

Alumni Lifelong Learning Opportunities

January-June 2009

ON-CAMPUS EVENTS:

Alumna Lectures on Campus

Feb. 3, 2009

Southwestern's English Department invited **Emily Davis '98**, Assistant Professor of World Literatures at the University of Delaware, to present a lecture titled "Global Romance: The Transnational Transformations of a Genre."

2009 Brown Symposium – Science and Religion: Conflict or Convergence?

Feb. 5-6, 2009

The 2009 Brown Symposium brought to the Southwestern University campus seven distinguished scholars whose work focuses on the intersection of science and religion. This year's event was developed by Benjamin Pierce, Professor of Biology and holder of the Lillian Nelson Pratt Chair at Southwestern University.

Featured Presenters:

- Andrew Newberg, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Center for Spirituality and the Mind
- Simon Conway Morris, Ph.D, University of Cambridge
- Mary Evelyn Tucker, Ph.D, Yale University, Forum on Religion and Ecology
- David Sloan Wilson, Ph.D., State University of New York, Binghamton
- Christopher Bader, Ph.D., and Paul Froese, Ph.D., Baylor University, Baylor Survey of Religion

An exhibit by French poet and artist, Christian Lavigne, co-founder of Ars Mathematica, was also on display in the Fine Arts Gallery in conjunction with the symposium.

2009 Shilling Lecture – Wangari Maathai

Feb. 10, 2009

Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, gave the 2009 Shilling Lecture at Southwestern University. A native of Kenya, Maathai was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree. Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work with the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, which she founded in 1977. The organization encourages women's groups to plant trees to prevent soil erosion, provide firewood and produce food. Maathai shared her life story in her 2006 memoir, "Unbowed." Her story is also featured in a new award-winning documentary titled "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai." Thanks to Southwestern University's Audio-Visual Services and CollegeTVTicket, this year's Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture was made available, for a limited time, for online viewing.

Theatre Performance: *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

Feb. 25 - March 1, 2009

Professor of theatre, Rick Roemer, directed a performance of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in the Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones Theater located in The Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center. There

was a special midnight performance Friday, Feb. 27. “Dress up like one of your favorite delicious characters, play along with the actors on stage, and possibly win 2 free Easter New York Theater Tour packages, which include air-fare, hotel and tickets to 3 fantastic Broadway shows!”

King Creativity Fund Symposium and Dinner

March 30, 2009

Student recipients of King Creativity awards presented the results of their projects at a symposium and dinner to which alumni and other members of the Southwestern community were invited. The King Creativity Program was started in 2000 with an endowment provided by Southwestern alumnus **W. Joseph “Joey” King** ’93. Each year, the endowment supports up to 20 “innovative and visionary projects” proposed by Southwestern students. This year, nine projects were funded for a total of \$12,644.

The Sarofim School of Fine Arts Presents *The Color of Dissonance*

April 3, 2009

The Sarofim School of Fine Arts staged the premiere performance of an original production entitled *The Color of Dissonance*, a creative adaptation of the correspondence between Kandinsky, Münter and Schoenberg, whose artistic collaboration played an important role in the development of modernism in Western music and art during the period 1911-14. In conjunction with the production, a one-day symposium was held Friday, April 3 before the opening performance. The symposium featured specialists from the fields of German cultural, music and art history, and provided a critical and historical context for the performances of the opera. The symposium was sponsored by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Southwestern’s Global Citizens Fund, the Fleming Lectures in Religion, the Visiting Artists and Scholars Series, the Art & Art History Department, the International Studies Program, the Feminist Studies Program, and the Modern Languages & Literatures Department.

The Association of Southwestern University Alumni Assembly Presents Science and Society

April 18, 2009

Alumni Assembly Program Chair **Dennis Moore** ’95 planned an exceptional program “Science and Society” for Southwestern alumni. Science plays a part in nearly every aspect of modern life. It shapes the debate on major political issues such as climate change, global health, energy policy and genetic engineering. It is the foundation of many of the most successful business enterprises the world has known. And it influences decisions large and small, from the products we buy to the medical care treatments we choose. From our living rooms to world affairs, science is integral to our lives. And yet, how well does the public understand the science underlying today’s debates and developments? As consumers, how prepared are we to evaluate the costs and benefits of exploiting new technologies? As voters, how prepared are Americans to utilize the conclusions of the scientific community when addressing social and political concerns? For that matter, how well do business leaders, educators, and policy makers themselves understand science, and how well do they apply that understanding in their decision making? This program explored the nature and history of science, its role and status in America today, and what it all has to do with every one of us.

