Hello to everyone out there in Society of Fellows-land and all the post-docs at sea. We weren’t sure how to begin our first update to you, so like good academics, we did some research into the genre of newsletter updates and found that they had their origin in the circulars among abolitionist societies in the early 19th century. We identified subsequent eras as being influenced by the progressive movement of the early 20th century, the post-war boom in family announcement letters, and the flourishing of home desktop publishing that began in the late 1980s. Newsletter updates now face an uncertain future as organizations and families move to the continuous circulation of information made possible by online social networks.

In fact, all of that information is made up, but we do want to share some real information about the Society of Fellows. The Society welcomed thirteen new Harper-Schmidt fellows this year – an unusually large number as the Society continues to expand. These fellows work on an amazing array of topics, studying everything from how the role of the spy in literature illuminates the nature of state sovereignty to how icons of warrior saints provide insights into interfaith relations between Christians and Muslims during the Crusades.

The heart of the Society remains junior and senior fellows presenting work to each other at biweekly meetings. This year, these meetings began with senior fellow Robert Richards presenting his research on the controversial question “Was Hitler a Darwinian?” Subsequent meetings of the Society featured junior fellows Audrey Wasser, Mara Marin, and Spencer Leonard presenting their work on the development of the concept of literature, Rousseau’s argument about the state of nature, and the interpretations of British imperialism offered by Karl Marx and Adam Smith.

A new addition to the life of the Society is a quarterly dinner at which a senior fellow presents a recently published major project. To kick off this new tradition, the Society gathered at La Petit Folie to recognize and celebrate the publication senior fellow Clifford Ando’s new book Law, Language, and Empire in the Roman Tradition.

Three other recent developments warrant mention. Thanks to Dean Boyer, each Harper-Schmidt Fellow can now hire an undergraduate to provide research assistance throughout the year. This new opportunity will both contribute to the professional development of undergraduates who have expressed interest in doing research and facilitate the development of new research projects by junior fellows. Also thanks to Dean Boyer, the research budget for Harper-Schmidt Fellows was increased to $3,000 for this year and $5,000 for next year. This increase will significantly expand the research opportunities available to junior fellows. Finally, we should note the dramatic improvement in research efficiency made possible by the addition of a new coffee machine to the Fellows Lounge.

We wish you all the best in 2012.
–Collegiate Co-Chairs Timothy Michael and Benjamin McKean

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**2011-2012 Junior Fellows**

Tamar Abramov  
Heather Badamo  
Fadi Bardawil  
Nathan Bauer  
Greg Beckett  
Brandon Fogel  
Itamar Francez  
Roxana Galusca  
Nicholas Gaskill  
Markus Hardtmann  
Stefan Klusemann  
Spencer Leonard  
Mark Loeffler  
Mara Marin  
Benjamin McKean  
Timothy Michael  
Laura Montanaro  
Poornima Paidipaty  
Karthikey Pandian  
Geneviève Rousselière  
Lauren Silvers  
Emily Steinlight  
Bettina Stoetzer  
Corey Tazzara  
Zhivka Valiavicharska  
Neil Verma  
Audrey Wasser  
Max Whyte  
Jim Wilson

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**2011-2012 Senior Fellows**

Clifford Ando  
Leora Auslander  
David Bevington  
James Chandler  
Ted Cohen  
Bert Cohler  
Julie Cooper  
Daisy Deolu  
Christopher Faraone  
Robert Gooding-Williams  
Adam Green  
Ramon Gutiérrez  
Bernard Harcourt  
Gary Herrigel  
Travis Jackson  
John Kelly  
Michele Lowrie  
William Mazzarella  
Christine Mehring  
Robert Morrissey  
James Nye  
Stephen Palmie  
Mark Payne  
Jennifer Pitts  
Robert Richards  
Mario Santana  
Julie Saville  
Noa Steimatsky  
Mario Small  
Justin Steinberg  
Richard Strier  
Nathan Tarcov  
Hamza Walker  
Christopher Wild  
Lawrence Zbikowski  
Linda Zerilli  
Rebecca Zorach
Autumn 2011 saw the largest group of incoming junior fellows in the history of the Society of Fellows: seven new fellows in Social Sciences and six new fellows in the Humanities. The fellows listed below were selected from just under 900 applications (approximately 300 in the Social Sciences and 600 in the Humanities).

