Successful Launch of Graduate Summer Fellowship
—Continued Financial Support from Our Friends Remains Crucial

This past summer, the Center hosted its first Tennessen Graduate Research Fellow, named in honor of Center executive director emerita Carol Tennessen, who retired in 2004. At a small ceremony in the Center library last spring, Carol Tennessen formally handed the award to Karen Keddy, a Ph.D. candidate in architecture. Also in attendance were Dale Jaffe, outgoing interim Dean of the Graduate School, without whose help the fellowship could not have been launched, Professor Sherry Ahrentzen (Architecture), Ms. Keddy’s adviser, and Center director Daniel Sherman.

With the aid of the fellowship, which freed her from other responsibilities, Keddy spent countless hours at her Center office between early June and late August, working toward the completion of her dissertation entitled “Embodied Professionalism: The Relationship between the Physical Nature of Nursing Work and Nursing Spaces.” Keddy’s work, as noted also by the Center’s selection committee, is powerfully multi-disciplinary. It speaks to the fields of architecture, environment behavior research, nursing, and women’s studies and draws extensively on, among others, feminist post-structuralist theory and research methodology.

“Having my own office where I could spread out all my books and papers and be able to leave them out was enormously helpful for me,” Keddy says. Virtually every afternoon this past summer, Keddy would appear at the Center, turn on her computer, and absorb herself in her work well into the evening. Often, she also came in on weekends, to enjoy even quieter conditions on the normally

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From the Director

In discussions last spring of plans for the Center’s new research theme, States of Autonomy, a member of the Center’s Advisory Committee asked why we had chosen the word “autonomy” rather than “freedom,” which, in the context of contemporary usage, such as “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” she thought would be usefully provocative. A humanities research center, especially one with a name embracing our new century, should of course not shy away from controversy. But although the idea for States of Autonomy emerged serendipitously from the concatenation of the three multi-speaker events selected in an open competition in 2004, both the specificity of the term and its relative unfamiliarity in the context of American political discourse enrich its potential to serve as a catalyst for wide-ranging, thought-provoking discussions at the Center in the coming year.

If the very relationship between the concepts of “freedom” and “autonomy” constitutes one of the poles of our project, the latter holds undeniable currency as the summer of 2005 draws to a close. Debates over regional autonomy in Iraq bedevil drafters of the new constitution there; the effective autonomy of Kosovo comes at the price of postponing a final determination of its status; closer to home, the always contested relationship between the authorities of states and the federal government constitutes one of the numerous subtexts to discussions of a nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. Even in the relative tranquillity of French Polynesia, where I undertook a productive short research trip a few weeks ago, the election of a new government whose head long advocated independence from France has rekindled debates over the territory’s future, and even its name. Polynesia, which some would like to rename “Tahiti Nui” or greater Tahiti, has enjoyed substantial autonomy from France since the late 1970s, and some degree of “freedom,” in the sense of functioning democratic institutions, for considerably longer. Its new leader, however, aspires to a status of “free association” with France, on the model of the relationship of the Cook Islands to New Zealand, which itself severed its last legislative ties to Britain only in 1986.

Our major annual conference, “Art of the State: Sovereignty Past and Present,” promises to illuminate some of these complexities from a variety of perspectives. But the scope of States of Autonomy extends to less political, more individual uses of the term, just as a recent New York Times series on the frustrations of hospital patients makes clear that issues of personal autonomy have great contemporary resonance. (Our spring symposium “In/Dependence” will reflect on related questions.) These issues surface in multiple spheres. In Florida the state anatomical board has condemned an exhibition of preserved corpses from China because of a lack of evidence that survivors willingly provided the remains of their relatives to be used as specimens. The controversy over the use of steroids in sports raises many questions, but one of the main ones can be reduced to how much of an athlete’s achievement is his or her own. As digital media proliferate, long-standing discussions of the so-called autonomy of art take on a new cast. The Center hopes to contribute to these and other debates with its usual combination of critical acuity, learning, and vigorous interdisciplinary exchange led by a talented and diverse group of fellows. I hope many of our readers will be able to join us throughout what promises to be an exciting and stimulating year.

—Daniel Sherman
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Graduate Summer Fellowship continued from front cover

already quite tranquil ninth floor of Curtin Hall. “There would not have been any other way in which I could have accomplished the same amount of work this summer,” Keddy emphasizes. She adds that other research support provided by the Center, such as printing and photocopy access, made life even more efficient and productive. Keddy now looks forward to presenting aspects of her work in a Center context in 2005-06—another benefit of the Tennessen Fellowship.