The Sarofim School of Fine Arts Presents *Buried Child*

April 22-26, 2009

Buried Child, written by Sam Shepard and directed by Part-time Assistant Professor of Theatre Jared J. Stein, was performed in Jones Theatre by students of The Sarofim School of Fine Arts. Winner of the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this powerful and brilliant play probes deep into the disintegration of the American Dream. Sam Shepard, playwright and actor, has been a major force in contemporary American theatre since his earliest work. Shepard's plays are not easy to categorize, but in general they blend images of the Old West, fascination with pop culture - rock and roll, drugs and television - and bizarre family problems. Before he was thirty, Shepard had over thirty plays produced in New York. Shepard has repeatedly examined the moral decay and spiritual starvation that label the world of his drama.

Annual Student Art Exhibit

April 23 - May 01, 2009

Pottery – Painting – Sculpture – Design – Architectural Models – Computer Imaging – Photography – Print – Drawing. Alumni were invited to visit the student art exhibition at the Fine Arts Gallery located in The Alma Thomas Fine Arts Center.

Fountainwood Observatory Public Viewing Night

May 01, 2009

The Fountainwood Observatory at Southwestern University held its final public viewing night for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Aldersgate Day Celebration

May 21, 2009

Aldersgate Day commemorates the founder of Methodism John Wesley's "heart-warming" experience at Aldersgate Church in London in 1738. **Ellsworth Peterson '55** and **Rev. Milton Jordan '62** coordinated the fifth annual Aldersgate Day celebration on the Southwestern University campus. This year's celebration featured talks by Professor of Religion Laura Hobgood-Oster on the topic, "Inheriting the Rich Gospel Feast: Methodist Women's Voices in the Antebellum U.S." and by Professor *Emeritus* of Music Ellsworth Peterson '55 on "The Wesleys and the Music of the Great European Masters." **Henry Holloway '50** led the singing of Wesleyan hymns throughout the day.

Georgetown Festival of the Arts

May 30, June 4-7, 2009

Georgetown Festival of the Arts celebrated its fifth year featuring the music of Antonin Dvořák. Concerts on May 30 and June 4-7 included the Shanghai Quartet, Miro Quartet, pianist Anton Nel, singers **Virginia Dupuy '71**, **Lynn Parr Mock '83**, Scott Cameron and Southwestern Associate Professor of Music Bruce Cain, and Southwestern University's piano trio with Eri Lee Lam, Hai Zheng and Vincent Lam. Saturday, May 30, there was a free concert in San Gabriel Park featuring Dvořák's *New World Symphony* performed by the Temple Symphony Orchestra, followed by a brilliant fireworks display. On Friday afternoon, June 5, there was a free showing of a film of Dvořák's opera *Rusalka* at City Lights Theatres. The festival culminated with a performance of Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* June 7, conducted by Southwestern Professor of Music Kenny Sheppard. The festival is organized by Southwestern University alumnus and Professor *Emeritus* of Music **Ellsworth Peterson '55**.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION HOSTED LIFELONG LEARNING EVENTS:

The Bay Area Association

Road Scholars Event

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009

Mills College, Reinhardt Alumnae House

Road Scholar: Barbara Owens, Associate Professor of Math and Computer Science

Topic: "Pathways and Journeys: Using Oral History to Generate Interest in Computing Careers."

The Dallas Association

La Boheme

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009

The Dallas Opera debut of **Weston Hurt** '99, as Schaunard, in Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme*. A 10% discount on tickets was offered to alumni. A reception with Weston Hurt followed the performance.

An Evening of Opera

Friday, Jan. 23 & Saturday, Jan. 24

An opera at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters featuring Southwestern alumnus **Daniel Dodd Ellis** '95.

The Greater Austin Association

Road Scholars Event

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

North by Northwest Restaurant and Brewery

Road Scholar: Paul Gaffney, Dean of The Sarofim School of Fine Arts and Professor of Theatre

Topic: "Do They Really Drink Green Beer?: The Irish in America."

The Greater Georgetown Association

"Grease" at The Georgetown Palace Theater

Friday, April 17, 2009

Discounted tickets offered to alumni. Pre-performance reception at Wildfire Restaurant.

The Houston Association

"The Man Who Came to Dinner"

Sunday, March 15, 2009

The Alley Theatre

A reception of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres was held prior to the performance. The Houston Association underwrote a portion of the ticket cost.