Light Summer Reading

A year ago, I proposed to use this series of columns to reflect on contemporary discussions of higher education and to catch up on my reading list of books on issues confronting the humanities. I made some progress in the list: Clayton Christensen's *Innovative University,* Andrew Delbanco's *College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be,* and Mark Roche's *Why Choose the Liberal Arts?* Today I'll take up a new title, Jeffrey Selingo's *College (Un)Bound: The Future of Higher Education and What it Means for Students* (2013). Selingo is one of the editors-at-large of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and a savvy commentator. His book sounds a familiar alarm on college costs and rising student debt ("the trillion-dollar problem"), as well as the unsustainability of many a college budget, leveraged and shored up by increasingly discounted tuition hikes. Selingo isn't the only person to raise these questions, but he does so with greater depth and nuance than many. To the all-too-familiar question, "Is college worth it?" he responds, "Yes, but." Selingo offers useful statistics and resources for those of us who want to challenge the barrage of negative press regarding the supposedly poor "return on investment" of college degrees in general and humanities degrees in particular, but he urges parents and students to use caution and prudence. He also notes the flaws in much of the glib debate on the topic by pointing out, among other things, that the English major at a selective liberal arts college, state flagship, or top tier private university will have different job prospects than an English major at a poorly performing institution with low completion rates and high student debt.

I cannot fault Selingo's account of the seriousness of the economic problem, the need for prospective students and their families to educate themselves on how financial aid works, and the responsibility of institutions to make such information both clear and accessible to applicants. (The book includes a “Checklist for the Future” of questions that families should ask when considering a college.) I do question his uncritical acceptance of the Christensen “disruption” model of technological salvation: "The Online Revolution." That said, he is far from alone in observing that increasing numbers of students will seek “unbundled” degrees: combining community college courses, credit-bearing certificates of completion from Massive Open Online Courses, credit based on prior knowledge or experience (as from the online non-profit Western Governors University or the Degree Qualifications Profile recommended by the Lumina Foundation, for example), then transferring to a four-year institution to graduate. It is happening now.

If we value expanded access, then we should figure out how to make this work. Demographic analysis tells us that the college-age population of the near future will be composed of an increasing number of "underprepared" and first-generation college students. If we believe that a college education is indeed vital to personal and professional satisfaction as well as to democratic institutions, then it is our responsibility to work towards institutional changes that will increase affordability, support student success, and promote the values of learning and scholarship.
So: I made progress on my reading list, but a number of titles are still waiting on my desk and on my iPad: Martha Nussbaum's *Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities* (2010), Geoffrey Harpham's *The Humanities and the Dream of America* (2011), and one that I picked up at the MLA last winter, Mikhail Epstein's *The Transformative Humanities: A Manifesto* (2012). Just from skimming, I'm leaning toward Geoff Harpham's book next.

I’ll close by noting a recent, very promising development in public discussions of the fate of the humanities: the novel idea that the humanities are not “in crisis.” A typical alarmist entry would be Verlyn Klinkenborg’s essay, “The Decline and Fall of the English Major” in the New York Times (http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/23/opinion/sunday/the-decline-and-fall-of-the-english-major.html?_r=0); less typical (but also alarmist) would be the recent Harvard report on the state of the humanities at Harvard (http://artsandhumanities.fas.harvard.edu/humanities-project). The Klinkenborg essay prompted a number of correctives and rejoinders, including a NYT piece by Nate Silver pointing out that the “career focus” of many newer fields of study skews the statistics that Klinkenborg cited (http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/25/as-more-attend-college-majors-become-more-career-focused/?ref=natesilver). Anthony Grafton and James Grossman respond to the Harvard report (http://chronicle.com/article/The-Humanities-in-Dubious/140047/). In my favorite piece so far, Michael Bérubé argues in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for a more rigorous look at humanities numbers in “The Humanities, Declining? Not According to the Numbers” (http://chronicle.com/article/The-Humanities-Declining-Not/140093/). It’s always satisfying to demonstrate that humanities folks are pretty good at math and stats. I particularly appreciate Bérubé’s willingness to call out and argue against the all-too-common claim (see my June presidential column) that “theory” is somehow responsible for the (so-called) decline of literary studies.

At the height of summer, but the close of my ASECS presidential year, I am grateful for the endless variety of the scholarly, professional, and collegial conversations that our organization fosters. I look forward to many more.

**Graduate Student Caucus News**

*by Sarah Schuetze, University of Kentucky*

Greetings from the GSC! I hope everyone is enjoying some quality, industrial-strength AC these days. Things have quieted down with the GSC since Cleveland, so we have been taking the opportunity to focus on our online presence. In addition to our Twitter profile and Facebook page, the GSC now has a page on Academia.edu where we can post our directory and the cfp list for next year’s conference. We hope that these profiles make it easy to find and help keep GSC members connected. We’re currently working on setting up a writing forum (a closed group on Facebook) with weekly posts from different GSC members, which should encourage participation in the GSC in the off months. Anyone interested in finding out more about any of the GSC social profiles can contact me (sarah.schuetze@uky.edu) or find us online.

As we near September, you will see cfps for the three GSC panels circulate on the listserv. Our new co-chair Ash Kramer will chair the scholarship panel on the subject in networks of object circulation called “How Matters Matter in the Long Eighteenth Century” (you can contact her at Ashley.kramer@usc.edu). Ash looks forward to proposals that explore environmental, medical, and scientific contexts of object circulation. I’ll chair the professionalization panel in 2014 called “Going Rogue: The Merits and Perils of Breaking with Professional Conventions”; I hope the panel will foster a serious conversation about alternative and non-tenure track career paths for which graduate students can prepare in the dissertation phase. Professor Michelle Burnham from Santa Clara University and the new editor of Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture has agreed to work with me on the GSC scholarship seminar this year; in her cfp for the seminar, “Geographies of Transatlantic Writing,” Michelle asks potential presenters think about the way authors imagined and portrayed transoceanic movement and the spaces it involves in the eighteenth century. We will pair essays written by graduate students with established scholars who will offer a response to the student essay. Both graduate students and the scholars paired with them will present on the panel. This unique format encourages a lively conversation between scholars at different levels. I’m so grateful to Michelle for letting me collaborate with her on the seminar, and I hope we can continue to find ways to connect the GSC and SECC. Get in touch with me (sarah.schuetze@uky.edu) or Michelle (mburnham@scu.edu) with questions or to express interest.

