

## Spring 2008 Faculty Fellows Lecture and Workshop Series

The Center for the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis is pleased to announce its third class of faculty fellows programs for February 2008.

### Guest Faculty

Jane Maienschein, Regents' Professor and Chair of the Program  
for Science and Society at Arizona State University

#### Tuesday, February 5 4 p.m. Rebstock 322

Lecture: "From Transplantation to Translation: Why History Matters in Stem Cell Research"

The U.S. federal government and many states are considering legislation either to endorse and fund or to prohibit stem cell research. President George W. Bush has expressed his opposition through an Executive Order to prohibit using federal funds for human embryonic stem cell research. Why? Do they even know what are they talking about? And why all the fuss? What difference do the recently announced stem cell research discoveries make? In fact, MBL luminary E.B. Wilson first named an early version of "stem cells," and the first stem cell experiment was over a century ago. A rich history of studies of cell and tissue transplantation followed and has led to current stem cell research. Today the NIH demands "translation" of labo-

ratory research into clinical therapies. In all this fuss and bother, is there anything new under the sun? What is at issue with today's research, and what can we learn from the past efforts to turn from transplantation research to translational results?

#### Wednesday, February 6 12 p.m. Rebstock 322

Workshop: "Embryos in Context"

This workshop will introduce participants to the Embryo Project at Arizona State University, which is a collaborative international effort to record and share what we know about the history of stem cell research and its many contexts. Even defining what an embryo is has been influenced by the contexts of background medical, religious, ethical, legal, and other scientific research. What is an embryo, who says, how do we know, and how does our understanding of embryos change in different contexts? And given the changes, how can we develop intel-

ligent policy and guidance for wise and productive embryo research?

Invited by 2008 faculty fellow Garland Allen, Professor in the Department of Biology

Jane Maienschein, Regents Professor in the Departments of Biology and Philosophy at Arizona State University, has done much to integrate the philosophy of science (in her special focus, developmental biology) with its history, and to use this synthetic approach to address questions of bioethics. Her 2003 book, *Whose View of Life?* addressed the question of when can "a human life," in an embryological sense, be said to begin? Historically, when a human embryo is claimed to be "human" has changed over time and in different cultural contexts. Professor Maienschein uses this approach to throw light on current debates about embryonic stem cell research, cloning, and other biotechnological controversies.

—Garland Allen

### Faculty Fellow

Joseph Schraibman, Professor in the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures at Washington University in St. Louis

#### Wednesday, February 20 4 p.m. TBA

Lecture: "Twentieth-Century Fiction: The Shadow of the Inquisition in Three Spanish Works"

Professor Schraibman will give a talk based on his study of three key Span-

ish authors' works related to the Iberian Inquisition. The works are Francisco Ayala's "The Inquisitor," from *El Inquisidor y Otras Narraciones Espanolas* (1970), a complex work dealing with the conversion of Rabbi Shlomo Halevi around 1350 to Catholicism; Ana Maria Matute's *School of the Sun* (trans. 1963), which combines the beginning of the

Spanish Civil War with the conversion and persecution of the "Catholic Jews" of Majorca; and Carme Riera's *In the Last Blue* (trans. 1994), about the *chuetas* of Majorca leading up to the *auto da fe* of 1691.

The events are free and open to the public.

For more information call 314-935-5576 or email [cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu).



## Center for the Humanities Announces Its Fourth Class of Faculty Fellows

The Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences announces its spring 2009 Faculty Fellows. The three recipients are Guinn Batten, Ph.D., associate professor of English; Andrea Friedman, Ph.D., associate professor of history and Women & Gender Studies; and Jennifer Kapczynski, Ph.D., assistant professor of German, all in Arts & Sciences.

Each fellow will spend a semester in-residence at the center, researching a new book project while performing various duties as fellows, which includes delivering one formal, public lecture about their work.



*Guinn Batten, Ph.D.*

Batten's project, *English Romanticism and the Ethics of Contemporary Irish Poetry*, is the first book-length study to relate two periods of literary revival—English Romanticism and the current revival of Irish poetry in response to the Ulster Crisis of the late nineteenth century. Specific, she addresses how living Irish poets have interpreted, and put into practice, the questions that Romantic poets have been credited with introducing into our conception of the ethi-

cal role of literature during a time of political upheaval for which “woman” is at once a symptom and a symbol.

Friedman's project, *Democracy in (Cold War) America: Gender, Race, and the Problem of Citizenship at Mid-Century*, explores the ways those longstanding contradictions in the contours of American democracy and the practices of American citizenship were sharpened during the early cold war era. She will use a series of biographical studies to investigate the racial and gender tensions in cold war era citizenship to illustrate the ways that the boundaries of postwar citizenship were being tested, defended, and sometimes redrawn.

Kapczynski's book project is entitled *Leading Men: Remaking Masculinity in 1950s West German Cinema*. She aims to show that the men of 1950s cinema do not so much lead as they are *led*. By examining a wide range of filmic production of the 1950s, Kapczynski will argue that the films of the early Federal Republic privilege a masculinity that receives, rather than takes, one that is borne along by history, rather than actively shaping it, constructing the ideal postwar democratic male subject as an armchair onlooker in the course of world events.

The faculty fellowships, now



*Andrea Friedman, Ph.D.*

in their fourth year, are designed to provide both physical and intellectual environments for innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. The fellowships are open to all tenured and tenure-track faculty in the Arts & Sciences. Winners are selected by a panel of university faculty and outside reviewers.

For more information, visit <http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/> or contact the Center for the Humanities at (314) 935-5576.



*Jennifer Kapczynski, Ph.D.*

