Research in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities

Clemson University
A Message from the Dean

Dear Clemson Faculty, Administrators, Alumni and Friends:

"O brave new world," says Miranda in William Shakespeare’s play The Tempest when she discovers that the inhabitants of the isolated island on which she has grown up are only a tiny proportion of the earth’s population. Her words, however, could easily apply to Clemson’s College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities (AAH). Just a few years ago, the College of AAH was notable almost exclusively for the role its faculty played in teaching the introductory-level courses that undergraduate students took to fulfill their basic general education requirements. Today, while general education remains an important part of AAH’s contribution to the University, the college has broadened its mission to include thriving undergraduate majors, its first Ph.D. programs and much greater productivity in faculty research.

It is our faculty research that this publication highlights. Clemson has long excelled at producing research in engineering and sciences, and now we are seeing the same from our arts, humanities and design fields as well. Research generates new knowledge, which helps us to better understand issues and solve problems. It also ensures that faculty stay informed about new developments in their areas of specialty, which makes them better classroom teachers. Students clearly benefit from being taught by professors who are on the cutting edge of their fields.

This publication features some of the most exciting and nationally prestigious research projects that faculty are conducting in the College of AAH. These projects also display the college’s intellectual diversity. The projects range across the college’s 10 departments and three schools, to include work in traditional humanities fields; newer disciplines such as communication studies and construction science and management; the performing and visual arts; and design-based disciplines such as architecture and city and regional planning. The 10 projects featured here comprise only a small portion of all AAH research. We have also included a list of additional projects that provides a sense of the breadth and quality of what’s happening elsewhere in the college.

In recent years, College of AAH faculty have been awarded some of the most prestigious fellowships in the academic world, including Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Humanities, Mellon and Fulbright fellowships. They have published books with some of the most important academic presses, and their articles have appeared in some of the most significant academic journals. Their creative and design projects have won numerous national awards. We are proud of the excellent research produced by our faculty while continuing to maintain our strong commitment to teaching. I hope this publication, which will appear on an annual basis, will provide you with a sense of the increasing quality and quantity of research in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities.

Sincerely,

Janice Cervelli Schach, FASLA
Dean
College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities

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Photos by Rob Silance
Motion pictures have the power to convey images and information all over the earth. They also have the power to shape opinions, beliefs and attitudes. Even movies that are created primarily to entertain rather than to educate reflect a variety of social and cultural assumptions. Cinematic images play upon our most basic feelings, influencing our understanding of how the world works and our place within it.

James Burns, associate professor of African history, conducts research that explores the role of motion pictures in cultures of African origin. Burns’ first book, Flickering Shadows: Cinema and Identity in Colonial Zimbabwe (Ohio University Press, 2002), looked at the impact of motion pictures upon the people of the British colony of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in southern Africa. Europeans who expected motion pictures to bolster colonial regimes often found that African audiences responded to cinematic images in unpredictable and unintended ways. In Rhodesia, film encouraged a sense of community and solidarity amongst colonized peoples that ultimately helped to undermine white rule.

Burns’ current research expands this study across the African Diaspora, the range of cultures worldwide that trace their roots back to Africa. Burns will examine the effects of motion pictures on diaspora cultures in the Caribbean and the American South and compare them with southern Africa. The experiences of all three cultures appear to have generated ideas of disobedience or rebellion in their audiences. Thus, while some research already exists on the subject of film in the African Diaspora, most existing studies are local in scope. Burns’ goal is to document and connect the experiences of early film audiences across the diaspora. His research will take him to historical archives in the Caribbean and the American South as well as Africa, where he will examine transcripts of interviews, newspaper articles, letters to the editor and other evidence of the effects of the film industry on diaspora cultures.

Burns’ research will focus on two main areas. He will study the reception of film throughout the African Diaspora over time and the various ways in which it became integrated into the cultural and political lives of urban audiences. He will also explore the extent to which motion picture images increased awareness of black identity, racism and segregation among diaspora audiences.

One cinematic image that was particularly influential in this context is that of the American cowboy. In diaspora cultures, audiences embraced the cowboy as a revolutionary cultural figure who defied social and political norms. For example, in colonial Jamaica, street gangs modeled themselves after the American cowboys first introduced in Western films. The members of these gangs became urban folk heroes due to their Robin Hood-like exploits. Cowboys also appealed to black audiences in the American South, among whom Westerns remained popular long after their appeal to whites had diminished.

Other images struck a less resonant chord with viewers in the diaspora, since a great number of early films were rendered almost incomprehensible by excessive editing. The elite whites who produced many early movies wished to avoid the projection of any images that might generate ideas of disobedience or rebellion in their audiences. Thus, many of the films first shown to diaspora audiences lacked any scenes depicting violence. (Imagine an old Western with no “shoot-em-up” scenes!) In response, blacks began creating their own films written and produced by black filmmakers and featuring black actors.

The film industry had another impact on the power structure of societies in the African Diaspora. Films encouraged early moviegoers to view themselves as consumers in an age when ticket sales could overwhelm segregated interests. As a result, black people began to wield economic power with movie distributors. As an outgrowth of this phenomenon, movie theaters became venues for negotiating the details of a newly integrated society since they often served as organizational headquarters for the anti-segregation movement.

