

## **2008 Alumni Lifelong Learning Opportunities**

### **ON-CAMPUS EVENTS:**

#### **Austin Civic Orchestra Performs at Southwestern**

**Jan. 19, 2008**

The Sarofim School of Fine Arts presented a performance by the Austin Civic Orchestra. The orchestra perform its Winter Concert, titled "Fifth Avenue." Internationally-renowned pianist Anton Nel performed Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor," on a program that also included the 5th Symphony of Dmitri Shostakovich and Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5.

#### **Fleming Lecture in Religion and Willson Lecture**

**Jan. 30, 2008**

The 2008 Fleming Lecture in Religion and the Willson Lecture was a combined event featuring Cain Hope Felder, professor of New Testament language and literature at the School of Divinity at Howard University. Felder is recognized as a leader in the academic study of the New Testament, with a specific focus on the African presence in the scripture. He taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and was the first national director of the United Methodist Black Caucus. He is also the founder and president of the Biblical Institute for Social Change (BISC), an organization dedicated to inform, inspire, affirm and transform the Christian community through scholarship and research. Felder is author and editor of several books including *Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class and Family*, *The Original African Heritage Study Bible*, *Stony the Road We Trod* and many more. He is also editor of *The Journal of Religious Thought*. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Howard University, a diploma in theology in New Testament and Greek from Oxford University, a master of divinity in theology degree from Union Theological Seminary, and a master and doctorate of philosophy degrees in biblical languages and literature from Columbia University.

#### **Guest Artist Exhibit**

**Feb. 13 – April 4, 2008**

An exhibit by internationally known printmaker, Rudy Pozzatti, titled "Bestiaries," was on display at the Fine Arts Gallery in The Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Brown Symposium. The collection featured images from two hand-printed artist's books, "The Bestiary of Bishop Theobaldus" and "Darwin's Bestiary." Pozzatti is a distinguished professor *emeritus* at the Hope School of Fine Arts of the University of Indiana.

#### **Theatre Performance: *Fiddler on the Roof***

**March 6-9, 2008**

The Southwestern University Theatre Department invited alumni and their families to attend *Fiddler on the Roof* in the Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones Theatre of The Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center.

## **Southwestern Hosts Texas United Methodist Historical Society Annual Meeting March 28-29, 2008**

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society held its annual meeting at Southwestern University. The theme was “The 40th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Central Jurisdiction: The Church Deals with Institutional Racism.”

### **Guest Artists Performances**

#### **March 29, 2008**

Thad Anderson, instructor of percussion at Southwestern University and Eileen Meyer Russell, associate professor of low brass, hosted guest performances by Eric Hollenbeck, percussionist, and Sotto Voce, a tuba-euphonium quartet. High school students who play euphonium, tuba, and percussion were also invited to activities during the day, which included music reading and performing and master class sessions with the artists.

### **The 30th Brown Symposium**

#### **April 3-4, 2008**

The theme of the 30th Brown Symposium was “Umwelt: Exploring the Self-Worlds of Human and Non-Human Animals,” based on an influential paper by Jakob von Uexkull (1934) who argued that to truly understand animal behavior, one must appreciate the animal's “*umwelt*” or self-world. Presentations by four speakers and an art exhibition reflected on how humans can experience the self-worlds of species other than our own. This year's speakers and featured artist were:

- Dr. Diane Ackerman, writer and poet, author of *The Zookeeper's Wife* and *An Alchemy of Mind*.
- Dr. Christopher W. Clark, Imogene Powers Johnson director of the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and senior scientist in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior.
- Dr. David Fogel, president and chief executive officer of Natural Selection, Inc.
- Dr. Michael S. Gazzaniga, professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Rudy Pozzatti, artist and distinguished professor *emeritus* of fine arts at Indiana University.

### **Equity in Education: Opportunity for All Panel Discussion**

#### **April 10, 2008**

As part of the celebration planned to honor **Gwen Griffin Sherman** '80 with the Distinguished Alumna Award, The Association of Southwestern University Alumni hosted Equity in Education: Opportunity for All, a panel discussion. Steve Seleznow, director of education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Sherman's colleague, provided introductory remarks on the topic and share some of the initiatives that the Gates Foundation has undertaken to ensure that all children have equal opportunity to quality education, and then led a panel of experts in a discussion about this important issue.

## **International Trombone Week at Southwestern**

**April 10, 2008**

The Music Department celebrated “International Trombone Week” with a concert in the Lois Perkins Chapel featuring performances by Eileen Meyer Russell, associate professor of low brass, **Ellsworth Peterson** ’55, professor *emeritus* of music, and a trombone choir composed of students, amateur and professional players.

## **2008 Shilling Lecture**

**Monday, April 21, 2008**

Former U.S. Senator, Bill Bradley spoke on *The New American Story, including Nine Questions to Ask Before Voting for President*, as the 2008 Roy and Margaret Shilling lecturer. Bradley provided insights as to why he thinks politics is stuck and idealism is not dead. A Princeton graduate and Rhodes Scholar, Bradley served three terms in the U.S. Senate. Throughout his wide-ranging career, Bradley played professional basketball for the New York Knicks, received an Olympic Gold Medal in basketball, authored four books, and currently serves as a visiting professor at Stanford, Notre Dame and the University of Maryland.

