A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

With this year’s annual newsletter, my fourth as dean of humanities, we are introducing a new format reflecting the expanding range of activities and programs for our students and faculty. Humanities remains a core feature of every major national university. The achievements of our students and faculty, and the remarkable support of our alumni, continue to raise Rice University to higher levels of visibility and educational excellence. It is my great pleasure to share news that touches every facet of the School of Humanities, from our new partnerships with leading museums in Houston, to innovative scholarship programs for our undergraduates, to the scholarly achievements of our faculty. Two items deserve special attention.

Last year, the School of Humanities received one of the largest gifts in Rice’s history; twenty million dollars from an anonymous donor. This magnificent gift will enable us to start a transformation of the school into one of the most renowned centers for humanistic study in the country. It is the first step in the school’s eighty million dollar campaign. Critical to the success of this campaign, and to the elements of the transformation itself, is the support and engagement of our many distinguished alumni. Two years ago, I established a dean’s advisory board that includes several Rice trustees and other highly distinguished alumni. Their support has been invaluable in launching so many of the partnerships and programs that you will see featured in this newsletter. This year the school established two additional advisory boards, one for our reinvigorated Humanities Research Center, under the able direction of Caroline Levander, and one focused on building the Department of Art History and our relationships with the museum community.

Everyone in the school is indebted to all these board members, who have been generous with their time, their support, and their expertise.

In the Poetics, Aristotle advises the playwright to find the right balance between form and content. Even the liveliest mixture of colors, if it lacks soul (the Greek psyche), will not delight us as much as a simple outline in black and white. Our bold new format, I believe, corresponds to the intellectual energy that is animating the School of Humanities at Rice University.

I would welcome your comments, questions, or suggestions. For the most recent news about the School of Humanities, please visit our website http://humanities.rice.edu/. Thank you for your interest in the humanities at Rice University.

Gary Wihl, Dean
School of Humanities
Art history at Rice is no longer a budding success – it’s blooming all over.

The department is developing a proposal for a PhD program, and plans are under way to build stronger relations with Houston’s museum and art communities. The department also has formed an Art History Advisory Committee to play a key role in helping Rice make Houston a national and an international center for the study of art history.

“We have recruited a strong group of supporters with ties to the art community, both in Houston and nationally, to help us advance Rice’s art history department,” said Gary Wihl, dean of the School of Humanities. “We’re not taking baby steps forward—we’re leaping ahead.”

Stephanie Sick, a member of the new advisory committee, noted that elevating the profile of art history at Rice is an important and long-overdue effort.

“Rice has great resources in the community that they could mine,” she said. “Houston is rich in museums, and there ought to be a collaboration between the museums and Rice.”

Suzanne McCullagh, who is a curator at the Art Institute of Chicago and who teaches at the University of Chicago, serves on the new advisory committee too, and she echoed Sick’s sentiment.

“Rice has a very prestigious art history department with great scholars and great teachers already,” McCullagh said. “There seems to be a need for more than one PhD program in Texas. Being a renowned research university, Rice is a prime place to have a PhD program in art history with the extraordinary cultural riches right in the museum district.”

“Art historians at Rice have long dreamed it vital for teaching and research purposes to interact with the local museums, and such collaborations tie in with the Vision for the Second Century goal of strengthening ties with Houston,” Manca said. “We have been fortunate to be able to offer generous student internships at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) through the Camfield Fellowship and the Jameson Fellowship.” The latter centers around the collection at Bayou Bend. In addition, another Rice student does a yearlong internship at the Menil Collection.

“Our links to Houston’s museums have been strengthened further by the establishment of the Suzanne Deal Booth Collaborative Arts Fund, which is focused on establishing links between Rice and the artistic and cultural institutions of Houston,” Manca said. “The department should benefit from the broad backgrounds of the Art History Advisory Committee members, whose expertise ranges from art collecting and museum board membership to national and international travel and business.”

And the committee recognizes that the bridges built between Rice and art museums will be mutually beneficial.

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“This is not an ivory tower...This is working with the cultural resources of Houston, and the graduate students’ research will contribute to the community. The program should energize the whole community.”

