidable relationship between norm and practice seems to be a general characteristic of modernity, which worked itself out within the specific political, social, and ideological systems characteristic of East German Marxism–Leninism. “I was able to complete an entire chapter on the problem of law in East Germany during my CSC grant, which I presented to the Law and History Workshop at the University of Chicago,” noted Caldwell.

He also made headway on his research on philosophy, particularly the works of Ernst Bloch, under state socialism. Caldwell said he had time to reconstruct the philosophical issues at the heart of Stalin’s party’s silencing of Bloch in 1957 and to complete a short article on the philosophical implications of revisionism for a handbook of 20th century German political thought, due to appear in print next year.

Jane Chance (English)

Chance completed the second and started work on the third volume of a three-volume publication, Medieval Mythography, which maps the history of mythography, the moralization and allegorization of classical mythology, during the Middle Ages. “She has broken away from the old tradition that saw mythography only as part of the continuity, or at times the revival, of classicism in the Middle Ages. [She]
1999–2000
Fellows’ Research Projects

Steven Crowell

Project: “Heidegger and Transcendental Philosophy, or Foundationalism with a Human Face”
Crowell proposes a reading of Heidegger’s major work, Being and Time, that sees its central concern as lying in articulating the conditions for the possibility of conducting critically responsible philosophical inquiry. Against prevailing interpretations of that work, Crowell argues that Heidegger defends a new “foundationalism” and not the sort of “antifoundationalism” that has been associated with movements such as pragmatism, deconstruction, genealogical historicism, and naturalism. Heidegger’s phenomenological method highlights existential themes in the context of a transcendental self-reflection in such a way as to bring out the ultimately ethical character of philosophical grounds. While its main implications pertain to critical reflection on the practice of philosophy itself, “foundationalism with a human face” suggests ways in which philosophy can intervene in the ongoing reconfiguration of traditional disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies. Here a dogmatic antifoundationalism threatens to rob the notion of intellectual inquiry of all sense.

Colleen Lamos

Project: “‘I’m Not a Lesbian, I Just Loved Thelma’: Lesbian Disavowals in Modern British and American Literature”
Djuna Barnes’s declaration that she “just loved” Thelma Wood but was not herself a lesbian is indicative of the deniability of a lesbian sexual identity in the early twentieth century. Lamos examines the discursive conditions under which the avowal or disavowal of a sexual identity, either homosexual or heterosexual, was possible—indeed, compulsory—for prominent, modern British and American women writers. Centered on three texts published in 1928, Barnes’s Ladies Almanac, Radclyffe Hall’s The Well of Lonliness, and Virginia Woolf’s Orlando, and adjacent texts by Elizabeth Bowen, Nella Larsen, Katherine Mansfield, H.D., Gertrude Stein, and others, Lamos analyzes the various meanings of these writers’ rejection or acceptance of a lesbian identity and the effects of their decisions upon their literary works. Challenging the assumption of two, mutually exclusive “natural” sexual orientations, Lamos argues that the skepticism of many of these writers toward the homosexual/heterosexual binary reveals the ways in which they inhabited and strategically deployed con-

Eugenia Georges (anthropology)

The CSC fellowship allowed Georges to work on a manuscript for a book based on her research in Greece, which began in 1990. Through the life history narratives of three generations of women living in Rhodes, interviews with medical professionals, and observations in clinics and hospitals, the project explores the transformations that have occurred in the discourses, practices, and meanings regarding reproduction in the postwar period. Georges explains, “The manuscript is organized around a seeming paradox: some domains of Greek women’s reproductive experience (pregnancy, birth, abortion) have been largely reconfigured by techno-medical expertise, while others (contraception, menopause) resist medical explanation and remain embedded in local cultural understandings of healthy bodily functions. The book will show how specific cultural logics and practices complicate and contradict, as well as accommodate, the modernist narrative that assumes that science, technology, and medicine inevitably displace other ways of understanding health and the body.”

