VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Digital Humanities

INFORMATION ONLY

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Kathleen Woodward will provide a brief overview of how new computing technologies and new communication media are transforming research and scholarship in the humanities and will offer examples of work done at the University of Washington. Two people from the University of Washington who are deeply involved in the digital humanities – Raymond Jonas, Professor of History, and Jentery Sayers, doctoral candidate in English – will also be at the meeting to answer questions from the Regents.

Woodward, Professor of English at the University of Washington, has been director of the Simpson Center for the Humanities since 2000. In 2005 she announced an initiative on the digital humanities which has supported visiting speakers, special workshops, a task force, faculty research, and graduate and undergraduate courses, and culminated in 2009 with a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant of $625,000 to endow the UW Digital Humanities Commons. Requiring a $1,875 million match from new resources to the University of Washington, the Digital Humanities Commons, when fully funded, will be an annual summer think-make tank for collaborative, interdisciplinary projects of UW faculty, graduate students, and staff. As then NEH Chairman Bruce Cole said in making the award, “The Simpson Center will serve as a national model for the transformation of traditional humanities centers in the digital age.”

The author of Statistical Panic (2009), Woodward is the editor of The Myths of Information: Technology and Postindustrial Culture and the coeditor of The Technological Imagination: Theories and Fictions. In addition to grants from NEH, Woodward has been project director on grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Paul K. Allen Family Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and has participated in many recent digital humanities projects undertaken by the Mellon Foundation. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the international consortium HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory) and was president of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.
A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

**Digital Humanities (continued p. 2)**

(CHCI) from 1995-2001. Woodward’s first appointment as a tenure-track faculty member was at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in conjunction with the NEH-funded Program in Cultural and Technological Studies, an innovative undergraduate curriculum supported by the School of Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences. Woodward holds a B.A. in Economics from Smith College and a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California at San Diego.

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**Raymond Jonas**

[Image of Raymond Jonas]

I grew up in Silicon Valley. My best friends in high school in the seventies were techies whose idea of fun was building computers from components – something I still do and still enjoy. Since then, my interests in scholarship and technology have never strayed far from one another. Part of my training as a graduate student involved querying tape-mounted nineteenth century demographic data via punch cards. A program I wrote as a graduate student at Berkeley to maintain my teaching and research bibliographies “PBR – Personal Bibliographic Reference” was picked up by the University of Washington in 1985 and marketed – with manual and 5.25” floppy – as part of an effort to generate revenue from faculty-written software.

At the risk of sounding like a scaled-down version of Al Gore, I am proud to claim credit for the creation, in 1991, of the listserv now known as H-France. Today, H-France is the forum and information clearing house for thousands of scholars working on francophone studies worldwide.

Visualization – increasing information bandwidth through images – has been a core theme in my scholarship. In my first book *Industry and Politics in Rural France, 1870-1914* (Cornell UP, 1995) I used graphical (AutoCAD) and mathematical software (123, QuickSurf) to map complex demographic data as isopleths. In effect, I invoked the analogy of contours in the landscape to show demographic change as ‘peaks’ and ‘valleys’ that the lay reader could easily interpret.

*France and the Cult of the Sacred Heart: An Epic Tale for Modern Times* (California UP, 2000) concerned the political culture of counter-revolution in France after 1789, especially as it related to Catholic rituals and monuments. I used pilgrimage records and GIS to map the geography of pilgrimage over space and time and to show that pilgrimage – stimulated by special train fares, group hotel rates, and hosted package tours – pioneered some of the recognizably modern forms of organized leisure.

My current research concerns Ethiopia – the only African country to fend off colonization during the Scramble for Africa. *The Color of Africa: Black and White at the*
A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Digital Humanities (continued p. 3)

_Battle of Adwa_ (Harvard UP, forthcoming) is the story of Africans seeing to their own freedom. I have secured the domain name BattleOfAdwa.org and, over the coming months, I will flesh out my vision of the digital monograph by posting animations, voiceover, interview footage, location shots. This “short-form digital content” will extend the concept of the scholarly monograph at the same time that it validates alternative forms of scholarly production in the humanities.

Going forward, I believe that the great challenges facing the digital humanities concern visualization, collaboration, and venue. How can visualization enhance the richness and accessibility of knowledge? How can collaboration – the sharing of scholarly and technical tasks – facilitate that process? How can we develop new venues and new audiences for the humanities and how can we maintain the highest scholarly standards as we do so?

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VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Digital Humanities (continued p. 4)

**Jentery Sayers** is a PhD Candidate in English at the University of Washington, Seattle, and a Project for Interdisciplinary Pedagogy Fellow in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington, Bothell. Supported by a Simpson Center Fellowship in 2009-2010, Sayer’s dissertation is a cultural history of magnetic recording from 1860 to the present.

Sayers was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship on “Broadening the Digital Humanities” at the University of Southern California to digitally compose his dissertation as a form of multimodal, web-based scholarship. He has published his work in the electronic journal *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* as well as in the collection of essays *Writing and the Digital Generation: Essays on New Media Rhetoric* (2010).

At the University of Washington, he has taught technology-focused courses in English composition, literary criticism, cultural studies, media studies, and the comparative history of ideas. He received the 2010 K. Patricia Cross Future Leader Award from the Association of American Colleges & Universities, the 2010 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from UW’s Undergraduate Academic Affairs at the UW, and the 2008 *Kairos* & Bedford St. Martin’s Press Graduate Student & Adjunct Faculty National Teaching Award for computers and composition.

He is currently co-organizing The Humanities and Technology Camp Pacific Northwest, which will occur at the UW in late October. He also serves on the steering committee for the University of Victoria’s Digital Humanities Summer Institute, the steering committee for the national consortium Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC), and the editorial board for *Kairos*.