Burns has already published an article on his research in the French journal Diasporas, and he plans to write additional articles in the near future. Ultimately, he will produce a book on the reception of film in the African Diaspora.

James Burns is from Holyoke, Mass. He has taught at Clemson since 1999. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and his doctorate from the University of California at Santa Barbara.
South Carolina’s roads are some of the most dangerous in the nation. The state’s traffic fatality rate is consistently around 50 percent higher than the national average. A S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) study found that South Carolina experienced 2.23 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles of travel in 2002, while the national average was 1.50. Three people die every day on South Carolina’s roads.

Many of these fatalities are caused by excessive speed. According to SCDOT, 46.5 percent of S.C. traffic deaths in 2001 were related to speed, which contrasts to 30.5 percent in the United States as a whole. Compared to the rest of the country, South Carolina has roughly three times the number of speed-related deaths per 100,000 licensed drivers. Almost half of these fatalities — 47 percent — occur on secondary roads, in contrast to only 11 percent on interstate highways.

Up until now, efforts to reduce the number of traffic deaths in South Carolina have focused on engineering-based solutions: building more roads to reduce congestion, spending more money to maintain existing roads and to add safety features to them. Anne Dunning, an assistant professor in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, wants to take a different approach. She is working with a team of civil engineers at Clemson, S.C. State University and The Citadel that was recently awarded a grant for $57,052 from the University Transportation Center at S.C. State to study traffic fatalities in South Carolina.

The team will focus on questions of location and population. In other words, they will look at where the crashes are taking place and who is involved in them. By doing this, they hope to identify “hot spots” where an inordinate number of crashes are occurring. They also will look at the demographic, socioeconomic and other characteristics of the people involved in the crashes to see if these are prevailing trends. Educational campaigns could then target the areas and groups identified in an effort to reduce fatalities and improve traffic safety. “We want to identify the who and where of these fatalities so we can get a handle on what’s happening and figure out how to target a response,” says Dunning.

The research team will begin by reviewing the relevant literature and meeting with representatives from SCDOT and from advocacy groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The team will then track the most recent three years of crash data collected by SCDOT and input it into a geographic information system (GIS) map for analysis. GIS maps are computer-based. Their advantage over paper maps is that they allow information to be layered so a user can see not only where things are, but also the characteristics of the location in question. In this case, the crash data will be entered into a map of the entire state, and layers of demographic and socioeconomic information will be added to show the population characteristics of the crash sites. This process will allow the researchers to identify the hot spots and see if these hot spots have particular demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. The human factors considered will include the age, race, income and educational levels of the persons involved in the crashes, as well as the influence of alcohol.

When the study is complete, Dunning believes that the researchers will be able to identify “vulnerable populations,” or groups who are at a high risk of dying in crashes. This identification will allow public officials and private advocacy groups to target educational campaigns specifically toward those groups, which Dunning hopes will make the campaigns more effective. She recognizes, however, that more than human behavior contributes to certain places becoming traffic fatality hot spots. The GIS mapping process will also consider factors such as the physical and topographical characteristics of the hot spots and the traffic volume, speed limit and number of lanes on the roads involved. Roadways in areas of the state inhabited by socioeconomically disadvantaged groups may be in greater need of maintenance and repair than roadways in more affluent areas. Dunning’s research may therefore help to promote a more just allocation of roadway improvement funds that will ultimately better protect the safety of vulnerable populations.

The initial findings of the study will be presented in seminars at Clemson and S.C. State. The final results will be sent to SCDOT to help public officials reduce the number of traffic fatalities across the state. If the research indicates that certain localities would benefit from public education or greater attention devoted to vulnerable populations, then local governments and advocacy groups will receive informational materials they can present and distribute to the public. Ultimately, the team members plan to publish their findings in academic journals such as Transportation Research Record, Accident Analysis and Prevention and Transportation Engineering.

What’s next for Dunning? She is hard at work on a variety of other transportation planning projects. Her dissertation focused on transportation issues in America’s national parks, and she has submitted several articles on that subject to academic journals. She is also a participant in a major grant proposal to the state of Montana to study air service and ensure effective planning in the future. Another project will examine the human factors involved in hurricane evacuations and why people make the decisions they do when they are asked to leave their homes. Now, if she could only figure out a way to keep traffic moving at rush hour!

Anne Dunning is originally from Atlanta, Ga. She graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor’s degree in English, Russian and comparative literature. She received her Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2004 and joined the Clemson faculty that same year.
Think about the last time you attended a theatrical performance. You probably noticed some of the actors. Maybe you checked the program to see who the director was. But the lighting designer? It’s unlikely you gave him or her even a passing thought. Lighting designers, however, play a crucial role in determining the visual style of theatrical productions.

Along with the director, the set designer and the costume designer, they are responsible for the look of the show.
Rob Silance came up with the idea for his current project when he saw a large sign that said “Dirt for Sale” along Highway 123 between Clemson and Anderson. For Silance, this message conjured up visions of South Carolina’s land being sold off one truckload at a time. It also spoke to larger issues of aesthetic and environmental degradation. Soon, Silance began noticing more signs advertising “Free Dirt” or “Fill Dirt Needed.”