## **Theatre Performance: *SubUrbia***

**April 23-27, 2008**

The Southwestern University Theatre Department invited alumni and their families to attend *SubUrbia*. Some plays are set in castles, drawing rooms or on ancient battlefields. *SubUrbia* presents a day in the life of seven rootless young Americans who hang out every night in the parking lot of a convenience store. This parking lot becomes the private domain of three men in their very early twenties: Jeff is a sometime student, Buff an easy-going party animal, and Tim is an alcoholic Air Force vet. They talk trash, drink beer, get high, eat Oreos and harass the owners of the convenience store, and revel in their high school glory days. The return of their high school friend, Pony – now a successful rock singer with a video on MTV – sparks an extraordinarily explosive night of drinking, sex and violence as the friends air their resentments and examine the choices they’ve made. This is an edgy, sarcastic, captivating and thoroughly compelling drama about our disenfranchised youth, written by one of America’s leading contemporary playwrights.

## **Commencement Address**

**May 10, 2008**

James Winkler, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society for the United Methodist Church, gave the 2008 commencement address at Southwestern University. The General Board of Church and Society is the international public policy and social justice agency of the United Methodist Church. Winkler has been the chief executive of the board since November 2000, overseeing a staff of 26 with offices on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and in New York City across from the United Nations. Winkler has led delegations to the Middle East, Iraq and Germany, working for peaceful public policy in the midst of global conflict. He also has traveled throughout Africa, Asia and Europe promoting the justice work of the United Methodist Church. He is a frequent spokesperson to national and international media about the justice work of the United Methodist Church. “Jim Winkler is one of the bravest voices in the worldwide United Methodist Church,” said Southwestern University President Jake B. Schrum. “The agency he heads is concerned with some of the greatest social issues of our time.”

## **Aldersgate Day Celebration**

**May 22, 2008**

Aldersgate Day commemorates the founder of Methodism John Wesley's "heart-warming" experience on Aldersgate Street in London in 1738. In honor of the 270th anniversary of Aldersgate Day, **Ellsworth Peterson '55** and **Rev. Milton Jordan '62** coordinated a celebration for Thursday, May 22, in the Lois Perkins Chapel at Southwestern University. The day featured a morning presentation by Rev. Debra Crumpton, pastor at Wellspring United Methodist Church in Georgetown, on the topic of Christian community. A lunch buffet was served in The Cove located on the lower level of the Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center. Following lunch, **Ellsworth Peterson '55**, professor emeritus of music, gave a presentation on aspects of the Wesleyan music tradition. And, interspersed throughout the day's celebration, **Henry Holloway '50** will lead the singing of Wesleyan hymns.

## **Southwestern and Chorus Austin**

**June 6-8, 2008**

Directed by Southwestern University professor of music, Kenny Sheppard, and accompanied by David Utterback, instructor of music at The Sarofim School of Fine Arts, Chorus Austin is the musical home for many Southwestern alumni, faculty and staff. Chorus Austin is comprised of three groups - Austin Civic Chorus, Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble (AVAE) and Chorus Austin Consort - which perform several times year, presenting vocal music from a variety of genres and eras. At rehearsals, you'll regularly find **Nettie Ruth Brucks Bratton '48**, Professor Emeritus Bob Horick, **Eve Porter Fariss '60**, Associate Professor of Music Bruce Cain, **Katie Gleason Lewis '01**, and many more members of the Southwestern community. Check out these 2008 season highlights:

Friday, June 6, 2008 in the Lois Perkins Chapel, AVAE performed choral music by Felix Mendelssohn, edited by professor of music J. Michael Cooper, for a Choral Evensong officiated by **Bishop Joe Wilson '59**. The performance was part of the Georgetown Festival of the Arts, under the artistic direction of **Ellsworth Peterson '55**, professor *emeritus* of music.

Sunday, June 8, 2008 at the Klett Center for the Performing Arts at Georgetown High School, Austin Civic Chorus joined with the San Gabriel Chorale and the Mendelssohn Festival Orchestra for an encore performance of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," edited by J. Michael Cooper. **Virginia Hyde Dupuy '71** and Bruce Cain, associate professor of music, were among the soloists for this performance, which is the finale of the Georgetown Festival of the Arts.

## **Southwestern Holds French Film Festival**

**Sept. 10 – Oct. 8, 2008**

The French Program at Southwestern University received an \$1,800 grant that enabled it to host its second annual community-wide Tournees Film Festival. The festival featured five recent films from or about France, all with the theme of love, ranging in focus from warm recollections of friends and family, to first glances and flowering passions, to spiritual life in a monastery in the Alps. The series highlighted both diverse approaches to the relationships that define us and an array of cinematic techniques that evoke how love shapes our lives.

