

GRADUATION DATES

American University's 122nd Annual Commencement Ceremonies will take place on Saturday, May 11. For the most up-to-date event listings, please visit www.american.edu/commencement.

May 8
Senior Week Final Farewell
Location TBD

May 10
Phi Beta Kappa Induction
10:30 a.m., Kay Chapel

May 10
Baccalaureate Service
12:30 p.m., Kay Chapel

May 10
Honors Convocation
2 p.m., Eric Friedheim
Quadrangle (rain site:
Bender Arena)

May 10
Toast to Graduates
8 p.m., Katzen Arts Center

May 11
CAS Commencement Ceremony
1 p.m., Bender Arena
Reception to follow in the
Katzen Arts Center Rotunda

CAS FACULTY HONOREES



Amos Golan, economics
*Outstanding Scholarship, Research,
and Other Professional Contributions*



**Gail Humphries Mardirosian,
performing arts**
*Outstanding Service to the University
Community*

RETIRING FACULTY

Frederick W. Carson, chemistry
I-Lok Chang, mathematics and statistics
Joan Gero, anthropology
Derek Horton, chemistry
Mark Oxman, art
David G. Sadker, education, teaching
and health
Bruno F. Steinbruckner, language and
foreign studies

25 YEARS OF SERVICE HONOREES

Gail Humphries Mardirosian,
performing arts



Photo by Jeff Watts

Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

Vera Borkovec (professor emerita, language and foreign studies) published *Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad* (Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, 2007).

Alina Israeli (language and foreign studies) published "Russian Conjunction: Two Types of Uncertainty," *Journal of Uncertain Studies* (Winter, 2007).

SPEAKER'S CORNER

In December, **George Ayittey (economics)** was one of six experts on African economics who participated in a debate, "Aid to Africa is Doing More Harm than Good." Held at the Asia Society and Museum in New York City and moderated by Brian Lehrer, host of NPR's *The Brian Lehrer Show*, the debate was part of the *Intelligence Squared* U.S. debate series. The series is produced in New York City by the Rosenkranz Foundation.

In November, **Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies)** gave a lecture on the Internet's effects on language, at the headquarters of Telenor, a Norwegian telecommunications company.

In October, **Helen Langa (art)** delivered a lecture, "Lesbians in the Closet, Women Artists, Professionalism, and Same Sex Affection," at the Southeastern College Art Association Conference in Charleston, West Virginia.

In November, **Jeffrey Reiman (philosophy and religion)** presented "Consent of the Governed" at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam.

In November, **Brian Yates (psychology)** took part in a panel discussion, "Cost and Sustainability Checklist: Theory and Practice," at the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association in Baltimore.

IN THE MEDIA

The *Washington Post* quoted **Mustafa Aksakal (history)** on the potential effects of Benazir Bhutto's recent assassination on the Middle Eastern political climate (December 28, 2007).

Family Bonds, a book by **Ellen Feder (philosophy and religion)**, was cited in the Sunday cultural supplement of the Italian newspaper *Sole-24 Ore* (January 27, 2008).

In November, **David Keplinger (literature)** had his poem "Life on Earth" read by Garrison Keillor on the NPR Program, *The Writer's Almanac*. To read the poem, visit CAS Connections online at www.american.edu/cas/connections/08april1.cfm.

In December, **Peter Kuznick (history)** was interviewed by *Farsnews* in Tehran about the latest developments in Iran's nuclear program and the ongoing threat of war.

Allan Lichtman (history) was quoted in the article "In Presidential Politics, Iowa Still Packs a Wallop" in the *Seattle Times* (December 31, 2007). He was also interviewed in January by CTV regarding Hillary Clinton's narrow win over Barack Obama in New Hampshire's Democratic primary.

Charles S. J. White (philosophy and religion) had his English translation of Jayshankar Prasad's poem, "Ansu (Tears)," reviewed in *Swatantra Varta*, a daily periodical based in India. (December, 2007).

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

In December, **Robert Beisner (professor emeritus, history)** won the Douglas Dillon Award from the American Academy of Diplomacy for his book *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War*.

Harvey Grossinger (literature) received the 2007 Dana Award for his novel, *The Caretaker's Niece*. He also received a 2007 Creative Project Grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Anna University, a member of the Association of Indian Universities and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and a partner of the UNESCO International Center for Engineering Education, ranked **Priyanka Komala (MS computer science '09)** fifth among 30,000 electronics and communication engineering undergraduate students in the entire state of Tamil Nadu, India. Komala graduated from the university in 2007.

In January, **Joan Radner (professor emerita, literature)** was elected chair of the board of directors of the National Storytelling Network.