On the one hand, these signs clearly reflected an upturn in economic development in a region of the country that once lagged behind the rest. But on the other, Silance recognized that the same economic upturn was putting enormous pressure on open farmland, forests and otherwise idle property. According to Upstate Forever, a Greenville-based organization that promotes planned and sustainable growth, the Upstate’s population is increasing at a rate of 39 persons per day, and land is being developed at a rate of 33 acres per day. This places the region as one of the five fastest growing areas in the country.

“Dirt for Sale” is an ongoing body of photographic work depicting sites in Pickens and Anderson counties that are mostly in the clearing, grading and infrastructure stages of development. Upon first visiting a site, Silance photographs it as a document of its existing yet transitional state, knowing that the landscape will soon be changed into something completely different. Soon, these sites will be converted to subdivisions, strip malls, gas stations and apartments.

But “Dirt for Sale” has a bigger story to tell than the photographic documentation of local land development. Silance’s pictures convey much about the future of the Upstate and South Carolina as a whole. They show “how the environment is being commoditized and transformed.” According to Silance, growth is inevitable and certainly not all bad. But what usually happens is that citizens do not realize the ramifications of unplanned growth until it is too late. Then they want to know what happened to their towns, farms, forests and countryside.

Because South Carolinians fiercely protect their personal freedoms, especially regarding land rights and land use, there are often disputes regarding zoning and environmental regulations. Often landowners, environmentalists, community groups, planners, politicians and developers find it difficult to arrive at mutually agreeable solutions to problems that arise from rapid growth. Silance hopes that “Dirt for Sale” will increase awareness of the diminishing rural character of the Upstate. The project is ongoing, and Silance does not know where it will eventually lead. For now, he continues to photograph newly disturbed sites and add them to the collection.

From an educational standpoint, Silance can foresee ways in which his project can help architecture, landscape architecture and planning students work together to solve problems related to all these fields. He also believes that public exhibitions of the project can help people not only visualize the vulnerable and transitory nature of the environment, but also provide an invitation for all citizens to become engaged in the solution to the many problems that need to be faced.

Silance is quick to point out that although his photographs are local in origin and his immediate concern is with the Upstate of South Carolina and the I-85 corridor, the issues they represent are relevant to most areas throughout the United States.

When asked about the artistic vision behind the photographs, Silance observes that he is trying to present something that most people would not find beautiful as an aesthetic landscape or object. He admits there is a “banal” quality to them and that he is “not out to make a pretty picture.” The photographs contain no human figures because he is more interested in how human beings have altered their environment. When asked what he hopes viewers will get from his work, Silance says, “The artist offers the question and offers a certain view of that, and it is up to society at large to debate it.”

Individual photographs from “Dirt for Sale” were exhibited throughout the country before the entire project was shown together as a complete work. The first appearances of the entire project were in Charleston at the 42nd International Making Cities Livable Conference, March 6-10, 2005, and at the Third Annual Suburban Conference at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga., in February 2005.
Sports commentators play a key but often overlooked role in influencing our attitudes toward gender, ethnicity and nationality, according to Andy Billings, assistant professor of communication studies. Billings points out that televised broadcasts of sporting events are often watched by hundreds of millions of people. For example, 18 of the 25 most-watched television programs of all time are Super Bowls. "If you want to talk about mass audiences and the ability to shape opinions," says Billings, "sports commentary is very important."

In previous research projects, Billings has examined commentary from broadcasts of the Olympics, World Cup soccer, college basketball and professional tennis. He has also looked at ESPN’s “SportsCenter” and the sports sections of several prominent newspapers. He has found that sports commentators often describe athletic performances in very different ways depending on the gender, ethnicity and national identity of the athletes.

In his current research, Billings looks specifically at professional golf and focuses on gender issues in particular. In collaboration with Susan Eastman, professor emeritus in the Department of Telecommunication Studies at Indiana University, and James Angelini, a Ph.D. student in the same department, Billings examined the commentary on 19 professional golf tournaments from both the PGA and LPGA tours in 2002.

The three researchers studied more than 243 hours of broadcasts from eight networks featuring commentary from dozens of announcers. With the help of students from Billings' undergraduate classes, the team "coded" the language used by the announcers, which means that they looked for every descriptor — essentially adjective or adverb — and put it into a database. This phase took 46 undergraduate and three researchers more than eight months to complete. By the time they were finished, they had a database of more than 35,000 descriptors.

These descriptors were then sorted into categories that were divided into two broad headings. First, there were "explanations for success and failure," which included, among other things, athletic skill, concentration, intelligence and a quality that Billings refers to as "composure," which covers factors such as luck, momentum and fate. The second heading was "personality or physicality," which included the appearance and size of the athletes as well as a variety of other physical and personal traits and attributes.

When all of the descriptors were analyzed, there were significant differences in the ways commentators treated male and female golfers. "What really amazed us about this study," Billings reports, "is just how many differences we found." The disparities in how announcers describe male and female golfers were much greater, for example, than the disparities identified by previous studies in how announcers describe black and white quarterbacks in the National Football League.

What were some of those differences? The success or failure of male golfers was frequently attributed to their ability to concentrate, whereas for women concentration was a much less salient factor. The success or failure of female golfers, meanwhile, was often attributed to composure to a greater extent than for men, which means that commentators emphasized luck and a sense that it simply was or was not the golfer’s "day."

