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February 2008

The mind is its own place, and in it self
Can make a Heav'n of Hell, a Hell of Heav'n.

-- **John Milton** (1608-74), *Paradise Lost*, book I, lines 254-55

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1. CCE/HRI HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES: Arts Board Panel (6 February)

P ART of Our Province:

Saskatchewan Arts Board Celebrates 60 Years

A Panel Discussion and Reception with

Jeremy Morgan (Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Arts Board)

Sheila Roberts (Canadian Conference of the Arts board member, daughter of founding member of the Arts Board **David Charlton Smith**)

David Thauberger (Saskatchewan artist and Canada Council for the Arts board member)

Date: **Wednesday 6 February 2008**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Place: **College Building, U of R College Avenue campus, CB 106** (note room change)

For more details please contact **Loanne Myrah** at **585-5870** or visit http://www.uregina.ca/hri/CCE_HRI_Heritage_Init.shtml

The Saskatchewan Arts Board will turn 60 this year, but it is far from retirement. Established in 1948, the Arts Board was the first agency of its kind in North America. It continues its pioneering work today by supporting artists, creating partnerships within our communities, and ensuring people have access to Saskatchewan art in all its forms.

Join us for a panel discussion celebrating the Saskatchewan Arts Board's history and directions for the future.

Refreshments will be served following the panel discussion.

This event is part of a Heritage Lecture series cosponsored by the HRI and the Centre for

Continuing Education

The Department of History, the Faculty of Arts, the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, and the HRI are pleased to present:

2. THE ABOLITION OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: A BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION (8-9 February)

2.1. LECTURE: Ty M. Reese (8 February)

Ty M. Reese (University of North Dakota)

"From Luxuries to Dependency: Abolition, Conquest and the Foundations of Gold Coast Imperialism" (An illustrated lecture)

Date: **Friday 8 February 2008**

Time: **3:30 pm**

Place: **Language Institute Theatre, LI 215**

All are welcome

Refreshments will be provided

From England's arrival on the Gold Coast in the mid seventeenth century until 1807, English slavers and Fante middlemen maintained a mutually beneficial relationship in which the Fante, through their control of the coastal slave trade, held the upper hand. This position allowed the Fante to control and benefit from the various luxury items being imported into the Gold Coast through the slave trade's sorting system and it was their control over these commodities that provided their coastal power.

In 1807 this changed with first the Asante conquest of Fante and then with England's decision to abolish its slave trade. These two events undermined Fante's coastal position and, through their continued desire for luxury goods, made them increasingly dependent upon England until, in 1874, it established its Gold Coast colony. The reversal of roles caused by abolition and conquest played a vital role in redefining coastal relations and in doing so laid the foundations for England's Gold Coast imperialism.

Ty M. Reese is an associate professor of history at the University of North Dakota. As the department's Atlantic World historian, he teaches classes on African, Atlantic, Early American and World history. His current research involves a monograph project, *Sortings and Slaves: Trade and Interaction at Cape Coast, 1750-1821*, that examines the consequences of cross-cultural interaction and trade upon the peoples of one Gold Coast enclave. Through this work he seeks to revise our understanding of the consequences of the slave trade upon West Africa by narrowing the focus from large coastal regions to smaller defined regions, or enclaves, and by examining the slave trade within an import rather than export function. His next project involves examining Fante-English interaction on the Gold Coast from 1664 to 1874.

The Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum Inc. (SACHM) presents:

2.2. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION BANQUET celebrating 200 years since the abolition of slavery (9 February)

Date: **Saturday 9 February 2008**

Time: **6:00 pm**

Place: **St. Anne's Church Hall, 1700 Cowan Cr., Regina**

Tickets:

Children 5 and under: Free

Children 6-12: \$10.00

Youth/Students: \$15.00

Adults: \$30.00 (Members - \$25)

Corporate Sponsorship: \$300.00 (Table of 8)

Proceeds go towards the Provincial Centennial Multicultural Monument

Entertainment -- Community Groups/Artists

Keynote Speaker -- **Dr. Ty M. Reese**

To order tickets, please contact the HRI (**Kara Vincent**) at **585-4226**.

Tickets are also available from MCOS at **721-2767**; from SACHM at **751-0848 (Bert Clarke)**; and from the SACHM Secretary at **545-8824 (Carol LaFayette Boyd)**.

SACHM's Mission is to research, find and highlight the contributions and achievements of people of African descent in Saskatchewan, and to publicize, educate the public, celebrate and preserve these contributions and achievements. Please join us in this worthy celebration.

