

# GAINES CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

SUMMER 2008

## GAINES CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

*We are happy to introduce Dr. Robert J. Rabel as the inaugural John R. Gaines Chair in the Humanities and Director of the Gaines Center. χηαιρε!*



I've been associated with the Gaines Center since its inception, so I am especially happy to be named its third Director, following in the footsteps of Raymond Betts, founder of the Center and historian *par excellence*, and Dan Rowland, scholar and teacher also from the History Department, who has done so much to enhance both the Center's academic programs and its outreach mission.

Once in high school I took what may still be called an "Interest

Inventory" test. The results came back that I was interested in *nothing*. (I still recall one question: Do you like people with gold teeth? Does "yes" mean that one might want to be a dentist?) By college, I discovered that, rather than being interested in nothing I was interested in a whole lot of things. So Classics was the field for me. To be a decent Classicist, one must have certain language skills (Latin, Greek, French, and German are required); since so little survives from the ancient world—you could fit it all on a couple of book shelves—you also need to know something about history, philosophy, epic, tragedy, comedy, the novel, etc. in order to get much of an understanding of the ancient world in general. In a lot of ways, I think that being a Classicist is ideal training for serving as Director of the Gaines Center, where so many different disciplines in Humanities converge. (I use the word "Humanities" in Cicero's sense of the term to include art and science also, not in the narrow sense of the term used today by the National Endowment for the Humanities.)

I received my B.A in Classics from the University of Pittsburgh and my M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Here at UK I have taught a full array of courses in the Latin and Greek languages from the undergraduate to the graduate level and have for many years taught Honors 101 (Greek and Roman

Civilization). In addition, I have also taught in the Governor's Scholars Program and the short-lived Modern Studies Program here at UK. Over the past ten years I have been working to develop a large-enrollment course in Classics and film, designed to demonstrate to students the profound influence that Classical antiquity has had on modern cinema. Since the appearance of *Gladiator* almost ten years ago, films set in the ancient world, like *Troy*, *Alexander*, and *300*, have begun to appear with some frequency and more are in the works. Films that borrow their thematic content from the ancient world like *Chinatown*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, *Angel Heart*, and *Sommersby* have long been a staple of the Hollywood repertoire. Beginning with an initial enrollment

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of ten students, the course attracted just shy of 300 during the past Spring term. (I was hoping to reach the magic number of 300, which would have allowed us to take over and hold the Classroom Building in imitation of the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae, but this dream went unrealized.)

I am the author of *Plot and Point of View in the Iliad* (University of Michigan Press, 1997) and editor of *Approaches to Homer, Ancient and Modern* (Classical Press of Wales, 2005). In addition, I have over the years published numerous articles on Greek and Roman epic, Greek tragedy, Greek philosophy, and Greek history. My course in Classics and film has provided the stimulus for much of my recent work on the Classical tradition as it is represented in both film and drama, and I have published articles on the Classical antecedents to such films as *Angel Heart*, which everyone should see, *Sommersby*, and *Manon of the Spring*. I am currently completing a book on American dramatist Maxwell Anderson, after Eugene O'Neill the most important American dramatist of the first half of the twentieth century. Much of Anderson's work was inspired by Greek epic and drama, but nobody has yet explored the subject of this influence in any detailed or systematic fashion. When this book is done, I intend to undertake a much larger project, in which several presses have expressed interest, dealing with the influence of Greek tragedy on modern American theater, an aspect of the Classical tradition that has received remarkably little attention from Classicists up to now.

I look forward to serving in the Gaines Center both as teacher and administrator. As initial projects, I intend to arrange an all-day reading of Homer's *Iliad* in September of this year. We'll be bringing the

Gaines Center outside! In addition, Lisa Broome-Price and I are setting to work on a symposium dealing with the various aesthetic, political, and historical considerations involving the acquisition and maintenance of important artistic treasures from both the ancient and modern worlds. But more about this later. ■

## GAINES FELLOWSHIP REUNION

Last October, the Gaines Center welcomed home fellows and friends to celebrate the Center's 25th anniversary and to remember founding director Dr. Raymond Betts. The morning began with the Gaines Center's annual Parents' Day Seminar, during which the junior and senior fellows and staff of the Center introduced family members to the activities of the fellowship program. The Reunion began just after lunch. After a brief welcome, alumni tested their knowledge of Gaines-oriented trivia, answering such question as "What are the Gaines colors?" and "Where did the first Bingham Seminar go?" Winning contestants received gift certificates.

Next, alumni gathered in small groups to discuss two important questions: "How can the Center better serve alumni?" and "How can the Center better utilize alumni?" Some suggestions that would serve both purposes included better advertising of Gaines Center events, some of which feature alumni (e.g. our Alumni Lecture series) and developing the alumni network via the Center's website. We are already at work on these suggestions and welcome more!



*Alumni enjoy catching up with one another at the reunion.*

The reunion concluded with a special tribute to Dr. Betts organized by Jamie Winders ('98) and Katy Chiles ('98). Many fellows shared warm memories of Dr. Betts and spoke about Dr. and Mrs. Betts' influence on their lives during and after their fellowship experience. In her tribute to Dr. Betts, Katy Chiles had reminded us that he said, "There are three things each person should do in life.: plant a tree, write a book, and have a child." And so at the close of the reunion, everyone was invited to help plant a Princeton Elm tree in memory of Dr. Betts. We are happy to report that Dr. Betts' tree is flourishing, having added some feet in height and gracefully arcing its topmost branches toward the Commonwealth House. ■



*Elm Tree in Honor of Dr. Betts*

## WHITESBURG WEEKEND

■ CLINT DAVIS, SENIOR FELLOW



*Clint Davis is a senior Piano Performance major from Carrollton, KY. His junior jury project made broadcasting UK Symphony*

*Orchestra performances via WRFL 88.1fm possible for the first time. Clint's senior thesis examines American composer Morton Feldman's relationship to abstract expressionism.*

Wendell Berry once wrote that in order for culture to exist, “mostly the same people have to live mostly in the same place for a long time.” These people gain intimate knowledge of a place and with many generations this knowledge brings forth the collective experience we call culture. In our age of rapid urbanization, such people and places are increasingly rare, as is that intimate knowledge of place so essential to culture. Gaines Fellows were fortunate enough to see such a place and its people when we visited the small Appalachian town of Whitesburg, Kentucky this past fall.

