



Oregon Humanities Center

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Fall 2015

James Braxton Peterson examines the triumphs and challenges of the Black Lives Matter movement

The OHC is pleased to inaugurate its year of programming on the theme of “Justice” with a visit by noted hip-hop scholar, social commentator, and social justice activist **James Braxton Peterson**, Director of Africana Studies and Associate Professor of English at Lehigh University. Peterson will give the annual **Lorwin Lecture on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on Thursday, October 22nd at 7:30 p.m.** in the **EMU Ballroom** on the UO campus. In his lecture, “**A Song, A Slogan, and A Service: Dispatches from the Movement for Black Lives,**” Peterson will provide several insights and updates regarding the Black Lives Matter movement, and talk about the ways in which popular culture can be a powerful force in shaping our nation’s political and social discourse and direction.

Peterson’s three-part talk will include a discussion of the Hip-hop gen-

eration’s emergence as a powerful force for cultural critique and social activism, and one rapper’s prophetic voice in his anthem adopted by the Black Lives Matter movement. He will also address persistent and troubling blind spots within the Black social justice movement in the 21st century. #SayHerName is a resulting movement that pursues equal justice for Black women and members of the LGBTQ community. Finally, he will show that current events have deep historical precedents and roots, and



Mourners outside Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC

that we still have a long way to go before we will reach a state of true social justice and equality in America. While many

continued on page 2

Hip-hop poetics a new movement in American arts and letters

The UO English Undergraduate Organization, inspired by the new anthology,

The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop, presents “**A Campus Visit with the BreakBeat Poets.**” *The BreakBeat Poets* editors will conduct daytime workshops for students and give a public performance on **Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7 p.m.** in the **EMU Ballroom**. The evening event will feature participants from the workshops and the UO Poetry Slam Team.

Co-editor Kevin Coval states in the book’s introduction, “Hip-hop and BreakBeat Poetics use the

familiar—food, family and neighborhood—to connect to a vastly disparate audience in order to bring awareness to the sanctity and humanity of the people and places at the center of the poem.” Coval continues, “This is the story of how generations of young people reared on hip-hop culture and aesthetics took to the page and poem and microphone to create a movement in American letters in the tradition of the Black Arts, Nuyorican, and Beat generations and add to it and innovate on top. We are in the Tradition—and making one up. Hip-hop saves young people from voicelessness and art-less public educations”

Kevin Coval is the author of *Schtick*,
continued on page 3



Editors of *The BreakBeat Poets* (left to right): Kevin Coval, Nate Marshall and Quraysh Ali Lansana

UO celebrates acquisition of James Tiptree Jr. literary papers

With support from the OHC's **Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities**, the UO Libraries will celebrate the acquisition of the literary papers of American fiction writer **James Tiptree, Jr.** (Alice B. Sheldon) in a two-day symposium on **December 4–5, 2015**.

James Tiptree, Jr. was the pen name of Alice Sheldon (1915–1987), an award-winning feminist author. In addition to being a science fiction writer, Tiptree was an artist, a U.S. military intelligence analyst, and a research psychologist. Her work helped to break down barriers and assumptions about gender and literary genres. (It was not publicly known until

1977 that James Tiptree, Jr. was a woman.) Tiptree published nine collections of short stories and two novels, *Up the Walls of the World* (1978) and *Brightness Falls from the Air* (1985). She won many literary awards during her lifetime, and was inducted posthumously into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2012. The acquisition of the Tiptree Papers enriches the UO Library's growing collection of feminist science fiction manuscript collections.



The symposium will kick off with a keynote talk by Julie Phillips, author of the biography, *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice Sheldon* (St. Martins, 2006). In addition, there will be a panel discussion with writers who carried on lively and engaging correspondences with Tiptree (thinking she was a man), including Ursula K. Le Guin and Suzy McKee Charnas.

The symposium will take place in 182 Lillis Hall, and is free and open to the public. For details about the symposium schedule, please contact Linda Long, Manuscripts Librarian, at (541) 346-1906, or visit library.uoregon.edu/tiptreesymposium

An exhibit about Tiptree/Sheldon's life will be on display in the Knight Library (on the first floor, and in Special Collections and University Archives) throughout the fall quarter.

Peterson (cont'd from page 1)

were organizing around recent significant historical anniversaries, Peterson attended a church service at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. "The cameras are gone, the media is gone, but the pain and devastation remain," says Peterson.

Peterson's first book, *The Hip-Hop Underground and African American Culture*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. He hosts "The Remix," a regular podcast on Philadelphia's NPR affiliate, WHYY. "The Remix" engages issues at the intersection of race, politics, and popular culture. Peterson has written for the Huffington Post, The Guardian, Reuters, and The Daily Beast. He is currently an MSNBC contributor and has appeared on MSNBC, Al-Jazeera, CNN, HLN, Fox News, and other networks as an expert on race, politics, and popular culture.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For information, or disability accommodations (which must be made by Oct. 15th), please call 541-346-3934 or contact ohc@uoregon.edu.