Suzanne McCullagh

“Rice has the talent, knowledge and resources to play an integral role in the overall rise of the museum community in Houston.”
Rice University’s School of Humanities capped off a year of successful initiatives with the receipt of a $300,000 grant from the Bridgeway Charitable Foundation to create a pilot program in poverty, social justice, and human capabilities. The School of Humanities launched the program in fall 2006, to allow undergraduates to pursue a rigorous understanding of human well-being, with a particular focus on poverty, human capabilities, and social justice in the US and internationally. The five courses offer a combination of academic studies and practical experience that focus on fostering human development to alleviate poverty and enhance human well-being and social justice. Students who complete these courses will not only be sensitive to the serious problem of poverty but will also know how their decisions as professionals and engaged citizens can impact impoverished communities and persons.

Students participating in these courses will be able to apply for a number of paid summer internships that will allow them to combine their course of study with experience in the field working for a nonprofit organization or charity. “It’s an initiative building on a central aspect of Rice’s mission: the commitment to serving the needs of the larger community,” said Gary Wihl, dean of the School of Humanities. “It represents an opportunity to showcase some very important faculty research in the fields of social justice and economics, like that of Diana Strassmann, editor of Feminist Economics and professor of the practice in Humanities. Similar programs exist at other leading universities across the country, and this will give Rice undergraduates a comparable and exciting opportunity.”

The program is housed in the School of Humanities but draws on resources across campus, such as the Center for Civic Engagement and the Center on Race, Religion, and Urban Life – also known as “CORRUL.” The five interdisciplinary courses offered during the 2006-2007 school year are designed to supplement all majors and fulfill Rice University’s mission to “contribute to the betterment of our world.”

**COURSES OFFERED FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR:**

**Gender and Global Economic Justice**
Women and Gender Studies 422  
Profs. Diana Strassmann

**International Political Economy of Gender**
Political Science/Women and Gender Studies 250  
Profs. Diana Strassmann and Elora Shehabbudin

**The Nineteenth-Century Novel**
English 342/Women and Gender Studies 372  
Profs. Helena Michie

**Urban Life and Systems**
Sociology 470  
Prof. Michael Emerson

**Women and the Welfare State**
History/Women and Gender Studies 468  
Prof. Allison Bender
MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Health care is a ubiquitous part of our personal, social and cultural lives, and it must be understood from many perspectives. It can be studied from a scientific perspective, emphasizing the pathophysiology of disease and the biochemistry of medical treatment. It can be studied from an economic and sociological perspective, emphasizing the organization and efficiency of different systems of delivering health care. But these perspectives need to be supplemented by an approach which emphasizes the human meanings, in our culture and others, of disease and disability, treatment and care, life and death, and body and personhood. This approach fosters more than intellectual understanding through conceptual analysis. It also provides an opportunity for moral, spiritual and emotional development, through encountering stories and images which illuminate the experiences of embodied existence, illness, healing, and dying and through interpretive reflective writing in response to those stories and images. The Medical Humanities provides such intellectual understanding and such opportunities for personal humanistic development.

The teaching of Medical Humanities offers a unique opportunity for Rice University, working in collaboration with Rice University, the Texas Medical Center and the University of California, San Diego, to enrich both Rice undergraduate education and, and community understanding of, an area of great importance. Rice’s School of Humanities intends to work collaboratively with the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine and the McGovern Center for Health, Humanities and the Human Spirit at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center to develop such teaching opportunities both at Rice and at the two medical schools. It also hopes to collaborate with institutions in the Houston Museum District in developing community related programs.

Rice is not a newcomer to the Medical Humanities. It has offered for many years Medical Humanities courses through the departments of Art History, English, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Many of the faculty members who teach these courses have acquired national and international reputations for their research in this area. But much more has recently been achieved.

One of our most exciting Medical Humanities activities is the offering of courses at Rice by the faculty of Texas Medical Center institutions. Thomas Cale, of the McGovern Center, serves as the visiting Chenouve Professor of Humanities in the Department of Religious Studies. Through a generous gift from John Beltran ’76, faculty from Baylor’s Center teach a course at Rice each semester. Another of Rice’s newest Medical Humanities activities is a semi-annual lecture series, the Leslie Newman Medical Humanities Lecture Series. This year, Karla Holloway, William R. Kenan Professor of English at Duke University, presented a lecture entitled Medicine and the ‘X’ Word: How Race Matters in 21st Century Medical Ethics. The talk focused on how we understand and notice the cultural issues that emerge from health disparities, as well as medical research that considers race as a category of interest. Lisa Cartwright, professor of communication and science studies at the University of California at San Diego, presented a lecture entitled Technologies of Female Voice in (Dis) Abolishment. The lecture considered the history of the second-wave of innovation in film sound technology in light of the medical, educational and social regard and management of deaf children in Britain and the United States. Much more is being planned for the future. A group of faculty members in the School of Humanities is working on a proposal to fund innovative teaching approaches to the Medical Humanities. These include:

