



Photo: Jeff Watts

# CAS

## connections

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Photos: Courtesy of Paul Winters

## Spotlight on Development Economics

In the 1950s, when the collapse of colonialism left many third-world countries independent for the first time, the field of economics saw the advent of a new subdiscipline. Development economics, as it's called, concerns itself with the relationship between market and culture in developing countries.

"Markets don't function in the same way in developing countries," says economics professor Paul Winters, who is researching the microeconomics of third-world rural development and designing methods to evaluate the efficacy of economic programs in these countries. "There's no banking in rural areas of developing countries, and no traditional collateral. You have to come up with alternative ways of thinking."

AU's economics department has been at the forefront of development-economics research and teaching since Professor Emeritus Jim Weaver championed the subdiscipline in the 1960s. "There is a tradition within the department that issues of poverty matter and should be studied by economists," says John Willoughby, professor and chair.

Last year, the department supported this tradition by adding a development-economics track to its master's program. "We live in a global economy, and people in both developed and nondeveloped countries need to understand each other in order to facilitate the dialogue necessary for us to exist in a global economic context," says professor Maria Floro, who is researching how gender affects the interaction between economic policies and human well-being.

The economics department also worked with SIS to introduce a development-economics track within the international development master's program. "Anyone interested in international development would benefit immensely from understanding the economic environments of the countries they are studying," says Floro. "Economic policies have become so influential, and they impact the lives and environments of people in the developing world."

Larry Sawers, professor and former department chair, adds, "So much of development involves economics in so many ways. Employers know this—and they want people who are familiar with economics and not afraid of the lingo."

While the field has been well represented at AU, this has not always been the case elsewhere. "During the 1980s, a lot of economists adopted the view that all economic systems are the same and that you didn't need to specifically look at those in the third world," says Willoughby. As the economic systems of first-world countries proved to be inadequate indicators of third-world market phenomena, however, the subdiscipline has regained popularity.

"There's no way that a country like South Africa, with 30 to 40 percent unemployment, is going to behave the same way as one with a 4 to 5 percent unemployment rate," says Tom Hertz, professor of economics and specialist in first-, second-, and third-world labor economics. "In the United States, you can believe it when textbooks say that a large share of unemployment is just the product of a little bit of friction in [the workings of] the labor system. But that doesn't work in South Africa, where there really are two to three million people for whom there simply are no jobs. That really requires a deeper understanding of unemployment."

Studying development economics can also enrich our understanding of first-world economies. Caren Grown, economist in residence and specialist in the gender dimensions of international economic policies, uses the emergence of microcredit as an example. The practice of issuing microcredit—small loans to individual borrowers—began at the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Bank founder Muhammed Yunus recognized that poor people were getting locked out of the market because they did not have loan collateral.

The microcredit movement spread to the United States in the mid- to late 1980s. Now, says Grown, "there are replicas of the Grameen Bank on the south side of Chicago, in rural Arkansas, and in hundreds of communities in the United States. It's an innovation that came from the developing world but that had interesting theoretical and practical applications for entrepreneurship in industrialized economies."

Underlying the discussions of percentages and trends, unemployment rates and program efficacy, however, the heart of development economics is more moral than monetary. Says Willoughby, "In my mind, the big moral issue facing the world is still global equality, and development economics addresses this issue directly."

## A CHEER FOR ANEWAU

I support the AnewAU campaign because of the many things AU has given me and my family over the years.

The first was my experience as an SIS master's student. In the summer of 1965, the army sent me, a captain, to AU to receive an area studies degree in Latin American Studies. My undergraduate degree was rather narrowly technical (electrical engineering), and SIS decided I needed a couple of summer courses to broaden my background. The first two courses were taught by the late Harold Davis, a gentle Quaker pacifist, and Abdul Aziz Said, well-known even then for his peace activism. You can imagine my concern over how my military background would be viewed by these two distinguished professors. My concerns were baseless: In typical AU fashion, they welcomed diverse views and we soon developed mutual respect as they helped me lay the foundations for a broader liberal education.

The second key moment for me was when I finished my PhD in SIS (with Steve Arnold, Abdul Aziz Said, and the late John Finan, among others), and was seeking an academic second career upon my 20-year retirement from the army. SIS and AU gave me that—first, as assistant dean of SIS, and later, in a tenure-track position in CAS's Department of Language and Foreign Studies, where I teach today in both Spanish and English.

A third key gift from AU was the education of my two sons and their wives, who were AU classmates. So between myself and my four children, we have seven AU degrees.

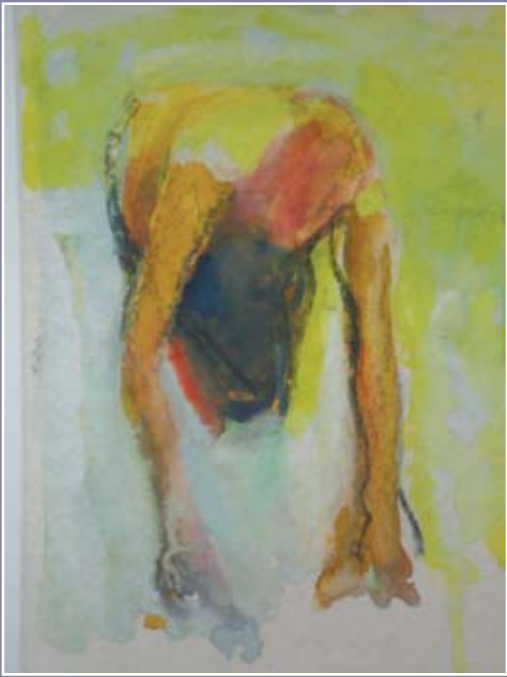
My support for the AnewAU campaign is divided into various parts: a "brick and mortar" component (the Katzen Arts Center and the new SIS building), an annual unrestricted gift to the President's Circle, an endowed scholarship in my field, and a miscellaneous restricted fund that supports students and faculty in their scholarly activities. AU also figures in my will.