Black Lives Matter: Race and Justice Across America

The Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics presents two talks by **Charles Ogletree**, professor of law at Harvard Law School and the founding and executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, on **Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **First Congregational Church,**

1126 SW Park Ave, Portland; and on **Thursday, November 12, at noon** at the **Ford Alumni Center.**

The lectures are free and open to the public, but registration is required (waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu/4290-2). Ogletree's visit is cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center.



James Braxton Peterson



Charles Ogletree

OREGON HUMANITIES CENTER

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Red Chamber goes green at the UO

With support from the **OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities**, the School of Music and Dance presents the **Red Chamber** ensemble on **Friday, October 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall**. Guests of the popular World Music Series, Red Chamber straddles traditional and contemporary, whether it be ancient Chinese string band music seldom heard in the west, bluegrass, or jazz fusion.

As diverse as they are, Red Chamber's array of genres all take their inspiration from the traditional Chinese "plucked string" repertoire that is seldom if ever heard in the West.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the UO Ticket Office, tickets.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-4363.



BreakBeat Poets (cont'd from page 1)

L-vis Lives: Racemusic Poems, Everyday People and the American Library Association "Book of the Year" Finalist *Slingshots: A Hip-Hop Poetica*. He is the founder of Louder Than a Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, and teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Quraysh Ali Lansana is the author of eight poetry books, three textbooks, and editor of eight anthologies. He is a faculty member in the Creative Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute and the Red Earth MFA Creative Writing Program at Oklahoma City University.

Nate Marshall is the author of *Wild Hundreds*. He won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize and served as a Zell Postgraduate Fellow at the University of Michigan. He is a founding member of the poetry collective Dark Noise. He is also a rapper.

"A Campus Visit with the BreakBeat Poets" is cosponsored by the **OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities**; English Undergraduate Organization; College Scholars Program; College of Arts and Sciences; Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics; UO Cultural Forum; Undergraduate Studies; and Division of Equity and Inclusion.



Apply for a 2016–17 OHC fellowship

Find guidelines and applications at ohc.uoregon.edu

Faculty

**Deadlines: October 26, 2015—CAS faculty
November 2, 2015—all other faculty**

Research Fellowships

- OHC fellowships: one term free from teaching to engage in full-time research
- Ernest G. Moll Fellowship in Literary Studies (awarded to outstanding proposal in literary studies): one term free from teaching plus \$1,000 in research support
- VP for Research and Innovation Completion Awards: one term free from teaching to finish a project intended for publication
- Provost's Senior Humanist Fellowships for Full and senior Associate Professors: one term free from teaching

Teaching Fellowships

- \$4,500 summer support to develop or substantially modify a course
- Up to \$1,000 in course enhancement funds
- Team-teaching applications eligible

Coleman-Guitteau Professorship

- \$4,500 summer support to develop or substantially modify a course
- Up to \$4,000 in course enhancement funds
- Team-teaching applications encouraged

Wulf Professorship

- \$4,500 summer support to develop or substantially modify a course
- Up to \$4,000 in course enhancement funds
- Team-teaching applications eligible

Graduate fellowship guidelines and applications will be available at ohc.uoregon.edu soon. Deadline: February 1, 2016

OHC and VPRI launch new undergrad research initiative

The OHC, with the support of the VP for Research and Innovation, is pleased to announce a new program that will support undergraduate humanities research. The program, known as **HURF (Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship)**, will provide awards of \$2,500 to up to eight undergraduate students who will each work for 16 weeks with a faculty mentor of their choice on a humanities research project. The students will present their work at the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, sponsored by the VP for Undergraduate Studies. The deadline for applications is **November 1, 2015**. For more information and application materials, please visit: tinyurl.com/p58rybs



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Mark your calendars!

LORWIN LECTURE:

JAMES B. PETERSON

Africana Studies and English,
Lehigh University

Thursday, October 22, 2015
7:30 p.m. • EMU Ballroom

TZEDEK LECTURE:

CURT TOFTELAND

founder and director,
Shakespeare Behind Bars

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

Wednesday, January 20, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Portland

GRESSMAN LECTURE:

NAOMI KLEIN

author, *This Changes Everything:
Capitalism vs. the Climate*

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
7:30 p.m. • EMU Ballroom

CLARK LECTURE:

LORI GRUEN

Philosophy and Animal Studies,
Wesleyan University

Thursday, March 10, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

O'FALLON LECTURE:

HENDRIK HARTOG

History and American Studies,
Princeton University

Thursday, April 21, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

KRITIKOS LECTURE:

BEN FOUNTAIN

author, *Billy Lynn's Long
Halftime Walk*

Tuesday, May 10, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Eugene

Wednesday, May 11, 2016
7:30 p.m. • UO in Portland

2015–16

JUSTICE

