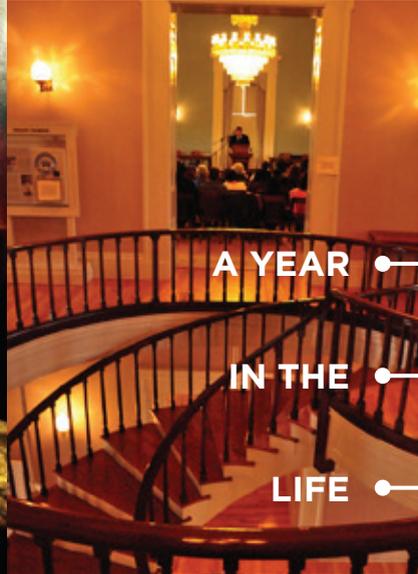


THE 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA OBERMANN CENTER



A YEAR

IN THE

LIFE

OF THE

OBERMANN

CENTER



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Obermann Center,

Looking back on 2012-13, I am deeply grateful for the support, partnerships, and gifts of time and energy threaded through all of the Obermann Center's activities. Let me share just a few of the ways the Center enriched the work of students, faculty members, colleagues, and community partners last year.

Summer 2012 launched with a research seminar in which faculty members collaborated with pre-school teachers to connect research in child development with the deep experience of educators. Days after that seminar ended, Obermann Interdisciplinary Research Grants brought three teams of artists and researchers to the Center. The groups worked intensely for a month on projects as diverse as verbal and visual translations of Plutarch, chemical catalysts that might help polluted streams to "self-heal," and the power of hand gestures to aid failing memory.

In Fall 2012, our annual Humanities Symposium focused on *The Latino Midwest*. Thanks to the passion and energy of the faculty organizers and their students, the "symposium" spun into a yearlong series of riveting speakers, performances, exhibits, films, collaborations, and campus and community partnerships. The events are being documented in an online *Crónica* by students from the accompanying Obermann course. And speaking of students, for the seventh year, we welcomed some of the most adventurous and socially committed graduate students from across the University to the Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy. If you need a dose of hope for the future, my prescription is to spend a few minutes listening to the Institute Fellows describe their engaged projects on the Obermann YouTube channel.

Throughout the year, I encountered many of you heading into our library as part of one of the many Obermann Working Groups. I myself had the pleasure of meeting bi-weekly with the Fellows-in-Residence each semester for rigorous, illuminating, multi-disciplinary discussions of projects that ranged from sound technologies to female composers to Spanish literary revolutions to treatments for stuttering to the use of the arts to engage people with dementia, among other ground-breaking topics.

I am deeply grateful, as always, for the generosity of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, to which the Obermann Center reports. Our new Vice President, Daniel Reed, is an inspiring intellectual leader, and the Assistant Vice President, Ann Ricketts, is one of our best advocates. I also appreciate the leadership provided by Provost Barry Butler and our frequent collaborators in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, among many others. Members of the Obermann Advisory Board and Development Board have also been crucial to our success. Everyone who participates in the Obermann Center knows how invaluable our staff members, Neda Barrett and Jennifer New, were in the past year. Most especially, I thank each one of you who has supported the Center with your time and financial contributions.

With all good wishes,
Teresa Mangum, Director



WHO WE SERVE

Between

June 2012 and May 2013

hundreds of people attended Obermann Center programs.

The Center directly served

139

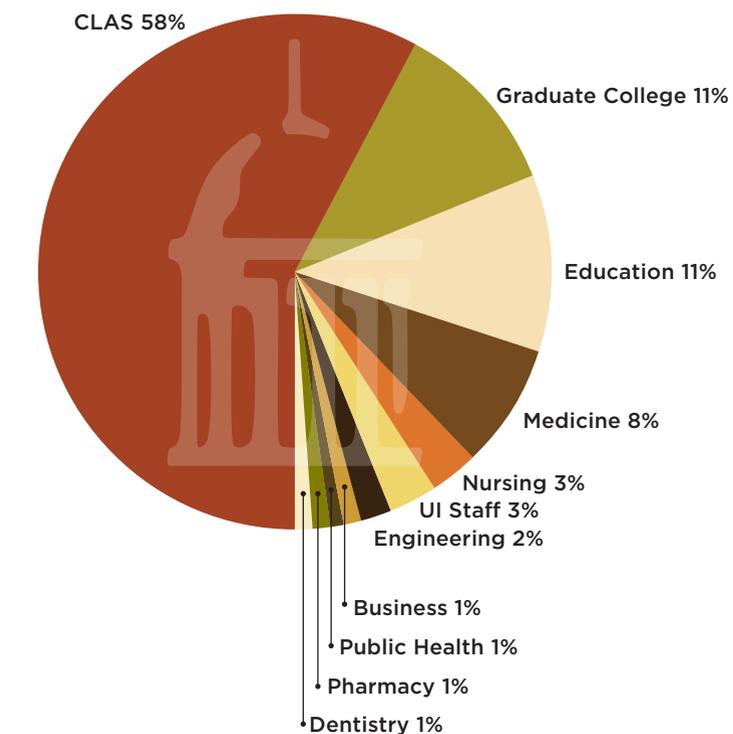
 faculty, staff, and graduate students as Fellows-in-Residence and Affiliated Scholars (active members of ongoing Obermann programs).

