Dear Colleagues,

The books, the articles, the conferences, the seminars, and other activities mentioned in this issue of the newsletter are strong testimony to the creativity and the singular dedication of the Society of Fellows to our College and liberal learning. The work of the Society’s members in the classroom at Chicago is rigorous and inspiring. I know this from the testimony of your colleagues and your students. But the evidence of achievement contained in this newsletter goes well beyond our campus. The students and the faculties of many other universities and colleges benefit from the work begun in the Society of Fellows.

That members of the Society go on to remarkable careers is exactly what we expect of you and exactly what you expect of yourselves. Let me add a word about the importance of what you do here, in the classrooms, offices, libraries, and coffee shops of this College. The education we offer is a powerful experience for our students. We are fortunate to meet talented and ambitious and sometimes very well prepared young people on the first day of classes in the fall. But they are different at the end of the first year. We hope they are more attentive to arguments and to texts, and to other products of the human imagination, more aware of how much can be questioned and more aware of what a demanding task intelligent questioning is.

Insofar as our students make the progress we hope for them in their Core classes, progress toward the acquisitions of the skills of the scholar, it is substantially due to your willingness to meet them face-to-face week in and week out. It is you who engage them in questioning texts, ideas, and one another. It is you who read and comment on their papers. And it is you who embody for our students the very intellectual virtues that we want for them. This is a high calling, and I am grateful to you—present members of the Society of Fellows, and all who have belonged to this community in the past—for your dedication to it and the work of liberal learning at this College.

Sincerely,

John W. Boyer
JOHN ABROMEIT  
Social Sciences 2004-2008  
Assistant Professor, History and Social Studies Education Dept, SUNY-Buffalo State  
*Max Horkheimer and the Foundations of the Frankfurt School* (Cambridge, forthcoming 2011)

ASAD Q. AHMED  
Humanities 2006-2007  
Assistant Professor, Department of Arabic and Islamic Religion, Washington University in St. Louis  
2010-11 Mellon Member in Islamic Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University  
*Avicenna’s Deliverance: Logic* (Oxford University Press, April 2011)  
*The Islamic Scholarly Tradition: Studies in History, Law, and Thought in Honor of Professor Michael Allan Cook*. Coedited with Behnam Sadeghi and Michael Bonner (E.J Brill, April 2011)

JUDITH BROTMAN  
Humanities/Visual Arts 1996-99  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Contemporary Practices, School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Solo exhibition: "Loose Connections," DeVos Art Museum, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI (forthcoming 2011)  
Solo exhibition: "Unfinished Business," Hampshire College Art Gallery, Amherst, MA (forthcoming 2011)  
Group Exhibition, Herron Gallery, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN (forthcoming 2011)

ROBIN (LAUREN) DERBY  
Social Sciences 1996-1998  
Associate Professor  
Department of History, UCLA  
*Dictator’s Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Dominican Republic* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2009) was co-winner of the 2010 Gordon K. & Sybil Lewis Award from the Caribbean Studies Association and received honorable mention for the 2010 Bryce Wood Book Award from the Latin American Studies Association.

2010-2011 Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for new research on demonic animals and the poetics of deforestation in the Haitian-Dominican borderlands.

Judith Brotman  
*Loose Connections: A Love Story* (detail)  
Paper, thread  
2010-11
SARAH GRAFF
Social Sciences 2006-2010
Honors Faculty Fellow* at Barrett
The Honors College
Arizona State University


JEFF HUSH
Humanities 1991-1994
Libretto Writer, Producer and Choreographer

Working as an Independent Artist at Wesleyan University on an opera is called "Phoolan Devi" with the composer, Gayathri Khemadasa, currently a Fulbright Scholar from Sri Lanka.

BERNICE HAUSMAN
Humanities 1993-1995
Professor, Department of English
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Viral Mothers: Breastfeeding in the Age of HIV/AIDS (University of Michigan Press, 2010)

THEODORE KODITSCHEK
Social Sciences 1979-1980
Associate Professor, Department of History
University of Missouri


Challenging the master narrative of secularization, an exploration of the persistent influence of religious categories in the cultural landscape of Europe’s first secular state.

