



CAS CONNECTIONS

College of Arts and Sciences, American University

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to all CAS faculty, staff, and students — returning and new. The 2004-2005 academic year begins with the promise of exciting things to come. Last year, the university kicked off our major fundraising campaign — a new AU. Over the next five years, CAS is committed to raise \$5 million to support academic priorities, including scholarships, endowed faculty positions, and enhanced support for faculty and student research. I am pleased to announce that CAS received two major gifts over the summer.

A \$500,000 gift from a CAS/WCL alum and AU Trustee will establish the Ann Robyn Mathias Program Fund for Faculty and Student Research in the College of Arts and Sciences. The gift will provide reduced teaching loads for pre-tenure faculty, international travel for graduate student dissertation and thesis research, summer funds for undergraduate research in collaboration with faculty members, and enhanced prizes for the best student work at the annual student research conference. In recognition and gratitude for her support of CAS, we will call this important on-campus event the Ann Mathias Student Research Conference. Mathias will also head the college's new advisory council.

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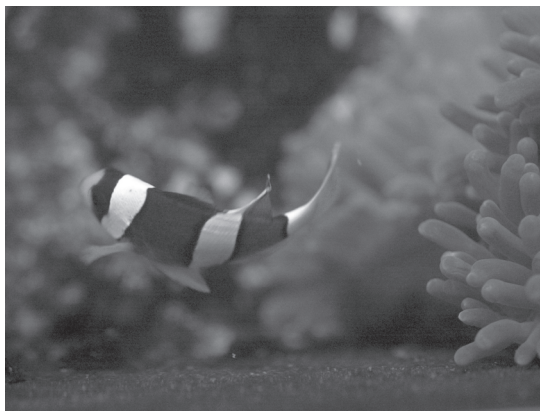


photo by Jeffery Watts

Tropical fish, bright green coral, and strange spiked sea urchins live in a 125 -gallon saltwater tank in the biology teaching lab. Learn more about them and the biology's quest to cultivate corals on page 3.

VOL. 17, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER, 2004

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- **CAP Professor composes music for independent films.** Find out more on page 2.

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CAS Connections

is published twice a semester
during the fall and spring terms.

CAS Dean
Kay Mussell

Writer/Editor/Manager
Anne Bentzel

Guidelines for Submission

Submissions to *CAS Connections* are encouraged and should be submitted via e-mail to <bentzel@american.edu> prior to the stated deadline. Faculty accomplishments and events posted into the CAS Master Database will also be automatically considered for publication (unless expressly requested otherwise). Please be sure to include a contact name, phone number, and e-mail address. We also welcome the electronic submission of photographs. Photos should preferably be scanned at no less than 260 dpi and saved in .TIF format.

Deadlines

For Fall issue no. 1 (September 8) - August 13
For Fall issue no. 2 (November 8) - October 11
For Spring issue no. 1 (January 18) - December 5
For Spring issue no. 2 (April 12) - March 29

Please direct any questions to Anne Bentzel in
the CAS Dean's Office, 202-885-1781

**Deadline for the November issue is
October 11, 2004**

The Center for Israeli Studies has received its first endowed fund — the Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Fund. The Abensohns have been long-time generous supporters of the center and its projects. The new fund will honor their philanthropy by continuing their work in supporting an understanding of Israel and its culture. The endowment will provide the center with many opportunities to further its goals.

We thank all of our generous donors and especially appreciate their vote of confidence in our CAS mission!

In other news, as everyone can see on Massachusetts Ave., construction of the Dr. Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center is proceeding quickly. We anticipate moving the art and performing arts programs into the building during the summer of 2005, followed by grand opening events in the fall. Hard-hat tours of the facility will be available for faculty, staff, students, and alumni very soon, so watch for the announcements and sign up for a thrilling view of our future.

Also on the horizon is the first AU student choral group tour in more than 20 years. The Chamber Singers will travel to New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada in October. The department of Literature will host a centennial tribute to Chilean poet Pablo Neruda on September 29. Other CAS events include our annual tea for emeriti faculty, alumni nights at the Greenberg Theatre, and Ed Smith's thematic tours of Washington.

Again, welcome to new and old faces. We're looking forward to a terrific year.

Kay Mussell
CAS Dean



Paul Oehlers' two new films have been selected as finalists at IndieFests.

CAP Professor Scores Electronic Music for Indie Films

Professor Paul Oehlers, a new faculty member for computer science, audio-tech, and physics, composes experimental, electronic music for films. He has scored soundtracks for films such as *Most High* which was selected as a finalist at the Indiefest Film Festival in Chicago and *Made to Suffer* which was selected as a finalist in the atomfilms Star Wars Film Festival sponsored by Lucasfilms. "Some might consider my music weird, outside the box. It fits in well with the Indie film world. I have a lot of freedom to do what I feel is right for the film — without having to worry about pressure from commercial interests," says Oehlers. He is starting to make a name for himself as a composer of dark, textual music. He writes all of his music on computer software such as Pro Tools. "I have always been attracted to synthetic, electronic sounds," says Oehlers. As a kid, he remembers watching Japanese animated cartoons and being fascinated with the sound track. "I wanted to find out what was making those sounds," he says. Oehlers has already updated CAP's audio tech lab with the latest technology. He is looking forward to teaching this fall. "I can't wait to get into the lab with students and help them create."

COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

Growing Corals

In the corner of the Hurst Hall biology lab, under florescent lights stands a 275-gallon, shallow, water-filled tank. Inside, clusters of round sea foam green coral grow. A baby mangrove tree stands in the middle of the tank. A spiky round sea urchin makes its way around patches of purple mushroom-like corals.



Two brightly colored tropical fish dart around clumps of iridescent green coral. The salt water tank is the brain child of David Baker, a recent graduate of AU's master's in biology program.

"Corals are a restricted species," says Baker, who is currently enrolled in a doctoral marine biology program at Cornell University. "It is difficult for a researcher to collect corals, and you can only harvest small quantities. I built the tank to see if we could grow our own corals and to see if we could create a tank which mirrors the delicate eco-system that corals need." Baker approached biology Professor Nancy Zeller with the idea. "I thought it was a great endeavor," says Zeller who helped locate funding for the project. "Now, not only do we showcase the tank, but we use the corals in lab."

Baker, who's undergraduate advisor at the University of St. Mary's had designed a similar tank, built an intricate three tank system with a cycle for removal of wastes. "The key is to create an environment which imitates nature," says Baker. He installed florescent lights over the tank—keeping them on 14 hours a day—to simulate the long hours of tropical sunlight which corals require. The water is kept at a warm 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Rocks simulate a reef and provide an area for bacteria to grow. (Bacteria help with the nitrate or waste removal.) "It is a delicate balance," says Baker. "You have to be vigilant and constantly check the levels of nitrates and the health of the corals."

"David is amazing," says Zeller. "There is an artistry in what he has done. It is like being a gourmet and knowing just the right ingredient to add." Since Baker has left AU to pursue his doctorate, Professor Zeller is now in charge of maintaining the tank. She has transplanted the whole system into a 125-gallon glass tank that will be easier to maintain. She plans on following Baker's parting advice, "It is all about constant vigilance and making sure these little guys are happy."

photo: David Baker stands next to his salt-water tank creation.

AU Chamber Singers to Tour this Fall

This October, the American University Chamber Singers, a select group of 24 students, will take to the road. They are embarking upon on seven-day tour to Ontario, Canada, western New York State, and western Pennsylvania to showcase their unique blend of voices. It is the first AU choral tour in almost twenty years. "AU has a strong choral tradition," says Professor Daniel Abraham, director of choral activities at AU. "Some of the greatest directors of choral music have taught here including Paul Calloway, Norman Scribner, Vito Mason, and Paul Hill. This tour is a great opportunity for us to continue to grow our tradition." The Chamber Singers will be performing a mix of repertoire including standards like Bach, a variety of contemporary choral works by both American and Canadian



composers, and traditional American and Canadian folk arrangements.

The AU Chamber Singers will have just five weeks from the start of the semester to add new members and prepare for the tour. Abraham will be holding auditions for new singers during the first week of classes. He is looking for a match of voices. "Many times, we end up selecting students who aren't even music majors. Music is not what they study, but what they love." With only a few weeks before the tour starts, the Chamber Singers will spend every spare minute in rehearsal. "It will be an intense month. But I know we can do it," says Abraham. Professor Abraham is also looking forward to providing his students with the chance to tour. "There is nothing like the experience of a tour. You spend every single day together, practicing and performing. You can really grow musically in a short period of time." The AU Chambers Singers will hold a free preview concert, open to the AU community, on Monday, October 4, at 4 p.m. in the Kay Spiritual Life Center.

Department News

American Studies

Alum **Karen Bune**, BA '76, American Studies was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the United States Department of Justice for her dedication and hard work on behalf of America's crime victims. Bune is employed by the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, Maryland, where she works in the domestic violence unit. She also serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and is a national victim services consultant and public speaker in the victim services field.

Anthropology

This June, in celebration of Pride month, **William Leap** presented a lecture to EPA employees on the relevance and continuing importance of family.

Art

In May, Jonathan Bucci's *Flat Earth* exhibit at the Area 405 gallery in Baltimore was reviewed in the *Baltimore City Paper*.

Biology

Stephen MacAvoy presented the paper "Nutritional associations among fauna at hydrocarbon seep communities in the Gulf of Mexico" by S.E. MacAvoy, C. Fisher, R. Carney, and S. Macko at a joint meeting of the American and Canadian Geophysical Union on May 21, 2004, in Montreal, Quebec.

