



GAINES CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

SPRING 2004



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

I had dinner last night with Jim Gray, GCH Board Member and an important contributor to all aspects of life at the Gaines Center. As he often does, he told me that I had the best job at UK, and maybe in Lexington, because my main job was to work with such terrific young men and women. I agree! And this year has given me a number of reasons for further gratitude.

First and foremost is the addition of Dr. Lisa Broome-Price as Assistant Director of the Gaines Center. We have created this position without really having the money to pay for it in the long term, but I am so convinced of the importance of this additional resource for the Center, that we are cobbling together funding on a year-by-year basis, sharing Lisa with the Honors Program, where she teaches HP seminars, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies, where she has already demonstrated great skill in helping UK students with external scholarships like the Truman, Marshall, and Rhodes. Lisa ran the Center with great skill, enthusiasm, and learning during the fall semester of 2003, when I was on sabbatical leave. Though I hesitated to take sabbatical leave (Dr. Betts never did, I believe), I was invited to work on a prestigious and fascinating research project—an extended essay on the history of political thought in Russia from 1450 to 1700—as part of a European collaborative volume on the history of political thought in early modern Europe. I accepted the invitation, believing that GCH directors needed to be able to take an occasional sabbatical leave if the position is to be sustainable in the future, and, most important, completely confident that Lisa would do a terrific job running the Center in my absence. She did! She kept the momentum of the Center strong, teaching in the seminar and working with Rebecca Howell on plans for the Bale-Boone Symposium. Thanks to the intense planning of these two remarkable young women, the symposium, described elsewhere in this newsletter, was one of the

best events ever sponsored by the Gaines Center. In the spring semester, Lisa has helped in a myriad of ways, including editing this fine newsletter. We are determined to keep her here as long as she wants to stay!

As this newsletter makes clear, the Gaines Center has had another banner year. The competition among sophomores seeking to become Fellows was very strong this year, perhaps stronger than ever. Our parents and alumni/ae succeeded in raising \$100,000 to meet Joan and John Gaines' most generous challenge grant, netting our endowment \$200,000!

As Aimeé Baston's letter elsewhere in this letter explains, the GCH was chosen by UK to apply for a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. Lisa and I labored hard with wonderful staff help from UK's Development Office and the Office of Sponsored Projects to put together an excellent application. Although this grant specifically excludes money for undergraduate education, I want to emphasize that we have no intention of losing our undergraduate focus. Rather, the NEH Challenge and the RCTF match convinced us and our board that we could not miss out on the chance to build endowments for our two most important public outreach programs and an endowed professorship for future directors. In this time of drastically shrinking budgets, when earlier contributions by the university cannot always be maintained, I am absolutely convinced that these endowments, particularly that for a named professorship for future directors, is the best move we can make now to ensure the continued independence and vitality of the Center for years to come.

We have begun to think more strategically this year than we have in the recent past, when we have had to run just to stay in place, or so it seemed. I have had the great pleasure of seeing or corresponding with many alumni and alumnae, sometimes to write letters of recommendation, sometimes just to chat. Wendy

and I are expecting three Fellows from the class of 1999 to visit us in Maine next weekend: Melody Flowers, Jeff Fugate, and Mark Linton. Melody, Jeff, Mark, and Andy Grotto have been most helpful in suggesting a whole new range of activities at the Center, including using GCH contacts to set up internships for current fellows, career advice from alums within certain fields like medicine or the law, and a possible alumni advisory council, to create regular occasions for long- and intermediate-range planning by GCH staff members and interested alumni.

As I sit in my small second-story office under the eaves of our old Maine farmhouse, looking out over the vegetable and flower gardens on which Wendy and I have labored for 34 years, I am overwhelmed by a sense of gratitude—gratitude to all former and current fellows for their dedication to the Center and to the values for which the Center stands, to all the parents whose children have enriched our lives at the Center, to Lisa and Colleen Horne, our invaluable administrative support associate, for giving such generous and heartfelt help to our Fellows and to the entire Gaines community, to members of our Board, for their unstinting financial support and for keeping me on my toes, and to Phil Kraemer, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, my boss at UK, for his continued support of the Center even in the midst of very hard times.

I am especially grateful for the memory of Governor Edward “Ned” Breathitt, whose untimely death this year deprived the Center of one of its most eloquent and powerful advocates, and for whom the Breathitt Lectures are named. Governor Breathitt was a great inspiration to me personally, and to many of our fellows, as an example of a life-long political activist and contributor to his community. I will do my best to keep his memory and his example alive at the Center as a model for our current and future fellows. Finally, I am grateful to Donna Hall, whom the board chose as our new chair after Gov. Breathitt’s death this spring. She has already been a tremendous help, giving me invaluable advice drawn from her exceptionally wide experience serving on many distinguished boards. The Gaines Center is honored that she has agreed to assume this important responsibility. Wendy and I send our best wishes for a wonderful summer to you all!