- Courses which will be taken both by Rice undergraduates and students at the medical schools.
- Rice undergraduates and students at the medical schools.
- Rice’s pre-med students will be able to do their undergraduate work in the humanities, while still doing work related to their future profession. The courses they take will broaden their perspective on patients, the health care system and the choices they will have to make. Such broadening of perspective is one of the major goals of education in the humanities. But these activities are not meant just for pre-med students. Some of the other students likely to be involved will be planning other health care related careers (e.g., health education), but others will be humanities students, intrigued by this exciting new area of study.

As a result of these enriched opportunities, Rice’s pre-med students will be able to do their undergraduate work in the humanities, while still doing work related to their future profession. The courses they take will broaden their perspective on patients, the health care system and the choices they will have to make. Such broadening of perspective is one of the major goals of education in the humanities. But these activities are not meant just for pre-med students. Some of the other students likely to be involved will be planning other health care related careers (e.g., health education), but others will be humanities students, intrigued by this exciting new area of study.

IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH ENCOUNTERING STORIES AND IMAGES WHICH ILLUMINATE THE EXPERIENCES OF EMBODIED EXISTENCE, ILLNESS, HEALING, AND DYING AND THROUGH INTERPRETIVE REFLECTIVE WRITING IN RESPONSE TO THOSE STORIES AND IMAGES.
enabled them to “return” to their homeland. 

“...social functions in their lifetimes have been forgotten, and what remains are only the books secreted from their writing selves,” he said. “Only literature can penetrate the historical, political and linguistic barriers and reach the readership that includes the people of the writer’s tribe.”

Migrant writers have another choice in their journey: to write in their native language or in their adopted language. Jin said they already feel guilty about leaving their country but “the ultimate betrayal is to choose to write in another language.”

Jin said it took him a year to decide to write in English, and he did so to survive. He had to compete for university teaching jobs, and writing in English would be best for his family and his future in America.

Both Joseph Conrad, who migrated from Poland to England, and Vladimir Nabokov, who was exiled from Russia, chose to write in English for similar reasons. Jin said despite their “linguistic betrayal,” their literary works helped them become respected figures in their native countries.

Jin said this is because their work is universally translatable — their stories remain meaningful to people regardless of the language into which they are translated.

Migrant writers also have to cope with nostalgia for their homeland, the idea that they’ll someday return and the belief that their writing success is appreciated by the people of their homeland.

Invoking C.P. Cavafy’s poem “Ithaka,” in which Ithaka symbolizes arrival, not return, Jin said, “Since most of us cannot go home again, we have to look for our own Ithakas and try to find ways to get there.”

Jin presented three original lectures for the Campbell series, and they will be compiled into a book to be published by the University of Chicago Press. A video recording of the lectures also will be available in Fondren Library.
Almost 20 years ago, the Center for the Study of Cultures at Rice was established to promote the study of cultures across time, space and disciplines. The center has since expanded its scope and goals, and to reflect its new vision, has changed its name to the Humanities Research Center.

“The new moniker better captures the center’s aims as a powerful force for intellectual integration within and beyond the School of Humanities,” said Caroline Levander, director of the Humanities Research Center (HRC).

“The name indicates that the center addresses ‘humanities’ in the broadest sense, engaging in collaborative dialogue with disciplines throughout the university,” Levander said. “It also captures the center’s focus on initiating and supporting a wide range of research interests not only in the humanities but across the university. Since its establishment in 1987, the center has contributed substantially to the growing vitality of the humanities and culturally oriented social sciences at Rice. Center research groups and workshops have fostered the kinds of collegiality among faculty and collaboration across departments and disciplines that are crucial for innovative work in this field. In addition, the center’s internal fellowship program has granted 58 semester-long fellowships to Rice faculty to facilitate their research. The center also funds guest lectures, symposia and conferences that bring between 80 and 100 scholars to campus each year.”

The Rice Theatre Program has merged with Visual Arts to form the newly named Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts. The move is an obvious one, according to Karin Broker, professor of visual arts and chair of the department.

