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# Oregon Humanities Center

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## 2010 Summer Report

### The “Year of the Book” inspires bibliophiles on campus and beyond



After receiving such an enthusiastic response to the Darwin Anniversary lecture series in 2008-09, the OHC was eager to continue with thematic programming again this past year. The “Year of the Book,” a theme that was conceived in collaboration with the Knight Library, exceeded our expectations in almost every way, and elicited participation across the UO campus and in the Eugene community. In addition to the endowed lectureships and other Year of the Book programs sponsored by the OHC, many other campus units—including Creative Writing, Theatre Arts, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Knight Library, the Clark Honors College, English, Romance Languages, Latin American Studies, the Literary Duck (at the UO Bookstore), and the Mills International Center—participated in offering more than 44 book-related events during our year-long celebration.

This theme also allowed us to engage in what was perhaps our most successful partnership with a community organization to date: in early February we were honored to co-host, with the Lane Literary Guild and the Eugene Public Library, a reading by poet W.S. Merwin, who was just recently selected as the U.S. Poet Laureate. Merwin drew more than 500 people to the beautiful downtown library on a Sunday

afternoon, and offered an inspired—and inspiring—hour of poetry and conversation.

It was a tremendous affirmation of the power of the written word, and of poetry in particular, to see the overflow crowd crammed into every possible nook and cranny in the large upstairs hall of the library on that February afternoon.

The topics covered during the Year of the Book were as broad and varied as the participants. Many aspects of the book were examined, including the historical, technological, political, artistic, literary, theatrical, and even the whimsical. A rich array of free public programs spanning an entire academic year explored questions and topics ranging from censorship to digitization, theatrical adaptations to travel guides, and books as works of art to books as edible objects.

We have set the bar high for ourselves with the Year of the Book, but we hope that “Sustenance,” our theme for the coming year, will encourage equally extensive involvement, and that it will gener-

ate a similarly wide range of educational and intellectual opportunities for the campus and the community. We look forward to seeing you at our Sustenance events!

—Julia Heydon, Associate Director



Poet W.S. Merwin, above; book artist Suzanne Moore, right



University Theatre's production of “The Good Doctor,” a Neil Simon play that relies heavily on the work of Anton Chekhov

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## Teaching Fellowship's impact goes beyond classroom, opening doors of understanding

As the old saying goes, "You are what you eat." Yet, not everyone considers fully that this most intimate of everyday acts, the partaking of food, may form a focal point in the relationship between nature, society, and religion.



Dr. Temple Grandin teaching in Unno's class "The Bull in the China Shop: The Oxen at the Intersection of Nature, Society, and Religion."

The Coleman-Guitteau Teaching-and-Research Fellowship afforded me a rare opportunity to gain a glimpse into the human relationship with food-source animals, specifically oxen, as found in the East Asian traditions of Confucianism, Daoism, and Pure Land Buddhism.

The unique structure of the fellowship—with a summer stipend to enable both research and course development; course enhancement support used to bring world-renowned animal scientist and autism expert, Dr Temple Grandin, herself an autistic; and a term of research at the Oregon Humanities Center—has provided an integrated teaching-and-research experience with long-term benefits and blessings. The students taking the seminar engaged in an intimate, writing-intensive collaborative learning process that extended beyond the classroom. They were able take a field trip to Bartels Meat

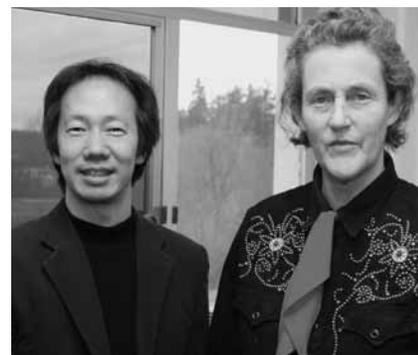
**Who would have thought that a contemporary professor of animal husbandry, Dr. Temple Grandin, could open doors of understanding into early Chinese religion?**

Packing, a family-run business since 1898 that is the largest supplier of all-organic beef in the country; meet with Dr. Grandin in the classroom and hear her public presentation with an audience of

1200; and continue friendships long after the class was over. I learned together, with, and from the students, as their probing questions and articulate essays pushed the envelope of my own thinking. Sharing these questions and ideas with colleagues in the work-in-progress presentation at the Oregon Humanities Center, I received new insights from faculty across many disciplines, and they also shared in their enthusiasm about the work that we are all doing.

Looking back, it is apparent that the creators of the fellowship—David Stern, Nancy Guitteau, and the staff of the Oregon Humanities Center—deeply considered how to maximize this opportunity for both students and faculty, and that this careful planning and visionary support have resulted in a course and research experience that would not otherwise have been possible. Who would have thought that a contemporary professor of animal husbandry, Dr. Temple Grandin, could open doors of understanding into early Chinese religion? Would I have ever visited a meat-packing plant otherwise? And as one student put it, "Now, I really have to think about what it means to eat."