Many words appeared repeatedly in our conversation as we walked through the streets: beautiful, unique, genuine, authentic. It was quickly apparent that this place contained something precious. Every building, every shop, every street, and every person spoke of a history of place that continued to live and shape the lives of its people. A history of coalmines, coal miners, banjos, fiddles, Italian

stonemasons, hills, forests, and hollers.

There was much to see and fortunately there were many eager to show us. Evan Smith, serving with the AmeriCorps Vista program, led us through the old-growth forests of the Bad Branch State Nature Preserve where we drank from one of the cleanest streams in the country, practically unspoiled by urbanization and industry.



*Gaines fellows ready for the hike up Pine Mountain led by Evan Smith, right, after stopping at Whitesburg's Summit City Lounge on Main Street.*

Winding through steep country roads, we reached the tops of the mountains to visit Carcassonne, a community gathering space, where we saw the spirit of Appalachia at its most vibrant. Legendary banjo-player Lee Sexton led a small band of musicians in an evening of traditional mountain melodies that spilled over the hills into every corner of Letcher county, leaving no foot unmoved in their path.

Though our time was filled with many amazing sights and sounds, we were also shown that all is not well in Letcher County. Missing mountaintops reminded us of larger forces that often understand value only with dollars and an all-too-

common ideology in which nature is commodity and the cultural knowledge Berry writes of is easily washed away in rust-filled streams. At Dry Creek, we saw the now-abandoned Golden Oak Mine spewing forth a stream of orange water that is poisoning the watershed and will continue to do so for generations to come, due to irresponsible mining practices.

Fortunately, we also found in Whitesburg creative forces counteracting the destruction that threatens the community. Bill Richardson gave us a tour of Appalshop, a non-profit organization he founded in 1969 (then called the Community Film Workshop of Appalachia) to preserve Appalachian history and disseminate the creativity that still lives in places such as Whitesburg. Among other things, Appalshop has supported local film-makers, provided a venue for musicians, and started a radio station filled with community voices.

The experience of our visit as a whole has remained near the front of my mind ever since. Not only did we enjoy the incredibly generous hospitality of Josephine and Bill Richardson, but we also saw the beauty of pristine forests, heard the power of traditional folk music, and witnessed the potential of a community united; but more importantly, we saw that it is possible to stand against the faceless socio-economic forces that threaten such things and preserve the integrity of one's community, culture, and self with dignity. ■

## BREATHITT UNDERGRADUATE LECTURESHIP

“You have invented a new form of torture” is a comment not likely to be heard at a Gaines event (save

perhaps all the academic examinations and defenses that occur in the small conference room under the Bingham Davis House stairs). Yet it was the opening line of the 14th annual Edward T. Breathitt Undergraduate Lecture delivered by Gaines Fellow Katie Braun in January at the Young Library Auditorium—to high praise and much applause, it must be added. This and other criticisms of contestants on the televised singing competition *American Idol* were the subject of Katie's lecture, "In a competition full of hamburgers, you're a steak!": *American Idol* and the Rise of Reality Television in the Maintenance of Our Egos." Why, Katie asked, is *American Idol* so popular, even as the humiliation factor—the televised ridiculing of unsuccessful singers—increases dramatically from season to season?

"As consumers of television, we need to understand what we are watching and why we are watching it," Katie asserts. "What need are the [humiliating] aspects of the shows satisfying? Do we really enjoy watching people being told that they are horrible singers and that their dreams of success within the music industry will never be realized?" During the Breathitt lecture, Katie discussed how the producers of *American Idol* and similar shows manipulate certain sociological processes to assist viewers in their pursuit of community membership relative to an identity distinct from that of the community at large. Katie's research indicates that although some reality television shows seem popular because they appear to gratify various audience desires, such as the development of parasocial relationships, voyeurism, or judging others, *American Idol* combines these gratifications with another, satisfying the desire to compare oneself to others, in a particularly appealing narrative arc

that stretches from initial auditions around the country to final performance competitions in Hollywood (and is punctuated by a massive communal fundraising effort, the "Idol Gives Back" episode).

Using various techniques, producers construct a community of contestants—a group of 24 competitors identified as individuals, but also a part of the show's singing community—with whom viewers both identify and compare themselves in terms of talent and personality. The viewer comes to appreciate the community, however contrived or real, that exists among contestants, who sometimes "boo the judges when they are too critical of their fellow singers, and hug performers" when they complete a performance, Katie explains. "By forming an apparent cohesive and supportive group, the contestants offer a...defense to the humiliating aspects found within the show. If *American Idol* consisted solely of the harsh criticisms by the judges and the dismissals of the contestants one by one until a winner is chosen, viewers would likely tune out," she explains. "To allow viewers to justify their enjoyment of a show

that...criticizes singers who do not meet industry standards, the show must afford positive outcomes" to competitors, such as the development of a support network, and showcase that community to the viewers who help shape it by voting each week. At the same time, viewers derive satisfaction from comparing themselves to the show's singers, appreciating their favorable comparison to recognizably untalented singers, or distancing themselves from singers who begin to appear more talented than they are.

Linda Breathitt presented an engraved julep cup and a check for \$500 to Katie. A reception followed the lecture. The Breathitt Undergraduate Lectureship was established in 1995 to honor Governor Breathitt, whose commitment to humanities education was exceptional. The competition is open to all UK undergraduates.

Katie's Breathitt Lecture was drawn from her senior thesis, "American Idol-ogy: A Discourse on the Underlying Motives That Keep Us Watching," in which she used the tools of the humanities and social sciences to understand human values as they are expressed in



Katie Braun and Linda Breathitt at the 2008 Edward T. Breathitt Undergraduate Lecture

reality television and in audiences' response to that entertainment genre. She presented portions of her thesis at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Conference in February. Katie graduated in May, and she will begin PhD studies in Social Psychology at Indiana University this fall. ■

## THOMAS CROW DELIVERS 2008 THOMAS D. CLARK LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES



Thomas Crow

Professor Thomas Crow, one of the world's most prominent art historians, visited campus in March to deliver the 2008

Thomas D. Clark Lecture in the Humanities and to lead a session of the Mary C. Bingham Seminar,

Journey." Dr. Edward Stanton, Professor of Hispanic Studies and Bingham Seminar instructor, selected Crow as the Clark Lecturer. Currently the Rosalie Solow professor of modern art at New York University, Crow is the former director of the Getty Research Institute, editor of *ArtForum* magazine, and the author of several books on art from Revolutionary France to contemporary America. Crow's lecture, "Composition and Decomposition in Girodet's *Revolt of Cairo*" was an ideal complement to the subject of the Bingham course because Girodet's work was contemporary with Goya's, thus providing an opportunity for comparison.

