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Idaho Humanities Council awards 24 grants at fall meeting

(Editors: Please note grant awards in your region)

The Idaho Humanities Council, the non-profit, state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded **\$66,791** in grants to organizations and individuals at its recent board meeting in Boise. Twenty-four awards include five Research Fellowships, five Teacher Incentive Grants and 14 public humanities programs. The following projects were funded:

Major and Mini Grants:

The Museum of Winchester History (Winchester) was awarded **\$2,000** to enhance the community of Winchester's centennial commemoration in the summer of 2009 with some humanities lectures and other activities. Winchester was a logging community for much of the 20th century. Plans include a display of historical photographs and artifacts interpreting the early lumber and mining history, panel discussions with Native Americans, former loggers, and local historians. The project director is **Janene Alley**.

Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston) received **\$1,960** for speaker presentations at the 2009 Native American Awareness Week to be held March 9-13. This will be the 22nd annual event. The week will feature Pow-wows, panels and speaker presentations on topics related to the historical and cultural context of storytelling, drumming, and song. Presenting scholars tentatively include Richard Sams, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon, and the lead singer for the Umatilla-Intertribal Drum group; Cliff Sijohn, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, well known storyteller, producer of two documentary films, and author of a book titled *Native American Music*; and Ed Edmo, affiliated with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes, and an acclaimed poet, performer, and storyteller. The project director is **Bob Sobotta**.

The Ada Community Library (Boise) was awarded **\$1,000** to bring a guest speaker to Boise for presentations during the "Big Read" program in the spring of 2009. The program is designed to inspire discussion of a citywide reading of Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*. Don Herron, author of *The Dashiell Hammett Tour: A Guidebook* and *Literary World of San Francisco and Its Environs* will make two presentations. The project director is **Mary DeWalt**.

The Burley Public Library (Burley) received **\$1,260** to support a family film festival at the library. The festival will begin in November 2008 and last through October 2009 with a film viewing each month. The library plans to show classic films (some from the American Film Institute's Top 100 film list) to families in Burley from various genres, including animation, fantasy, science fiction, westerns, mystery, etc. Rob Mayer, an English, literature and film instructor at the College of Southern Idaho, will preface each viewing with a short talk about each film, and facilitate discussions. The project director is **Valerie Bame**.

The Janet C. Anderson Gender Resource Center at Idaho State University (Pocatello) was awarded **\$1,821** to help support a speaker at the multidisciplinary conference titled *The Art of Gender in Everyday Life* in April 2009. Scholar Emily Toth, Professor of English and Women's Studies at Louisiana State University, will present a talk about 19th century writer Kate Chopin, author of the classic novel *The Awakening*. Prior to the presentation, the Anderson Center will promote the reading and discussion of three Chopin short stories. The project director is **Rebecca Morrow**.

The University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media (Moscow) received **\$1,894** to support a public talk by *Washington Post* reporter Juliet Eilperin titled "Environmental Policies of the New President: What to Expect in the Next Four Years." Eilperin's talk will focus on the media coverage of U.S. environmental policies as expressed by the newly elected president. She will illustrate how environmental reporting helps shape public understanding of these issues. Eilperin also will meet with reporters of local news organizations and speak to University of Idaho journalism classes. The talk is scheduled for April 30, 2009. The project director is **Kenton Bird**.

Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston) was awarded **\$1,939** to transcribe and publish a portion of a long-out-of-print book by Archie Phinney entitled *Nez Perce Texts*, first published by the University of Columbia Press in 1934. The reprint publication, in the form of a pamphlet, will be provided to scholars, tribal members, school districts, and also will be put on a website. *Nez Perce Texts* includes tales transcribed by Phinney from his mother, a fluent Nez Perce speaker. The project director is **Harold Crook**.

Idaho Public Television (Statewide) received **\$12,100** for statewide broadcast of the 21st season of *American Experience*. This season of the award-winning history series will feature documentaries on *Robert Oppenheimer*, *The Assassination of Lincoln*, *A Class Apart* (about the Civil Rights Case Hernandez v. Texas), *The Polio Crusade*, and *We Shall Remain* (a five-part series establishing Native history as an essential part of American history). The project director is **Penny Traylor**.

