

*Plant found by Thoreau launches fall lectures*

I never saw such a pleased, happy look on his face as he had that day," a friend wrote after seeing Thoreau return from a walk with a rare fern coiled up in his hat. A hundred and sixty years later, the same plant collected by Thoreau pleased—and surprised—friends of the Center attending a program in early October.

The program, which opened the 2011-12 lecture series, was unusual in a number of ways. It was the first in Center history to tie the lecture—in this case two short talks on Thoreau's essay *Autumnal Tints*—to the current art exhibit, "The Colors of Autumn," which features richly colored images of fall leaves by Ron Jeffers. It also brought a touch of natural history into

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*Climbing fern collected by Henry David Thoreau. Loaned by the OSU herbarium.*

## Emotional growth played role in historic water agreement



Hannah Gosnell

*It would be difficult to overstate the magnitude of this moment in the history of water conflict in the Klamath Basin and in the American West more generally. Hannah Gosnell.*

"This moment" refers to the 2010 agreement on settling long-disputed water rights in the Klamath Basin, the subject of Hannah Gosnell's research project as a 2011-12 Center Research Fellow. An assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences at OSU, Gosnell was trained as a social scientist but her analysis of the Klamath dispute, she said, requires a humanistic approach, in particular, insights gained

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## Research Proposals Invited for 2012-13

The Center is accepting applications from OSU faculty members interested in 2012-13 Research Fellowships for the resident research program. Each year the Center brings together a new group of scholars to pursue research and writing in an environment designed to be stimulating as well as protected from the usual daily demands of academic life. Up to eight Fellows will be selected.

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## History of Science Fellowship Open

The Center for the Humanities and the Horning Endowment in the Humanities are now inviting applications for a 2012-13 post-doctoral fellowship in the history and philosophy of science.

Scholars not currently employed by OSU who have completed doctorates since January 2007 are eligible for a year-long fellowship in 2012-13 with a stipend of \$45,000. Postdoctoral fellows will be in residence at the Center along with other fellows in a variety of humanities disciplines.

Applications are welcome from all fields of the history of science, including medicine and technology, as well as the philosophy of science and intellectual history.

Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2012. See the Center's website for further information and application forms: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/humanities/>

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# Climate change creates virtual chasm between nations

**A**t the heart of Amy Below's research project is a rarely asked question: What factors most influence a state's environmental policy decision making?

Her search for an answer focuses on decisions by various nations to join the international climate change regime in the Americas. In particular, it analyzes the decision made by Argentina, Mexico, the U.S., and Venezuela to join, or not officially join, the Kyoto Protocol. The issue of climate change has developed rapidly into one of the most controversial topics in world politics, said Below, a Center Research Fellow and assistant professor of political science in OSU's School of Public Policy.

"It has caused friction within nations and has created a rift between a number of developed and developing countries, creating a virtual chasm between some of the world's most powerful and influential nations and, what may be, the future's most powerful nations."

While representatives from around the world have agreed that global climate change is an area of great concern and that action is necessary, what form that action should take and how it should be codified in international treaties is intensely debated. Hundreds of international representatives agreed to ratify the non-binding UN Framework on Climate Change in 1992, but the subsequent and stronger Kyoto Protocol faced a far more difficult road to ratification.

"The lion's share of the tension stems from the fact that the Protocol divides the world into two groups—developed nations that must commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a specific percentage by a specified time, and developing nations that do not have to commit to more than making efforts to reduce emissions," said Below.



*Amy Below*

The tension arises because rapidly expanding countries such as China and India are considered "developing" under the Protocol and are not required to make reductions though their emissions are expected to grow significantly, and even outpace those of developed nations. A number of developed countries, the U.S. in particular, see this designation as unfair and unproductive. As a result, the U.S. requested that developing nations volunteer to reduce emissions.

**O**f the countries included in this study, Argentina complied, Mexico considered but declined, and Venezuela outright refused to become party to the agreement until the last minute. What accounts for the varying behaviors of these countries when faced with the same proposition? . . . Conclusions could not only provide insight into how foreign policies, especially environmental ones, in the region are made, but also subsequently highlight avenues by which others could impact environmental foreign policy decision making."

