



CAS

connections

MAY 2007
IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 CAS Faculty Honorees, Krauts' *Covenant of Care*, What's Happening
- 3 Accomplishments
- 5 Orenstein's *Secret Twin*, Delpit at AQUE
- 6 Chamber Singers at KC, Alma Thomas at the Katzen, Winning Musicians, Bunch on Black History



Mango Culture

Photo: Brendan Steidle

"Some people might think it's weird, disgusting, or strange to put salt and pepper on mangoes—but in India, it's what we do," says Harjant Gill. For the past two years, the anthropology doctoral student has been researching the junction of nationalism with music and media in his native India. "I focus on taking anthropology out of the traditional boundaries of academia and into the more public realm."

are you studying these little cultural moments? But it's precisely by these mundane, everyday moments of cultural consumption that we define ourselves. It's rarely by big catastrophic events." He explains, "M.I.A. takes her identity and contorts it, plays around with it. She asks what's Indian, what's western, and how are women supposed to behave within that nationalistic space?" Gill admires her artistic boldness for trying to create music out of that cultural melting pot. "It has a resonance that I can't quite place," says Gill. "If you have a mishmash identity in your culture, you're going to gravitate towards that."

Gill, who received his BA in anthropology from San Francisco State University, presented his work at the 17th Annual Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference. "I am so excited by the enthusiasm my research has received. The faculty have been really supportive," he says. "The college and the department allow me to break out of that traditional mold and try something new."

This summer, funded by a grant from the Robyn Rafferty Mathias fund, he will return to India to study the convergence of capitalism and national identity. "I want to learn how the media work to replicate notions of who we are and what we're supposed to be."

—Brendan Steidle

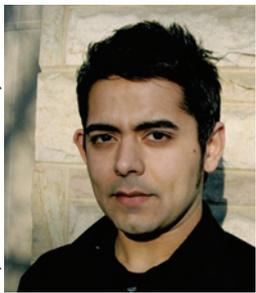


Photo: Dave Gaerby

It was the hybrid sound of Sri-Lankan musician Maya Arulpragasam, better known as M.I.A., that got Gill thinking about how media shape culture and express cultural identity. "I put the CD on and I said, what is this? What genre is this? She wasn't promoting those same old narratives of boy-meets-girl—she wasn't replicating the same gender roles." What she *did* sing about, at least in one song, was salting and peppering mangoes—a cultural reference, says Gill, only Indians would understand, although she has many followers in the United States and elsewhere.

"Media represent this constant mode of analysis we need to engage with," he says. "Some people in the field might ask, why



Photo: Jeff Watts

On Thin Ice

Students in Karen Bushaw-Newton's microbiology class got a chance to apply some of their lab skills in a real-world setting. They tested ice samples from five area restaurants at the request of United Press International (UPI) for a story on the cleanliness of restaurant ice. "When UPI called me about researching the ice in our labs, I agreed because it provides a great learning experience," said Bushaw-Newton.

Dressed in white lab coats, students tested ice samples from such dining establishments as Chef Geoff's and the Terrace Dining Room (TDR) to determine the levels of microbes and pathogens. The results? Bushaw-Newton reported, "As for the dirty ice—well, it wasn't. All the ice samples, including those from TDR, were free of bacteria. It might not make for a good news story," she added, "but it was a great learning experience. It shows my students what they are learning is actually used in everyday life—plus, I now feel very safe about consuming iced beverages."

—Anne Bentzel

AU STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT MATHIAS STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

At the 17th annual Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference on March 31, 160 undergraduate and graduate students presented their original research. The following students were awarded prizes for excellence in presentation:

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Outstanding Presentation by an Undergraduate in Quantitative Studies

Stephen Orme, Economics (Senior)
Pakistan, the Military, and Agricultural Productivity

Ebony Duncan, Law and Society (Senior)
I Am Not My Hair: An Analysis of Hair and Identity Politics among College-Aged African-American Women

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student

Dylan Kerrigan, Anthropology
Who Ain't Dead Badly Wounded

Paula Massouh, Anthropology
Household Organization and Function within the Largo-Gallina Branch of the Ancestral Puebloan Culture: A Case Study of the L-102 Site

SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior

Katie Rotella, Psychology (Senior)
Pss! Have You Heard . . . ? The Effects of Rumor Acceptance and Tendency to Gossip on Liking

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student

Benjamin Hutchins, Biology
Population Genetics of the Madison Cave Isopod (Antrolana lira)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Outstanding Presentation by a Freshman or Sophomore

R. J. Pettersen, Sociology (Sophomore); and Miriam Callahan, SIS (Sophomore)
The Politics of Language Choice in Swedish Popular Music