These participants represent

46

 different UI departments and units and

10

 UI colleges.

THE OBERMANN CENTER - A Year in the Life

Highlights of 2012-13

JUNE

Summer Seminar, *Get Ready Iowa: Partnering to Enhance the Readiness of Iowa's Children*

JULY

Interdisciplinary Research Grants

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

Fall Fellows-in-Residence

SEPTEMBER TO MAY

Working Groups

HASTAC Graduate Scholars (with *The Digital Studio for Public Arts and Humanities*)

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Graduate Proseminar

OCTOBER

Humanities Symposium, *The Latino Midwest*

NOVEMBER

Genetics: From Frankenstein to the Future, an Obermann Co-Sponsorship*

JANUARY

Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy (with the Graduate College)

JANUARY TO MAY

Spring Fellows-in-Residence

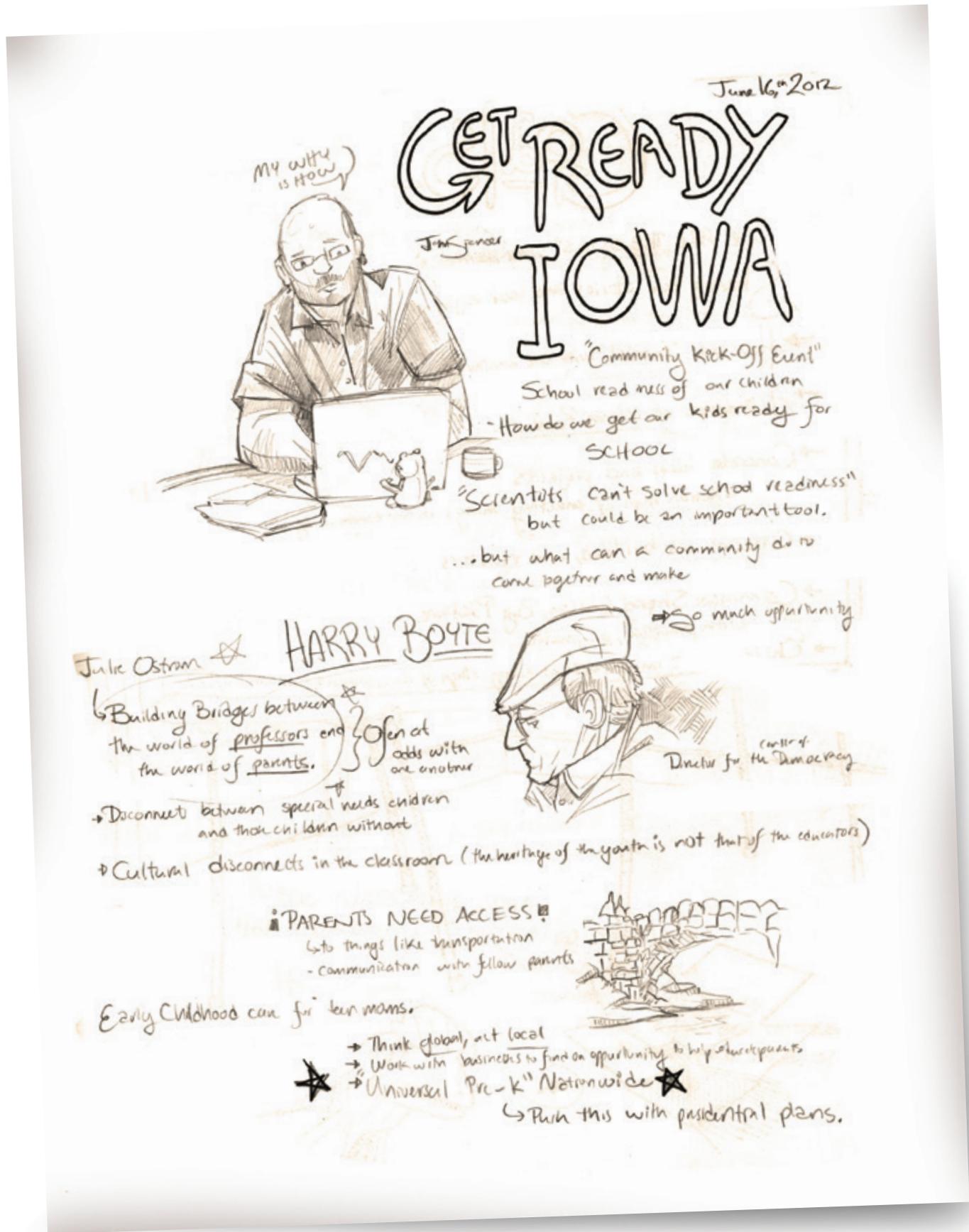
MARCH

HASTAC Symposium, *Rewiring the Classroom*

MARCH

Iowa Humanities Festival, an Obermann Co-Sponsorship*

*The Obermann Center provides co-sponsorship for events that support its mission. In this list, we highlight several exceptionally successful events from the 2012-2013 calendar.



SUMMER SEMINAR

The Obermann Summer Seminar offers a UI faculty member the opportunity to lead a major collaborative project that will result in some form of publication or public work. The seminar includes participants from other colleges and universities, as well as UI faculty, research staff, and community members with related interests and expertise.

JUNE

Summer Seminar,
Get Ready Iowa:
 Partnering to
 Enhance the
 Readiness of Iowa's