Below's research includes analysis of

such documents as United Nations reports, announcements and press releases, national reports and surveys, and popular media and academic publications. In addition, she has interviewed individuals closely involved in their nation's decision-making process, including a former environmental secretary, national conference delegates, and non-governmental organization representatives.

"Results from my field research suggest that, in the case of the U.S., domestic forces were most influential. Economic, scientific and moral concerns, and the resulting division within the U.S. Senate, prevented the U.S. from ratifying the Protocol and forced the president to ask for voluntary reductions from developing nations. In contrast, developing nations Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela were more influenced by international forces, and in the case of Argentina and Venezuela, a combination of individual- and international-level factors."

Each nation was acutely aware of its status both regionally in the Americas and internationally, said Below, and this played a powerful role in the different reactions of each country to the U.S. request. The president of Argentina wanted to keep good relations and hence cooperated. Mexico wanted to maintain its status as a regional environmental leader but ultimately resisted U.S. pressure. President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela refused to ratify the treaty until it took effect and then praised it and chastised the U.S. for not signing.

The influence of the United States in such international decision making is unquestionable, said Below, "but its impact and 'success' in terms of getting what it wants and intimidating smaller states into doing what it wants them to is not guaranteed."

# Genetic equations alone can't explain evolution

The study of evolutionary biology traveled a divided road following publication of *The Origin of Species*, with disagreement and poor communication among specialists from different scientific fields. Not until the 1930s and '40s did the roads draw together in what came to be known as the "Evolutionary Synthesis."

"We inherit the effects of the Synthesis," says Miranda Paton, the Center's 2011-12 Horning Fellow in the History and Philosophy of Science. "All of us—scientists and non-scientists alike—have been invited to understand Charles Darwin's 1859 idea as well as evolutionary biology's enduring research questions and philosophical problems in terms established by an influential generation of scientists eager to describe the causes of evolution in genetic terms."

The central question was whether Mendelian genetics could be reconciled with gradual evolution by means of natural selection. A second issue was whether the broad-scale changes seen by paleontologists could be explained by changes seen in local populations.

"By the early 1890s, the problems of inheritance and gradual adaptation had already solidified as the central research problems that linked all students of evolution," said Paton. "Those problems also produced a series of debates among biologists approaching the study of evolution from different disciplines that seemed to disrupt the process of scientific unification all students of evolution expected and sought."

After 1900, those who addressed these questions by way of short-term experimental studies gained control of theoretical debate. "Geneticists—and many others—separated the problems of adaptation and speciation during this period, contributing to the general



Miranda Paton

faith that short-term and population level analysis of mutation and selection could be taken as adequate proxies for all of evolution in the wild."

By the early 1930s, mathematically-inclined geneticists had developed elegant techniques for modeling evolution in quantitative terms. "But can that kind of science really deliver all that Darwin promised? Can we just 'scale up' from an equation describing the dance between genetic mutation and natural selection's culling hand to explain how new species are formed, the patterns of life's branching pedigree we see, or the slow perfection of marvelous adaptations like eyes and wings?"

The Synthesis (a term that originated with Julian Huxley's 1942 book *Evolution: The Modern Synthesis*) drew together ideas from branches of biology that had previously diverged. For Paton, the division between geneticists and paleontologists—"the two disciplines separated by the greatest distance of any pair in evolutionary biology"—is of particular interest.

Her book in progress, *Vertebrate Paleontology and the Evolutionary Synthesis, 1894-1944*, follows the

waxing and waning reputations of two American students of vertebrate paleontology—Henry Fairfield Osborn (1857-1935) and George Gaylord Simpson (1902-1984)—as they negotiated with the rise of genetics during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though hardly headliners in the history of evolutionary theory, Osborn and Simpson were deeply influential in their respective generations, and paleontology itself was a central pillar of evolutionary research in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

"And that's why Osborn and Simpson are the stars of this story, and the relationship between paleontology and genetics are of interest to me," said Paton. "Accounting for the development of a branch of biology or a scientist we admire is easy but risks presentism—that is, we're likely to account for their greatness in the terms we currently accept. Explaining how important scientists and ideas were gradually *made* wrong or irrelevant promises a deeper, more critical look at the structure of a science."

A new round of unified work on evolution now underway is leading to neologisms that show up in headlines, book titles and webpages. "Students of 'Evo Devo' are taking a sophisticated look at the relationship between genes and selection, asking how individual organisms develop from their genetic blueprints and become those living organisms whose fitness is actually tested by their environment.