Until we see each other again in March, you can find the GSC online! Visit our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/asecsgrad), our Twitter (https://twitter.com/asecsgrad), or our Academia.edu page (http://independent.academia.edu/ASECS-GraduateStudentCaucus). Please share our directory info form with any interested graduate students (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dGd1SVM4Q1RbTBBbFJuUGVzUVEzbWc6MQ#gid=0). As always, we hope to continue to collaborate with the otheraffilate groups, so get in touch with me or Ash if we can help.

**ASECS Affiliate Societies Column**

*By Catherine M. Parisian ASECS Affiliate Societies*

**CONFERENCE REPORTS, NEWS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830**

The Aphra Behn Society has a number of exciting events coming up. Jennifer Airey is hosting the Aphra Behn Society’s biennial conference on October 24-25, 2013 at the University of Tulsa. The conference theme is “Women, Reputation, and Identity in the Long Eighteenth Century” and the conference website is http://abs2013.wordpress.com/. The conference will include a graduate essay prize and a travel award for graduate students. Laura Engel will be the plenary speaker and Maureen Duffy will be reading from her most recent work. Those interested can follow the conference on Facebook and Twitter.
Nichol Weizenbeck is also about to publish the ABS's biannual newsletter and welcomes last-minute news from its members and friends among the affiliates (send it to nichol.weizenbeck@du.edu). The Aphra Behn Society kindly offers to share word of other affiliates' doings with its membership through its newsletter and listserv; for the latter, please contact Karen Gervirtz at gevirtka@shu.edu.

Last, a reminder that the Society's online, refereed journal, ABO is now available at its new site: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/. The third volume is now live and features essays by Eve M. Lynch, Amy Hodges, Kathryn Strong Hansen, Jamie Vanpee, and Cheryl Wanko as well as a number of book reviews. You can follow ABO on Facebook and Twitter, and follow the Aphra Behn Society on Facebook. ABS hopes to see you in Tulsa in October or at its panels in Williamsburg!

Bibliographical Society of America

The Bibliographical Society of America each year invites three scholars in the early stages of their careers to present twenty-minute papers on their current, unpublished research in the field of bibliography as members of a panel at the annual meeting of the Society, which takes place in New York City in late January. The New Scholars Program seeks to promote the work of scholars who are new to the field of bibliography, broadly defined to include any research that deals with the creation, production, publication, distribution, reception, transmission, and subsequent history of texts as material objects (print or manuscript). Papers of New Scholars are published in the December issue of the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America as part of the proceedings of the annual meeting.

Junior (i.e., untenured) faculty and graduate students at the dissertation level are eligible, as are professional librarians, members of the book trade, and book collectors who are at the beginning of their careers. Candidates should submit a letter of application, an abstract of not more than 250 words, and a curriculum vitae. Graduate students should also submit a letter of recommendation from their dissertation director. For submissions to be considered for the following January, materials should be received by July 31. Please address and send applications (preferably via email) to: New Scholars Program, Bibliographical Society of America, P.O. Box 1537, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021; email: newscholars@bibsocamer.org.

New Scholars selected for the panel receive a subvention of $600 toward the cost of attendance at the annual meeting and a complimentary one-year membership in the Bibliographical Society of America. For further information on the Society, see http://www.bibsocamer.org. Inquiries regarding the program may be directed to John A. Buchtel, Chair, New Scholars Program, at newscholars@bibsocamer.org.

Burney Society

The Burney Society of the UK will be holding its conference on the theme of Education in the Life and Works of Frances Burney and her Family at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, July 21-24, 2013. Keynote Speakers include Professor Peter Sabor, Director of the Burney Centre, McGill University and Philip Olleson, Professor Emeritus, University of Nottingham. In honor of the conference the Cambridge University Library will be exhibiting the books that Charles Burney (Frances's brother) purloined when a student there. Attendees who wish will take a day trip on July 24 to visit Frances Burney's birthplace in King's Lynn.

The Burney Society also reminds ASECS members that the deadline for submissions for The Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies is September 1, 2013. The Hemlow Prize will be awarded to the best essay written by a graduate student on any aspect of the life or writings of Frances Burney or members of the Burney Family. The winning essay will be published in The Burney Journal and the recipient will receive an award of US $250, as well as a year’s membership in the Burney Society. Submissions should be sent by email attachment to the Chair of the Prize Committee, Prof. Laura Engel, at engel784@duq.edu. For more information: http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/burneysociety.html#hemlowprize

The Burney Society (North America) will hold a luncheon, on September 27th, 2013 in Minneapolis, 11 am to 1 pm at McCormick & Schmick’s (in the Nicollet Mall, close to the Hilton in Minneapolis). Lorna Clark will speak on “Editing Volumes 3 & 4 of The Court Journals and Letters. Please contact Elaine Bander (elainebander@gmail.com) for further information.

The deadline for the McGill-ASECS Fellowship at the Burney Centre is November 30, 2013. The Burney Centre, in conjunction with the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the McGill University Library, offers an annual Fellowship, designed to assist scholars who need to travel to and establish temporary residence in Montreal in order to use the resources of the Library. The fellowship is available to scholars interested in any aspect of Frances Burney, the Burney family, and their extended circle. It carries an award of US $3,000 for a one-month stay, at a time to be arranged. For more information: http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/fellowship.html

The Burney Society (North America) will hold its 2014 conference in Montreal, October 9-10, 2014. Taking “The Burney Performances: Life, Works, World,” as its theme it will feature plenaries by Misty Anderson and Juliet McMaster. A CFP will be available on the Burney Centre website in the near future. Send queries and proposals to Emily Friedman (ecf0004@auburn.edu) by February 1, 2014.