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior

Walter Glazer, Political Science and Philosophy (Senior)
The Necessity of Nobility in Machiavelli's Mixed Government

Laura Neff, History (Senior)
The Caesarean Operation: Addressing the Surgical Aspects of Man-Midwifery

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student

Jeffrey Epstein, Philosophy
In the Wake of the Rising Tide: Development and Environment in the 21st Century

PERFORMANCE AND THE CREATIVE ARTS

Outstanding Presentation by a Sophomore or Junior

Mia Branco, Musical Theatre (Sophomore); and **Nyk Schmalz**, Theatre (Sophomore)
A Scene from The Glass Menagerie

Outstanding Presentation by a Senior

Sean Bartley, Theatre
Collaboration and Adaptation: The Creation of Big Love, the Musical

VISUAL AND INFORMATIONAL DISPLAYS

Outstanding Display in the Morning Poster Session

Ruth Burley, Biology (Senior)
Expression of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) in Zebrafish with Induced Hyperglycemia

Outstanding Display in the Afternoon Poster Session

Susan Wenzel, Psychology (Graduate)
Effect of Anger on Subsequent Mood in Dysphoric Individuals: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016-8053

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 966



Photo: Jeff Watts

CAS FACULTY HONOREES



Photo: Jeff Watts

Anthony H. Ahrens, Psychology
University Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community

Naomi Susan Baron, Language and Foreign Studies
Presidential Research Fellow



Photo: Anne Bentzel

David A. F. Haaga, Psychology
University Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Other Professional Contributions

Kermit W. Moyer, Literature
Retiring Faculty Member



Photo: Jeff Watts

Pamela S. Nadell, History
Scholar-Teacher of the Year

Anthony L. Riley, Psychology
Presidential Research Fellow

Myra W. Sklarew, Literature
Retiring Faculty Member



Alan M. Kraut and Deborah A. Kraut Photo: Victor Greene

Krauts Chronicle a Hospital's History and Legacy

While researching his award-winning book *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace,"* historian Alan M. Kraut became intrigued by the response of religious communities to disease. "I started asking, why did all these private Catholic hospitals spring up?" Kraut concluded it was an effort by the church to provide parishioners with access to priests, sacraments, and dietary needs. "At the time," he said, "there were many evangelical death-bed conversions occurring. The church built these hospitals to protect its institution—and the Jewish faith followed suit."

He pursued this subject in a new book, *Covenant of Care: Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2007), which he coauthored with Deborah A. Kraut, his wife. The Krauts tell the story of Beth Israel hospital in Newark, New Jersey. "Most hospital histories are what I call stories of great docs," said Alan Kraut. "They chronicle histories of bald white guys opening up operating rooms and give blow-by-blow accounts of the installation of the first X-ray machine. Dull, dull, dull."

Alan and Deborah Kraut set out to tell a different type of history. "What we discovered was that everyone who worked at the Beth, who built it, felt that it was their gift to the community," said Alan. "In the mid-1800s, many Jews were poor immigrants. They did not want to be a burden on the community. The Jewish hospitals were built to take care of them—and also to take care of people of other faiths who had little money."

The Beth opened its doors in 1902 and eventually became Newark's preeminent hospital. "The hospital survived many challenges: the Great Depression, urban riots, and urban flight. It thrived due to its flexibility

and commitment to the community," Alan Kraut said. "This was a hospital where little kids crossed the lobby as a shortcut on their way home from school, where its nurses and doctors lived two blocks away. It was never a cold medical institution: It was a powerful intersection between hospital, community, people, and medicine."

The Krauts scoured newspaper archives and hospital records and collected oral histories to piece together the story. "We made a great team," said Alan, "we're still married. Deborah, who has a medical background, proved an apt partner. She was able to shed light on the inner workings of a hospital in a way I never could." Deborah Kraut appreciated the partnership, too. "We provided different perspectives," she said. "Alan obviously is the historian, but I had a nuts-and-bolts understanding of the hospital departments and the terminology."

In 1996, after struggling against pressures of managed care and government regulation, the Beth was sold to the Saint Barnabas Health Care System—under these conditions: the hospital would keep its name and the Star of David would remain visible on the building.

"As a historian, you are often inspired by current events to look to the past, to learn how previous generations answered the same questions we are grappling with now," said the CAS professor. "This is the ideal moment for us to enter a national debate over health care. Now that we are in the midst of a great wave of immigration, one of the big issues is that many newcomers are uninsured and have no access to medical care, just as many native-born Americans lack health insurance," he said. "I hope it makes a difference that once upon a time there was a wonderful hospital with great medicine that came out of the community. I'd like for us to draw some wisdom from the past."

