The year of “Sustenance” was a bountiful one for us—and we hope that many of you reading this were able to share in some of that bounty! We hosted six major lectures on the theme of Sustenance with such luminaries as Terry Tempest Williams, Van Jones, and Richard Louv. There were more than 2,400 people in physical attendance at these events, and another 351 joining us virtually through our streaming web broadcasts.

In addition, we co-sponsored more than 50 humanities events on campus, 41 of which were directly related to the Sustenance theme. We are heartened by the enthusiasm we have experienced from so many departments all across the campus for our themes, and we have enjoyed watching the participation in our theme-related programming grow each year.

We applied the notion of Sustenance to a couple of our core constituencies this past year in some new and rewarding ways as well. We started off the academic year with an orientation luncheon for all of our 2010-11 OHC fellows. The fellows introduced themselves and shared a few remarks about their areas of academic interest and plans for their research term. The results were more fruitful than we had imagined—new professional relationships were forged and collaborations born, and there was an increased sense of the Center as a home to a community of scholars who could sustain one another intellectually and personally while being supported themselves by the OHC. You can read about the work of some of this year’s fellows in the pages that follow.

We also provided sustenance—both literal and metaphorical—to our loyal financial supporters in May, when we held our first ever Donor Recognition Reception. Many of our regular donors and friends—who have so steadfastly nourished our mission over the years—joined us for refreshments, music, and conversation before adjourning to the lecture hall for some rich food for thought from OSU philosopher and writer Kathleen Dean Moore.

I realized while writing this column that no matter what our theme is for any given year, sustenance is really at the heart of what we do here at the Center. We provide professional sus-

continued on page 3
The fellowship experience: “escape from the bubble”

This past fall I was in residence at the OHC, working on a chapter from a book project about the songs of Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn) (1805–1847). Hensel is perhaps best known as the “the other Mendelssohn,” the sister of a famous brother. But in truth she was much more than that: a fixture of the Berlin music scene, who performed and conducted her own works, as well as those by Bach, Mozart, Handel, Beethoven, and her brother, in regular Sunday gatherings that she organized in her home; Felix’s biggest confidante and critic, who exerted an immeasurable influence on him; and above all an immensely gifted composer, who wrote nearly 500 works of music, including 249 songs, before suddenly dying of a stroke at the age of 41.

After more than a century of neglect, “the other Mendelssohn” is finally receiving the attention she deserves. The bulk of Hensel research is historical or editorial; analysis of her music, however, is rare. My book aims to fill this gap by providing an in-depth study of the most significant portion of her output, where her distinctive musical voice can be heard most clearly. What are the main features of that voice, and what forces shaped it? What are the hallmarks of Hensel’s songs, and how do they compare with her brother’s songs and those of Schubert and Schumann, the most famous nineteenth-century songwriters? How is her musical style influenced by her gender and the fact that as a woman largely excluded from the world of professional composition she wrote almost all of her songs for private purposes—for concerts in her home, for family and friends, or only for herself?

Thanks to the support of the OHC, I was able to complete an article on Hensel’s song aesthetic, which will be published this month in the Journal of Musicological Research and later incorporated into my book. My time at the Center gave me the chance to immerse myself in new music and new ideas and pursue the kind of creative research that is not just expected for promotion and tenure purposes but essential to our work at the university.

But the OHC fellowship did far more than that. For an academic, it’s all too easy to live in the bubble of your own ideas. The OHC encourages you to escape that bubble and share your work with a wider audience. They do this through their Work-In-Progress talks, required of every fellow. One of the high points of my fellowship term was giving a presentation to an audience that included scholars outside of music. Karen Ford, from the English department, pointed out that the tragedy in a particular German poem I was working with as a song text was far more ambiguous than I had realized—and that tragedy was highlighted by the ambiguity of Hensel’s music. My article is far better for Professor Ford’s suggestion. (Subsequently I had the pleasure of attending her Work-In-Progress talk, where I discovered that we share an affinity for the expressiveness of poetic form.) The OHC also asks us to present our work to an off-campus audience, recognizing the value of bringing scholarship beyond the walls of the academy. In March, I gave a lecture-recital at the Osher Lifelong Learning Center, which was an absolute delight, and inspired me to put together a similar lecture-recital for an academic conference this past July.

What strikes me most about my experience at the OHC, however, is that it has made me a better teacher. This might seem like a strange thing to say; after all, a research fellowship gives professors time away from the classroom, a chance to forget momentarily about lesson plans and late assignments. At the same time, though, it requires us to do just what we are expected to teach our students to do: read critically, master the literature on a given subject, turn an idea into an argument, write and rewrite, learn to think for ourselves, strive to make our ideas clear to audiences of all stripes. I emerged from my fellowship term with a published article and a head start on a new book project—this is true. Yet I also emerged with a keener sense of my responsibility to share what I do with my students. And not just what I do, but also how I go about doing it, with all the attendant trials and joys.

—Steve Rodgers
Associate Professor, Music Theory

2010-11 by the numbers

Sustenance events: 41 events
(collaboration with 17 depts.)