East-Central ASECS

East Central ASECS will hold its 2013 meeting in Philadelphia at the Doubletree by Hilton, November 7-9, 2013. Retirement, Reappraisal, and Renewal in the Eighteenth Century will be its theme and John Richetti the featured plenary speaker. Retirement was an important term with many applications in the Eighteenth Century; it had then and continues now to have resonances in fields as disparate as philosophy and politics, art history and literature, military affairs and country living. It
is a subject that almost invariably leads to many open-ended questions. Retirement from what or to what, or more simply, what next? Is retirement even possible? Is retirement an end in itself, a momentary pause, a strategic withdrawal, an evasion, or a new beginning? Is retirement a necessary fiction, and if so, necessary for whom? Is retirement enough to hope for, or is there something more to be wished? Although the call for paper has closed, registration will open soon.

The International Herder Society

The International Herder Society looks forward to sponsoring a panel at the German Studies Association meeting Oct 4. The panel “Herder’s Interdisciplinarity: Music and the Visual Arts” will be chaired by John Pizer (Louisiana State University) and moderated by Gundela Hachmann (Louisiana State University). Its speakers include Beate Allert (Purdue University) “Herder, the Visual, and the Performing Arts”; Tanvi Solanki (Princeton University) “Reading and Voicing: Herder’s Orality as Technology of Erudition”; Eric Forster (Brown University), “Herder’s Aural-Linguistic Challenge to Kant’s ‘Bad Hearing’”; and Rüdiger Singer (Georg-August Universität Göttingen), “Das Ganze’ in Poesie und Plastik bei Herder und Moritz.”

Samuel Johnson Society of the Central Region

Samuel Johnson Society of the Central Region announces Stephen Karian will succeed George Justice as its new Secretary Treasurer.

Samuel Johnson Society of the West

The Samuel Johnson Society of the West 2013 annual dinner meeting will be Sunday evening, November 17, with acclaimed actor Richard Fancy delivering the twentieth Daniel G. Blum lecture. Mr. Fancy will speak on “The Actor and the Editor,” discussing the way in which outstanding textual editors contribute to the creation of a performance. The evening will include a period inspired meal, eighteenth-century harp music, and ready conversation. For more information, please contact the society’s secretary, Myron Yeager (yeager@chapman.edu).

Midwestern ASECS

Be sure to mark your calendars! MWSECS is planning an exciting meeting in Kansas City, MO in October 2014. Stay tuned here and to its website as further details become available.

Northeast ASECS

NEASECS will hold its 2013 annual meeting October 3-6 at Yale University. The Program Committee, chaired by Gordon Turnbull, General Editor of the Yale Boswell Editions, has put together what promises to be a timely, engaging, and enjoyable meeting, featuring two plenary speakers: K. Dian Kriz, Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Brown University, and John Shovlin, Associate Professor of History, New York University. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from an array of optional events, including a recital of period music at the Yale Historical Instruments Collection; an exhibition of eighteenth-century medical treatises, instruments, and other materials at the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library; guided tours of the recently renovated and re-opened Yale University Art Gallery; and a forum on the future of the journal Eighteenth-Century Studies with its new editor.

2013 marks the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Utrecht, which formally ended the War of the Spanish Succession. The year also marks the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Seven Years War, also known as the French and Indian War. The conference will therefore take as its theme “The Ends of War.” Inspired by Samuel Johnson’s words in Thoughts on the Late Transactions Respecting Falkland’s Islands (1771), “… as peace is the end of war, it is the end, likewise of preparations for war; and he may be justly hunted down as the enemy of mankind, that can chuse to snatch by violence and bloodshed what gentler means can equally obtain,” organizers ask attendees to explore the question “What are The Ends of War?” This phrase reflects Johnson’s elusiveness, implying both cessation, but also paradoxically, what lives on after formal cessation, as well as the deeper, more troubling sense of “ends” as aims, purposes, intentions, and perhaps unintended consequences. Do wars end, or end anything?

Beyond the massive geo-cultural realignments that followed especially from the global conflicts of 1757–1763, what are the social, literary, aesthetic, and artistic consequences of war and its ends? And what did and do these ends look like at the other ends of the earth, non-European, non North American? For more information about deadlines, accommodation arrangements, and other matters, please visit the conference website at http://www.yale.edu/neasecs2013/.

International Adam Smith Society

The International Adam Smith society will be meeting in conjunction with the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society at the Université Paris Sorbonne on July 3-6. Together these two societies will take up the topic Scotland, Europe and Empire in the Age of Adam Smith and Beyond. For more information and the full program please see http://www.paris-sorbonne.fr/IMG/pdf/Programme_ECSSS_2013.pdf. Although the call for papers has closed there still may be time to attend. If interested please contact Ryan Patrick Hanley at ryan.hanley@marquette.edu.

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing invites all those interested in manuscript, print, and/or digital cultures to attend the SHARP 2013 conference, “Geographies of the Book,” in Philadelphia. The University of Pennsylvania is hosting the conference that will take place July 18th through the 21st. The annual meeting will feature pre-conference workshops as well as a three-hour, stand-alone digital exhibition of current digital projects and electronic resources. The CFP is now closed, but those interested in attending may still register. For further information, please consult the conference website: http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/SHARP2013/
South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

SCSECS looks forward to its 2014 annual meeting on February 12-16 in magnificent Galveston, Texas, where it will convene at the historic Tremont House Hotel. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Southeastern ASECS

SEASECS reminds readers of and invites submissions for a number of prizes that it offers.