The Bingham Seminar included study of Goya's life and works, including a series of etchings called *Los Disparates* (The Follies) owned by UK's Art Museum, and a field trip to Berea College, where another set of Goya prints are held. "A lot of people aren't aware that the University of Kentucky Art

lovely prints by Goya," says Professor Stanton. UK's *Disparates* prints were once owned by Van Gogh. The trip concluded with a May-term study trip to Fuendetodos, Goya's birthplace, and Madrid. Among visits to many important museums and sights, the group visited Real Fábrica de Tapices, the Royal Tapestry Factory where Goya painted tapestry cartoons beginning in 1775. The Bingham Seminar is offered every other year, with the topic selected from those proposed by faculty across the university. The seminar includes an on-campus, semester-long course followed by a two- or three-week summer travel program, field study, or site visit. Participants are selected to enroll in the course through a competitive application process. Eight students, including three Gaines Fellows, took the course this year. ■

## CLAY LANCASTER AWARD ■ BY WILL SANDERS (08)



Will graduated from the College of Arts & Sciences in May with a degree and departmental honors in Philosophy. His thesis, "Problems of Experience in the Writings of D. T. Suzuki," examines how Suzuki's works, which were instrumental in spreading interest in Zen to the West, confuses Zen Buddhism's historical realities, and also distorts the philosophy of 14th-century German mystic Meister Eckhart, a central tenet of which has often been compared to Zen by scholars. This summer, Will plans to engage in the rigors of Taiwanese Buddhist monastic life while studying Chinese Buddhism under the tutelage of monks, nuns, and academics at the Woodenfish Program in Taiwan. After completing that program, he will do some sightseeing in Taiwan, and then enroll in a nine-month, intensive



Bingham Seminar members Jason Hope, Emily Hikes, Professor Edward Stanton, Cara Childers, Lauren Threlkeld, Clint Davis, Katie Brann, Emily Foerster, with Señor Manuel in Madrid. Photo courtesy of Jason Hope.

"Seeking Goya: A Transatlantic

Museum and Berea College have

*Mandarin language program at Peking University in Beijing. In his spare time, he will visit Chinese religious sites-Buddhist/Daoist temples and sacred mountains.*

Looking back on my last year as a Gaines Fellow, I can't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for my luck of being selected as the Lancaster Scholar for the 2007-08 academic year. Having virtually unlimited access to Clay Lancaster's rural estate along the Kentucky River afforded me many respites from the rigors of the student life. These breaks created the ideal mental space needed for contemplation and reflection, both on the Gaines thesis and, more importantly, life itself. As a student of philosophy, these contemplative breaks proved invaluable for my scholarly and personal growth.

Numerous rituals punctuated my stays at Lancaster's estate. Chief among these was rising early in the morning to go hiking on the forest trails in the dense fog that would drift upland from the Kentucky River. Sharing Lancaster's passion for Asian culture, I often wondered if he too imagined himself wandering through cloud-hidden peaks so typical of Chinese landscape paintings as he walked these paths. Evenings were spent reading through books from his extensive library. By candlelight I studied topics as wide ranging as the proliferation of Buddhism in medieval China, the practical dimensions of the hermitic life, and the poetry of Li Bai. These nights spent alone, reading Lancaster's notes in the margins of his books, gave me the deepest appreciation for his truly far-reaching legacy.

As any Lancaster Scholar can attest, it feels wrong to indulge in the solitude of Lancaster's estate for too long. Accordingly, my most memorable moments spent at

Warwick were with dear friends. Through candlelit dinners in the oval room, outdoor picnics, riverside meditation retreats, impromptu tea ceremonies, and intimate reading sessions, friendships became reaffirmed, deepened, and strengthened. The idyllic setting of Lancaster's home and its surrounding environs was perfect for self-discovery in solitude as well as among friends.

The Lancaster Scholarship has left an indelible mark on my life. It is more than a mere honorary award; it is an opportunity and an experience all of its own. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Holbrook, the Gaines Center, and the Warwick Foundation for their dedication to preserving Clay Lancaster's legacy and their willingness to share it with the local community. The warmth of his life will never be far from my mind. ■

## **DEMOCRACY VS. TRANSPARENCY THE 2007 BALE BOONE SYMPOSIUM**



Michael Pollan and other proponents of organic farming and local food economies. At that time, Pollan shared with audiences a critique of modern agribusiness and the impact of the industrial food chain on our environment and health—two of the central topics of his book 2006 book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. That symposium was a tremendous success and was the

In 2005, the Gaines Center and the UK College of Agriculture hosted "Growing Kentucky," a Bale Boone Symposium featuring author

catalyst for many later programs and discussions about food production and consumption, including "Growing Kentucky II," a second major symposium hosted by many of the participants in the Gaines Center's 2005 program. The 2008 symposium was designed to continue our dialogue about and exploration of food movements such as organic farming, and in particular, the transnational certification of ethical and sustainable products.

With Dr. Tad Mutersbaugh from the UK Department of Geography and Dr. Sarah Lyon from the Department of Anthropology, the Gaines Center hosted "Democracy vs. Transparency," a two-day symposium that included a film festival and panel discussion at the Kentucky Theatre in downtown Lexington and a keynote lecture with responses by members of the university and local communities. The October 10 film festival featured a screening of the 2006 documentary *Black Gold* ([www.blackgoldmovie.com](http://www.blackgoldmovie.com)). Jason Card of Lexington's Third Street Stuff & Coffee and Matt Early of the Just Coffee Co-op (Madison, WI) conducted an extensive Q&A discussion about fair trade and the global coffee industry with audience members after the film.



*Julie Guthman*

The following evening, Julie Guthman, Associate Professor of Community Studies at UC-Santa Cruz and author of *Agrarian Dreams*, delivered a keynote lecture provocatively entitled, "How Michael Pollan Made Me Want to Eat Cheetos," in which she

critiqued an agrarian imaginary that sometimes characterizes the Slow Food movement and, drawing on California's historic and contemporary agricultural practices, raised questions about social and political impacts of the growing organic food movement there. Respondents Richard Schein, Associate Professor of Geography at UK, Deborah Webb, Director of Community Farm Alliance, and Bob Perry, Coordinator of UK's Food Systems Initiative addressed how Kentucky's local foods initiatives compared favorably with the California model provided by Guthman. Alex Brooks ('03) designed and hand printed the poster, which included the image at the head of this column, for the symposium. ■

## FALL GAINES LECTURES



*Jamie Winders*

**Jamie Winders ('98)**, Assistant Professor of Geography at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, delivered the

Fall 2007 Alumni Lecture in early October. Her presentation, "Bringing the (B)order to Community Change: Latino migration, Memory, and Neighborhoods in Nashville, Tennessee," examined changing racial politics and social dynamics in neighborhoods with rapidly growing Latino populations in Nashville.

