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UAH Humanities Center, 2002

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UAH Humanities Center

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Engaging the World from UAH

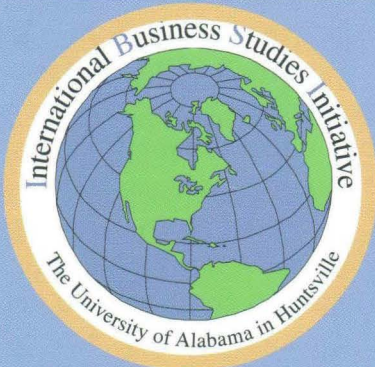
The tragic events of September 11, 2001, fixed public attention on American relations with other nations around the world. In the humanities disciplines at UAH, efforts to increase knowledge and understanding about international subjects are longstanding—and they are currently intensifying.

Last year, the Center was awarded its first major external grant since the NEH Challenge Grant that began the endowments in 1991. The Business and International Education Program (BIE) of the U.S. Department of Education awarded UAH \$131,000 to be spent over a two year period for the International Business Studies Initiative. Programs involved include the Foreign Language International Trade program (located in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures), the minor in International Business, and the new Certificate in Business Languages.

Among the activities supported by the grant are the development of international internships and study-abroad opportunities. Administered within the Center, the project's co-partners are the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Administrative Science, and the North

Alabama International Trade Association (NAITA). Center Director Johanna Shields and Internship Coordinator Sharron Abernethy (FLL) recently presented the results of the first year's activities to a conference of BIE project directors in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The presentation, entitled "Building Bridges for International Internships in a High-Tech Business Community," emphasized the cooperation between colleges within the university and the business community essential to meeting the project's goals. Local businesses and organizations involved in international trade gave the first year's interns extremely valuable experience, and the interns provided useful services for their hosts.

The Center is also organizing a campus-wide effort to create more opportunities for international study at UAH. Interdisciplinary committees formed in the last academic year are now drafting plans for new courses and cognate programs and for study-abroad opportunities linked to those courses and programs. When plans are completed, a grant proposal will be prepared for the Office of Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, also a part of the U.S. Department of Education.



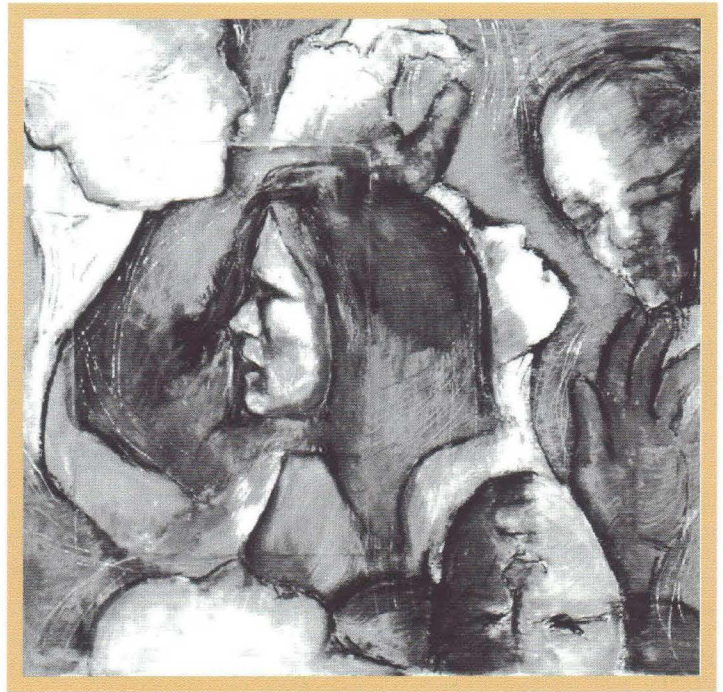
Local organizations hosting internships included Adtran, Madison County Commission Planning and Economic Development (International Trade Office), International Intermodal Center of the Port of Huntsville, Sanmina-SCI, Sparta, Teledyne Brown Engineering, Brownell Travel, Huntsville Stars Professional Baseball Club, Kappler International, Multicultural Information Center.