Annibel Jenkins Prize in Performance and Theatre Studies. At its annual meeting in Decatur, Georgia, in March 2012, the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS) passed a motion to establish a prize in honor of one of its founding members, Annibel Jenkins. An award of $500 will be given for the best article in performance and theater studies published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013. Authors must be or become members of SEASECS. Articles may be nominated by the author or by another member. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2013. Please send submissions as PDF files and address any other queries about the prize to the chair of the committee: Martha F. Bowden, Kennesaw State University, mbowden@kennesaw.edu


Percy G. Adams Prize. An award of $500 will be given for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013. Authors must be or become members of SEASECS. Articles may be nominated by the author or by another member. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2013. Please send submissions as PDF files to the address below, as well as any questions: Jeff Loveland, jeffloveland@uc.edu; University of Cincinnati


Graduate Essay Prize. An award of $500 will be given for the best graduate student paper presented at the annual meeting of the society. Students currently enrolled in graduate programs (M.A. and PhD) and in all fields are invited to apply. All applicants must be or become members of SEASECS. Entries should be submitted as final versions of the paper, with complete citations and bibliographic information. The deadline for this year’s award is Friday, February 3, 2014 by 5pm. Please send submissions as PDF files and address any other queries about the prize to the chair of this year’s committee: Chloe Wigston Smith, University of Georgia; cws3@uga.edu

Undergraduate Teaching Prize. The Executive Board of SEASECS announces its new “Undergraduate Teaching Prize,” to be given for the first time at its fortieth annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee (February 27-March 1, 2014). A committee will award $1,200 to the member who proposes the best undergraduate panel for the conference, with the monies to be used at least in part to help the participating undergraduate students with expenses related to attending the conference. Submissions should consist of a letter of presentation from the member proposing the panel and a one-page talk proposal from each of the three or four undergraduate presenters. Please send your submission electronically to Mary McAlpin, mmcalpin@utk.edu, by October 31, 2013.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Aphra Behn Society

Nichol Weizenbeck is chairing the ABS sessions at ASECS in 2014. The topic is “Rebel Yells: Radical Female Figures, Authors, and Voices in the Long Eighteenth Century.” Nichol is seeking papers for two panels that will analyze the idea of “rebellion” and its connections to, and implications for, women and the construction of gender during the long eighteenth century, and if their choices, intentionally or not, landed these women in the margins—one of the most provocative places to occupy in society, then as well as today. Please send 300-word abstracts by September 15th to nichol.weizenbeck@edu.edu.

The International Herder Society

The Herder Society is pleased to announce the call for its panel at the the next ASECS 2013 in Williamsburg, Virginia: “Herder and Freedom”

In his Treatise on the Origin of Language Herder claims, “... it is the sole positive power of thinking, combined with a certain organization of the body, that is called reason in human beings and innate technical skill in animals; in human beings it is called freedom, in animals it is called instinct.” This distinction between human beings and animals in relation to freedom seems to occupy a unique place within discussions of freedom during the eighteenth century. From Leibniz to Kant, any notion of freedom seems to be more concerned with the problem of evil, as well as limits of human freedom and God’s omnipotence. Papers are welcome that address Herder’s use of freedom (whether in line with contemporary discussions or not) or his response to the freedom discourse of his time. Please send abstracts to Johannes Schmidt (schmidtj@clemson.edu).

The International Herder Society is also pleased to announce its call for papers for its next conference to be held September 7-10, 2014 at Purdue University where it will consider the topic “Herder: From Cognition to Cultural Science.” Abstracts for proposed papers are due September 30, 2013 to Beate Allert, President of the International Herder Society: allert@purdue.edu. The Steering Committee of the Society will make the selections for the program and notify all who submitted abstracts by the end of October.

Herder’s works participates in a variety of ways in the cognition-related, epistemological debates of his time. From the tradition of Leibnizian philosophy develops with Baumgarten the “Aesthetics,” initially an attempt to create a theory about
sense perceptions ("Aisthesis"). Herder’s “sensualism” (not to be mixed up with Anglo-Saxon empiricism), is contextualized in a philosophical tradition, according to which perception is actually attributed to a theory of subjectivity while integrating elements of the tradition of the Leibnizian Monadology.

Herder’s cognition theory therefore takes a path which describes aisthesis and ratio in their complex interactions and considering their mutual counter-effects. In his work "Vom Erkennen und Empfinden der Menschlichen Seele," this program is being developed in exemplary ways (1778, “On the Cognition and Sensation of the Human Soul”; see Herder: Philosophical Writings. Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy, translated and ed. by Michael N. Forster Cambridge UP 2002). Next to the genuine question what according to Herder could be developed as a theory of perception arises the other question about a theory of "Erkenntnis" or a theory of cognition, which then in each moment must be reconnected with sense perception. With this approach one has then the possibility to make emotions, feelings, moods, and mental dispositions theoretically approachable.

With the critical Kantian turn arises for Herder the problem how to deal with an epistemology which denies the genetic relation to the lower abilities and only theorizes the higher abilities based on a principle of reductionist a priori reasoning for theory construction. One must ask how Herder positions his arguments for a gnoseology ("Gnoseologie") of the lower abilities against the backdrop of the competing Kantian theory and soon against the backdrop of the successful transcendental philosophy. The ongoing scholarly discussions about the differences between Kant and his student Herder will then have to be continued and what needs to be explored are the external political consequences of Herder’s cognition theory.