Vicky Connaughton presented the poster "Glutamate transporter drives the b-wave in zebrafish retina. Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science" at the annual Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting in Florida (May 2004). The abstract ("Glutamate transporter drives the b-wave in zebrafish retina. Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science: 45: ARVO E-abstract 815," Nelson, R. and V.P. Connaughton) was also published. Her article, "Zebrafish retinal slice preparation" was published in the journal *Methods in Cell Science*. In addition, her article "Identification and morphological classification of horizontal, bipolar, and amacrine cells within the zebrafish retina using the DiOlistic technique," Nelson, R. and V.P. Connaughton, was published in the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

Computer Science, Audio-Technology, Physics

Professor **Randall Packer's** multi-media display, which was on exhibit at the Luxe Gallery in New York City during the Republican National Convention, was featured in the *New York Times* on August 15. Packer's display entitled the "2004 Experimental Party National (Un)Convention & (Dis)Information Center" explores the idea of context and the importance of being able to sift through information to find truth.

Chemistry

William Hirzy was quoted in the July 9th edition of the *St. Peterberg Times* in a story about adding fluoride to the water system in Clearwater, Florida.

Economics

Professor Robert Feinberg co-authored the article, "*The Funding of Economics Research: Does Social Capital Matter for Success at the National Science Foundation*" in the February 2004 issue of *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Robert Lerman was quoted in a Cox Wire Service article about salaries and wages. The article appeared in the *Eugene Register-Guard*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Martha Starr's work on capacity utilization and technological change in American industry was featured in the August 2 issue of *Business Week*.

Tom Hertz received a \$5000 grant from the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, to support his research on minimum wages in South Africa.

Education

Vivian Vasquez won the AERA Teacher as Researcher SIG Dissertation Award in May 2004. She also has two books coming out: *Negotiating Critical Literacies with Young Children* (June 2004) and *Literacy as Social Practice* (August 2004).

On June 7, alum **Lou Anne Caligiuri** was profiled in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* for being named executive director of Good Schools Pennsylvania, a statewide, nonprofit, grassroots organization aimed at mobilizing citizens for public education reform.

In May, Professor **Sally L. Smith** received the Educator 500 President's Award from the 3E Institute (Institute for Educational Excellence and Entrepreneurship). It was presented at the "Forging Partnerships for Educational Innovation" conference which was sponsored by The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and West Chester University's School of Education.

History

In April 2004, **Richard Breitman** was quoted in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* on becoming co-editor of the James G. McDonald Diaries. He coauthored the book *U.S. Intelligence and the Nazis* which was published by the National Archives Trust Fund in 2004. In May, media coverage of his book appeared in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, AP reports in newspapers

Department News

throughout the country, *USA Today*, *Yahoo*, *US News and World Report*, *BBC Radio*, *Today Show*, and *Washington Jewish Week*.

Ira Klein had two articles appear in the *Journal of Indian History*: “Modern India’s Struggle for Population Control” (November 2003) and “Medicine and Culture in India” (May 2004).

Alan Kraut was interviewed for a four-part documentary film, “American Politics: Practice to Perception,” that will be shown on Al Arabia TV in October 2004 as an educational tool about the U.S. election process. He gave the George Rosen Memorial Lecture entitled “‘Pellagra is only ignorance, pellagra is only poverty,’ Dr. Joseph Goldberger’s Fight for the Public’s Health” for the Beaumont Medical Club, at the Yale University School of Medicine. In May, he was awarded the American Public Health Association’s Arthur J. Visel tear Prize for the best book on the history of public health. The prize will be presented at the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting on November 9, 2004. The Visel tear Prize is considered one of the two top book prizes in the history of medicine.

Peter Kuznick was interviewed for a number of news stories including the four-part documentary film, “American Politics: Practice to Perception,” that will be shown on Al Arabia TV in October 2004, an interview on legacy of World War II and the new WWII Memorial on the Mall for the *Washington Times*; a discussion on the consequences of the Rumsfeld testimony on abuses of Iraqi prisoners; and an interview on how the demonization and dehumanization of enemies, in this and previous wars, increases the possibility of prisoner abuse for *Radio Free Europe*.

Allan Lichtman was interviewed for the four-part documentary film, “American Politics: Practice to Perception,” that will be shown on Al Arabia TV in October 2004. He was named Distinguished Lecturer on Presidential Politics by the United States Department of State and lectured at Oxford, Edinburgh, and Parliament. In May, Lichtman signed a contract with CNN Headline News to be a regular commentator on U.S. politics.

In May, **Eric Lohr** gave the lecture, “The Russian Transition in Historical Perspective” for the Hewett Forum at The Brookings Institution. He also presented the paper “Late Imperial Russian Population Policy” at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. In addition, he was the organizer and chair of a workshop on “Citizenship in Russian and Soviet History” at the Davis Center for Russian Studies at Harvard University. He received a Davis Center grant to support the project. He founded and chaired the initial sessions of the “Washington Russian and East European History Workshop,” a

new monthly seminar series bringing together professors, scholars and advanced graduate students from the region to discuss each other’s works in progress at Georgetown University. His article “La transformación rusa en su contexto histórico,” appeared in *La Vanguardia Dossier* 9, (January/March 2004): 6-13.

