



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Humanities Lecture Concludes 2010-2011 Hall Center Series

Academic and media luminary, **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, will deliver the final Hall Center Humanities Lecture of the semester on Thursday, 14 April, at 7:30 pm, in Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union. Gates is Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. His lecture is entitled "African American Lives: Genealogy, Genetics and Black History." Gates received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English literature from Clare College, Cambridge. He is the author of several works of literary criticism, including *Figures in Black: Words, Signs and the "Racial" Self* (1987) and *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (1988), winner of the American Book Award in 1989. In 2002, Dr. Gates authenticated and published *The Bondswoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts, dating from the early 1850s and now considered one of the first novels written by an African American woman. He is currently completing a book on race and writing in the eighteenth century, entitled "Black Letters and the Enlightenment." He also edited *The Annotated Uncle Tom's Cabin* (2006) with Hollis Robbins. In that same year, he also wrote and produced the PBS documentary "African American Lives," the first documentary series to employ genealogy and science to provide an understanding of African American history. In 2007, a follow-up one-hour documentary, "Oprah's Roots: An African American Lives Special," aired on PBS, further examining the genealogical and genetic heritage of Oprah Winfrey, who had been featured in the original documentary. He is most recently the author of *Finding Oprah's Roots*, *Finding Your Own* (2007), a meditation on genetics, genealogy, and race.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Collaborative Research Grant

Assistant Professor **Peter Grund** has been notified that he, along with collaborators in New Hampshire and Finland, has been awarded a **Hall Center Collaborative Research Seed Grant** in the amount of \$15,000. Grund, Margo Burns (St. Paul's School, NH) and Matti Peikola (University of Turku) will work together on a project entitled "Writing Practices in Early New England: An Electronic Database of the Recorders of the Salem Witch Trial Documents." Hall Center Collaborative Research Seed Grants "are intended to encourage KU humanities scholars to establish partnerships and conduct preliminary work that will lay the foundation for original expanded collaborative research projects capable of attracting external funding."



Peter Grund

Calendar

F 8 Top City Reading Series features **Joseph Harrington**, English, 7:00 pm, Blue Planet Café, 110 SE 8th Avenue, Topeka, KS.

N 10 MFA Reading Series, featuring KU English MFA students, **Iris Moulton, Mark Petterson, Louise Krug**, 6:00 pm, Genovese, 941 Massachusetts.

T 12 Katie Savage, MFA Defense, 3:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (*Atkins*, Klayder, Moriarty)

W 13 Lisa Schlegel, MFA Defense, 1:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (Irby, Lorenz, W. Harris)

Poetry Reading by **Joseph Harrington**, English, 4:00-5:30 pm, Jayhawk Ink, Level 2, Kansas Union. Book signing follows.

Careers for English Majors featuring panelists **Kathryn Seibel, Ashley White, Courtney Moilanen, Lindsey Rood**, 7:00 pm, McGee Room, Adams Alumni Center.

R 14 Rob Topinka, MA Defense, 3:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (Barnard, Farmer, Tell)

Academics Anonymous, "Professional Publications Workshop," Ron Wilson, Graduate Writing Program, 4:15-5:15 pm, 1045 Wescoe.

Humanities Lecture Series, "African American Lives: Genealogy, Genetics, and Black History," **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Harvard University, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

F 15 Erin Williams, PhD Defense, 9:00 am, 3001A Wescoe (Anatol, Barnard, Farmer, Hartman, Tell)

Margaux Deroux, MA Defense, 11:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (*Devitt*, Farmer, Lancaster)

Maria Polonchek, MFA Defense, 1:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (Anatol, *Atkins*, Moriarty)

The ArKansas Literary Exchange: Students, readings by KU and University of Central Arkansas undergraduates, 3:30 pm, Nunemaker Center.

The ArKansas Literary Exchange: Faculty, fiction reading by **Laura Moriarty**, English, as well as **Garry Craig Powell** and **John Vanderslice**, Writing, University of Central Arkansas, 7:30 pm, Lawrence Arts Center.

Publications

Neill, Anna

“Soul Shaking Science” (review of *Why Do We Care about Literary Characters*, by Blakey Vermeule), *The Evolutionary Review: Art, Science, Culture* 2.1 (2011): 206-8.

Presentations

Colatosti, Jen

“The Social Contract of Shame: PCOS and the (Un)Marking of Difference,” Mid-American Humanities Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 12 March.

Krug, Louise

“From Pretty to Ugly: What It’s Like to Change Overnight, Examined through Memoir,” Mid-American Humanities Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 12 March.

Accepted for Publication

McKitterick, Chris

“Surveyor of Mars” (short story). *Westward Weird* (anthology), DAW Books.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• **The Arkansas Literary Exchange** (sponsored by the English Department, the Honors Program, and the Lawrence Arts Center) will take place on April 14th and 15th. Five undergraduate students and two creative writing faculty members from the University of Central Arkansas will be in Lawrence for the second half of this year’s exchange. There will be a student reading featuring creative writing from KU and UCA undergraduates at Nunemaker Center at 3:30pm on Friday, April 15th. Later that evening, there will be a fiction reading downtown at the Lawrence Arts Center, featuring **Laura Moriarty** and two UCA faculty members, **Garry Craig Powell** and **John Vanderslice**.

• English MFA student **Joe Miller** has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at Columbus State University, Columbus, GA.

• *The Giving of Pears*, a poetry collection by English Ph.D. student, **Abayomi Animashaun**, which was released last year in Denver at AWP, has been named a finalist for the *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award.

KU and Regional Events

• **University Theatre** continues *Man Equals Man*, by Bertolt Brecht, 8-9, 13-16 April, 7:30 pm, 10 April, 2:30 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **CLAS Distinguished Alumni Event**, “Will the Wheat Wave for Future Generations?” Wes Jackson, Founder, The Land Institute, 8 April, 2:00 pm, Alderson Auditorium.

• **CLAS Distinguished Alumni Event**, screening of *Peaceful Warrior*, Q&A with Mark Amin, entertainment executive, 8 April, 7:00 pm, Oldfather Studios, Room 100.

• **Gender Seminar**, “Kweering Kinging Cultures: Negotiating Performances of Racialized Masculinities,” J.V. Sapinosa, LGBT Studies, University of Maryland, 11 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Religious Studies Lecture**, “The Future Church,” John L. Allen, Jr., CNN Vatican Analyst, 11 April, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium.

• **Latin American Seminar**, “Latino Family Formation in Kansas & California: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender,” Jessica Vasquez, Sociology, 15 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.