TAMAR ABRAMOV

Humanities

Tamar Abramov received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University in 2008. She has since taught at the University of Minnesota’s German Department, at Deep Springs College and at Harvard’s Literature Concentration. She works in the intersection of philosophy, literature and psychoanalysis and is also interested in film theory. Her dissertation, To Catch a Spy: Explorations in Subjectivity, argues that literature and film become home to the spy when the disciplines charged with regulating his actions, especially international law, break down. It shows that by embodying one of the law’s blind spots, the spy finds his home in literature, and that it is precisely to the law’s blindness that espionage literature responds. Articles on Brecht, Kleist, and Valerie Plame, amongst others, are submitted or forthcoming.

HEATHER BADAMO

Humanities

Heather Badamo is an art historian working on the intersection of Christian and Islamic visual culture in the frontier zones of the medieval eastern Mediterranean. She is currently working on a manuscript, entitled “Image and Community: Representations of Military Saints in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean,” focusing on the cult of the warrior saints as seen through the lens of its icons – images of aggressive saints believed to perform miracles of salvation and conversion – which provide insights into issues of interfactional relations between Christians and Muslims in Egypt and the Levant during the era of the Crusades. Heather has been a fellow at the Fulbright Foundation, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection amongst others. She received her Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Michigan in 2011.

FADI BARDAWIL

Social Sciences

Fadi Bardawil’s research, at the crossroads of anthropology and intellectual history, focuses on contemporary modernist Arab thought and the international circulation of theological discourses as well as their political effects in distinct contexts of reception. His dissertation examined the ebbing away of Marxist thought and practice in the Levant by focusing on the intellectual and political trajectories of a generation (born around 1940) of disenchanted, previously militant, public figures. By engaging memoirs, party documents, theoretical texts as well as interviews, this work explored ideological transformations in the region, the vexed relation of intellectuals to political militancy as well as the shifting articulations of Western metropolitan fields of cultural production to Levantine ones. His writings have appeared in al-Akhbar Daily, the Journal for Palestine Studies (Arabic Edition), Jadaliyya, and Kulturautausch. In 2010-11, he was a EUUME Fellow and a visiting scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics at Freie Universität (Berlin). Bardawil received his PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University in 2010.

ITAMAR FRANCEZ

Humanities

Itamar Francez is a linguist who works on natural language semantics and the philosophy of language. He received his PhD in Linguistics from Stanford University in 2007. His current research centers on two domains. The first is the relation between semantics and pragmatics, in particular the interaction of rules of semantic composition with contextual factors in determining meaning. In this context, he has written about the interpretation of implicit content – elements in the meaning of utterances that are not expressed by any overt expression, on the semantics and pragmatics of conditionals, and on the interpretation of temporal modifiers. His second main area of research is on cross-linguistic semantic variation. Together with colleagues in Manchester and Chicago, he started a project studying the way in which different languages express predication and comparison, focusing on less familiar and understudied languages, such as the endangered Nicaraguan language Ulwa.

MICHAEL GALLOPE

Humanities

Michael Gallope is a musicologist who studies the philosophy and intellectual history of music. He is especially interested in using theoretical concepts to analyze processes of modernist self-justification in twentieth and twenty-first century music, both literate and vernacular, from Schoenberg and Ravel to free jazz and West African electronica. He completed his PhD at New York University, where he earned an Advanced Certificate in Poetics and Theory and wrote a dissertation that developed an analytical vocabulary to compare diverging habits of speculative thought among the “musical” exemplars of continental philosophy (Bloch, Adorno, Jankélévitch, Deleuze and Guattari). He is currently laying the groundwork for a longer-term project entitled “Music and the Force of the Political”—a philological examination of music’s role in the materialization of consequential socio-political transformations.