This June, **Pamela Nadell** was named chair of the 2004 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History at AU and the Library of Congress. She was quoted in Sherie Silverman’s “Panelists look at Jewish feminism” which appeared in *Washington Jewish Week*. Nadell gave the speech, “America’s Rabbis: Continuities and Change” for the Congregation Beth El’s celebration of Rabbi William Rudolph’s anniversary. In May, she also served as a speaker for the Celebrating *Lilith* Magazine and its contributions to American Jewish Women’s History event at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. She served as a scholar-in-residence for the Temple Beth David in Commack New York and presented four lectures: “From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America,” “America’s Jewish Women,” “Women Who Would be Rabbis,” and “Facing a New Century a Century Ago.” Her article “Where Are the Women?” was published in the forum “Underrated Jewish Thinkers” in *Conservative Judaism* (Summer 2003). She reviewed Arthur Hertzberg’s *A Jew in America: My Life and a People’s Struggle for Identity* which also appeared in the summer issue of *Conservative Judaism*. In addition, she served as a review panel judge for doctoral dissertation fellowships in Jewish Studies for the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Anna Nelson was interviewed for the four-part documentary film, “American Politics: Practice to Perception,” that will be shown on Al Arabia TV in October 2004. She was also quoted in a *Washington Post* article about the appointment of a new Archivist of the United States which was carried to other media outlets with a circulation of more than 5 million.

In May, **Karin Wulf** served as the conference organizer for “Object Relations in Early North America” sponsored by the Huntington Museum in conjunction with the British Arts and Humanities.

Recent graduates **Meghan Gelardi** and **Alexandra Lohse** were awarded the Janet Oppenheim Prize for Excellence for their senior theses.

Graduate student **Katherine Nelson’s** article “Knights of Father Matthew” appeared in *In Alcohol and Temperance in Modern History, an International Encyclopedia*, vol. 1., May 2004.

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Alum **R. Bruce Craig's** book *Treasonable Doubt: the Harry Dexter White Spy Case* was published by the University of Kansas Press, 2004.

Language & Foreign Studies

Nadia Harris presented the paper "Départenance et communauté dans l'œuvre d'Andrée Chedid" at the Congrès du CIEF (Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones) at the Université de Liège, Belgium, in June 19-27.

Ana Serra has had the following articles published: "The Historical Zafra and Nation Building in Revolutionary Cuba. Miguel Cossío Woodward's Sacchario," *Revista de estudios hispánicos*. 37.3 (October 2003): 613-634; "La escritura de la violencia. La Virgen de los Sicarios, de Fernando Vallejo, testimonio paródico y discurso nietzscheano," *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana*. 32.2 (November 2003): 65-76; "Conspicuous Absences. Representations of Race in Post-1959 Cuban Film," *Confluencia: Revista hispánica de cultura y literature*, (Fall 2004). Her review of *Looking at Cuba* by Rafael Hernández will appear in the upcoming *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American Cultural History*.

Naomi Baron was interviewed by *Foreign Policy Magazine* for a story on text messaging that will be appearing in the November/December issue. She was also quoted in a *UPI Wire* service story on July 7th regarding cell phone etiquette

Literature

Richard Sha was recognized as Faculty Member of the Year 2004 by AU's Undergraduate Student Confederation.

Performing Arts

Caleen Jennings appeared on PBS' *Artworks This Week* program on Wednesday, June 9. The show re-aired two times.

Recent Arts Management graduate **Ya-Wen Su** was profiled in the *Washington Post* for her heroic rehabilitation after losing both legs in a car accident. At graduation, Ya-Wen Su received AU's Trailblazer Award which is given each year to a nontraditional student who serves as an inspiration to others while striving for academic, personal, and professional growth.

Daniel Abraham conducted two public concert programs this past spring with The Bach Sinfonia: "Sturm und Drang" featuring music of W.A. Mozart, F.J. Haydn, J. C. Bach, C.P.E. Bach and Simon LeDuc on March 13 and on May 15 "Bach & Telemann: The Working Life" featuring Bach's *Orchestra Suite No. 2*, his *Peasant Cantata*, and Telemann's *Der Schulmeister*. Both programs were performed on period instruments.

2004-2005 VISITING WRITER'S SERIES

This year, CAS' department of literature will bring an eclectic mix of renowned poetry, non-fiction, and fiction writers to campus. All events are free and open to the public (except the Poetry and Psychoanalysis conference, see below for more details). For more information, contact Nicki Miller in the literature department at nmiller@american.edu.

PABLO NERUDA CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE -- DELIA DOMINGUEZ, GALWAY KINNELL, ILAN STAVANS

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 29

Kay Spiritual Life Center

Celebrate the centennial of the birth of the beloved Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, winner of the 1971 Nobel Prize for Literature, with readings by writers and translators, including Delia Domniguez, Galway Kinnell, and Ilan Stavans.