OHC cosponsored events: 50

Attendance at OHC lectures: 2,400

Live webcast viewers: 351
(3 events)

UO Today shows taped: 36

Fellowships granted: 16
(10 faculty fellowships)
(6 graduate student fellowships)

Work-in-Progress talks: 13

Website page views: 9,828

Facebook friends: 112
Memories of the spring donor reception

Pictured left to right: Alice Callicott, Barbara Altmann (OHC Director), and Esther Jacobsen-Tepfer; Debbie and Steve Gibson; Nancy Raymond and Ken Kodama (BOV member); Jim (BOV member) and Sharon Duncan; Kathleen Dean Moore; Julia Heydon (OHC Associate Director) and Eleanor Ryan; David Rogers; Margot Fetz.

Sustenance (cont’d from pg. 1)

tenance and support to UO faculty and graduate students through our research fellowships; we promote the growth and development of the undergraduate humanities curriculum through our faculty teaching fellowships; and we offer high quality arts and humanities public programming as intellectual nourishment for the community. In turn, we are nourished and sustained by the work that we do. We welcome your comments about how the OHC has provided sustenance in your life. Please share your thoughts with us at: ohc@uoregon.edu. Thank you!

—Julia Heydon
Associate Director

See us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/OregonHumanitiesCenter
Preserving a language and a way of life in Bhutan

Bhutan is home to approximately 20 languages, almost all of which are unwritten and almost completely unstudied. As speakers of Bhutan’s minority languages adopt mainstream languages (such as English, Hindi, and Dzongkha - Bhutan’s national language), these minority languages are lost to history with no record of the language for posterity.

My dissertation, A grammar of Kurtöp, is the first description of the Kurtöp language, a minority language spoken in Northeastern Bhutan by approximately 15,000 people. In order to write the grammar, I spent over 15 months engaged in field work in Bhutan, where Kurtöp is spoken natively. My field research was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, out of the School of Oriental and African Studies. However, after spending a full a year back in Eugene analyzing the data I had collected while I was in Bhutan, I found myself needing still more time to complete the grammar. Finding time was especially challenging as I was teaching part time in my role as a Graduate Teaching Fellow.

The Oregon Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship allowed me the time I needed to complete my dissertation. In the end, A grammar of Kurtöp described various aspects of the language in 23 separate chapters. In addition to presenting the Kurtöp grammatical system for the first time, my dissertation shows how the study of a language can help us to understand the culture, world-view, and values of the people who speak it—for example, how speakers know what they know, and what informs their method of marking ‘subjects.’

I defended my dissertation in November 2010 and received my PhD diploma in March 2011. Immediately after completing my PhD I was awarded a three-month post-doctoral research grant from the Australian Government to work in Melbourne. In late July, I returned to the U.S. and I will begin my tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Boise State University this fall. Indeed, the successful completion of my PhD and my subsequent academic success is due in large part to the opportunity afforded to me by the OHC Dissertation Fellowship.

—Gwen Hyslop
2010-11 Graduate Dissertation Fellow

The OHC Graduate Dissertation Fellowship gives final-year doctoral students a term off from regular teaching duties to focus on their dissertation.

Be a fellowship hero

The Graduate Dissertation Fellowship is currently our highest fundraising priority. Additional funds are crucial to the future of this fellowship program. A gift of $6,000 will fund a Dissertation Fellow for one term. When you send your gift, be sure to direct it to the Graduate Dissertation Fellowship. For more information, contact Julia Heydon at (541) 346-1001.

News from former graduate fellows

Kelly Sultzbach (2007-08 OHC Graduate Research Fellow) is now Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

Melissa Baird (2008-09 OHC Graduate Research Fellow) has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Global Heritage at Stanford University. She will be affiliated with the Stanford Archaeological Center and the Woods Institute for the Environment.

Sarah LaChance Adams (2009-10 Graduate Research Fellow) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, Superior in the Department of Social Inquiry.

Nicolino Applauso (2009-10 OHC Graduate Dissertation Fellow) is now a Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian at The Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Rachel Hanan (2009-10 OHC Graduate Research Fellow) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming.
Recent publications by humanities faculty

Books published by recent OHC Research Fellows


**Cecilia Enjuto Rangel**, Romance Languages, *Cities in Ruins: The Politics of Modern Poetics*, Purdue University Press, November 2010. Published with OHC Faculty Subvention funds.

Books published with OHC/CAS Subvention funds


This report is also available on our website: ohc.uoregon.edu
If you receive this newsletter through U.S. Mail and would like to be taken off our mailing list please let us know.
Call (541) 346-3934 or send an e-mail to: lhenrik2@uoregon.edu.

Many thanks to our supporters

The Oregon Humanities Center depends on the support of our generous donors to make our public programs, UO Today, and faculty and graduate fellowship programs possible. We invite you to learn more about OHC giving opportunities by visiting ohc.uoregon.edu or calling (541) 346-1001. Thank you!

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