BALE BOONE SYMPOSIUM BRINGS YALE YOUNGER POETS HOME TO KENTUCKY

For the first time ever, all three of Kentucky’s Yale Younger Poets prize recipients came home to celebrate the grandeur of Kentucky’s literary culture.

The Yale Series of Younger Poets champions the most promising new American poets under the age of forty. Awarded since 1919, the Yale Younger Poets prize is the oldest annual literary award in the United States. In the last decade, three Kentuckians have been awarded the YSYP distinction: Maurice



*Poets
Manning,
McCombs,
and Crunk.*

Manning, for *Lawrence Booth’s Book of Visions* (2000); Davis McCombs, for *Ultima Thule* (1999); and Tony Crunk, for *Living in the Resurrection* (1994). No other state has produced three Yale Younger poets in such a short period of time. Before the Bale Boone Symposium, none of the poets had met.

The March 3-5 Bale Boone Symposium offered an entire weekend of workshops, discussions, receptions, and readings. Despite torrential rain, the Friday evening book signing and reception at Black Swan Books was packed with poetry lovers. On sunnier Saturday morning, Fellows and other UK students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, and staff, professional poets and writers, and K-12 teachers and students, and poetry aficionados from all over the Commonwealth participated in conversation with Manning, McCombs, and Crunk. Moderator Chris Green (Gaines ’91) collected questions from the audience to make sure as many participants as possible were actively involved in the discussion, which focused on “Place, Community, and The Writer’s Life.” The poets’ response to the first question, “how do you feel about using the first person pronoun in your poems?” revealed a commonality in attitude among them: each remarked that their “I” was indebted to family, community, and place, and that their work was, however straightforwardly or subtly, an homage to those people and places of Kentucky that had shaped them.

Maurice Manning discussed the role place plays in his poetry in a recent interview with Rebecca Howell, editor of *Wind* magazine and co-organizer of the Symposium. “Literally and metaphorically, Kentucky is a starting place for me,” he says. “It is the place where I first encountered most of the things that make us human: love, loss, ideas, ignorance, beauty, uncertainty, God, death, anguish. When I try to be most human, as I do when I sit down and work on a poem, Kentucky is the landscape in my mind.”

Over 300 people attended the Saturday evening reading held in UK’s Memorial Hall. Former Kentucky Poet Laureate James Baker Hall hosted the reading, which he called a passing of the torch from one generation of Kentucky writers to the next. Luminaries of that older generation—Wendell Berry, Ed McClanahan, Gurney Norman, and Bobbie Ann Mason—were in attendance. Crystal Wilkinson, author of *Water Street* and *Blackberries*, *Blackberries*, remarked that the reading was “the best” she’d ever heard.

The 2004 Symposium commemorated the life and work of the late Joy Bale Boone, Kentucky’s 1997-99 Poet Laureate and longtime patron of the arts. It offered the Gaines Center an opportunity to partner with a number of co-sponsors both on campus and off, including the Kentucky Women Writers Conference, *Wind*, Black Swan Books, Ann Tower Gallery, UK’s Executive VP for Research, and the English Department and Creative Writing Program. The 2005 Symposium (March 4-5) will explore links between the humanities and Kentucky farming. For more information on these plans as they develop, please see our website and watch your mailbox!

TOWN-AND-GOWN II: THE 2004 LAFAYETTE SEMINARS IN PUBLIC ISSUES

The 2004 Lafayette lunchtime seminars in public issues, held the last three Thursdays of February was dedicated for the second time to the relationship between the UK and the Lexington communities. The first speaker, Carroll Stevens, former Associate Dean at the UK Law School and currently Associate Dean at the Yale Law School, spoke on the private, or “low beam,” personal contributions by



university faculty and staff to their local community. Those personal initiatives are an important complement to more official “high beam” projects undertaken by the university as an institution, Stevens said. They should be encouraged and recognized in UK’s tenure and promotion process. The second



speaker was Steven Percy, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Percy presented an overview of The Milwaukee Idea, UW’s commitment

to sustained university-community partnerships, to seminar participants, who included members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, the Mayor’s office, Lexington’s Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, and UK’s students, faculty, and



administration. UK’s outgoing Vice President for Academic Outreach and Public Service Dr. Retia Scott Walker responded to the first two presentations. She described some of the town-gown initiatives UK has already implemented, such as employer assisted housing and free

public transportation for UK id-holders.