ROXANA GALUSCA

Humanities

Roxana Galusca is a scholar of literature and cultural studies, working on the culture industries, transnational feminism, the sexual politics of immigration, and U.S. immigration literatures. Her dissertation “Projects of Humanitarianism: Sex Trafficking and Migration in the Twenty-First Century United States” identifies and traces the emergence in the culture industry of a humanitarian approach to gender justice that draws on historical discourses of sexual vulnerability to inscribe women’s migration into managed projects of humanitarian care and compassion. Bringing together diverse genres and cultural forms—from documentary film and photographic essays to audiovisual testimonies—Roxana’s project demonstrates that the culture industry has become a major social and economic resource in engendering a humanitarian ethics, especially for anti-trafficking activism. Her next project, tentatively titled: “Anti-Politics: the Aesthetics of Women’s International Resistance during Cold War” draws on archival research to examine literary and political writings by Eastern European women and international women’s groups in the context of Cold War politics. Roxana received her doctorate in English from the University of Michigan in 2011.

Continued on next page...
MARK Loeffler received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago in 2011. His dissertation examines contestations of finance capital in Germany and Britain, between the first “Great Depression” of 1873-1896, through the interwar Depression and its aftermath. He treats the formation of critical discourses on finance as transnational phenomena, and his extensive research traverses popular and elite sources. Across these sites, he argues, three dimensions of “anti-financial” discourse emerged to general prominence: the tendency to reduce the axes of modern political-economic exploitation and conflict to binaries of the virtuous “producer” vs. the financial “parasite”; the imputation of economic crises exclusively to finance; and a tendency towards conspiracy theorizing, including anti-Semitism. Mark’s work develops social-theoretical perspectives on why such contestations of finance became meaningful and compelling to a wide cast of historical actors.

KARTHIK PANDIAN
Karthik Pandian is an artist whose practice seeks to unsettle the contradictions at the heart of the monument. Concerned in particular with the way in which history lurks in matter, Pandian often uses 16mm film to excavate sites for fragments of political intensity. Through moving image, sculpture and syntheses of the two, his work imagines freedom in relation to the impositions of architecture. He has had solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis; and Galerie Meyer Kainer, Vienna, amongst others. His work has been the subject of numerous published writings, including a feature in Artforum and a catalogue essay by Michael Taussig. Pandian’s exhibitions have been supported by grants from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and the Dorfee Foundation amongst others. He received his MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA in 2008.

GENEVIEVE ROUSSELIÈRE
Geneviève Rousselière is a political theorist whose research focuses on the concepts of freedom, subjection and state intervention in modern European political thought. Her dissertation, Freedom and the State in the Age of Market Economy, presents a novel history of freedom in early nineteenth century France that uncovers the role of Constant, Tocqueville, as well as radical figures such as Sismondi and Blanc in building a distinct modern and social republican theory of freedom. The dissertation examines the contributions of these authors to thinking through the material conditions of individual freedom as self-development before the dual threats of subjection posed by other individuals as competitors in the market and by the growing power of the state. She received her PhD in Politics from Princeton University in 2011.

BETTINA STOETZER
Bettina Stoetzer is an anthropologist whose research focuses on the intersections of ecology, nationalism, and urban life. Her dissertation, “At the Forest Edges of the City: Nature, Race and National Belonging in Berlin,” engages several sites – gardens, forests, urban parks and a post-unification era nature park at Berlin’s fringes – to examine how “natural” landscapes become sites of contestation over citizenship and race. Drawing on participant observation and interviews with different immigrant communities, as well as environmentalists, urban planners, and German nature lovers, her research shows that “nature” becomes a key register through which current forms of urban marginality and belonging are articulated in a new Europe. Bettina completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of California Santa Cruz in 2011. Bettina has previously published InDifferenzen (argument, 2004) and has co-edited Shock and Awe. War on Words (New Pacific Press, 2004).

