



HERA

Humanities Education and Research Association

A professional organization for humanities teachers, scholars, and museum directors

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*From Your HERA President
Therese Tomaszek,
Davenport University, Grand Rapids*

In Praise of Intersections and Transformations

Dear HERA Members,

For those of you who were with us in El Paso, I want to extend my thanks. The diversity of papers, panels, creative presentations, and other cultural productions truly embodied the conference's theme "Intersections" and gave us ample opportunities for replenishing our minds and spirits. For those who couldn't join us, please consider participating in San Francisco 2011 when our theme will be "Transformations."



Dr. Maceo Dailey, Jr., keynote speaker at the 2010 HERA Conference in El Paso. Photo by Marcia Green

In my Welcome talk at the conference, I said that "I think you have chosen HERA because it offers you something that you don't find anywhere else," and some of you told me later that the words struck a chord with you. What an interdisciplinary association like HERA offers is, at the core, what Stephen Mexal discussed in his recent *Chronicle* (May 23, 2010) essay "The Unintended Values of the Humanities." In this essay, which deserves a

complete reading, Mexal observes that the humanities assert what self-described instrumental fields of inquiry often veil; that is, "All researchers, NASA scientists and poetry scholars alike, possess an essential cluelessness about the ultimate outcomes of their work." Isn't that a powerful statement! HERA members don't deny the ambiguity. We embrace it. We celebrate the unknown, where disciplines intersect. We delight in surprises. It's what makes our conference an exciting time and our copies of *Interdisciplinary Humanities* something to savor.

As Mexal writes, "We don't know exactly what we're going to find out – and that is precisely the point. After all, if we knew in advance precisely how a research project would be useful, why would we need to do it at all?" The 'something' that HERA offers is freedom to explore the intersections and sufficient time and space to communicate, collaborate, reflect, practice, and learn something for the sake of learning.



Conference session attendees at the 2010 HERA Conference in El Paso. Photo by Marcia Green

I hope that you will continue to share with us your academic and personal adventures in the humanities by contributing to the Newsletter and joining us in San Francisco next spring. Please look for details about the conference in our fall Newsletter and on our website.

Best always,

Terri

**President's Welcome Address. 2010 HERA
Conference in El Paso, Texas.**

by: Therese Tomaszek

Welcome to HERA's second conference. I want to begin by thanking the University of Texas, El Paso; our Program Chair Dr. Ron Weber, Director of the Humanities & MAIS Programs at UTEP; and our site coordinator Dr. Lee Ann Westman who have worked so diligently to make this conference a success. Without them, we would not be here celebrating the humanities and El Paso's rich cultural heritage. I also want to thank Dr. Marcia Green, our CFO and executive director. In any organization, there is a key person who holds the reins to keep everyone moving in the same direction. For HERA, this person is Marcia. We owe her a debt of gratitude. I would also like to thank the conference committee, HERA board, and advisory committee for lending their support to advance humanities education and research. HERA is a better association because of their participation.



Dr. Ron Weber at the 2010 HERA Conference in El Paso Texas. Photo by Marcia Green.

A year ago on a much colder, windier evening in Chicago, I welcomed many of you to HERA's first conference and said, at this time, that this new association would become a site of "dialogue between and across all content areas and perspectives, an intersection where today's burning issues can be addressed and where we can become better decision makers and engaged citizens." It is appropriate that, a year later, our second conference is taking place on this borderland with its unique southwestern culture and that the theme is *Intersections*.

No doubt, you chose this conference because you are, at heart, interdisciplinarians, curious about the intersections where multiple disciplines and perspectives come together, assumptions are interrogated, lines are blurred, common ground is found, inclusion is celebrated, people are valued, and knowledge is produced. What better way to make a space for collaboration and communication

across disciplinary boundaries than at an international, interdisciplinary conference like this one!

You may know that a great interdisciplinarian passed away in January. Howard Zinn, a historian, teacher, activist, philosopher, and author of *A People's History*, once said that the source of the greatest leaps forward were by those who acted "as if." He wrote, "The four Negro youngsters in Greensboro who in 1960 walked into Woolworth's acted **as if** they would be served." "England in 1940 acted **as if** it could repel a German invasion." As Professor Zinn understood, change happens only when we have the ability to think "as if," to think beyond the boundaries; and our future as humanities professionals will also be decided by our ability to think "as if."

. . . As if the humanities will play a prominent part in national and international discourse

. . . As if we will transform society by our words and actions

. . . As if we will invent better ways to engage our communities

. . . As if we will extend our reach to engage new communities

I think you have chosen HERA because it offers you something that you don't find anywhere else, and I hope that you will continue to choose HERA so that, together, we can make our "as if's" a reality.

