This month marks the end of my fifteenth year as Associate Director of the Oregon Humanities Center. It’s been a fascinating journey, and it continues to get better and more interesting. This past year, in which we explored the topic, “being human,” was arguably the most successful one the OHC has had with regard to public programming since I’ve been in this job. It was certainly my favorite series of speakers and events so far, and I’ve heard that sentiment echoed by many of our regular audience members as well.

We took a chance when we decided to explore a core humanistic issue from a wide range of perspectives and disciplines, some of which are regarded as being outside the “humanities” proper. But I believe our gamble paid off. We had an excellent series of speakers, consistently larger, more attentive audiences than ever before, and a record number of newcomers at our events. Knowing that we are reaching an ever-widening audience with engaging, thought-provoking cultural programs brings me a great deal of satisfaction, and optimism regarding the future of the humanities. I am proud of the work we do here at the OHC, and grateful to be a part of it.

We began the year with a concert featuring three of the most prominent performers in the field of early music today, including the legendary Dutch gambist Wieland Kuijken. The concert took place on a very rainy Monday night in mid-October, but the inclement weather did not deter the more than 200 people who turned out to hear these fabulous musicians. That enthusiastic audience presaged the overflow crowd of nearly 450 people who showed up on November 13th for the Lorwin Lecture with civil rights activist and legal scholar Michelle Alexander. More than half of the people at Alexander’s thought-provoking talk were new to OHC events—a trend that continued at other “being human” events throughout the year.

Our year-long exploration of “humanness” continued in January with lectures in Eugene and Portland by Dr. Ira Byock, a nationally known palliative care physician and leader in advocating for better end-of-life care and hospice. Not only were both the Eugene and Portland lecture halls filled to capacity for Byock’s powerful and well-delivered talks, but we also had our largest “virtual” audience ever watching the lectures in streaming format. In fact, the online viewer demand for Byock’s Eugene lecture was so high it at times exceeded the capacity of our server!

continued on page 4
OHC Faculty Research Fellow is making a big splash

Mark Carey has had quite a year! The newly-tenured associate professor of History in the Robert D. Clark Honors College spent his fall term in residence at the OHC as a Faculty Research Fellow, working on his project “Encounter with Ice: How Glaciers Shaped Society, Advanced Science, and Captured our Imagination.” In April, Carey’s research on the human history of glaciers earned him a coveted National Science Foundation (NSF) Early Career Development (CAREER) award. The $459,000 award will result in a new book and several ambitious educational initiatives that will enhance the UO community. The CAREER Award is NSF’s most prestigious award in support of early career faculty “who exemplify the role of the teacher-scholar, demonstrating both outstanding research and innovative approaches to education.”

Prior to his fellowship term, Carey received the Elinor Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History for his 2010 book, *In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society*. The book examines the devastating effects of climate change in South America’s Andes mountain range.

Carey’s research has established him as a rising star on the UO campus as well. He received an Early Research Career Award as part of the 2013 UO Research Excellence Awards program sponsored by the Office for Research, Innovation, and Graduate Education. These highly selective awards recognize the most outstanding research activities taking place at the UO.

Where are they now?
Updates on former graduate fellows

**Sarah LaChance Adams**, Ph.D., Philosophy, and 2009–10 Graduate Fellow, is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Inquiry at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. She specializes in 19th- and 20th-century continental philosophy, ethics, feminism, and philosophical psychology. LaChance Adams is co-editor of an anthology titled *Coming to Life: Philosophies of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Mothering*. Her first monograph, *The Ethics of Ambivalence: Mad Mothers, Bad Mothers and What a Good Mother Would Do*, is forthcoming from Columbia University Press.

**Rachel Hanan**, Ph.D., English, and 2009–10 Graduate Fellow, is an assistant professor of English at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming.

**Colleen Ahland**, Ph.D., Linguistics, and 2010–11 Graduate Dissertation Fellow, is a Linguistics Consultant at SIL-Ethiopia in Rolla, Missouri near St. Louis.