 Children

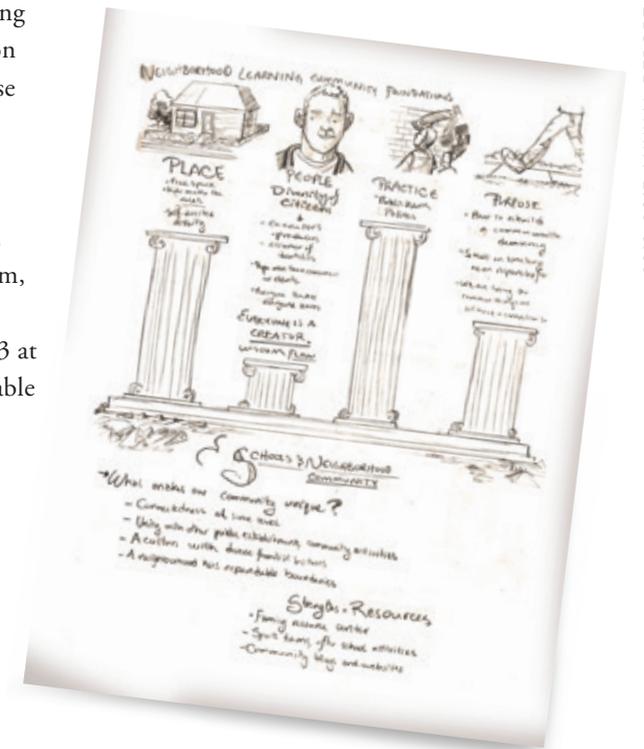
GET READY IOWA

Director, **John Spencer**, Psychology (CLAS)
 With the DeLTA Center

Get Ready Iowa: Partnering to Enhance the School Readiness of Iowa's Children brought academic researchers together with Iowa City-area teachers, school administrators, parents, and leaders from educational programs to develop an effective state-wide school readiness initiative. Using the model of "civic science," John Spencer (Psychology, CLAS and UI Delta Center) organized four days of panels and brainstorming sessions during which stakeholders shared the most recent research on school readiness, as well as the needs and strengths witnessed by those who work most closely with kids.

OUTCOMES:

- Since last June, *Get Ready Iowa* has held five community meetings.
- In May 2013 a new exhibit debuted at the Iowa Children's Museum, *Playing Is Learning*, based on the work of UI researchers.
- The second annual *Get Ready Iowa* workshop was held in July 2013 at the College of Education and included guest speakers and roundtable discussions with parents, teachers, and community members.
- Two grants have been submitted to support the next stages of the research.



The Summer Seminar captured spontaneous conversations and ideas from its four days in the form of cartoons.

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 to collaborate on projects that will result in publication or some kind of creative work. The intensive month-long partnerships include at least one UI faculty member and often include scholars and artists from other institutions.