Perhaps the most surprising conclusion derived from the analysis of the commentary was that emotional factors were mentioned almost three times as frequently in the case of male golfers than female. This runs counter to most of the research on gender stereotypes in American society as a whole. This research usually contends that women are perceived as more emotional than men. Moreover, Billings and his fellow researchers found that the ability to maintain their composure was a key factor in explaining the success of female golfers, although a loss of composure was also frequently cited as an explanation for their failure. Also somewhat surprising was that attractiveness was referenced far more often with male golfers than with female.

What does all of this mean in terms of attitudes toward gender in American society as a whole? Is golf commentary actually having an impact on how we think about male and female athletes and about gender roles outside the world of sports? Quite possibly, says Billings, although he admits that the impact on the audience is difficult to gauge. He reminds us that viewers of sporting events have some of the highest-frequency television-viewing habits in America, and therefore many of their cultural and social attitudes are likely to be shaped by what they hear because they hear so much of it. For sports fans, the notions about gender that they absorb from watching televised sporting events may set the terms for the debate over gender roles in a broader social context. There is, therefore, a "danger" that the attitudes expressed by golf announcers could make their way into what Billings refers to as the "public dialogue," leading to the construction of gender stereotypes that are extremely exaggerated at best and at worst entirely inaccurate.

So what should we do the next time we’re watching the Masters or the LPGA Championship on television? Billings does not suggest that we should turn the sound off entirely, but he does believe that "you have to watch golf with a more skeptical eye." In other words, keep an eye out for how the announcers are describing the athletic performance of male and female golfers. Sometimes, their comments are based less on what is actually happening on the 18th green and more on how we generally view men and women in American society.

An article summarizing the conclusions of Billings and his fellow researchers has been accepted for publication by the academic journal Mass Communication and Society, which is produced by the Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication. In the future, he plans to continue his research on issues of gender, ethnicity and nationality in televised sports broadcasts.

Andy Billings, who is originally from LaGrange, Ind., has taught at Clemson since 1999. He did both his undergraduate and doctoral work at Indiana University.

**The Disparities in How Announcers Describe Male and Female Golfers Were Much Greater, for Example, Than the Disparities Identified by Previous Studies in How Announcers Describe Black and White Quarterbacks in the National Football League.**
When most people think about the English classes they took in high school or college, they remember learning about grammar and composition. In today’s academic world, however, English departments are about far more than that.

The Many Faces of English

At Clemson, the Department of English encompasses a wide range of intellectual interests and areas of expertise. Specialists in American and British literature use a traditional humanities-based approach in their work; creative writers produce novels, short stories, plays and poetry; and specialists in professional communication look at written, oral and visual communication in business and client-based contexts.

How can a single department contain faculty with such divergent interests? It isn’t always easy, but the department sees this diversity as one of its strengths, particularly because faculty in all areas are producing high-quality research. “While other departments around the country are dividing into literature and writing factions, one of the unique strengths of our department is that we work to remain unified,” says Mark Charney, department chair. “This benefits both our students and our faculty, because the different parts of the department are able to inform and learn from each other.” The three projects described below represent only a small portion of the total, but they provide a sense of the variety and breadth of the department’s research activity.
Keith Lee Morris

The Department of English includes faculty who produce literature as well as analyze it. Assistant professor Keith Lee Morris, who teaches fiction writing and contemporary literature, has already achieved a publishing record that many far senior writers would envy. His short stories have appeared in the Cincinnati Review, the Hawaii Review, the New England Review, the Sun, Puerto del Sol, the Georgia Review, and the South Carolina Review. His first novel, The Graybound God, was published in 2003 by the University of Nevada Press as part of its Western Literature Series. In it, Morris details the exploits of Lake Rivers, a scruffy, nomadic Idahoan who embarks upon a three-week-long odyssey to hog-racing tracks across the United States. In 2004, Morris’ first short story collection, The Best Seat in the House and Other Stories, was also published by the University of Nevada Press. Most of the stories are set in a small town in northern Idaho that closely resembles Morris’ native Sandpoint. The stories are filled with characters who try to come to terms with lives that seem somehow smaller than what they had imagined. “Most people who grow up in small towns have a love/hate relationship with them,” Morris says. “They dream of leaving, sometimes do, but often end up returning. The stories are an attempt to explore the enigmatic connection, for better or worse, that the characters have with their past.”

Morris has recently finished a second novel, Paradise Creek, and is approaching the completion of a second collection of short stories, Moments After Dreaming. Morris says that the stories in the new collection are different from his earlier work: “In the past, I’d written a few stories based on dreams, and I liked the way they turned out. I decided to see if I could put together enough stories for a book. The stories are more experimental than most of my writing — not as dependent on setting and character development, not as linear in their narrative structure.”

Morris has received a number of prestigious awards for his work. In 2000, his short story “Objects Past the Shoreline,” in which a young man struggling with his blindness, earned him a $7,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. This was followed by a Fulbright Scholarship and the pushcart prize. His first collection, The Best Seat in the House and Other Stories, received the Sun Short Fiction Award, the University of Michigan’s M. L. Rosenthal Award, and was chosen as one of the best books of the year by the New York Times Book Review.

Keith Morris received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Idaho in 1994. He earned his M.F.A. in fiction writing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1996. He arrived at Clemson University in 1996 as an instructor and was promoted to assistant professor in 1999. In addition to his literary pursuits, he currently serves as the fiction editor for the South Carolina Review and as the director of undergraduate studies for the Department of English.