COREY TAZZARA
Corey received his PhD in history from Stanford University in 2011. His research focuses on the economic and political history of early modern Italy. His dissertation is entitled, ”The Masterpiece of the Medici: Commerce, Politics, and the Making of the Free Port of Livorno, 1574-1790.” By examining the theory and...
practice of the free port from its inception to the dawn of liberalism, his thesis establishes a distinctive Italian contribution to the debates over political economy whose history has been organized around the English and French contexts. In other projects he is interested in material culture, the problem of customs fraud in the Atlantic and Mediterranean worlds, and information flows between Italy and the Ottoman Empire.

ZHIVKA VALIAVICHARSKA
Social Sciences
Zhivka Valiavicharska received her PhD in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2011. She works in the fields of modern social and political thought and critical theory. Her dissertation examines the political uses, material effects, and the structuring agency of the Stalinist discourse in socialist and post-socialist East-European philosophy. Her current book project aims to disarticulate Lenin’s contributions to political thought from their Stalinist uses. Offering new readings of Lenin’s work, she traces the discursive production of a coherent theory of “Leninism” during Stalinist Soviet Union and shows how twentieth-century intellectual histories of Marxist thought have retained unquestioned assumptions about Lenin’s work, which continue to reproduce the Stalinist legacy. Her other works in progress include a project on the intellectual and political contributions of Marxist humanist movements in Eastern Europe from the 1960s and 1970s, which called for a “third way” for socialism’s future.

JAMES LINDLEY WILSON
Social Sciences
James Lindley Wilson received his Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in 2011, and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 2007. Jim’s research interests span political philosophy, ethics, and law. Most of his work has focused on normative democratic theory, including the moral evaluation of democracy and questions of what democratic ideals require of citizens and institutions. His dissertation, “Finding Time for Democracy: A Theory of Political Equality,” attempts to articulate the moral force of the democratic idea that all citizens are equal political authorities, and to explain how that abstract idea ought to regulate the design and operation of political institutions. Jim has published articles in the American Political Science Review, the Review of Politics, and Representation. He is currently revising his dissertation into a book manuscript, and writing related articles on applied problems in democratic institutional design.
Sir Robert Dudley (1574-1649) was the bastard son of Sir Robert Dudley (1532-1588), better known as the Earl of Leicester and famous as the lover of Queen Elizabeth. Dudley, like other young men of vast wealth, took to the seas. In 1594-95, he organized a four-ship expedition to the West Indies. He explored the coast of Guiana, named an undiscovered island after himself, and learned how to navigate under the tutelage of a master pilot. In 1605, however, King James denied Dudley’s claims to be the legitimate son of the Earl of Leicester, thus wrecking not only Dudley’s honor, but also his access to titles of nobility and his father’s patrimony. He responded like a true buccaneer. Abandoning wife and children, Dudley seduced a lady of the court, fled to the continent, and converted to Catholicism. He secured papal approval for his actions and sought refuge with Ferdinando I, Grand Duke of Tuscany.

In 1591, Ferdinando had invited merchants of all nations or religions to settle in his new port of Livorno. His call was broad: “all you merchants of whatever nation – Easterners, Westerners, Spanish, Portuguese, Greeks, Germans, Italians, Jews, Turks, Moors, Armenians, Persians, and those of other states.” The Grand Duke nursed ambitions not only of using Livorno to break into markets in the Ottoman Empire, but also to develop direct ties with colonies in the East and West Indies.

The ship *Santa Lucia Buonaventura* departed from Livorno in September 1608, bound for the West Indies. Following detailed instructions provided by Dudley, Captain Robert Thornton explored the Guiana, the Orinoco, and the Amazon. Despite picking up a cargo of natives, he failed to sell the ship’s merchandise and returned empty-handed. He was lucky to be alive: a couple of mutinous bombardiers had plotted to kill him, steal the ship, and sell its wares. The *Santa Lucia Buonaventura* returned in July 1609, ten months after its departure and five months after the death of its sponsor, Ferdinando I.