The Community Library (Ketchum) was awarded **\$1,100** to begin developing three photography exhibits to complement the Smithsonian "Museum on Main Street" exhibit *Between Fences*, about the meaning of borders between neighbors and nations. The library will host this exhibit from May 22 – July 4, 2009, and will develop local exhibits that will focus on the recent and past history of fences in the Wood River Valley and what they mean to the local culture. The project director is **Sandra Hofferber**.

Idaho State University (Pocatello) received **\$3,500** to bring Pulitzer-Prize winning historian and Harvard Professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich to Pocatello for a public lecture during Women's History Month in March 2009. Ulrich won the Pulitzer Prize and a Bancroft Prize for her 1990 book *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*. Her latest book (and the topic of her March lecture) is *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History* (2007). This book illustrates the ways in which history helps women make sense of their own lives. The project director is **Erika Kuhlman**.

The Idaho State Historical Society (Boise) received **\$5,720** to support planning of a new theme and storyline for a 9,000-square-foot exhibit, *Idaho: Spirit of the Land and Its People* as part of a major expansion of the Idaho State Historical Museum. The exhibit will focus on people, places, and events observed from multiple perspectives and experiences. Consultants in educational strategic planning, research, evaluation, and performance-based assessment will work together with Idaho scholars to determine the interactive dimensions of the new exhibit. The project director is **Fred Fritchman**.

The Idaho Commission on the Arts (Boise) was awarded **\$3,500** to bring folklorist Laura Marcus to Idaho to conduct new fieldwork, research archived fieldwork, select artists, and create interpretation for a newcomer artist exhibition at the Boise Art Museum. Part of a larger project titled "Cultural Bridges: The Art of Community," the exhibit will complement a traditional artist exhibit at the Idaho State Historical Museum and both will open in October 2009. More than 5,000 refugees have come to the Treasure Valley in the last ten years, and sponsors hope this project will broaden community awareness of the culture of different ethnic

groups and will also encourage the continuance of cultural art forms. The project director is **Maria Carmen Gambliel**.

The Wallace District Mining Museum (Wallace) received **\$3,000** for digital cataloging of much of the museum's collection. The museum has thousands of physical objects, photographs, maps, and historical documents collected over its history. Planners hope the automation of the collection will not only help manage the collection, but also assist in creating interactive exhibits and enhance research. The project director is **Jim McReynolds**.

University of Idaho (Moscow) was awarded **\$3,500** to support the seventh annual American Indian Film Festival, *Sapatq'ayn Cinema*, in Moscow. The festival takes place in Moscow's historic Kenworthy Theater and features films over the course of four evenings from March 25-28, 2009. The films will be a mixture of documentary and feature films, one by Idaho filmmaker Sonya Rosario and winners from the Sundance Film Festival. The project director is **Janis Johnson**.

Research Fellowships:

The IHC board awarded five Research Fellowships to Idaho scholars. The board awards a limited number of Research Fellowships once a year to assist scholars in beginning or completing major research for articles, books, and other scholarly efforts.

Philip Homan, Associate Professor, Idaho State University Library (**Pocatello**) received **\$3,500** to research and write a biography of Kitty Wilkins (1857-1936), "The Horse Queen of Idaho." The Wilkins family owned and operated the Wilkins Horse Company, a vast area that crossed the state lines of Idaho and Nevada, and Wilkins eventually became the largest broker of horses in the west. Homan notes that she was the only woman at the turn of the century whose sole occupation was horse dealing, that she was featured in newspapers throughout America, but is now nearly unknown.

Jessica Winston, Idaho State University Associate Professor of English (**Pocatello**), received **\$3,500** to complete her book *Lawyers at Play*, a study of the literary, political, and social culture of the England's Inns of Court in the 1560s. She proposes that the Inns of Court were literary, professional, and political communities, and that the literary activity helped members to understand and comment on their political world.