Barbara Heifferon

One of the newest English subfields to emerge is professional communication. Associate professor Barbara Heifferon specializes in the emerging field of health communication and medical rhetoric, which focuses on, among other issues, how communication strategies influence the decisions that individuals and groups make about health care. This area of professional communication promises to be key in the ongoing relationship that medical rhetoric shares with other aspects of English studies.

Heifferon began an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in health communication and medical rhetoric when she first arrived at Clemson University in 1998.

The three projects outlined above represent the range of research taking place in the Department of English. The department combines traditional and innovative approaches to the discipline but manages to preserve its unity at the same time. “We celebrate the purity of the discipline,” says Mark Cherney, “but at the same time we celebrate its diversity.”
Pineapples, luaus, orchid leis, tiki statues, mai tais, white beaches and hula skirts: These are images that many people link with Hawaii. They are also images that associate professor of art Andrea Feeser hopes her research will help change.

Feeser wants to get beyond these stereotypes so that tourists can gain a better understanding of the complexities of the islands. She says that in today’s Hawaii, hotels are sometimes built upon gravesites, a clear indication that there is little regard for Hawaii’s rich past.

Feeser, who taught at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for six years before coming to Clemson, is one of the primary organizers of and contributors to the ongoing Historic Waikiki project. The project was developed by DownWind Productions, a collaboration of artists, writers, teachers and activists who examine the impact of colonialism, capitalism and tourism on Hawaii. According to the group’s Web site (www.downwindproductions.com), the objective is to “help tourists and locals alike understand our complicity in the decimation of Hawaii’s land and people.” Although this project has hit a nerve because it is very critical of the tourist industry’s impact on Waikiki, Feeser and her collaborator Gaye Chan, a professor in the Department of Art at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, want to give people an understanding of how the island has been transformed by modern development.

Feeser’s main contribution to Historic Waikiki is as a member of the “souvenir team,” which packages and sells “authentic” pieces of concrete taken from Waikiki. The concrete serves as a metaphor for what Waikiki has become. Feeser wants to draw attention to the fact that concrete now takes up just as much, if not more, of the island than its famous beaches. Each piece of concrete is sold along with a story on historic Waikiki that attempts to go beyond conventional tourist images. Feeser believes it is important for Waikiki visitors to understand more about the island’s history because “it’s not as simple as … mai-tais and hula girls.” The concrete souvenirs are available for purchase on the DownWind Productions Web site.

In March 2004, Historic Waikiki was included in the exhibition “Paradise Now? Contemporary Art from the Pacific” at the Asia Society in New York City. The project has also received funding from the Gunk Foundation, Creative Capital and the Honolulu People’s Fund. In addition, Historic Waikiki has generated a book project, Remembering and Forgetting Waikiki, that is under contract with the University of Hawaii Press. The book will contain historical and contemporary images of Waikiki (most of the latter will be Chan’s original artwork) combined with narratives written by Feeser on the cultural and historical changes that have occurred. “This is a complex story,” Feeser asserts, “with complex people and places.”

As someone who has always been fascinated with history, particularly histories that don’t get much exposure, Feeser will next turn to a project based in South Carolina. The indigo plant, which is used for its blue dye, was a valuable product in the first half of the 18th century when it served as a main prop of South Carolina’s economy. Feeser plans to take an indigo-dyed dress and trace its history from the indigo plant through the harvesting process and textile manufacturing stage to its eventual purchase by a consumer. Feeser has elected to focus on this project because she believes, “We consume a lot without knowing about things. Knowing the history (of indigo) will help us understand.”

Andrea Feeser was born in Japan and raised in Philadelphia and Detroit. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and history from Williams College in Massachusetts. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in 19th and 20th century art, theory and criticism from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Before coming to Clemson in 2002, Feeser worked at the Guggenheim and Metropolitan Museums of Art in Manhattan, as well as at the California College of Arts and Crafts, California State University at Hayward.
One theme, however, crops up over and over again in Grosby’s work — the relationship between religion and nationality. He is particularly interested in the question of how religion contributes to the existence of nations, as well as how it can threaten that selfsame existence. These issues, Grosby argues, have been prevalent in human civilization for a very long time. He believes that the concept of the nation is not a modern construct, as many scholars claim, but is in fact a much older notion, dating all the way back to ancient times.

The Bible frequently refers to geographical entities with defined boundaries that were inhabited by particular peoples. The Old Testament makes repeated reference to the ‘nation of Israel,’ a phrase that creates a problem for contemporary scholars who view nationality as an invention of the modern era. According to Grosby, ancient Israel was a real nation in the modern sense of the term, with many of the same attributes and characteristics that nations possess today. Certainly, it has long been seen as such. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the biblical concept of nationhood was taken up during the Protestant Reformation and endorsed by European countries such as England and the Netherlands, which saw themselves as “new Israels.” Later, the architects of the emerging United States adopted a similar point of view.