The 2005 Lafayette Seminar will continue the town-and-gown conversation by focusing on UK’s role in sustaining the local food industry. This ongoing conversation began in earnest with Center’s 2002 seminars led by UK President Lee Todd, Mike Morand, Yale’s associate VP for New Haven and State Affairs, and David Scobey, Director of University of Michigan’s Arts of Citizenship Program. Earlier seminars have focused on the design of successful urban spaces and revitalizing downtown Lexington. The seminar series brings participants back to the table, creating stability within the group and allowing past progress to be built upon and enhanced. The 2005 Seminar is scheduled for the following Thursday afternoons: 2/17, 2/24, and 3/03. The 2005 Bale Boone Symposium in the Humanities, tentatively entitled “Kentucky Farming: Sustainable Agriculture from Food Ways to Thoroughbreds,” will build on the momentum of the Lafayette meetings about our local foods and invite further conversation about food marketing, farmers’ markets, and food in universities and schools. (See pg. for more information, and check out our website for updates!)

COMEDIA GASTRONOMICA ■ ROSS EWING, JUNIOR FELLOW

This year's feast, based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, was a tremendous success. For us fellows, it was a year-long journey from planning to performance. Upon learning about our class's responsibility for putting on the Feast, we immediately—in the great American tradition—divided ourselves into three committees, each with various subcommittees charged with designing and implementing a portion of the evening's festivities. Just as Dante the pilgrim was guided by his poetic predecessor Virgil, our teams were guided in their labors of love by Ouita Michel (Gaines class of '86), executive chef and co-owner of the beautiful Holly Hill Inn in Midway, KY.



Angels, Devils, Virgil, and Dr. Rowland.

They turned to me, saluting cordially,
and having witnessed this, my master smiled;
and even greater honor then was mine
for they invited me to join their ranks;
I was the sixth among such intellects.

Inferno 1.4.133-38

The tripartite structure of Dante's celebrated narrative lent itself nicely to organizing the feast: our guests could remain seated as we transformed the dining rooms of Holly Hill Inn from the Inferno to Purgatory to Paradise. Once they made it through Wood of Error, that is. In this *selva oscura*, formerly known as the porch of the Inn, guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres (such as grape leaves stuffed with rice and pine nuts) that evoked the savage forest in which Dante initially loses his way. The foyer of the Inn,



Senior Fellow Mark Youssef serves his parents in the Wood of Error.

transformed into the vestibule of the Inferno, was the scene "judgment," where guests received their table numbers and were led to their respective circles of Hell.

Early in our planning, we had resolved to involve as many forms of artistic expression as possible in this year's Feast. And so we coordinated everything from discreet textured lighting to classical *pas de deux* to create a sublime experience for everyone involved. Once seated in the Inferno, where the walls glowed red and "tortured souls" performed passages from the epic, guests were treated to Virgil's Delight, a *propoma* or appetizer course taken directly from the records of classical antiquity. Next, they feasted on Crab Malebranche and Roast Beasts of Hell, dishes that Ouita modeled after the denizens of the Inferno and culinary traditions from 13th- and 14th-century Italy. During the Purgatory course, guests cleansed their palates with pomegranate sorbet, washed their hands with rose-scented water, and began to anticipate Paradise. We were truly rewarded with Angelic Jubilation, a dessert reminiscent of Dante's Heaven: angel cake and white chocolate gelato in clouds of toasted meringue with spun sugar and rose petals. Beatrice and the Archangel Michael performed a balletic rendition of the soul's ascent into Paradise, and luminescent balloons were released above the tables.

Despite a certain perception by the fellows of universal chaos and mayhem, the evening went off spectacularly. It was at the end of the feast, when all of our guests gathered on the front porch of the Inn to sip champagne and a few brave fellows led everyone in song that I realized that the experience had been truly divine. The fellows would like to offer praise to the genius and patience of Ouita Michel and her staff, without whom this event would not at all have been possible. We would also like to thank Thomas Gaines for supplying the wines that so perfectly complemented each course.

OVERHEARD...

The Feast, in many ways, was the climax of both the year and, in some ways, the Fellowship as well. . . . It truly was for me a magical night that carried over from a halcyon afternoon of preparation, fun, and camaraderie.

—Kevin Moser, Jr. Fellow

FELLOWS' RESEARCH

What part did Dag Hammarskjöld play in defining the UN's role as an arbitrator between China and the US during the 1950s? Have the effects of his secretary-generalship been eroded in the 21st century? What does Appalachian folk music have in common with Homer's *Iliad*? Why is one's cultural value discounted, while the other is given iconic status? These are just a

2004 Theses

Lauren Argo, *The Noise in the Room*, play script
 Eileen Broomall, *The Stoic and the Other: Justifying Activism and Public Involvement in Seneca's Stoicism*
 Melanie Fee, *A Letter Would Have Been Fine*, poetry chapbook
 Dustin Harris, *Life, Freewill, and Responsibility in The Brothers Karamazov*
 Thomas Johnston, *An Appalachian Odyssey: Epic Devices in Mountain Ballads*
 Andy Lewis, *At the Request of the Stones: Taboo in the Stone-setting of Japanese Gardens*
 Aumaine Mott, *Song of Two Sisters*, combined genre memoir
 Lori Ann Prater, *La La Laboratory: The Inspirations of Science*, collage series
 Lesli Proffitt, *The Secretariat's Intervention: UN Activism and the Peking Mission of 1955*
 Jim Seaver, *Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition: American Military Chaplains of WWII*
 Mark Youssef, *An Epic Poem: On Creation and Destruction*

few of the questions Senior Fellows tackled in their 2004 Gaines theses. Five of the eleven theses completed this spring were original creative works: a play script, an epyllion, a chapbook of poems, and an installment of collage art works. Since 2003, when the option of writing a creative work was first offered, several genres outside the critical argument have been explored, including the

novella and graphic novel, as well as creative nonfiction genres such as the memoir and essay collections.