ON SPARTA

John D'Agata, English (CLAS), University of Iowa

Katie Merz, School of Art, Cooper Union

This writer and artist worked together to translate literature by the ancient Greek oracle and philosopher Plutarch into English, including his more obscure texts. D'Agata's book, tentatively titled *Attempts at Love in Greece*, will be published by W.W. Norton; Merz had an exhibit at the Ferro Strouse Gallery in Brooklyn, NY in November 2012 titled *The Unpleasable One. The Beginning of Language*.

A drawing from Katie Merz's Plutarch series.



CREATING SELF-HEALING STREAMS:

Applying industrial catalytic processes to environmental remediation

Adam Ward, Geoscience (CLAS), University of Iowa

Rachel Getman, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Clemson University

Ward and Getman combined their interests and expertise – his in healthy waterways and hers in catalysts – to alleviate one of the most serious water pollution problems in Iowa and across the globe. Ward, who is part of the UI's Water Sustainability Initiative, said of his research with Getman, "Water remediation with catalysts is a very open field. There are few people doing this, so it presents a new research direction for both of us and some very exciting potential for the Water Sustainability Initiative, as well."



Adam Ward



Rachel Getman

WHY DO PEOPLE GESTURE?

Exploring the cognitive and neural mechanism underlying hand gesture production and perception

Susan Wagner Cook, Psychology (CLAS), University of Iowa

Melissa Duff, Communication Sciences & Disorders (CLAS) Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience (Graduate College), University of Iowa

How, asks Wagner Cook and Duff's project, can hand gestures increase learning, especially for people with memory impairment? Gestures influence communication and help people learn new information. But how do gesture and memory interact? The two researchers – who say they are effectively creating a new sub-discipline – believe their work can affect how caretakers teach (or re-teach) people with Alzheimer's or brain injury, as well as suggesting new methods for teaching children, such as those with Attention Deficit Disorder.



Melissa Duff (L) and Susan Wager Cook

FELLOWS-IN-RESIDENCE

Each semester, the Obermann Center is home to a group of Fellows-in-Residence. Fellows have an office at the Center and devote themselves fully to a project, such as a book, a series of articles, or a major grant application. These artists, researchers, and scholars also participate in a uniquely interdisciplinary bi-weekly seminar.

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

Fall Fellows-in-Residence

FALL 2012

Mercedes Bern-Klug, School of Social Work (CLAS)

- Created a pilot intervention project at a local nursing home that uses story telling to improve the lives of people with moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- Submitted a grant proposal and prepared an IRB application.

Frank Durham, Journalism & Mass Communication (CLAS)

- Wrote a journal article, "Framing as Media Ritual: Fox News Network Re-frames the Bristol Palin Pregnancy."
- Completed two chapters for a book on media insurgents in the network society.

Katherine Eberle-Fink, Music (CLAS)

- Completed a CD recording, *In This Moment: American Women Art Song Composers*, and prepared for a concert tour.
- Submitted two articles, both of which will be published in 2014: "Juliana Hall: A Remarkable Art Song Composer" and "Breaking Barriers though Art Song: Three Song Cycles for Mezzo-Soprano by Juliana Hall."

Barbara Eckstein, English (CLAS)

- Conducted research for a book project, *American Bottoms*, about the ecology of the Upper Mississippi River Basin through the literature, history, and biology of the 1830s and 1840s.
- Created a new honors undergraduate seminar, "Story of Water."

Eric Gidal, English (CLAS)

- Completed his book, *Ossianic Unconformities: Bardic Poetry in the Industrial Age*.

Weimin Han, Mathematics (CLAS)

Fall 2012 and Spring 2013

Supported by Simons Fellowship in Mathematics

- Worked on mathematical analysis and numerical approximations of problems arising in biomedical imaging and in mechanics, including submission of four papers for publication.
- Completed a new edition of his co-authored book, *Plasticity: Mathematical Theory and Numerical Analysis*.

"Formal and informal dialogue with Obermann colleagues has broadened how I think about my current research. Even more, it will surely enhance my future teaching and research in ways that reinforce my appreciation of the intellectual environment at the University of Iowa across departments and colleges."

Steven Ungar, Cinema & Comparative Literature (CLAS), Obermann Fellow-in-Residence and Guggenheim Fellow

SPRING 2013

Palle Jorgensen, Mathematics (CLAS)

- Submitted for publication three articles written with colleagues from Israel, Canada, and Florida.

Luis Martín-Estudillo, Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)

- Began work on a book project, *A Union Undreamt: Spanish Culture and the Rise of Euroskepticism (1939-2013)*.
- Completed three forthcoming articles on Spanish culture and politics.