Humanities Center Brings Three Pulitzer Prize Winners to UAH

In a cooperative effort with the Huntsville Literary Association and with financial support from the Alabama Humanities Foundation the UAH Humanities Center was able to bring poet **Henry Taylor** to speak and co-host a poetry workshop with UAH's Visiting Eminent Scholar, Kelly Cherry. Henry Taylor, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1986 for *The Flying Change* currently teaches at American University in Washington, D.C. His other works include *The Horse Show at Midnight*, *An Afternoon of Pocket Billiards*, *Understanding Fiction: Poems 1986-1996* and *Brief Candles*. His visit to UAH was part of the Humanities Center's "Many Voices, Many Forms: A Symposium on Contemporary Southern Literature."

Also featured at the symposium was **Diane McWhorter**, journalist and author of *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama The Climatic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*. A native of Birmingham, Ms. McWhorter spoke plainly about what inspired the writing of her book and she detailed the personal and professional obstacles that arose during the ten year project. A must read for Alabamians interested in the state's history, the book discusses the culture of Birmingham during the time preceding and during the civil rights revolution and describes in detail the events and some of the players controlling the economic and political machinery of the city. Ms. McWhorter was notified the day after her visit to UAH that she had won the Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction for her book. Congratulations Diane!

Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63* (1988) and *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65* (1998) spoke during UAH's 2001 History Forum — "The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama" — addressing Alabama's pivotal roll in the 1960's civil rights era. A graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, he was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland. His newest endeavor is an ABC Miniseries, "Parting the Waters," based on the first two books in his projected trilogy.



Artwork by Erica Hall

Student Talent is Embraced by the Humanities

The Humanities Center makes special efforts to showcase the talents of the students at UAH. Erica Hall is a senior at UAH, majoring in graphic design with a minor in technical writing. In hopes of acquiring a position in the mentoring program of the Somerset Group in Madison, under the tutelage of Don Dickey, Erica will learn to hone the skills she has learned while at UAH and make her skills more marketable. Erica is not only a graphic artist, but also an artist in the traditional sense as well. Hall, along with the advisory help of Susan Truman-McGlohon, Lecturer in Art and Art History, established and was founding President of the art club Create. Erica has received many honors in her tenure at UAH including a Presidential Scholarship and the Jeff Bayer Memorial Scholarship. She served on the Student Advisory Board for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Two of Erica's pieces were used this past year for humanities-related projects. The first work, "Asunder," was used for the cover of the brochure for "Many Voices, Many Forms: A Symposium on Contemporary Southern Literature." The second work, "Fading," appeared on the cover of UAH's student literary magazine *Arete*.

Public Programs and Faculty Research

The Humanities Center helped fund four symposia during this past academic year with major funding provided to three of the four. The Center's staff provided all of the administrative support for "Many Voices, Many Forms: A Symposium on Contemporary Southern Literature" that featured two Pulitzer Prize winners (see pg. 2) and several award winning authors in the field of Southern literature. This was a cooperative effort between UAH and the Huntsville Literary Association with financial support provided by the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

This year's History Forum "The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama" co-hosted by UAH and Alabama A&M, also featured a Pulitzer Prize winner (see pg. 2). Other invited speakers included civil rights activists and commentators on the history and future of the civil rights movement. Sessions were held from August 30th-December 12th. The Alabama Humanities Foundation also provided financial support for this event.

On June 7-8, the Department of Foreign Languages hosted an international symposium involving guests from Germany, France and a number of universities in the United States. "German Literature Between Faiths: Jew and Christian at Odds and in Harmony" also included contributions from four current UAH faculty members. Peter Meister presented a talk probing Goethe's citation of Matthew in his drama *Faust*. Kelly Cherry, Visiting Eminent Scholar in English, described Thomas Mann as an early influence on her fiction writing. Kwaku Gyasi translated a paper by Danielle Buschinger, and read it aloud for her while she sat nearby to answer questions from the audience. Sponsors for the two-day event included the UAH Humanities Center, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and Phi Kappa Phi, as well as the UAH Student Government Association.