Lauren Argo received the Lancaster Award for her work on "The Noise in the Room," a play script based on the diaries of Carolyn Taylor, who lived in northern Kentucky in the 1930s. The Lancaster Award is given by the Warwick Foundation and the Gaines Center to the senior fellow whose thesis topic relates most closely to the interests of the late Clay Lancaster, author, illustrator, and lifelong student of art, landscape architecture, eastern philosophy and

religion, fantasy literature, and Kentucky history and culture. The award provides a stipend and opportunities to write while in retreat at Lancaster's Warwick estate in Salvisa, KY.

Aumaine Mott won the inaugural Isenhour Award for excellence in humanities research by a woman for her work leading to "Song of Two Sisters," a memoir about her deep friendship with Dzevada, a young woman who emigrated from Bosnia to the United States. The "Song of Two Sisters" was an extension of Aumaine's junior-year jury project, in which she brought together three Bosnian women of different faiths who have made Lexington home. Their stories inspired Aumaine to reflect in her thesis on the similarities and differences between her life and Dzevada's. The Isenhour Award provides a stipend, and the recipient presents a portion of her work at the Kentucky Women Writers Conference convocation.

These theses required extensive research, some of which required travel overseas. To build her knowledge of the 1955 Peking Mission, in which UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld acted as diplomatic negotiator to secure the return of 15 downed American fliers held in China, Lesli Proffitt conducted research in Swedish and in English at the Swedish Foreign Ministry archives and the Royal Swedish Library. Lesli will return to Sweden this fall to expand her thesis with the support of a Fulbright Grant.

Jim Seaver's research for "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" required persistence, creativity, and financial support in the form of a Rotary Club Academic Excellence Scholarship. "I simply could not have written my thesis about World War II military chaplains without the [funds from the award]," Jim says. "I used that money to purchase vintage primary source materials from the 1940s, including diaries, novels, memoirs, magazines, photographs, pamphlets, and authentic military chaplain equipment." Some of these items were found on Ebay, and Jim was careful to win bidding wars while remaining frugal with his award funds. His purchases complemented traditional, library-based scholarship: "These items filled in the gaps contained within the official government histories," he says. "More importantly, they provided me with a broadened perspective on the soldier experience, the horrors of combat, and the effects of warfare on one's spirituality."

JAPAN: THE MODERN, THE CITY ■ KEVIN MOSER, JUNIOR FELLOW

This year's Bingham Seminar, "Japan: The Modern, the City," was led by Dr. Douglas Slaymaker, Director of UK's Japan Studies Program. Twelve students, all Gaines Fellows, were enrolled. The classroom part of the Seminar provided lively discussions over a range of Japanese literature. There was much to learn, misunderstand, and then finally comprehend about Japanese culture. Dr. Slaymaker's patience and enthusiasm for the subject eventually won us all over, and he engaged us all with excitement for the material and end-of-semester trip.

Much of the reading for the class dealt with what could be termed a sense of 'urban angst,' a feeling of being trapped into certain areas of life, geographically and metaphorically, and how one might strive to escape and find something beyond. We were fortunate to dine with Yoko Tawada, the award-winning Japanese/German author of *The Bridegroom Was a Dog*, which embraces this theme. We began reading works from early Meiji Restoration and late Meiji period (mid- to late-19th century), which gave great insight into the startling and sudden changes going on all over the nation. Then we took up stories from the 1920's, imperialism, pre-, and post-war eras, searching for Japan's place in the world on a personal basis. These works included *Shanghai*, a novel about Japanese expatriates, and excerpts from various authors, such as John Dower, that dealt with perceptions and attitudes of World War II. Then we delved into the fallout and consequences of the atomic bomb strikes, notably with Kenzaburo Oe's *A Personal Matter*, which features parents of a child suffering from birth defects likely related to radiation.

Dr. Steven Snyder, Professor of Japanese at the University of Colorado, gave the Thomas D. Clark Lecture in the Humanities, which is usually topically connected to the Bingham Seminar. His lecture, "Writing Tokyo: Urban Topographies in Contemporary Japanese Fiction," provided us a keen glance into the nature of modern Japanese fiction. Much of it, he claims, is about the city of Tokyo and the seedy but alluring glow of Kabuki-cho. Snyder also discussed dystopic suburbia, where domesticity breaks down in a frightful and surreal way.

