2011-2012 Saul O Sidore Memorial Lecture Series

Sustainability Unbound Moves Beyond the Buzzword

The lecture series will take place over two days on March 21 and 22, 2012. All lectures are free and open to the public. They will be held in the Huddleston Hall Ballroom.

Melissa Lane
Professor, Department of Politics, Princeton University

March 21 • 12:10 p.m., Huddleston Ballroom

Melissa Lane is a political theorist specializing in ancient Greek thought. She has long experience working with public and private leaders about the ethics and politics of sustainability at the University of Cambridge and the Prince of Wales’s Business and Sustainability Programme. Lane’s specialty is Plato. Her book Eco-Republic is forthcoming this fall, using Plato’s Republic as a model for thinking about a stable, sustainable, and healthy state of mutual shaping between persons and polity. In her talk, Lane will examine the nature of the virtues and the reconceptualization of the common good in light of sustainability. She will also build her talk upon a new interdisciplinary project on communicating scientific uncertainty in which she is involved at Princeton.

Lewis Hyde
Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing, Kenyon College and Faculty Associate, Berkman Center, Harvard University

March 21 • 7:00 p.m., Huddleston Ballroom

Lewis Hyde is a poet, essayist, translator, and cultural critic with a particular interest in the public life of the imagination. His 1983 book, The Gift, illuminates and defends the non-commercial portion of artistic practice. Trickster Makes This World (1998) uses a

Lecture schedule continues on page 2
group of ancient myths to argue for the kind of disruptive intelligence all cultures need if they are to remain lively, flexible, and open to change. Hyde’s most recent book, *Common as Air*, is a spirited defense of our “cultural commons,” that vast store of ideas, inventions, and works of art that we have inherited from the past and that continue to enrich in the present. A MacArthur Fellow and former director of undergraduate creative writing at Harvard University, Hyde teaches during the fall semesters at Kenyon College, where he is the Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing. During the rest of the year he lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is a Faculty Associate at Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society.

Jeff Titon

*Professor of Music, Brown University, enthomusicologist*

March 22 • 12:40 p.m., Huddleston Ballroom

Jeff Titon is the author or editor of seven books, numerous articles, recordings, and documentary films. He writes, “Sustainable Music: A Research Blog on the Subject of Sustainability and Music,” which focuses on musical cultures as ecosystems and an ecological approach to musical and cultural sustainability. His work in acoustic ecology and ecological economics theorizes nature’s economy to show how sound transforms place and how ecological principles may inform cultural policy. He is co-founder of the American Studies program at Tufts University. Since 1986, Titon has directed Brown University’s doctoral program in ethnomusicology, and he is a past editor of the *Journal of the Society for Ethnomusicology*. He is the first person trained in ethnomusicology to focus on American vernacular music and is regarded as a pioneer in the area of applied ethnomusicology and cultural conservation. He is currently writing the *Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology* (co-edited with Svanibor Pettan) and a book theorizing an ecological approach to music and cultural policy.

Enrique Leff

*philosopher, economist, and environmentalist*

March 22 • 4:00 p.m., Huddleston Ballroom

Enrique Leff is an environmentalist who works in the fields of political ecology, environmental epistemology, and ecological economics. He is a Level III researcher with the Mexican National Researchers’ System and a professor in Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in the postgraduate division of political and social studies. Leff is also coordinator of the Latin American Environment Training Network of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and former UNEP coordinator for Mexico. He is the author of more than 150 books and articles published in Europe and Latin America, including *Green Production: Toward an Environmental Rationality*. Leff serves on numerous international academic and consultative bodies as well as on the editorial councils of academic journals.

Carol Mansour

*filmmaker*

March 22 • 6:00 p.m., Huddleston Ballroom

Carol Mansour is the director of many documentary films, including *Voices from Yemen, Maid in Lebanon, Invisible Children, A Summer not to Forget, 100% Asphalt*, and more. Founder and owner of Forward Film Production, Mansour makes documentaries about social problems such as domestic workers abuse and child labor in Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen. Her work has won the Jury’s Award from the Sole Luna Film Festival, best short documentary from the International Film Festival - New Zealand, best short documentary at the 2001 Documentary Festival, the Jury's Award at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, and best documentary at the Arab Film Festival of Rotterdam.
Acclaimed playwright, Mohammed Ben Abdalluh of Ghana, will join the faculty of the Department of Theatre and Dance this spring to teach an undergraduate playwriting course and be on-hand throughout the semester as his commissioned play, Song of the Pharaoh is in rehearsals and performed in April. Mr. Abdalluh will be in residence at UNH thanks to the new program, “Cultural Stages: The Woodward International Drama and Dance Initiative.” The aim of this initiative is to broaden and deepen the understanding of international cultures through drama and dance.

