



CROSS POLLINATE
 COLLABORATE
 CONTEMPLATE
 COLLIDE
 CONNECT
 CHALLENGE
 CIRCULATE
 CONTRIBUTE

2013-2014 OBERMANN CENTER ANNUAL REPORT



The fellowship at the Obermann Center greatly increased my scholarly productivity during this first sabbatical in 15 years. I have spent time at other research centers in Europe and on the East coast, but never have staff and colleagues been so very helpful and supportive, nor the facilities so pleasant! Learning about my colleagues' scholarship and work habits was a very valuable component, and a perfect, welcome remedy for the always threatening tunnel vision of a lonely researcher.

*Michaela Hoenicke-Moore,
Fall 2013 Obermann Fellow-in-Residence*

DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

Once again, thanks to your inspiring work with the Obermann Center, your participation in our many events, and your generous contributions, we have had a brilliant year.

In 2013-14, the Obermann Center offered eight competitively funded programs and directly served more than 150 University of Iowa faculty, visiting scholars, and University of Iowa graduate students. Program participants hailed from colleges across the University, including colleagues from the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, and the Graduate College. Hundreds more attended Obermann events.

In addition to our ongoing programs, the Center piloted several exciting new experiments. Dave Gould became our first Public Scholar, helping design a summer institute that introduced UI artists and scholars to Tony Hsieh's Downtown Project and his theories of social entrepreneurship. The first Obermann Working Symposium focused on the "health humanities," and brought international and campus experts together to explore opportunities for artists, humanities scholars, social scientists, and health care practitioners to collaborate in creating a more just, generous, and human-centered approach to wellness as well as illness.

One of our most exciting new opportunities is connecting the University of Iowa with top research universities across the Midwest. The Center was invited to join a consortium led by the director of the Humanities Institute at the University of Illinois, Dianne Harris. The "Humanities Without Walls" consortium was awarded a \$3.5 million grant by the Mellon Foundation. Through 2016, the award will support interdisciplinary collaborations across the consortium focused on the Global Midwest and will also host a summer institute where graduate students in the humanities can learn the skills and knowledge needed to work in the public sector. UI artists, scholars, and researchers are drafting proposals with colleagues at member universities right now for awards of up to \$100,000.

Each year when I pause to reflect on our accomplishments, I am reminded of what a creative, collaborative community of scholars, researchers, artists, and activists the Obermann Center truly is. That community is held together by a shared passion for in-depth study in our given fields and a desire to make our discoveries accessible to wider communities, throughout Iowa and beyond.

I am deeply thankful for the invaluable daily support of Center colleagues Jennifer New and Erin Hackathorn; for the stalwart leadership of Ann Ricketts, Dan Reed, and others in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development; for all of our many partners at the University; and for your inspiring work and generous contributions. Together, we support the mission of a public university—to value the past, to interpret and intervene in the present, and to strive for a more just future. The Obermann Center is here to meet those goals by supporting all through our passionate pursuit of knowledge.

Gratefully,

Teresa Mangum, Director

Professor, Department of Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies



CROSS POLLINATE

SUMMER SEMINAR

TEACHING THE LATINO MIDWEST

Co-Directors, **Claire Fox**, English and Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS), and **Omar Valerio-Jiménez**, History (CLAS)

The Obermann Summer Seminar invites UI faculty members to lead a major collaborative project. During this intensive period of collaboration, seminar directors invite 12-14 participants from the UI and other institutions to produce a joint publication or public work that addresses a pressing research question.

Although Latinos are by the far the fastest-growing population in our region, no classroom text covers the unique cultures of the Latino Midwest. The seminar united 14 distinguished scholars, many from Midwest institutions, to develop a wide-ranging, teachable essay collection on Midwestern Latin@ history, culture, politics, economics, literature, and more.

OUTCOMES:

- The *Latino Midwest Reader* will be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2015.
- Participants will apply for a Humanities Without Walls grant.
- The University of Iowa is launching a Latino/a Studies minor headed by Fox and Valerio-Jiménez with guidance from Seminar participants.
- The group established a Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Latin@ Studies working group to share curricula, events, and digital media across the Midwest.