AU has been a part of my life for many years—and through my support, I hope to remain a part of AU's for many years to come.

—Jack Child, Professor  
Department of Language and Foreign Studies

To learn more about planned giving, please contact:  
Seth D. Speyer, director of planned giving, at 202-885-5914  
or [speyer@american.edu](mailto:speyer@american.edu)





Ron Haynie, *Kneeling Figure*, 1982. Gift of Hezbrun Bequest under American University Museum

## RON HAYNIE TRIBUTE

“When you are a college student, you are one of many. Personal connections can be few and far between,” recalls Cara Ober (BFA art '96). “Ron Haynie was a true nurturer and really cared about his students. As I have gone on to pursue a professional career in the arts, I have tried to keep a part of Ron’s generosity and spirit of community with me—and I thank him for that gift.”

Haynie, AU art professor and department chair from 2001 to 2004, died January 4. During his three and half decades at the university, he served as an inspiration to his students; through his vision and integrity, he helped to make the department what is today. “He placed a premium on authenticity,” says Luis Silva, chair of the art department. “He demanded and cultivated it within his own work and strove to create a culture for promoting it within his classes and within our program.”

Haynie’s relationship with AU began when he enrolled as a fine arts student in the 1960s. After receiving his BFA and MFA, he taught briefly at the former Dumbarton College in Washington, D.C., before joining AU’s art faculty in 1970. He also served as director of the Watkins Gallery and Collection and was instrumental in the founding of the Katzen Arts Center.

As an artist, Haynie was a self-described “color and light person” whose art prompted *Washington Post* critic Jo Ann Lewis to write that his work “reveals not only his ability to capture movement and gesture with just a few sweeping strokes of his brush but also his special gift for making an atmosphere out of color.”



Ben Summerford, *Peaches on a Pink Cloth*, 1994. Collection of Mr. John Shank and Mr. Joseph Matthews



Ben Summerford, *The Striped Jug*, 2007. Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hildebrand

# A Lasting Impression



Photo: Courtesy of American University Museum Archives



Ben Summerford, *Fruit and Compote*, 1969. Collection of Mr. and Mrs. James Summerford

Before the American University Museum, there was the Watkins Gallery, a 1,000-square-foot space located on the far west side of the main campus. Before *that*, the entire art department was housed in an army Quonset hut on campus grounds.

Despite their small size, these spaces regularly exhibited cutting-edge work that garnered significant attention from the D.C. community—sometimes positive, sometimes incredulous. “In the 1950s, our faculty curated the first [American] abstract expressionist show in D.C.,” recalls Glenna K. Haynie, senior art department administrator since 1968. “The reviews were hysterical. They thought we had lost our minds.”

The department’s pioneering spirit has been reflected in its exhibitions, permanent collection, and programs. Ben L. Summerford—professor emeritus, artist, and rotating department chair from 1950 to 1986—played an integral role in the development of AU’s maverick art exhibits and programs. A collection of his own work, simply titled Ben L. Summerford, will be on display at the American University Museum January 29–March 16.

“We have an incredible arts program here at AU, and there is no doubt in my mind that we have arrived in the place we are at as a

result of the legacy and teaching of a great number of prominent faculty members,” says Luis Silva, department chair. “Summerford left an impression on this institution that can still be felt today.” Says Haynie, “He was a big mover and shaker in the gallery, and his influence with important contacts brought a lot of work into the Watkins collection.” Summerford was also a celebrated teacher. His infectious enthusiasm for painting made him popular with his students. “I never heard a student of his say that they didn’t get something out of his classes,” Haynie says.

Summerford was also a key player in the Washington arts scene. In 1957, he cofounded Jefferson Place Gallery with several other area artists, including Robert Gates, William Calfee, and AU colleague Helene Herzbrun. The city’s first cooperative art gallery, it became the home of the Washington Color School, a group of artists whose abstract works influenced the Color Field movement.

After critically successful experiments with abstract expressionism in the 1950s, Summerford settled into what would become his signature style, which featured still lifes and landscapes rendered with soft strokes and an acute sensitivity to color and light. “He does a thing with color that not many artists are able to do,” says Haynie. “The way he handles them—it’s just luscious.”





## *Reading between the Lines*

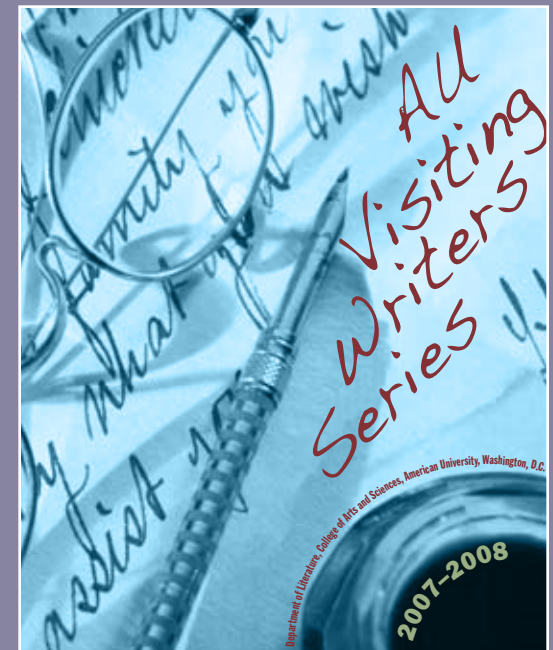
Performing arts professor Calleen Sinnette Jennings doesn't have to look far for inspiration for her upcoming directorial work, *A Theatrical Celebration of Lorraine Hansberry and August Wilson*. The production includes readings from Hansberry's and Wilson's plays and insights on their lives and times. It also bears the influence of her recent research for a book on Philip Rose, the original Broadway producer of Hansberry's most celebrated play, *A Raisin in the Sun*.

