

Dresher Center for the Humanities

The James T. and Virginia M. Dresher Center for the Humanities supports and promotes research in the humanities at UMBC, in the Baltimore region, and beyond. With its Humanities Forum, it seeks to make UMBC's impressive achievements in the humanities more widely known, while connecting UMBC researchers and students to important ongoing conversations about the humanities in the region, nation, and world. Through its support of the undergraduate Humanities Scholars Program the Dresher Center for the Humanities also helps to sponsor a generation of humanities thinkers for the future.

Founded in 1996, the Humanities Forum builds on a tradition of advancing the study of human thought and culture at UMBC and the Baltimore region. The Forum offers the community a program of events that illustrate the richness of contemporary work in philosophy, history, culture, language, media, literature and the arts. Forum events present exciting new ideas and lively exchange, with a spirit of ongoing inquiry and conversation. These events are always free and open to the public.

dreshercenter@umbc.edu

410-455-6798

dreshercenter.umbc.edu

UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

Dresher Center for the Humanities

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit #4900

If

Spring 2014 Humanities Forum

Dresher Center for the Humanities

All events are free and open to the public. Events are subject to change.
For latest information, please visit dreshercenter.umbc.edu.



UMBC Arts & Humanities

H Spring 2014 Humanities Forum

Dresher Center for the Humanities

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

12:1-3:30 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle

THE LOVING STORY FILM SHOWING

The film is a moving account of Richard and Mildred Loving, who were arrested in 1958 for violating Virginia's ban on interracial marriage. Their struggle culminated in the 1967 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Loving v. Virginia*. The film was directed by Nancy Buirski and produced by Nancy Buirski and Elisabeth Haviland James.

Sponsored by the Africana Studies Department, the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

4:30 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Created Equal Panel Discussion

MODERATOR: DR. CLAUDRENA N. HAROLD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The Created Equal Program encourages public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. Dr. Harold recently co-directed a short film, *Sugarcoated Arsenic*, with Kevin Everson. The film explores African-American intellectual, social, and political life at the University of Virginia during the 1970s. The Created Equal Program is part of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Sponsored by the Africana Studies Department, the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

5 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Constructing Heritage

PANEL:

JAMES COUNTS EARLY, SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR FOLKLORE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

MARIO SANTO DOMINGO, PSYCHOLOGY, UMBC

MICHELLE STEFANO, AMERICAN STUDIES, UMBC

ASHLEY MINNER, COMMUNITY ARTIST AND ACTIVIST, BALTIMORE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

The process of constructing heritage is inherently political. Whether displayed in a museum, protected as a site, or thought of in terms of shared, cultural knowledge passed down over time, heritage is identified, defined, and interpreted through policies that both shape its very nature and exclude that which is not. This forum marks the beginning of a series of ongoing, critical discussions on the mechanisms of constructing heritage and the power relations embedded within its enterprise, from international to local-level perspectives.

Sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the American Studies Department.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

4 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

The Living Edge - Delights and Dilemmas of the Chesapeake Bay

TOM HORTON AND DAVE HARP, ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

Tom Horton and Dave Harp, two of the nation's best known environmental journalists, will speak on the state of the Chesapeake Bay,

the country's largest estuarine system whose drainage basin touches six states. Horton is the author of the critically-acclaimed *Bay Country*, which won the John Burroughs Award for the best book of nature writing in 1988, as well as the David Brower award from the Sierra Club. Harp's magazine work has taken him from the coast of Normandy for a story on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, to western Australia for coverage of the America's Cup, and to the tropical rain forests of Panama.

Sponsored by the English Department. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Geography and Environmental Systems, Biology, Public Policy, the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

7:30 p.m., University Ballroom

DAPHNE HARRISON LECTURE

On Hip Hop, Race, and Politics: The Way We Talk About Things

JAY SMOOTH, HIP HOP CULTURE CRITIC

In this talk, socio-political pundit Jay Smooth, the popular blogger behind "The Ill Doctrine," discusses everything from present-day politics and social justice to music, media, and culture. Smooth delves into the oftentimes-tricky discussion of race, specifically how we talk about race and racism as a culture, sharing thought-provoking, humorous, and entertaining suggestions for expanding our worldview on the subject.

Sponsored by Critical Social Justice, Women's Center, Student Life's Mosaic Center, the Africana Studies Department and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

7 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Curious Behavior: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research at UMBC

ROBERT R. PROVINI, NEUROSCIENTIST AND PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT UMBC

Robert Provine's latest book, *Curious Behavior: Yawning, Laughing, Hiccupping, and Beyond*, has received rave reviews. It won the PROSE Award 2012 as the best book in biomedicine and neuroscience and was selected as a Library Journal Best Book of the Year. Professor Provine will reflect on his 39-year career at UMBC and discuss how undergraduate research can change the way we look at human behavior and solve ancient problems.

Sponsored by Social Sciences Forum. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH

4:30 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library 7th floor

The Fraught Crossroads Where Class, Race, Sex and Violence Keep Converging across American History

LAWRENCE WESCHLER, AUTHOR

Using assemblage artist Edward Kienholz's harrowing 1970 lynching tableau *Five Car Stud* as a point of departure, Lawrence Weschler explores the ways in which race has served as the radioactive core of American history, continually warping the potential for ordinary class-based politics and accounting for all manner of perverse American exceptionalisms (the subject of Weschler's current work-in-progress).

Sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the American Studies Department and the Orser Center for the Study of Place, Community, and Culture.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST

5:30 p.m., Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture

The Aesthetics of Astronomy: A Subjective Look at Cosmographical Depictions through Time

MICHAEL BENSON, WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER AND ARTIST

In his latest book, *Planetfall*, Michael Benson presents a retrospective look at the visual legacy of 21st-century space exploration. Benson covers fifty years of space travel, from the first trip when the American Mariner probe passed Venus in December 1962 to the latest images of the Mars Rover. His images are not so much otherworldly as abstract, modernist creations of lush imagination.

Sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by CIRCA and the History Department.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH

4 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

BARKER LECTURE

Dignity and Disability

SAMUEL KERSTEIN, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

When we allocate scarce life-saving resources such as organs for transplant, we determine who will live and who will die. This lecture aims to help determine just what ethical constraints should guide the allocation of resources. Some ethicists and policy makers claim that we should give treatment to someone who would return to full health after treatment rather than another who would be disabled. Professor Kerstein sets out reasons for rejecting this claim and considers whether it is consistent with a principle of respect for the dignity of persons.

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH

6 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Examining the Book of Lies

CORAZON DEL SOL, ARTIST AND CURATOR

Los Angeles based Corazon del Sol will discuss *The Book of Lies*, the conceptual art project and exhibition of the same name conceived of – but ultimately left unfinished – by her mother, conceptual artist Eugenia P. Butler. Del Sol will examine the lie as a human strategy for coping with life, and how artists use the lie to explore our relationship with the truth.

Sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the Albin O. Kuhn Library.

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

4 p.m., Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

LIPITZ LECTURE

Interiors: Identity in Music

LINDA DUSMAN, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AT UMBC

During her Liptiz Professorship, Linda Dusman's research explored identity issues in her own music and the music of Eleanor Hovda, a 20th-century American composer recently added to Dusman's *I Resound Press* archive. The lecture will present her compositional process in the creation of two works, "Lake, Thunder" and "Interiors," as well as general reflections on the exploration of identity in music by feminist composers.

Sponsored by the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.