3. HRI PROFILING SCHOLARSHIP TALK/BOOK LAUNCH: Sheila Petty (26 February).

Sheila Petty (Dean of Fine Arts and Professor of Media Studies)

"Contact Zones: Memory, Origin, and Discourses in Black Diasporic Cinema"

Date: **Tuesday 26 February 2008**

Time: **4:00 pm**

Place: **University Club, CW 215**

All are welcome

Cash bar

Refreshments will be provided

For further information please call **Kara Vincent** (HRI) at **585-4226** or click [here](#).

Created at the crossroads of slavery, migration, and exile, and comprising a global population, the black diaspora is a diverse space of varied histories, experiences, and goals. Likewise, black diasporic film tends to focus on the complexities of transnational identity, which oscillates between similarity and difference and resists easy categorization. This talk will address some of the influences of black diasporic cinema on contemporary artistic and theoretical discourses. This event celebrates the publication of **Sheila Petty**'s new book *Contact Zones: Memory, Origin, and Discourses in Black Diasporic Cinema* (Wayne State University Press, 2008).

Sheila Petty is Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Professor of Media Studies at the University of Regina. She has written extensively on issues of cultural representation, identity and nation in African and African diasporic cinema and new media, and has curated film, television and new media exhibitions for galleries across Canada.

4. HRI PROFILING SCHOLARSHIP TALK/BOOK LAUNCH: Cindy MacKenzie (19 March)

Cindy MacKenzie (Dept. of English)

"Wider than the Sky: The Healing Power of Emily Dickinson"

Date: **Wednesday 19 March 2008**

Time: **3:30 pm**

Location: **Centre for Kinesiology, CK 185**

All are welcome

Refreshments will be provided

For further information please call **Kara Vincent** (HRI) at **585-4226** or click [here](#).

This event celebrates the launch of *Wider than the Sky: Essays and Meditations on the Healing Power of Emily Dickinson*, a critical anthology edited by **Cindy MacKenzie** and **Barbara Dana**. **Cindy MacKenzie** will talk about the process of editing the book to publication, and copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Emily Dickinson is known as a poet who presses at the limits of perception and expresses in brilliantly compact, memorable language extremes of both anguish and ecstasy. Her frequent attention to pain and death, like her reclusive tendencies, has led many to dismiss her as "morbid." Biographers and critics, however, have shown how she used her writing and her own acquaintance with pain to reach out consolingly to sufferers. In a widely varied collection of personal reminiscences, tributes, and scholarly essays, editors **Cindy MacKenzie** and **Barbara Dana** offer richly revealing perspectives on how the exquisite language in the poems and letters of **Emily Dickinson** helps readers cope with suffering.

The essays featured in *Wider than the Sky* range from fresh scholarly analyses to highly personal essays and meditations, each offering thoughts on the emotional, spiritual, and physical healing power gained from reading **Dickinson**. **MacKenzie** and **Dana** invite readers to reflect on how we respond to poems, how they enter into the core of our consciousness, and how we draw strength from what Dickinson called "the Art of Peace."

Cindy MacKenzie teaches English at the University of Regina. She is best known for her

compilation *A Concordance to the Letters of Emily Dickinson* (2000). She has also published articles on **Dickinson** in the *Emily Dickinson Bulletin* and *Emily Dickinson Journal*. Her passionate interest in **Dickinson** has taken her to conferences in the United States, Europe, and Japan as an active participant and, presently, as a board member of the Emily Dickinson International Society and of the American Literature Association.

5. **(Rescheduled)** HRI /CAMPION HUMANITIES PANEL: Daniel Coleman (25 March)

"The Culture of Research: 'Retooling' the Humanities": A Panel Discussion

Daniel Coleman (Father Peter Nash, S.J. Chair in Religion, Campion College, and Canada Research Chair in Critical Ethnicity and Race Studies, McMaster University) and respondents

Date: **Tuesday 25 March 2008**

Time: **4:00 pm**

Place: **Riffel Auditorium, Campion College**

All are welcome

Refreshments will be provided

For further information contact **Kara Vincent** (HRI) at **585-4226** or **Joanne Kozlowski** (Campion) at **359-1244**, or click [here](#).