NATIONAL COLD WAR MONUMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE TRAIL: A PILOT DESIGN CHARRETTE

Sarah Kanouse, Art & Art History (CLAS), University of Iowa, and **Shiloh Krupar**, Geography, Georgetown University

How can we grasp the impact of the Cold War on our own communities? One answer is the fusion of artistry and irony. Bringing together strategies of participatory art and public humanities, Kanouse and Krupar created The National Toxic Land/Labor Conservation Service (National TLC Service), a “wishful” federal agency. During their month at the Obermann Center, Kanouse and Krupar strategized ways to engage stakeholders in designing people’s monuments and speculative heritage trails that mark the continued presence of nuclear weapons and wastes. Their work culminated in a design charrette at the University of Illinois in October 2013. Two more charrettes are scheduled for Washington University and Colorado College.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANTS

Fostering collaboration and interdisciplinary scholarship and creative work, the Obermann Interdisciplinary Research Grants (IDRG) bring groups of two to three scholars together each summer to collaborate on projects that will result in publication or creative work. The intensive month-long partnerships are proposed by a UI faculty member and often include scholars and artists from other institutions.

MASK AND JAZZ CULTURAL PERFORMANCE PROJECT - CRESCENDO

Paul Kalina, Theatre Arts (CLAS), University of Iowa, and **John Rapson**, Music (CLAS)

Professors Kalina and Rapson filled the Center with sound as they chose music for an original theatre piece that will employ physical theatre, dance, mask, and jazz. A live jazz band will perform compositions that Rapson created after he and Kalina studied how music interacts with film and theatre. In March 2014, the UI professors were joined by Italian mask maker Matteo Destro, who developed a series of masks for the piece based on the commedia dell'arte tradition. *Crescendo* headlines the Fall 2014 University of Iowa Theatre Arts season.



NATIVE PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO: FERNANDO DE ALVA IXTLILXOCHITL'S "THIRTEENTH RELATION"

Amber Brian, Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS), University of Iowa; **Pablo García Loeza**, World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, West Virginia University; and **Bradley Benton**, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, North Dakota State University

The trio produced an English translation of "Thirteenth Relation" ["Décimatercia relación"] of don Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl's *Historical Compendium of the Kingdom of Tetzcoco* [*Compendio histórico del reino de Texcoco*] (ca. 1608). The 75-page text recalls Hernando Cortés's arrival in the Yucatan in 1519, the conquest of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), and Cortés's subsequent expedition to Central America in 1524. Alva Ixtlilxochitl was a mestizo intellectual whose professional activities, writings, and lived experience bridged European and indigenous traditions in colonial Mexico. The translation and an essay penned by the three scholars will be published in 2015 as part of Pennsylvania State University Press's Latin America Originals series, which features first-time English translations of primary source texts on colonial and nineteenth-century Latin America. They have received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for their next translation project. Congratulations!



FELLOWS-IN-RESIDENCE

Obermann Center Fellows-in-Residence fully devote themselves to individual projects within an interdisciplinary community. The program supports artists, researchers, and scholars during periods of their career when focus and feedback are crucial. The program is rooted in our mission: to support the work of individual scholars, while also providing Fellows with the opportunity

STEPHEN BERRY, JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION (CLAS) - FALL 2013

- Launched the primary-source research for a book about southern liberal newspaper editors during the early civil rights movement, especially Harry Scott Ashmore, the executive editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*.
- Completed research trips to the Arkansas Center for History and Culture at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of California at Santa Barbara.
- Submitted two grant applications.
- Developed a new course on the Press and Civil Rights.

ANNY DOMINIQUE CURTIUS, FRENCH & ITALIAN (CLAS) - SPRING 2014

- Worked on a new book, *Unveiling the Camouflage: Suzanne Césaire's Caribbean Eco-poetics*, which analyzes the seminal work of Martinican writer Suzanne Césaire (1915-1966).
- Planned a graduate course "Francophone Women Theorists: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue."

ANDREA CHARISE, OBERMANN POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW - FALL 2013 AND SPRING 2014

FUNDED BY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

- Worked on a book-length monograph, "Aging, Population, and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination," and circulated a book proposal.
- Participated in a multi-author writing project, "Expressive writing and illustration as a method for building nurses' resilience on a children's special orthopedic and developmental rehabilitation unit."
- Submitted articles, reviews, and a book chapter for publication.
- Directed the Obermann Working Symposium "Health Humanities: Building the Future for Research and Teaching."
- Directed the Obermann Working Group "Understanding Late Life Across the Disciplines."

MONICA CORREIA, ART & ART HISTORY (CLAS) - SPRING 2013

- Exhibited and presented three new lighting designs at the EDIT Designjunction show at Palazzo Morando, Milan, Italy, April 8-13, 2014. This event took place during the 2014 Salone Internazionale del Mobile furniture fair, the most important design meeting in the world.
- During the exhibit, her work was published in many design blogs.