Global Research in the Humanities: Scholarship in the field of the humanities has become broader than its traditional aspects. Global studies in the Humanities emphasize the cultural processes within and among societies as well as the political and social relations among nations. The research grant program of the Humanities Center is designed to help faculty members advance their scholarship through travel and research. The faculty research grant awardees for this year are all concerned with world developments.

Philip Boucher, Professor of History, will continue his work on the two volume history of the French in the greater Caribbean area. The project title of the work is "France and the Caribbean in the Era of Slavery."

Rolf Goebel, Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature, was awarded a subvention to publish his book, "Benjamin Today: City Discourse, Postcoloniality, and Flanerie between Cultures."

Lillian Joyce, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, will once again continue her research on the feminine subject as seen in ancient Roman art. She is using her time at the American Academy in Rome to research and write an article entitled "Amazons, the Goddess Roma, and the Revealed Breast."

Brian Mackintosh, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, travels to Beijing, China, in order to study Chinese at the Beijing Language and Cultural Centre for Diplomatic Missions. He will also pursue research in Asian philosophy with a focus on the philosophical foundations of ethical obligations in China, within a global perspective.

Virginia Martin, Assistant Professor of History, travels to Omsk, Russia, to conduct research in the State Archive of Omsk Province. Her research is for a project on the history of the Middle Horde Kazakh political elites and their relationship with Russian colonial rule in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Carolyn Sanders, Associate Professor of Music, will conduct research about several autographed music manuscripts at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University and the British Museum in London. She will also present a lecture/recital of her work in Baroque performance practice and attend the International Trumpet Guild Conference.

Madeline Youmans, Assistant Professor of English, continues her research and analysis of linguistics in the social-theory framework. She is completing her book tentatively titled "Chicano-Anglo Conversations: Truth, Honesty, and Politeness."

Academic Year 2002-2003 Upcoming Events

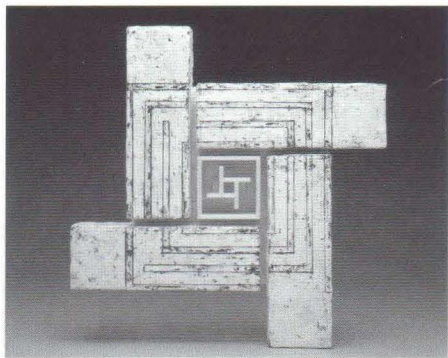
International Historian Edward Ingram Comes to UAH as Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities

UAH will welcome Dr. Ingram for the second time in the spring of 2003. He first visited the university in the spring of 2001 on a short-term basis as part of a new program to identify future eminent scholars for UAH. He is a Professor of Imperial History, Emeritus (Simon Fraser University, Canada); Honorary Research Fellow (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand) and he is the Founder and Editor of *International History Review*.

During his visit at UAH, Dr. Ingram will teach a class on 20th Century European History. In addition, he will speak at local universities and colleges and lecture to the general public here on the campus of UAH. His area of expertise will be of special interest to those unfamiliar with the historical background of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the regions of the world that are so much in the news of current world events.

Structure and Perception: Three Voices of Contemporary Art?

October 13th through November 8th an exhibition featuring the works of **Annette Cone-Skelton** (Museum of Contemporary Arts, Georgia), **Cheryl Goldsleger** (Georgia State, Atlanta) and **Larry Millard** (University of Georgia, Athens) will be held at the Union Grove Gallery and Meeting House. The program will include guest appearances by the master artists with an evening panel discussion as the climax of their visit. The artists will discuss their art (painting and sculpting) and its relation to the world around them, addressing the intellectual, cultural, personal and pro-



fessional growth of both the artist and the community. All events will be free and open to the public. The artwork pictured is the work of Cheryl Goldsleger entitled "No Entry." Watch for "An Evening with the Artists" Oct. 17-18. For more information contact Dr. Deborah Heikes at 824-2335 or heikesd@email.uah.edu