The Humanities are under considerable pressure in the current culture of research at Canadian universities. Since the 1970s, universities have grown exponentially in size and complexity, and as public funding has fallen far behind their fiscal needs, universities have turned increasingly to research funding to bolster their finances. This has meant a general shift in emphasis away from the undergraduate classroom and towards research endeavours (centres; institutes; research chairs; interdisciplinary, interuniversity collaborations) as the university's primary emphasis. The instrumental nature of this shift, however, has also meant an instrumental approach to the nature of research, whereby the knowledge produced through research is valued for the external funding it brings in to the university, the potential investments it may produce, and the direct relevance it may have for public policy or technological innovation.

Professor **Coleman**'s presentation will focus on the challenges this "culture of research" poses for humanities researchers whose methodologies, foci, or goals often assume very different parameters from those sketched above. He will address questions such as: How can humanities researchers "retool" their practices -- to use the language of the recent SSHRC Transformation document -- to make the most of the current culture of research, and how can they better express and explain the values of humanities methods and practices that are endangered by it? How does the current paradigm of research help to clarify the unique goals, methods, and contributions of humanities research? His paper will be followed by two responses and a panel discussion.

Daniel Coleman teaches and carries out research in Canadian Literature, the literary and cultural production of categories of privilege such as whiteness, masculinity, and Britishness, and, most recently, the spiritual and cultural politics of reading. He has published *Masculine Migrations: Reading the Postcolonial Male in "New Canadian" Narratives* (U of Toronto P, 1998), *The Scent of Eucalyptus: A Missionary Childhood in Ethiopia* (Goose Lane Editions, 2003), and has co-edited seven scholarly volumes. His most recent book, *White Civility: The Literary Project of English Canada* (U of Toronto P, 2006), won the Raymond Klibansky prize for the best English-language book in the Humanities in Canada for 2006-07. With **Smaro Kamboureli**, he is co-editing a volume entitled *The Culture of Research: Retooling the Humanities*. He is the Nash Chair in Religion at Campion College for the Winter 2008 semester.

Respondents

Lynn Wells is Associate Dean (Research and Graduate) in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Regina, as well as an Associate Professor of English. She specializes in contemporary British fiction, postmodernism and popular culture, with secondary interests in urban literary theory, the Gothic, technology and literature, narrative theory and modernist poetry. She has published widely in the area of contemporary British fiction, including the book *Allegories of Telling: Self-Referential Narrative in Contemporary British Fiction* (Rodopi, 2003). She is currently writing a book on the fiction of Ian McEwan for Palgrave Macmillan, UK.

Nicholas Ruddick is Director of the Humanities Research Institute and Professor of English at the University of Regina. He has recently completed a book entitled *The Fire in the Stone: Prehistoric Fiction from Charles Darwin to Jean M. Auel*, and is currently editing a new edition of Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* in the Broadview Editions series.

This event is cosponsored by the HRI and Campion College and was originally due to take place on 29 January 2008.

6. HRI 2007-08 BARBARA POWELL LECTURE: Biruté Galdikas (4 April)

Biruté Galdikas (Simon Fraser University)

"Pongo in Peril"

Dr. **Biruté Galdikas**, OC, is a primatologist, conservationist, and ethologist recognized as the world's leading authority on the endangered orangutans of SE Asia. She will be speaking on what orangutans can teach us about ourselves and why it is so urgent to protect them.

Date: **Friday 4 April 2008**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Location: **Classroom Bldg., CL 110**

All are welcome

To be followed by a reception

Dr. **Galdikas** has offered to present a seminar on her work to a small group of interested students and faculty while she is at the University of Regina. For further information about the Powell Lecture and the seminar, please call **585-4304** and watch the HRI website for further announcements.

7. HRI SPRING 2007 FUNDING COMPETITION (11 April deadline)

There will be a competition in Spring 2008 for the following HRI award programs:

Teaching Fellowships

Research Awards

Visiting Research Fellowships

Assistance Awards for Visiting Speakers

Travel Awards for Board Members

Subvention Awards for Book Publication
HRI 2008 Student Essay Prize

The deadline for applications to all these programs is **Friday 11 April 2008**.
For updated information, please visit the HRI website.

8. HRI CONTACT INFORMATION

The HRI e-mail Newsletter appears once a month from September to May, and occasionally during the rest of the year. Issues are archived on the HRI website.

The HRI Newsletter reaches about 600 subscribers at the University of Regina, at its affiliated institutions, and in the surrounding community. Please forward a copy to friends and colleagues with an interest in the humanities.

To subscribe (free of charge) or unsubscribe to this Newsletter, please click [here](#).

For further details about upcoming HRI events or to submit material to future newsletters, please contact:

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