ALICE DAVISON, LINGUISTICS (CLAS) - SPRING 2014

- Developed strategies for explaining in non-technical terms what linguists do—one of the primary goals of her residency.
- Made substantial progress on a study of subordinate clauses in South Asian languages with understood subjects—a unique linguistic feature.
 - Prepared a conference abstract and journal article, in addition to presenting a paper at a linguistics conference at Rutgers University.

MICHAELA HOENICKE-MOORE, HISTORY (CLAS) - FALL 2013

- Began a book-length project, "Varieties of American Patriotism: The Transformation of U.S. Foreign Policy Debates since the World Wars."
- Submitted multiple grant applications related to this project.
- Developed a new course, "International Politics: The History of the Present."

JUAN PABLO HOURCADE, COMPUTER SCIENCE (CLAS) - SPRING 2014

- Worked on a forthcoming book, "Designing Technologies for Children," which he intends to self-publish in order to make the research available to the widest audience possible.

to enrich an individual, discipline-specific project through interdisciplinary exchanges with a lively intellectual community of Fellows. For now, we invite applications from faculty members who have received funding elsewhere. We hope to build our endowment so that in the future we can support research at the University by funding our own fellowships.

**JOHNA LEDDY, CHEMISTRY
(CLAS) - FALL 2013**

- Submitted several grant applications and white papers.
- Developed multiple manuscripts and submitted patents and disclosures.
- Presented a paper at the Electrochemical Society meeting in San Francisco where she was installed as a Fellow.

**ANN PERREAU, COMMUNICATION
SCIENCES & DISORDERS,
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE -
FALL 2013**

- Submitted a manuscript on the performance of normal-hearing listeners, using the Spatial Hearing Questionnaire (SHQ), and another on the performance of cochlear implant users, using different implant devices as documented with the SHQ.
- Collected data on the front-back localization abilities of listeners with mild to moderate hearing loss, comparing three distinct styles of hearing aids.

**JACKI RAND, HISTORY (CLAS) -
FALL 2013**

- Made significant progress on and outlined a proposal for a new book about violence against Native women and tribal self-determination.
- Completed research trips to the Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University and to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

**MICHAEL SAUDER, SOCIOLOGY
(CLAS) - FALL 2013**

- Worked on a book manuscript about the effects of rankings on higher education, completing three chapters and drafting three others.
- Developed a project on unintended consequences of patient satisfaction measures, which he presented at Indiana University and at the Veteran's Administration in Iowa City.
- Began a qualitative study of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program.

**CAROL SEVERINO, RHETORIC
(CLAS) - SPRING 2014**

- Enrolled in an Advanced Spanish Creative Writing course and engaged in "tandem tutoring" with a Chinese teacher.
- Reviewed the literature on teacher-scholars as language learners.
- Co-proposed a workshop on the merits of Multilingual Writing Centers for the International Writing Center Association Conference.
- Collected and analyzed data on a writing center case study. The goal is to learn how online tutoring in composition affects the work of students who write in a second language.

**RACHEL WILLIAMS, GENDER,
WOMEN'S & SEXUALITY
STUDIES AND ART & ART
HISTORY (CLAS) - SPRING 2014**

- Completed 66 drawings for her forthcoming book, *Run home if you don't want to be killed: The Detroit Riot of 1943*, a graphic history based on a series of events that led to the worst race riot in 1943.
- Wrote an IRB application for a new study regarding LGBTQI health.
- Field-tested a curriculum for Female Sex Offenders with professionals from the Department of Corrections and outlined a book about this project.
- Presented a keynote speech at the University of Michigan's annual prison art exhibition and spoke at Ball State University.

WORKING GROUPS

This program provides space, structure, and discretionary funding to participants from across the campus and beyond to explore complex issues at a moment when cross-disciplinary collaboration is crucial to address shifting domains of knowledge and a rapidly changing world.

In their third year, the Obermann Working Groups nearly doubled in number. Groups have shared current research, written grant proposals, planned conferences, and explored emerging areas of knowledge. Each group receives \$1,000 to purchase books, host a visiting expert, or provide other forms of research support.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- The **CROSSING THE SOCIAL/BIOLOGICAL DIVIDE WORKING GROUP** brought internationally renowned Darwin biographer James Moore to campus for a lecture, "Darwin's Sacred Cause: How a Hatred of Slavery Shaped Darwin's Views on Human Evolution," and a lunch discussion at the Obermann Center.
- Members of the **LATE LIFE ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES WORKING GROUP** co-planned *Textured Aging*, an interactive panel discussion on the effects of age-based stereotyping to kick off a celebration of "Older Americans Month" at the Iowa City Senior Center.