"The development of ecology, population biology and ethology demand even more complexity. Those who advocate for 'Evo-Devo-Eco' acknowledge that a full understanding of evolution will come from an even

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## Claims for genetic ‘race’ differences on rise again

A recent shift in the ways some scientists think about race is “misguided and deeply troubling,” says Jonathan Kaplan.

“Until relatively recently, the consensus in the biological and anthropological literature was that, biologically speaking, there were no human ‘races.’ Part of what was meant by this was that the racial categories used in ordinary discourse about human populations did not have any biological underpinnings—that human ‘races’ as socially identified populations did not form biologically meaningful categories.”

Since at least the 1970s, most serious researchers were persuaded that all but the most trivial difference between human races were the result of social forces and not genetic in origin.

“Contemporary population genetics research, however, is now being used to argue for the biological reality of ‘race,’ and is taken by some to suggest that a focus on racial disparities in health, academic performance, and other areas, requires that we take seriously the genetic differences between ‘races,’” said Kaplan, a Center Research Fellow and associate professor of philosophy in OSU’s School of History, Philosophy and Religion.

His book-in-progress, *The Social and Biological Realities of Race*, explores what he characterizes as “the (mis)uses of biological research surrounding race,” and maintains that “the arguments making use of population genetics research are deeply misleading and rely on multiple misunderstandings.”

The book makes three main arguments: genetic differences are not what account for the “folk-racial” categories in use today; while contemporary populations picked out on the basis of “folk-racial” categories may differ genetically, these differences are unlikely to be the



Jonathan Kaplan

causes of current biomedical, behavioral, or other differences between the populations; despite recent research sometimes taken to imply otherwise, “folk-racial” categories remain primarily social categories.

Claims regarding the biological bases of race, and the importance of genetic differences between races, are not limited to the fringe, said Kaplan, but are moving into the mainstream. Scientists are looking for genes related to health disparities, for instance, between West Africans and Europeans. The National Institutes of Health is explicit in recommending that health differences between black and white Americans be addressed in part through genetics research.

*‘The arguments making use of population genetics research are deeply misleading and rely on multiple misunderstandings.’*

“It is becoming increasingly common, once again, to see claims that the genetic differences between populations traditionally identified as ‘races’ in social contexts might be responsible for some of the observed average behavioral and psychological differences, including differences in cognitive ability,” said Kaplan.

A University of Chicago geneticist argues that there are different frequencies of different alleles associated with brain size in different populations, and suggests that this might be part of the explanation for the “diversity” of cognitive ability between “races.”

“His research, which is widely interpreted as arguing that recent evolutionary increases in human cognitive ability were for the most part restricted to populations that had already left Africa, has been published in the two premier general interest science journals, *Science* and *Nature*,” said Kaplan. It also has appeared in specialized science journals.

Such claims resurrect what had seemed to be out-dated theories, but it would be perilous to dismiss the resurgence as motivated solely by racist agendas, argues Kaplan.

“In order to focus on potentially successful approaches to addressing the real and serious differences in average life-prospects between members of different racial and ethnic populations, it is vital that the arguments surrounding genetic approaches to studying populations be properly understood and carefully addressed.

“Unless we are clear about just what kinds of claims such research can actually support, and what kinds of claims cannot be supported, it is difficult, if not impossible, to show that the policy implications drawn from genomics research on ‘races’ are in fact misguided.”

## 'Rescue' of women and children feeds cultural stereotyping

The Disney film *Aladdin* is racist and sexist, say some critics; it stereotypes Arab culture, Arab women, and the hijab.

The film tells the story of an Americanized male protagonist who saves Jasmine, an Arab princess, from "the violence and 'barbarism' of her own culture," and, says Patti Duncan, it is typical of popular representations of other cultures in which the women are imagined as needing to be rescued by westerners.

The same kinds of representations are employed for "rescuing" children, often from their families, communities, and cultures as well as from "unfit" mothers. Duncan's research project, "Saving Other Children From Other Women: Narratives of Rescue, Migration, and Illegitimate Motherhood," will examine depictions of the rescue of children and representations of transnational and transracial adoption in film, visual art, and print and web-based media.