“Artists typically embrace fellow artists who explore, who create, and who, at their core, are basically fearless,” Broker says. “The Department of Visual Arts was quick to realize that the Theatre Program would benefit our visual art students. If a program could better educate our young artists to be more creative and ‘see’ better or ‘see’ differently, then we have a responsibility to make it happen.”

Rosemary Hennessy, director of the new Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, has a soft-spoken, calm demeanor, but she doesn’t try to tone down her excitement when she speaks about the opportunities within and outside of Rice.

“I see a lot of attractive possibilities for engaging in the community and expanding and improving the center; it’s an exciting time,” she said.

Hennessy, who also holds an appointment as professor of English, comes to Rice from the State University of New York at Albany, where she was named Higher Education Member of the Year by New York State United Teachers in 2004. She is the author of three books on materialist feminism and sexual identities in late capitalism, including the classic: “Materialist Feminism and the Politics of Discourse.” Hennessy’s most recent work took her to the Texas-Mexico border, where she researched a collection of testimonies, “NAFTA from Below: Maquiladora Workers, Campesinos, Indigenous Farmers Speak Back,” and a book-in-progress, “Fires on the Border,” examining the changes deregulation has produced in notions of sexual identity. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania, a master’s in English from Temple University, and PhD in English from Syracuse University.

The Program for Study of Women and Gender was established in 1991 as one of Rice’s first interdisciplinary majors. In 2005, “sexuality” was added to the name, and this fall the program was made a center, enabling it to bring together more entities across disciplines. Components within the center include an undergraduate program, graduate certification, the Journal of Feminist Economics and the Feminist Research Group. In addition, the center has two two-year postdoctoral positions. More than 30 faculty members are affiliated with the center.
“What is R2? That was the question posed on flyers circulated around campus. It didn’t take students long to discover it was the name of a stylish new undergraduate literary magazine, blossoming thanks to the efforts of creative writing professor Justin Cronin and an army of dedicated students.

Cronin had long sought a way to inspire Rice’s young writers — something beyond the $500 motivation offered by the annual George Guion Williams Prize for the best undergraduate fiction and poetry. He proposed associating the Williams Prize with a student-led magazine that would publish the prizewinners and also provide a forum for other student writing on campus. “Writers always wonder: How do I put my work out in the world? How do I find other writers to talk about it with?” Cronin said. “The magazine would give young Rice writers just those opportunities.”

Cronin spoke to his classes about the idea, raised funds and even came up with a name: The Rice Review, or R2 for short. He asked then-senior Andy Dimond ’05 to be the first editor in chief, and throughout the fall, other students volunteered to work on R2 as well.

When the editorial board first came together in the spring of 2005, it resolved to not be another stereotypical undergraduate review. Dimond said, “For our first issue, we really wanted to produce something exceptional and establish the magazine’s presence immediately.”

Yet without any reputation, the magazine needed some major public relations to attract submissions. They generated buzz by papering the campus with the “What is R2?” signs and hung a huge billboard posting the same question above Fondren Library. The editorial board held an open-mike night on campus, and board members continually begged their friends to submit pieces. An article in the Rice Thresher helped to spread word about the magazine as well.

R2 promised to publish fiction, poetry and nonfiction, but until a few days before the submissions deadline, barely any work had arrived. Then, in a rush, more than 70 stories came in. The staff reviewed submissions for more than four hours in the English department lounge. At least three people evaluated each piece anonymously before the group came together for discussion on what to include. A few days later, Dimond and prose editor Lamar White ’05 made the final cuts, selecting 10 stories, two nonfiction pieces and five poems.

Cronin and the editorial board spent hours discussing individual pieces. “We worked until the point of diminishing returns,” Dimond said. “The best way to go to just work until your work is not producing bigger and better results.”

Collecting and editing the writing wasn’t the end of the production process. Thanks to generous gifts from James Rhodes ’62 and Jane Rhodes and support from the George Guion Williams endowment and Rice alumnus Bruce Dunlevie ’79, the editors had the funds to give R2 a sleek, distinctive look. After hundreds of hours of work, R2’s first edition was distributed in April 2005.