- The **CIRCULATING CULTURES WORKING GROUP** hosted a talk by Stephanie LeMenager, Moore Professor of Literature and Environment at the University of Oregon, about her recently published book *Living Oil: Petroleum Culture in the American Century* (Oxford University Press).
- "People and the Environment" is a Big Idea course that will be taught by Meena Khandelwal and H. S. Udaykumar, co-directors of the **LIVING WITH THE EARTH WORKING GROUP**. They have also been funded via a Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research grant to travel to Rajasthan, India, where they will study how key technologies spread through a culture and why some technologies succeed while others fail.



SCHOLARSHIP OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Director: Carolyn Colvin, Teaching & Learning (College of Education)

CIRCULATING CULTURES

Director: Mary Lou Emery, English (CLAS)

INTERGENRE EXPLORATIONS: CROSSING THE SCHOLARSHIP-CREATIVE WORK DIVIDE

Directors: Lisa Heineman, History and Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies (CLAS), and Kim Marra, Theatre Arts and American Studies (CLAS)

THE AUTISM RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Directors: Juan Pablo Hourcade, Computer Science (CLAS), and Melissa Lehan Mackin, Nursing (College of Nursing)

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY AND FILM THEORY

Director: Kathleen Newman, Spanish & Portuguese and Cinematic Arts (CLAS)

AGING MIND AND BRAIN INITIATIVE

Directors: Matthew Rizzo, Neurology (College of Medicine) and Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (College of Engineering); Bernd Fritzsch, Biology (CLAS) and Otolaryngology (College of Medicine)

LIVING WITH THE EARTH: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO INTERACT SUSTAINABLY WITH A FINITE PLANET

Directors: Meena Khandelwal, Anthropology and Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies (CLAS), and H. S. Udaykumar, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (College of Engineering)

COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES WORKING GROUP

Director: Deborah Whaley, American Studies and African American Studies (CLAS)

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Director: Jon Winet, Art & Art History (CLAS), and Director, Digital Studio for the Public Arts & Humanities

EIGHTEENTH- AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP: TECHNOLOGIES AND GEOGRAPHIES OF CULTURAL TRANSFER

Director: Eric Gidal, English (CLAS)

INDIGO INK: AN ACCOUNTABILITY AND WRITE-ON-SITE GROUP

Director: Janette Taylor, Nursing (College of Nursing)

READING ASIA THROUGH CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

Directors: Melissa Ann-Marie Curley, Religious Studies (CLAS), and Jiyeon Kang, Communication Studies (CLAS)

UNDERSTANDING LATE LIFE ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

Director: Andrea Charise, Obermann Center Post-Doctoral Fellow

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY WORKING GROUP

Director: Frederick Solt, Political Science (CLAS)

ART CART: SAVING THE LEGACY

Director: Anita Jung, Art & Art History (CLAS)

CROSSING THE SOCIAL/ BIOLOGICAL DIVIDE

Directors: Deirdre Egan, Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies (CLAS); Sarah Harkness, Sociology (CLAS); and Maurine Neiman, Biology (CLAS)

OBERMANN GRADUATE INSTITUTE ON ENGAGEMENT AND THE ACADEMY

Co-directors: **Carolyn Colvin**, Language, Literacy, & Culture (College of Education), and **Barbara Eckstein**, English (CLAS)

Senior Fellow: **Jake Kurczek**, Neuroscience (Graduate College)

The Graduate Institute is a highly competitive program for graduate students across the University who are interested in developing publicly engaged dimensions for research, arts, and teaching. The weeklong Institute includes opportunities for students to think deeply about engagement in higher education and applications to their own work. Each Fellow plans a project that combines research or teaching with a community partner.

2014 Fellows visited Iowa City's Shelter House. College of Education professor Will Liu, director of the Counseling Psychology program, and Shelter House executive director Crissy Canganelli discussed their University-Shelter approach to the complex issues affecting homelessness in Johnson County. You can learn about Fellows' own projects from short videos on the Obermann Center YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/ObermannCenter>.