Duncan is a Center Research Fellow and associate professor of women studies in OSU's School of Languages, Culture, and Society.

"At the heart of this study is the image of the unfit mother," specifically the ways in which ideas about motherhood "circulate within and around these rescue narratives, shaping cultural meanings of kinship, culture, and citizenship."

In examining depictions of children's rescue, Duncan will consider several films, including *Born into Brothels* by Zana Briski, in which white westerners attempt to prevent the sexual exploitation of the children they encounter in the global south.

"In the film, Indian children are portrayed as innocent, vulnerable, preyed upon for prostitution, and in need of rescue. Indian women, on the other hand—their mothers—are portrayed as either impoverished and incompetent, or more commonly, as



Patti Duncan

hypersexualized, corrupt, threatening, greedy, and eager to prostitute their own children."

By telling the story out of context and mostly ignoring local efforts to improve the lives of sex workers and their children, argues Duncan, the film "tells an all-too-familiar story that appeals to western notions of rescue. Why in this portrayal are the children worth saving and their mothers are not? . . . What are the processes that shape our understanding of these mothers as unfit to retain custody of their own children? And how do the children in the film come to take on symbolic value, and even exchange value, as Briski battles the Indian government's bureaucracy to take them out of their homes and communities?"

In a process dubbed Operation Peter Pan, 14,000 Cuban children were sent to Miami in 1961-62 in response to rumors that they might be taken to the Soviet Union for indoctrination. Many never saw their families again. Operation Babylift in 1975 involved evacuation of 4,000 Vietnamese children, most not orphans but possibly vulnerable to stigmatization

because of the mothers' presumed relations with U.S. servicemen.

Such children "came to embody the losses experienced by the nations at large, and for these reasons, transnational adoption in Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere is often perceived as a source of national shame and suffering."

Transnational adoption, says Duncan, highlights power differences between nations, with the flow of children going "from disempowered occupied nations to wealthy, dominant western nations."

The cultural works Duncan analyzes for this portion of the study include the documentary films *Daughter from Danang*, *First Person Plural*, and *Precious Cargo*, as well as

*Why in this portrayal are the children worth saving and their mothers are not?*

autobiographical writings, including *Family Bonds* by Elizabeth Bartholet and *The Language of Blood* by Jeong Trenka.

"I ask how and why some women are depicted as 'good' mothers while others are 'unfit'? . . . I will also examine the relationship between motherhood and the state in order to address the production of 'good' and 'bad' citizens."

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## *The beauty and mystery of autumn leaves*

October is the month for painted leaves,” wrote Henry David Thoreau. “Their rich glow now flashes round the world. . . A village is not complete, unless it have these trees to mark the season in it. They are important, like the town clock.”

Photographer Ron Jeffers celebrates the vibrant colors of fall foliage in detailed leaf prints created last October in our own “village” of Corvallis and on show through December at the Center for the Humanities. The exhibit includes 35 close-up images printed on a black ground that highlights the rich colors and textures of sweetgum, maple, ginkgo, linden, Callery pear and other familiar trees and shrubs.

Also included in the show is a poster created by plant ecologist Duncan Thomas that illustrates the basics of what is known—and not known—about the biology of color change in fall leaves. While colors in the yellow and brown range are already in the leaf before the green color is lost, those in the red tones have to be produced by the plant late in the season.

“Surely, this is a waste of energy?” Thomas says in the poster. “Some ecologists now propose that the red in fall leaves should serve a useful function. The two main current ideas are that the red pigments block damaging solar radiation or that they serve to repel insects.”

Jeffers may be best known in the community as a composer and choral conductor. He studied music composition and choral conducting at the University of Michigan, Occidental College, and the Center for New Music at the University of California-San Diego. He has directed choirs and taught at these institutions, as well as at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, the State University of New York-Stony Brook, and OSU.

In 1988, he founded earthsongs, a company that publishes choral music from many different countries, as well as books of choral texts in other languages. Photography has been a second passionate interest for many years. Jeffers describe it as “a way of seeing more clearly and deeply, a way of examining and probing the familiar, a way of celebrating the common images which others may notice only in passing, discovering epiphanies in unexpected places and ways.”

The show includes a catalog that gives the taxonomic and common names of the plants. Copies of the prints are available for sale; proceeds will go to Corvallis Community Outreach, Inc. The exhibit, at 811 S.W. Jefferson Avenue, Corvallis, is free and open to the public weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., through December. For information, call 541-737-2450.



Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*



Waldo blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus*

*Consider what a vast crop is annually shed on the earth! This, more than any mere grain or seed, is the great harvest of the year. The trees are now repaying the earth with interest what they have taken from it. . . We are all the richer for their decay.*

**Henry David Thoreau, *Autumnal Tints***

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## *An American Sometimes in Paris—with an iPhone*



**M**ina Carson loves Paris. Photographic evidence of her affection for the city will be on display at the Center January through March, 2012. Many of the pictures were taken on an iPhone, which makes this exhibit a first for the Center. Asked about her approach to photography, Carson responded:

“When I am in Paris, I take pictures in order to see the city. Taking a picture ‘stops time’ to give me not only a memory of that moment after I leave Paris—which is about the hardest thing I ever do—but also that moment as it happens. It creates a pause and a celebration. That old saw about choosing to live the moment or take a picture of it—baloney.

“My conventional photos of Paris are attempts to reflect back to the city how breathtakingly beautiful it is. There are very few hours when the light is not interesting and one can’t tease some luminance out of the grey sky even without Photoshop.

“But my favorite way to shoot Paris is with my iPhone. It allows me to spy on people. I silence the digital click and pretend I am looking at a message or a map. I also love the software filters so abundant for that tool of genius. Thanks, Steve Jobs.”

Mina Carson is an associate professor of history in OSU’s School of History, Philosophy and Religion. She is a past recipient of a Center Research Fellowship and has served on the Center’s Board of Directors. The exhibit space is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 541-737-2450.

*‘That old saw  
about choosing  
to live the moment  
or take a picture  
of it—baloney.’*

Mina Carson



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## Klamath water dispute . . . *(continued from page 1)*

from the study of “emotional geographies.”

During interviews conducted in the area, Gosnell found herself “hearing again and again about painful experiences surrounding efforts to resolve conflicts over tribal water rights, and significant breakthroughs that came from specific emotional interactions between key tribal and nontribal entities.”

Entrenched notions about fairness and justice and who has the right to water, she said, shifted dramatically as a result of emotional interactions and changing sense of place among the key players. To understand what happened requires a sophisticated understanding of emotions like anger, fear, pain, remorse and, especially, forgiveness.

Water resource geographers have long been interested in conflicts surrounding water policy, management, and law, said Gosnell, but their work has been “characterized by applied, technical, policy relevant studies firmly seated in the physical and social sciences, with very little in the way of humanistic approaches.” She sees great potential for enriching the field of water resource geography through exploring the role that emotions, identity, trust and sense of place play in negotiations over water, especially in a tribal context, where painful histories loom large.

While some humanistic geographers have dealt with emotion, space, and place, she said, they have tended to neglect subject matter related to natural resource management. Her aim is to bridge this gap.

In 2010, the utility company, PacifiCorp, signed the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, which details the removal of four dams—the largest such project in history—along the Klamath River in Oregon and California. The agreement is intended to work in tandem with the larger Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, which aims to restore threatened fisheries and bring accord to all parties.

“Progress on these agreements thus far has been remarkable considering the animosity and distrust that have characterized stakeholder interactions in the Klamath Basin for decades, especially between tribal and nontribal entities,” said Gosnell. “The Klamath Basin has been ground zero for conflicts between the Endangered Species Act, Indian water rights, commercial ocean fishing, and irrigated agriculture for decades. It has provided vivid examples of the impacts that modern, large-scale ecosystem modification, including large dams, has on indigenous communities and fisheries.”

Drawing on document analysis, participant observation, and interviews conducted over the course of four years, Gosnell hopes to produce a book that will explain the attitudinal transformation in the region, focusing in part on “the beginnings of a shared, Basin-wide community identity and a collective approach to problem-solving.”

The book will focus on four main themes: tension between top-down and bottoms-up approaches to managing complex systems; challenges inherent in the transition to new political and economic realities in the American West, including growing tribal power; differing experiences of mourning, loss, and reinvention of identities, livelihoods, and sense of place and community; the process through which individuals and communities move from conflict to collaboration.