Sacred and Secular Agency in Early Modern France: Fragments of Religion
(Continuum, Feb 2012)

Edited by Sanja Perovic (Humanities 2004-2007)

In addition to Perovic, contributors include:
Craig Carson (Humanities 2007-2010),
Charly Coleman (Social Sciences 2005-2007),
and Erik Thomson (Social Sciences 2005-2008)

This volume arose from a conference entitled "Religion in French History and Literature" that was held at Chicago in February 2008. Sponsored by the France-Chicago Center, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, and the Society of Fellows, the conference was prompted by the fact that literary scholars and historians have in recent years grown increasingly occupied with the place of religion in the cultural landscapes of both the past and the present. The conference offered participants an opportunity to explore the topic from multiple disciplinary perspectives and along a wide chronological spectrum. The conference concluded with a keynote address by Professor Denis Crouzet (Université of Paris IV-Sorbonne), a leading authority on the history of the French Wars of Religion.

Sacred and Secular Agency in Early Modern France explores the opposition between ‘religion’ and ‘modernity,’ which has long held the status of a self-evident truth. How did religion become opposed to the secular and modern? If distinctions between sacred and secular are less adequate than commonly believed, how do these two categories interact? This book addresses these questions by exploring the persistence of religious categories on the cultural landscape of early modern France. By uncovering the role of religion in shaping categories most often associated with modernity, this book offers a new perspective on the master narrative of secularization.
STEPHEN E. LEWIS
*Humanities 1998-2002
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English
Franciscan University of Steubenville


LIESL OLSON
*Humanities 2005-2009
Scholar in Residence, Newberry Library


LYDIA PATTON
*Humanities 2004-2007
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy
Virginia Tech

“Experiment and Theory Building,” *Synthese* (online in 2010 and forthcoming in print)


GEOFFREY REES
*Humanities 2004-2008
Instructor of Health Care Ethics
Department of Religion, Health, and Human Values at Rush University

_The Romance of Innocent Sexuality_ (Cascade Books, 2011)

ELIZA RICHARDS
*Humanities 1997-1998
Associate Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Fellowship, National Humanities Center. One-year research award, 2010-2011


BRIAN SOUCEK
*Humanities 2005-2008
Clerk to the Hon. Mark R. Kravitz
United States District Court, District of Connecticut

JONATHAN SACHS
*Humanities 2001-2004
Associate Professor
Department of English
Concordia University


Received a Standard Research Grant (three years of funding) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

RICHARD WESTERMAN
*Social Sciences 2006-2010
Assistant Professor*, Department of Sociology
University of Alberta

"The reification of consciousness: Husserl's phenomenology in Lukács's identical subject-object," *New German Critique* #111 (Fall 2010 )

KARIN ZITZEWITZ
*Social Sciences 2006-2008
Assistant Professor of Art History and Visual Culture
Department of Art and Art History / Global Studies in Arts and Humanities Program, Michigan State University

“‘I am an Indian and a painter, that is all’: Intention and the Secular Subject in India,” in *Barefoot across the Nation: M. F. Husain and the Idea of India.* Ed. Sumathi Ramaswamy (New Delhi: Routledge, 2010)

*indicates that position begins Fall 2011

There are currently 217 alumni fellows ...and counting.

Please continue to send your updated contact info and news to jnklein@uchicago.edu.
2010-2011 Events

**Society of Fellows Meetings**
Organized by Collegiate Co-Chairs
Andrew Dilts and Katie Chenoweth
*All presenters are current fellows, unless otherwise indicated*

October 6
**Patchen Markell**
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
"What Are Poets For? Arendt on Brecht, and Others"

October 20
**Leigh Claire La Berge**
"Corporate Realism"

November 3
**Dorit Geva**
"Conscription, Familial Authority, and State Modernity in France and the United States"

November 17
**Megan Luke**
"The Merzbau as Light-Architecture and Film-Space"

January 12
**Laura Montanaro**
"Reflexive Constituency Formation: Political Representation and the Democratic Constitution of the Demos"

February 9
**Rebecca Zorach**
Associate Professor, Department of Art History
"Art & Soul: An Experimental Friendship between the Street and a Museum"