- Wednesday, Sept. 10 – “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly.” An enthralling true story of a stroke victim’s reconnection with the world and his loved ones.
- Wednesday, Sept. 17 – “Tell No One.” A fast-paced thriller in which a man deeply in love with his wife must lead his own investigation into her alleged murder.
- Wednesday Sept. 24 – “‘L’origine de la tendresse’ and Other Tales.” A program of short films, including on love found in the Paris metro and a woman’s immigration to France.
- Wednesday, Oct. 1 – “Lady Chatterley.” A stylish, sensual adaptation of D. H. Lawrence’s controversial 1928 novel “Lady Chatterley’s Lover.”
- Wednesday, Oct. 08 – “Into Great Silence.” A transcendent look at spirituality quietly filmed at the Grande Chartreuse monastery in the French Alps.

All films were shown in French with English subtitles. The events were organized by Aaron Prevots, assistant professor of French in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

### **The Sarofim School of Fine Arts Fall 2008 Arts Calendar**

#### **Oct. 1 – Nov. 9, 2008**

Southwestern’s Sarofim School of Fine Arts announced its slate of performances and exhibitions for the fall semester. Highlights include an art exhibit, “Near East Meets West,” to run Oct. 1-31, the Theatre School’s performance of a new adaptation of Aristophane’s “Lysistrata,” October 1-5, the Southwestern University Opera Theatre’s performance of Purcell’s “Dido and Aeneas,” scheduled for Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, and a Black Box Theatre performance of Joyce Carol Oates’ “I Stand Before You Naked,” Nov. 6-9, during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

### **Tibetan Writer and Filmmaker Visits Southwestern**

#### **Oct. 6-7, 2008**

Tibetan writer and filmmaker Dorje Tsering Chenaksang, commonly known as Jangbu, will spoke at Southwestern University as part of a month-long festival highlighting the art and culture of Tibet. On Monday, Oct. 6, Jangbu gave a talk titled “An Overview on the Development of Modern Tibetan Literature.” On Tuesday, Oct, 7, Jangbu’s latest documentary was shown in the Alma Thomas Theater. The documentary, titled “Kokonor,” is about the impact of tourism on a small Tibetan community on Lake Qinghai (in the People’s Republic of China). “Jangbu is one of Tibet’s most innovative modern writers, and one of Tibet’s first filmmakers,” said Patricia Schiaffini, a Chinese professor at Southwestern whose research focuses on Tibet. In addition to writing scripts for world-acclaimed movies about Tibet, Jangbu also is a well-known poet. In conjunction with Jangbu’s visit, Southwestern hosted an exhibit of pictures of China and Tibet by Austin-based artist Rama Tiru on display throughout October in the Walzel Lobby outside the Alma Thomas Theater.

### **Azar Nafisi Serves as the 2008 Writer’s Voice Speaker**

#### **Nov. 11, 2008**

Iranian writer, scholar and social activist Azar Nafisi was the 2008 speaker for the Writer’s Voice series sponsored by the A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library at Southwestern. Nafisi is best known as the author of Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books, which spent two years on the New York Times Best Seller List. The book details how Nafisi met privately with a group of her women students to discuss works of literature against the back drop of Tehran in the mid-1990s. Nafisi was ousted from her teaching position at the Tehran University in 1995 for refusing to

wear the mandatory Islamic veil. Today, Nafisi is a visiting fellow at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., and teaches courses on the relation between culture and politics. She also is director of the SAIS Dialogue Project at the Foreign Policy Institute of the University's School of Advanced International Studies. The A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library staff graciously offered to designate 50 advance tickets for alumni to reserve along with the campus community (students, faculty and staff).

## **LOCAL ASSOCIATION HOSTED LIFELONG LEARNING EVENTS:**

### **Road Scholars Hit the Road**

- **The San Antonio Area Association** (Jan. 27, 2008) - Romi Burks, assistant professor of biology, "The Wonders of Chocolate."
- **The Houston Association** (Feb. 12, 2008) - Jim Hunt, University provost and professor of education, "Fulfilling an American Dream: The Quest for Educational Equality."
- **The Greater Austin Association** (Feb. 26, 2008) - Eric Selbin, professor of political science and University Scholar, "Latin America's Shifting Political Winds: Will We Catch a Cold?"
- **The Bay Area Association** (March 26, 2008) - Eric Selbin, professor of political science and University Scholar, "Latin America's Shifting Political Winds: Will We Catch a Cold?"
- **The Big Apple Association** (Oct. 16, 2008) - David Gaines, professor of English and director of the Paideia® Program, "Global Citizenship and Southwestern University: Paideia and Computers for the Children of Honduras."
- **The Washington, D.C. Association** (Oct. 18, 2008) - Robert "Bob" Snyder, professor of political science, "US Foreign Policy and the Next President."

### **Chautauqua Institution 2008 Summer Program and Group Rates**

If you are looking for an enriching, relaxing experience for you and your family this summer, the Chautauqua Institution is offering a special, all-inclusive group rate for Southwestern University alumni. The Chautauqua Institution is a not-for-profit organization that offers programs and facilities for spiritual renewal, intellectual stimulation and art appreciation. Among its amenities are accommodations at the Athenaeum Hotel, performance venues, golf, tennis, and educational and recreational facilities. Southwestern University learned about the educational offerings of Chautauqua Institution through the Institution's new director of education **Sherra Haygood Babcock '70**.