

*Cooper Fellows are Arts and Sciences faculty appointed by the dean of the College after nomination by their department heads. The three-year fellowships include funding to the holders to pursue research. Each Cooper Fellow will be asked to deliver a public lecture on a topic of his or her choosing to share the knowledge gained through their research.*

*Cooper Fellowships were established in 2006 through a multi-million dollar bequest by Richard L. Cooper, A.B. '40.*

### **Cooper Fellow Lecture Series**

#### **2009-2010**

##### **Professor John Paul Russo, English and Classics Departments**

*"Have the Humanities Declined?" **March 12, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery*

Examining the crisis in the humanities as a consequence of technological society, the proliferation of visual media, relationalism and the erosion of the individual, and the so-called decline of the West.

##### **Professor Annette La Greca, Department of Psychology**

*"The impact of disasters on youth." **April 16, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery*

Addressing the impact of natural disasters (and other traumatic events) on children's functioning. Risk and protective factors that play a role in children's adjustment postdisaster will be discussed, as well as interventions to help children and families in the aftermath of disasters.

##### **Professor Colin McGinn, Philosophy Department**

*"Philosophy and Literature In The 1950s: The Rise Of The 'Ordinary Bloke'" **September 18, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery*

Exploring the role and status of the 'common man' in post-war British literature and philosophy

##### **Professor Carol C. Horvitz, Biology Department**

*"Tropical plant populations: new insights about aging and ecology in a random world." **September 24, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery*

Will discuss how transitions of individuals among different stages and environments during the life-cycle determine the age pattern of mortality in plants. These studies suggest a new way to understand the observed leveling-off of death rates at old ages in humans.

**Professor Angel Kaifer, Chemistry Department**

*"How I Met Your Molecule: Tales of Attraction at The Molecular Level."*

**October 23, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery

This lecture looks at one the most basic yet spectacular actions in science, using everyday situations as examples.

**Professor Mary Lindemann, History Department**

*"Charlotte's Bebb: incest, history, and the literary imagination."* **November 20, 2009** at the College/Wesley Gallery.

The Charlotte Guyard incest case of 1766 was a cause célèbre, a shock, and an embarrassment. But it was also the stuff of literature; nothing in the eighteenth century sold better than such "romances of real life."

**Professor Don Spivey, History Department**

*"Lessons from the World's greatest Pitcher, Leroy Satchel Paige: Baseball and the Rethinking of the Struggle against Jim Crow."* **February 12, 2010** at the College/Wesley Gallery

**Professor Guido Ruggiero, History Department**

**"Looking for Love: Italian Renaissance Prostitution Reconsidered"**

**February 18, 2010** at 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM CAS Gallery

"Looking for Love: Italian Renaissance Prostitution Reconsidered" by Guido Ruggiero, Professor and Chair Department of History at the CAS Wesley Gallery, 1210 Stanford Drive, UM Gables Campus. A fascinating and engaging look at relationships during the Italian Renaissance.

**2011-12**

**Professor Risto Hilpinen, Department of Philosophy**

*"Naturefacts and Artifacts."* **November 1, 2011** at the Lowe Art Museum

Aristotle divided existing things into those that exist "by nature" and products of art. The talk will explore this distinction and what is involved in Making artifacts.

**Professor Michelle Wachs Galloway, Department of Mathematics**

*"The Art of Counting" February 2, 2012 at the Lowe Art Museum*

Abstract: The field of combinatorics can be described as the art of counting. This deceptively simple sounding activity employs elegant and sophisticated techniques to enumerate the discrete configurations that occur in mathematics, science, engineering, and everyday life. In this talk we will give some illustrative examples, including examples from my own research.

**Professor Leonel Sternberg, Department of Biology**

*"Ants and Roots in the Tropics -- How a Plant Biologist Became Interested in Ants"*

**April 4, 2012** at the Lowe Art Museum

Abstract: While studying root structure of tropical trees, I was surprised to find that leafcutter ants are important in the root ecology of tropical trees.

**2012-13**

**Professor Harold Wanless, Department of Geological Sciences**

*"The Frightening Reality of Sea Level Rise" October 17, 2012 at the Miller Center Auditorium*

Rapid acceleration in the melting of the polar ice caps is being driven by human-induced warming of polar temperatures – both of the air and ocean water.

The resulting sea level rise will soon put low-lying coastal areas in South Florida and around the world at risk.

**Professor Anne Cruz, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

*"The Many Lives of Luisa de Carvajal y Mendoza" March 5, 2013 at the Lowe Art Museum*

The challenging life choices of a Spanish noblewoman who rejected marriage and the convent to travel instead to Protestant England as a self-appointed missionary seeking martyrdom.

**Professor V. Ramamurthy, Department of Chemistry**

*"Functional Knowledge from Life as a Scientist" April 10, 2013 at the Lowe Art Museum*

-- Life as a scientist can be challenging and rewarding at each stage – from learning as a student to guiding research as a professor. After 4 decades of experience in 4 institutions, I conclude that the joy of doing science is self-defined and so is success in life as a scientist.

### **2013-14**

#### **Professor Amie L. Thomasson, Department of Philosophy.**

*“Norms and Necessity”* **November 6, 2013 at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** *Lowe Art Museum*

By observing the world it seems we can only learn what is the case, not what could be or must be the case. So how can we come to know these modal facts? And how can we understand what is being said when we make modal claims? These are the questions Professor Thomasson will address.