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Digital Humanities at the University of Washington

Kathleen Woodward
Director, Simpson Center for the Humanities
Professor, English
Pioneer Projects

- Early Buddhist Manuscript Project
  Richard Salomon (Asian Languages & Literature)

- Digital Egypt
  Scott Noegel (Near East Languages & Civilization)

- Electronic *Piers Plowman*
  Mícheál Vaughan (English) & Terry Brooks (iSchool)
Early Buddhist Manuscript Project
Richard Salomon (Asian Languages & Literature)
Ancient Near East Photographs

This collection, created by Professor Scott Noegel, documents artifacts and archaeological sites of the ancient Near East. While the majority of the collection depicts structures and sites dating from 3000 BCE to 200 CE, the collection also has images of more recent sites, such as the al-Aqmar Mosque and the modern creation, Lake Nasser. Currently, all images are of Egypt and Israel, although plans exist to eventually add images from Anatolia, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

About the Database

The images were collected over a ten-year period by University of Washington scholars, and the images included in this database were chosen to facilitate research and to supplement general reading in a variety of disciplines. The richness of this image collection can be seen in the diversity of the topics represented by the images within. In addition to topic-specific images, one can find pictorial data to supplement the study of pharaonic history, daily life in ancient times, ancient art, architectural features, and the history of religions (Egyptian, Canaanite, Israelite, Judaism, Coptic Christianity, Early Islam, etc.).

Images were scanned at 300dpi using an Umax Astra 2009 scanner and saved at 72dpi as jpg files. Alterations were made with Adobe Photoshop.

The images in this collection are owned by Professor Scott Noegel. For permission to use these images you must send an inquiry to Dr. Scott Noegel at snoegel[at]u[dot]washington[dot]edu.

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Seattle, WA 98195
http://faculty.washington.edu/snoegel/
The King orders both of them to stop arguing. The argument is more likely to be a plural than a polite singular pronoun addressed to Conscience, a point reinforced by "both" at the end of the second line. He addressed Conscience as "thou" earlier (106-8). While the King thought Mead was winning the argument (216-17), his reaction here suggests that he is unpersuaded by Conscience's counterargument about the two kinds of reward and the equation of Lady Mead only with the negative version. The lack of reconciliation (equivalent to the modern deal-sealing handshake) ordered by the King is rejected by Conscience. The King is made to appear somewhat weak by what follows.

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Larger Publics

• The September (11\textsuperscript{th}) Project
  David Silver (formerly Communication)

• Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History
  James Gregory (History)

• Great Depression in Washington State
  James Gregory (History)
The September (11th) Project
David Silver

Connecting the World
One Library at a Time
Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History
James Gregory (History)
The Great Depression in Washington State
James Gregory (History)

Photographs & Films

Here are collections of photographs, newsreels, and films depicting important aspects of the Great Depression in Washington State. Click on an image below to be taken to a special thematic album.

Dorothea Lange’s Yakima Valley Collection
The Farm Security Administration commissioned Dorothea Lange to chronicle central Washington’s Yakima Valley migrant and agricultural laborers in 1939. View Lange’s images, culled from the Library of Congress photograph archives.

Universal Newsreel
National Guard troops use tear gas on picketers in Tacoma during the 1933 lumber workers strike (near what is today the University of Washington campus). Universal Newsreel. National Archives. Courtesy Ronald Magden.

Films and Newsreel footage
Here are two newsreel clips from Tacoma and Seattle and a short film about the 1934 Longshoreman’s strike. Courtesy Ronald Magden.
Computational Humanities & Data-Mining

• **Indus Script**
  Rajesh Rao (Computer Science & Engineering)

• **Google Books**
  Peter Leonard (Doctoral Student, Scandinavian Studies)
Deciphering the 4500-year-old Indus Script
Rajesh Rao (Computer Science & Engineering)

Probabilistic Analysis of an Ancient Undeciphered Script

Rajesh P.N. Rao, University of Washington

Probabilistic methods for analyzing sequences are providing new insights into the 4,000-year-old undeciphered script of the Indus civilization.

In the latter half of the 19th century, railway workers in British India found an almost inexhaustible supply of perfectly cut tusked bricks at Harappa, a town now located in present-day Pakistan. The bricks were used as building blocks in Harappa, Indus cities, and in other Bronze Age civilizations. No extravagant royal palaces, pyramids, or altars have been found. What archaeologists have unearthed in large numbers are inscriptions on seals that date back to around 2500 BCE. Each seal represents either a word or a syllable. What the Indus signs actually mean remain a mystery, although the number of types claiming to have deciphered the script would occupy a significant portion of the reference section in this book.
Our commitment to the digital humanities
7/14/2010
It can’t have been very long after people started writing that they started to organize and comment on what was written. Look at the 10th century Venetus A manuscript, which contains scholia written fifteen centuries earlier about texts written five centuries before that. Almost since computers were invented, people have envisioned using them to expose the interconnections of the world’s knowledge. That vision is finally becoming real with the
Expanding the Book Beyond Print: Multi-Modal Tracks

• Ray Jonas (History)
• Jentry Sayers (English)
Ray Jonas
The Color of Africa: Black & White at the Battle of Adwa
The following pages are about trustworthy texts, for fabricated tales, unreliable narratives, or forged documents, but fleeting and ephemeral inscriptions. They are trustworthy because they are fickle. Inexorably, even. They disappear. They are easy to lose, misplace, or modify. Unlike their predecessors, they are always in two places at once—read here and stored there. They are no doubt duplicitous. And yet they garner unquestioned authority. Precisely because they are so difficult to pin down, people count on them.

Consider an example.
Jertery Sayers
Teaching & Learning