FICTION READING -- ADAM HASLETT

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 20

Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion

Adam Haslett's debut collection of stories, *You Are Not a Stranger Here*, was an *NBC Today's* Book Club selection, the winner of the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award, and a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award.

CAVE CANEM POETRY READING -- KYLE DARGAN

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 3

Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion

Kyle Dargan's poems have appeared in such magazines as *Callaloo*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *Shenandoah*.

CREATIVE NONFICTION READING -- MELANIE THERNSTROM

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 17

Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion

Melanie Thernstrom is the author of *Halfway Heaven: Diary of a Harvard Murder*, the brilliant tale and culturally astute analysis of a 1995 murder-suicide.

POETRY AND PROSE READING -- FACULTY BENEFIT READING

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 26

Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion

Our annual reading of poetry and fiction by members of American University's creative writing faculty. Proceeds from this reading will be donated to Food & Friends, a local nonprofit organization providing meals to people with HIV and AIDS. Suggested donation at the door is \$5.

POETRY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS: HEALING WRITER'S BLOCK, HEALING THE SOUL

co-sponsored by the MFA Program in Creative Writing

1:30-5:00 p.m., Saturday, January 29

Ward 1 Auditorium, Ward Building

Department News

Art Professor Tim Doud Uncovers the Covered

In his portraits, Professor Tim Doud explores how artifice reveals. His subjects, which include an actress, a make-up artist, and a burlesque dancer, use both the elements of covering up and display in their professions. “I emphasize the fabricated or superficial/artificial components of my subjects. In my work, covering is revealing — there is no naked truth,” Doud writes about his paintings.

This summer the Galerie Brusberg in Berlin exhibited 15 of Doud’s paintings and eight of his drawings. His solo show was among a group of shows called “Bella Figura.” In June of 2004, Galerie Brusberg brought Doud’s paintings to Art Basel 35, one of the biggest art expositions in the world, in Basel, Switzerland. “The work exhibited at Galerie Brusberg consists primarily of portraits of Amy, an actress, and Angie, a make-up artist. I did a series of portraits of both,” says Doud. “When I first began to paint Amy and Angie, their love of make-up and vintage clothing made them seem like traditional figures from the 50’s. However, their personas in the paintings are perceived more like drag-queens than American post-feminist housewives.”

It is this twist — using a traditional method of painting such as portraiture to convey a more contemporary idea — that appeals to Doud. “Painting someone from life is a very conventional way of revealing someone. Realism is often misunderstood as a technique that uncovers truth through observation. My interest in realism is the search for the degree of artifice present. How do people choose to represent themselves? What are they wearing? Or not wearing? And what does it cover or reveal about them?”

Doud will have a chance to further explore this idea along with others in an exhibit with the Galerie Brusberg next year. “I am playing around with the idea of exploring how artists choose to reveal themselves,” he says. “I am also captivated with how gender is constructed. I’d like to study how gender emerges and the way society perceives it.”



“Gash (Angie),” oil on linen, 2000



“Chickory,” oil on linen, 2003

CAS ALUMNI AND CAREER CORNER

Alum Provides Gift to Support Student and Faculty Research

Ann Robyn Mathias, BA/1964/Education, JD/1972/WCL, and AU trustee has devoted her life to education. A retired teacher and principal, she cares deeply about improving the nation's schools. "I take a personal responsibility for helping to improve our educational system. If we want America to continue to succeed, our educational system has to be good." Mathias spends much of her time volunteering for educational programs such as Discovery Creek, which helps bring science into the lives of school children; the SEED School, a residential school in Anacostia; and St. Patrick's Episcopal School. She is also working with President Ladner and other trustees to find ways that AU can provide educational outreach to the community. To help support scholarship at AU, she has pledged \$500,000 for faculty and student research in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is the largest single gift made to the College of Arts and Sciences during the *AnewAU* campaign which was launched last fall. The gift, named the Ann Robyn Mathias Program Fund for Faculty and Student Research in the College of Arts and Sciences, will be used to provide funds for international travel for graduate students to support thesis and dissertation research, for summer grants for undergraduate student and faculty member collaborative research projects, and to provide reduced teaching loads for pre-tenure faculty members in one or more years before the tenure decision is made. In addition, the Annual CAS Student Research Conference will be renamed the Ann Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference and prizes for the best papers and posters at the conference will be awarded through the gift.

CAS' Center for Israeli Studies Receives its First Endowed Fund

Through the generosity of the late Seymour Abensohn and his wife Lillian, The Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Fund at the Center for Israeli Studies at American University has been created to provide on-going general support for the Center aimed at furthering the advancement of knowledge of Israel as a nation and a people, not just as a source of conflict. The principal objective of the fund is to establish an endowed professorship in Israeli Studies. The endowment will assist with curriculum development, conferences, collaborative research, and faculty exchanges supporting innovative ways to achieve the objective of understanding how nations can be integrated into a global discourse.