“I intend to delve into literature dealing with the ways in which emotions constitute and are constituted by particular places. In particular, I plan to make a case for the critical role that apology, rectification, trust, compassion, and forgiveness can play in healing old wounds and resolving water conflicts.”

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## Problems of evolutionary biology . . . *(continued from page 3)*

broader understanding of the particular sorting criteria natural selection creates, and how those determiners of life, death and reproduction change over time. In other words, what makes an organism—or even a set of genes—‘fit’ or ‘unfit’ really requires fuller understanding of that organism’s membership in a very complicated ecological niche. Paleobiologists who can investigate long-term patterns of climate change and geographic

distribution add another piece to be fit into the grand evolutionary puzzle.”

Paton did her doctoral work at Cornell University with William B. Provine, historian of population genetics and evolution. Before coming to OSU as a Postdoctoral Fellow, she taught at the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York, and at Yale University. During winter term, she will teach the history of science course “Theory of Evolution and Foundation

of Modern Biology.”

“I’m especially looking forward to this seminar. It’s a chance to see what Oregon’s science and humanities students will do with the important, complicated and beautiful problems evolutionary biology presents to all of us.”

## Center Advisory Board 2011-12

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### Thoreau program . . . (continued from page 1)

a humanities topic, for in addition to Thoreau's fern, the exhibit includes a poster created by forest ecologist Duncan Thomas that explains the basic biology of color change in leaves.

The fern was collected by Thoreau, probably around 1851. After he died, it passed through the hands of various friends and at length was sent by Mrs. E.S. Rolfe to Albert Sweetser, founding director of the University of Oregon herbarium. Mrs. Rolfe's note concluded: "You may have it if you care for it, or if not maybe you know of someone who would; if not then the waste basket may come into service once more."

The fern, *Lygodium palmatum*, is not only rare but unusual among ferns in that it grows like a vine. Thoreau's specimen was one of many inherited by OSU in 1993 after the UO herbarium closed. It was discovered in the collection last year by taxonomist Stephen Meyers, whose article about it appeared in a recent Oregon Flora Newsletter. Herbarium Director Aaron Liston and Curator Richard Halse generously agreed to lend it to the Center for the program and the exhibit (for details on the art show, see page 6).

The speakers who shared the program on Thoreau's essay *Autumnal Tints* were Center Director David

Robinson and William Rossi, professor of English at UO. Robinson is the author of numerous books, including *Natural Life: Thoreau's Worldly Transcendentalism*, and a long-time author—a position now held by Rossi—of the annual assessment of scholarship on Emerson and Thoreau published in *American Literary Scholarship* by Duke University Press. Rossi is an expert on Thoreau's massive *Journal*, and editor of the Norton Critical Edition of *Thoreau's Walden, Civil Disobedience, and Other Writings*.

Thoreau was a self-taught botanist and a keenly observant naturalist whose observations of flowering times near his home in Concord, Mass., were

accurate enough to be used in some current studies on global climate change. A 2008 paper published in *Ecology* compared Thoreau's data with later observations, and concluded that from 1852 to 2006, Concord temperatures rose by 2.4 degrees C, while plants there now flower seven days earlier than in his day.

The climbing fern was one of about 900 plants Thoreau collected from 1850 until his death in 1872. "It is a most beautiful slender and delicate fern," he wrote, "twining like a vine about the stem of the meadow-sweet, panicked andromeda, goldenrods etc. to the height of three feet or more, and difficult to detach from them. . . Our most beautiful fern, and most suitable for wreaths or garlands. It is rare."

Note attached to  
the herbarium  
sheet containing a  
rare fern collected  
by Thoreau

Prof. Sweetser:

This little vine was gathered in Connecticut and sent by Thoreau to a "botanical" friend of mine in Wisconsin, and she gave it to me.

You may have it if you care for it, or if not maybe you know of someone who would; if not then the waste basket may come into service once more.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. E. S. Rolfe

## Peter J. Copek Fund



During Peter J. Copek's sixteen years as the founding director of the Center, he regularly made Center money available to support cultural events on campus. In addition to conferences, music festivals, and film series, the Center supported many special and unusual lectures and programs, including visits to OSU by Gore Vidal, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, and venerable South African township jazz singer and film star Dolly Rathebe. The level of support for such events has always depended on the state of the Center's finances from year to year. After Peter died suddenly in June, 2001, there was much discussion of how best to keep his name alive so that his impact on OSU intellectual life would not be forgotten. What resulted is the Peter J. Copek Fund, intended to provide more regular and stable support for the same kinds of cultural events that he supported through the Center. Recent examples of efforts that have received support from the Fund include OSU's new Asian Studies Program and the new Center for Latin@ Studies and Engagement (see story on page 11), the annual Magic Barrel reading to raise money to combat hunger, the OSU Holocaust Memorial Program, and the plays *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, about a student killed in Gaza while working for Palestinian human rights, and *The Feeble-mindedness of Women*, about the struggles of the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in physiology/medicine.

### PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE PETER J. COPEK FUND

For information on how to contribute, please see the Center's website and click on "Make a gift"

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/humanities/>

You may also send a check, made out to the OSU Foundation, Peter J. Copek Fund, to:

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811 S.W. Jefferson Avenue  
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# Fall & Winter Calendar

## FALL TERM

### Art Exhibit: September—December

*The Leaves of Autumn*

Prints by Ron Jeffers

### Lectures

4 p.m., Autzen House.

## October

- 3** *Henry David Thoreau and the Leaves of Autumn.* William Rossi, Department of English, University of Oregon, & David M. Robinson, Center Director.

- 17** *Seeds to the Wind: Growing Up Across Furrows and borders in Neoliberal Rural Mexico.* Fina Carpena-Mendez, Center Research Fellow, Anthropology Faculty, School of Language, Culture, and Society, OSU.

## November

- 7** *From Postmodernism to Ecocriticism: Notes toward a Paradigm Shift.* Robert Wess, English Faculty, emeritus, OSU.

- 14** *Rectification and Reterritorialization in the Klamath Basin.* Hannah Gosnell, Center Research Fellow, Geosciences Faculty, OSU.

## WINTER TERM

### Art Exhibit: January—March

*In Paris*

Photographs by Mina Carson

### Lectures

## January

- 23** *Medicine and Religion: Some Enduring Themes in History.* Gary Ferngren, Center Research Fellow, History Faculty, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, OSU.

- 30** *The Social and Biological Realities of Race.* Jonathan Kaplan, Center Research Fellow, Philosophy Faculty, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, OSU.

## February

- 13** *Saving Our Children from Other Women: Narratives of Rescue, Migration, and Illegitimate Motherhood.* Patti Duncan, Center Research Fellow, Women Studies Faculty, School of Language, Culture, and Society, OSU.

- 27** *The Ecology of Contemporary Yoga: Philosophy, Economics, Politics.* Stuart Sarbacker, Center Research Fellow, Philosophy Faculty, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, OSU.

## Center fellowships . . . (continued from page 1)

Until 2009-10, Fellowships also were awarded to faculty from other universities as well as independent scholars, but the Visiting Fellow program has been put on hold for a couple of years. When that program resumes, it will be noted in this newsletter and on the Center website. (For information on a new fellowship in the history and philosophy of science see announcement on Page 1.)

Applications from OSU faculty may be for any humanities related research, which should be understood to include not only traditional humanities disciplines but also those projects within the social and natural sciences that are historical or philosophical in approach, and that attempt to cast light on questions of interpretation or criticism traditionally found in the humanities. This also includes interpretations of science and technology.

Fellows are awarded one term of release from teaching, though they may keep their office in Autzen House for the

full academic year. The Center provides all Fellows with a computer and general office support services.

Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012. For application information, check the Center's website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/humanities/> or call 541-737-2450, or write to:

Fellowship Program  
Center for the Humanities  
Oregon State University  
811 S.W. Jefferson Avenue  
Corvallis, OR, 97333-4506

## The Center for the Humanities



The Center was established in 1984 as an outgrowth of the Humanities Development Program, which had been creating innovative interdisciplinary courses since 1977. The Center's focus has broadened to a concern for improving the quality of humanities research as well as teaching at OSU. This is accomplished through the awarding of resident research fellowships to both OSU and visiting scholar, including the Horning Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History and Philosophy of Science, as well as by sponsoring conferences, seminars, lecture series, art exhibits and other events. The Center occupies Autzen House, 811 S.W. Jefferson Avenue, Corvallis, OR, 97333-4506.

David Robinson  
Director

Wendy Madar  
Associate Director

Alison Ruch  
Office Coordinator



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