Now that R2 is off and running, everyone involved has new ideas about how to keep it growing and fresh. R2 Editor in Chief Josh Cooley notes that this year, they received over 225 submissions, nearly tripling the number of submissions from the 05-06 academic year. In addition, they are publishing works by 30 different writers on campus (up from 16 last year). With the increasing size of R2, they created a six-person staff to support our ten-member editorial board. Looking toward coming years, the staff would like to bring more writers to campus for readings and meetings with students.

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Justin Cronin
Howard will never forget what a “life-changing experience” it was to immerse herself in the culture and language of France. “It basically taught me a lot about new ways to think, how to approach challenges, and how to adapt to unfamiliar situations, and these lessons have served me immensurably throughout my life,” she said.

Howard, an asset securitization lawyer with the Gardere Wynne Sewell firm, has now visited about 40 countries around the world – more than the number of states that she has set foot in – and she has encouraged her family to appreciate the benefits of travel as well.

Both of her sons, Christian and Alex Triantaphyllis, have studied and worked abroad. “The only way to fully understand another culture is to live there, and the best way to meaningfully get to know the people of that culture is to speak their language,” she said.

In hopes that more Rice students who are studying foreign literature can come to that same realization firsthand, Howard is donating $250,000 to the School of Humanities. Undergraduate students in the departments of Classical Studies, French Studies, German and Slavic Studies, and Hispanic Studies will be able to apply for scholarships valued between $1,500 and $3,000 for study abroad. The scholarships will be awarded competitively.

“Europe plays an important role in foreign policy, economics and international law, so it’s essential that we introduce the students in our program to Europe,” said Christian Emden, assistant professor of German. “A gift of the magnitude of Liz Howard’s will allow for more advanced studies for specific research projects in specific locations of Europe.”

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Despite having studied French for only two years, Rice alumna Liz Howard ’76 spent her junior year of high school at a girls’ school in Strasbourg, France, where she majored in French literature.

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My overarching project was tracking the effects of political ads paid for by the ACLU that ran on the radio and in the New York Times. Typically, there is a pocket of resistance within a state or district that tends to vote against amplifying civil rights.

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Alberto Herrera

As part of a new partnership between Rice and the American Civil Liberties Union, Alberto Herrera, a Brown College senior, spent 10 weeks last summer as an intern at the organization’s legislative office in Washington.

The internship, a three-year pilot project, is funded by alumni Gail and Brad Husick ’86.

During the first half of the internship, Herrera, a Hispanic studies senior from El Paso, worked in the national legislative office of the ACLU, which advocates policy that expands civil rights and blocks that which lessens them. He helped with efforts to block proposed constitutional amendments relating to marriage and flag desecration, made phone calls, organized veterans’ events and translated materials for conferences.

“I went to a lot of hearings and markups and produced talking points for senators debating issues in our favor,” he said. “We had to deliver binders to them, which in a post-9/11 Capitol Hill can be pretty difficult. But, we are lucky enough to live in a place where our government is open, and with a bit of effort and patience, we were able to get the materials to the right people.”

The other half of his time, Herrera worked directly with Caroline Fredrickson, ACLU director of the Washington legislative office.

“My overarching project was tracking the effects of political ads paid for by the ACLU that ran on the radio and in the New York Times,” he said. “Typically, there is a pocket of resistance within a state or district that tends to vote against amplifying civil rights. In a midterm election year, letting the voter know that their elected official is lessening civil rights tends to make the official vote in favor of the ACLU. I found that in the majority of cases, the pressure exerted by the ACLU sways officials.”

The experience had an effect on Herrera, who has decided to go to law school and use his background in literature to help create more political engagement in migrant communities. Herrera won a Beinecke Scholarship last spring, which he plans to use to obtain a doctorate in literature or government.

“The internship really opened my eyes to how our government works and also made me question much more about what goes on, especially during a midterm election year,” he said. “It also showed me how one concession in rights in something seemingly distant can lead to eventual losses in something that matters directly to me.”
In 2000, Bruce Dunlevie ’79 donated $1 million to Rice to promote innovative programs with a focus on writing. Of that gift, $200,000 was given to the School of Humanities to fund two pilot projects. Freshman students enrolled in the school’s humanities courses From Ancient Greece to Medieval Islam: Introduction to Western Literature; History and Philosophy; From Renaissance to Enlightenment: Introduction to Western Literature; History and Philosophy; Liberty and Error: The French Revolution; Transcultural Encounters: From the Ancient World to Contemporary Globalization, and the Freshman Seminars are eligible to participate in the Dunlevie Summer Writing Program. This program provides fifteen $1,500 scholarships each year on a competitive basis. Scholarship recipients, who are selected based on their ability and promise in expository writing and the coherence and interest of the project, will pursue further a topic from the introductory courses and, working with a faculty adviser, write a paper on the topic over the summer.