However, Herder develops beyond this specific philosophical debut of his theoretical endeavors a much broader theory of cognition ("Erkenntnistheorie") via engaging with numerous disciplines of study in order to develop the draft for an inclusive cultural science ("Kulturwissenschaft"), a concept for “Culture Studies” as one could call it today. He devotes himself to fields of theory formation which were silenced or ignored by the academic philosophy of his time. Above all arises a language philosophy ("Sprachphilosophie"), there are new approaches towards a philosophy of the image (Philosophie des Bildes), a "picture theory," and there are new ways of thinking about the morphology of cultures and a certain form of hermeneutic literary theory. Moreover, there remains Herder’s idea of a comparative anthropology to be explored and his many attempts to approach a philosophy of history which then gets liberated from the preconceived expectation of continuous linear progress. Then questions demand answers, such as how Herder transfers his philosophical basic ideas into what then became the central discursive foundation acts for establishing the Humanities and the Liberal Arts. The conference as here announced will find its intellectual focus by investigating this array of complex questions. Herder is to be understood and to be acknowledged as the author who, during the second half of the eighteenth century, drafts a hermeneutical cultural science in the modern sense. In contrast to the old epistemology and against the backdrop of the dominant discourses of academic philosophy of his time, he inaugurates an innovative, new conception of knowledge. This can well be associated with other relevant theories of cognition today.

**Society of Early Americanists**

"London and the Americas, 1492-1812," the 2014 Society of Early Americanists Special Topics Conference, will take place at Kingston University, London, July 17-19, 2014. This interdisciplinary conference of the Society of Early Americanists will examine London’s connections with the Americas in the colonial era. It will focus on the role that Europe’s largest urban center played in the structuring of an Atlantic world inscribed, amidst both war and peace, by networks of trade, travel, religion, kinship, cultural identification, captivity, slavery, and governance. At the same time, participants will consider how the Americas in particular shaped the geography, both actual and metaphorical, of early modern London (that is, the cities of London and Westminster), influencing its practices, hierarchies, infrastructures, modes of representation, arrangements of space, and movements of peoples. The focus will thus be on London as both recipient and source of transmission and interaction, connected imaginatively and actually with American regions under the control of other European powers as well as with its own colonies. Individual paper proposals or complete panel proposals are both welcome. Email 250 word proposals by October 1, 2013 to: sea14london@gmail.com. More information can be found at: societyofearlyamericanists.org/conferences.html

**Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies**

WSECS looks forward to its meeting at the University of California, Davis February 14-16, 2014. It invites submissions on the theme “Love and Affect in the Long Eighteenth Century.” Proposals are invited that focus on love, sensibility, wonder, awe, fear, shame, hate, sympathy and other emotions as they are represented in eighteenth-century thought. Proposals on other topics will also be considered.

The conference will be held during the Valentine’s Day/ President’s Day weekend, allowing participants to enjoy Northern California’s great attractions (Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe and the Bay Area) and still allow time for travel. Submissions for proposals should be sent to Alessa Johns (amjohns@ucdavis.edu) or Julia Simon (jsimon@ucdavis.edu) by August 20, 2013.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rare Book School scholarships for ASECS members**

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) and Rare Book School (RBS) at the University of Virginia are pleased to offer full-tuition scholarships to attend an RBS course...
to qualifying ASECS members. For thirty years, RBS has provided continuing-education opportunities for students from all disciplines and skill levels to study the history, care, and uses of written, printed, and born-digital materials with leading scholars and professionals in the fields of bibliography, book history, manuscript studies, librarianship, and the digital humanities. To be eligible for an RBS-ASECS scholarship, applicants must be current ASECS members and first time RBS students. Scholarship application forms will be made available on the RBS website in September 2013. The scholarship application deadline is October 15, 2013. To learn more about the application process, please visit www.rarebookschool.org/scholarship. For further questions, please contact Amanda Nelsen, RBS Program Director, at anelsen@virginia.edu.

Transnational Eighteenth-Century Studies

The Transnational Eighteenth-Century Studies group seeks interested parties. It focuses on transnational cultural exchanges, with an emphasis on European or North American interactions with cultures outside of the Northern Transatlantic and North Western European (e.g. the Ottoman Empire, Asia, etc). Work that focuses on interactions that exclude Europe and North America is also welcome. The purpose of this society is as follows:

* to facilitate discussions between scholars interested in the way cultural ideas and artifacts are shaped by transnational exchanges;
  * to create networks between scholars working on similar topic but from a different disciplinary, national or linguistic focus;
  * to encourage interdisciplinary and international scholarship through the organization of academic panels, the eventual establishment of regular meetings, and the creation of an informal online forum for exchanging information/ideas;
  * and to discuss pedagogy and professional development for scholars whose work does not always fit into a single institutional, disciplinary, national, or linguistic category.

Anyone with interest in these topics should contact Emily Kugler at emkugler@colby.edu.

Awards and Prizes

In keeping with its mission, ASECS sponsors a number of awards to recognize achievement in scholarship and to assist members to pursue their research. Included below are guidelines for competitions.

Unless otherwise noted, all applications should be submitted to Byron R. Wells, Executive Director, (Name of Prize), ASECS, PO Box 7867, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC 27109; Telephone: (336) 727-4694; E-mail: ASECS@wfu.edu

Travelling Jam-Pot: Fund for Graduate Students

Among the best-- and customarily youngest-- of our colleagues are graduate students, whose presence and voices we welcome at ASECS meetings. Their presence is vital to the continued success not just of ASECS as an organization but of our studies; these are the professors of the near future who will make “the long eighteenth century” live for countless students of the 21st century. Institutions, finding themselves strapped for funds, are economizing on grants to graduate students. Many young scholars can no longer obtain travel grants for appearances at conferences.

Award recipients are ABDs and PhDs within a year after receiving doctoral degree. An award of up to $300 will be given toward the cost of attending the ASECS annual meeting. Three (3) copies of the following information must be submitted by each applicant: Applicants must be members of ASECS at the time of submission.

-- A statement of need
-- Identity of other sources of funding sought
-- Budget
-- Endorsement from a faculty member (one copy is sufficient)
-- Number of professional conferences attended in the past year

Application deadline: November 1, 2013. Applications will be read and awards given by a committee of three scholars; The Board also agreed that conference registration fees will be waived for successful candidates.