In the lecture, Winders presented preliminary findings from fieldwork

she conducted in the Music City over the past year and offered some initial answers to questions such as "How do residents of the Music City remember the past of these rapidly changing neighborhoods? How do residents define their neighborhoods—how do they create and talk about boundaries for their neighborhoods?"



*Robert Jensen*

In November, **Robert Jensen**, Associate Professor of Art History at UK, gave the Fall 2007 Gaines Lecture, "Artistic Success and

the Geography of Innovation," in which he posited that artistic importance is tied to innovation; the more other artists respond to innovation, the more important the innovator is likely to become. Collectors, critics, and the museum establishment enhance an artist's reputation, but in most cases their influence is secondary to other artists' confirmation of the innovator's importance. For artists to make important contributions they need to work not in isolation, but in environments where there are other important artists.

The lecture accompanied the *Bad Luck* exhibit curated by Gaines Fellow Bill Santen at Transylvania University's Morlan Gallery. *Bad Luck* brought together local and international artists whose work explored the concepts of chance, fate, and destiny.

[Ed. note: Thank you to Bill Santen for his contributions to this article.] ■

## ART + PUBLIC ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

### THE 2008 LAFAYETTE SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ISSUES

This spring, the Gaines Center partnered with LexArts, Inc., Lexington's united arts fund and arts council, to host the tenth annual Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues, a four-week series of conversations focused on nature and function of public art in Lexington.

The topic of public art was selected in response to the burgeoning local interest in the cultural work performed by public art in Lexington. Lexington is home to a growing, vibrant arts community, and interest in public art has been nurtured for a long time by many different individuals and groups including local artists, activists, educators, Gaines Fellows, and participants in past Lafayette Seminars. As the downtown revival continues and we prepare for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, our community's eagerness for public art is greater than ever, and the 2008 Lafayette Seminar provided an opportunity to address questions such as "How does public art contribute to the character and experience of our city?" "What processes best integrate public artwork into our community?" and "What might the future hold for community art in Lexington?"

**Jim Clark**, President and CEO of LexArts, Inc. and **Jennifer McGregor**, Director of Arts at Wave Hill Public Gardens in New York, opened the conversation on

February 20 by screening a segment a documentary about public art in Lexington, *From the Ground Up* (dir.



*Jim Clark & Jennifer McGregor*

about the roles public art might play in our town, and how we might encourage the installation of more public art throughout Lexington. Clark suggested that one move toward adopting a master plan for public arts development would be to create an appropriately staffed structure—perhaps “a division within LexArts” or “a separate 501c3. . .to manage a public art program.”

The three following presentations by artists showcased a range of public art works being created in the US and around the world,



*Bill Fontana. Photo courtesy of Jonty Wilde*

internationally recognized innovator in the field of sound art, discussed his use of the human and natural environment as a source of

Louis Guida), and discussing a wide variety of examples of public art around the

country. The following afternoon, **Deborah Borrowdale-Cox**, Curator of Education at UK’s Art Museum, gave a response and led a discussion

about the roles public art might play in our town, and how we might encourage the installation of more public art throughout Lexington. Clark suggested that one move toward adopting a master plan for public arts development would be to create an appropriately staffed structure—perhaps “a division within LexArts” or “a separate 501c3. . .to manage a public art program.”

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encouraging Lafayette participants to think about the possibilities for innovative art in our home community.

On February 27, **Bill Fontana**, an

internationally recognized innovator in the field of sound art, discussed his use of the human and natural environment as a source of

musical information for projects that have been installed in public spaces around the world including New York, Paris, London, Berlin, Venice, Sydney and Tokyo. Fontana hopes to make an installation in Lexington involving the sounds of the Town Branch running through downtown. **Karen Lewis**, Assistant Professor of Architecture at UK, continued the discussion during the following day’s seminar, asking participants to think about public art in terms of place making and way finding.

On March 5, **Tim Rollins**, conceptual artist and educator, told the story of the K.O.S. (Kids of Survival) artists’ collective, which he founded in Bronx, NY in 1981. He and K.O.S. members—mostly



*Tim Rollins. Photo courtesy of Rick Savinon*

middle and high school students—collaborate to make large-scale works inspired by classic works of literature ranging from *The Frogs* by Aristophanes to the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. Artist and Transylvania University Associate Professor of Art **Kurt Gohde** gave a response the following afternoon, encouraging Lafayette participants to consider the relationship among art making, community engagement, and individual and group empowerment.

On March 19, University of Florida Professor of Photography **Barbara Jo Revelle** gave the fourth Lafayette Seminar. Best known for her large scale, photo-based murals, including the two block-long tile



*Barbara Jo Revelle*

creating public art work, from inspiration and research into a city’s multiple histories to negotiation with city commissioners over a work’s installation and interpretation. The Lafayette Seminars concluded the following afternoon as **Julee Decker**, Chair of Georgetown College’s Department of Art, gave a response that prompted participants to consider access to art and the function of public sculpture in various settings.

Conversations at the 2008 Lafayette Seminars have given rise to a new town-gown collaboration, the Pralltown Kids Initiative (PKI). Still in the planning stages, PKI will identify ways that young people from the Pralltown neighborhood on the northwest border of campus can make better use of UK’s arts and educational resources. Together with UK Libraries, the UK Office of Community Engagement, UKPD, and LexLinc, a local nonprofit organization that mobilizes community leadership to empower Lexington’s underserved neighborhoods and families, the Gaines Center will co-host a picnic and Back-to-School rally for neighborhood kids in early August. ■

## THE GRAY ART EXPERIENCE

### ■ ANDREW CROWN-WEBER ('08)

The seniors’ trip to New York’s art museums, like each gallery visited,

mural, *A People’s History of Colorado*—one of the largest public art murals in the world—Revelle discussed the processes of

was a succession of highlights. In highlighting only a few experiences here, an exhibition's worth of other experiences must go unmentioned, so I won't mention Central Park or Klimt's *The Park* or the simultaneous spotting of two red-haired celebrities – Conan O'Brien and Elmo – or how the baked good parting gifts from NYC-émigré alumni tasted or how excited I was to stumble on Dali's *Corpus Hypercubus*.