Richard Sha (literature) received a Benjamin Franklin Research Award from the American Philosophical Society to complete research for his upcoming book, *Towards a Physiology of the Romantic Imagination*.

The American Library Association awarded a grant to the American University Library to reprise the "Let's Talk about It" book discussion series in fall 2008. The series is cosponsored by CAS's **Jewish Studies Program**.

Philip Johnson (computer science, audio technology, and physics) was awarded a two-year Cottrell College Science Award from the Research Corporation to support his research on ultracold physics.

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CAS

connections

APRIL 2008
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Helping Kids Choose Healthy Lifestyles

Photo by Jeff Watts

When the federal Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act passed in 2004, it became crunch time for schools across the country. The law required all public schools to evaluate their nutrition and exercise programs and establish new, effective student wellness policies by the 2006–2007 school year.

Amidst the worry that ensued, Stacey Snelling recognized a timely—but golden—opportunity: What if AU's health promotion management graduate students worked with local districts to evaluate the efficacy of their current nutrition and exercise plans? For the communities involved, it would mean program evaluations conducted by skilled volunteers; for the students, it would provide valuable work experience in a nascent area of health policy promotion. "It was a community service opportunity that would also provide students with really cutting-edge research projects," says Snelling, who teaches in the School of Education, Teaching, and Health and has directed SETH's undergraduate program in health promotion management since 1997.

Arlington County was the first to sign on. In 2005, Snelling and Casey Korba (MS health promotion management '05) went into three Arlington high schools to answer two questions: What types of foods were offered in the schools' cafeterias, and which ones were students actually buying?

The results were alarming on both counts. While foods associated with the national school lunch program conformed to nutrition standards by law, these traditional meals accounted for only a small portion of sales. Most kids were buying "competitive foods"—a la carte items that are responsible for a growing amount of school revenue and are not held to the same stringent federal nutrition standards. Most of these foods were low in nutritional value and high in calories and fat—and, says Snelling, "that's what the kids were going for."

"We had a hypothesis that competitive foods are diluting the nutritional value of the lunch program," adds Korba. "What was surprising was just how bad it actually was."

In addition to providing Arlington schools with quantitative data on what their students were consuming at lunch, Snelling

and Korba also advised the schools to work with vendors to decrease the amount of unhealthy competitive food offerings and increase the healthy ones. Their research and recommendations were published in the American School Health Association's *Journal of School Health* in December 2007.

"For me, the biggest lesson was that the schools are doing this because their hands are really tied," says Korba. "The competitive foods are bringing in a lot of revenue [that the schools need]. We sit in our classrooms and read about these theories and talk about how we're going to change the world, but it's more complex than that. Having this experience in the real world gave me an opportunity to see how to make change and why it's so hard to do."

The project also provided a springboard for follow-up thesis work by other graduate students in the program. Currently, Teha Kennard and Jennifer Yezek (both MS health promotion management '08) are making subsequent wellness program recommendations and conducting follow-up evaluations to determine how much better kids' diets are as a result of the reauthorization bill's implementation. In addition, Nicole Reynolds (MS health promotion management '08) began working with Snelling to investigate physical activity patterns among middle and high school students in D.C. Public Schools.

These projects are the most recent examples of the health promotion management program's long-standing philosophies being put into action. "When we started the MS program in 1980, the idea was that we would also provide a real-world experience to complement the classroom setting," says Bob Karch, director of the health promotion management master's program. "Snelling's work is an example of how we try to get students involved in real-life experiences."

At a time when childhood obesity in America is increasing, it's also a project of acute relevance. "The habits of middle and high school students are likely to stay with them as adults," says Snelling. "When you look at that, forming healthy habits and maintaining health at an early age is essential."

ART MATTERS



Courtesy of Annemarie Kaim Collins

"If fine arts were supported like sports are in our society, there would be no starving artists," notes Annemarie Kaim Collins (MFA fine arts '87). An artist and poet currently living in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Collins dedicates much of her time and energy to elevating the role of art in society by raising arts awareness and increasing opportunities for artists and writers of all ages.

Most recently, she established the Anne K. Collins Scholarship endowment at American University—a fund dedicated to providing opportunities to MFA students in studio art and creative writing. "People who follow paths of creativity do not have the same guarantees in life as those pursuing other professions," Collins says. "I wanted to create this fund at AU, which had a major role in shaping me as an artist, to help fine artists and writers do what they really want to do."

In 2003, Collins cofounded Athens on the Opequon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting interest in traditional poetry, literature, and fine arts in the Martinsburg area and beyond. Once a month, society members meet to facilitate workshops with local writers, and they are regularly invited to speak at local schools about issues related to cultural awareness and arts appreciation. The group also organizes "Hearts for the Arts," a two-day, biannual festival that features more than 50 writers, painters, photographers, and artists who, through sharing and selling their work, demonstrate the importance arts have within the community.