#### **Professor Rafael Nepomechie, Department of Physics**

*“From Galileo to Maldacena”* **February 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.** *at the New Student Activities Center, Room 306*

In this non-technical talk (no equations!) we shall take a brief historical tour of some famous physicists and their remarkable simple models, which have guided our understanding of the world.

### **2014-15**

#### **Professor David Janos, Department of Biology**

*“Can Root-Inhabiting Fungi Save The World?”* **December 3, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.** *at the McLamore Dining Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Jenkins Building (School of Business)*

#### **Abstract:**

A potential world phosphate fertilizer shortage underscores the need for efficient phosphorus acquisition by crops. In contrast, very low soil phosphorus availability is overcome by rain forest plants. This talk will reveal their secret. (Please see attached poster).

### **2015-16**

#### **Professor Roger Leblanc, Department of Chemistry**

*“Staying on Top of Modern Science: Profile of a Cooper Fellow”* **October 29, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.** *at Shalala Student Center, North Activities Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)*

**Abstract:** The life of an academic researcher is ternary, balancing between teaching, research and a personal life. Teaching offers many challenges, but these are greatly outweighed by the benefits of being a mentor. Through the years, it has been a privilege to have so many students pass through my lab and contribute to what has

been an ever-changing study of biophotophysical properties. Keeping up with the ebb and flow of research requires constant acclimation to modern advances. Sustaining a career in research directs one down many different paths. While research and mentoring tend to tip the scales, it is the personal side of an academic researcher that helps to maintain balance.

**Professor Harvey Siegel, Philosophy Department**

“Should We Cram Evolution Down the Throats of Fundamentalist Students?”

**December 7, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Abess Center, Ungar Building, Room 230C/D

**Abstract:** The Evolution/Creationism-Intelligent Design controversy has bedeviled public school science education in the United States for nearly two centuries. On the scientific merits, the question should have been resolved long ago. The fact that it hasn't been suggests that more is at stake than the scientific merits of the opposing views. In this talk I briefly review the history, argue that the controversy is best seen not just in scientific but rather also in broadly cultural terms, and that the educational issue is best resolved by focusing on *belief*: what exactly should science teachers expect their fundamentalist students to believe?

**Professor Robert Casillo, English Department**

“Ezra Pound, John Adams, James Fenimore Cooper, and the Myth of the Venetian Republic” **Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 3:30 – 4:30 P.M.** Wesley Gallery| 1210 Stanford Drive

**Abstract:** The myth of Venice as an ideal republic has been celebrated not only by Venetian historians and political theorists but by numerous non-Venetian observers extending from the Renaissance Florentines to John Ruskin and beyond. By contrast, Ezra Pound in his Cantos portrays Venice not as a model republic but rather as a usurious oligarchy. Pound's version of the “black myth” of Venice at once parallels and builds upon a distinguished English and especially American tradition of political and historical writing, whose most important exemplars include John Adams, Brooks Adams, William Roscoe, and James Fenimore Cooper.

**Professor Hermann Beck, Department of History**

“Before the Holocaust: Anti-Semitic Violence during the Nazi Seizure of Power”

**Tuesday, April 14, 2016, 3:30 – 4:30 P.M.** Miller Center Auditorium, Judaic Studies Center, Merrick 105

**Abstract:** Contrary to the assumptions of previous historiography, a proliferation of anti-Semitic attacks occurred already weeks after Hitler became chancellor. We examine the nature of these attacks and the reaction of German society to Nazi brutality and ask why there was so little opposition to anti-Semitic violence on the part of German society and elites at a time when resistance still seemed possible.

**2016-17**

**Professor J Tomas Lopez, Art and Art History Department**

“Photography: From Romanticism to Structuralism” -- **Monday, November 14, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.** Location: SAC – Ballroom East

**Abstract:** Rethinking Barthe's concept of 'Studium' and 'Punctum' within four portfolios of photographic work during the past three years.

In 'Studium', the picture plane is approached as a problem of composition and not in a calculated attempt to shock.

If an audience is conditioned to anticipate a surprise – it rejects the more contemplative image.

**Professor Michael McCullough, Department of Psychology**

“Wrath and Reconciliation: An Evolutionary and Computational Approach to Revenge and Forgiveness” -- **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.** Location: UMHillel/Jewish Student Center

**Abstract:** For 25 years, I have worked toward a psychological understanding of humans' propensities for revenge and forgiveness. For the past ten of those years, I have sought to take natural selection and the computational theory of mind seriously. Doing so has led to surprising insights and new kinds of clarity about how revenge and forgiveness operate in human affairs.

**Professor Neil Johnson, Department of Physics**

“Getting Cyberphysical” -- **Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.** Location: Shalala Student Center – Grand Ballroom East

**Abstract:** The future Web-of-Things will feature collections of interacting driverless cars, hybrid human-machine systems and social-media enhanced technologies. So what could possibly go wrong?

This talk looks at this issue, making connections to systems as diverse as fruit-fly larvae and the ultimate “wet” complex system: the human brain. The National Science Foundation predicts that the development of Cyber-Physical systems will “drive innovation and competition in sectors such as agriculture, energy, transportation, building design and automation, healthcare, and manufacturing”, hence their practical and scientific importance.