Instead one piece will stand for the whole. Michael Smith's *Sears Class Portraits* in the Whitney Biennial exhibit consists of fourteen framed photographs arrayed in two rows depicting random sets of smiling strangers, mostly young, posing self-consciously for group photos against a spectrum of bland backdrops. Facing these faces you feel as if you are the cameraman, assigned to select one of numberless possible poses for perpetuity. Then from amidst these random assortments comes one common thread: one semi-ironically smirking figure present in each grouping. This looming buffoon is none other than the artist himself.

This bumbling face surfaces like *Where's Waldo's* striped protagonist, a cipher serving as a substrate into which we project ourselves in order to join this assembly of unknown faces, each one's unique grin or smirk betokening a unique history formed from countless unique events. Not only do fourteen other strangers surround us, but fourteen other childhoods, fourteen other adolescences, fourteen other first kisses and Christmases and so on to infinity.

Dickinson claimed that the soul selects her own society. Though the soul has some say, this piece spoke—as it conjured up group photographs of my youth (the

yearbooks, church registers and tee-ball teams)—of how much more *society* selects our society. Save for a few supporting roles, we do not cast the characters who populate and constitute our lives. We select only how we interact with these actors and how much we intertwine our scripts.

This brought me to my last such photo: Two years ago fourteen freshly selected Fellows posed on the porch of the Commonwealth House in our “Sunday best” for our first official picture. We were all pretty much strangers to each other, unknown entities smiling for the camera. Over two years we have traded anonymity for familiarity, studying and stressing over massive assignments and laughing with relief as we turned them in. After two years of getting to know and becoming known to each other, we have become colleagues and friends through this institution and our own inclination.



*The author's class photo. Andrew Crown-Weber, second from the left, will teach English in Braunau am Inn, Austria beginning this fall. His teaching is supported by the Fulbright Commission.*

Smith's photo and the trip itself embody how this group of strangers united under the abstract title of 'fellowship' to make this word concrete. Now the fourteen faces have shared, among other things, an unforgettable trip to New York and now it is up to the new

faces gracing the front of this newsletter to turn their own class photo into their own class of fellowship. ■

## GAINES FELLOWS RECEIVE MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS



*Andrew Lynch*

Two Gaines Fellows were awarded major national and international scholarships in the past academic year.

**Andrew Lynch ('08)** received a

Gates Cambridge Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in Chemical Engineering at Cambridge University. Andrew is the first UK student to be awarded the scholarship since the scholarship program was established in 2001 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At Cambridge, Andrew plans to undertake biochemical engineering research with an eye to finding solutions “to environmental and public health problems facing communities in Kentucky and around the world.” His graduate studies will build on his undergraduate engineering research on environmental contaminant remediation efforts. Andrew's Gaines thesis, “The Evolution of the Complex Regulatory Framework for ‘Valley Filling’ in the United States,” complemented that research by analyzing the policy implications for the future of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. Approximately 100 Gates Cambridge Scholarships are awarded to students around the world each year, with 45 going to students from the United States. Scholarships provide full funding, and are awarded on the basis of the

candidate's academic excellence, the fit between the applicant and the University of Cambridge, evidence of leadership potential and a commitment to improving the lives of others. Andrew was also awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship by the National Science Foundation.



Corinne Keel

**Corinne Keel ('09)** was named a Truman Scholar and awarded a \$30,000 scholarship for graduate studies leading to a career in public service. Corinne, a senior

Political Science major, plans to attend law school after graduation. Of her career plans, Corinne says she sees herself "beginning in the non-profit sector in criminal justice, then working for the government and who knows ... maybe a judgeship someday." Corinne partnered with Gaines Fellow Travis Watters on a jury project establishing a new UK Living and Learning Community for creative writers and an associated creative writing outreach program for elementary schools. Truman Scholarships are national awards given to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding academic ability and leadership and are devoted to careers in public service; approximately 65 scholarships are awarded each year. The Truman Scholarship Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 as a federal memorial to the 33rd president and has been making scholarship awards since 1977. ■

## G@INES WEB

The Gaines Center welcomes Vaughan Fielder as our new webmaster. Vaughan serves as the program coordinator for the

Kentucky Women's Writers Conference. Her site design services are much sought after; she has created attractive and user-friendly home pages for many UK departments including the UK Central Advising and Transfer Center and the UK Dance Ensemble. Vaughan created a new design for the Gaines Center's site last year and will continue to add new features. For the first time, community members were able to register for the Lafayette Seminars online, and to extend discussion of the seminar's topics on the Seminar Blog linked to the Gaines Center's homepage. In the near future, look for news of junior fellows' jury projects the site. Fellows will post their project proposals, updates, and final overviews online.



Join the Gaines Center on Facebook!

The Gaines Center has its own profile on this popular social networking site and is eager to "friend" or be "friended" by anyone who would like to keep abreast of GCH activities throughout the year. We also have a Facebook group called "Gaines Fellowship Alumni"—thoughtfully created by Aimee Lynne-Hirschowitz ('06)—that makes it easy to stay connected to alumni from many classes.

## WELCOME, NEW FELLOWS!

**Jenna Brashear**, Music Education (from Central City, KY); **Michelle Combs**, Anthropology (London, KY); **James Crouch**, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology (Lexington, KY); **Rebekah Dunnagan**, Biology (Louisville, KY);

**Joanna Grant**, Architecture (Henderson, KY); **Ronald Keates**, Biology and Chemistry (Alexandria, KY); **Katie Noe**, French and English (Bardstown, KY); **Eric Schlich**, English and Spanish (Lexington, KY); **Karah Sutton**, Arts Administration (Lexington, KY); **Clay Turner**, Biology and Music (Lexington, KY); and **Jessalyn Ubellacker**, Biology and International Studies (Georgetown, KY).

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Carrie Bass, Dan Bernitt, Katie Braun, Cara Childers, Andrew Crown-Weber, Emily Forester, Peter Frailie, Brenton Kenkel, Andrew Klein, Andrew Lynch, Emily Parker, and Will Sanders. We wish you the best!