According to Grosby, this ancient Judeo-Christian concept of nationhood stands in stark contrast to Islamic tradition, in which the idea of the nation is rarely mentioned. Instead, Islam favors the view that all Muslims are part of a universal community of believers. Grosby points out that with a few exceptions, such as Persia/Iran and possibly Egypt, there is little history of nation-states in Islamic civilization. Instead, multinational entities such as the Ottoman Empire have been the norm. Only in the last century or so has it been possible to talk about nations emerging in the Islamic world, and even then they remain exceptions rather than the rule. Grosby’s arguments clearly have implications for the current situation in the Middle East and in particular for ongoing American attempts at nation-building in Iraq. “The viability of nations and nation-building in Islamic countries is a burning issue,” he says, though he refuses to offer predictions on the ultimate outcome of the military and political effort in Iraq. “I’m trying to throw a little water on the fire,” he says.

Grosby believes that the concept of the nation is not a modern construct, as many scholars claim, but is in fact a much older notion, dating all the way back to ancient times.

Not only does Grosby believe that the idea of nationhood and nationality date back to ancient times, but so does globalization, even if the term itself is relatively new. In his essay “Globalization and Nationality,” which grew out of a lecture at the University of South Florida’s Globalization Resource Center, he discusses the concept of globalization as it applies to ancient societies. If a key element of globalization is international trade, then it has clearly been occurring for thousands of years. The Egyptians were trading with the Sumerians as far back as 3000 BC, and during the Bronze Age there was commercial exchange throughout the eastern Mediterranean in copper and tin.

But many people would argue that globalization means more than trading contacts between different peoples. Today, we see traditional nation-states being replaced by multinational entities, the most prominent example of which is the European Union. But in Grosby’s view, there have long been legal and political entities that have transcended national boundaries. In the Middle Ages, for example, the authority of the Roman Catholic Church often took precedence over local customs and regulations. With his work in this area, Grosby wants “to introduce some skepticism into the enthusiasm for globalization” as a new idea. “I’m trying to throw a little water on the fire,” he says.


A native of Chicago, Steven Grosby has taught at Clemson since 1996. He earned his undergraduate degree from Brandeis University, where he majored in classics and minored in philosophy. His Ph.D. is from the University of Chicago.

Steve Grosby, professor of religion in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, is a scholar for whom disciplinary boundaries mean little. His research covers a wide range of subjects, including the Old Testament and the religions of the ancient Near East, history, anthropology, sociology, and social and political philosophy.
Other Research Projects in the College of AAH


David Allison (architecture) is working on a series of projects related to his specialty in architecture and health, including a patient-room prototype that was recently constructed in Lee Hall. This prototype will soon be tested in actual health-care settings.

Yanning An (languages) recently published two journal articles on the concept of sincerity in Chinese language.

Paul Anderson (history) is writing a social and cultural history of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia before, during, and after the Civil War.

Rod Andrew (history) has almost completed his biography of Wade Hampton, a Civil War general and Reconstruction governor of South Carolina, for Louisiana State University Press.

Susanna Ashton (English) has a book in progress, *Bound: Black Men at Book Men, 1860-1929*, which will examine the ways in which race has shaped our ideas about books and reading.

Stephanie Barczewski (history) will complete in 2005 her book about the evolving reputations of the British Antarctic explorers Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton.

Ray Barfield (English) recently published four essays in the *Museum of Broadcasting Encyclopedia of Radio*. He has also submitted a manuscript, *Watchers: Television's Early Viewers*, to the Praeger Press.

Abel Bartley (history) has a book in progress on the integration of the Duval County (Florida) school system between 1960 and 2000.

Dione Battista (architecture) is collaborating with faculty from the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture on a book, *The Influence of Medical Thought on Environmental Design*.

Gloria Bautista (languages) continues to research female, pre-Columbian and other marginalized authors in Spanish-speaking cultures.

Joan Bridgwood (languages) is translating the works of the Russian poet Tatiana Vishkovskaya for a bilingual book.

José Caban (architecture) collaborated with Robert Hewitt and Dan Nadenick on the article "Environment + Built Form: The York County Collaborative Studio," which was published in *Journal* 30(6):890.

Elizabeth Carney (history) recently completed her biography of Olympias, mother of Alexander the Great. She will now turn to her study of kingship in ancient Macedonia.

Wayne Chapman (English) recently discovered an unfinished play by William Butler Yeats, and he is writing a book chapter on it. He is also compiling an online book of annotations of Yeats' work.

Mark Charney (English) is revising his play *57 Stories or the Man Who Was a Quarry* for a staged reading at the Charter Theater in Washington, D.C. He is also nearing the completion of his play, *Double Hermit*, as well as a collaborative screenplay with Michael Chase entitled *Love Is Pain*.

Bowman Field and Tillman Hall are Clemson landmarks.

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Chong Zi-chen (architecture) is working on integrating digital design media in the process of fabrication and construction.

Shima Clarke (construction science and management) is developing a best-practices monograph on the retention of construction workers.

Carol Collins (performing arts) received grants from Weine to Change to support Writing and Performing Across Communities, a project that works with K-12 students and teachers to develop strategies for classroom learning using creative drama and improvisation.

Gregg Corley (construction science and management) is developing a best-practices monograph about information technology for construction companies. He also produced an exam-preparation videotape for the Home Builders Association of Alabama.

Grant Cunningham (planning and landscape architecture) received a grant from the Community Development Work Study Program.

Marty Davis (architecture) has recently participated in a number of Energy Code workshops around South Carolina.

Patricio Del Real (architecture) received a grant from the Graham Foundation to study “barbacoas,” the internal structures used to subdivide buildings in Havana, Cuba. The goal is to provide additional residential space in a city suffering from a lack of housing.