Then of course, came the trip. I am very glad to report very little at all went awry, and everyone stayed safe and healthy. We all found much to be intrigued by in Japan. The Tokyo fish market provided a

morning's entertainment as we watched men cutting up and icing fish to ship it off for sale; we took advantage of the locale for very fresh sushi. The shopping in Tokyo was excellent, and most everyone found a few (or more) excellent souvenirs. Local cuisine was excellent, and Dr. Slaymaker knew of an inexhaustible supply of family-owned restaurants where we stopped for meals. The extent of Japanese hospitality was shown to us when a student from the University of Nagoya threw us an amazing party. We toured Japanese temples, gardens, and shrines at the ancient capitals of Kyoto and Nara, and reflected upon the solemnity of the peace park and museum in Hiroshima. Exhausted, we went our separate ways, some to head home, some to stay on in Japan, all more learned about this amazing country.

2004 BREATHITT LECTURE



Junior Fellow Jordan Wood presented "A Salute to the Women of Vietnam" as the 2004 Breathitt Lecture.

Jordan's presentation was the tenth annual Breathitt Lecture. The lectureship is named for the late Governor

Edward T. Breathitt, whose interest in higher education and the humanities was exceptional. The late governor was a UK alumnus and a former chairman of the Gaines Center's advisory board, the Humanities Foundation. The lectureship competition is open to all UK students. Jordan is currently traveling in Vietnam, conducting research on the activities and roles of Vietnamese women throughout history for her senior Gaines thesis.



NEW YORK STATE OF MIND ■ RICKEY PACK, SENIOR FELLOW

The 2003-2004 Senior Gaines Fellows enjoyed a pre-finals adventure in New York City this past April. Thanks in large part to a gracious gift by Mr. Jim Gray, who accompanied us on many of our adventures, Senior Gaines Fellows experienced a whirlwind weekend tour of New York City's eclectic art museums and exotic restaurants. Provocative works and tasty foods tantalized our senses daily. We returned to Lexington energized while still in the throes of reminiscence about "the city that never sleeps."

Our beloved leaders, Dr. Daniel Rowland and Dr. Lisa Broome-Price, not ones to be unduly peremptory, casually cajoled fellows to relax and enjoy the surroundings despite the final examinations awaiting our return. Indeed, the charms of this most vibrant of cities quickly took hold, and thoughts of our end-of-semester tasks gradually subsided into the first electric night. Some of us sought out the glittering media buildings and storefronts of Rockefeller Plaza, while others talked up the knowledgeable bartenders working at the upscale Lizard Lounge next to our hotel.



Eileen Broomall, Mark Youssef, Melanie Fee, and Lori Ann Prater in New York.

Each of us can offer our favorite memories from the trip. I must make special mention of the “Arts of Japan” tour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which Andy Lewis and I were lucky to experience on our own while the rest of the group toured the Met’s other galleries. I still remember the glabrous, sleek face of a woman in one ancient painting whose face turned elegantly toward the viewer in the fashion that our expert tour guide said was particularly alluring to the work’s contemporaries.

Eileen Broomall raved about the biennial celebration at the Whitney Museum of American Arts. “So many people were excited about the biennial; the energy made the long wait in line worthwhile,” she said. A couple of artists at the Whitney created works Eileen found especially attractive, and each of us experienced this sort of personal art appreciation at various junctures in the Museum of Modern Art, its contemporary art center P.S.1, and in smaller venues.

The Chelsea district’s array of small “specialty,” or, as some would say, “eccentric,” art galleries awed a number of us, including Dustin Harris. “There’s some important stuff happening here,” he said pithily, perhaps with a tinge of confused amazement.

Many of us stood on the cusp of bittersweet endings as we trekked New York City, making our time in the Big Apple introspective as well. We were saying goodbye to our undergraduate careers, closing the chapter of erudition that enabled us to marvel at the

nuances of paintings such as those in the Frick Collection. This collection includes masterpieces from the 13th to the 19th century and is housed in the mansion built by Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919), a giant of the coke and steel industry. Mr. Gaines kindly arranged a special tour of the collection for us.

Our study of the humanities provided understanding of the rich, occasionally tumultuous, history that brought together the city’s diverse people, along with the history of our own assorted group of Gaines scholars.

WELCOME, NEW FELLOWS!