Also based on this project, Georges coauthored with Lisa Mitchell (anthropology, University of Victoria, B.C.), two articles for publication. One will appear in Localizing and Globalizing Reproductive Technologies (A. Saetnan, editor, Ohio State University); the second piece will appear in Writing and Speaking the Body (M. Lay, et al., editors, University of Wisconsin). Georges also delivered two papers at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association and the American Ethnological Society. She successfully applied for a grant from the National Science Foundation that will allow her to spend the upcoming academic year further researching reproductive issues in Greece and completing additional work on her book.
1998–99 Selected Guest Lecturers and Special Events

Stephen Kern

Stephen Kern (Northern Illinois University), author of the acclaimed book, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880–1918*, presented a paper on his work-in-progress titled, *The Culture of Causation, 1830–Present* on September 25. Kern set forth a synoptic overview of his plan to examine changes in the way novelists link cause to effect in murder mysteries. André Gide’s fascination with the idea of motiveless crime will figure prominently the book’s introductory section. Kern also will investigate changes in other domains of culture by taking six topical cross-sections: determinism, force, chance/probability, purpose, explanation, and responsibility. He contends that a central tendency of change can be discerned in each area to show a greater specificity in our knowledge of causal connections, coupled, ironically, with a growing recognition of complexity, indeterminacy, and uncertainty. The more we inquire, the more complex the world appears, and the less satisfactory our explanatory grasp. Questions for Kern touched on such matters as the feasibility of generalizing about the direction of change, the relevance of Heisenberg’s finding of indeterminacy at subatomic levels, and various counterexamples.

Khenpo Orgyn Thrinley Rinpoche

On October 9–12, Rice students, faculty, staff, and the general public greatly benefited from the visit of Buddhist scholar Khenpo Orgyn Thrinley Rinpoche, which was cosponsored by the CSC and the Visiting Scholars Fund. Khenpo (meaning “teaching abbot”) received his training in the Golok area of Eastern Tibet (now Sichuan Province) under one of the leading religious figures of late 20th century Tibetan Buddhism. After achieving this honor, he was invited to the U.S. by the noted scholar and meditation master Thrinley Norbu Rinpoche. For the last three years, he has resided at a Buddhist retreat center near Santa Cruz, California, and travels to various universities and Buddhist communities.

During his visit to Rice, Khenpo Rinpoche gave three lectures, translated by host Anne Kline (religious studies). Rinpoche spoke on Shantideva’s *Bodhisattvacharyavatara*, highlighting the role of compassion in the development of a bodhisattva. His scholarly, yet personal, presentation brought to life a culture and spiritual practice of which, prior to his visit, the class had only read. In another class, he gave an overview of Tibetan tenet systems, with an emphasis on specifics related to the Mind Only School, and graciously responded to questions from his audience of graduate and undergraduate students. Rinpoche’s final lecture, which was open to the Rice community at-large, focused on the “self/no-self” debate both within Buddhism and between Buddhism and Hinduism. Rinpoche’s presence and lectures added a dimension and an insight to learning that is gained only through a visit to a Buddhist monastic college, most often located in a far off place. Video and audio recordings of all three lectures will be available for the use of future Rice students.

Donald Morrison

Project: “Conceptions of Analytic Method in Late Greek Philosophy”

Morrison proposes a study of conceptions of “analysis” as a philosophical method or methods from Alexander of Aphrodisias through Philoponus as he explores certain methods of arriving at first principles, especially one called “tekmeriodic proof.” These philosophers drew upon the methods of geometrical analysis and generalized them to apply to all areas of inquiry. This project will benefit historians of science as well as philosophers and historians of philosophy. Morrison indicates, “One way of describing the topic is as the ancient antecedents of Zabarella’s and Galileo’s resolutive compositive method.”

Stanley Kutler

The CSC, the Rorschach Fund, and the history department brought Stanley Kutler, emeritus professor of history at the University of Wisconsin and founding editor of *Reviews in American History*, to Rice on September 14–15 to speak about his most recent book, *Abuse of Power: The New Nixon Tapes*. The book is
the result of a long legal struggle to force the National Archives to release the tape-recorded conversations of President Richard Nixon. In 1996, two years after the death of the president, the archives and the Nixon family agreed to release the tapes in batches over a period of five years. The first batch, consisting of 201 hours of conversations, dealt with Watergate and related matters.