Mohammed Ben Abdallah was educated at the University of Ghana, the University of Georgia and the University of Texas at Austin. He is one of Ghana’s foremost playwrights. Ben Abdalluh served as Ghana’s Secretary for Information, Education and Culture, and the first Chairman of the National Commission on Culture during the 1990s. He has lectured at the School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, Legon, where several of his plays have been produced. Among his major plays are: The Witch of Mopti, The Fall of Kumbi, and The Slaves Revisited.

During the week of April 9 – 13, Antoinette Kudoto, a master drummer from Cape Coast, Ghana, will visit classes in five departments, give two public performances, and offer a number of master classes for students, supported by a grant from the Class of 1954 Academic Enrichment Fund. The Center for the Humanities, in partnership with the Africana and African American Studies Program and the Ghana Study Abroad Program (both units within the humanities center), and with co-sponsorship by faculty in History, Music, Theatre, and Women’s Studies applied for the Class of 1954 grant.

“Master drummer” is a formal designation in Ghana, signifying mastery of that nation’s broad range of percussive traditions across ethnicity and region. Ms. Kudoto is the first Ghanaian woman to receive that honor. She is the founder of a number of ensembles and institutes, including the Nyame Tsease African Traditionals, a drumming and dance ensemble in Cape Coast, Ghana. In that capacity, she made arrangements for Brett Gallo, a UNH student supported by an IROP grant, to spend this past summer deeply embedded in traditional percussion and its community context. Kudoto has also received many other honors. She has been a visiting faculty member at the University of Michigan, taught for the School for International Training, taught in schools and universities at all levels in Denmark, spoken at the 2007 Care International Global Conference in Washington, worked with students who have disabilities in Sweden, and taught many American students in Ghana.

West African drumming traditions are hugely influential across the world. In various genres of American popular music— including rhythm and blues, soul, Motown, rock, and jazz—those traditions have been formative.

Both visits deepen the connections between UNH faculty and Ghanaian scholars and artists that were built in process of developing the Center for the Humanities’ study-abroad program at the University of Ghana. Over the past two years, scholars from the University of Ghana have taken part in lecture series at UNH, and UNH students have studied in Ghana during spring semester and the summer. Eight undergraduate UNH students will spend the spring 2012 semester at the University of Ghana as a result of that program.

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**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

UNH Center for the Humanities

One $5,000 grant available for a program, project, or interdisciplinary conference

May be used through December 2012

Deadline: February 24, 2012

Guidelines at www.unh.edu/humanities-center
Holly. R. Cashman
Assistant Professor of Spanish Languages, Literatures and Cultures

During her fellowship in spring 2013, Holly Cashman will write several chapters for her monograph examining how ethnic and sexual identities influence and are influenced by language practices in a multilingual context in the urban Southwest. She writes, “I propose to answer questions related to how gay and lesbian Latinos/as see the relationship between their ethnic identity and sexual orientation, what role language practices (specifically the maintenance of Spanish and/or shift to English) play in people’s understanding of their ethnic and sexual identities, and how community members construct, maintain, display, and negotiate Latino/a and gay and lesbian identities in interaction.”

Cashman’s project aims to apply the tools of humanistic and social scientific inquiry to address a gap in the literature examining the intersection of Latino/a Studies and queer linguistics. She will research the linguistic and cultural practices of gay and lesbian Latinos/as in the greater Phoenix area, focusing on language variation and identity, ethnicity and language maintenance or shift, and sexual identities and interaction. “The intellectual merit of the project rests in its destabilizing of the dominant narrative on language maintenance and shift, much of which relies on a heterosexual family-based model of language transmission,” Cashman continues.

Cashman self-funded her pilot work on the project in Phoenix during the summer of 2010, enabling her to refine a proposal and win a grant from the Cultural Anthropology program of the National Science Foundation. The NSF grant supported sociolinguistic ethnographic field work during the summer of 2012 and the transcription and analysis of collected data during the fall 2012 semester.

Piero Garofalo
Associate Professor of Italian Studies Languages, Literatures and Cultures

In his book-in-progress, Future Perfect: Italian Culture in Transition, 1943-1948, Piero Garofalo will explore how diverse cultural discourses attempted to define and construct a new society in Italy between the fall of Fascism, in the summer of 1943, and the first postwar elections, in the spring of 1948. He writes, “The project arises from my previous work on Fascism and is the foundation of a book-length study, which examines the role of culture in a society undergoing radical social and political transitions.”

Garofalo will explore how a controversial anthology of American literature, an open forum journal, a novel, an art exhibit, and a film informed political debate about the future of Italian society after World War II. Garofalo writes that Italians were asking themselves, “What flaw allowed Fascism to develop? How could a totalitarian rebirth be prevented? What role should the Church have in society? How could the remnants of Fascism be purged? . . . My investigation addresses these concerns through a detailed analysis of five texts that impacted the development of a coherent cultural alternative to the Fascist experience.”