Linda Dzentuli (performing arts) presented a paper, “ePortfolios and Laptop Technology in Performing Arts Curricula,” at the 2004 National Conference of the Association for Technology in Music Instruction.

Skip Eisiminger (English) recently published “An Apology for Expediency” in the *South Carolina Review*.

Jori Erdman (architecture) is working with the Pendleton Foundation for Black History and the Culture for the Hundreds project in Pendleton on rehabilitating several buildings used primarily by the African-American community.

Jonathan Field (English) is revising his dissertation for publication under the title *Eurards into the Memphis Colonial Author in Revolutionary London*. The manuscript looks at the literature produced by New England religious dissenters and their opponents in London during the Interregnum in the mid-17th century.

Teddi Fishman (English) is participating in the “Portraits of Composition” study along with Kathleen Blake Yancey, Michael Neal, Summer Taylor and Morgan Gresham.

Rick Goodstein (performing arts) conducted the pre-game and halftime entertainment at the 2004 Alamo Bowl. He also presented a paper, “Experiential Arts Education in the Clemson University Production Studies Major,” at the Association of Arts Administration Educators Annual Conference.

Nathan Guz (languages) is working on a book about the articulation of interiority in Marcel Proust’s *À la recherche du temps perdu*. A "Errands into the Metropolis: Colonial Authors in Revolution*
Nancy Hardesty (philosophy and religion) is researching two South Carolina figures in the Holiness movement, evangelist Martie Perry and journal editor J.M. Pike.

Harry Harritos (architecture) is collaborating with Nancy Jackson from the Department of Communication Studies to examine the sociodramatic aspects of architecture. Their work will reveal how meanings are derived from settings.

Douglas Hecker (architecture) will start the Clemson University Digital Design Shop in the summer of 2005. He is also collaborating with Martha Skinner on creating a video map of New York City.

Robert Hewitt (planning and landscape architecture) collaborated with José Caban and Dan Nadenicek on "Environment + Built Form: The York County Collaborative Studio," which appeared in Journal 30/60/90. He also co-authored "Biblioteca Alexandrina" for The York County Collaborative Studio, "Environment + Built Form: The York County Collaborative Studio," which appeared in Journal 30/60/90. He also co-authored "Biblioteca Alexandrina" for "Critiques of Built Works in Landscape Architecture" and the article "The Redesign of Nineteenth-Century Urban Cairo" for Landscape Review.

Robert J. Hogan (architecture) is studying research facilities in schools of architecture throughout North America.

Joni Hurley (languages) researches issues of language contact. She is revising two articles, one on the dollarization of Ecuador and the other on pronoun omission in Ecuadorian Spanish.

Martin Jacobi (English) is examining the role of lying in rhetoric, from which he plans to develop articles, presentations and graduate seminars.

Kendra Johnson (performing arts) is researching slave clothing in South Carolina in the 18th and 19th centuries.

S. Carl King (languages) publishes on the history of Spanish photography, the history of photographic pictorialism, photographic aesthetics, and alternative and historical photographic printing processes. He is working on a book on contact printing with the internationally known fine-arts photographer Michael Smith.

Bill Koot (English) continues to write essays on Southern fiction, from which he plans to produce a book.

Tom Kuehn (history) is exploring the repudiation of inheritances in Florence, Italy, from 1365 to 1532.

Mickey Lauria (planning and landscape architecture) recently co-authored a book, Urban Schools: The New Social Spaces of Resistance.


Roger Liska (construction science and management) has developed a continuing education program for the Road and Transportation Builders Association. He is also serving as the principal investigator for the development of the National Center for the Improvement of Construction Industry Management Processes.

James London (planning and landscape architecture) published "Options for Dealing with Climate Change in Small Island States" in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management.

Jeff Love (languages) recently published the book "The Overcoming of History in War and Peace."

Bill Maker (philosophy and religion) is revising an article, "Hegel and Barry," which has been accepted by the Owl of Minerva. He is also continuing work on an article about Nietzsche's metaphysics of artistic creativity.

Steve Marks (history) is researching the global history of capitalism, which will ultimately result in a book.

Todd May (philosophy and religion) is preparing a proposal for a book on the thought of Michel Foucault.

Donald McKale (history) has just completed a book proposal to write the definitive history of the post-World War II catastrophe that continued to befoul Holocaust survivors as the world failed to eliminate widespread anti-Semitism and allowed many war criminals to escape significant punishment.

Michael Morris (languages) has focused in recent years on language politics, which has led to two co-edited books, Les politiques linguistiques anadiennes: approaches comparés and Languages in a Globalizing World.

Lee Morrissey (English) is conducting research on the history of literary criticism from its origins in England in the late 17th century. This research will result in a monograph, an anthology and a co-authored textbook.

Dan Nadenicek (planning and landscape architecture) collaborated with Robert Hewitt and José Caban on "Environment + Built Form: The York County Collaborative Studio," which appeared in Journal 30/60/90. He also collaborated with Umut Yilmaz on "Community Life in Places of Death," a chapter in Service Learning in Architecture and History and geography and philosophy and religion are housed in Hardin Hall.

The Brooks Center is the home of performing arts at Clemson.

Planning Yilmaz and Nadenicek received an award for their Greenville Cemeteries Project from the S.C. American Planning Association.