Dudley wrote about the expedition in his six-volume, richly illustrated *Arcano del Mare* (“The Secrets of the Sea”). Published for the first time in 1646, the *Arcano* contains 127 maps constructed from his own experience, the accounts of Jesuits in Asia, the *Principal Navigations of Hakluyt*, and the work of other cartographers. Each map is accompanied by a description of the place depicted: whether their towns were fortified, whether their inhabitants were warlike, what commodities were available for trade, and other peculiarities a navigator might need to know. The voyage to Guiana and the *Arcano del Mare* are testimonials to Dudley’s personal mastery of the sea, but they also recall a world in which a small Italian state could still harbor hopes – some would say delusions – of participating directly in the new horizons of global trade. It was that dream that inspired the Grand Duke to establish Livorno, the Amsterdam of the Mediterranean, where Protestants, Jews, and even Muslims could trade on equal terms a century and a half before any other Europeans were thinking about the virtues of free trade.
**ALUMNI FELLOW NEWS**

**CRISCILLA BENFORD** *(Humanities 2004-2008)* co-edited, with Rebecca Mitchell, a critical edition of George Meredith's *Modern Love and Poems of the English Roadside, with Poems and Ballads for Yale University Press. This edition, which is thoroughly annotated and includes contemporary reviews as well as a historical contexts section, will be available in 2012.


**MOGENS LAERKE** *(Humanities 2007 – 2009)* will hold a Marie Curie Research Fellowship at the Ecole Normale Superieure in Lyon from 2011-2013.

Since 2010, **JONATHAN SACHS** *(Humanities 2001-2004)* has been Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol (March 2010), Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge (Spring 2011), and Visiting Fellow at Trinity Hall, Cambridge (Fall 2011).


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**FROM FORMER FELLOW LIESL OLSON** *(Humanities 2005-2009)*

In January 2012, I will start a new position as Director of the Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture at the Newberry Library in Chicago. The Scholl is one of four research centers at the Newberry built around the library’s collection strengths, and directed by a scholar in the field. “American History and Culture” is a very wide umbrella, of course, and I hope to highlight in particular the library’s rich collections in American literature, including the papers of Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, Floyd Dell, Ernest Hemingway, and Fanny Butcher, to name a few of the many writers whose papers are held at the Newberry.

I was a fellow at the Newberry before I took this position, and what they say is true: after working in the library’s collections, your research will inevitably include some beautiful maps. I’m currently working on a book about the literary and artistic centrality of Chicago in the first half of the twentieth century, so many of the maps that interest me relate to the city of Chicago. But the Newberry has materials for scholars of all historical, literary, and theoretical bents. If you have yet to check out their collections, look here: [http://www.newberry.org/core-collections](http://www.newberry.org/core-collections)

In cooperation with Chicago-area universities, the Scholl Center also sponsors seminars that bring scholars and students from different institutions together to discuss their ongoing research in a workshop format. The seminars are a fantastic way to meet scholars outside of your own institution, and to discuss work in a lively, non-hierarchical format. Find out more about seminars here: [http://www.newberry.org/center-american-history-and-culture-programs](http://www.newberry.org/center-american-history-and-culture-programs)

I am looking to expand upon the Scholl’s research and public programming by reaching out to scholars who have not traditionally done work at the Newberry—especially artists and writers. Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas for potential projects and collaborations. Beginning in January, contact me at: [olsonl@newberry.org](mailto:olsonl@newberry.org).
SOF MEETINGS
Organized by Collegiate Co-Chairs Ben McKean & Tim Michael

AUTUMN
Oct 10 CV & Cover Letter Workshop
Oct 12 Robert Richards (Sr Fellow)
Oct 26 Audrey Wasser (Jr Fellow)
Nov 9 Mara Marin (Jr Fellow)
Nov 30 Spencer Marin (Jr Fellow)

WINTER
Jan 11 Stefan Klusemann (Jr Fellow)
Jan 25 Genevieve Rousseliere
Feb 8 Richard Strier (Sr Fellow)
Feb 22 Poornima Paidipaty (Jr Fellow)
Feb 29 Lauren Silvers (Jr Fellow)
Mar 7 Jim Wilson (Jr Fellow)

SPRING
Apr 4 Julie Saville (Sr Fellow)
Apr 18 Neil Verma (Jr Fellow)
May 2 Daisy Delogu (Sr Fellow)
May 16 Roxana Galusca (Jr Fellow)
May 30 Larry Zbikowski (Sr Fellow) & Michael Gallope (Jr Fellow)