In addition to crucial start-up support from the Graduate School, numerous donations from friends of Carol and of the Center have enabled the Center to launch the Tennessen Fellowship. We are, however, still quite far from an endowment large enough to sustain an annual summer fellowship independently and as a result need to repeat our call for support. We need our friends to make the Tennessen Fund an annual designation for their tax-deductible giving.

Last year, the Tennessen Graduate Research Fellowship was just a good idea, but now it is a reality, and one that has more than proven its value in practice. While UWM continues to strive for greater research support at all levels, including support for graduate study, fellowship opportunities for dissertators in the humanities (broadly defined) unfortunately are still few and far between. This increases the significance of the Tennessen Fellowship even more, a fact that should not be lost on anyone who believes in the importance of interdisciplinary work in the humanities, in a vibrant graduate student body at UWM, and in helping doctoral students finish and get jobs. So please, do consider renewing your support for this Center initiative this Fall. This is truly money well-spent! Please send contributions to “Center for 21st Century Studies—Tennessee Fund,” University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, PO Box 413, Milwaukee WI 53201.

Center Secures WHC Grant for Spring 2006 Symposium

This summer, the Wisconsin Humanities Council awarded the Center a grant to help realize its April 2006 symposium “In/Dependence: Disability, Age, Welfare,” organized by Anne Basting (Theater) and Andrea Westlund (Philosophy).

Center deputy director Kate Kramer, assisted by Maria Liesegang and Ruud van Dijk, created the proposal in collaboration with the organizers. We are very encouraged that the Council decided to award the Center the full amount requested, and we will seek to use this success as a stepping stone to other fundraising activities in support of Center programming.
CHCI Annual Meeting
On June 17 and 18, the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) held its annual meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands, under the title “Open to the Public? The Expanding Culture of the Humanities.” The meeting was hosted by the Research Institute for Culture and History at Utrecht University in the old Academy Building in the shadows of Utrecht’s famous 14th-century Dom tower. The program was a mixture of workshops and lectures and on the whole a good opportunity to make contacts, learn about the practices of other humanities centers in the United States and elsewhere, and to think more deeply about key issues confronting interdisciplinary humanities programming. Assistant director Ruud van Dijk represented the Center at this meeting.

Prominent speakers included Marina Warner (University of Essex) and the keynote speaker at the Center’s 2003 conference on Museums and Difference, Tony Bennett (Open University, U.K.). Probably the best-known speaker was filmmaker Peter Greenaway who, at a small film theater elsewhere in the city, entertained the audience for two intense hours on his vision of cinema and his new, ambitious project under the title “You’ve heard of Harry Potter, now here comes Tulse Luper?”

Especially productive sessions included a workshop on international collaboration, which highlighted both challenges (such as inequality of resources, especially between Western and non-Western centers) and opportunities connected with such collaboration and in general encouraged participants to think more precisely about the shape international collaboration might take. For example, if two or more parties pursue a research project, is the habitual (annual) fellowship model an adequate one, or should a longer term be considered? Also, how does one define “results” from a research project in the humanities? Is “research” actually the appropriate term, or should it be “scholarship” instead? If the latter, how exactly is it different, and what are the consequences for the way in which one would design a collaboration in the humanities?

At another productive session, the CHCI business meeting, many participants expressed a desire to see more workshops where humanities centers can share experiences and explore common interests. The program of next year’s meeting, at the University of Chicago, will reflect this preference. It will have one full day of workshops to be followed by two days of scholarly programming under the title “The Fate of Disciplines.”

“Cinema doesn’t exist.”
—Peter Greenaway
Death and Translation: A Lecture by Haun Saussy

The final Center event in 2004-05 focused on how translating a text from one language into another can raise questions about the nature of information and its reproducibility, as well as give a skilled translator opportunities to make his or her own original contributions. On April 22, in a presentation entitled “Death and Translation,” Haun Saussy (Comparative Literature and Asian Studies, Yale) discussed Chinese translator Xu Zhimo’s 1924 rendering of “Une charogne” (rotting carcass), a poem from Charles Baudelaire’s Les Fleurs du Mal (1857).

Before an engaged audience of about 40 faculty and students, Saussy argued that while Xu’s translation is an accurate and close paraphrase of Baudelaire’s poem, it is also much more than that. Xu, Saussy argued, also sketched out a possible response to Baudelaire, performing an appropriation of the poem by assimilating those parts that could be used for the translator’s own purposes and discarding the rest. In his translation, Xu emphasized the role of sound and stench in Baudelaire’s text as a way to give the poem a place in a Chinese tradition of welcoming apparently painful transformations. Xu also, according to Saussy, sought to annex Baudelaire for his own project of creating a new poetic language for China in the 1920s. Using the poem’s central metaphor of a transformation from self to other, Xu took part of 19th-century France, transformed it, and connected it to a Chinese literary tradition—receiving, as it were, Baudelaire as a Chinese poet. Baudelaire’s “Une charogne,” Saussy concluded, contained two narratives, and in his translation Xu added another; but they are all variations on the same theme.