Collins's artwork has been exhibited in galleries in Washington, D.C., and New York, New York. A native of Germany, she also has two paintings hanging in an office building of the German parliament.

Collins welcomes AU students, staff, faculty, and alumni to exhibit their work at Athens on the Opequon's upcoming "Fall for the Arts" festival, scheduled for September 13–14 in nearby Martinsburg. For more information, visit www.athens-poetry-club.org or contact Collins directly at 304-267-7567 or annemarie@ix.netcom.com.

—Contributed by CAS's Office of Development



Photo by Garrett Harkins



Photos by Jessica Tabak

SPOTLIGHTING STUDENT ART

Since the 1950s, AU's Department of Art has held a spring student art show. "Student shows foster peer recognition and peer dialogue," says Luis Silva, chair of the department. "They allow student work to go out into the world, to be discussed, and to raise important issues."

This year's AU Art Department Student Art Exhibitions will take place April 1–May 18 in the American University Museum. From April 1–6, undergraduate studio art and graphic design work will be on display, followed by first-year MFA student work from April 10–15 and graduating MFA student thesis projects from April 18–May 18. An artists' reception for graduating MFA students will take place in the Katzen Arts Center on April 18 from 6 to 9 p.m.; during the reception, student studios will also be open to the public.

Since the fall 2005 opening of the Katzen, the show's scope has widened. With considerably more space than the Watkins Gallery, AU's former exhibition venue, the museum "allows us to really showcase the program more fully," says Silva. "A lot more space means being able to share more of what is going on in our classrooms."

In addition, students have benefited from the museum's high profile within the local art community. "The more critical the venue, the more their work goes into the public eye," says Silva. "Graduate students who have exhibited in these Katzen shows have gone on to get picked up by the Arlington Art Center, the Option Show, and other local art venues. It really has improved the ability of a lot of these students to get their art out to other venues."

Orit Siman Tov. *Rescue Excavation, Jaffa "Hkishle,"* 2007. Color print. 60 x 90 cm. Courtesy of the artist

Israel through Its Artists' Eyes



Courtesy of Russell Stone

Eli Gur Arie. *Untitled*, 2003. Mixed media. 60 x 45.1 x 24.8 cm. Courtesy of Rosenfeld Gallery

AU's Center for Israel Studies "is always seeking ways to reach out to the university and greater community," says Russell Stone, sociology professor and the center's director. "Being able to mount a show at the American University Museum gives us a great opportunity to do that."

Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel will be on display at the museum from April 1–May 18 as the result of a generous gift from the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation. Part of the center's yearlong celebration of Israel's 60th birthday, the exhibit features the work of 15 young Israeli artists working in a wide variety of visual media. "It's a way of looking at the 60th anniversary of Israel through the lens of its artists," says Jack Rasmussen, the show's curator and director of the museum. "It will be an interesting show for Israel to see."

The show also presents a unique opportunity for the D.C. community. "These are artists who have won awards and exhibited in some of the best museums and galleries in Israel," says Tamar Mayer, director of cultural affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. "It's a very strong, diverse, and accomplished group, and it's very exciting to have them here in D.C."

The show's pieces are tied together by the literal and figurative idea of landscapes, both physical and ideological. "A lot of the work takes symbols of Israel—the olive tree, bomb shelters, pre-fab government buildings in Gaza, backyards and alleys of Tel Aviv—and looks beyond their surface at what's behind these images," Rasmussen explains. "These artists are taking a hard, critical look at their world from an individual, human point of view."

Last December, Stone and Rasmussen traveled to Israel in search of the pieces that would become *Personal Landscapes*. Led by Dalia Levin, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Herzliya, Israel, the pair visited dozens of private galleries, museums, and government-subsidized artists' studios in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa to find the approximately 50 pieces that will compose the exhibit.

Since its founding in 1998, the Center for Israel Studies has been committed to presenting the multifaceted contributions Israel has made to the world at large. "Most people know Israel based on war and conflict, but it's a full-fledged society making strides in science, business, and art," explains Adina Kanefield, the center's deputy director. "The center looks to introduce the university community to the many facets of Israel studies—it's about broadening horizons."



Courtesy of Natalie Hanson, except amphipod images, courtesy of Daniel Fong

Evolutionary Concepts

It's a question that has fueled more than one science fiction film: what sort of evolutionary changes occur within a species when—by virtue of choice, tides, or dumb luck—its members exist, generation after generation, in a cave environment?