Tammy Nyden, Philosophy, Grinnell College

- Co-edited a collection of essays, *Cartesian Empiricisms*.
- Wrote two chapters of her book, *Paradigms Lost: How Leiden made Experimental Physics Real*.
- Named a Fellow at the Scaliger Institute at the University of Leiden Library.

Kyle Stine, Cinema & Comparative Literature (CLAS)

Fall 2012 & Spring 2013

Supported by an ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Award

- Completed his dissertation, "Calculative Cinema: Technologies of Speed, Scale, and Explication" and graduated with a Ph.D. in May 2013.

Steven Ungar, Cinema & Comparative Literature (CLAS)

Supported by a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship

- Wrote a chapter on Eli Lotar's 1945 short subject, *Aubervilliers*, part of his book project, *Critical Mass: Social Documentary in France (1928-1962)*.
- Conducted research for lectures at the University of Chicago and the French Cultural Studies' 25th anniversary conference in Marseilles.

Tricia Zebrowski, Communication Sciences & Disorders (CLAS)

- Submitted a grant to fund future research on her project, "Application of the Transtheoretical Model to Stuttering Management Among Adolescents."
- Initiated a research collaboration with clinician-researchers at the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London.
- Completed a forthcoming article on guidelines to treatment planning for adolescents who stutter.

JANUARY TO MAY

Spring Fellows-in-Residence

WORKING GROUPS

In Obermann Center Working Groups participants from across the campus and beyond explore complex issues through cross-disciplinary collaboration. Groups have used this opportunity to wrestle with new ideas, to share their research, to organize symposia, and to develop grant proposals.

THE AGING MIND AND BRAIN

Directors: **Matthew Rizzo**, Neurology (College of Medicine) and **Bernd Fritzs**ch, Biology (CLAS)



The Aging Mind and Brain Initiative's mission is to develop innovative ways to diagnose, prevent, and delay mental decline in older persons.

Understanding how aging epigenetically affects brain functioning will allow the understanding, prevention, and effective treatment of cognitive degenerative disorders. Representatives of the group gave a public presentation for the Center in Spring 2013.

AUTISM RESEARCH GROUP

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



Organized as the first forum to bring together academics from across campus who are interested in multi-disciplinary collaborations on autism research, this group highlighted members' work at its monthly meetings. They provided input into the creation of an Autism Research Registry that is being managed by the UI Children's Hospital, which will allow group members to recruit potential research participants. Two subgroups are developing research proposals.

Jennifer Shook (top) at the Iowa City Carnival, a project supported by the Intergenre Working Group; Heather Draxl (center) and David Gould and Jean Florman (bottom) participating in the Envisioning Engaged U-Iowa workshop.

COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES WORKING GROUP

Directors: **Deborah Whaley**, American Studies and African American Studies (CLAS) and **Timothy Havens**, Communication Studies and African American Studies (CLAS)

In their conversations about race and ethnicity as it intersects with additional factors that mark difference, including gender, sexualities, ability, and class in national and transnational contexts, this group developed book proposals, articles, dissertation prospectuses, and public lectures.

MISSING THE WOODS FOR THE TREES: A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

Inspired by one director's project, bringing solar cookers to women in India, and another director's work in international feminism, the group asked what sustainable development means in economically stressed parts of the world, particularly Asia, South America, and Africa. In addition to giving two public talks, the directors taught a First Year Seminar in Fall 2013 and applied for a joint Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad award.

INTERGENRE EXPLORATIONS: CROSSING THE SCHOLARSHIP-WORK DIVIDE

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

In this unique collaboration, scholars disseminate findings through performance, exhibits, literary nonfiction, or visual art, while artists translate creative discoveries into academic formats. In addition to supporting each other's individual works, the group co-hosted a visit from artist, curator, and researcher Steve Rowell and supported the creation of a calypso for member Loyce Arthur's *Carnaval* project.

CIRCULATING CULTURES

Mary Lou Emery, Director, English (CLAS)

How has neo-liberal globalization, human migration, and the accelerated climate crisis affected the circulation of cultures? To address this driving question, the group hosted Laura Doyle (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), who gave a public lecture and met with faculty and graduate students to share her work on the global dialectics of literary history.

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY AND FILM THEORY

Director: **Kathleen Newman**, Cinema & Comparative Literature and Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)

Bringing together faculty in literary and film studies, members of this group read widely to examine the overlap between theoretical debates in their disciplines.

GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

Guided by the compass of cosmopolitan feminism, this group traversed three areas: 1) feminist theory, 2) gender and justice, and 3) sexuality, gender, and health disparities.

SCHOLARSHIP OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Members of this cross-collegiate group are pioneers in the scholarship of public engagement; they conduct research in collaboration with communities rather than about communities. The group's culminating project was *Envisioning Engaged U-Iowa*, a day-long workshop for members of the University of Iowa and local community.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE MOBILE APPLICATION

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

The *City of Literature*, an app for Apple mobile devices, is the result of a collaborative effort by faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate researchers in public digital humanities and interdisciplinary practice. In 2012-13, the group launched a 2.0 version of the *City of Literature* app for iPad and iPhone; enhanced a cross-platform web app; and embarked on a new project, *Local Heroes Citizen Scholarship Self-paced Research Guide*.

SEPTEMBER
TO MAY

Working Groups

“Organizing and participating in The Latino Midwest was one of the highlights of my career.”

Claire Fox, co-director of the 2012-13 Obermann Humanities Symposium



Kids visiting Alejandro García-Lemos' exhibit *Immigration Letters* (top); symposium co-director Omar Valerio-Jiménez with presenter Vicki Ruiz, University of California-Irvine (right); Theresa Delgadillo, Ohio State University (far right).



HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

The annual Obermann Humanities Symposium is an opportunity for the UI community to explore significant cultural issues. The event is directed by one or more UI faculty members and highlights scholarship, often interdisciplinary in nature, on our campus and at the national or international level.

THE LATINO MIDWEST

Co-directors: **Claire Fox**, English and Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS), **Omar Valerio-Jiménez**, History (CLAS), **Santiago Vaquera-Vásquez**, formerly Spanish & Portuguese (CLAS)

In October 2012, The Latino Midwest convened 19 prominent scholars, activists, artists, and writers who work on or in the Latino Midwest for three days of presentations, performances, readings, and discussion. While most studies of Latinos focus on the coasts, the three-day symposium richly documented the history, education, literature, art, and politics of the vibrant communities of Latinos in the Midwest.

“People often think of Latinos as recent immigrants to the Midwest,” says Omar Valerio-Jiménez, one of the symposium co-directors, “but Latinos have been in the region since the late nineteenth century. The symposium showcased Latinos’ long history in the Midwest and highlighted their dramatic population growth, increasing political clout, and crucial economic contributions.”

Cross-campus and cross-community support was a hallmark of the symposium, which attracted major funding from more than a dozen UI and community groups, including International Programs, the Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development, the Provost’s Office, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Several of the talks were held in conjunction with the School of Social Work’s annual Latino Conference, and two of the largest events — a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Díaz and a performance by singer-songwriter Lila Downs — were held at the Englert Theatre and co-hosted, respectively, by the University of Iowa Lecture Committee and Hancher.

Outcomes of the symposium included

- Symposium, performances, and exhibits attended by more than 600 participants.
- Network of new collaborations across campus and the Americas.
- Graduate proseminar on the Latino Midwest taught by the Symposium organizers: students videotaped and recorded interviews with Symposium participants and assembled a blog, twitter, and photo archive that will become an ongoing digital humanities site for scholars and students.
- Fox and Valerio-Jiménez organized the 2013 Obermann Summer Seminar, “Teaching the Latino Midwest,” and are currently working on an anthology that will feature many of the scholars who attended the symposium.
- Launch of a Committee of Inter-institutional Cooperation (CIC) Latino/a Studies Working Group to link scholars at major research universities.

OCTOBER
Humanities
Symposium,
The Latino Midwest

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 2012–13, we contributed funding, staff support, and publicity to 25 events and more than 40 departments and units across campus. Highlights include—



The students who read Dr. King's letter, along with professor Michael Hill (left).

• LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s writing of this historic document, the Center co-hosted a local reading of *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, as part of a series of national events anchored by the Birmingham Public Library. Obermann Graduate Institute Fellow Sylvea Hollis (History, CLAS) planned the event, which featured opening remarks by College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Chaden Djalali, a discussion of the significance of the letter by Michael Hill (English and African American Studies, CLAS), and readings by UI students and faculty.