This second year of the program saw increased interest from both students and the faculty who mentor them. A highlight among the papers received is Sahil Singh Gujral’s Writing About Writing: An Allegorical Interpretation of ‘Las Ruinas Circulares’ by Jorge Luis Borges, which he wrote under the guidance of Hispanic Studies Associate Professor Lane Kauffmann.

Gujral’s paper was accepted for presentation at the Borges Center’s 2006 Conference The Place of Letters: The World in Borges at the University of Iowa. This achievement is particularly noteworthy and a clear indication of the success of this innovative program made possible by the generous gift of Mr. Dunlevie.
ELORA SHEHABUDDIN SELECTED AS CARNEGIE SCHOLAR

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Political Science Elora Shehabuddin is among 20 leading scholars from across the nation selected as 2006 Carnegie Scholars, a prestigious fellowship awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to support innovative and path-breaking scholarship. Her Carnegie fellowship marks the first for Rice University.

Each of this year’s scholars will study themes focusing on Islam and the modern world: Shehabuddin’s research, titled “Women at the Muslim Center: Islamist Ideals and Democratic Expectations,” will examine the role politically engaged Muslim women play in the transformation of Islamist politics in the 21st century. Specifically, she will study how Jamaat-e Islam, the main Islamist party in Pakistan, and Hizbollah, the main Islamist party in Lebanon, have regarded issues of gender and how the presence of gender issues in national public discourse is compelling the parties to change their ideologies.

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According to Dean of the School of Humanities David Cook, Shirine Hamadeh, Ussama Makdisi and Elora Shehabuddin — all represented on the Carnegie Scholars list as 40 finalists. They ultimately award fellowships to 20 scholars.

“This award from the Carnegie Foundation is a remarkable achievement for a young scholar like Elora,” said Gary Wild, dean of the School of Humanities. “Her work is representative of a new generation of Islamic scholars who contribute to understanding the pressures now upon some of the globe’s most traditional societies.

“I am thrilled about the recognition conferred upon Elora and upon Rice by this fellowship,” he continued. “But I am also pleased for the attention this brings to other Rice scholars of the multidisciplined Muslim world whose studies span Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Nigeria and Bangladesh.”

Elora Shehabuddin, who joined the Rice faculty in 2001 after two years at the University of California-Irvine, teaches regularly in the Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality and in the Asian Studies Program. She received her doctorate in social science from Harvard University. She has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the American Association of University Women, the Social Science Research Council and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

MATT SHIBATANI AWARDED NSF GRANT TO STUDY DYING LANGUAGES

Matt Shibatani’s work on studying languages on the brink of extinction has netted a nearly $300,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant — the largest grant for linguistic research in the history of the School of Humanities.

Shibatani, the Deedee McMurtry Assistant Professor of Humanities and chair of the Department of Linguistics, will lead an international team of linguists from New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia to study the languages of eastern Indonesia. Two Rice graduate students and two postgraduate students from Indonesia also will participate in the project.

Specifically, their research will document the deterioration of these languages’ complex voice system.

Western languages like English have a two-voice system — active and passive — that can be distinguished by the placement of the subject and object. But the eastern Indonesian languages, part of the large Austronesian language family, have evolved systems that originally had a four-way contrast, defying the grammatical rules of Western languages.

Through their fieldwork in eastern Indonesia, Shibatani’s team hopes to understand the nature of these complex voice systems, which determine even more simple systems as one moves from east to west along the archipelago.

“We need to preserve, or at least document, this diversity to fully understand the human linguistic capability, a remarkable gift unique to man, and to develop a truly universal theory of human language.”

“…there are more than 1,260 languages in the Austronesian family alone — roughly one-fifth of the known languages of the world — that do not neatly fit to the Indo-European grammatical paradigms. We need to preserve, or at least document, this diversity to fully understand the human linguistic capability, a remarkable gift unique to man, and to develop a truly universal theory of human language.”