—Anne Bentzel

What's Happening

MAY 5

Artists' Reception

6–9 p.m. American University Museum
Celebrate the opening of new exhibits: MFA Thesis Exhibition; Resolutions: New Art from Northern Ireland; Made in America: The Washington Print Club 19th Biennial; Black Masters; High Fiber; Laura Amussen: The Façade; and Jules Olitski: Late Sculpture.

MAY 6

Graduate MFA Student Reading

3 p.m. Kay Spiritual Life Center
Experience a diversity of voices at a group reading of poetry and prose by 2007 graduates. Admission is free.

MAY 12

Honors Convocation

2 p.m. Eric Friedheim Quadrangle (in case of rain: Bender Arena)
Event recognizes all graduating honors students, capstone award winners, university award recipients, and national scholarship recipients. Business attire requested.

MAY 12

Phi Beta Kappa Induction

10:30 a.m. Kay Spiritual Life Center

THROUGH MAY 13

High Fiber

American University Museum
The Magnolia Tapestry Project introduces a new dimension to traditional tapestry through a computerized method that captures design details and allows the artist greater control over the final work. Featured artists are Squeak Carnwath, Enrique Chagoya, Chuck Close, Bruce Conner, Rupert Garcia, April Gornik, Hung Liu, Alan Magee, Ed Moses, Deborah Oropallo, and William Wiley. Admission is free.

MAY 13

College of Arts and Sciences Commencement Ceremony

1 p.m. Bender Arena
Ceremony with commencement speaker, Diane Rehm
Reception immediately following, Katzen Arts Center Rotunda

MAY 22–JUNE 24

Diseño Shakespear

American University Museum
Argentinian environmental graphic designer Ronald Shakespear is best known for his posters and urban signs. Since founding Shakespear Design in 1962, his work has been shown around Europe and South America and in international publications. Exhibit organized by the Embassy of Argentina. Admission is free.

THROUGH MAY 27

MFA Thesis Exhibition

American University Museum
This show represents the culmination of a two-year Master of Fine Arts degree for the art department's graduate students. Featured works include painting, sculpture, and video installation. Admission is free.

JUNE 1 (AND JULY 6)

First Friday for New and Prospective CAS Grad Students

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Battelle Tompkins Atrium
Students are invited to visit campus to meet with advisors, register for classes, and get a jump on the fall. For information, call 202-885-3620.



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Publisher: College of Arts and Sciences

Dean: Kay Mussell

Managing editor: Anne Bentzel

Writers: Anne Bentzel, Kyle Dargan, Cara Metell, Leia Pankovich, Brendan Steidle, Vanessa Ventura, Lesley Ward

Editor: Ali Kahn, UP

Design: Keegan Houser, UP

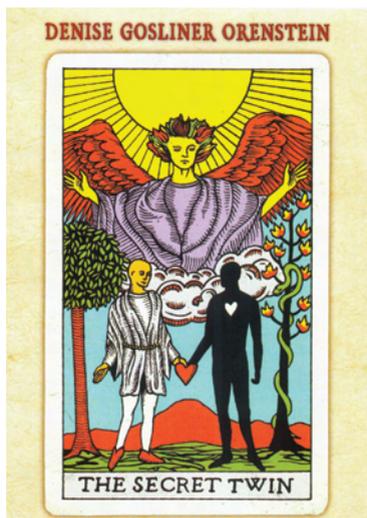
Thanks to Mary Schellinger, CAS

Send news items and comments to bentzel@american.edu.

Photo: Jeff Watts



Denise Orenstein's *Separate Lives:* *A Writer's Process*



Writers are always asked where their ideas come from. For Denise Orenstein, director of the MFA program in creative writing, it is an organic process through which ideas come to her in metaphor and that requires she inhabit different worlds. At times, she finds herself slipping into the personas of her characters. “When I have an idea,” she says, “it sticks around for a long time and then I have to pursue it. It’s like an orb floating towards you and then settling. You work with it to figure out what it holds.”

In her third novel, *The Secret Twin* (HarperCollins, 2007), released in February, Orenstein explores issues of separation and loss through the life of a conjoined twin. She researched real-world sources, investigating surgeries on conjoined twins. During the writing, however, she began blurring reality with the imaginary. One day while grocery shopping, she recalls, she suddenly realized she was buying food for her main character, Noah. “It was,” she said, “a little unnerving.” Orenstein

often finds inspiration in the news. She worked on the novel while the Maryland sniper attacks were happening, which influenced the subplot of a tarot-card killer on the loose.