Garofalo spent the past summer working with primary sources in Italy that were fundamental in reconstructing the historical context of the post-war period. He will use his faculty fellowship to prepare his manuscript for publication.
Janet Gold’s fellowship will enable her to finish the remaining four chapters of her project on the literary history of the San Juan River. She writes, “The San Juan River runs from Lake Nicaragua to the Caribbean Sea and forms part of the present-day border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Since the arrival of the first European explorers in the 16th century it has captured the attention of poets, travelers, botanists, geologists and a colorful assortment of writers and adventurers, including Alonso Calero, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mark Twain, José Coronel Urtecho and Gioconda Belli. . . I have begun writing what I hope will be an informative as well as entertaining literary history of the San Juan River, a story that explores the reality of place and the imaginary of text, that weaves together description and reflection, and that brings to life a cast of memorable characters.”

Gold’s work is timely because a group of international scholars, centered at the University of Costa Rica, are currently publishing research that challenges traditional approaches to literary history such as nationalism or gender and racial biases. Gold comments, “The literary history I propose to write will be experimental and interdisciplinary. To foreground a river and to integrate the stories of the writers and travelers who have come under her spell into a narrative that honors the natural landscape by acknowledging its agency and that attempts to articulate the bonds forged between the river and her humans has not to my knowledge been attempted in a systematic way in Central America.”

In 1997 Hong Kong was transferred from Britain to China. Why didn’t the democratic resistance expected by the West materialize? Lu Yan’s book project, Before Affluence and Apathy: Labor Activism and Colonial Restoration in British Hong Kong, 1930s-1950s, seeks to answer that question. “Focusing on Hong Kong’s long-lived but understudied labor activism from the mid-1930s to the 1950s, I treat Hong Kong not as an exceptional case, but instead as one more example of the energetic state interventionism practiced across postwar British Asia. My work also reveals Beijing’s implication in the story as the fledgling communist state used Hong Kong for its own benefit, intentionally undercutting the democratic initiative there long before the colony’s reintegration into China,” she writes.

Lu Yan continues, “Geographically and demographically linked to South China, Hong Kong’s Chinese residents became integrated into the large movements in China during the 1930s to an unprecedented degree. The colony became one of the major centers of the National Salvation Movement, an economic hub transporting war materials and medicine to the mainland, and the headquarters of underground Communist activities in southern China. The two-decades-long labor activism developed since then, and its repercussions in Hong Kong, London, and Beijing, will be reconstructed through six chapters in my book.” Lu Yan believes that her work will demonstrate the limits of political revolution to transform society.

In the late medieval English romance the King of Tars, a Sultan converts to Christianity and his black skin turns white. Textual incidents such as this inspired Cord Whitaker’s book project, Black Metaphors: Race, Religion, and Rhetoric in Late Medieval English Literature. Whitaker writes, “My study will argue that late medieval texts use figures of black people and inanimate black objects, or black metaphors, as literary vehicles for dealing with anxieties about the ability of Christian conversion to efface differences such as those between Christians and Jews, Christians and Muslims, even absolved Christians and those persisting in sin. Black Metaphors will examine medieval thought on difference and its literary expression in order to situate the role of late medieval rhetoric in the development of racial ideology.”

The insights from Whitaker’s research will be of use to scholars tracing the history of modern racial ideology as well as those working on religious difference in the Crusades and early modern European exploration and colonialism. He writes, “Black Metaphors will reorient the academic discussion of pre-modern race in the West from the current notion that darker peoples represented the strange and unknown to the idea that they were an integral part of literary and ethical discourses already well-established in the late Middle Ages. Furthermore, Black Metaphors challenges disciplinary assumptions among medievalists and race theorists alike. Most medievalists have long labored in the belief that race is a modern construction that has nothing to do with the Middle Ages.”
First Mondays Provide a Venue for Collegiality: Please Join Us

The Center for the Humanities is sponsoring gatherings at the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham to build collegiality and community among UNH liberal arts faculty. First Mondays feature a short informal presentation by a colleague speaking on a subject of broad interest. Light refreshments are provided, and a cash bar is open.

On February 6, Jeannie Sowers, Political Science, will discuss “Talking about a Revolution: Egypt in 2011.” On March 5, David Kaye, Theatre and Dance, will introduce distinguished visiting Ghanaian playwright Mohammed Ben Abdalluh. First Mondays will also take place on April 2 and May 7. Gatherings run from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Previous First Monday speakers have included: Cathy Frierson, History, on October 3 talking about “Dead Cats, Drunks, and Shady Friends in High Places: Doing Research in the USSR and Post-Soviet Russia since 1984”; Siobhan Senier, English, on November 7 shared “What I Learned at Digital Humanities Summer Camp”; and Tom Paine, English, read from his novel The Pearl of Kuwait on December 5. The Center is fortunate to have gift monies to support these programs, which use no state-appropriated funds.

Faculty Fellows Lecture

Sheila McNamee, Professor of Communication, will discuss how to use alternative available voices to resolve conflict.

Beyond Resolution: Conflict and Possibility through Difference

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Memorial Union Building, Room 203