"One of the things my research has taught me is the ongoing disagreement about who the hero is in *A Raisin in the Sun*," says Jennings. "Is it Walter Lee or Mama? Hansberry agonized over this. She was inspired by Willie Loman in [Henry Miller's] *Death of a Salesman* and she wanted Walter to be her version of Willie—but then she was blindsided by the emergence of Mama as a character of enormous strength." Jennings will explore this and other questions in upcoming readings (February 7–9) at the Katzen Art Center's Studio Theatre. The performances will feature AU students, staff, and faculty.

Since 2005, Jennings has been working with Rose on a book tentatively titled *Philip Rose is Not a Black Woman*. "I wanted

to know how Rose, a Jewish guy in segregated Washington, was able to become accepted and beloved by the African-American arts community," she says. Through interviews with legendary performers and artists who have known and worked with Rose—including Sydney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Maya Angelou—Jennings found the answers. "A lot of people I've interviewed have said, 'Philip is my brother, my father,'" she says. "He comes to the African-American arts community without a sense of entitlement, without a sense of higher status, and without a sense of superiority. Instead, he has humility, kindness, a true sense of humor, and genuine love."

Jennings and Rose became fast friends after they served together on an African-American theater panel in spring 2004. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and Arena Stage, the panel was composed of specialists on black family life onstage, including Sandra Shannon and Shay Youngblood. Rose was the only white male on the panel. Jennings recalls, "The first thing Philip said to me was, 'In case you haven't noticed, I'm not a black woman,' to which I replied, 'If you hadn't done what you did, we wouldn't even *have* this panel.'"



Courtesy of University Publications

### VISITING WRITERS SERIES

AU's Visiting Writers Series has come a long way since it began 26 years ago. "First and foremost, the audiences have grown," says Richard McCann, creative writing professor in the Department of Literature and the series director since 1988. "Twenty years ago, there would be two, maybe three dozen people attending each reading. Now, a small crowd is one with 100 people." Indeed, with writers like Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward P. Jones and bestselling international author Azar Nafisi, the series regularly attracts enough people from the AU and local communities to fill Abramson Recital Hall.

The attention serves more than one purpose. While McCann asserts that serving these communities is the series' foremost goal, he adds that, "the series is one of [the creative writing program's] biggest recruiting tools. Potential students see the caliber of writers we have coming here, and they are struck by the diversity of their work and experiences."

The Visiting Writers Series is part of AU's MFA program in creative writing. Faculty members are encouraged to include the work of these writers in their courses. Graduating MFA students have an opportunity to present their work in the student reading that closes the series each May. The annual Poetry and Prose Reading—a benefit for Food and Friends, a local nonprofit that provides meals to people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases—showcases the work of literature department instructors.

Spring semester readings will begin on February 13 with Mary Gaitskill, whose recent novel, *Veronica*, was a National Book Award finalist. Up and coming writer Alison Smith follows on February 27 and poet Edward Hirsch on March 19. The 2007–08 series will close with the Graduating MFA Student Reading on May 4.



## A UNIFYING MOVE FOR MATHIAS

When CAS's 18th Annual Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference takes place on Saturday, March 29, in the Katzen Arts Center, for the first time it will be under one roof. In previous years, students presented their papers and posters in the Battelle-Tompkins Atrium, while performances were held across the quad in the Kay Spiritual Life Center.

"By putting the conference in Katzen, we not only get a beautiful space, but we bring all three elements of the conference together," says Michael Manson, conference coordinator and academic affairs administrator for CAS. "Hopefully, students who have been seeing the performances will also get to see the papers and posters, and the students who have been seeing the papers and posters will also get to see the performances."

Having all three types of student work in one building also reflects the conference's interdisciplinary spirit. "Students tend to think of themselves in relation to their disciplines," Manson says. "We try to create interdisciplinary moments. For example, if we notice that a handful of papers from different disciplines are about a common topic, then we'll put them on the same panel to open discussion about what each discipline reveals about the topic."

This year's conference will also introduce new categories for judging student research. "Several of last year's judges said they found themselves having to judge apples against oranges," says Manson. As a result, several categories have been broken down into subcategories. For example, where there was once one award for social science research, there are now two: one for qualitative research, another for quantitative work. Now, he says, "all the apples are being judged against other apples and the oranges against other oranges."

The conference showcases both undergraduate and graduate work in disciplines across the College of Arts and Sciences, with cash prizes awarded to one freshman or sophomore, one junior or senior, and one graduate student in each of 10 categories. The deadline to submit proposals is Friday, February 22.



Art: Harjant Gill

When anthropology professor William Leap founded the annual Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference in 1993, the goal was pure and simple: to provide a safe place for scholars to talk about the language of lesbian and gay experience without fear of retaliation. "In the late '80s and early '90s, people became interested in how lesbians and gays used language," he says. "The problem was that not a lot of nonstereotypical work was being done on it, and professional meetings did little to support the discussion of these topics."

When the 15th annual conference convenes February 15–17, the discussions will be very different from those that took place more than a decade ago. In the early '90s, popular belief held that language shaped gay and lesbian identity. Scholars moved away from the language-as-identity argument, however. Today, scholarship supports the idea that people deliberately use language to lay claim to sexual and gendered identities—a belief affirmed by the conference.

The idea that people use gendered language as a matter of choice has clear real-world implications: Isolating linguistic patterns that elicit homophobic reactions—and teaching vulnerable gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals what these triggers are—can

help them to better protect themselves. Leap explains, "It gives the individuals control over difficult public situations."

This year's conference will include more than 100 scholars from around the world. This international presence, says Leap, is essential to illuminating the ways that gay languages around the world influence each other.

The conference also covers more ground these days. "The number of papers has increased and the topics have broadened considerably," says Leap. "They no longer focus solely on lesbian and gay language issues. We have bisexual and transgendered talks and all kinds of research on queer language."