Orenstein pays extraordinary attention to language. It is a lesson she drills into her students and, according to the critics, is exemplified in her novel. A *Booklist* reviewer writes, “As enigmatic as the tarot cards that grace the book, this spellbinding story will entangle readers at the first sentence. Orenstein’s writing is magic—every word and phrase precisely chosen.”

Orenstein’s future projects include two completed novels that are currently being considered for publication and that explore communities outside mainstream society. One is set in a prison, where female inmates participate in a prison canine program, training dogs to assist the disabled. As usual, Orenstein did her research, spending time with the inmates and their dogs while she was writing. The other focuses on a fundamentalist polygamist community—a subject perhaps less readily observable, but, as Orenstein says, “Fiction is not about literal reality, but deals with the emotional honesty at the story’s core. In regard to the polygamist novel, I was more interested in issues of emotional imprisonment than anything else.”

—Lesley Ward

DELPIT AT AQUE SYMPOSIUM

More than 130 public-school educators from Washington, D.C., and from Montgomery, Alexandria, and Fairfax counties, as well as members of the AU community heard Lisa Delpit speak at the Third Alliance for Quality Urban Education Think Tank on March 31, 2007. The event was hosted by AU’s School of Education, Teaching, and Health. Delpit, executive director of the Center for Urban Education and Innovation at Florida International University, presented her research on effective teaching methods for students of color.

Delpit’s presentation was followed by an interactive panel entitled “Reflections on Promising Practices in the District of Columbia.” Participants were Isaac Cosby Hunt III, teacher at Bell Multicultural Senior High School; Zakia Ali Sims, teacher at Garrison Elementary School; Jennifer C. Niles, founding principal of E. L. Haynes Public Charter School; and Julie Sweetland, PhD and research specialist at the Center for Inspired Teaching. The symposium closed with a book signing of Delpit’s *Other People’s Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom* (New Press, 1995).

—Cara Metell

JUNE 5–17

Art from Syria: A Journey Through Half a Century of Creativity
American University Museum

Exhibits of work by Louay Kayali and Sara Shamma represent 50 years of Syrian art. Organized with the Embassy of Syrian Arab Republic. Admission is free.

JUNE 5–JULY 29

Christina McPhee: Carrizo-Parkfield Diaries
American University Museum

The diaries reveal the link between our perceptions of the invisible realm of data and our personal psychic space, particularly as it is transformed in moments of traumatic memory. Admission is free.

JUNE 9

Artists’ Reception

6–9 p.m. American University Museum
Celebrate the opening of new exhibits: Christina McPhee: Carrizo-Parkfield Diaries; True Dutterer: The Work of William S. Dutterer; Bush Leaguers: Cartoonists Take On the White House; Art from Syria: A Journey Through Half a Century of Creativity; and Diseño Shakespear. Admission is free.

THROUGH JUNE 24

Made in America: The Washington Print Club 19th Biennial
American University Museum

Gallery talk: Saturday, May 5; 5 p.m.

This exhibit features more than 100 prints created in the United States by American and other artists and culled from club members’ private collections. Curated by Joy Fisher, deputy director of curatorial affairs at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the exhibit offers a fascinating look at printmaking in America. Admission is free.

THROUGH JUNE 27

Black Masters

American University Museum

Gallery talk with Sherman Edmiston Jr. and Lew Hudnel: Tuesday, April 24; 5 p.m. The exhibit highlights contributions of African Americans to American art. Featured artists are Charles Alston, Edward M. Bannister, Romare Bearden, John Biggers, Sam Gilliam, John Wesley Hardrick, Lois Mailou Jones, Edward M. Porter, William E. Scott, Charles Sebree, Allen Stringfellow, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Alma Thomas, and Mose Tolliver. Sponsored by Hennessy Corporation. Admission is free.

JUNE 30–JULY 29

Bush Leaguers: Cartoonists Take On the White House

The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists presents a collection of current political cartoons about George W. Bush and his trusted advisors. Admission is free.

JUNE 30–JULY 29

True Dutterer: The Work of William S. Dutterer

A celebration of the life and work of this well-known artist. Special focus on works inspired by his trip to Afghanistan. Admission is free.

JULY 6

First Friday for New and Prospective CAS Grad Students

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Battelle Tompkins Atrium

Students are invited to visit campus to meet with advisors, register for classes, and get a jump on the fall. For information, call 202-885-3620.

THROUGH JULY 29

Laura Amussen: The Facade

American University Museum

Baltimore artist Laura Amussen blurs the boundaries between landscape and architecture and between organic and synthetic to explore the various experiences of place through history, nomadism, nostalgia, alienation, and fantasy. Admission is free.