Rena Sanderson, BSU Associate Professor of English (**Boise**), was awarded **\$3,500** to support her serving as an editor on the forthcoming 12-volume *Cambridge Edition of the Letters of Ernest Hemingway*. Having assisted on one volume, Sanderson was invited to work on a collection of more than 500 letters for Volume Three, 1930-1933. In addition to transcribing the letters archived at Princeton University Library, Sanderson will prepare annotations for each letter as well.

Maria Glowacka, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Idaho State University (**Pocatello**), received **\$3,500** to examine historical photographs of the Shoshoni life and culture from 1880-1940. Working with a Shoshone-Bannock Tribe member and fluent speaker of Shoshoni, she will ethnographically describe each photograph, detailing the cultural meanings of the records depicting traditional Shoshoni practices such as hunting, making cradleboards, smoking hides, beadwork, etc. She notes the research will help preserve this Shoshoni knowledge, provide data for developing educational materials, enhance research programs at ISU, and establish research collaboration between Idaho's archival repositories.

David Adler, Idaho State University Political Science Professor (**Pocatello**), was awarded **\$3,500** to complete a book for the general public calling for the restoration of the rule of law in America. He contends that the Presidency has become subject to few limitations in its concentration of power, and that such power is contrary to the Constitution which grants these powers to Congress. Adler's book will be specifically targeted to the general public. His aim is to better educate the general citizenry, provide reasonable solutions, and

heighten public awareness of our role as vigilant citizens in preventing presidential usurpation of power and protecting the Constitution.

Teacher Incentive Grants:

The IHC awards grants of up to \$1,000 twice a year to K-12 teachers and educational organizations to enhance teaching of the humanities in the classroom.

Susan Stagliano, The Valley View Early Childhood Center (**Bonnors Ferry**), was awarded **\$1,000** for a weekly music appreciation class for the kindergarten and first grade students. Stagliano notes that young students more readily advance in math and reading if the subjects are presented through music.

Douglas StanWiens, Timberline High School (**Boise**), received **\$997** for the Boise Architecture Project, an award-winning interdisciplinary program of the school's History Club, and students of AP History, photography, and geography. Students learn about local history, take photos of local buildings, write a research paper with oral interviews, and make presentations. The data is posted to a website that currently includes studies of 120 buildings.

Debra Smith, Sandpoint High School Social Studies Teacher (**Sandpoint**), was awarded **\$1,000** to help support a new course to be offered during the 2008-2009 academic year. The course, titled International Relations/Model United Nations, is interdisciplinary, open to 10th through 12th grade students, and has 28 students enrolled with a waiting list. One goal of the program is for students to see the application of their humanities classes in the world. Students will study the United Nations, research foreign policy issues, prepare position papers on assigned countries, and participate in a March 2009 Model United Nations Conference in New York City.

Vera Noyce, The Garden City Library Foundation (**Garden City**), received **\$1,000** to purchase bilingual books for its "Bells for Books" program, a book mobile serving the neighborhoods around four Boise elementary schools and targeting many at-risk students. The book mobile stops at 30 sites, and checks out about 500 books to 200 children and 45 adults each week throughout the summer. A library staff member also reads stories at each stop, and volunteers help with donated snacks, prizes, and clerical duties.

Gordon Olsen, a Spanish teacher at Hagerman High School (**Hagerman**), was awarded **\$1,000** to supplement a one-credit humanities course designed to immerse students in a contemporary culture through a 10-day trip to a different country every other year. The 2009 trip will be to Costa Rica. Throughout the year, a guest speaker, Michael Smith, will make presentations twice a month to Spanish classes, and the students will read fiction and non-fiction books from Costa Rican writers, will complete reading and writing assignments, including journal exercises, and will complete research assignments on the history, art, people, politics and economics of the country. They will present their experiences to the local public, parents, teachers, and other students.

The Next Deadline for IHC Grants:

The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals is **January 15, 2009**. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique by mid-December 2008. Grant guidelines and application forms, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC's website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

For an electronic version of this press release contact Rick@idahohumanities.org