February 23
**Katie Chenoweth**
"Last Defenses: Jacques Derrida and the "Old New" French Language"

April 6
**Tim Michael**
"The Egyptian Uprising: Text and Context"

April 20
**Jennifer Palmer**
"White Subjects: Constructing Race and Gender through Portraiture in Eighteenth-Century France"

April 26
**Publishing the First Book:**
Q&A with Alan G. Thomas, Editorial Director Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Chicago Press

**May 4**
**Nick Gaskill**
"A Natural History of Local Color: Hamlin Garland and the Evolution of Regionalism"

**May 11**
**Editor's Roundtable:**
Publishing in Academic Journals:
Q&A with Andrew Abbott (American Journal of Sociology), Tom Mitchell (Critical Inquiry), Richard Strier (Modern Philology)

**May 25**
**Spencer Leonard**
"Adam Smith, the India Question, and the Crisis of the British Revolution"

**Text Seminars**
Organized by Weissbourd Coordinators
Dina Gusejnova and Emily Steinlight

November 10
**Jacqueline Stevens**
Professor of Political Science, Northwestern
"States without Nations"

January 5
**Eric Santner**
Philip and Ida Romberg Professor in Germanic Studies
"The Royal Remains: The People's Two Bodies and the Endgames of Sovereignty"

February 10
**Hamza Walker**
Director of Education and Associate Curator The Renaissance Society
"Value: an exhibition in progress"

February 23
**Katie Chenoweth**
"Last Defenses: Jacques Derrida and the "Old New" French Language"

**May 18**
**Roland Kamzelak**
Executive Director, German Literary Archive, Marbach
"The Grand Tour in print: Count Harry Kessler's travel diaries as an editorial challenge"
An inevitable term in virtually all areas of critical analysis, “contradiction” describes a fraught relationship between established categories of thought. Various signaling a logical impossibility or impasse, an opposing claim or negation, or literally, an act of “speaking against” or speaking otherwise, the notion of contradiction opens up a path toward interdisciplinary examination of the foundations of critical inquiry itself. How does contradiction shape the central problems we address in fields as distinct as history, philosophy, literary and cultural criticism, poetics, politics, psychology, theology, and law? What is the relationship between such apparently static oppositions as nature/artifice or sacred/profane and dynamic understandings of contradiction such as dialectics? What forms of coherence and consistency are required for critiques of scientific theories, of artworks and aesthetic practices, of speech acts and texts, or of social and political ideologies? How do we live with contradiction, in theory and in practice? And can we live without it?

COMPLETE DETAILS:  
http://societyoffellows.uchicago.edu/contradiction
KATIE CHENOWETH


Katie will be participating in the 2011 Workshop of the Derrida Seminar Translation Project in Caen, France.

ED DAIN
"Throwing the Baby Out," (with James Conant) in *Beyond the Tractatus Wars*. Ed. Read and Lavery, (Routledge, forthcoming)

ANDREW DILTS

"From 'Entrepreneur of the Self' to 'Care of the Self': Neoliberal Governmentality and Foucault's Ethics," *Foucault Studies* (forthcoming)


ERIN FEHSKENS
"The Matter of Bodies: Materiality on Nalo Hopkinson's Cybernetic Planet," *Global South* 4.2 (Fall 2011)

DORIT GEVA


JUDITH GOLDMAN
*l.b.; or, catenaries* (Krupskaya Press, Summer 2011)

ELIZABETH HEATH
"Creating Rural Citizens in Guadeloupe in the Early Third Republic," *Slavery & Abolition* (June 2011)

Received a Library Research grant to the Getty Research Institute and a short-term fellowship to the Wolfsonian Collection

REHA KADAKAL presented at a Conference on Immigration and Integration Issues organized by the German Consulate General at German House in New York City and held in cooperation with the Foreign Press Association, the American Council on Germany and Hunter College Graduate Social Research Program.