Lillian, a former adjunct professor of literature at AU, feels strongly about advancing Israeli culture. "I think it so important that the leaders of tomorrow can learn an unbiased view about the realities of Israel and its culture." The Center for Israeli Studies has existed within the College of Arts and Sciences for the past eight years. During that time, the Center has brought ten "in-residence" Israelis to campus in disciplines ranging from art

to environmental studies. Some visiting instructors have served as "short-term master teachers" working with AU master's level students in dance and English. The center currently offers one survey course that includes lectures from various professors on campus with expertise in aspects of Israeli society.

David Bernstein, executive director of the Washington Office of the American Jewish Committee, said that "Seymour clearly understood that one of our greatest battles in supporting Israel is taking place on college campuses, and he felt strongly that the Jewish community must do more to make sure that Israel gets taught in a fair manner." For more information on the Center and how to give a gift to CAS, contact Katie Stratton at 202-885-2515, cstratton@american.edu.

CAS Alumni Events

September 14 — CAS Alumni Leadership Council Meeting
6:30 p.m., Battelle-Tompkins, Atrium

The governing body and leaders of CAS' alumni chapter will meet to plan events and projects for the 2004-2005 year.

September 18 — Capitol Hill Tour with Professor Ed Smith
1:15 p.m., Behind Bender Library

Join CAS alumni, students, staff, and friends on a tour of our nation's capital. Bus departs at 1:15 p.m. behind Bender Library.

September 28 — CAS Emeriti Tea

3 p.m., Battelle-Tompkins, Atrium

Dean Kay Mussell will host a tea for retired and current faculty.

October 12 — Take A Student To Work Day

CAS' alumni chapter invites alumni to take a CAS student to work. The one-day internship will be followed by a reception at the Rayburn House building on Capital Hill at 6:00 p.m.

October 14 — President's Circle Dinner

October 15 - 17 — Homecoming & Reunion 2004

October 21 — CAS Alumni Night - *Of Thee I Sing*

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre

Join fellow CAS alumni for this hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning musical at the Greenberg Theatre. \$10 discounted tickets with \$2 donation going to the CAS Friends of the Performing Arts Fund, created to support performing arts activities at AU.

November 11 — CAS Alumni Night - AU Symphony Orchestra

8 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre

Join CAS Alumni for Beethoven: *Leonore Overture No. 3 Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, Piano, and Orchestra* and *Symphony No. 3 Eroica* conducted by Jesus Manuel Berard. \$10 discounted tickets with a \$2 donation going to the CAS Friends of the Performing Arts Fund, created to support performing arts activities at AU.

For more information on alumni events, contact Katie Stratton at cstratton@american.edu, 202-885-2515.

From Shakespeare to Electroacoustic Music, New Faculty Bring Diverse Interests to the College of Arts and Sciences

This fall, more than 30 new professors join the CAS faculty. We caught up with a few of our new tenure track professors and asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves.

Paul A. Oehlers, Computer Science, Audio-Tech, Physics

Educated at: BM, MA, University of the Arts; MM, DMA, University of Illinois

Teaching in the fall: Introduction to Audio Technology, Sound Synthesis



Primary research interest:

Electroacoustic Music

Favorite book: *On the Wires of Our Nerves*, by Robin Julian

Currently reading: Scripts for feature films I am scoring

Most looking forward to at AU: Working with other faculty members to build and improve relationships between the audio technology program and other departments

Spend spare time doing: Writing electroacoustic music

Favorite food: Sushi

exploring D.C.; looking at paintings; wishing I had more spare time in which to stare out the window on a rainy day, travel to Istanbul, take a course in wine tasting, convert lead into gold . . .

Favorite foods: Welsh Rarebit, chips and guacamole, tortellini al pesto, chocolate mousse, milk, and dry red wine (rarely all in one meal, alas)

Randall Packer, Computer Science, Audio Tech, Physics

Educated at: University of Oregon (BS), California Institute of the Arts (MFA), University of California (PhD)

Teaching in the fall: Courses in multimedia

Primary research interest: Art, technology, and society

Favorite book: *1984* by George Orwell

Currently reading: *Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy*, Robert McChesney

Most looking forward to at AU: Meeting new students interested in multimedia

Spend spare time doing: Art

Favorite food: Chocolate cheesecake

Katharine Gillespie, Literature

Educated at: BA and MA in English from Temple University; PhD in English Literature from SUNY Buffalo

Teaching in the fall: A course in Milton: Icons and Iconoclasm and a survey of British Medieval and Renaissance texts

Primary research interest: The Civil-War and Commonwealth-era “Pamphlet Literatures” of seventeenth-century England and Colonial America, especially pamphlets by dissenting women.