Then, what can you do? First, please consider revising your paper presentations to submit to our journal *Interdisciplinary Humanities*. Second, we would love to know more about your projects, writing and presentations, travel, events, leadership, and all things related to the humanities. I hope you will send articles to the HERA Newsletter to communicate with all of us. Third, we will remain vital only if our membership is strong. If this conference has been beneficial to you, I hope that you will tell your colleagues about HERA and that you will encourage your students to become members too because they will become the decision-makers upon whom the future of the humanities depends.

Since our plenary session tonight will focus on a discussion of the children's book, I would like to end with a quote from a book by E.B. White. In *Charlotte's Web*, Charlotte, a character who knows a few things about intertwining threads, says, "A spider's life can't help being something of a mess, with all this trapping and eating flies. By helping you, perhaps I was trying to lift up my life a trifle. Heaven knows anyone's life can stand a little of that." I hope that you will permit HERA to assist you in lifting yourself up and lifting all of us up as we communicate and collaborate together. Next year, we'll meet in San Francisco for *Transformations*. I hope you'll join us there.

Interdisciplinary Humanities

The Humanities Education and Research Association's Scholarly Journal: *Interdisciplinary Humanities* is a refereed scholarly journal, published twice a year.

There is the possibility that some authors will be asked to revise and re-submit for consideration in future issues. When submitting to *Interdisciplinary Humanities*, remember all essays and poems should be interdisciplinary in nature. Essays should not exceed 6,000 words and should be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Subscriptions are included as a benefit of membership in the Humanities Education and Research Association. Libraries and institutions may subscribe for \$100.00 per year.

Submit articles and Creative Works to co-editors, Stephen Husarik shusarik@uafortsmith.edu and Lee Ann Westman, lewestman@utep.edu. Don't forget to include your e-mail address. Check HERA's website under JOURNAL to

Spring 2011 El Paso 2010 Conference papers, Co-edited by Stephen Husarik and Lee Ann Westman . Please contact co-editors Stephen Husarik (479.788.7555, shusarik@uafortsmith.edu) or Lee Ann Westman (915.747.5028, lewestman@utep.edu) for further information. Submission Deadline Nov. 1, 2010.

Fall 2011 - (mis)Representing Difference in Media and Everyday Items. Guest editory Susan Booker Morris, Director of Jim Crow Museum, Ferris State University. This special issue on the representation of the 'other' invites analysis of race, ethnicity, nationality, queerness, or gender as found in representations in television, ads, films, photographs, video games, computer images, etc. Any theoretical bases are welcome. Use of the Jim Crow Museum at www.ferris.edu/jimcrow is particularly encouraged but not required. Send inquiries and papers to Susan Booker Morris at: morrisus@ferris.edu. Submission Deadline May 1, 2011.

Spring 2012 - Children's Media. Wynn Yarbrough, guest editor. This issue will offer up articles, essays, interviews, and creative works by authors who write or produce works for children. Video games, picture books, fantasy, hi-hop children's poetry: the various media that are relevant to children and have become part of twenty first century humanities warrants study and exploration for teachers and scholars in the humanities. Send inquiries and submissions to Dr. Wynn Yarbrough at wynnyarbrough@hotmail.com. Submission Deadline is Nov. 1, 2011.

Fall 2012 - Service Learning in the Humanities, Isabel Baca, UTEP, guest editor. This issue will include articles, essays, and reflective pieces on service-learning from various points of view: students, faculty, agency mentors, and higher-education and non-profit community

administration and staff. Documents may focus on studies, theory, and reflection. Send inquiries and submissions to Isabel Baca at ibaca@utep.edu. Submission Deadline May. 1, 2012.

Calling all Book Reviewers!

IH editors are looking for well written book reviews of new publications that educators might use in interdisciplinary classrooms or scholarship. These can be scholarly works as well as textbooks that examine themes and ideas across disciplines. This is an excellent opportunity for young scholars and graduate students to publish! Please submit reviews to Wynn Yarbrough. wynnyarbrough@hotmail.com

2011 Conference Transformations

March 3-5, 2011 at the Hotel Whitcomb



The 2011 San Francisco conference of the **Humanities Research and Education Association** will center around transformations.

Those transformations happen in four groupings or "streams." The conference seeks a very broad range of contributions, but will be structured in such a way that participants can follow one particular "stream" or may move among "streams" if they so desire.

For more information about the specific "streams" visit http://www.h-e-r-a.org/hera_call.htm.

Send Proposals to: Shawn Tucker stucker@elon.edu and Marcia Green mgreen@sfsu.edu

Hotel costs for the conference at the beautiful historic [Hotel Whitcomb](http://www.hotelwhitcomb.com) in Downtown San Francisco will be an amazing \$79/night. Make your plans to attend now. Other specific details about the conference are forthcoming. They will be posted on the HERA website and in the fall newsletter.