## ALUMNI NEWS SPOTLIGHT

*In each issue of the newsletter, we turn the spotlight on an alumnus or alumna. This summer, we feature Brian Lush, Johnna Hertzfeld Lush, and Jane, class of 2002. Brian writes,*

The six or so years since we graduated from the University of Kentucky and moved to Madison, WI have been exciting, to say the least. Two weeks after our impromptu wedding ceremony (featuring a randomly selected witness and a justice of the peace), Johnna went to work on Paul Wellstone's final campaign in Minnesota, organized GOTV for a Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate, and shortly thereafter settled into a number of positions in democratic leadership offices in the Wisconsin state legislature. But Johnna, like so

many political staffers before her, grew weary of politics altogether and, as a result, decided to follow in the venerable tradition of past family members by becoming an automotive technician. In the following two years, Johnna earned general certification in automotive technology, and then attended Mercedes-Benz's ELITE program in Chicago. She is now a certified Mercedes-Benz technician, and is working in Raleigh, NC. In her free time, she reads, knits Fair Isle hats and sweaters, does woodworking (when resources permit), and laments the narrowness of American politics.

Brian's efforts have been a bit less varied, although equally demanding. In the past six years, he has finished his doctorate in Classics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, completing his research on the topic of recognition and cognitive uncertainty in Euripides. After a harrowing season of job-hunting, Brian accepted a two-year position as Assistant Professor of Classics at the College of Charleston, in South Carolina (beginning in August 2008). His years in Madison with Johnna revealed a disturbing preference for bitterly cold climates, and a growing obsession with locally brewed beer. Having had no real free time for nearly six years, Brian's hobbies do not, as yet, reach beyond good beer and Greek literature, but he is nurturing a growing interest in film noir (both American and French) and detective fiction. He is currently with Johnna in North Carolina, and looks forward to starting his new job in August.

Brian's and Johnna's mixed breed Chihuahua, Jane, is famously the only Chihuahua ever made an honorary Gaines fellow. Jane's hobbies, like Brian's, include drinking locally brewed beer and watching movies. Jane has also, in

the past year, benefited from a reconstructed knee, courtesy of the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Hospital, and now has a reputation as a dog that bites veterinary personnel at will. She has fully recovered, and is back to terrorizing back-yard vermin and harassing visitors. We all three continue to benefit from our Gaines experience, and think often and fondly of our times with other fellows at the Bingham-Davis house and elsewhere. ■

## BRIEF UPDATES

**Chris Pramuk ('87)** writes, "I live with my wife Lauri, a pediatrician, and two children, Isaiah (10) and Grace (4), in Cincinnati, OH where I am Assistant Professor of Theology at Xavier University. After completing my degree at UK and as a Gaines Fellow, I studied music at The Naropa Institute in Boulder, CO, eventually meeting my wife in Denver and going on to teach high school and publish in the area of Catholic theology. I recently earned my Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame and moved to Cincinnati to take a position at Xavier. My two years as a Gaines Fellow were wonderful. I lived in an old house on Maxwell Street right across from the Gaines Center, and I remember with great fondness our seminars, and socializing with some of the best teachers at UK, not to mention Dr. Betts and John and Joan Gaines themselves. Without question the program 'awakened' me to the life of the mind. Writing the thesis taught me a great deal about myself, and the vocation of writing. I send warmest greetings and best wishes to all my 'fellow' Fellows, gratitude to my former professors, and best wishes to students in the program presently."

**Jay Blanton ('89)** has been named communications director for Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear.

**Peter Dendle ('90)** is an Associate Professor of English at Pennsylvania State University, Mont Alto. He specializes in medieval literature, folklore, and religion, but has also published more widely on demonology and on the monstrous in modern as well as medieval culture. His books include *Satan Unbound: The Devil in Old English Narrative Literature* (U Toronto P, 2001) and *The Zombie Movie Encyclopedia* (McFarland, 2001), and recently he co-edited a collection on *Health and Healing From the Medieval Garden* (Boydell, 2008) with Alain Touwaide of the Smithsonian Institution. He has been consulted by *The Boston Globe*, *L.A. Daily News*, *USA Today*, *National Public Radio*, and *National Geographic*. He lives in Gettysburg, PA with Kriscinda Meadows, a boisterous cat, and a surly ghost who maintains a MySpace page.

**Mary Beth Brookshire Young ('90)** left her appellate law practice in Columbus, Ohio last summer to stay home with new baby Henry, her fourth child. Other children are Donald (17), Emily (14) and Eli (5). Mary Beth and her husband Todd are not sure whether the teenagers or the preschoolers are more trouble. Mary Beth will teach Civil Procedure 2 at Ohio State University Law School this fall.

**Lynn Posze ('92)** obtained her master's degree in counseling psychology in 1994 from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. She is currently a Program Administrator for Recovery Advocacy, Women's Issues, and DCBS Initiatives at the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Frankfort. Previous positions include Mental Health and

Substance Abuse Clinician in a community mental health center in NC and Program Coordinator for the University of Kentucky Institute on Women and Substance Abuse. She lives in Frankfort with her partner, two dogs, and three cats, and she is an active member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Lexington.

**Matt Cutts ('95)** attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill from 1995-1999. He left his Ph.D. program with a Masters to join search engine Google in early 2000, where he is a Principal Engineer leading Google's webspam team. Webspam is when people try to show up higher in search engine rankings by violating search engine quality guidelines. Matt sometimes writes on his blog (<http://www.mattcutts.com/blog>) about his adventures at Google.

**Donald Puckett ('95)** is an attorney in Dallas, Texas. He is a partner in The Ware Firm where he specializes in patent infringement litigation and patent licensing on behalf of inventors. He and his wife Cari have been married for four years and they have two sons, Cameron and Coleson.

**Evan Reynolds ('96)** practices corporate and securities law with the law firm Perkins Coie LLP in Portland, Oregon, where he happily bleeds blue along with a handful of other expatriate Kentuckians and his wife Jenn, four-year-old son Riley and 10-month-old daughter Mallory.

**Aaron Zerhusen ('98)** writes, "After finishing my Ph.D. at Purdue in the summer of 2006 I spent the 2006-07 academic year at the University of Oldenburg in Oldenburg, Germany. Then I returned to Purdue as a visiting professor for the fall of 2007. In the spring of 2008 I spent two

months in Stockholm at the Mittag-Leffler Institute, a center for mathematical research. Next year I will be teaching at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. On a personal note, I became engaged in May of this year to a wonderful woman (and historian), Laura Shumar. We are planning a wedding for July of next year."