STEFAN KLUSEMANN

Presentation at the Conference "Violence, Terror, and Radicalism" at the Sorbonne, Paris, June 3-4, 2011
KLUSEMANN continued

MEGAN LUKE
_The Image in Exile: The Late Work of Kurt Schwitters_ (University of Chicago Press, forthcoming)


MARA MARIN
Received a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Studies, "Justitia Amplificata: Rethinking Justice - Applied and Global," at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main for the 2012-2013 academic year.

TIMOTHY MICHAEL has four articles coming out this year, including "Coleridge, Hume, and the Principles of Political Knowledge" in _Studies in Romanticism_ (Fall 2010)

LAURA MONTANARO


GEOF OPPENHEIMER
Solo Exhibition: Ratio3, San Francisco, CA (forthcoming 2011)

Exhibition and Catalogue: SITe Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM (forthcoming 2011)

EMILY STEINLIGHT
"Dickens's 'Supernumeraries' and the Biopolitical Imagination of Victorian Fiction," in _Novel: A Forum on Fiction_ (Summer 2010)

"Why Novels Are Redundant: Sensation Fiction and the Invention of Sexual Selection," _English Literary History_ (forthcoming)


AUDREY WASSER
"A Relentless Spinozism: Deleuze's Encounter with Beckett," _SubStance_ (forthcoming)

Audrey will spend the month of July at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in southern Italy, where she will take classes in aesthetic philosophy and present her work on the relation of Kant's third _Critique_ to American New Criticism.

NEW POSITIONS FOR DEPARTING FELLOWS

Anita Chari
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Oregon, Eugene

Katie Chenoweth
Assistant Professor of Romance Languages
Washington & Lee University

Ed Dain
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Providence College

Andrew Dilts
Assistant Professor of Political Theory
Loyola Marymount University

Erin Fehskens
Assistant Professor in English
Towson University

Judith Goldman
Roberta C. Holloway Lectureship in the Practice of Poetry (Fall 2011)
University at California, Berkeley

Dina Gusejnova
Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship
History Department
University College London (UCL)

Elizabeth Heath
Visiting Assistant Professor
Earlham College

Megan Luke
Assistant Professor
Department of Art History
University of Southern California

Jennifer Palmer
Assistant Professor
Department of History
University of Georgia
I often give talks about the Experimental Station, the non-profit I co-founded in 2002 and of which I am Executive Director. When doing so, I sometimes warn my audience that you should never make assumptions about people with PhDs in French Literature; they may turn out to be among the most practical and engaged people you will meet. That I wrote a dissertation entitled “The Politics of Escapism” seems now revelatory of a deep-seated duality looking for resolution. Even as I have stepped away from academia as the center of my activity, I have continued to contemplate the intersection of cultural and political engagement and critique and the seemingly contrary impulse toward an ‘elsewhere’ that preoccupied me in my scholarly work. The Experimental Station has grown in many ways out of my own, one-day-to-be-explained need to explore and merge those impulses in practice.

Located on 61st Street between Dorchester and Blackstone Avenues, the Experimental Station is a cultivator of a diverse array of cultural and educational projects and small businesses. We operate Blackstone Bicycle Works (a community bike shop and youth education program), the 61st Street Farmers Market (working to rebuild the local food culture on the south side of the Midway), the Invisible Institute (a multi-media journalism program dedicated to fostering discourse around important local issues), LINK Access at City Farmers Markets (we provide acceptance of LINK—food stamps—at City of Chicago farmers markets), and LINK Up Illinois (the creation of a fund to enable qualifying farmers markets in Illinois to offer financial incentives to LINK beneficiaries to purchase healthy foods). We have also provided space to other businesses and projects, including Backstory Cafe, B’Gabs Goodies, Roots and Shoots, the Yamaguchi Institute, Peterman art studio, and the Major Taylor Bicycle Club, and host numerous cultural events each year.

At the center of my commitment to building Experimental Station have been questions looking for answers. Among them: How—against ‘standard of living’—does one assert ‘quality of life’? How does one foster the practice of esthetic and poetic values in and through an organization? How and where do everyday cultural and political practices meet, and how can an organization foster these encounters? How can one build and sustain an organization that addresses serious issues but that never operates without self-critique, irony and humor?

—Connie Spreen (Humanities 1998-2002)