Discussion about the *forms* of language has also evolved over time. In the early years, most presenters focused on spoken and written language; today, papers explore the role of gay language in film, art, performance art, and theatre. This open, evolving discourse tends to attract younger scholars. "This is a site," says Leap, "where they can play around with ideas."

## A Manner of Speaking

# What's Happening

For a complete calendar of events, visit [www.american.edu/cas/events.cfm](http://www.american.edu/cas/events.cfm).

### JAN. 28–MAR. 16

#### Ben L. Summerford

American University Museum  
Ben Summerford, AU professor emeritus and cofounder of the Jefferson Place Gallery, is known for his still lifes, landscapes, and interiors of exquisite color and sensitivity. Free

### JAN. 29–MAR. 16

#### Carlos Luna: El Gran Mambo

American University Museum  
Carlos Luna—Cuban-American artist, storyteller, and social chronicler—merges themes of fables and mysticism, eroticism and prejudice, religion and anthropology. Free

### JAN. 30

#### Arts in the Rotunda

Noon. Katzen Arts Center, Rotunda  
Informal performances and events featuring students in the departments of art and performing arts. Free

### FEB. 1

#### Music Faculty Recital: The Other Side of Barbara

8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
Collaborative recital features singer Barbara Hollinshead performing pieces by Wolf, Brahms, and De Falla. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.

### FEB. 4

#### Sound Investments: How Music Shapes Our Lives

7 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
Join Leonard Slatkin in this musical exploration. Free

### FEB. 5–MARCH 22

#### Roger Brown: Southern Exposure

American University Museum  
Roger Brown (1941–1997) infuses his dark, cartoon-like paintings with fire-and-brimstone religion, folklore, storytelling, politics, and urbanism. Free

### FEB. 5–MARCH 22

#### William Christenberry: Site/Possession

American University Museum  
The show features 50 rarely exhibited drawings and the *Klan Room Tableau*, which consists of more than 200 works. Free

### FEB. 5–MARCH 22

#### Elena Sisto: New York

American University Museum  
Exhibit of new works by painter and art teacher Elena Sisto. Free

### FEB. 7–9

#### A Theatrical Celebration of Lorraine Hansberry and August Wilson

8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theatre  
Staged reading examines the life and art of Lorraine Hansberry and August Wilson. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.

### FEB. 9

#### Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar: "Time Allocation and Household Production"

12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall  
Guest speaker is Robert Pollak of Washington University. Free

### FEB. 10

#### Kids at the Katzen

1 p.m. American University Museum  
Young artists will create three-dimensional pieces inspired by sculptures exhibited at the museum. Space is limited, so register in advance. Materials fee: \$7 (cash only please).

### FEB. 13

#### Fiction Reading: Mary Gaitskill

8 p.m. Butler Pavilion, Butler Board Room (sixth floor)  
Mary Gaitskill is the author of *Veronica*, a National Book Award finalist; *Bad Behavior*; *Two Girls*, *Fat and Thin*; and *Because They Wanted To*, a PEN Faulkner Award finalist. Free

### FEB. 14–16

#### Machinal

Feb. 14–16: 8 p.m.; Feb. 16: 2 p.m.  
Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre  
A woman is trapped and alienated by a mechanized world. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.

### FEB. 15–17

#### Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference

Various locations on campus  
Focus is language use in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer life. To register, visit [www.american.edu/anthro/lavenderlanguages](http://www.american.edu/anthro/lavenderlanguages).

### FEB. 16

#### Artists' Reception

6–9 p.m. American University Museum  
Celebrate five new exhibits: Ben L. Summerford; Carlos Luna: El Gran Mambo; Roger Brown: Southern Exposure; Elena Sisto: New York; and William Christenberry: Site/Possession. Free