Matt Shibatani

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

“Matt Shibatani’s team hopes to understand the nature of these complex voice systems, which determine even more simple systems as one moves from east to west along the archipelago. Shibatani’s team also will document the grammars of four previously undescribed languages on Flores Island.”
HUMANITIES SEES DRAMATIC INCREASE IN NUMBER OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

In the humanities world, postdoctoral fellowships are as scarce as a happy ending in a short story. But the Rice School of Humanities is bucking that trend this fall, increasing the number of postdoctoral positions in the school from two to eight.

Dean of Humanities Gary Wihl said this unprecedented move places Rice in a leading position for postdoctoral research in the humanities.

For example, this semester, each fellow is teaching one or two courses, most of them brand new courses that otherwise would not have been offered. “The additional fellowships, made possible through fundraising and reallocating budget funds, also are crucial as the school seeks to raise its national research profile,” Wihl said.

“Our enhanced postdoctoral program will help us to become better known in the country’s new department of new, young faculty,” he said. “Having two-year terms, expand the school’s wealth of expertise, which ultimately benefits students.

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“We’ve worked hard to publish rigorous scholarship that is accessible to readers around the world. It’s great to know our efforts are bearing fruit.”

Diana Strassmann

RICE JOURNAL JUMPS IN GLOBAL RANKINGS

Since Feminist Economics was named the best new journal in 1997, it’s been obvious the publication fills a need — and does it well. A recent report of a jump in the journal’s citation rankings adds more proof.

Feminist Economics, founded by Rice’s Diana Strassmann, now ranks second among top women’s studies journals, according to Thomson Scientific’s latest citation index. Among 175 economics journals, it ranks 20th.

“This is made even more significant by the fact that only about 8 percent of journals published internationally are covered by the index, and they must meet a rigid set of criteria. The rankings are based on the number of articles cited in other scholarly works during 2003 and 2004, and provide an indication of a journal’s impact.”

Diana Strassmann said, “We’ve worked hard to publish rigorous scholarship that is accessible to readers around the world. It’s great to know our efforts are bearing fruit.”

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All articles in the quarterly publication are peer-reviewed. The journal’s prestigious editorial board brings together economists — including Amartya Sen and three other Nobel Prize winners — with writers from other disciplines and with alternative perspectives.

They are also edited for style to make them accessible to non-English speakers and researchers in disciplines other than economics.

Strassmann feels that one of the journals most important goals is to serve as a forum for lively debate and diverse viewpoints, and the journal strives to publish articles on all sides of major topics. In addition, special issues focusing on topical and timely subjects, such as gender and aging, and women and wealth, attract readers.

“Special issues help bring in people who otherwise might not enter into debate, such as scholars from other disciplines and public-policy analysts,” Strassmann said.

When Strassmann started the journal almost 12 years ago, nothing like it existed.
ART HISTORY
Marcia Brennan, associate professor, received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Contemplative Practice Fellowship.

Bill Camfield, Joseph & Joanna N. Mullen Professor Emeritus, received an Andrew W. Mellon Emeritus Fellowship.

CLASSICAL STUDIES
Harvey Yum, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities and Classics and department chair, received the Sonatini Deliah Prize Award for Best Translation.

ENGLISH
Caroline Levander, professor and director of the HBC, received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar Award and a National Humanities Center (NHHC) Dupont Summer Seminar Award.

Kirsten Oscher, assistant professor, was a visiting fellow at Dartmouth College Humanities Institute.

Susan Wood, Gladys Louise Fox Professor, selected for Bank of America Poetry Prize and nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

FRENCH STUDIES
Jolie Fott, assistant professor, selected for a Jack and Anita Hess Seminar Follow-up Grant, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

GERMAN AND SLAVIC STUDIES
Regina Koch, associate professor, received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Award.

HISTORY
Alex Byrd, assistant professor, received a George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching.

John Boles, William P. Hobby Professor and Editor of the Journal of Southern History, received a Presidential Award for Mentoring.

Eva Haverkamp, Anna Smith Professor, Associate Professor, received the Deutsches Buch 2008 (The Historical Book 2008). Humanities Seminar- und Kulturgeschichte (Social and Cultural Studies)- Book Award.

Alex Lichtenstein, associate professor, received a substantial fellowship, American Philosophical Society.

Lora Wildenthal, associate professor, received a German Historical Institute Fellowship.

LINGUISTICS
Marti Shulman, Diederik McHutchon Professor in Humanities and department chair, received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and was nominated and designated as an Institute for Advanced Study Distinguished Fellow at La Trobe University, Australia.