Earlier in the day Saussy also participated in an extended and animated lunch meeting with several faculty and students from UWM’s department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature.

Center Hosts Fulbright Researcher from Turkey

In the new academic year, the Center, together with UWM’s Political Science Department, will host a Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher. Mehmet Ruhi Demiray comes to UWM from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, where he is working toward a Ph.D. in Political Science. His area of interest is political and ethical theory. He is particularly interested in Kantian moral and political philosophy, theories of natural rights and human rights, and normative theories of democracy. While Mr. Demiray will be working with Professor Terry Nardin (Political Science), the Center also looks forward to his participation in Center programs.

New Working Paper on the Center Web Site

The Center has added a new paper to its on-line working paper series. Andrea Westlund (Philosophy), a 2004-05 fellow, has revised and updated the paper she presented at last year’s fellows seminar entitled “Love and the Sharing of Ends.” Readers can access the paper at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/workingpapers/index.shtml.
Former Center Fellows in the News

Kenneth Bendiner (Art History, fellow in 1999-00) has published *Food in Painting: From the Renaissance to the Present* (Reaktion Books). *Food in Painting* explores food images in European and American painting from the early Renaissance to the present. Bendiner sees such images as a separate classification of art, with its own history, and offers novel reconsiderations of famous works by the likes of Bruegel, Rembrandt, Chardin, Manet and Warhol, and some intriguing paintings by less-well-known artists, such as Adriaen Coorte and Peter Blume.

Paul Brodwin (Anthropology, fellow in 1993-94 and 1996-97) has received a National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology Program) grant of $55,972 to pursue a project entitled “Everyday Morality in American Mental Health Care: A Comparative Ethnography.” This project explores the slippage between formal codes of ethics and everyday moral decision-making in contemporary community psychiatry. The research will advance the anthropology of psychiatry as well as the field of bioethics—long dominated by theology and law—through ethnographic research and theoretic insights from Science and Technology Studies. The project continues Brodwin’s critical anthropological study of bioethics, begun in his 2001 book *Biotechnology and Culture: Bodies, Anxieties, Ethics* (published in the Center book series at Indiana University Press) and informed by the faculty workshop he co-coordinated in 2003-05: Ethics Across the Disciplines.

David Allen (Journalism and Mass Communication, fellow in 2002-03) has published *Democracy Inc.: The Press and Law in the Corporate Rationalization of the Public Sphere* (University of Illinois Press). Based in part on work he did as a fellow at the Center, Allen exposes the vested interests fostering the U.S. slide toward the conflation of corporate and democratic values and the ways in which this undermines the public sphere. He argues that rather than being institutional protectors of democratic principles, the press and law perversely contribute to the destruction of public discourse in the United States today.

Conratulations

The Center would like to congratulate the following former fellows who were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure during the 2004-05 year: Raymond Isaacs (Fellow 2004-05), Architecture; Thomas Malaby (2004-05), Anthropology; Tasha Oren (2001-02), English; Peter Sands (1999-00), English; Amanda Seligman (2001-02), History.

Center Staff News


The Center also greets the return of Project Assistant Amity McGinnis (MAFLL) and welcomes a new Project Assistant, Niamh Wallace, this year. Niamh is a graduate student in the English Department.
Jasmine Alinder is Assistant Professor of History at UWM. Her research focuses on the ways photography has been used to assert and deny claims for autonomy in struggles over slavery and citizenship. Her work has appeared in The Moving Image, the Albuquerque Museum, the Journal of the International Institute, and Historia y Memoria: Sociedad, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana en Cuba, 1878-1917. As a Center fellow, she will complete her book “Out of Site: Photographic Representations of Japanese American Incarceration.”

Ellen Amster is Assistant Professor of History at UWM. At the Center she will pursue her research project reconstructing the Moroccan experience of French colonialism through the body, showing how medicine transformed Moroccan ideas of self, history, and the state. Her articles have appeared in the International Journal of Middle East Studies, The Dictionary of the History of Ideas, the conference proceedings of the annual Conference on Moroccan History, and the International Herald Tribune.