PROJECTS FROM THE 2014 CLASS INCLUDE:

- **THE FT. MADISON PRISON MEMORY PROJECT**, a collaboration organized by 2014 Graduate Fellow Gemma Goodale-Sussen (English, CLAS), 2012 Graduate Fellow Eric Zimmer (History, CLAS), and UI staff member Mark Fullenkamp (CLAS). They are archiving stories and documents from the soon-to-be closed Iowa prison.
- Janice Byrd (Counselor Education & Supervision, College of Education) will be part of a roundtable, **"EXPLORING THE PRESENCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION"** at the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision in October 2014. She hopes to start a counseling group for girls at Iowa City's West High School this year.
- Corinne Teed (School of Art & Art History, CLAS) presented her engaged artwork, **"HABITATS ARE UNLIMITED,"** at the Johnson County Raptor Center.
- Kathrina Litchfield (Library & Information Science, Graduate College) has been named an Imagining America PAGE Fellow for 2014-15 and is organizing the **"UI PRISON PROJECTS COALITION,"** along with Fellow Gemma Goodale-Susser, to connect projects across campus that serve incarcerated Iowans.





2014 GRADUATE INSTITUTE FELLOWS

- **Tala Al-Rousan**, Epidemiology (College of Public Health)
- **Gabe Baker**, History (CLAS)
- **Janice Byrd**, Counselor Education (College of Education)
- **Noaquia Callahan**, History (CLAS)
- **Bethany Cockburn**, Management & Organizations (Business)
- **Brian Collins**, Philosophy (CLAS)
- **Gemma Goodale-Sussen**, English (CLAS)
- **Emily Kroska**, Psychology (CLAS)
- **Kathrina Litchfield**, Library & Information Science (Graduate College)
- **Nicole Loew** (College of Nursing)
- **Michael Overholt**, Classics (CLAS)
- **Ellen Schafer**, Community & Behavioral Health (College of Public Health)
- **Heather Seibel**, Art Education (College of Education)
- **Veronica Smith**, Art & Art History (CLAS)
- **Mark Sulzer**, Language, Literacy, & Culture (College of Education)
- **Corinne Teed**, Art & Art History (CLAS)
- **Gloria Wenman**, Urban & Regional Planning (Graduate College)

OBERMANN GRADUATE INSTITUTE ALUMNI TALK

Now a faculty member in Film Studies at Vanderbilt University, 2008 Fellow Jonathan Rattner returned to share his work as a socially engaged artist and the challenges of marrying public engagement with an academic career. He also met with graduate students in Cinematic Arts.

CHALLENGE

OBERMANN HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM: AFFECT & INQUIRY

Co-Directors: **Jeffrey Bennett**, Communication Studies (CLAS); **Naomi Greyser**, Rhetoric (CLAS); and **Deborah Whaley**, American Studies and African American Studies (CLAS)

The annual Obermann Humanities Symposium is an opportunity for the UI community to explore significant cultural issues. Directed by one or more UI faculty members, the event highlights scholarship, often interdisciplinary in nature, connecting our campus to the larger world of ideas.

The 2013-14 Obermann Humanities Symposium, *Affect & Inquiry*, engaged participants in the emotional and visceral aspects of scholarly and artistic creativity, teaching and collegiality, and political and public engagement. From March 27 to 29, 2014, the symposium convened more than 150 scholars, activists, artists, students, and writers for three days of presentations, performances, panels, workshops, an exhibit, and lively discussion.



The conference brought thought-provoking intellectual leaders in the field of affect studies to campus, including Lauren Berlant (University of Chicago), Ann Cvetkovich (University of Texas at Austin), Jasbir Puar (Rutgers University), and Kerry Ann Rockquemore (National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity). In addition, panelists shared the diverse ways affect shapes perspectives on race, performance, global capitalism, science and technology, and the arts.

The symposium drew near-capacity crowds to the 100-person meeting room in the Iowa City Public Library. There was standing room only during many of the events, including a slideshow of activist art in the gallery at Public Space One. Attendees included a cross-section of students, faculty, and community members from the University of Iowa; colleagues from regional colleges and universities; and scholars from across North America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Europe.

Obermann Humanities Symposium

Affect AND Inquiry

MARCH 27-29, 2014

<http://obermann.uiowa.edu/programs/humanities-symposium/2013-2014-affect-and-inquiry>

An interdisciplinary symposium that engages participants in the emotional and visceral aspects of scholarly and artistic creativity, teaching and collegiality, and political and public engagement.