THROUGH JULY 29

Resolutions: New Art from Northern Ireland

American University Museum

Gallery talk: Saturday, May 26; 4 p.m.

Contemporary art in Northern Ireland is hot. With the Troubles of the past 25 years now over, artists are looking toward the future, focusing instead on expressions of tolerance, innovation, and intellectual and aesthetic pleasures. Organized by the Golden Thread Gallery in collaboration with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and curated by Jack Rasmussen.

Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

In December, **Jack Child (language and foreign studies)** wrote pieces for Wikipedia on Latin America, Antarctica, and translation.

Bryan Fantie (psychology) published “Impaired Emotion Perception in Schizophrenia: A Differential Deficit,” coauthored with AU alumna Mary Kosmidis and others, in *Psychiatry Research* 149 (January 2007). Another article, “Performance on a Virtual Reality Spatial Memory Navigation Task in Depressed Patients,” coauthored with alumna Neda Gould and others, appeared in *American Journal of Psychiatry* 164 (March 2007).

Mary Garrard (professor emerita, art) published “Alice Neel and Me,” *Woman's Art Journal* (Fall–Winter 2007).

In January, **Mary Frances Giandrea (history)** published *Episcopal Culture in Anglo-Saxon England* (Boydell and Brewer, 2007).

Two pieces by **Consuelo Hernández (language and foreign studies)**—“Festín de los cuatro elementos” and “Si yo fuera Lisístrata”—appeared in *La mujer latina*, no. 20 (Centro de Estudios Chicanos, Universidad de California, Spring 2006).

Alina Israeli (language and foreign studies) published a review of A. Timberlake's *Reference Grammar of Russian* (Cambridge University Press) in the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*.

Philip Johnson (computer science, audio technology, and physics) coauthored “A phase diagram for the Bose-Einstein condensation of magnons,” *Journal of Applied Physics* 101, 09G103 (2007). The article was reprinted in the 2007 *Virtual Journal of Nanoscale Science and Technology* (www.vjano.org/nano).

Kiho Kim (biology) coauthored “Temperature Affects Coral Disease Resistance and Pathogen Growth,” *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 329 (2007).

Alan M. Kraut (history) and Deborah A. Kraut, his wife, coauthored *Covenant of Care: Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2007).

In January, **Celine-Marie Pascale (sociology)** published *Making Sense of Race, Gender and Class: Commonsense, Power and Privilege* (Routledge, 2007).

Jeffrey Reiman (philosophy and religion) published “Against the Death Penalty” in the 2007 *Ethics in Practice* anthology, as well as “Being Fair to Future People,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 35, no. 1 (Winter 2007).

Olga E. Rojer (language and foreign studies) cotranslated *Founding Fictions of the Dutch Caribbean: Cola Debrot's My Black Sister and Boeli van Leeuwen's A Stranger on Earth*, and cowrote the critical introduction (Peter Lang, 2007).

An article by **Richard Sha (literature)**—“Othering Sexual Perversity: England, Empire, Race, and Sexual Science”—will be published in the forthcoming *Cultural History of the Body in an Age of Empire* (Berg, 2008).

In November, **Edward Smith (history)** published an article in the *Washington Times* comparing the war in Iraq to the American Civil War.

The *New York Times* published in its education supplement an original question-and-answer piece by **Russell Stone (director, Center for Israel Studies; chair, sociology)** entitled “Pop Quiz:

Middle East Studies: ‘North, South, West, and East of Eden’” (Sunday, January 7, 2007).

Howard Wachtel (professor emeritus, economics) published his article “Global Taxes” in the *Encyclopedia of Globalization* (Routledge, 2006). Another piece, “Water Conflicts and International Water Markets,” appeared in *Israel-Palestine Water Issues: From Conflict to Cooperation* (Springer-Verlag, 2007).

Brenda Werth (language and foreign studies) published “El retrato familiar, la televisión y la crisis de la representación en *Los Albornoz* de los Macocos,” *Telondefondo*, no. 4 (December 2006). Forthcoming is “Performing the Family Portrait in Marcelo Bertuccio's Señora, esposa, niña y joven desde lejos,” *Latin American Theatre Review* 40, no. 2 (Spring 2007).

Jon Wisman (economics) published “State Lotteries: Using State Power to Fleece the Poor,” *Journal of Economic Issues* XL, no. 4 (December 2006).

Josette Wisman (language and foreign studies) published “La Ville-femme au Moyen Age” in “La Ville palimpseste,” *Editions Aleph, Collection Théories*, no. 3 (2006).

Brian Yates (psychology) published “Costs of Clubhouses: An International Perspective,” *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research* 34, no. 1 (January 2007).