PHILOSOPHY
Steve Crowell, Joseph and Joanna Nuzzo Mullen Professor in Humanities and professor of German & Slavic Studies, received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship and was guest professor at the Center for Subjectivity Research at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Matthias Honz, W. J. de Lily G. Jackson Associate Professor in Biblical Studies, was invited to be a NEH Visiting Lecturer on Ancient Judaism at Amherst College.

Anne Klein, professor of religious studies, received a Ford Foundation Award.

Jeff Kripal, J. Newton Rayzor Professor of Religious Studies and department chair, received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Contemplative Practice Fellowship.

VISUAL AND DRAMATIC ARTS
Darrin Keeton, associate professor, received the Huntington Art Prize for outstanding artists on the national and international levels and the Wynn Newhouse Foundation Prize for outstanding artists in America.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LANGUAGES
Lilly Chen, lecturer, received a Boren Teaching Grant.

Joseph Manca, associate professor of art history and department chair, received an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN, GENDER AND SEXUALITY
Elora Sikeliaunė, assistant professor of humanities and political science, was chosen as a Carnegie Scholar.

NEW FACULTY
Edward Anderson
Lecturer of Classical Studies
Victoria Arthez-Sabater
Lecturer of Spanish
Rigmor Berg
Lecturer of Kinesiology
Joseph Campana
Professor of English
Fabiana Cecchini
Lecturer of Italian
Jennifer Cooper
Lecturer in Humanities and Student Media Advisor
April DeConick
Professor of Biblical Studies
Rebecca Goertzen
Abbeville Professor of Religious Studies
Rosemary Honors
Professor of English and Director of the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
Shil-shahb Susan Huang
Associate Professor of Art History
Jian Carlos Rodriguez
Lecturer in Hispanic Studies
Jason Sosa
Lecturer in Kinology
Pei-Ting Tsai
Lecturer of Chinese
Thaphic Hamcker
Visiting In-Residence in the School of Humanities

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS
Jeffrey Kripal,
J. Newton Rayzor Professor of Religious Studies and department chair
The Serpent’s Gift

Caroline Levander,
professor of English and director of the Humanities Research Center
Craddle of Liberty

Anne Klein,
professor of religious studies
Unbounded Wholeness: Dzogchen, Bon and the Logic of the Nonconceptual

Joseph Manca,
professor of art history and department chair
Andere Manifesten und die Italien Renaissance

April DeConick,
Lisa Carroll & Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies
Recovering the Original Gospel of Thomas: A History of the Gospel and its Growth

Paradise Now: Essays on Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism (edited)

Isla Carroll & Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies
Andrea Mantegna and the Italian Renaissance

Jeffrey Kripal

Beatrice Gonzalez-Stephan, Lee Hage Jamail Professor of Latin American Studies
Galerias del proximo Masor, exposition y cultura racial en America Latina (edited)

Nacion Y Literatura: Itinerarios de la Palabra Escrita en la Cultura Venezolana

Jena-Joseph Gooss, Laurence H. Fenton Professor of French Studies and department chair
Kile de Plume, Kile de Plume: Eevolue des Dames (contributed text)

Elis Birgindahl, associate professor of religious studies and managing editor of the CSISR
The Dialects of Transformation in Africa

Tony Pinn, Agnes N. and A. W. Logo Professor of Humanities and professor of religious studies
Psalms Metered: Selected Sermons on Writings for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Tiphanie Yanique
Writer-in-Residence in the School of Humanities

The Dialects of Transformation in Africa
School of Humanities 2006-2007

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Lisa Birenbaum, Staff Assistant
Christine Medina, Accounting Assistant III
Carolyn Warszawski, Director of Development

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Harvey Yunis, Classical Studies
Helena Michie, English
Jean-Joseph Goux, French Studies
Jack Zammito, German and Slavic Studies
Maarten Van Delden, Hispanic Studies
Martin Wiener, History
Matt Shibatani, Linguistics
Richard Grandy, Philosophy (Interim)
Jeffrey Kripal, Religious Studies
Karin Broker, Visual and Dramatic Arts

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Rosemary Hennessy
Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Caroline Levander, Humanities Research Center
Kimberly Davenport, Rice University Art Gallery
Michael Maas, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations
Steve Lewis, Asian Studies Program
Jane Chance, Medieval Studies Program

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