Member Updates

Kristina Darling has published her first book of poems titled *Night Songs*. The book has been published by Gold Wake Press.



<http://goldwakepress.org/print-series>

Donald Larsson and his wife **Natalie Rosinsky** visited Istanbul for a week in May, where Don gave a paper on film adaptations of graphic novels at the annual "Literature and Film" graduate student conference at Istanbul University. He noted, "It was humbling to be speaking in a 600-year old building in a lecture hall that had once been an open courtyard (evident from the drain spouts in the corners of the now-ceilinged room). Later in the week, Natalie (a writer of children's non-fiction) had arranged a meeting with Dr. Fatih Erdogan, a retired professor who is a children's author and the owner of Mavibulut press, which publishes children's books including new works in Turkish as well as translations of such classics as *The Little Prince* and children's versions in English of *Tom Sawyer* and *Oliver Twist*. Several of Fatih's former students and fellow authors met with us for coffee next door to our hotel, just across the narrow street from the courtyard of Hagia Sophia. We met in a coffeehouse that had once been a medrese (school) designed by Sinan, the greatest architect of the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. Sinan's work, which includes over 360 structures--about one-third of them mosques including the great Suleymaneyi Mosque--can be seen all over Istanbul.

Now that they are back in Minnesota, they are in transition. They will soon be moving to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, where Don will be assuming new duties as President of the Inter Faculty Association, the faculty union for the seven Minnesota state universities.



Heather Pinson has recently published her book *The Jazz Image: Seeing Music through Herman Leonard's Photography*. Her book is published by the University Press of Mississippi. For more details about the book, visit the publisher's site:

<http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1264>.

Heather also has an article, "Sight and Sound: How an Image Defines Popular Music," featuring Annie Leibovitz's photo of Keith Richards taken in 2008 for the "Core Values" campaign that is to be published in a forthcoming book called *Rock Brands: Selling Sound in a Media Saturated Culture* by Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield Publications, Inc. and edited by Elizabeth B. Christian. Date of publication is TBA but probably 2011.

Shawn Tucker received a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities of up to \$25,000 to develop a new course for Elon University. Tucker's new interdisciplinary course, "Pride, Humility, and the Good Life," will help students define their own concepts of pride and humility through research and analysis. While the spring 2011 course will draw upon his background in the humanities, Tucker said he plans to bring in a range of scholarly perspectives to the discussion, from religion and film to literature and business. For more details, see <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=946299&searchTerms=tucker>

HERA Newsletter Items

The HERA newsletter is published three times a year and features conference and journal updates, information about HERA members, web sites about interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship, reports on effective teaching strategies, travelogues, and other brief information that would be relevant to humanities educators. **Send your newsletter items to:** Jim Bell, HERA Newsletter Editor, School of Communications, Grand Valley State University, 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401 or via email at: bellja@gvsu.edu (email is the preferred method).

The production of this newsletter is made possible by the support of the School of Communications and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Grand Valley State University, Anthony Thompson, Director and Fred Antczak, Dean.

HERA Mission Statement

The Humanities Education and Research Association is organized as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, exclusively for charitable, research and education purposes.

The mission of the organization is to:

- Promote the worldwide study, teaching and understanding of the humanities across a range of disciplines.
- Support the interchange of research and the scholarships of knowledge, teaching and service in the humanities through conferences, publications, and related activities in a worldwide context
- Provide additional forums for the exchange of ideas regarding humanities education in schools, colleges and universities, libraries and museums, and other contexts

For more information go to www.h-e-r-a.org

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Donate

Your donation is tax deductible and will help promote the worldwide study, teaching and understanding of the humanities across a range of disciplines. We need your help to keep the Humanities strong and thriving.

Send your donation to: HERA, P.O. Box 777, Pacifica, CA 94044-4206

Interested in Joining HERA? HERA Membership Application

Membership/Subscription Application

Membership includes: *Interdisciplinary Humanities* (HERA's journal is published two times a year.) HERA's newsletter is published in the fall, winter, and spring.

Send your completed application with a check to the address listed below. All memberships begin January 1 and end December 31. Please check appropriate category.

Check appropriate category

___ Individual 1-year membership: \$80

___ Employee of Institutional Member, 1-year membership: \$65

___ Joint 1-year membership: \$120

___ Full time student membership: \$40

___ Retired: \$40

___ Library memberships to *Interdisciplinary Humanities*: \$100

___ Institutional 1-year membership: \$500

Institutional members are recognized in conference materials and on the HERA website. Individuals employed by institutional members enjoy reduced membership. A 1-year membership fee for an employee of an institutional member is \$65.)

Name:

Affiliation:

Specialization or Special Interests:

E-mail address:

Preferred Mailing Address:

Work phone/Home phone numbers:

Enclose check for category indicated above, made out to:

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