SPEAKER'S CORNER

In May 2006, **Lynne Arneson** and **Victoria Connaughton (biology)** presented “Induction of hyperglycemia in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) leads to morphological changes in the retina” as a poster at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology annual meeting. The paper was accepted for publication in *Acta Diabetologia*.

In November, **Brock Brady (TESOL)**, **Angela Dadak (literature)**, and **Michael Roehm** and **Fanta Aw (ISSS)** presented “Unpacking Academic Discourse for Student Academic Success” at the NAFSA Region VIII conference in Washington, D.C.

Norma Broude (art history) and **Mary Garrard (professor emerita, art history)** cochaired a session, “What's Love Got to Do with It?: The Myth and Politics of Love in Art and Art History,” at the College Art Association's annual conference in New York in February.

As part of an outreach effort in the D.C. public schools, **Jack Child (language and foreign studies)** gave a talk on Antarctic penguins at Lafayette Elementary School in December.

In November, **Angela Dadak (literature)** and **Fanta Aw** and **Michael Roehm (ISSS)** lectured on “Cross-Campus Collaboration for International Students” at the NAFSA Region VIII conference in Washington, D.C.

Marilyn Heldman (art) presented “Framework: Following Clues of International Exchange” at the “Medieval Arts of North Africa and the Near East” conference at Princeton's Index of Christian Art in February.

In November, **Consuelo Hernández (language and foreign studies)** was keynote speaker and guest poet for Spanish Immersion Weekend, sponsored by the Virginia chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in

Richmond. She presented a bilingual reading from *Poems from Debris and Ashes*, *Manual de Peregrina*, and *Solo de Violin*. She also gave a poetry reading, “Noche de poesía,” at Empresarios Latinos por el Cambio in Hempstead, New York. In December, she gave another bilingual reading from the *King Juan Carlos I of Spain Poetry Series* at New York University.

Alina Israeli (language and foreign studies) presented “The Alternative Conjunction ‘A TO’ in Russian” at the November conference of the Slavic Linguistic Society in Bloomington, Indiana.

In June, **Alan M. Kraut (history)** delivered a paper he coauthored with Deborah A. Kraut, “A Power for Healing: Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in the United States,” at the 2006 Biennial Scholar's Conference on American Jewish History in Charleston, South Carolina. In July, he was scholar-in-residence at the University of Delaware's “Read History” Summer Institute on Immigration. He also addressed high-school history teachers at the Ellis Island Institute.

As part of the Library of Congress's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in September, **Helen Langa (art history)** lectured on “Chicana Artists: Diverse Voices in the Struggle for Social Justice.” In October, she presented a paper, “Immigrant Artists, Laboring Workers, and National Identities: Changing Visual Paradigms in 1930s New York,” at the American Studies Association annual meeting in Oakland, California.

Randall Packer (art) gave the keynote address at the North American Artists Organization Conference in Los Angeles in April. His talk, entitled “Arts as Mediation,” addressed new artistic models and forms that encourage social and political change.

In February, **Richard Sha (literature)** gave a lecture, “A Physiology of the Imagination: Romanticism, Pathology, Transcendence,” at the National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine seminar.

In March, **Christopher Tudge (biology)** presented “PSM @ AU: Lessons Learned” at the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Brenda Werth (language and foreign studies) presented “Repatriation, Memory Politics, and Ricardo Monti's *Una pasión sudamericana*” in November at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

John White (professor emeritus; computer science, audio technology, and physics) presented the paper “Multiple Critical Points for Square-wells with Repulsive Shoulders: Renormalization Calculations Compared with Simulations” at the 16th Symposium on Thermophysical Properties in Boulder, Colorado.

At the November meeting of the American Evaluation Association in Portland, Oregon, **Brian Yates (psychology)** copresented “Alternative Methods of Evaluating Costs of Adopting New Accreditation Procedures of Opioid Treatment Programs in the United States.” In addition, he presented “An Evaluation Framework to Compare Costing and Valuation Approaches” and “Assessing the Value of Volunteered and Donated Resources to Providers, Consumers, and Family Members.” Also in November, he copresented a paper at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Boston. Yates participated in the “Cost-Benefit Analysis and Crime Control Workshop” at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

Accomplishments *Continued*

IN THE MEDIA

Cox News Service interviewed **Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies)** on the role of the Internet in contemporary elections. In November, she was quoted in a *New York Times Magazine* article about modern neologisms and interviewed by the New Jersey *Star-Ledger* on the impact of IM and text messaging on student writing. She was also interviewed by CNET, WJLA, and Channel One. In December, the *Boston Globe* quoted her on trends among adult users of cell-phone text messaging, and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on computer-modeling tools for visualizing word frequency in texts. An Associated Press story quoted her on the use of instant messaging by teenagers versus adults.