Natalie Hanson (MS biology '08) is replacing some of the fiction with fact. Since fall 2007, Hanson has been actively researching the metabolic rates of cave amphipods in comparison to their above-ground counterparts. "The lack of light means that most of the food in a cave is stuff that gets washed in," she explains. "Because of the sparse food supply, you don't want a super-fast metabolism that requires you to eat all the time."

While research exists that examines the metabolic rates of cave organisms, Hanson's methodology is unique. To date, the vast majority of these studies have used respiratory chambers to measure organisms' oxygen consumption and thus determine their metabolic rates. But these chambers are quite large in comparison to amphipods—shrimp-like creatures that are about a centimeter long—and the considerable size disparity can lead to inaccurate measurements. For her experiments, Hanson is introducing stable isotopes into the amphipods' food, where they act as a chemical tracer. "If you introduce an isotope into an organism's diet, you can

watch it accumulate and calculate the organism's metabolic rate based on this accumulation," she says.

Hanson's research consists of three phases, with each one representing a different length of evolutionary separation. Currently, she is comparing cave and surface amphipods of the same species; the second phase will compare cave and surface amphipods of the same genus but different species, and the third will compare cave and surface amphipods of different species and genera. The hypothesis? "That there will be a connection between the metabolic rate and length of evolutionary time spent in caves," says Hanson. "The longer the species has been in caves, the slower its metabolism will be."

In addition to winning a fall 2007 Mellon research grant, Hanson has received financial support from the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., and the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and managing caves and karst resources in Virginia and West Virginia. "Part of conservation is gaining knowledge," says Hanson. "By supporting research, the organization both adds to the knowledge base [related to caves and cave life] and gets the message out about the importance of cave conservation."

PRIZE WINNERS – 2008 MATHIAS STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Arts and Humanities

Best Research by a Freshman or Sophomore
Jake Silva, international studies

Best Research by a Junior or Senior (tie)
David Moak, history and economics
Kate Gastner, history

Best Research by a Graduate Student
Maxwell Uphaus, literature

Best Reading
Stacia Yearwood, literature

Best Performance by a Junior or Senior
Alysa Gillis, dance production and education

Best Performance by a Freshman or Sophomore
Julia Imbriaco

Best Poster
Rachel Schaengold, graphic design

Sciences

Best Research by a Junior or Senior
Johanna Teske, physics

Best Qualitative Study by a Graduate Student
Pamela Ochs, computer science

Best Quantitative Study by a Graduate Student
Natalie Hanson, biology

Best Poster of Original Research by a Junior or Senior—Morning Session (joint prize)
Arielle Burlett, public communication
Rebekah Mcknight, international studies
Jeremy Silver, environmental studies
Marie Stratton, biology

Best Poster of a Demonstration or Illustration by a Graduate Student—Morning Session
Lauren Girard, chemistry

Best Poster of Original Research by a Graduate Student—Morning Session
Cara Rabin, post-baccalareate

Best Poster of Original Research by a Junior or Senior—Afternoon Session
Josh Levitz, biology

Best Poster of a Demonstration or Illustration by a Junior or Senior—Afternoon Session (tie)
Ashley Miller, biology
Madeline Innis, biology

Best Poster of Original Research by a Graduate Student—Afternoon Session
Jennifer Rinker, psychology

Social Sciences

Best Qualitative Study by an Undergraduate
Chad Kistler, sociology

Best Quantitative Study by an Undergraduate (tie)
Travis McArthur, International Studies and Economics
Sonya Hetrick, economics

Best Qualitative Study by a Graduate Student
Rose Ediger, anthropology

Best Quantitative Study by a Graduate Student
Lina Salazar, economics

Best Poster
Kyrie Bannar, interdisciplinary studies: communications, legal institutions, economics, and government

A CIVIC SOCIOLOGY

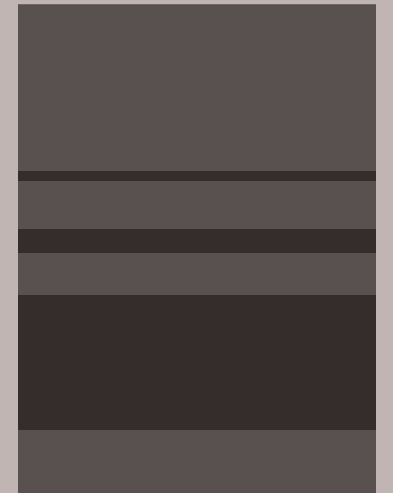
Doug Klayman (PhD sociology '98) is working to bring sociologists out of their offices and into the communities they study. "We are seen as being separated from the world we do research in, and I don't see this as an advantage to a social scientist at all," he says. "I've always wanted to do work where I'm involved, not only as a researcher, but as a sociologist in the community."