Favorite books: *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac and *The House on Marshland* by Louise Gluck

Currently reading: *The Rosicrucian Enlightenment* by Frances Yates and *Sock* by Penn Jillette

Most looking forward to at AU: Meeting the allegedly “most confrontational students in America”

Spend spare time doing: Chasing after my two wild sons, Jack and Neal; going places with my busy husband, Nick, editor of *Reason Magazine*; reading, reading, reading (aside from keeping up with new work in my field, I consume historical novels, mysteries, political magazines, and blogs); watching the news (love the news); studying alchemy;

Yosuke Chikamoto, Health/Fitness

Educated at: The Pennsylvania State University (PhD in Health Education), Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (MA in Clinical Psychology and BA in Psychology), post-doc experience at Stanford University School of Medicine

Teaching in the fall: Health

Communication and Modern Theories of Health and Wellness

Primary research interest: Health promotion, population health, disease management, behavior modification, health service research, international comparative studies, health policy

Favorite book: *The Case for ...* series by Lee Strobel

Currently reading: Dan Brown’s popular novels

Most looking forward to at AU: International collegiality

Spend spare time doing: Reading at a coffee shop and snowboarding in winter

Favorite food: Desserts



Paul Winters, Economics

Educated at: PhD - University of California at Berkeley; MA - University of California at San Diego; BA - University of San Diego

Teaching in the fall: International Economics and Development Microeconomics

Primary research interest: Rural poverty in developing countries

Favorite book: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Currently reading: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Most looking forward to at AU: Teaching graduate courses

Spend spare time doing: Sports/exercise

Favorite food: Three rolled tacos with guacamole and chicken burrito at Nicos taco shop, Ocean Beach, San Diego, California

Fernando Benadon, Performing Arts

Educated at: University of California, Berkeley

Teaching in the fall:

Music Theory

Primary research interest: Rhythm perception

Favorite book: *Cosmicomics*, by Italo Calvino

Currently reading: *The Moor's Last Sigh*, by Salman Rushdie

Most looking forward to at AU: Everything!

Spend spare time doing: Moving cross-country

Favorite food: Soup



Phillip Stern, History

Educated at: BA, Wesleyan University; MA, PhD, Columbia University

Teaching in the fall: History of Britain I; Imperialism and Revolution

Primary research interest: The English East India Company in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

Favorite book: *The Sign of the Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Currently reading: *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester

Most looking forward to at AU: Working with politically interested undergraduate and graduate students

Spend spare time doing: Cooking, movies, hiking

Favorite food: Indian

Joshua Lansky, Mathematics/Statistics

Educated at: Harvard University

Teaching in the fall: Number Theory, Calculus

Primary research interest: Representation Theory

Favorite book: *The Silmarillion* by JRR Tolkien

Currently reading: *The Dean's December* by Saul Bellow

Most looking forward to at AU: Interacting with students, talking math with colleagues

Spend spare time doing: Reading, working out, enjoying life

Favorite food: Artichokes

Madhavi Menon, Literature

Educated at: St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and Tufts University



Teaching in the fall: Great Books, and Shakespeare

Primary research interest: Shakespeare, Queer Theory, Renaissance Drama

Favorite book: *Midnight's Children*, Salman Rushdie

Currently reading: David Halperin's *How to do the History of Homosexuality*, and William

Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*

Most looking forward to at AU: The students

Spend spare time doing: What spare time?!!

Favorite food: Indian

Jun Lu, Mathematics/Statistics

Educated at: University of Missouri-Columbia

Teaching in the fall: Regression and Basic Statistics

Primary research interest: Bayesian statistics

Most looking forward to at AU: Build up my career

Spend spare time doing: Movies, hang out with friends. (Don't have much spare time though)

Favorite food: Chinese food, Japanese food, French food sea food

Jesus Manuel Berard, Performing Arts



Educated at: New England Conservatory of Music, Columbia University

Teaching in the fall: Director/Conductor, AU Symphony Orchestra

Primary research interest: Conducting, Performance/Interpretation

Favorite book: *The Unanswered Question* (The Charles Elliot Norton Lectures) by Leonard

Bernstein — a total mind opener when I first read it

Currently reading: *The Mastery of Music* by Barry Green

Most looking forward to at AU: Working with great new colleagues and students, and, oh yes, the new Katzen Arts Center!

Spend spare time doing: Spending time with my family

CAS EVENTS

September 17-18 – Perf 101

8 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Showcase of incoming department of performing arts talent in this original performance written by Caleen Jennings, directed by Cara Gabriel. All tickets \$5 at the door. For more information, call 202-885-ARTS, or visit http://www.american.edu/perf_arts/, or order tickets online at <http://american.tix.com>.

October 4 – Chamber Singers Tour Preview

4 p.m., Kay Spiritual Life Center
A mix of American and Canadian contemporary and folk choral music performed by AU's select Choral Chamber Singers. Conducted by Daniel Abraham. Free admission.