NAAS Continues Successful Lecture Series for Third Year

UAH has invited five guest speakers in response to the popularity of the North Alabama Archaeological Society lecture series. The Center will continue its support of this highly successful series with an extended visit by **Dr. Lanny Bell** (Brown University) an Egyptian Archaeologist in the fall of 2002. Dr. Bell, who visited UAH in the fall of 2000, is renowned in his field and will again be giving lectures to the general public. A tentative schedule of events follows. For more information contact President of the Society, Dr. Lillian Joyce, at 824-2588 or joycel@email.uah.edu.

09/17/02 **Dr. Lanny Bell**, Brown University, "Mummies, Pyramids, and Magic: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know," Pei Ling Chan Auditorium, UAH 7:30 p.m.

09/18/02 **Dr. Lanny Bell**, Egyptian Archaeologist, Hieroglyph Workshop, Union Grove Gallery, 4:00-5:30

09/19/02 **Dr. Lanny Bell**, Brown University "Egyptian Temples and Congregations: Encountering the Divine," Chan Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

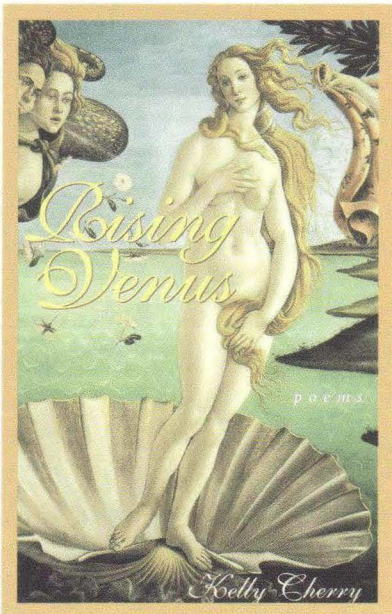
10/14/02 **Dr. Elizabeth Bartman**, Joukowsky Lecturer "Portraits of Barbarians in Roman Art," Chan Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

02/17/03 **Dr. Mark Aldenderfer**, University of California Santa Barbara "Silk Road and Diamond Path: Archaeology of Buddhism in Tibet," Chan Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

03/10/03 **Dr. Francis P. McManamon**, Chief Archeologist, National Park Service "Kennewick Man and American Archaeology," Chan Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

04/08/03 **Dr. David L. Lentz**, Chicago Botanic Garden "The Moonlight Garden: New Discoveries at the Taj Mahal," Chan Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

We're located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uah.edu/humanities>



Kelly Cherry Completes 3rd Year as Visiting Humanities Scholar with New Book

Kelly Cherry, UAH's Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities and Visiting Professor of English, recently had her new book *Rising Venus* published by LSU Press.

This new book is the latest of thirteen written by Ms. Cherry and now available at the Salmon Library.

Those who attended the Center's April symposium on Southern literature had an opportunity to hear Ms. Cherry read a selection from another work in progress. A number of local writers and interested readers attended the poetry workshop Ms. Cherry co-hosted with long-time friend and fellow poet Henry Taylor. Ms. Cherry again revisited UAH this summer to present "Thomas Mann's *Doctor Faustus: A Dialogue Volume*," during a two-day symposium on religion and literature.

Professor Cherry has had a distinguished record as a professor of English and has won numerous writing awards. As a visiting faculty member, she has taught classes on poetry and writing fiction. She also offered poetry and writing workshops to the general public and spoke extensively at nearby colleges, universities and public venues in the Southeast.

The UAH community and those from the Tennessee Valley fortunate enough to have met Kelly, as she prefers to be called, have enjoyed her down to earth personality. Through her books, readers have come to realize she is a philosopher at heart, as perhaps most successful poets are. Pam Kingsbury in her review of *Rising Venus* in *ForeWord* magazine wrote, "It's hard to imagine not returning to the poems in this collection again and again for their beauty, honesty, and humanity."