• NATIONAL EMANCIPATION DAY WATCH PARTY

In collaboration with the International Writers Program, the Center broadcast a National Endowment for the Humanities panel of five leading Civil War scholars, joining a national celebration of Constitution Day and the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. (September 2012)

• GENETICS: FROM FRANKENSTEIN TO THE FUTURE

In conjunction with a National Institutes of Health traveling exhibition, the Obermann Center along with the University of Iowa Institute of Human Genetics, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, and the Iowa City Public Library hosted a talk by a noted leader in the field of law and genetics and a scholar who focuses on ethical and social issues raised by genetics in literature and film—Ellen Wright Clayton, the Rosalind E. Franklin Professor of Genetics and Health Policy, and Jay Clayton, William R. Kenan Professor of English and director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, both from Vanderbilt University. (November 2012)

• IOWA HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

The Obermann Center provided funding and leadership for this inaugural event which featured ten UI faculty, along with scholars from two other Iowa colleges and universities and leaders of Iowa cultural centers at the Des Moines Salisbury House and Gardens. Jim Leach, then Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, delivered the keynote address. The event received funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development and was generously supported by Humanities Iowa.



Former NEH Chair Jim Leach, Obermann Director Teresa Mangum, and Dean Chaden Djalali.

OBERMANN PARTNERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

NATIONAL

Through affiliations with national and international organizations, the Obermann Center expands the University of Iowa's scholarly network. The activities of partner organizations frequently inform and leverage local initiatives.

- Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life
- Midwestern Humanities Centers Mellon-funded Planning Group
- National Humanities Alliance
- Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
- N.E.W. Leadership Institute, UI Women's Resource & Action Center

LOCAL

The Obermann Center also partners with many campus and local organizations. These connections offer the larger community opportunities to engage with the scholarly and creative work of Center scholars and students. Please see our list of partners: <http://obermann.uiowa.edu/partnerships/local>

NOVEMBER

Genetics: From Frankenstein to the Future, an Obermann Co-Sponsorship*

GRADUATE INSTITUTE

To “meet” the Fellows, visit our YouTube website
<http://youtube.com/ObermannCenter>.

GRADUATE INSTITUTE ON ENGAGEMENT AND THE ACADEMY

Co-directors: **Carolyn Colvin** (Teaching & Learning, College of Education), **Charles Connerly** (Urban & Regional Planning, Graduate College), Senior Fellow: **Eric Zimmer** (History, CLAS).

Co-sponsored with the Graduate College, the Obermann Graduate Institute is a one-week interdisciplinary program in which UI graduate students from across campus explore how civic engagement can enhance their teaching, research, and creative work. Participants discuss theories of engagement and meet with experts. They also develop their own engaged projects, reconceiving their art, scholarship, research, and teaching to address community needs.

The seventh annual Graduate Institute included 17 graduate students from four UI colleges. This year’s site visit was hosted by the Office of the State Archaeologist. Students’ final projects ranged from increasing bicycle commuting in the Iowa City area to recording the personal histories of survivors of the civil war in Mozambique.

In addition to the week-long Institute in January, the Obermann Center hosted or co-sponsored several events either featuring the work of Graduate Fellows or guests whose work pertains to the mission of the Institute including a public reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” a workshop about trans* oral histories, a visit by returning Graduate Fellow Bridget Draxler (Monmouth College), and an exhibit about the 2008 flood (History, CLAS).



Graduate Fellows visit the Office of the State Archaeologist (top left); Rachel Williams presents to the Graduate Institute (bottom left); Fellows Mark Pooley and Jake Kurczek.

2013 GRADUATE FELLOWS

Tejasi Avasare, Dental Public Health (College of Public Health)

Jacqueline Biger, English Education (College of Education)

Bryan Brown, Communication Sciences (CLAS)

Craig Eley, American Studies (CLAS)

Laurel Fantauzzo, Nonfiction Writing Program/English (CLAS)

Jeannette Gabriel, Teaching & Learning (College of Education)

Kristina Gavin, Library & Information Science (Graduate College)

Abby Haywood, Music Education (College of Education)

Sylvea Hollis, History (CLAS)

Noah Johnson, Anthropology (CLAS)

Kate Kedley, Teaching & Learning (College of Education)

Jake Kurczek, Neuroscience (Graduate College)

Marlino Mubai, History (CLAS)

Amanda Murphy, Art & Art History (CLAS)

Kwame Owusu-Daaku, Urban & Regional Planning (Graduate College)

Mark Pooley, Urban & Regional Planning (Graduate College)

Matt Vasquez, Social Work (CLAS)

GRADUATE INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD

Thank you to members of the Graduate Institute Advisory Board who help to promote the Institute, review applications, and provide feedback to the Fellows during the Institute.