After 14 years working for companies focused on federal grant research, Klayman formed Social Dynamics, a consulting company that works primarily with nonprofit and community-based organizations in the D.C. metropolitan area. Now, he says, "I don't just do research—I facilitate community groups and consult with nonprofit executives. Through my work, I try to empower people to think of themselves as agents of change for themselves and their communities. Socioeconomically disadvantaged people can come together and make a difference in their communities if they realize they have the power to do so."

Since fall 2007, Klayman has taught the Department of Sociology's public sociology seminar, which focuses on social marketing, community activism, and program evaluation. Additionally, he is the coordinator of the department's MA concentration in public sociology. Recently developed under a grant from the Sloan Foundation, the concentration emphasizes the hands-on civic work that has characterized Klayman's recent work. "Public sociologists use their sociological training to become civically engaged, help solve social problems, and improve social policies themselves," he says. "It's the concentration I would have wanted as a graduate student if it had existed back then."

"Through my work, I try to empower people to think of themselves as agents of change for themselves and their communities."

Doug Klayman (PhD sociology '98)



Discovering Lost Histories

Lithographs by David L. Bloch

As many as 15,000 Jewish deaf people were killed in Hitler's Europe. But Morris Field—Polish, Jewish, and deaf—held onto life by a needle and thread. Field's skilled work as a professional tailor sewing German soldiers' uniforms, coupled with his ability to conceal his deafness through deft lip-reading, helped him survive five concentration camps before being liberated and eventually relocating to the United States in 1950.

Field is one of a dwindling number of Deaf Holocaust survivors whose testimonies Simon Carmel (PhD anthropology '87) has sought out and documented for over 25 years. "Deaf survivors managed to keep themselves alive as silent witnesses by hiding their deafness or not revealing their [knowledge of] sign language," he says. "Otherwise, deaf survivors would be immediately killed, as the Nazi program sought a pure Aryan race without physically disabled or mentally ill people." In addition to the thousands of murdered deaf Jews, more than 17,500 German non-Jewish deaf people underwent forced sterilization.

Carmel's work began in 1980. While presenting his work on Jewish deaf folklore at the biennial national convention of the National Congress of Jewish Deaf in Washington, D.C., Carmel invited several deaf Holocaust survivors onto the stage to share their stories. "Their testimonies struck me so hard, and I decided to start collecting the stories of Deaf Holocaust survivors to preserve them," says Carmel.

At that time it was an area of Holocaust scholarship that had been conspicuously neglected, primarily because of hearing researchers' inability to understand sign language. Instead of employing interpreters, most researchers simply failed to record the testimony of deaf survivors, leaving them silent witnesses to the horrors of Nazi Europe for the better part of four decades.

Carmel's efforts to create a record of Deaf Holocaust survivors' experiences—a project that, as the years advance, becomes increasingly urgent—have garnered him international attention. He has shared his research at conferences including the Sixth Deaf History International Congress in Berlin, Germany, in the summer of 2006, and Gallaudet University's 1998 international conference "Deaf People in Hitler's Europe: 1933–1945." His work has been supported by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

By casting light on the stories of Deaf Holocaust survivors, Carmel also hopes to make people aware that there are deaf witnesses to more contemporary atrocities as well. "Think of the deaf people who may have witnessed the genocides in Serbia, Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Darfur, and so on," he says. "We [need] to interview them regarding their personal experiences as witnesses to what was happening."



Courtesy of Yuliya Gorenman

Beethoven, Unabridged

As monumental an endeavor as the Gorenman Beethoven Project is, pianist Yuliya Gorenman seems destined to undertake it. “I love Beethoven and I have played him my entire life,” says the AU musician in residence. “In fact, before my very first public performance when I was seven years old, my dad gave me a music score as a gift, and guess what it was? One of Beethoven’s piano sonatas.”

Gorenman grew up in Kazakhstan, a country nestled between Russia and China that was then part of the Soviet Union. As a young performer, Gorenman was surrounded by Beethoven’s work. “For some reason, they decided he was Lenin’s favorite composer, so [his music] was used as a propaganda tool,” she recalls. The government’s favorite selection was the “Appassionata” (Sonata No. 23), and Gorenman became intimately familiar—if somewhat disenchanted—with the piece. “Every time there was some kind of event, they would drag me from wherever I was and make me play it over and over again. It took me awhile to recover.”

“This project,” she adds wryly, “was a way to face my demons, so to speak.”