Andrew Bozio, English & Philosophy
 Yuriy Bronshteyn, Biology & Chemistry
 Mallory Emerson, English
 Joseph Grabau, Philosophy & Classics
 Amanda Gatewood, English
 Amy Lynne-Hirshowitz, Art Studio
 Jason Richards, Architecture
 Eric Salmon, Undecided
 Nick Smith, Creative Writing
 Sylvia Timmerding, Political Science & Spanish
 Daniel Turner, Economics
 Erik Tuttle, Appalachian Studies
 Raabia Wazir, Agricultural Biotechnology

G@INES WEB



The website for the Center took on a new and important role this year. Previously used as an outlet for explaining the mission and purpose of the Gaines Center, it became an active page for press releases and information about various activities at the Center. To meet this expanded role, a two-person team of website junkies, one from each fellowship class, was formally established. Senior Fellow Andy Lewis, who had overhauled the website a year earlier, and Junior Fellow Kevin Moser served as web masters. Kevin will return as web master this fall, and a member of the junior class will join him in keeping the site in tip-top shape.

Some of the major additions to the website included an expanded page about the fellows, regular updates about the application process, notices about the Bale Boone Symposium, and a new page for communicating with alumni. This fall Kevin will begin using Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) to give the site more flair, add more pictures of Center happenings, and increase the frequency of news updates on the website. He will also link to the

Gaines Center home page an updated, comprehensive guide to scholarships that will serve the entire UK community. This link should bring the Center to the attention of UK's most talented students.

ALUMNI NEWS



In each issue of the newsletter, we'll turn the spotlight on a couple of alumni. This spring, we feature Melissa Shore Bright, '88, and Chris Green, '91. Melissa has helped the staff of the Gaines Center stay in touch with alumni by managing a Yahoo e-group and by offering valuable advice on alumni involvement in the Center's ongoing activities. Chris recently moderated a conversation with visiting Yale Younger Poets during the 2004 Bale Boone Symposium. He also offered the Center crucial suggestions on providing opportunities for more creative work in the spring semester of the Gaines Seminar.

LIFE has included many adventures since my 1988 graduation from UK's Gaines Fellowship and the Gatton College of Business. After I earned an MBA in Finance from University of Missouri, Columbia, I worked for two years at IBM in Southbury, CT. In the fall of 1992 I joined a button manufacturer in Lawrenceburg, KY, Universal Fasteners Inc., a subsidiary of YKK Corporation. For eleven years I worked in cost accounting and production inventory control. Jay and I married in Lexington on June 29, 2002; we honeymooned in Chicago's museums. Last summer we moved to a home with a yard that is great



Melissa C. Shore Bright

for our mutual love of gardening. For our first anniversary we vacationed in London, England's museums

and gardens. I was laid off in August of

2003, but in January of this year, I started a new position with Saint Joseph Health Care as a financial Analyst–Cost Accountant. Jay and I are expecting our first child on or about August 23, 2004. In addition to getting ready for our new addition, Jay and I enjoy ushering plays at Actors Theatre in Louisville and attending the Gallery Hop in Lexington. This summer Jay is traveling with students to several cities in

Europe. In the fall he will be back at Henry Clay High School as the German Department. I have scaled back some of my volunteering recently, but I am continuing to serve as moderator for the e-group THEGAINESCENTER, the informational email group that shares updates on current and alumnae Gaines Fellows and other events planned at the Gaines Center. Also I moderate an e-group that supports the Lexington Delta Zeta Alumnae. This past spring I co-taught an adult class at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral on the book *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus J. Borg. I am a member of the professional societies APICS and HFMA. I enjoyed opportunity to catch up with several Fellows while volunteering for the Gaines Center's capital campaign. ■

WHEN I graduated UK in 1991, little did I know how deeply interconnected my professional path and my Gaines thesis would be. This last June I took a position as an Assistant Professor in English at Marshall University (Huntington,



Chris prepares to shred a copy of his dissertation. His daughter Eleanor, right, prepares to mow the lawn.

WV) to teach Appalachian Literature—thirteen years after completing my Gaines thesis on the Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative. In between, I got married (Jenny, in 1998), had a little girl (Eleanor, who is now two), authored 300-odd poems (three academic articles & myriad reviews), edited two national literary magazines, and lived in Boone, NC; Bloomington, IN; Carrboro, NC; and moved back to Lexington in 1999. And all along that winding path, I've wrestled with the same set of questions that I first fully articulated in my Gaines thesis.

The difficult relationship between politics, art, scholarship, and community has consistently vitalized my work. With my commitment to poetry, I've whirled around and around, trying to better learn the love of people, of words, and of the world (the crazy dance of aesthetics, ideology, identity, and the sublime). How could I, my heart asked again and again, make poetry worthy of the world? To answer

that question, I taught poetry to special-education students, to students at Kentucky's Governors' School for the Arts; I lived in the mountains, wandered woods, and walked late into the night; I took my MA in English, my MS in Secondary Ed, my MFA in poetry; I read Neruda, Rich, Virgil; I theorized about how creativity might enter the social sphere; I became a political activist; I read and commented on book after book that friends have gone on to publish; I became a publisher and editor; and I taught at state universities, at community colleges, at private schools. But it is not until the last few years that I have felt like I might be able to find a home.