Mary Aquilino, Community & Behavioral Health (College of Public Health)

Monica Basile, Graduate Institute Alumnus; Friends of Iowa Midwives

Ken Brown, Former Graduate Institute Co-Director; Management & Organizations (College of Business)

Jean Florman, Center for Teaching

Sue Freeman, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County

Paul Kalina, Theatre Arts (CLAS)

LaTasha Massey, Johnson County Social Services

Shelby Myers-Verhage, English, Kirkwood Community College

Amie Ohlmann, Graduate Institute Alumnus; Language, Literacy & Culture (College of Education)

Ann Ricketts, Office of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development

Rachel Williams, Former Graduate Institute Co-Director; Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies; Art & Art History (CLAS)

JANUARY
Obermann Graduate
Institute on
Engagement and the
Academy

OTHER PROGRAMS

HASTAC SCHOLARS PROGRAM “REWIRING THE CLASSROOM”

2012-13 HASTAC SCHOLARS

Audrey Altman,
School of Library
& Information
Science (Graduate
College)

Craig Carey,
English (CLAS)

Yvonne Seale,
History (CLAS)

Co-sponsored with our UI partner, The Digital Studio for Public Arts & Humanities, the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) Scholars program is designed for graduate students engaged in innovative projects and research at the intersection of digital media and learning, 21st-century education, the digital humanities, and technology. HASTAC Scholars blog about digital activities on their home campus, host forums, organize events, and provide leadership in conceptualizing teaching, learning, research, writing, and the structures of knowledge for the future.

With the Center and The Digital Studio, the three HASTAC Scholars organized a daylong symposium, “Rewiring the Classroom,” a series of hands-on workshops and panels focused on critical applications of digital technologies in undergraduate classrooms. Presenters from the UI, Carleton College, and Augustana College offered practical experience with new technologies, along with critical discussions about the pedagogical value of these technologies. The event attracted educators from local K12 schools, colleges, and universities.

MARCH

HASTAC Symposium,
*Rewiring the
Classroom*

OBERMANN AFTERNOONS

This new program showcases the research of University of Iowa faculty and research staff through informal talks, many of which highlight issues of current importance.

- February 2013: Daniel Reed, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, and Professor and University Computational Science & Bioinformatics Chair, “MOOCs: History, Hype, and Reality.”
- March 2013: Meena Khandelwal, Anthropology and Gender, Women’s, & Sexuality Studies (CLAS) and H.S. Udaykumar, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (College of Engineering), “Missing the Woods for the Trees: Mechanical Engineer and Feminist Anthropologist Connect the Local and Global.”
- April 2013: Matthew Rizzo, Neurology (College of Medicine), Veena Prahlad, Biology (CLAS), Kumar Narayana, Neurology (College of Medicine), Kristi Williams (College of Nursing), and Michelle Voss, Psychology (CLAS), “From Cells to Sensors: Interdisciplinary Research in Aging.”

LAURA SPELMAN-ROCKEFELLER FUND

Currently, the Obermann Center’s Laura Spelman Rockefeller Fund supports a collaboration with the University of Iowa Delta Center. In an innovative “civic science” project, the Delta Center’s members use the funds to support workshops, conferences, and public partnership events. These activities promote the well-being of children and families by advancing scientific inquiry on issues of learning and development and by encouraging discussion of issues in child development among scientists, educators, parents, and the broader public.

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. A professor of career education at the University of Iowa, Dr. Obermann and his wife Avalon Obermann believed in the impact of interdisciplinary research. As a result of their generosity, hundreds of UI faculty, visiting faculty, and UI graduate students have been able to take the risks and wrestle with the challenges that genuinely collaborative and interdisciplinary work demands.

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 — to develop new programs, offer funded fellowships, and form new partnerships — 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.

Jonathan G. Andelson	M. Alison Ford	Teresa L. Mangum	Robert F. Sayre
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	Margaret Malik	Carol E. Twedt	

“Magical things happen when artists unite. Katie Merz and I had been talking about this Plutarch project for nearly a decade; we could never figure out how Katie’s paintings and my translations were actually related. Within a couple days of Katie’s arrival in Iowa City, we knew exactly where her art and my translations overlapped, and within just four months the project was done and received a major gallery show in New York and a book deal from Norton. This could only have happened with the support of the Obermann Center. No question about it.”

John D’Agata, Interdisciplinary Research Grant

2012-2013 OBERMANN STAFF

Teresa Mangum, Director

Neda Barrett, Director of Operations

Jennifer New, Assistant Director

Chloe Daniels, Student Assistant

Chelsea Houser, Student Assistant

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Thank you to our board members who provide ideas and feedback to us throughout the academic year.

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Thank you to members of this newly formed board for providing the director with advice on development and building connections throughout the corridor community.

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