**Emma Jones**, Ph.D., Philosophy, and 2010–11 Graduate Fellow, is a Grants Officer at STAND! For Families Free of Violence in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Yu Zhang**, Ph.D., East Asian Languages and Literatures, and 2011–12 Graduate Dissertation Fellow, spent this past academic year as a visiting assistant professor of Chinese language and culture at the University of North Dakota. In the fall of 2013, she will begin a tenure-track position at Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland.

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*Sarah LaChance Adams: “[The OHC fellowship] was a very meaningful experience for me.”*
OHC fellowships make a difference!
2010–11 OHC Graduate Dissertation Fellow shares her experience

In the last term of my graduate career, I was struggling to finish my dissertation while also applying for academic positions. Both are incredibly time-consuming and stressful endeavors, each almost a full-time job. Had I needed to work in order to support myself during this time, I either would have not have finished my dissertation, or not been able to find a job. Because of the financial support provided by the fellowship, I was able to devote myself fully to these important tasks. The fellowship provided me the time, the space, and the supportive environment I needed. The office I had at the Center was the only private space I had for my work. My small campus apartment just barely fit me and my family; there was no space for me to work at home, and my department had nothing to offer me. Having an OHC office allowed me to work and fully concentrate on finishing my dissertation. In addition, it gave me the space to prepare for and take phone interviews, which eventually turned into job offers. I know I would not be where I am today if it weren’t for the OHC Dissertation Fellowship.

Gwendolyn Hyslop, Ph.D. Linguistics

Dissertation fellow documents Karbi language

My fellowship term in Spring 2013 provided me with time to do four important things, three of which directly contributed to a more successful dissertation: updating databases; writing up the large and difficult section on Karbi phonetics and phonology; and presenting part of my dissertation research at an international workshop. The fourth thing I did was extra: I participated in the first 3-Minute Thesis competition at the UO, and won first prize.

My dissertation is a descriptive grammar of Karbi, a language spoken by half a million people in the far northeastern part of India, a region surrounded by Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and Burma. An area just slightly larger than Oregon, Northeast India is home to 200 languages, almost all of which are under- or undocumented. As a grammar of Karbi, my dissertation represents a reference work on Karbi language, oral literature, and other central elements of Karbi culture. The grammar is based on recordings of different types of spoken language use, such as folk stories from the rich Karbi oral literary traditions, narrations of events, procedural texts that explain how something is done (e.g., traditional recipes), or interviews. The recordings are transcribed, translated, and analyzed, and then function as a comprehensive database. During my OHC fellowship term, I was able to update this database of spoken Karbi, as well as focus on writing my dissertation.

Thanks to financial support from the OHC, I had the opportunity to present part of my research at an international workshop in Bielefeld, Germany. I received important feedback at the workshop, which I am now incorporating into my dissertation.

As for the 3-Minute Thesis competition in May 2013, the goal was to describe—in no more than three minutes to a general audience—what my dissertation is about and why it is important. I’m really grateful to the OHC Dissertation Fellowship for giving me the time to learn how to present my work clearly and concisely.

Linda Konnerth, Linguistics
RIG news

Human/Animal Research Interest Group has active year

Editor’s note: What follows is an edited excerpt from the first annual report of the OHC Human/Animal Research Interest Group, submitted by co-directors Anna Sloan and David Alexander Craig.

The Human/Animal RIG held 13 meetings during 2012–13 with faculty, graduate, and undergraduate researchers from diverse campus departments. We discussed relevant disciplinary readings and heard research presentations by RIG members or invited faculty members. Topics covered included the animal dimension of disability studies, animal domestication, primate empathy, the exclusion of animals from traditional sociological theory, and the archaeology of human/animal relations in pre-contact Alaska. We also screened a film, the 2012 Québécois documentary Bestiaire, complete with an antiquated Jiminy Cricket cartoon opener.