**Clay Dunn ('00)** joined National Geographic Channel in 2007 as the Manager for Digital Marketing.

In August 2007, **Karyn Hinkle ('00)**, who has lived in New York City since she graduated from UK, became the Reader Services Librarian at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture. She says that grad-school-bound Fellows and interested others may wish to note that the BGC is, as its mission statement suggests, a "graduate research institute committed to studying the cultural history of the material world, drawing on the methodologies and approaches of a range of academic disciplines from art history/design history to philosophy, anthropology, and archaeology." The BGC is housed in three renovated townhouses in New York City, and boasts a research library of over 40,000 volumes!

Congratulations to Kristie and **Glenn Rudolph ('01)** on the birth of their son John Alexander in September 2007.

Congratulations to **Amanda Holloway Lindemann ('02)** and her husband on the birth of their daughter in June.

**Lesli Proffitt Nordström ('04)** and her husband Fredrik will be moving from Sweden to the US this summer. Fredrik completed his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and will start work at Abbott

Laboratories in Chicago, and Lesli will begin studying for a master's degree in International Affairs at Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs.

This spring, **Ross Ewing ('05)** graduated from the UK College of Law, where he was active in a number of student and community organizations and was awarded the 2008 Faculty Cup for Outstanding Service to the law school. He is currently a law clerk to Hon. Jo Ann Wise, in Lexington, where he lives with his partner and two cats. The couple is planning a commitment ceremony for 2009. Ross remains active in a variety of community organizations and is training to complete his first triathlon in September 2008.

**Kevin Moser ('05)** earned his JD from Wake Forest University Law School.

**Patrick Thomas ('05)** is studying for his Ph.D. in Statistics at University of Kentucky.

**Mandy Gatewood ('06)** spent six months working with The PEPY Ride, a hybrid educational health NGO and adventure tour company in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. After summer travels in Laos and Thailand, she will enter graduate school at UC Berkeley in August to begin her master's degree in Public Health, focusing on women's health and war.

**Aimee Lynne-Hirschowitz ('06)** graduated from The Art Institute of Boston with an M.F.A. in Visual Studies in June. Her photography and video installation "Bad, Bad Birthday" opened earlier this spring and her book, *The Happy Birthday Book, Volume 001, Disillusionment You Can Buy*, is available via <http://frostingandfire.com/>.

**Silvia Timmerding ('06)** writes, "For the past two years I have been

teaching Spanish at Northwest Halifax High School in rural Eastern North Carolina. My school only offers Spanish I and Spanish II. I have been helping a fellow Teach For America corps member develop our own curriculum which combines the language acquisition methodology called TPRS, or Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling, with grammar skills that our students need. We have been working hard to emphasize genuine communication in Spanish instead of textbook memorization and grammar rules. Somehow I got roped into being the Cheerleading Coach last year. I know... Silvia? Cheerleading? What? But it's true. You can refer to me as the 'Top Diva' from now on. That's me in the picture with the other Northwest Divas. On March 1st, I



released an EP entitled *On Tomorrow*. I wrote all the songs, played all the instruments, and recorded it myself. I have been playing at open mic nights and outside Weaver Street Market, in Carrboro, NC whenever it's warm enough to sit outside. Next year I

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**WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.**

**HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH BY UPDATING YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION. EMAIL COLLEEN HORNE AT [CHORNE@EMAIL.UKY.EDU](mailto:CHORNE@EMAIL.UKY.EDU) OR CALL 859.257.1537.**

will either be teaching at Northwest again (I have been fighting hard to get Spanish III on the curriculum!) or moving on to another teaching job in Chapel Hill. I will be continuing my relationship with Teach for America and working as the Content Learning Community Leader for Foreign Language.... I am really excited and up for the challenge. That's it. I will continue to teach Spanish and play guitar all next year, so if anyone is ever in North Carolina, give me a call!"

**Daniel Turner ('06)** completed his master's degree in Urban Education at the University of Pennsylvania this spring. He completed his two-year commitment with Teach for America, but he will continue teaching 8th grade math at Stetson Middle School in Philadelphia this fall. He will also serve as the school's math curriculum coordinator.

**Tara Bonistall ('07)** recently moved to Cincinnati where she works as Public Affairs and Volunteer Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio.

As a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, **Maggie Dolan ('07)** assists homeless women in finding permanent housing. She completed her first year of service with the JVC in Spokane, WA and will begin a second year of service in Portland, OR this fall.

**Harry Neack ('07)** recently completed a two-semester internship at the Democratic National Committee and is now interning for Representative Ben Chandler in Washington, DC. He will begin his final year of study for a master's degree in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University this fall.

**Emily Foerster ('08)** has accepted a position as Infusion Intern with Humana, Inc. in Louisville. She will

work with Growth Lab, a creativity initiative within the marketing department. ■



*From left: Dan Rowland, Lisa Broome-Price, Emily Foerster, and Colleen Horne*

## ROWLAND SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

The Gaines Center has established a scholarship to honor Dr. Daniel Rowland, director of the Center from 1998 to 2007. The purpose of the Daniel Rowland Scholarship is to enable Gaines Fellows to undertake summer travel, research trips, or unpaid or underpaid internships, and thus to gain experience that will enrich their lives and open future doors to careers and graduate school.

The Gaines Center is built on the premise that the best UK students are as good as the best students from any university in this country, and the record of our Fellows and former Fellows bears out this assertion. But in the competitive world that faces our brightest graduates, UK students often are at a disadvantage because they must work during their summer vacations to put themselves through school, and thus they miss out on crucially important unpaid internships or other opportunities that their more affluent peers at other institutions can take advantage of. An initial gift of \$100,000 funds the Rowland

Scholarship, and the Center hopes to raise an additional \$100,000 to double the endowment. The Rowland Scholarship will provide funds that can make a critical difference in the lives of generations of Gaines Fellows far into the future. ■

## FUND FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN UPDATE



■ **REMONA EDENFIELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER**

### THE GAINES CENTER'S FUND FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

**Thanks to our many generous alumni, parents, board members and friends, we have exceeded the overall goal for our Fund for the Future Campaign. With your gifts and pledges, we have raised over \$2,100,000 for our endowment.**

The Fund for the Future Campaign began in 2005 to secure matching gifts in response to a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. Our hope was that individuals, corporations, and foundations would strengthen the foundation of the Gaines Center by creating an endowed chair in the humanities and growing our two public program endowments. Beyond the goals of the NEH grant, we aimed to bolster other endowments that support our students, including curriculum-based programs, lectures and scholarships.

Your dedication to the future of the Gaines Center was paramount to achieving all we had hoped. With your matching gifts and pledges, we secured 100% of our National Endowment for the Humanities funding for three initiatives. You not only met this challenge, but also supported the other initiatives that were part of our Fund for the Future Campaign.