As a Center fellow, Assistant Professor of Art History at UW-Parkside Susan Laikin Funkenstein will complete her book, “Gendered Bodies: Images of Dance in Weimar German Visual Culture,” an interdisciplinary exploration of the myriad visual interpretations of male and female performing bodies in art, popular culture, and on stage in 1920s Germany. Her publications in 2005 include articles in German Studies Review, Woman’s Art Journal, Gender and History (special issue “Visual Genders”), and Women in German, plus a book review in Brecht Yearbook.

Edward Hinchman is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at UWM. His research interests include moral psychology, epistemology, and metaphysic of action and mind, and his articles have appeared in Noûs, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, and the Canadian Journal of Philosophy. At the Center, he will continue writing a book entitled “Autonomy, Trust, and Reason.”
John McGuigan is an Assistant Professor of English at UW-Whitewater. In his manuscript-in-progress, “In the Anarchist Grain: Transatlantic Modernism and the Continental Avant-Garde,” he argues that the ideology of anarchism shapes the cultural logic and aesthetic experimentation of Anglo-American literary modernism. His research interests include modernism, the historical avant-garde, radical politics, aesthetics, film, literature of war, and the relationship of visual culture to literature. He has been a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan.

Melanie Mariño, Assistant Professor of Art History at UWM, has published work on Rachel Whiteread, the Henry Buhl Photography Collection, Conceptual Art, and photography from the 1960s to the 1980s. She has published exhibition reviews in Art in America. Her research at the Center will focus on the return to the model of autonomy in contemporary art and theory.

Julius Sensat, Professor of Philosophy at UWM, has published in numerous journals, including European Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Synthese, and Economics and Philosophy. He is currently studying the ideas of autonomy and estrangement as they developed in classical German philosophy, with an eye toward their bearing on contemporary political philosophy, especially on the work of John Rawls.

K. E. Supriya is Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at UWM. Her latest book, published in 2004, is Remembering Empire: Power, Memory, and Place in Postcolonial India. As a Center fellow, she will investigate Gandhi’s concept of Swadeshi, or self-reliance, and its relation to globalization and postcolonial feminist theories, rhetorics, and criticism. She will seek to develop a theory of intercontinental identities as an affirmation of our interdependencies in a global age.
Fall 2005 Calendar of Events

FRI SEP 16
Annual Center Open House
2 pm CRT 939
Jerome Schneewind (Philosophy, Johns Hopkins)
a lecture, *Autonomy and Its Histories*
co-sponsored by UWM Philosophy Department
4 pm CRT 175

FRI SEP 23
Amanda Anderson (English, Johns Hopkins)
a lecture, *Beyond Sincerity and Authenticity: The Ethos of Proceduralism*
  3:30 pm CRT 118

FRI OCT 7
Open Forum
  3:30 pm CRT 118

FRI-SAT, OCT 21–22
Art of the State: Sovereignty Past and Present
an international conference organized by Douglas Howland (History, UWM; Center fellow 2004-05) and Luise White (History, University of Florida)
co-sponsored by UWM Institute of World Affairs and History Department
  conference begins FRI, OCT 21 at 12:30 pm in CRT 175

FRI NOV 4
N. Katherine Hayles (English, UCLA)
Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Lecturer
a lecture, *What Does Autonomy Mean in the Age of Nanotechnology? Body Boundaries and Distributed Agency in Stephenson’s ‘The Diamond Age’ and Egan’s ‘Distress’*
co-sponsored by the Eta Chapter Phi Beta Kappa and UWM English Department
  3:30 pm CRT 175

FRI NOV 18
Debra Satz (Philosophy, Stanford)
a lecture, *Learning as Equals: What is Wrong with Inequality in K-12 Education?*
co-sponsored by UWM Philosophy Department
  3:30 pm CRT 118

continued on next page
REGISTER NOW for the fall conference Art of the State: Sovereignty Past and Present (October 21-22). This international conference questions the assumption that sovereignty accrues naturally to a state. The conference seeks to interrogate sovereignty as a set of practices that are historically contingent—a mix of both international and intra-national processes including self-determination, international law, and natural right. Participants will examine a number of diverse contexts outside of the normative center of Western Europe in order to explore how states construct themselves and how state forms seek to be sovereign. Rather than try to find one overarching and totalizing definition of sovereignty—one that is ahistorical and transnational—the conference seeks to disclose the strategic sovereignties that have informed histories and shaped territories in the modern world. This represents an alternative to recent literature on nationalism, which too often treats nationalism as a precursor to the formation of modern states. The conference seeks to take recent debates about nations, national identity, and the political relationships between the two and relocate them in a broader history of sovereignty, territory, and legality. We hope to explore the different ways in which sovereign political forms have been defined and define themselves.

Register now at www.uwm.edu/Dept/21st/conferences.shtml to receive copies of presenters’ papers and to sign up for lunch with the speakers.