Featuring:
 Lauren Berlant
 Ann Cvetkovich
 Jasbir Puar
 Kerry Ann Rockquemore

With major sponsorship from Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, the Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development, PARD, and Coriellia Blevins visiting professorship

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are unable to attend due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 319-335-8034 for more information or to request accommodations in order to participate in an event. Please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 319-335-8034.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Art by Rachel Wilton



FACULTY INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS

Saba Ali, Counseling Psychology (College of Education)

Lucas Carr, Health & Human Physiology (Graduate College)

Joe Cilek, Health & Human Physiology (CLAS)

Charles Connerly, Urban & Regional Planning (Graduate College)

Thomas Keegan, Rhetoric (CLAS)

Elizabeth Oakes, Music (CLAS)

Joe Sulentic, Management & Organizations (College of Business)

Rachel Williams, Art & Art History and Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies (CLAS)

Jon Winet, School of Art & Art History (CLAS) and Director of the Digital Studio for the Public Arts & Humanities

OBERMANN PUBLIC SCHOLAR

David Gould, The Downtown Project, Las Vegas, Nevada
In collaboration with the UI John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center

Our first Obermann Public Scholar, David Gould, spent the year in Las Vegas at the invitation of DTP founder and Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh. He challenged Gould to imagine the role higher education might play in restructuring a languishing urban area. Gould developed a project with the Obermann Center to include UI colleagues.

In May 2014, nine UI faculty and staff joined faculty members from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to study the Downtown Project and to ask how disciplines, in addition to business, might adapt concepts from the world of social entrepreneurship. The group met with the heads of start-up companies in the arts, health care, and transportation; a city-public school liaison; a master storyteller; and a “design thinking” strategist. They connected with leaders of nonprofits, a shelter for victims of sex trafficking, Cirque du Soleil, the Blue Man Group, and an arts-based center for adults with disabilities.

University of Iowa participants will develop courses that adapt principles of social entrepreneurship to their respective disciplines. These classes will ask students to imagine a role for social entrepreneurship in solving the obesity crisis, helping prisoners use principles of entrepreneurship to reenter the workforce, and attracting audiences to the music department’s new facilities.

SPECIAL EVENTS



DESIGNING THE FUTURE - A YEARLONG OBERMANN SERIES

As changes in technology, population, climate, the economy, the organization of knowledge, and other systems gather speed, the need to predict and even to design the future accelerates, as does the need to re-envision STEM as STEAM (sciences, technology, engineering, arts-humanities, and medicine). Through 2013-2014, a series of “futurists”—from the arts, humanities, social sciences, technology, health humanities, and beyond—visited the University of Iowa campus. Our guests reflected on the forces spurring change, the possible futures before us, and opportunities to design the future through imaginative forms of education, collaboration, intervention, and invention.





- **IMAGINING AND BEING IMAGINED: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO FUTURISTS – DAN REED AND BRUCE STERLING, SEPTEMBER 2013**

One of the founders of the steam punk movement, Sterling widely publishes as a Net theorist, technologist, and cultural commentator. He shared the stage of the Englert Theatre with Dan Reed, University of Iowa Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

- **DESIGNING THE FUTURE FOR PUBLICLY ENGAGED RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN THE HUMANITIES, MARCH 2014**

Sara Guyer (University of Wisconsin) and Matthew Countryman (University of Michigan), both directors of nationally renowned programs focused on the public potential of the humanities, shared exciting, discipline-defying projects engaging their faculty and students.

- **HEALTH HUMANITIES WORKING SYMPOSIUM (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER PARTNERS), APRIL 2014**

Organized in collaboration with Obermann Fellow Andrea Charise, the symposium explored the burgeoning field of health humanities, bringing experts to our campus to inspire energetic discussion and planning among local participants:

- **Paul Crawford**, School of Health Sciences and the Institute of Mental Health's Centre for Social Futures, University of Nottingham
- **Therese (Tess) Jones**, Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program for the Center for Bioethics and Humanities, University of Colorado, Denver
- **Erin Gentry Lamb**, Biomedical Humanities and the Center for Literature and Medicine, Hiram College (and UI alum)

- **Maura Spiegel**, Program in Narrative Medicine, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons
- **Susan Squier**, Women's Studies and English, Pennsylvania State University and co-editor of the Graphic Medicine Book Series (Penn State University Press)
- **Anna Willieme**, Founder, ArtMed inSight
- **DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A VISIT BY CHRISTOPHER NEWFIELD, APRIL 2014**

One of the country's most perceptive analysts of higher education funding, Newfield (University of California, Santa Barbara), spoke at the Iowa City Public Library on "What Are the Humanities For—in the 21st Century?" He also met with UI administrators and faculty members, including POROI scholars.