Beyond NEH federal funding, we leveraged your financial commitments with matching funds for the endowed chair and the public programs from Kentucky's Research Challenge Trust Fund (commonly called "Bucks for Brains" funds). Through this combination of federal and state matching funds, many of your gifts were increased more than twofold to support these campaign initiatives.

Once all pledges are fulfilled, we will hold endowments totaling over \$2,100,000. Your generosity allowed us to create the \$1.2 million John R. Gaines Endowed Chair in the Humanities, build a \$480,000 Bale Boone Symposium Endowment and a \$260,000 Lafayette Seminar Endowment. You have strengthened two student programs through contributions of over \$100,000 for the Bingham Seminar Endowment and \$36,000 for the Edward T. Breathitt Undergraduate Lectureship in the Humanities. In addition to these five endowments, a new scholarship for Gaines Fellows was created to honor Dr. Daniel Rowland upon his retirement. Family and friends recognized Dr. Rowland's significant influence on the accomplishments of our students by endowing this new scholarship at over \$100,000.

Our excitement at successfully completing the campaign brings

closure to several years of determined efforts by our campaign committee members. We give our most humble thanks to Fund for the Future Campaign Chair Donna Hall and the committee members who were unwavering in their commitment to success. Donna guided the strategies, inspired the committee, and set the bar high by reaching out to many new donors. Our accomplishments were possible because of her vision, commitment and leadership.

We are enthusiastic about concluding the campaign when all pledges are fulfilled. By the spring of 2009, we anticipate reporting the completion of all outstanding pledges.

We share tremendous gratitude for your support. Every gift is meaningful to accomplishing the mission of the Gaines Center. You have shown true commitment to the future of the Center by making the Fund for the Future Campaign overwhelmingly successful. Our endowments are stronger because you believe in this program and the students who make the Gaines Center the model of excellence that it is. ■

**THE GAINES CENTER IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

*We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has given to the Fund for the Future Campaign. Our endowment was supported by the generosity of the following individuals, corporations and foundations:*

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*Thank you for creating the new John R. Gaines Endowed Chair in the Humanities and Daniel Rowland Scholarship endowments and strengthening the existing Bale Boone Symposium, Breathitt Lectureship, Bingham Seminar and Lafayette Symposium endowments.*

*We also thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous and those who have made contributions to support other initiatives that are not part of the Fund for the Future Campaign. While not acknowledged here, your support is truly appreciated.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

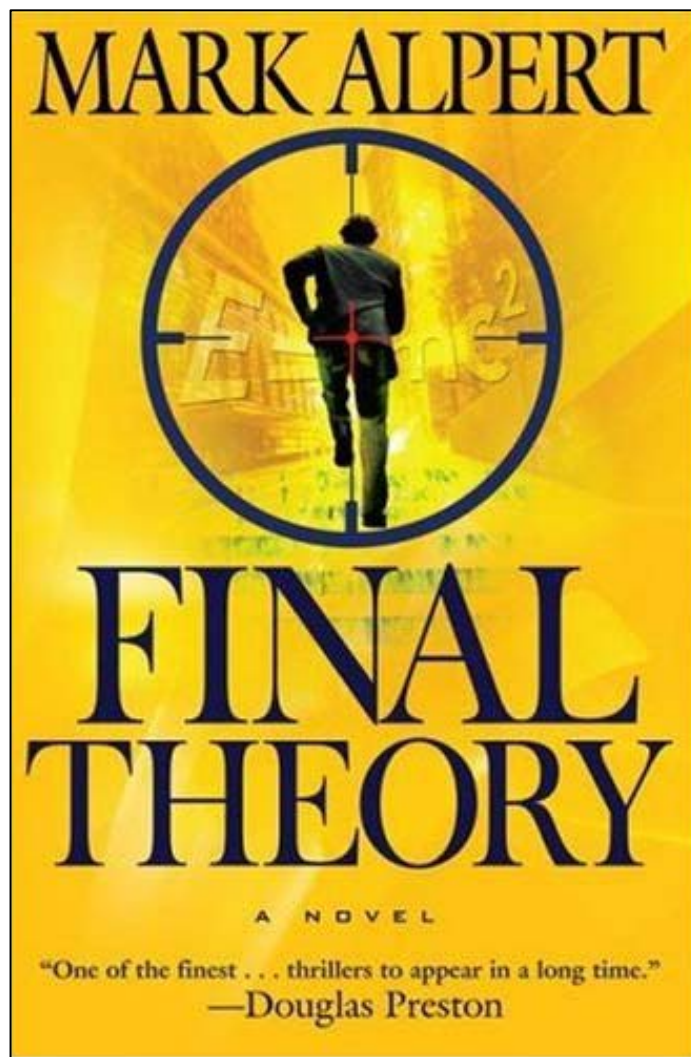
What would you do if Einstein's Theory of Everything were in your possession?

The Gaines Center invites you to join us for a presentation by Mark Alpert, *Scientific American* editor and author of the spellbinding, Einstein-inspired novel *Final Theory* about the search for the Theory of Everything.

7 p.m. Monday, October 20

Room 118 Whitehall Classroom Building

Free & open to the public



### The Final Theory

Albert Einstein started this quest in the 1920s and physicists are continuing the search today with the development of string theory and other hypotheses. This year scientists intensify the search as they hope to operate the Large Hadron Collider, a particle accelerator on the French-Swiss border that will explore the frontiers of high-energy physics by smashing protons together at unprecedented speeds.

### The Presentation

Alpert will discuss the history and potential consequences of this scientific quest, spotlighting the poetry that can be hidden in the equations of physicists.

### The Author

Mark Alpert has been an editor at *Scientific American* for the past ten years. He majored in astrophysics at Princeton University. There he also studied creative writing, and after graduation he made the fateful decision to pursue poetry, rather than physics, at Columbia University. Two years later, he became a journalist, reporting for the *Claremont (N.H.) Eagle Times* and then the *Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser* before returning to NY as a reporter for *Fortune Magazine* and as a freelance contributor to *Popular Mechanics*, CNN's *Moneyline*, and *Playboy*. In 1998 Mark joined the board of editors at *Scientific American*. With his love for science reawakened, he soon came up with the idea for a thriller about high-energy physics that would become *Final Theory*. Alpert lives in Manhattan with his wife and two children



The Gaines Center for the Humanities  
University of Kentucky  
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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.