October 1, 15-16, 20-23 – Of Thee I Sing

October 1, 7:00 p.m., open house rehearsal; October 15–16, 20–23, 8:00 p.m.; CAS Alumni Night, October 21
Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
This hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning musical presents a timeless parody of the American political system. Book by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind. Music by George Gershwin; lyrics by Ira Gershwin. Directed by Karl Kippola. \$15 general admission, \$8 AU community and seniors. For more information, call 202-885-ARTS, or visit http://www.american.edu/perf_arts/, or order tickets online at <http://american.tix.com>.

October 29-30 – Senpo Sugihara

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Presented by TKO Entertainment, Inc., this award-winning play is supported by the Japanese Agency of Cultural Affairs as part of their celebration honoring the 150th anniversary of friendship between the U.S. and Japan. Directed by Koichi Hiraishi, Shoichi Yamada. Written by Koichi Hiraishi. For more information and to buy tickets, visit <http://www.american.edu/cas/greenberg/>.

October 29 – Jazz Ensemble Concert

8:00 p.m., McDonald Recital Hall, Kreeger Building
Jazz standards in the big band tradition. Directed by William Smith. Free admission.

November 18 – All-Beethoven Celebration: Sunrise Quartet: Performance and Discussion

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Beethoven: *String Quartet No. 13* and *Grosse Fuge*. Teri Lazar, violin. Claudia Chudacoff, violin. Osman Kivrak, viola. Diana Fish, cello. \$5 admission.

November 20 & 21, 8:00 p.m. –AU Symphony Orchestra

8:00 p.m., Nov. 20; 3:00 p.m., Nov. 21; CAS Alumni Night, November 20
Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Beethoven's *Leonore Overture No. 3*; *Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, Piano, and Orchestra*; and *Symphony No. 3 "Eroica."* Conducted by

Jesus Manuel Berard. \$15 general admission. \$8 AU community and seniors. For more information, call 202-885-ARTS, or visit http://www.american.edu/perf_arts/, or order tickets online at <http://american.tix.com>.

November 20–21 – Dance Choreo-Labs

7:00 p.m., Tenley Chapel Dance Studio
Faculty and student works in progress. \$5 suggested donation.

December 2 – AU Gospel Choir

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Conducted by Sylstea Sledge. \$5 admission.

December 4 & 5 – AU Chorus Concert

8:00 p.m., Dec. 4; 3:00 p.m., Dec. 5; 7:00 p.m., pre-concert discussion, Dec. 4.
Kay Spiritual Life Center
Carl Orff: *Carmina Burana (Cantiones profanae)*. Conducted by Daniel Abraham. \$15 general admission. \$8 AU community and seniors. For more information, call 202-885-ARTS, or visit http://www.american.edu/perf_arts/, or order tickets online at <http://american.tix.com>.

December 9 – Jazz at the Greenberg

New Voice: Old Voice Joshua Bayer Jazz

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
\$15 general admission. \$8 AU community and seniors. For more information, call 202-885-ARTS, or visit http://www.american.edu/perf_arts/, or order tickets online at <http://american.tix.com>.

December 10-11 – A Swingin' Affair: AU Jazz Ensemble

8:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
CAS Alumni Night, Dec. 10
Featuring special guest Gary Thomas. Directed by William Smith. \$5 Admission.

December 12 – Dance Informal Showing

5:00 p.m., Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre
Informal performances from the dance program's dynamic classes. Free admission.

Visiting Writer's Series, continued from page 6

This conference focuses on how emotional life can block poetry and how deep psychoanalytic understanding can release the poetic mind. Alicia Ostriker will present "The Space of This Dialogue: Poetry and the Encounter with the Other," a paper which includes readings from her most recent book of poems, *The Volcano Sequence*. Arlene Kramer Richards will present "Poetry and Psychoanalysis: A Measured Passion." New York Freudian psychoanalysts will present 'a chorus' of vignettes illustrating how poetry evolves in deep therapies as the unknown becomes speakable. For registration information, please contact Dr. Nancy Goodman at 301-951-3440 or Dr. Elizabeth Fritsch at 703-356-4710 or visit www.NYFreudian.org/PoetryandPsychotherapy. Registration fee: \$50. Free to AU students.

ALUMNI READING -- LESLIE PIETRZYK

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 16
Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
A 1985 MFA graduate, Leslie Pietrzyk, is the author of *Pears on a Willow Tree*, a novel about four generations of Polish-American women.

POETRY READING -- GAIL MAZUR

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 23
Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
Gail Mazur is the author of *The Pose of Happiness*, *The Common*, and *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, which was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award in Poetry.

FICTION READING -- LEILA ABOULELA

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6
Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
Born in Cairo in 1964, Sudanese writer Leila Aboulela graduated from the University of Khartoum and then traveled to Britain to study for her M.Sc. in Statistics at the London School of Economics. After moving to Scotland with her husband and children, she began writing stories. Her first novel, *The Translator*, was published to critical claim in 1999 and was a finalist for both the Orange Prize 2000 and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards 2001. Aboulela currently lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. This reading marks her first appearance in the United States.

GRADUATING MFA STUDENT READING

3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 1
Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

College of Arts and Sciences
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
www.american.edu/cas