I rediscovered the Gaines Center during my work on my PhD in English at UK. After completing my course work for a PhD at Indiana University in 1996, I swore off the academy because I saw it as unable to be responsible to the world. But I found myself there again in 2000 because I had this unbearable urge to understand the world and to speak that understanding. Through the encouragement of Dale Bauer (mentors are necessary champions in the academy!), I finally set to synthesizing my struggle in my dissertation. My work returned to poetry and Appalachia, and my dissertation ("The Social Life of Poetry: Pluralism and Appalachia, 1937-1946"), showed how three books of poetry actually effected change in the world. While I wrote this dissertation, I rediscovered the Gaines Center under the remarkable leadership of Dan Rowland. And I helped them to rethink the connection between creativity, scholarship, and community; I became a fundraiser for the Center; and the Center became home to *Wind*—the magazine I had given my life to editing from 1999 to 2003. How can I say this? Only that writing, teaching, and giving back to the university have allowed my heart to feel worthy of the dance.

But I've gone on too long. I've said too much. I've said too little. My life is larger than I had ever imagined—and quicker and smaller. And if I have a heart that has always whirled, the Gaines Center and the eleven classmates I met there have made that spinning (and my hope, my belief, my commitment to the world) more graceful. ■

BRIEF UPDATES

Jay Blanton ('89) is deputy communications director for media relations for Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson.

Diana Keyes ('89) is a nurse at The Independent Day School in Middlefield, CT. She plays viola in her community orchestra.

Alan Cornett ('93) lives outside of Birmingham, Alabama with his wife Traci and two daughters, Haydon, 4, and Molly Katherine, 22 months. He serves as an evangelist with the Wilsonville Church of Christ. Alan stays active with his writing and tries to play the mandolin.

Preeti Bansal ('95) is moving at the end of June to Durham, NC where she will begin a Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology. She recently completed her residency in Ophthalmology at UK.

Avi Weitzman ('96) is an associate with the national law firm of Manatt, Phelps, & Phillips, LLP. He specializes in criminal and civil litigation, with a particular emphasis on the entertainment and media industries. Recently he joined the Senior Fellows for dinner while they were visiting New York, where he lives.

Oliver Brewer ('97) recently completed work on two new chapters to the Fourth Edition of *Making Music in Looking Glass Land*, a business textbook for young musicians. He was lauded in 2003 by the *New York Times* for his "attractive round tenor." Oliver's New York ensemble affiliations include St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue and the artist roster of VOX Vocal Ensemble, Polyhymnia, and churches of St. Michael and St. Luke-in-the-Fields. He has performed in Italy, Norway, and Japan, as well as throughout the US, in concert and as a soloist.

Andy Grotto ('99) is Associate Scholar in National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan think-tank in Washington, D.C. At American Progress, Andy researches and writes on nonproliferation policy, U.S.-European relations, and other national security issues. After graduating from U.K., he attended the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard University, where he received a J.D and an M.P.A., respectively.

[Editor's note: Andy has also been instrumental in helping us put together a list of foundations where Fellows might like to intern, thus giving them opportunities to enhance their experience in working for value-based, non-profit organizations. If you know of any organization, company, or civil office that needs interns, please let us know.]

Mark Linton ('99) has worked for an international relief and development NGO as a consultant in the Balkans and South Asia. Beginning this fall, he will pursue a Master's degree in Public Policy (MPP) from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In his free time, he practices the mandolin and guitar.

Tyler Powell ('00) and his wife Holli have recently returned to Lexington. Tyler has joined the law firm of Wise & Delcotto, PLLC, where he specializes in commercial and insolvency law. Holli is an accountant at Lexmark, Inc.

G. Haviland Argo III ('01) is currently working for the James N. Gray Company in Lexington as an Assistant Project Manager for 21C Hotel | Museum in downtown Louisville. He recently authored an article in Lexington's *Cherry Chaser Magazine* on Cincinnati's Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art.

Courtney Reynolds Schadt ('02) completed her first year of medical school at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She and her husband Brandon call Nashville their "home away from our real home in Kentucky." This summer, Courtney is enrolled in a month-long medical Spanish immersion program at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara in Mexico. After completing that program, she will continue her clinical research in Neurology on movement disorders and Parkinson's disease.

Tony Smith ('02) is an IT Engineer for Cypress Semiconductor in San Jose, CA. He enjoys Silicon Valley's blue-sky weather and makes frequent road trips around the Bay Area and Northern California. The Redwoods, Lake Tahoe, and San Francisco are among his favorites. In his spare time, he says, he pretends to be a musician.

Alex Brooks ('03) lives in Lexington, where he owns and operates Press Eight Seventeen. Alex recently created the posters for the 2004 Bale Boone Symposium as well as a set of broadsheets for the

Yale Younger Poets' poems. He is the design editor for *Wind: A Journal of Writing and Community*.