Constancio Nakuma (languages) continues to work on his book-length manuscript Tonal Morphemes in Creole Languages around vowels and consonants as in English.

Michael Neal (English) is participating in the "Portraits of Composition" study along with Kathleen Blake Yancey, Teddi Fishman, Summer Taylor and Morgan Gresham.

David Nicholas (history) is preparing a book on "Germany before Germany," the Germanic-speaking areas of Europe from the early Middle Ages onward.

Barton Palmer (English) has two forthcoming anthologies of translated medieval texts as well as a translation of the oeuvre of the medieval French poet Charles d’Orleans. A co-authored book, Traditions in World Cinema, will be published in 2005 by Edinburgh University Press.

Chris Piper (construction science and management) is pursuing his Ph.D. research on women in the construction industry.

Helene Riley (languages) writes about the history of ideas, people and cultures, as exemplified in her History of Clemson.

Elizabeth Rivlin (English) has a book project under way entitled Seeing Double: Service, Imitation and Social Identity in Early Modern England, which will look at relationships between servants and masters in works by Shakespeare and other contemporary authors.

Andrew Salzano (philosophy and religion) is working on the article "Christianity and Capitalism," as well as finishing his dissertation on Levinas, Wittgenstein and the possibility of ethical language.

Joe Sample (English) is examining the visual and textual artifacts related to the Macarney embassy to China from 1792 to 1794. His goal is to provide a better understanding of the rhetorical features found in Western representations of China.

Virginia San Fratello (architecture) is collaborating with Robert Silance on digital design and fabrication, as well as developing a prototype for a lightweight concrete table/desk.

Stephen Satris (philosophy and religion) is completing a book on Wittgenstein and ethics.

Ray Sawyer (performing arts) is examining the status of M.F.A. programs in playwriting at American universities.

Johannes Schmidt (languages) has researched and published on German rap music and its pedagogical applications in the classroom. He and his colleague Jeff Love are completing an annotated translation of Schelling’s Philosophical Investigations of the Essence of Human Freedom for the SUNY Press.

Ray Schneider (construction science and management) has developed and presented a workshop on the International Energy Conservation Code for the S.C. Energy Office.

Rob Silance (architecture) is collaborating with Virginia San Fratello on digital design and fabrication, as well as developing a prototype for a lightweight concrete table/desk.

Stuart Silvers (philosophy and religion) is working on a project, "Implications and Intimations of Evolutionary Psychology," which is an analysis of some contentious methodological presuppositions of evolutionary psychology as a scientific theory of human nature.

Michael Silvestri (history) is working on two book projects, one on the policing of revolutionary terrorism in the Indian province of Bengal in the first half of the 20th century and the second on imperial connections between Ireland and India.

Margit Sinka (languages) is revising several conference presentations for publication, including one on Berlin’s Holocaust Memorial, one on the films of Andreas Dresen and one on the film Good Bye, Lenin.

Martha Skinner (architecture) has a number of ongoing projects, including Silhouette House, which will give Habitat for Humanity homeowners an enhanced sense of ownership by allowing them to "draw" sections of their new home before construction begins.
Christa Smith (history) continues her work on a manuscript about the impact of Habitat for Humanity on local communities.

Daniel Smith (languages) focuses on the changes that result from languages in contact. His article “Spanish Influenced by English in Georgia” is forthcoming in the International Journal of Bilingualism.

Kelly Smith (philosophy and religion) is researching the philosophical issues surrounding the search for life on other planets.

Charles Starkey (philosophy and religion) specializes in moral philosophy and emotion theory. His current research examines the role of emotion in moral experience and its relation to perception and cognition.

David Stogall (philosophy and religion) is writing an article on Albert Camus’ use of the theme of moral labors as ongoing tasks, as presented in Camus’ retelling of the myth of Sisyphus and Camus’ novel The Plague.

Karyna Szmurlo (languages) conducts scholarship on French female writers, with a particular emphasis on Germaine de Staël (1766-1817), one of Napoleon’s main opponents. Her chapter on Pierre S. Dupont de Nemours, founder of the chemical dynasty, is forthcoming in Literary Biography: The French Enlightenment. She will also direct a special issue of Cahiers Staëliens devoted to intellectual history and gender.

Summer Taylor (English) has a number of ongoing research projects, including studies of faculty responses to student writing in engineering, the effects of studio space on teaching and learning, and assessment in client-based technical writing classes.

Megan Taylor Shockley (history) is working on a book about Hannah Rebecca Burgess (1834-1917), who singlehandedly navigated a sailing vessel across the Pacific after the sudden death of her husband, the ship’s captain.

Ryan Van Cleave (English) is writing a book-length sonnet sequence based on historical documents and family oral history for the Word Press.

Bruce Whisler (performing arts) recently digitally remastered live recordings by trumpet artist Robert Nagel and restored lectures by trumpet pedagogue Claude Gordon.

Daryl Wiesman (communication studies) examines the effects of communication interventions to improve the performance of individuals and teams in organizations. His current project focuses on the impact of feedback and social reinforcement on the performance of fast-food restaurant workers.

Donna Winchell (English) is revising Elements of Argument, a text used in second-semester writing courses at many American universities. She also has a contract to produce an anthology, Idea in Conflict, which will feature writings from the classical to contemporary periods, along with guidance on how to write about them.