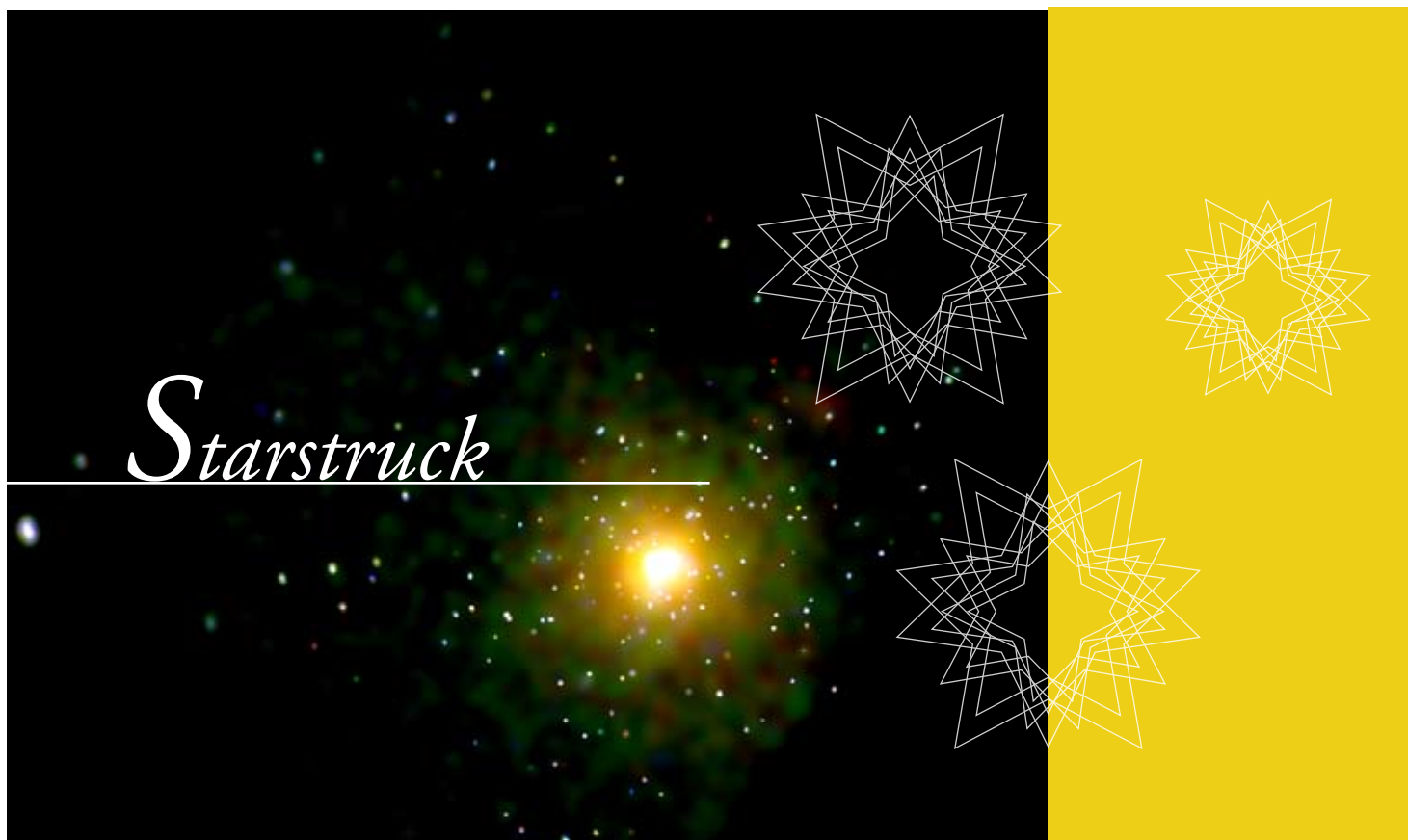


Photo: Johanna Teske

“When I used to say I wanted to be a cosmologist, people would ask, ‘Oh, you want to go to beauty school?’” recalls Johanna Teske (BS physics ’08). These days, Teske’s impressive work in astrophysics makes it hard to mistake her aspirations.

Teske has always wanted to study the stars, but a string of prestigious undergraduate internships shifted her sights from the theoretical world of cosmology to the more observation-based field of astrophysics. During her sophomore year, she completed her first internship at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, where she worked on modeling photon orbits around black holes. While there, Teske had the opportunity to attend seminars on a wide variety of astronomical topics, from missions to the outer solar system to exploding stars. “There were so many subdisciplines that my eyes were opened to,” she says. “It made me see what was out there.”

The following year, Teske interned at the Maria Mitchell Association on Nantucket, a small island 30 miles off the Massachusetts coast and home to America’s first female astronomer. It was an ideal place to observe the skies. “You walk out there and see the brilliant moon and vast expanse of stars and it is absolutely breathtaking,” she recalls. Through her research on the chemical elements in recently “deceased” stars, Teske gained “a better picture of what it meant to be a real astrophysicist.”

Last summer, Teske collected and analyzed data on galaxy interactions at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In January, she presented her independent research at the 211th annual American Astronomical Society Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Although she has nearly completed her undergraduate work, Teske continues to pursue learning experiences. She currently interns at the Carnegie Institute of Washington’s Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, where she is characterizing the composition of gas around young stars and searching for signatures of forming planets. Supported by grants from the physics and math departments, the honors program, and the CAS dean’s office, she plans to attend the International Astronomical Union’s symposium on organic matter in space at the University of Hong Kong in February.

Teske has also begun looking for a PhD program that is “as interdisciplinary as possible, with strong geology, chemistry, and geochemistry components.” She explains, “The field of astrophysics is at a point where these disciplines have to join forces to enable us to discover more and make conclusions about the history of the solar system, the characteristics of other solar systems, and the possibility of life on those other planets.”

## FOUND IN TRANSLATION



Photo: Joyce Li

Students who study abroad with AU’s Beijing Enclave program aim to broaden their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. But before they depart, it’s natural that questions of a practical nature arise. “One student asked me if they could use credit cards in China—and I said, ‘Of course!’” says Chinese instructor Joyce Li. She adds with a laugh, “The student was very relieved.”

Li and her colleague Silvia Guo are at AU for the 2007–08 school year as part of the Beijing Visiting Instructor program. Conceived by Dean Kay Mussell in conversation with Enclave director Youli Sun on a bus in Beijing, the program began in fall 2006. It brings two Chinese instructors from the Beijing Enclave program to teach in AU’s Department of Language and Foreign Studies for a year. “Learning about contemporary Chinese culture makes the students more comfortable when they arrive in Beijing,” says Li.

The program also gives students instructional continuity from AU to Beijing and back. “One of the program’s goals is to fully integrate Chinese language instruction at both sites,” says Gail Riley, adjunct faculty coordinator and coordinator of the Chinese language program. “Prior to this, we were already using the same textbook and felt this was the next step in strengthening the Chinese language program.” The department currently offers a minor in Chinese.

Ethan Merritt, senior study abroad advisor in the AU Abroad Office, adds, “It’s probably one of the best examples on campus of integrating a study abroad program into the AU curriculum—to have instructors that students have gotten to know in Beijing come here to teach. Likewise, instructors that students get to know here are in Beijing when [students] study there. It provides very nice continuation in language instruction.”

**FEB. 21**  
**Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar:**  
**“An Economic Analysis of Warrior Warfare”**  
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall  
Guest speaker Shawn Humphrey (University of Mary Washington) will discuss the mind-set of soldiers and other combatants during a conflict. Free

**FEB. 23–24**  
**Musica Nordica: Choral Works from the Three Kingdoms**  
Feb. 23: 8 p.m.; Feb. 24: 3 p.m.  
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
Program features music from Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.