Robert Blecker (economics) was quoted in "The Nation: NAFTA Should Have Stopped Illegal Immigration, Right?" in the *New York Times Week in Review*, February 18, 2007.

In April, **Kyle Dargan (literature)** was profiled in a *Washingtonian* magazine article entitled "40 People to Watch Under 40."

In November, an Internet broadcast cited **Laura Juliano (psychology)** on her study of coffee addiction.

Tamar Lewin of the *New York Times* interviewed **Peter Kuznick (history)** about the impact of gender imbalance on academia. He spoke to Radio Free Europe about the implications of NSA telephone surveillance, as well as about circumstances leading U.S. soldiers to murder innocent civilians. The *Asahi Shimbun* interviewed Kuznick about the new exhibit at Nevada's Atomic Testing Museum sponsored by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and he and his students received coverage in the Japanese press and on NHK-TV. His comments about Hiroshima and Nagasaki were quoted in India's *Statesman* and aired on Wisconsin Public Radio.

In December, **Allan Lichtman (history)** was interviewed about Gerald Ford's presidency by Bloomberg Television, Canadian Television Network, CNN Headline News, and MSNBC. In a November issue of *Jewish Week*, he commented on Senator Joseph Lieberman's position of power in the Senate. He was interviewed in December by the McClatchy Newspapers about the prospects for John Edwards's candidacy, and in January by the *Salt Lake Tribune* on the Democrats' effort to solidify their base in the Rockies by staging their 2008 convention in Denver.

In December, the *New York Times* interviewed **Pamela Nadell (history and Jewish studies)** about the Conservative Jewish vote to allow the ordination of gay rabbis and the celebration of same-sex commitment ceremonies.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations awarded **Robert Beisner (professor emeritus, history)** the Robert H. Ferrell Book Prize for distinguished scholarship in the history of U.S. foreign relations for his 2006 book, *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War*.

Consuelo Hernández (language and foreign studies) has been appointed to the editorial board of *AEREA Anuario Hispanoamericano de Poesía*, a publication of the University of Georgia and Fundación Valparaíso (2006–2007).

Jessica Hollander (senior, history) received the university's Bruce Hughes Award for outstanding service to the AU community.

Kiho Kim (biology) has been selected to serve on the Oceans Studies Board of the National Academies for a three-year term.

In January, **Barry McCarthy (psychology)** received the 2007 SSTAR Consumer Book Award for the book he coauthored with Michael E. Metz, *Coping with Erectile Dysfunction: How to Regain Confidence and Enjoy Great Sex* (New Harbinger, 2004).

Laura Petravage (senior, music) received the university's Evelyn Swarthout Hayes Award for her outstanding contribution to AU through the arts.

Three CAS students received Killam Fellowships, with awards of up to \$10,000 to study at a Canadian university: **Maureen Reed (sophomore, music theater)** will study at Dalhousie University in spring 2008; **Alison Shott (sophomore, political science, honors)** will study at Acadia University in fall 2007; and **Katie Young (senior, philosophy and women and gender studies, honors)** will study at McMaster University in fall 2007.

Claire Roby (sophomore, environmental studies, honors) and **Casey Roe (sophomore, environmental studies)** were among 80 students nationwide to receive a Morris K. Udall Scholarship. Each awardee receives \$5,000 and participates in a week-long symposium in Tucson, Arizona, on the environment.

Vivian Vasquez (SETH) was a finalist in the Podcast Peer Awards education category. She is host of the Critical Literacy in Practice (CLIP) podcast (www.clippodcast.com).



Detail from *Night Fall #1*, Mary McIntyre (2003). Courtesy of the artist and Arts Council of Northern Ireland. On exhibit at American University Museum through July 29



AU Chamber Singers Photo: Jeff Watts

CHAMBER SINGERS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

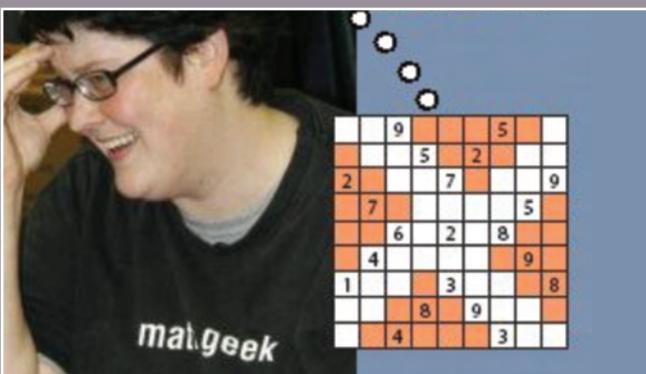
The American University Chamber Singers is one of two collegiate choral groups selected to participate in the inaugural Washington, D.C., Choral Festival presented by World Projects International Music Productions. They will perform a mixed repertoire, from baroque to contemporary, at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on May 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Kennedy Center box office or online at www.kennedycenter.com.