ASECS Innovative Course Design Competition

To encourage excellence in undergraduate teaching of the eighteenth century, the Society invites proposals from members in any of its constituent disciplines. Proposals should be for a new approach to teaching a unit within a course on the eighteenth century, covering perhaps one to four weeks of instruction, or for an entire new course. For example, participants may offer a new approach to a specific work or theme, a comparison of two related works from different fields (music and history, art and theology), an interdisciplinary approach to a particular social or historical event, new uses of instructional technology (e.g., web sites, internet resources and activities), or a new course that has never been taught or has been taught only very recently for the first time. Participants are encourage to include why books and topics were selected and how they worked. Applicants should submit five (5) copies of a 3-5 page proposal (double-spaced) and should focus sharply on the leading ideas distinguishing the unit to be developed. Where relevant, a syllabus draft of the course should also be provided.

Only submissions by ASECS members will be accepted.

DEADLINE: 1 October 2013.

The Committee will select the top three proposals by November 15. A major criterion for judging the proposals is how specific they are in relation to design, readings, pedagogy, and/or activities. The authors will be asked to develop a brief presentation for delivery in the Teaching Competition seminar at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

A $500 award will be presented to each of the participants, and they will be invited to submit a twelve-page account of the unit or course, with a syllabus or other supplementary materials for publication on the website.
**Clifford Prize**

The James L. Clifford Prize goes to the author of an article on an outstanding study of some aspect of eighteenth-century culture, interesting to any eighteenth-century specialist, regardless of discipline. It carries an award of $500.

**Rules:**

- The article must be no longer than 15,000 words.
- The article must have appeared in print in a journal, festschrift, or other serial publication between July 2012 and June 2013.
- The article may be nominated by a member of the society, by its author, or by an editor of the publishing journal.
- Self-nominations are limited to one article per year.
- Nominations may be submitted in pdf format with one hard copy sent to the ASECS Business Office; if you elect to send hard copies, *nine (9) copies* are needed. All submissions must be received in the ASECS office no later than **1 January 2014**.
- The author must be a member of the ASECS at the time of submission.

**ASECS Women’s Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship**

The ASECS Women’s Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship, is an annual award of $1000 to support an editing or a translation work in progress of an eighteenth-century primary text on a feminist or a Women’s Studies subject. Editing and translation work of eighteenth-century texts in languages other than English are eligible. The prize is open to all members of ASECS who have received a PhD. Proposals from Emerite/i faculty that do not already have professional support for the project will also be considered. The award is meant to fund works in progress, commensurate in scope with a scholarly article-length project to a longer scholarly and/or a classroom edition with a strong scholarly basis for which research and work is well under way, rather than work that is already completed.

To be eligible for the prize, projects must translate and/or edit works by eighteenth-century women writers or works that significantly advance our understanding of women’s experiences in the eighteenth century or offer a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. Projects typically fall within the period from 1660 to 1820.

Applications must include an abbreviated curriculum vita that lists achievements relevant to the project, a three to five page proposal outlining the project, a two page bibliography of pertinent works, two letters of recommendation sent directly by the referees to the ASECS office, and a budget explaining the candidate’s plans for using the funds. The winner will be asked to submit a brief written report on the progress of the project one year after receiving the award, and whenever possible, will serve on the Award committee in the following year. Award winners will be requested to acknowledge this grant’s support in the publication that results from the project. The prize winner will be notified soon after the committee has made its decision and will be announced at the following year’s annual meeting and the Women’s Caucus luncheon.

**Catharine Macaulay Prize Competition**

The Catharine Macaulay Prize is an annual award made by the Women’s Caucus of ASECS for the best graduate student paper on a feminist or gender studies subject presented at the ASECS Annual Meeting or at any of the regional meetings during the academic year. In addition to special recognition, the prize carries a cash award of $350.

To be eligible for the prize, papers must advance understanding of gender dynamics, women’s experience, and/or women’s contributions to eighteenth-century culture, or offer a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society.

The deadline for submission is **May 1, 2014**. The paper you submit for the prize should be the one you presented at the conference without expansion or significant revision. Submissions for the Catharine Macaulay Prize must be sent directly to the ASECS office for consideration or as an email attachment (Word): asecs@wfu.edu. The winner of the prize will be notified soon after the committee has made its decision and will be announced at the following year’s annual meeting and the Women’s Caucus luncheon.

**Émilie Du Châtelet Award**

The Émilie Du Châtelet Award is an annual prize of $500, made by the Women’s Caucus of ASECS to support research in progress by an independent or adjunct scholar on a feminist or Women’s Studies subject. The award is open to the members of ASECS who have received the PhD and who do not currently hold a tenured, tenure-track, or job-secure position in a college or university, nor any permanent position that requires or supports the pursuit of research. Faculty emeriteae are not eligible. The award is meant to fund works in progress, commensurate in scope with a scholarly article or book chapter, for which some research is already under way. To be eligible for the prize, projects must advance understanding of women’s experiences and/or contributions to eighteenth-century culture or offer a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. Applications must include a curriculum vitae, a 1-3 page research proposal outlining the project and the candidate’s plans for using the funds, and any evidence of progress on this project (i.e. an accepted conference paper, a related publication, an essay submitted for publication, etc.).

The winner will be asked to submit a brief written report on the progress of the project one year after receiving the award, and wherever possible, will serve on the Award committee in the following year. The prizewinner will be announced at the ASECS annual meeting. Submissions for the Émilie Du Châtelet Prize must be sent directly to the ASECS office and be received by January 15, 2014, for consideration.

*Send FIVE COPIES of eligible proposals. The winner will be announced at the Women’s Caucus Luncheon and during the annual meeting.*
Recognizes the pioneering research contributions of the next generation of scholars of eighteenth-century studies, this $200 award will recognize an outstanding research essay of 15-30 pages, which has not been previously published.