Spanning eight concerts over the course of four years, the Gorenman Beethoven Project finds Gorenman playing all 32 of the composer’s piano sonatas in chronological order—a venture that very few pianists

have attempted. The project began in October with sonatas 1–4; it will continue with sonatas 5–8 on Friday, April 11, at 8 p.m., in the Katzen Arts Center’s Abramson Family Recital Hall. “The sonatas are getting more dramatic,” Gorenman jokes, “and so the plot is thickening.”

Approaching the sonatas chronologically has led Gorenman to important discoveries about the composer’s musical evolution. “Once I began to study the pieces this way, I began to see Beethoven’s musical language transformed by each successive piece,” she says. “With each sonata, he picks up where he left off. I had never thought about it like that before because I was doing one piece at a time—now I’m looking at it as a cycle. There’s definitely continuity.”

“I’m sharing this experience with my students,” she adds. “Many of them are actually playing the very same pieces that I am playing.”

“It’s been one of my biggest ambitions of my performing life, and if I have a chance to share it with my colleagues, my audience, and my students, that makes it 10 times more worth it. I’m pretty grateful I have this opportunity. It makes me grow as a musician, which is the best thing in the world.”

Hear Gorenman demonstrate the musical progression of Beethoven’s pianp sonatas at: www.american.edu/cas/connections/08april1.cfn



Courtesy of Library of Congress, prints and photographs Division



Courtesy of Library of Congress, prints and photographs Division

HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN'S HISTORY

“We have a lot of scholars researching gender and women’s history on campus,” says history professor Pamela Nadell. “With the inaugural Patrick Clendenen Conference, we really wanted to highlight our own.”

As the Department of History’s first Patrick Clendenen Professor, Nadell organized “With Vision Flying: New Perspectives on Women’s and Gender History,” held March 25–26 on AU’s main campus. “Nearly everyone on the conference program [was] an AU faculty member, visiting scholar, or former PhD student,” she says. “It puts us on the map in a certain way.” The wide variety of topics—from the diaries of nineteenth-century farm women to women’s roles in art history to the politics behind dieting—also emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of women’s and gender history.

Mary Elizabeth Graydon founded the Patrick Clendenen Endowment fund in the late 1800s. The fund, named after her grandfather, serves to promote both the educational advancement of women within the field of history and research related to women’s and gender history. Presently, the fund is being used to support the rotating Clendenen professorship and the biyearly conference; the history department will also offer a Patrick Clendenen graduate fellowship to an entering student in fall 2008.



Courtesy of the Algebra Project

UNLOCKING MATH'S POWER

On March 15, Robert Moses delivered the Sixth Alliance for Quality Urban Education (AQUE) Symposium's keynote presentation to a full audience of teachers, principals, administrators, AU students, education and mathematics professors, and civil rights enthusiasts. His talk, "Improving Mathematics Education in Urban Schools," addressed ways to improve mathematics performance in urban middle and high schools. Jason Kamras, special assistant to the chancellor of D.C. Public Schools, offered welcoming remarks. Kamras was formerly a DCPS math teacher at Sousa Middle School and was awarded the National Teacher of the Year Award by President Bush in 2005.

A civil rights activist, doctor of philosophy, and former math teacher, Moses is founder and president of the Algebra Project Inc., a national nonprofit that strives to ensure that quality mathematics education is accessible to all children via the public school system. Moses's work focuses on the role of mathematical literacy in empowering rural poor and inner-city students.

The message was particularly germane to AU's education program, which operates several alternative certification programs—including the AQUE program—as a means of helping improve the teaching quality in D.C. schools. "The shortage of qualified teachers of mathematics is at a critical level nationally, and finding dedicated teachers willing to work in urban classrooms is difficult to say the least," says Danielle Sodani, special projects coordinator in the School of Education, Teaching and Health. "We hope the event, and Professor Moses's insights on math literacy as an urban and civil rights issue, will inform the city's teachers and leaders and AU's education programs."



Self-portrait by Chemi Montes-Armenteros

Don't let the Star Wars Legos hanging in his office fool you—Chemi Montes-Armenteros is a professional preparing other professionals. "I try to make students understand that anything worth doing is worth doing well," says AU's graphic design program director. "I set professional levels of expectation so they'll take pride in their work and push themselves and see what they can really do."

Montes-Armenteros came from Spain to the United States to attend Pennsylvania State University's graphic design MFA program. He stayed in State College, Pennsylvania, for two and a half years after graduation but found himself wanting to branch out from the college town. He explains, "When you find yourself in a town where everyone is progressively younger than you are, it's easy to decide to move to a metropolitan area."