KATZEN EXHIBIT FEATURES PIONEERING WOMAN ARTIST

In 1924, abstract painter Alma Woodsey Thomas became the first student to graduate from Howard University with a BA in fine arts. She broke ground again in 1934 as the first black woman at Columbia University to earn a master's in art. According to Sherman K. Edmiston Jr., director of the

Essie Green Galleries and curator of the Black Masters exhibit now at the AU Museum, Thomas "possessed a natural sense of genius for color and form. Her exuberantly colorful canvases filled with abstract shapes and patterns established her as one of Washington's most important Color Field artists." Black Masters, which showcases the contributions of African Americans to American art, runs through May 27.



SPEAKING OF SUDOKU

Laura Taalman, associate professor of mathematics at James Madison University, discussed the mysteries of sudoku, a logic-based placement puzzle, at a March 30 lecture sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



Josiah Lambert Photo: Anne Bentzel

Laura Petravage Photo: Vanessa Ventura



AU Symphony Orchestra Photo: Jeff Watts

Winning Musicians

In October, American University students tested their diverse musical talents in the annual Concerto and Aria Competition. The reward for the winning undergraduates or graduates is a chance to perform a solo piece with the AU Symphony Orchestra. "It's a fantastic opportunity for students to develop skills and bring their work to a level beyond what they thought they could accomplish," said Nancy Snider, director of the music program and a faculty judge.

The preliminary round was held on October 7, when eight contestants performed in turn before a panel of eight faculty judges. Five finalists competed the following day. In the end, the prize went to Josiah Lambert, a junior double-majoring in music and business administration, and Laura Petravage, a senior music major with a concentration in vocal performance and conducting. They performed with the orchestra on March 3 and 4. The concert

featured Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, op. 64, with guest conductor Anna Binneweg, music director of Chicago's modern opera company, OperaModa.

Lambert, who played the first movement from Samuel Barber's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, op. 14, determined to make the audience feel the sense of "mystery, excitement, and emotional beauty" he experienced the first time he first heard the piece.

Petravage sang arias from "Parto, Parto" from Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* and "Va! laisse couler mes larmes" from Massenet's *Werther*. "There are not many opportunities for an undergraduate to perform solo," said Petravage. "This gives me the chance to put my voice in front of an audience and to shape my performance with expert coaching from the faculty."

—Vanessa Ventura

Bunch on Black History



Photo: Jeff Watts

In February, Lonnie Bunch (CAS/BA '74, MA '76), the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, visited AU to talk about the continuing importance of Black History Month. Here are a few excerpts from his presentation:

"If you look at the data, 40 percent of the people who visit the Smithsonian will never go to another museum in their lives. So what you have is an opportunity to introduce people to a story that they wouldn't experience anywhere else. The challenge is to help people understand just how crucial slavery is to everything that happened in America

There's a brilliant new documentary slated to come out soon that looks at Bristol, Rhode Island, in the 18th and early-19th centuries. It basically helps illustrate the fact that Bristol thrived, if not survived, because of the slave trade—not just because of who built the ships, but who *supplied* the ships, who *served* on the ships The documentary really helps people rethink what slavery means to their lives. Rather than seeing it as a story that occurs just in the south or a story that is just a black story, you begin to see in profound ways how who you are has been made possible by the slave trade

People have asked me, well, is your model the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum? Not really because, quite honestly, in the holocaust museum the "bad people" aren't Americans. One of the challenges for Americans is to grapple with their own moments of evil. I don't underestimate how difficult the challenge is, but I have been impressed at work that is being done in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and West Africa that explores slavery for the public in different ways. I am buoyed by the public's willingness to think about these questions.

I don't expect to transform people overnight, but my belief is that if we build a national museum on the mall, it will be there forever. If we build a national museum on the mall, we can stimulate a dialogue. We build a national museum on the mall and we not only will help people to remember African-American culture—but we will help people understand the totality of the American experience. If we do our job right, the museum will be a place of reflection, of memory, of laughter, of healing and reconciliation. But above anything else, it will be a place that is ripe with scholarship and tells an unvarnished truth."

Lonnie Bunch appeared as a guest speaker for the Bishop C. C. McCabe Lecture Series. For more information about this series, visit www.american.edu/cas/bishopmccabe.

—Kyle Dargan and Leia Pankovich