Four (4) copies of the submission as well as a letter of endorsement from a mentoring professor, which outlines the originality and contributions that the essay makes to the field of eighteenth-century studies. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2014 and the announcement of the winner will be made at the annual meeting.

2013-14 Graduate Student Conference Paper Competition

The ASECS Executive Board offers an award of $200 for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the ASECS Annual Meeting (Williamsburg) (regional meetings do not qualify).

Papers submitted for this award may be no longer than 2500 words plus notes. Papers exceeding this length will be disqualified. Entries must be sent via e-mail to the Business Office (asecs@wfu.edu) no later than Monday, March 24, 2014.

The Biennial Annibel Jenkins Biography Prize

The biennial Annibel Jenkins Prize is given to the author of the best book-length biography of a late seventeenth-century or eighteenth-century subject and carries an award of $1,000.

The prize is named in honor of Annibel Jenkins, Professor of English (Emerita) at the Georgia Institute of Technology. A founding member of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, she is an outstanding teacher and scholar who has been for many years one of the most active and encouraging members of the academic community in America.

Rules:

- To be eligible for this year’s competition, a book must have a copyright date between November 2012 and October 2013.
- The author must be a member of the Society at the time of submission.
- Submission must be made by the publisher, and six copies must be received by 15 November 2015.

(Please indicate name of prize)

Oscar Kenschur Book Prize - 2013

The Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University is pleased to announce its annual book prize, to be awarded for an outstanding monograph of interest to eighteenth-century scholars working in a range of disciplines. The prize honors the work of Oscar Kenschur, professor emeritus of comparative literature at Indiana University, a dix-huitièmiste par excellence, and one of the founding members of the Center.

Submissions in English from any discipline are welcome; authors can submit their work irrespective of citizenship. Multi-authored collections of essays and translations, as well as books by members of Bloomington faculty, are not eligible.

The Kenschur prize of $1000 will be awarded together with an invitation to the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies for a workshop dedicated to the winning book, in which several colleagues will discuss the book from different disciplinary perspectives. The Center will cover the author’s expenses to attend this event.

To be eligible for this year’s competition, a book must carry a 2013 copyright date. Submissions can be made by the publisher or the author: three copies must be received at the ASECS office by the 31st of January 2014.

Please send the books (clearly marked for Kenschur Prize). For further inquiries please contact Professor Rebecca Spang, Director of the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University (email rlspang@indiana.edu).

Graduate Student Research Paper Award

Recognizes the pioneering research contributions of the next generation of scholars of eighteenth-century studies, this $200 award will recognize an outstanding research essay of 15-30 pages, which has not been previously published.

Four (4) copies of the submission as well as a letter of endorsement from a mentoring professor, which outlines the originality and contributions that the essay makes to the field of eighteenth-century studies. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2014 and the announcement of the winner will be made at the annual meeting.

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Four (4) copies of the submission as well as a letter of endorsement from a mentoring professor, which outlines the originality and contributions that the essay makes to the field of eighteenth-century studies. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2014 and the announcement of the winner will be made at the annual meeting.
accompanied by the recommendation of their professor. Students should submit, in one mailing, the following items:

(1) three anonymous copies of their essay, typed, double spaced; no longer than 22 pages including notes
(2) a cover sheet indicating the title
(3) a sealed envelope with the name of the author, the school name, address and e-mail address.

The winner will receive
(1) $250.00
(2) a one-year subscription to the journal Dieciocho
(3) a two-year membership in the IASECS

The revised version of the essay will be considered for publication in Dieciocho.

All entries received between January 1st and December 31st will be considered for the following year’s prize. The IASECS Essay Prize Committee will announce the award at the ASECS annual meeting.

Submissions for Annual Student Prize should be sent to:

Professor Enid Valle
Attn: IASECS Annual Student Prize
Department of Romance Languages and Literature
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

The María Salgado Student Travel Grant: IASECS offers up to a maximum of $400 to graduate students from North American universities who will be presenting a paper focused on eighteenth-century Spain, Portugal, or Ibero-America, at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) national annual meeting. To inquire about availability of funds contact valle@kzoo.edu. The funds will be granted and disbursed upon submission of receipts no later than two weeks after the national conference.

IASECS Registration Fee Grants (two awards per year). Grants are available for non-tenure-track full time, and part-time faculty (lecturers, instructor, adjuncts, etc.) colleagues. Those who have not received an award previously, will be given preference. Funds for the fee grant registration grants are disbursed after presenting a paper focused on eighteenth-century Spain, Portugal, or Ibero-America, at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) national annual meeting. For inquiries contact valle@kzoo.edu.

The Mozart Society of America, an affiliate society of ASECS, invites nominations for its Marjorie Weston Emerson Award. A prize of $500 will be awarded annually for the best scholarly work in English related to Mozart to have been published during the preceding calendar year. Eligible works include books, essays, or editions. The selection will be made by a committee of Mozart scholars and performers appointed by the President of the Mozart Society of America, with approval from the Board of Directors. Works may be submitted for consideration by the author or nominated by committee members or outside scholars. Deadline for nominations will be 1 May (or as determined by the committee and President). The award will be presented at the Society’s annual business meeting in the fall and announced in the January issue of the Society’s Newsletter.

Hans Turley Prize in Queer Eighteenth-Century Studies

The Hans Turley Prize will be awarded annually for the best paper on a topic in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer Studies delivered at the ASECS annual meeting by a graduate student, an untenured faculty member, or an independent scholar. In addition to recognition, the prize will carry a modest cash award. The prize committee will consist of senior (and therefore ineligible) faculty members of the ASECS Lesbian and Gay Caucus, which Hans Turley helped to found.