Preferring the quiet countryside to reflect on the worldviews that subtly permeate her literature, Kelly is now living in Halifax, Virginia. Her life's goal is to fill a bookshelf with books she has written. *Rising Venus* is her latest work, but we anticipate reading many more of her books in the years to come. Perhaps while she visited with us we provided her with material for future stories.

2002 Salmon Library Enhancement Awards

This year almost \$9,000 in materials for the Salmon Library will be purchased to enhance the humanities at UAH. These materials will benefit students taking classes that are required as part of their general education as well as prerequisites for specific degrees. The enhancement of library materials offers them additional resources for term papers and in-depth research into subjects mentioned but not necessarily emphasized in classroom texts.

Individuals with winning proposals included Dr. Sheri Shuck, History; Dr. Laurel Bollinger, English and Drs. Virginia Martin, Sheri Shuck and Stephen Waring with a joint proposal from the History Department.

The history awards supported a new course, a survey providing students with a comparative historical perspective on the development of five major world regions: Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Oceania. Their goal is to help the students acquire a common cultural literacy that is not Eurocentric. This joint proposal of history faculty was a follow-up on last year's award to offer additional materials to students taking the course.

A number of history students will benefit from the additional materials awarded for books on Native American History from 1500 to 1887. These books will supplement seven American history courses that address in part the culture of Native Americans.

The English department in an effort to expand the library's holdings on world literature has been awarded a grant to acquire books on ancient literature from a variety of different cultures including African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Native American and Islamic.

Director:

Johanna Shields

Program Assistants:

Deborah Nelson
Blake Stewart

Steering Committee:

Philip Boucher, History
Glenna Colclough, Sociology
Brian Martine, Philosophy
Peter Meister, Foreign Lang. & Lit.
Rose Norman, English
Bonnie Sneed, Music

Introducing Deborah Nelson and Blake Stewart, the Center's two program assistants.

Friends and supporters of the Center who interact with these talented people by phone and email may enjoy knowing more about them.

Deborah joined the Center in 1999. She manages matters associated with the endowed programs and small grants as well as the daily routine of the office. Blake came to work as a part-time assistant funded by a major external grant and shifted to full-time work in May. He spends most of his time on international program development. Both, however, work on special projects and both contributed to this newsletter.

Prior to joining UAH, Deborah worked as an administrative assistant and office manager with firms headquartered in Memphis and Dallas and as a signal intelligence analyst for the Army. A recent graduate of UAH, Blake is currently completing his M.A. in UAH's Public Affairs graduate program. For more information about the UAH Humanities Center and its programs you may reach Deborah at 824-6583 or nelsond@email.uah.edu and Blake at 824-2576 or stewarb@email.uah.edu

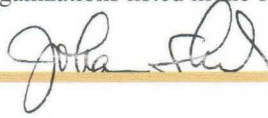
From the Director

When universities first developed in Europe during the Middle Ages, "town and gown" conflict also developed. Tensions have characterized university towns in many times and places since. In contrast, UAH has benefited from a close and friendly relationship with the community it inhabits.

The Humanities Center sponsors public programs on many topics during each year, and some of those deal with controversial issues. Yet the prevailing tone at those programs is rational and tolerant, however spirited the discussions. Strong minds meet at UAH in a way that testifies to the essential role of free inquiry and informed discussion in our democratic society. Here, university and community work together to understand and promote the common good.

We would like to express our appreciation to the many community partners who have helped the Center and its constituent disciplines create lively public discussions and cooperative programs this year. Those include the Alabama Humanities Foundation; the Huntsville Literary Association; the North Alabama International Trade Association; St. John's Catholic Church; Temple B'nai Sholom; Alabama A & M University; schools in the Huntsville and Madison County systems; Senator Hank Sanders; Representative Laura Hall; The Huntsville Times; DESE Research, Inc.; MEVATEC Corp. as well as the business organizations listed in the box on page one.

We look forward to an even more productive future.



UAH

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