WEISSBOURD EVENTS
Organized by Weissbourd Co-Chairs Spencer Leonard & Neil Verma

AUTUMN
Oct 19 Mark Alznauer, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Northwestern, spoke about his recent work on Hegel.
Nov 11 Fall Symposium This year we had twenty-three fellows presenting on aspects of their ongoing research.
Nov 16 Deirdre McCloskey, Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English, and Communication, UIC & Professor of Economic History, Gothenburg University, presented part of the forthcoming third volume in her Bourgeois Era series.

WINTER
Jan 12 William Sewell, Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science, University of Chicago, will address the rise of fashion and consumerism and the accompanying transformation in Parisian sensibilities in the decades just prior to the French Revolution.

SPRING
Apr 25 James Naremore, Chancellor's Professor of Speech Communication, Chancellor’s Professor of Comparative Literature, English, and Film Studies,
May 9 Janice Radway, Walter Dill Scott Professor of Communication Studies at Northwestern University & Professor Emerita of Literature and History, Duke University
May Weissbourd Conference: Ground Stories 18+19 (see Call For Papers on next page)

For complete event details, please visit http://societyoffellows.uchicago.edu
Alumni fellows are invited and welcome to attend Society of Fellows events, though advance notice is appreciated.
CALL FOR PAPERS: GROUND STORIES

The Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago invites paper proposals for the annual Weissbourd Memorial Conference, to be held May 18-19, 2012 at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, on the theme “Ground Stories.” Our theme focuses on groundedness, a quality located in the stratigraphy – both real and imagined – beneath a variety of structures, concepts, and institutions. One dimension of the theme considers ground as itself a political and historical variable. How did ground emerge as a definite material through fields such as geology and archaeology? How do peoples today identify an underground stratum as the “first story” of their local residency, often to exclude co-occupants or to delegitimize competing narratives? Who decides what counts as the “ground story” of a given institutional architecture, the entrance and exit for locals and visitors alike, the level that replicates its perimeter upward? What arbitrations appear or intensify when we stand our ground, loose ground, break ground, dig in? And when do we know that the ground beneath us is shaking – or giving way?

We also consider “grounding” as that with which claims are credentialized and certified. In the moment they are grounded, propositions reckon with protocols of falsification and become candidates for sanction. What tacit contingencies – historical, legal, political, poetic, economic – govern this moment of grounding across disciplines and eras? When do we sense that we’ve hit pay dirt, fathomed an idea, or run aground? How do images or texts come to be touted as “fertile ground” in philosophy, religion, law and science? What stories do we tell and about grounding moments that fix canons and provide bedrock upon which subsequent evaluation rests? The objective of this conference is not to judge competing claims over what counts as the first stratum of particular theories, nations or disciplines, but rather to call new attention to those very competitions and the narratives that inform their adjudication. The Society especially encourages work that critically reflects on “archaeologies of knowledge” and other “excavatory” habits of thought, as metapRACTICES that have become common ground in many scholarly areas in recent decades, as well as new work on stratigraphic ways of understanding political and social disputes. Ground Stories seeks to provide fresh ground to rethink the quarrying of truths in fields ranging from history, politics and economics to literary studies, critical theory, the sciences and beyond. The conference website will be live in January 2012.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS


The title of Professor Jay’s address is “Ungrounded: Max Horkheimer and the Founding of the Frankfurt School.” Speaking in response to Martin Jay will be Moishe Postone, author of Time, Labor and Social Domination (1993), Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and Co-Director of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory.

TO PROPOSE A PAPER OR PANEL

To propose a paper, please submit an abstract of 250 words or less, along with a brief biography of the presenter. Please email this to conference co-chairs Spencer Leonard and Neil Verma at weissbourd12@gmail.com.

To propose a panel, provide the above material for all presenters, along with a panel title and an explanation of its ambit, no more than 500 words in length.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL PROPOSALS IS FEBRUARY 20, 2012.