**FEB. 27**  
**Arts in the Rotunda**  
Noon. Katzen Arts Center, Rotunda  
Informal performances and events featuring students in the departments of art and performing arts. Free

**FEB. 27**  
**Memoir Reading: Alison Smith**  
8 p.m. SIS Lounge  
Alison Smith’s debut memoir, *Name All the Animals*, won the 2004 Discover Award for Nonfiction from Barnes and Noble and was named by *People* magazine as one of the 10 best books in 2004. Free

**FEB. 28**  
**Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar:**  
**“Tax Incentives for Low-Income Communities: Has the New Markets Tax Credit Led to Increased Investment in Targeted Communities?”**  
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall  
Guest speaker is Tami Gurley-Calvez of the U.S. General Accounting Office. Free

**FEB. 29–MARCH 2**  
**Russian Spring**  
Feb. 29–March 1: 8 p.m.; March 2: 3 p.m.  
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
The AU Symphony Orchestra will perform selections by Igor Stravinsky and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.

**MARCH 3–4**  
**Israeli Biz at 60: Lessons and Directions in Israel’s Business and Economy**  
9 a.m. Location to be announced  
Panel of business leaders, government officials, policy experts, scholars, and community members will discuss issues related to Israel and the world of business. For location, call the Center for Israel Studies at 202-885-3780. Free

**MARCH 7**  
**Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar:**  
**“Experiences at the Federal Reserve”**  
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall  
Ed Gramlich of the Urban Institute will present an insider’s view of the Federal Reserve. Free

**MARCH 19**  
**Poetry Reading: Edward Hirsch**  
8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
Award-winning writer and poet Edward Hirsch will read selections of his poetry. Free

**MARCH 20**  
**Atrium Series: Bringing Music to the People**  
Noon. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium  
Department of Performing Arts presents informal recitals for the community. Free

**MARCH 21–22**  
**Interrogating Diversity Conference:**  
**Representation, Power, and Social Justice**  
Noon. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium  
Focus on gentrification, environmental policies, language and the media, and health care. For registration information, visit [www.american.edu/anthro/indiv](http://www.american.edu/anthro/indiv). Free

**MARCH 29**  
**2008 Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference**  
9 a.m.–5 p.m. Katzen Arts Center  
CAS students present their research through posters, papers, and performances. Free

**MARCH 29–30**  
**Yom Hashoah: Let Us Remember**  
March 29: 8 p.m.; March 30: 3 p.m.  
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall  
AU Chorus performs a Holocaust memorial concert. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at [www.american.tix.com](http://www.american.tix.com) or call 202-885-ARTS.





Photo: Jessica Tabak

## PROGRAMMED FOR SUCCESS

When Michael Black began assembling AU's 2007 computer programming team in September, he opted for a straightforward recruiting approach. "I grabbed every student who was interested in participating," says Black. The promise of free food was also a lure. "One general education student said he was not going to come to the practices until he found out there would be pizza there," says Black.

His efforts—and the pizza—paid off: On October 27, team members Aleksandar Ivanov (BS computer science '08), Michael Levin (BS mathematics and physics '08), David Plassmann (BS computer science '10), Pavneet Singh (BS computer science '10), John Tylwalk (BS computer science '08), and Sri Rama Vempati (BS computer science and business administration '11) returned from the Association for Computing Machinery's 32nd annual International Collegiate Programming Contest's regional competition. They placed 14th and 35th among 137 teams, including Duke, Johns Hopkins, and the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

Black believes the team's success was a result of longer, more strategic practices. Each year's competition consists of eight computer-programming problems that teams are asked to solve; the top teams usually solve three or four. "Some problems are really easy and some are really hard—so hard that they aren't meant for you to solve," says Black. To prepare his team, Black ran some practice sessions during which the team focused on identifying the easy and less easy problems and delineating plans of attack instead of solutions.

And what about the nonmajor who joined the computer programming team for the free food? Somewhere along the way, he apparently got hooked. He submitted an application to AU's MS program in computer science at the end of the fall semester.



Photo: Jessica Tabak

Think of the best thing that could ever happen to you and how it would make you feel. On a scale of 1 to 10, the average person probably would expect to feel like a 10—and they would be wrong. "When we predict our reactions to events, we tend to focus so much on that one event that we forget all the other things that would be happening at the same time," says Kate Gunthert, professor of psychology.

She explains, "If you ask someone how they think they would feel if they won the lottery, and for how long they think they would feel that way, they would most likely predict that they would be extremely happy for a very long time. The truth is, you would be really happy for a little while—and then go back to normal." Negative predictions relative to an event or a situation follow the same pattern, which researchers refer to as focalism.

How does depression or anxiety affect an individual's degree of focalism? Sue Wenze (PhD clinical psychology '09) is exploring this question. With funding from a Mellon grant, a National Honor Society in Psychology graduate research grant, and Gunthert's faculty research grant, Wenze has collected an intensive body of data from 140 AU undergraduates over the past year. "Almost every study in the field has been about errors the average person has made [self-predicting their moods]," says Gunthert, who is Wenze's project advisor. "Sue is looking at whether or not it might be the case that depression and anxiety make these errors worse."

## Stimulating Simulations

The average passenger car produces more than 12,000 pounds of polluting emissions yearly, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This number could be reduced to zero by discovering an efficient chemical pathway for producing hydrogen—the problem is finding it.

"Hydrogen-fueled vehicles only produce water as a byproduct, but the dilemma is how you go about producing this hydrogen without producing other greenhouse gases," says Jack Shultz (MS professional science/biotechnology '06). Shultz has been analyzing enzyme reactions in hopes of discovering one that releases hydrogen molecules, thus providing a cheap, clean method of producing the gas.