—Mark Unno, Religious Studies  
2009-10 Coleman-Guitteau Professor



Mark Unno and Dr. Temple Grandin

## OHC extends its reach in new ways

During the past year the OHC has sought to extend the availability of its public programs by exploring and utilizing additional media outlets. For the first time ever, we provided live streaming video on the internet of our Cressman lecture by food and world hunger expert Frances Moore Lappé in April. At the peak there were 55 viewers watching on their computers along with the 350 people who came in person to hear Ms. Lappé. Her lecture was later rebroadcast on Eugene's KLCC radio during their fundraiser on "Best of Public Radio," and will also be posted on the website of PeaceDay.tv which celebrates the United



Frances Moore Lappé's lecture "Getting a Grip: Gaining Clarity, Creativity, and Courage for the World We Really Want," was streamed live and available world wide on the internet on April 5, 2010.

Nations' International Day of Peace with online broadcasts September 17-21, 2010.

Another OHC guest, National Security Archive director Peter Kornbluh, gave an interview on KLCC's local news and interview program, "Northwest Passage," (klcc.streamguys.us/NorthwestPassage050510.mp3) and his May 5th lecture will be aired on "Alternative Radio," a weekly one-hour public affairs program available on all public radio stations in the U.S., Canada, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. In addition, portions of the "UO Today" interview with Suzanne Moore, lettering artist and the

continued on page 3

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# Recent publications by humanities faculty

## Books published with OHC Faculty Subvention funds



**Leonardo García-Pabón**, Romance Languages, *De Incas, Chaskañawis, Yanakunas y Chullas. Estudios sobre la novela mestiza en los Andes*, Universidad de Alicante, Spain, 2007.

**Michael Stern**, German and Scandinavian, *Nietzsche's Ocean, Strindberg's Open Sea*, Humboldt-Universität Zu Berlin, 2008.



**Juan Armando Epple**, Romance Languages, *Aproximaciones al Neopolicial*, Ediciones Literatura Americana Reunida (LAR), Chile, 2009. (Funded jointly by OHC and CAS)



**Fabienne Moore**, Romance Languages, *Prose Poems of the French Enlightenment*, Ashgate Publishing Limited (UK), 2009.

**Steve Shankman**, English and Center for Intercultural Dialogue, *Other Others: Levinas, Literature, Transcultural Studies*, State University of New York Press, 2010.



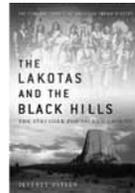
**Daniel Rosenberg**, History, Robert D. Clark Honors College, *Cartographies of Time* (with co-author Anthony Grafton), Princeton Architectural Press, 2010.

## Books by recent OHC Research Fellows

**Jeffrey Ostler**, History, *The Lakotas and the Black Hills: The Struggle for Sacred Ground*, Viking, 2010.



**Kate Mondloch**, Art History, *Screens: Viewing Media Installation Art*, University of Minnesota, 2010. (Published with OHC Faculty Subvention Funds)



**Mark Unno**, Religious Studies, (co-editor), *Kokoro no yamai to shūkyōsei (Psychopathology and Religiousness)*, Hozokan, 2008.

## Published articles by recent OHC Research Fellows

**Michelle McKinley**, Law, "Fractional Freedoms: Slavery, Legal Activism & Ecclesiastical Courts in Colonial Lima, 1593-1700," *Law and History Review*, 28:3, 2010.

**Tze-lan Sang**, East Asian Languages and Literatures, "Failed Modern Girls." In *Performing "Nation": Gender Politics in the Literature, Theater and the Visual Arts of China and Japan, 1880-1940*, ed. Doris Croissant, Catherine Vance Yeh, and Joshua S. Mostow, Brill Academic Publishers, 2008.

**Mark Unno**, Religious Studies, "Comparative Theology with a Difference: A Shin Buddhist View in Pedagogical Perspective." In *Dialogue and Discernment*, ed. Catherine Cornille, Wipf and Stock, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Blindness and Insight: The Vow of a Teacher." In *Kagaku jidai ni okeru ningen to shūkyō (Humanity and Religion in an Age of Science)*. Takeda Ryūsei hakase taishoku kinen ronbun shū (*Festschrift for Dr. Ryusei Takeda*), Hozokan, 2010.

## OHC reach *(cont'd from page 2)*

2009-10 O'Fallon Lecturer, were used as an audio feature on the School of Journalism's online magazine, "Etude" (etude.uoregon.edu). The magazine publishes new and emerging voices in literary nonfiction as well as author interviews, book reviews and columns on the art and craft of writing.

The Temple Grandin lecture on February 9th drew more than 1200 people to campus. Thanks to the up-to-date video capabilities on campus, and the UO cable television system, we were able to broadcast Professor Grandin's lecture live to the six overflow rooms that were needed to accommodate this record-breaking crowd.

Finally, the OHC installed a stunning display in the University of Oregon's showcase at the Eugene airport during December 2009, during which time 60,000 passengers arrived or departed, and again in February 2010 (47,000 passengers). The display featured upcoming campus events related to the Year of the Book and elicited many positive comments from friends on campus and in the community.

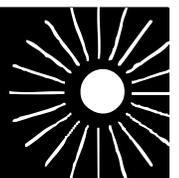


*Peg Gearhart designed and produced the OHC display at the Eugene Airport.*

## Drop us a line!

Tell us which OHC event you enjoyed most this past year.  
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Sustenance  
2010-11





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