During his visit, Kutler met with a graduate seminar on the presidency of Richard Nixon. Kutler reviewed the history of the tapes, their historical importance, and his own role in obtaining their release. He also discussed the resources available to scholars at the Nixon project and opportunities for further research. For students preparing to embark on a research trip to these papers, Kutler provided both information and inspiration.

Kutler also gave a public lecture on his book, with special attention to selected highlights of the tapes. In a spirited question-and-answer period, Kutler compared the impeachment charges brought against Nixon and with ones lodged against President Clinton. An animated speaker with a talent for engaging an audience, Kutler provided an informed review of the Watergate era and new insights into the Nixon presidency.

George Yudice

George Yudice (American studies, NYU) delivered a lecture entitled, “The Globalization of Culture: A Latin American Perspective,” on November 13. Yudice explored the cultural consequences of the recent moves toward economic integration in the Americas. Current developments in Latin America constitute a significant rupture with the dominant modes of cultural production in the continent since the 1930s that Yudice characterized as the promotion by the state of a national, popular, and anti-imperialist sensibility. The breakdown of this paradigm under the impact of globalization and the increasing influence of the audio–visual media leads to the erosion of the traditional opposition between high art and popular culture, as well as to the diversification of cultural production.

While hailing the decline of traditional notions of national identity as a positive development, given that the construction of such identities often involved the suppression of cultural differences, Yudice also spoke of some of the dangers flowing from the current processes of globalization. In particular, he drew attention to the way in which the withdrawal of the state from the realm of culture severs the link between culture and the public interest. He also mentioned the city of Miami, which has become the capital of the Latin American entertainment industry, as an example of how the collapse of traditional economic and cultural boundaries can lead to the transfer of substantial resources from Latin America to the United States.

Charles Taylor

On November 19 and 20, Charles Taylor (McGill University) presented two workshops that were sponsored by the CSC and the departments of anthropology, philosophy, and religious studies. Prior to his visit, the sponsoring departments circulated and read papers selected by Taylor. The format for both workshops had Taylor briefly introduce the central themes of the papers and lead a general discussion. The first workshop focused on the delineation of what Taylor called the “social imaginary,” a construct that he is using to analyze phenomena as diverse as the rise of democracy and nationalism. In the second workshop, most of the discussion was concerned with problems of multiculturalism and what Taylor calls the “politics of recognition.”

While many of the workshop participants were aware of aspects of Taylor’s research on topics as diverse as language, epistemology, nationalism, and Canadian multiculturalism, this was the first time for Taylor to share an overview his large project in which all his scholarly interests are imbedded. The two workshops explored Taylor’s work in using social philosophy to create concepts for the analyses of social history.

Wlad Godzich

Wlad Godzich, professor of emergent literatures, comparative literature and European studies at the Université de Genève, presented two lectures at Rice on December 10–11 that were sponsored by the departments of anthropology, French studies, German, English, and Hispanic and classical studies and the CSC. In the 1980s, Godzich was the co-editor of the well-known series titled Literary Theory and History, which provided English translations of major European literary theorists and philosophers.

The first lecture, titled “The Emergence of Post-National Literatures,” marked an important direction in Godzich’s work on the role of literature as a post-disciplinary object of study. Godzich’s introductory editorial comments for many articles set the tone for important debates that enlivened the 1980s’ preoccupation with the changing role of the humanities in American universities. Godzich took a new direction by suggesting that when traditional literature departments, organized around European nation states, encouraged literary writings of non-national and non-traditional others who used their languages, they opened the door to an altogether different kind of study, the study of “emergences,” not emergent literatures. Godzich suggested that “emergences” were the proper objects of post-disciplinary study.

Godzich’s second lecture in the anthropology department, titled “The New Anthropos,” discussed how developments in the biological or life sciences were diverging from the traditional way the human sciences have represented...
life. What was needed, he suggested, was a “new ontology,” an anthropology that could be reclassified as zoology, a study of the emergent understandings of life.

Godzich also participated in a taped discussion of his current post-disciplinary research projects soon to be available through a venture on new directions in anthropology.