Julie Murray ('03) is a research assistant at the Urban Institute, a social policy research organization in Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on marriage and family structure, childcare, immigration, and child welfare. She is currently writing a policy paper on the No Child Left Behind Act and its implications for English language learners and participating in a federal study to determine the impact of Head Start on children and their caregivers.

Alyssum Pohl ('03) will be a student in the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine this fall. She will be participating in the International Veterinary Medicine Program, which is unique to Tufts. She just returned from Japan with the Bingham Seminar, where she not only enjoyed seeing the country's many cultural treasures, but also found amazing bargains on socks.

Courtney Stoll ('03) will be a Presidential Fellow in the PhD program in the Anthropology of Visual Communication at Temple University this fall. She will study the creation of older photographs as a material 'other' for display and as 'exotic truth' and how that affected the cultures that the photograph was meant to represent.

STILL REACHING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & FUNDRAISING UPDATE ■ AIMEÉ BASTON

It's been a whirlwind, banner year of fundraising at the Gaines Center!

Thanks to all of you for your contributions of time, encouragement, and financial support to the "A Farther Reach" campaign. We reached Mr. and Mrs. Gaines's \$100,000 challenge issued to alumni and their parents on March 24, 2004.

This campaign would not have been possible without the approval and support of the Gaines Center Board of Directors; Mr. and Mrs. Gaines's generous challenge gift; the campaign volunteer leader, Finn Green (Class of 2002); and the following Class Representatives: Lisa Catron Ernst (1986), Regina Wink Swinford (1987), Stephen T. Freeland (1987), Melissa Shore Bright (1988), Joan Williams (1988), Barbara Pfeifle (1989), Donald Yates (1990), Chris Green (1991), David King (1992), Adam Kegley (1992), Laura Sauer Palmer (1993), Irene Hong (1995), Avi Weitzman (1996), Jessica Moss (1997),

PLEASE DROP US A NOTE!

See the alumni link at
<http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/GainesCenter/> to update
your address and send a message. We'd love to hear from you!

To join the Yahoo alumni e-group, visit
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/THEGAINESCENTER/>.

Katy Chiles (1998), Jamie Winders (1998), Andrew Grotto (1999), Elizabeth Jones (1999), Clay Dunn (2000), Mark Wurth (2000), Mandy Chiles Stone (2001), Brittany Stobel (2001), Finn Green (2002), Amanda Holloway (2002), Alex Brooks (2003), and Phillip Sauerbeck (2003). Thank you!

If you have not yet had a chance to donate to the Gaines Center this year, it's not too late! We welcome contributions to the Gaines Center Research and Travel Fund, which will be used to offset some of the costs of Fellows' travel for thesis research. (See [pg. for](#) news on current fellows' thesis research.) In the past several years, the Fellows' work has been prominently featured in UK publications such as *Kaleidoscope*, the refereed journal published annually by the Office of Undergraduate Education. The quality of work made possible with this support consistently earns Fellows not only the esteem of their faculty committees, but also the high regard of graduate and professional program admission officers, prestigious scholarship selection committees, and employers in the private and public sectors.

The Center recently submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a challenge grant. If successful, this prestigious grant will help us endow the Lafayette Seminar, the Bale Boone Symposium, and a Professorship for future Gaines Center directors. These endowments are crucial to the longevity of the Center and its mission for providing outstanding humanities experiences for

FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information about these events, please call the Center.

- 08.24 Annual Welcome Picnic for Fellows
- 09.11 Warwick Visit and Luncheon
- 10.08-10 Fellows' Whitesburg Field Trip
- 10.11 Humanities Foundation Board Meeting
- 10.16 Parents' Association Seminar
- 10.23 Pumpkin Carving and Pizza
- 10.29 Pope Villa Lecture, Field Trip, & Dinner
- 11.10 Visit to Gray Construction Headquarters
- 12.15 Near the Winter Solstice: End of Semester Party

UK students, faculty, staff, and the greater Commonwealth community. The NEH Challenge grant would match each of our fundraising dollars raised with 25 cents. And here's a particularly exciting additional possibility: these three endowments are also eligible for a dollar for dollar match by the Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF, aka: Bucks for Brains). The RCTF match is available now and is not contingent upon successful completion of the NEH grant proposal. If the NEH turns us down, each donated dollar will produce \$2.00 for our endowment. But if we get the NEH grant, each dollar donated will produce \$2.50 for our endowment.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you regarding any of our giving opportunities at the Gaines Center. Please contact me at (859) 257-1345, 1-800-875-6272, or abaston@email.uky.edu for more information on how your gift to the Gaines Center can be matched by RCTF. Let's keep the Center reaching!



The Gaines Center for the Humanities
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The Gaines Center is committed to realizing a vision of true intellectual community. We welcome fellowship applications from eligible candidates from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and actively seek racial, ethnic, economic, geographic, and philosophical diversity, as well as diversity across gender, sexual orientation, age, marital, and disability status.