He joined American University's Department of Art as a graphic design professor in 1999. "For a designer to be a good designer, they need to be a very well-rounded individual, and most art school curricula can't provide that exposure to their students," he says. "Art students at AU take courses in other disciplines that students in dedicated art schools aren't exposed to. That's why I'm here."

In addition to his work in the classroom, Montes-Armenteros has designed posters for Department of Performing Arts events since 2006—a job he shares with his fellow faculty member Kate Resnick. "It allows an outlet for the faculty to do not-for-profit work in addition to continuing working with clients," he explains. "If you're not doing professional work consistently, you find yourself falling out of touch with what the profession expects—and you can't provide students with what they need if you don't know what the profession expects."

In his rare spare moments, Montes-Armenteros may be found partaking in one of several hobbies, some of which betray "both my geekiness and my age." A self-professed movie lover with "a weakness toward sci-fi—even bad sci-fi," Montes-Armenteros also plays guitar and has started collecting Madelman articulated action figures from 1970s Spain that his father wouldn't buy for him as a kid. He jokes, "I play with them the way grown men play with toys—put them on a shelf, take them down to look at them occasionally, and then put them back."

What's Happening

For a complete calendar of events, visit www.american.edu/cas/events.cfm.

Through APRIL 20

Architecture/Sculpture

American University Museum
The world around us can both provide inspiration and create vast opportunities for artistic creation. John Beardsley, a senior lecturer at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and the Washington Sculptors Group present submissions responding to the configuration and scale of the Katzen Arts Center, including its material, color, light, and experiential qualities. Free

Through MAY 11

William Christenberry: Site/Possession

American University Museum
This exhibition features 50 rarely exhibited drawings and the *Klan Room Tableau*, which consists of more than 200 works. Free

Through MAY 18

Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel

American University Museum
The exhibit features works from 15 emerging Israeli artists that reveal the physical, emotional, and intellectual landscape of contemporary Israel. Free

Through MAY 18

Willem de Looper

American University Museum
This one-person show examines de Looper's unique contributions to color field abstraction developed during the past 50 years. Free

Through MAY 18

American University Art Department: Student Exhibitions

American University Museum
American University's Department of Art showcases work by undergraduate (April 1–6), first-year MFA (April 10–15), and MFA thesis students (April 19–May 18). Painting, prints, sculptures, design, and video installations will be included. Free

Through MAY 18

Photos from the Prague Quadrennial 2007

Katzen Arts Center, Kreeger Lobby
This selection of 30 photographs was taken at the Prague Quadrennial 2007's 11th International Competitive Exhibition of Scenography and Theatre Architecture. The exhibit was made possible by the Embassy of the Czech Republic. Free

APRIL 10

Reception: Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel

6–8 p.m., Katzen Arts Center, Kreeger Lobby
This reception will celebrate the opening of Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel at the American University Museum.

APRIL 10–12

Do I Hear A Waltz?

April 10–11: 8 p.m., April 12: 2 p.m.
Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
In this musical, a single thirty-something American falls in love for the first time while on a vacation in Venice. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 11

The Gorenman Beethoven Project

8 p.m., Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
In the second of eight recitals, American University musician in residence Yuliya Gorenman presents four of Beethoven's piano sonatas. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 12

American University Gospel Choir

Noon, Katzen Arts Center Rotunda
The American University Gospel Choir renders a concert of spirituals, traditional gospel, and contemporary gospel music. Come and enjoy the hand-dapping, toe-tapping, swaying songs to uplift the soul. Free

APRIL 12

The American University Brass Ensemble

3 p.m., Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 13

Kids @ the Katzen: Landscapes

1–3 p.m., American University Museum
Young artists will create a wall drawing inspired by the the AU Museum exhibit Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel. Space is limited, so register in advance. Materials fee: \$7 (cash only, please).

Literary Journeys



Courtesy of Keith Leonard



Courtesy of Michael Manson

It's said there's much to learn by walking a mile in someone else's shoes, and two summer courses will give students a chance to put this maxim into practice. Sponsored by the Department of Literature, American Romantics at Home and From Harlem to Paris invite the AU community to experience places that inspired some of America's most celebrated artists.

A nine-week course that begins with eight weeks of classroom reading and discussion, *The American Romantics at Home* culminates in a weeklong stay in Concord, Massachusetts. Ralph Waldo Emerson spent most of his adult life in Concord, and "all the Romantics were connected to Emerson," says course professor Michael Manson. Louisa May Alcott grew up reading books in his study, and Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau were his longtime friends. On one memorable day, Hawthorne was able to persuade both Emerson and Thoreau to go ice-skating with him on the frozen Concord River.