James Cushing

Professor of physics and the history and philosophy of science at the University of Notre Dame and author of over one hundred scientific articles and several books, James Cushing visited Rice on February 10 and 11. Cushing’s lectures, sponsored by the physics department and the CSC, were titled “Bohmian Mechanics: A New Conception of Physics” and “Some Unexpected Limits on Scientific Knowledge.”

From somewhat different angles and with different degrees of technical involvement, both lectures explored the issue of underdetermination of scientific theories by empirical evidence. Given the complete set of available experimental data, one can construct very different theories that could feature incompatible ontological pictures of the world. David Bohm’s causal and deterministic alternative to the standard “Copenhagen” interpretation of quantum mechanics is a case in point.

Both lectures attracted large audiences and generated long and stimulating discussions. Attended by faculty and graduate students from various departments, Cushing’s second lecture had broad interdisciplinary appeal. Many members of the Rice academic community also benefited from informal conversations with Cushing during his visit. These events have opened some minds to a new topic having a profound significance for physics, philosophy of science, and intellectual history in general. More information about Cushing can be found at http://www.science.nd.edu/physics/faculty/cushing.html.

Symposium:

“The Future of the German Past”

Reunited Germany is now the largest nation in Europe. In the eyes of some, the impending relocation of the capital from Bonn to Berlin suggests a geographical shift reminiscent of the days of the German Empire. As the Federal Republic of Germany turns fifty, many questions of German identity have resurfaced anew. A clique of voluble, yet marginal, right-wing intellectuals have called Germany’s commitments to Europe into question. These were the basic themes debated at the March 19 symposium on the “Future of the German Past,” organized by Rice’s Richard Wolin (history) and featuring William Scheuerman (Pittsburgh), Jan Muller (NYU), and Carl Caldwell (Rice). The consensus was that it was unlikely that Germans as a nation would be “going on tour” again in the near future; yet, there remain some unsettling aspects of contemporary German democracy that bear close scrutiny.

“The Creative Process: Artist and Master Printmaker”

Rice students and members of the Houston arts community witnessed the unique collaboration between artist and master printmaker during the intensely creative process of print production. Artist Richmond Burton and master printmaker Greg Burnet worked for three days, March 22–24, to produce two “b.a.t.s” (bon a tirer). The first product consisted of three separate plates, and the second production was a drypoint print. While the artists worked, the “printpalace” was open to the public from 9 A.M. until 7 P.M. A Rice alumnus, Burton engaged art students in many discussions. Burnet gave several presentations each day of his exceptional portfolio of prints produced at Burnet Editions. He also demonstrated the “sugar lift” and “spit biting” processes to the print intaglio classes.

The plates and all artist proofs were sent to Burnet’s studio in New York for further processing, numbering, and signing. Rice will receive two signed, first edition prints from each work as well as one third of all the proofs that were printed at Rice.

On March 24, Richmond, Burnet, and Barry Walker (curator of prints and drawings, Museum of Fine Arts/ Houston) participated in a panel discussion about printmaking, the collaborative process between artist and printmaker, and the role of prints in the field of fine arts. More than 80 people participated in a long discussion, which was then followed by “printfest,” a reception hosted by Rice’s art and art history department and Karin Broker, faculty organizer for the project.
CSC to Host Woodrow Wilson Postdoc

Next year, the CSC will host a two-year postdoctoral fellow as part of a new program in the humanities sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (WWNFF). Under the terms of the program, the WWNFF contributes one third of the fellow’s salary, with the remainder coming from the host institution. The program was designed to encourage the creation of postdoctoral opportunities. Foundation president Robert Weisbuch explained, “By providing additional positions for new Ph.D.s, these fellowships will enable promising young teachers and scholars the opportunity to remain in academia at a time of a difficult job market.” Fellows will have time to continue research, turn a dissertation into a publication, and broaden their teaching experience, making them more competitive as they seek full-time employment.

Rice is one of fifteen institutions awarded a WWNFF fellow. It is expected that aside from jump-starting their academic careers, the WWNFF fellow will receive intensive mentoring in both teaching and research from their host institutions. Host institutions will also encourage interdisciplinarity in the humanities.

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