The deadline for submitting papers delivered at the 2013 Annual Meeting is August 15, 2013. The paper you submit for the prize should be the one you presented at the conference without expansion or significant revisions. The prizewinner will be notified after the committee has made its decision and recognized at the following year’s annual meeting as well as in the summer or fall news circular.
Keep ASECS Alive and Growing

The primary mission of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is to advance the study and teaching of the eighteenth-century and encourage scholarly work that crosses the boundaries between different academic disciplines. To achieve this, a number of endowed funds have been established from which awards are made to recognize achievements in scholarship and teaching and to assist members needing to travel to special collections or wishing to spend a residency at a major research library with which ASECS sponsors a joint fellowship. These programs are not funded through the regular operating budget of the Society but are made possible exclusively by the generosity of our members. All contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in writing. Please consider making a gift that will allow ASECS to maintain and expand the opportunities and benefits offered to its membership.

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Name________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________________________________
City________________________________________ State________________ Zip______________
The check is the preferred method of payment so that the society does not incur the service fees from the credit card companies.
Enclosed is my gift in the amount of $___     ________Check     ________Credit Card
Please charge my __________Credit Card Number_________________________Exp. Date___________
Signature____________________________________________________________________________________

I designate my gift for:

_____ Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship
_____ Shirley Bill Teaching Fund
_____ Theodore E.D. Braun Research Travel Fellowship
_____ James L. Clifford Prize
_____ Eighteenth-Century Studies Enrichment Fund
_____ Founders Fund
_____ Louis Gottschalk Prize
_____ Irish American Research Travel Fellowship
_____ Anniel Jenkins Biography Prize
_____ Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Research Travel Fellowship
_____ Music, Art, Drama, & Decorative Arts Fund
_____ Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship
_____ Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship
_____ President and Executive Board Fund
_____ Traveling Jam-Pot Fellowship
_____ Hans Turley Prize in Queer Eighteenth-Century Studies
_____ Aubrey Williams Research Travel Fellowship
_____ Women’s Caucus Fund

Please return to: ASECS Business Office
PO Box 7867, Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC 27109
The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies announces programs to promote and sustain research into the eighteenth-century. Fellowships will be jointly funded by the Society and twelve leading research institutions.

**A fellowship holder must:**
- be a member in good standing of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the time of the award.
- be an ABD graduate student or post-doctoral, holding the Ph.D. or equivalent degree at the time of the application.
- be working on a project concerning the eighteenth-century.

For application information and exact deadlines access the libraries’ website.

**American Antiquarian Society**
185 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609-1634
(508) 755-5221
http://www.americanantiquarian.org

**The Bibliographical Society of America**
BSA Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 1537 Lenox Hill Station
New York, NY 10021
http://www.bibsocamer.org/

**The Boston Athenaeum**
10 ½ Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-0270
(617) 227-5266 [Fax]
http://www.bostonathenaeum.org

**The Burney Centre**
Department of English
McGill University
853 Sherbrooke St. W.
Montreal, PQ H3A 2T6
Canada
Phone: (514) 398-6132
Fax: (514) 398-1240
http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/

**Folger Library & Institute**
Kathleen Lynch, Executive Director
Folger Library
201 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-0333
email: research@folger.edu
http://www.folger.edu/institute/asecs.cfm

**Fellowships**

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**The Burney Centre**
Department of English
McGill University
853 Sherbrooke St. W.
Montreal, PQ H3A 2T6
Canada
Phone: (514) 398-6132
Fax: (514) 398-1240
http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/

**Folger Library & Institute**
Kathleen Lynch, Executive Director
Folger Library
201 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 675-0333
email: research@folger.edu
http://www.folger.edu/institute/asecs.cfm

**Library of Congress**
Washington, DC 20540
http://www.loc.gov

**The Newberry Library**
Committee on Awards
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 255-3666
email: research@newberry.org
http://www.newberry.org/research/felshp/
fellowships.html

**The Rare Book School at the University of Virginia**
114 Alderman Library
Charlottesville, VA 22904
(434) 924-8851 or (434) 243-3948
Applyrbs@gmail.com
http://www.rarebookschool.org/scholarship/

**William Andrews Clark Memorial Library**
Fellowship Coordinator
UCLA, Center for 17th & 18th Century Studies
310 Royce Hall 405 Hilgard Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1404
(310) 206-8552
Fax: (310) 206-8577
email: c1718cs@humnet.ucla.edu
http://www.c1718cs.ucla.edu

**Yale Center for British Art**
Office of the Director
PO Box 208280
New Haven, CT 06520-8280
(203) 432-2822
http://www.yale.edu/ycba/education/index.htm
SELECTED MEETING DATES
The following is a selected calendar of meeting date for ASECS affiliate and related societies.

2013
9-10, August  Defoe Society, Normal, IL  Normal Marriott Hotel
27, September  Burney Society (North America)  Minneapolis
3-6, October  NEASECS, Yale University  International Herder Society, Denver, CO
16-19, October  CSECS Annual Meeting, London, University of Western Ontario, Hilton
24-25, October  Aphra Behn Society, University of Tulsa
November  Samuel Johnson Society of the West
1-2, November  American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA
7-9, November  East Central American Society Eighteenth-Century Studies, Philadelphia, PA, Doubletree Hotel
13-15, November  Early Caribbean Society, Old San Juan

2014
24 January  Bibliographical Society of America  SCSECS, Tremont House Hotel, Galveston, TX
February  Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of California, Davis
14-16, February  ASECS
February 27 - March 2  SEA SECS
18-23, March  ASECS Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA, Colonial Williamsburg Resort
Spring  SCCSES Oceangoing
4-5, April  The Johnson Society of the Central

2015
17-19, July  Fall  Region, Columbus, OH  Society for Early Americanist  CSECS/SCEDHS  Annual Meeting, Université du Québec à Montréal  SHARP, Antwerp, Belgium  Midwestern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Kansas City  Burney Society of North America, Montreal  ECSSS, Montreal, Canada (with CSECS)
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