Using OHC funds, we were able to offer modest catering at our meetings and, more significantly, we organized an invited speaker event. Virginia Morell, author of Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures, came for a two-day visit in the spring. Morell delivered a public lecture to a large audience, and the following day, students and faculty met with her over lunch to discuss her work and to share inspiration for their own projects. Morell’s visit was a highlight of the RIG’s year. It boosted the RIG’s visibility on campus and allowed us to add fresh names to our contact list.

We intend to continue our RIG program in 2013–14 with wider participation, a further range of topics and authors, and more active promotion of RIG members’ research. We hope to host at least one other invited speaker. We may also attempt to organize a mini-conference on the notion of “human/animal vulnerability.”

Associate Director’s Note (continued from page 1)

In February, National Geographic ethnographer and anthropologist Wade Davis drew an overflow audience of close to 500, and mesmerized his listeners for more than an hour with a fascinating and visually stunning slide lecture about human cultures. Equally intelligent and engaging—and well-attended—was the Clark Lecture in March by the up-and-coming young neuroscientist, David Eagleman, on the mysterious inner workings of the human brain.

Our year of public programs concluded with a visit by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, who gave two lively and provocative lectures on human behavior and moral intuition to capacity audiences in Eugene and Portland.

As you can see in these pages, it was also a very productive and successful year for OHC research fellows, both graduate and faculty. Our fellowship programs continue to be at the core of our mission to support the humanities on campus as well as in the community.

Thanks for your part in making this past year such a successful one for the OHC! If for some reason you were unable to attend our 2012–13 lectures and would like to see them, most of them can be found online at our website: ohc.uoregon.edu

We look forward to seeing you at our events this coming year. We realize we have set the bar high for ourselves, so we’re counting on you to help make our 2013–14 series, “Vulnerable,” as successful as this year’s programming was! Look for our fall newsletter/calendar at the end of September. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any ideas or comments you wish to share: jheydon@uoregon.edu

2012–13 by the numbers

“being human | human being” events: 46
(collaboration with 16 departments)

OHC co-sponsored events: 73
(25 campus units; Eugene Opera, Eugene Ballet, and Oregon Social Learning Center)

Attendance at OHC events: 2582
(up 38% from last year!)

Live webcast viewers: 562 Eugene lectures only
(up 240% from last year!)

UO Today shows taped: 31

Fellowships granted: 17
(11 faculty fellowships, 6 graduate fellowships)

Work-in-Progress talks: 14

Website unique visitors: 15,732

Website page views: 26,764

Facebook friends: 188
Publications supported by the OHC

Books and articles published by recent OHC Research Fellows


Books published with OHC/CAS subvention funds


Note from the Director:
A fond farewell

What a wonderful time it has been! I’ll be stepping down as director of the OHC soon, so I’m taking a moment to reflect on my five years in this job. You may have heard me open an OHC event with the phrase, “It’s an honor and a privilege to welcome you.” Well, every word of that is true. Each lecture, performance, interview, meeting, and work-in-progress talk has been a pleasure. What a luxury to learn about so many fields. What an honor to work with deep thinkers to promote broad-ranging discussions about humanist concerns. What a privilege to plan OHC events for engaged, thoughtful members of the UO, Eugene-Springfield, and Portland communities.

For everything we’ve accomplished, I owe a real debt of thanks. Kudos to our Advisory Board and Board of Visitors; to the crew who film our tv show, “UO Today”; to our donors; to our audiences, including the faithful repeat-attenders and those who come out of curiosity for the first time. Most of all, I want to thank our staff—smart, quick, creative, caring, hard-working women—who have made the job a real joy. My deep appreciation to you all.

We’re happy to announce that Paul Peppis from the English Department will be interim director for next year. Paul is a veteran of the Advisory Board and has helped out as a guest-host for interviews. He’ll bring fresh ideas and the vitality that make him an outstanding teacher and scholar. As for me, I’ll remain a staunch supporter of the OHC. You may spot me in the audience for events. And as always, I invite comments and questions. You’ll find me at the usual e-mail: baltmann@uoregon.edu.

Barbara K. Altmann
This report is available on our website:
ohc.uoregon.edu

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ohc@uoregon.edu

Many thanks to our supporters

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

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