While students will spend much of their time in Concord, they will also take day trips to nearby literary sites and cap off each day with a swim in Walden Pond. "The Romantics believed that you remake a landscape when you take it in," says Manson. "We're not just seeing sights—what we're there to do is reflect on the sites and remake them in our own imaginations."

From Harlem to Paris invites students to reflect and respond to a very different landscape—that of Paris, France. During the time between World Wars I and II, many Harlem Renaissance writers and artists—Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Josephine Baker, and Romare Bearden among them—were drawn to the city's apparent political and racial liberation. Some visited; others never returned to America.

After six weeks in the classroom, students in the course will spend a week in Paris. There they will take walking tours designed to mirror the pilgrimages of these artists, while allowing for diversions—like stopping by the most popular chocolate shop in Paris—that capture the local flavor. "Experiencing the beauty of the city itself helps you see how Paris was an inspiration for these writers," says Keith Leonard, course professor.

It also allows students to experience "the outsider stigma" that these artists often faced—because of their race at home, and their nationality abroad. "Students last year told me they got a sense of what it was like for people to project an identity on you," says Leonard. "They experienced a kind of otherness that comes with stereotyping and were able to better understand what liberation from it would mean."



Still from Ratatouille: © 2007 Disney/Pixar

THE MATHEMATICS OF COMPUTER ANIMATION

Fifty years ago, few people would have believed that the craft of animation would soon be as much about math as it is about art. But since the late 1980s, computers and mathematics have played an increasingly vital role in the making of animated films. This trend culminated in 1995, when Pixar Animation Studios designed *Toy Story*, the first computer-animated, full-length movie in history.

On April 4, Tony DeRose explained the mathematical engineering behind the computer animation process to a full audience of AU students and faculty. A Pixar senior scientist who contributed heavily to the studio's 1998 Oscar-winning short, "Geri's Game," DeRose discussed how types of math both traditional and cutting-edge contribute to creating computer-animated forms.

The presentation was the Department of Mathematics and Statistics' third annual April Fool's Day lecture; the department also hosts a Halloween lecture each year. Past talks have explored the role of mathematics in everything from M. C. Escher's drawings to sailors' knots to *The Simpsons*. "We're trying to reach out to as broad an audience as we can," says Jeff Hakim, the department's chair. "We'd like to break down these notions that math is a cold, hard subject and show that it can actually be beautiful."

APRIL 16
Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall
Guest speaker is Ken Reinert of George Mason University. Free

APRIL 16
TESOL Spring Open House
6–7:30 p.m. Mary Graydon Center Room 200
This session will highlight degree opportunities as well as give participants a chance to speak to faculty and alumni. Registration required. Free

APRIL 17
Open Arts Night
6–8 p.m. American University Museum
Enjoy an after-hours opportunity to see the latest AU Museum exhibitions.

APRIL 18
The Majesty of the Blues
8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
American University's Jazz Ensemble performs blues classics. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 18
Artists' Reception
6–9 p.m. American University Museum
Celebrate five new exhibits: Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel; Willem de Looper; American University Art Department: Student Exhibitions; and Photos from the Prague Quadrennial 2007. MFA thesis students will also open their on-campus studios to reception attendees. Free

APRIL 18–19
Still (in) Motion: American University Dance Program
8 p.m. Greenberg Theatre
This spring dance concert presents selections of new work in a variety of genres and styles, representing the diversity of dance within American University's dance program. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 19
TESOL: Race, Gender, Identity, and Being Seen as a Professional
9 a.m.–3 p.m. Butler Pavilion, Butler Board Room
This session will discuss how identity stereotypes affect perception and performance in the field. Registration required. Free

APRIL 20
A Tribute to American Music
3 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
The American University Wind Ensemble presents a program that includes songs by John Philip Sousa and Claude Smith. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

APRIL 23
Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall
Guest speaker is Graciela Kaminsky of George Washington University. Free

APRIL 24
TESOL Categorical Pizza
8–9 p.m. Mary Graydon Center, Room 247
Robin Barr, TESOL's linguist in residence, will discuss the principles of categorical perception and implications for TESOL professionals. Registration required. Free

APRIL 25–27
AU Chorus and Symphony: Beethoven's Ninth
Open Dress Rehearsal April 25: 8 p.m.
April 26: 8 p.m.; April 27: 3 p.m.
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
The American University Chorus and the American University Symphony Orchestra conclude their 2007–2008 season. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-ARTS.

MAY 4
Graduate MFA Student Reading
3 p.m. Kay Spiritual Life Center
Experience our MFA program's rich diversity of voices at a group reading featuring our 2007–2008 graduates. Free

MAY 11
American University's 122nd Annual Commencement Ceremonies
See listings on page 8 for details.