To date, scientists have discovered one such reaction, which occurs in the *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* alga during its final stage of

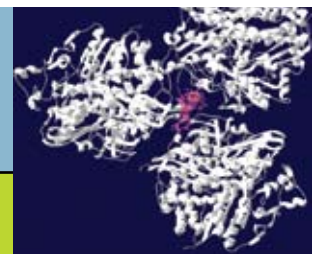
## Predictive Thoughts Provide Key to Mood Disorders

Wenze hypothesizes that depressed participants tend to overpredict negative feelings and underpredict positive ones, while participants suffering from anxiety overpredict *anxious* feelings but don't necessarily underpredict positive emotions. She explains, "If the research does show that a depressed person overpredicts their negative feelings, this could become a red flag if you are working with someone who is depressed."

Gunthert offers an example: "If they don't want to go to a party because they are predicting that they are going to have a horrible time anyway, their clinician can point out that their prediction is likely not to match their experience."

To collect her data, Wenze asked 140 undergraduates to complete a mood measure questionnaire to forecast the feelings they would experience during the following week based on events to come. Each participant carried a Palm Pilot; four times a day, at random, the device prompted the student to answer questions concerning how they were feeling at the time. At the end of the week, participants responded to questions relating to the moods they experienced.

By monitoring the students' feelings in real time, Wenze says, "We're getting data from their real lives, with their real class schedules [and] real time with friends factored in. The data represents their actual experiences and their actual moods."



Courtesy of Jack Shultz

photosynthesis. But the oxygen produced from splitting water damages hydrogenase, the enzyme that catalyzes the reaction, making this method of hydrogen production inefficient. There may be other enzyme catalysts, however, and analysis of more than 47,509 publicly accessible protein structures may identify one. By running computerized simulations of these naturally occurring reactions, Shultz hopes to identify the key to producing inexpensive hydrogen fuel.

Constraints in time and computing power would make so many simultaneous simulations on a standard PC nearly impossible, but Shultz uses a secret weapon: Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing (BOINC). BOINC projects can use the CPU power from a network of computers. "Running 47,509 simulations could be a lengthy process," says Shultz, "but if you have hundreds of computers distributing the work, then it isn't so bad."





Photos: Jessica Tabak

## *Carson Retires*

During his 13-year tenure as AU's premedical programs coordinator (1995–2007), Fred Carson built a legacy of excellence. Positive student response and well-planned student support have led to steady increases in enrollment, and graduates are enrolling in medical school and health professional programs at a formidable rate.

A month before his December 2007 retirement, however, it wasn't numbers or statistics that were foremost in Carson's mind. Instead, it was a former student, her son, and her annual Christmas cards. "She sends a card each year to update me on what is happening, with a picture of her and her son, who was a kid when she was enrolled here. So each year, I get to see how much her son has grown." The tradition has been going on for a while. "Now he's a strapping young man," Carson smiles.

Carson has contributed to the success of hundreds of aspiring medical and health professional students. The past decade has seen enrollment in AU's undergraduate and postbaccalaureate programs more than double. Over the last 13 years, qualified graduates have been accepted into medical school at a rate of 89 percent—nearly double the national rate of 44 percent for all applicants. In addition, *all* qualified applicants to other health professional schools, including dental, veterinary, nursing, and pharmaceutical, have been accepted.

"I set out to give students what they needed to be successful premed students," says Carson. This support network has expanded to

include an array of counseling services designed to keep students focused on the many requirements for admittance into health professional schools.

Beneficiaries of this support from day one, new premedical students typically would meet with Carson individually to draft a four-year course schedule appropriate to their particular interests and requirements. "You can be a nonscience major and still fit these courses into your undergraduate major, but you need careful planning and that is what I have tried to work very hard on with each of my students," says Carson. "If you don't do this, it's really easy to encounter a problem when it's too late."

Students also are informed regularly of internships, workshops, and research opportunities, both on campus and around the Washington area, especially at NIH. "Nowadays, students have to have some sort of clinical exposure to be considered by medical schools," says Carson. "It's also extremely helpful to have some biomedical research experience."

When the time comes for students to begin the complicated process of applying to medical school, they are given guidebooks and references and scheduled for an essay-writing workshop conducted by Writing Center director Janet Auten, and an interview workshop with Career Center advisor Sue Gordon. They are also linked up with a faculty mentor. And, typical of Carson's attention to detail, every student gets a calendar to keep track of deadlines.



Photo: Clay Blackmore

### REMEMBERING SALLY

Sally L. Smith, a professor in the School of Education, Teaching, and Health since 1976 and the director of the MA in special education, died December 1, 2007. Smith founded the Lab School of Washington in 1967 and developed a highly individualized, arts-based methodology for educating learning-disabled students. Honored with the university's Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Other Professional Contributions, she also received the LDA award from the Learning Disabilities Association of America—the highest honor in the field.

Smith had a penchant for quotations of all sorts. In her honor, Smith's master's students closed their final exams with some thoughts about her, a few of which follow:

*"With all the splashes of color, you made our world bright. By showing us the way to stand tall, you brought us delight. Sally, you led the way from darkness to light."*

—Payal Arora

*"As a mother of a child with learning disabilities, Sally Smith took her struggles to a global level. She unabashedly formed a school, wrote several books, served as dean of a college, and became a professor and authority in her field. She did not remain silent, but rather changed the world with her ingenuity and won over the hearts of children and the minds of politicians and academics. All while wearing purple."*

—Annie Boelte

*"When I first stepped into Sally's office, I was immediately struck by how it was completely unlike any office I had ever been in. She herself seemed as though she could have been one of the bright, colorful works of art on the wall. She brought out the brightness in others. My students always perked up when they saw her, as did I."*

—Meghan Pennington

*"Sally made everyone feel exceptionally special. She saw right to the core of you—right to your personhood. She was a bright, colorful, joyful individual. She instantly brought sunshine into a room."*

—Kimberly Palombo

## CAS GRANT WINNERS

This fall, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded travel and research grants to 12 faculty members and 31 students. For details on the individual grant projects, visit *CAS Connections* online edition at [www.american.edu/cas/connections/08february1.cfm](http://www.american.edu/cas/connections/08february1.cfm).