IOWA HUMANITIES FESTIVAL A WORLD AT HOME | A HOME IN THE WORLD

The Second Annual Iowa Humanities Festival invited Iowans to consider our international connections through the lens of the academic and public humanities. Seven faculty and staff members from the University of Iowa joined colleagues from Grinnell College, Drake University, Cornell College, Iowa State University, the Salisbury House, and the Des Moines Art Center for a day of fascinating presentations and tours at the Salisbury House, a historic manor in Des Moines, followed by a closing panel and reception at the Des Moines Art Center.

In January 2014, Obermann Center Director Teresa Mangum co-led a workshop on creating a state humanities festival at the Chicago Humanities Summit, an event co-sponsored by the Modern Language Association, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and Midwest humanities centers as well as the Obermann Center.

2014 IOWA HUMANITIES FESTIVAL PRESENTERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:

- Catherine Hale, Curator, University of Iowa Museum of Art
- Philip Lutgendorf, Asian & Slavic Languages (CLAS)
- Adriana Méndez Rodenas, Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)
- Julia Oliver Rajan, Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)
- Christine Shea, Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)
- Stephen Sturgeon, University of Iowa Libraries
- Mary Trachsel, Rhetoric (CLAS)



HASTAC SCHOLARS (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DIGITAL STUDIO FOR PUBLIC ARTS AND HUMANITIES)

Ben Burroughs, Communication Studies (CLAS)
Liz Lundberg, English (CLAS)

The Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory, or HASTAC, program is designed for graduate students working on innovative projects and research at the intersection of technology and the arts, humanities, and sciences. Each year, scholars from over 75 universities nationwide form this student community.

Burroughs and Lundberg collaborated with the Studio to organize **The Digital Pedagogy Project** (<http://thestudio.uiowa.edu/dpp>), a site that provides resources for instructors interested in incorporating digital assignments into their classes and provides teachers in the digital humanities a space for collaboration. The first group of assignments on the site includes creative uses of blogging, social media, videography, and fan fiction—all from experienced graduate teachers.

SPELMAN ROCKEFELLER GRANT

The Obermann Center supports the DeLTA Center's engagement projects in the area of children's learning and development via the Spelman Rockefeller grant.

Get Ready Iowa, under the direction of John Spencer (Psychology, CLAS) is a multi-pronged community project aimed at improving school readiness in the State. With the Iowa Children's Museum, DeLTA members launched the "Playing is Learning" initiative (www.playingislearning.org) in May, 2013. In each exhibit of the museum, DeLTA graduate students provided signage to highlight how play contributes to developing key cognitive and socioemotional abilities that are essential to school readiness. DeLTA Center members also designed exhibits for STEM night at the Children's Museum and Science Enrichment Night at elementary schools, served as LEGO League coaches, and worked as advisors to the Early Childhood Program Wide Positive Behavioral Support Leadership Team and the Iowa Children's Museum.



The Obermann Center was for me an oasis of creativity. It provided me with an ideal office space and peaceful atmosphere, a rich intellectual environment, an outstanding cross-disciplinary community of fellows, and lively bi-weekly seminars, all of which helped me to achieve my research objectives.

Anny Curtius

OBERMANN AFTERNOONS

Obermann Afternoons is an informal monthly speaker series in the cozy, collegial Obermann Library. This year's speakers were:

- **Kim Marra**, Theatre Arts (CLAS), and Lisa Heineman, History (CLAS) Intergenre Explorations: Crossing the Scholarship-Creative Work Divide
- **Andrea Charise**, Obermann Post-Doctoral Fellow The Poetics of Ageism
- **Corinne Peek-Asa**, Occupational & Environmental Health (College of Public Health), and **Daniel McGehee**, Human Factors Program (Public Policy Center) Integrating Public Health with Engineering to Improve Teen Driving Safety
- **Tricia Zebrowski**, Communication Science & Disorders (CLAS) Beyond Technique: Stages of Change and Therapy for Teens Who Stutter
- **Rachel Williams**, Art & Art History and Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies (CLAS), and **Corey Creekmur**, Cinema Arts and English (CLAS) Comics on Campus: How Comics Got into the University Library, Museum, and Classroom
- **Chaden Djalali**, Physics and Dean of CLAS Hadronic Physics 101

DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

As part of serving the research mission on campus, the Obermann Center connects the University to national and international intellectual communities. Director Teresa Mangum represents the University of Iowa on national boards of organizations including Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, the National Humanities Alliance, and Humanities Without Walls. Though expansively interdisciplinary, Obermann also serves as the University of Iowa's humanities center, and Mangum has formed rich connections for the Center by attending the annual Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. These activities have also enhanced the Center's national reputation for excellence. Last year, Mangum was invited to share the Center's successes with colleagues at Appalachian State University, the University of Arizona, Vanderbilt University, and participants in the Chicago Humanities Summit organized by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Modern Language Association (MLA), as well as to discuss women in digital humanities at the MLA. On campus, she co-chairs the new CLAS/OVPRED Humanities Advisory Committee and the Public Humanities in a Digital World Cluster Steering Committee. In spring 2014, for her longstanding commitment to the teaching, research, and public missions of the University, Mangum was awarded the University of Iowa's Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence and Achievement Among Women.

OBERMANN CO-SPONSORSHIPS

The Obermann Center is an active partner on campus and in the community, helping to fund many speakers and events in support of our mission: promoting research and creative work, facilitating publicly engaged art and scholarship, and building intellectual community. During 2013-14 we contributed funding, support, and publicity to more than twenty events, including:

- **LIFE AFTER: ACTIVIST MEMORIAL AND DIGITAL COLLABORATION** (<http://thestudio.uiowa.edu/lifeafter/wp/symposium-participants/>)
- **PEN AND PILL: CONTRACEPTION AND UNWANTED PREGNANCY IN LITERATURE AND POPULAR CULTURE** (<http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/news-events/pill-and-pen-contraception-and-unwanted-pregnancy-literature-and-popular-culture>)
- **IDA BEAM LECTURE** by Dean Simonton, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Davis
- **EXUBERANT POLITICS** (<http://exuberantpolitics.art.uiowa.edu>)
- **DICKENS PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM**
- **LECTURE AND BROWNBAG LUNCH WITH ALAN BEWELL**, Professor and Chair of English at the University of Toronto
- **INEQUALITY FOR ALL**, film screening
- **WRAC 2014 NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP** (<http://wrac.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/NEWleadershipBrochure14.pdf>)
- **FILM SCENE SPONSORSHIP**

SUPPORT FOR THE OBERMANN CENTER

The Obermann Center is able to offer many of its programs and a wide and growing array of public and scholarly events as a result of its endowment, a gift from the late C. Esco Obermann and his wife Avalon Obermann. Today, the Obermann Center is one of the most generative, inspiring, forward-looking university research centers in the country, thanks in large part to the Obermanns' gift.

But the Center's impact can only continue to grow with your help. We invite you to visit our giving page and to become part of our growing giving community.

We are very thankful to the following people who made gifts to the Obermann Center this year. Their enthusiasm and generosity buoy our work and enrich our offerings.

- Kurt M. Anstreicher and Jane L. Van Voorhis
- David Asa and Corinne Peek-Asa
- Kenneth G. Brown and Amy L. Kristof-Brown
- Kathleen C. Buckwalter
- Cristina Cardenas
- Susan A. Carlson and Jonathan C. Carlson
- Carolyn A. Colvin
- Corey Creekmur and Teresa Mangum
- David R. Cunning and Naomi Greyser
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- Patricia A. Weir and William D. Davies
- Derek H. Willard and Pamela H. Willard
- Wilhelm Zink

OBERFRIENDS

In spring 2014, the Obermann Development Board kicked off a new friends group to connect with community members who share our commitment to lifelong learning. Members will be invited to several intimate events each year that highlight the work of local and visiting artists, researchers, and scholars.

Coming Up: In November, we welcome you to meet experts in the field of human computer interactions, who will be visiting as part of the upcoming symposium "Designing the Digital Future: A Human-Centered Approach to Informatics." Want to join? Contact Erin Hackathorn.

Obermann Center FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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OBERMANN CENTER STAFF

- **Teresa Mangum**, Director
- **Jennifer New**, Assistant Director
- **Erin Hackathorn**, Director of Operations
- **Rebecca Haffner**, Graduate Student Assistant
- **Emily Fisher**, Undergraduate Student Assistant

We are thankful to our colleagues in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development for their good advice and unstinting support; to Joanna Zwack, Adam Delaney, Cale Bierman, and Romy Bolton from ITS for keeping us running; to Robyn Hepker for her winning designs; to the good efforts of Tami Bauman and her team at the UI Foundation; and to our custodial and landscaping colleagues for helping us to maintain our warm and welcoming space.

OBERMANN DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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