### Mellon Grant Winners—Faculty

Alyssa Cymene Howe (anthropology)  
Bette Dickerson (sociology)  
Douglas Fox (chemistry)  
Stephen MacAvoy (biology)  
Madhavi Menon (literature)  
Chemi Montes-Armeros (art)  
Randall Packer (art)  
Celine-Marie Pascale (sociology)  
Kate Resnick (art)  
Jerzy Sapieyevski (performing arts)  
Richard Sha (literature)  
Anita Sherman (literature)

### Mellon Grant Winners—Students

Geoffrey Aldridge (MFA art '09)  
Britta Anderson (MA psychology '08)  
Emily Broderick (MS biology '09)  
Victoria Coleman (PhD psychology '08)  
Bree Del Sordo (MA philosophy and religion '08)  
Lily DeSaussure (MFA art '09)  
Sarah Etu (PhD psychology '10)  
Evan Ewers (MS biology '10)  
Anita Gill (MA literature '10)  
Jennifer Hanson (PhD psychology '09)  
Natalie Hanson (MS biology '09)  
Ed Huntley (PhD psychology '09)  
Mary Anne Hutchison (PhD psychology '10)  
Katherine Knight (MFA art '09)  
Stephen Kohut (PhD psychology '09)  
Kirsten Lum (MS mathematics and statistics '09)  
Cory Oberndorfer (MFA art '09)  
Heather Schloss (PhD psychology '08)  
Sharon Servilio (MFA art '08)  
Melissa Smith (MA psychology '08)  
Melissa Stephens (PhD psychology '09)  
Brandon Tracy (PhD economics '09)  
Andrey Verendeev (PhD psychology '11)  
Susan Wenze (PhD psychology '08)

### Robin Rafferty Mathias International Travel Grants

Shamira Abdulla (PhD anthropology '08)  
Andrew Blair (MFA art '09)  
Rod Coeller (PhD history '09)  
Jennifer Dickey (MA international training and education '09)  
Theresa Ferry (MA international training and education '08)  
Kathryn Lasso (PhD sociology '08)  
Dvera Saxton (PhD anthropology '09)



Howard Mehring, *Untitled* (detail), 1966. Gift from Robert McKinsey, courtesy of American University Museum

# Accomplishments

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

**Ellen K. Feder (philosophy and religion)** published *Family Bonds: Genealogies of Race and Gender* (Oxford, 2007).

**Caren Grown (economics)** coedited *The Feminist Economics of Trade* (Routledge, 2007).

**Consuelo Hernández (language and foreign studies)** contributed to *Cut Loose the Body: An Anthology of Poems on Torture and Fernando Botero's Abu Ghraib Paintings*.

**David Keplinger (literature)** published a new poetry collection, *The World Cut Out with Crooked Scissors* (Western Michigan, 2007).

**Younghee Sheen (language and foreign studies)** published *Conversational Interaction in Second Language Acquisition* (Oxford, 2007).

**David Vine (anthropology)** published “Enabling the Kill Chain,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 54 (November 30, 2007).

## SPEAKER'S CORNER

In October, **Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies)** delivered two papers at the international meeting of the Association of Internet Researchers in Vancouver. One compared cell-phone text messaging with instant messaging; the second explored the presentation of self on Facebook and in IM “away” messages.

In October, **Brock Brady (language and foreign studies)** presented “ESL and Foreign Language Instruction in the U.S.” and “New Approaches to Teacher Education” at the State Department’s International Visitor Project for Latvia in Washington, D.C.

**Nadia Harris (language and foreign studies)** moderated a seminar, Maupassant and Impressionism, at Washington’s Phillips Collection in December. The seminar examined the influence of the French Impressionists on writer Guy de Maupassant.

In October, **Consuelo Hernández (language and foreign studies)** presented her poetry at Sharing Stories of Immigration, an event sponsored by the National Museum of American History. She also participated in the Conference of Hispanic and Spanish American Poetry, hosted by the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese at the University of Virginia in November.

In October, **Brian Yates (psychology)** presented “Costs Are All That Matter: Three Quantitative Studies Show That Costs Are Important to Evaluate, and That Outcomes Often Are Not” to the Government Accounting Office.

## IN THE MEDIA

Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators—an American University Museum exhibit cocurated by **art history** professors **Norma Broude** and **Mary D. Garrard**—was featured in the *Washington Post* (November 18, 2007).

In October, the *Southeast European Times* interviewed **Allan Lichtman (history)** about the passage of a nonbinding resolution defining mass killing of Armenians in Turkey during the early 1900s as genocide.

In November, **Claire Roby (BA environmental studies '08)** was featured in a *New York Times* article—“Jolly and Green, with an Agenda”—about environmentally friendly gift alternatives. The piece highlighted the clocks that Roby makes out of old compact discs.

## APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

In December, **D. B. “Sagar” Bishwakarma (MA sociology '09)** was awarded the 2007 United Nations Association’s Community Human Rights Award for his activism against caste-based discrimination in Nepal.

In December, **Nicholas Boggs (MFA creative writing '09)** received an Individual Arts Fellowship from the D.C. Commission on the Arts.

**David Keplinger (literature)** received the 2007 Colorado Book Award for his book *The Prayers of Others*.

**Patricia Saura McClory (BS biology 2008)** has been accepted to Harvard dental school. She will begin her studies in August 2008.

In November, **Chemi Montes-Armenteros (graphic design)** received seven American Graphic Design Awards—five for work produced for AU’s Department of Performing Arts. He also won two silver 2007 Creativity Awards and a national juried design competition. His poster entry was selected for Communication Arts’ *2007 November Design Annual 48*.

In September, **Catherine Resnik (graphic design)** received an American Graphic Design Award for the poster she designed for AU’s production of *I Hate Hamlet*. Two of her pieces are featured in the upcoming *Graphics Logo Book* (February 2008).



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