

This year the Faculty Lecture Committee spent in total of \$86,043.

Funds were used to support 165 events and class visits this year. Some of the highlights include:

## **Samuel B Lectureship Cummings**

["Charter Schools at 30: The Promise and Pitfalls of the Charter School Movement"](#)

April 5, 2022 - 4:30 pm, Science Center, E110, Lipton Lecture Hall

Charter schools turned 30 last year. They are now established in almost every state and serve over 3 million students. From 2000 to 2017, the number of charter schools in the United States more than tripled and the number of students enrolled in charters grew sevenfold. Come learn more about charter schools from Amherst College alumna Joanne Golann '04: why they were created and why they have been controversial. We'll also take a look inside one of the most successful urban charter school models and discuss how these schools may not be successfully preparing students for college.

Joanne W. Golann is an assistant professor of public policy and education at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University.

## **Lucius Root 1895 Lectures Eastman**

[Lesson Instructor Recital: Jean Jeffries, Horn, with the Wistaria Quartet](#)

Jean Jeffries, horn, is joined by the Wistaria Quartet in a program of music for horn and strings, including two world premieres, in Buckley Recital Hall, Arms Music Center, on the Amherst College campus.

The centerpiece of the program is the premiere of Quintet for Horn and Strings (2020) by Amherst College professor Eric Sawyer, winner of The American Prize for best opera in 1998. Also on the program is the premiere of Quintet for Horn and Strings (2021) by composer Geoffrey Hudson, Lyric for Strings by George Walker and the Mozart Horn Quintet.

The Wistaria Quartet comprises Sarah Briggs and Kaila Graef, violins; Gregory Diehl, viola; and Wayne Smith, cello.

## **Lamont Lectureship for a Peaceful World**

[Manifesting Black Queer Futures: Art and Performance](#), May 5, 2022 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

This event will focus on the question art and performance in relation to Black queer and trans futures. We will be joined by Ani Ganzala, a visual artist from Salvador, Brazil; Christian A'Xavier Lovehall, a poet, musician, and founder of the Philadelphia Trans March, Dora Santana, artist and assistant professor of Gender Studies at John Jay College CUNY; Entidade Maré, an interdisciplinary performance artist group from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Jumatatu Poe, a dance artist and choreographer from North Carolina. The event will be moderated by Anaiis Cisco, a

filmmaker, assistant professor of Film and Media Studies at Smith College, and Visiting CHI Fellow at Amherst College.

This series emerges from a CHI Research Seminar which explores Black queer life and futures and will showcase research, activism and art in the Black queer diaspora studies. It considers the possibilities of Blackness and queerness amidst our "reemergence" from COVID-19 and our ongoing navigation of cultures of turbulence and inequalities. The Manifesting Black Queer Futures Symposium keenly asks the question: What speculative futures are possible where Black queer and trans life and happiness is central to the project of society, and what do we need in the present to make these futures possible?

## **Georges Lurcy Lecture Series Endowment**

[The Virgin's Milk in Global Perspective: On the Fluidity of Images and the Politics of Divine Presence](#), May 11, 2022, Frost Library, CHI Think Tank

A daylong conference featuring contributors to *The Virgin's Milk in Global Perspective: On the Fluidity of Images and the Politics of Divine Presence*, the volume co-edited by Visiting Professor of History Jutta Sperling. Keynote address by Elizabeth Bolman.

Organizers: Jutta Sperling, Mati Meyer, Vibeke Olson, Bronwen Gulkis.

In conjunction with the Kinney Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies. Funded by the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Art and Art History, the Department of History at Amherst College, the Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Amherst College, the Kinney Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies, the Time and Narrative Learning Collaborative at Hampshire College, and The Georges Lurcy Lecture Series Fund at Amherst College.

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## **Max and Etta Lazerowitz Lectureship**

Sanam Nader-Esfahani, Assistant Professor of French, will present the 2022 Max and Etta Lazerowitz lecture titled "Lenses of Paper, Lenses of Power" on April 21, 2022 at 4:00 PM in Kirkpatrick Lecture Hall, Science Center A011.

["Lenses of Paper, Lenses of Power"](#)

Political divisiveness, campaigns of misinformation, competing national histories, conflicting narratives about persecuted minorities, anxieties about journalistic integrity and responsibility, disagreements on basic facts and truths: these are but some of the elements that describe the sociopolitical climate of France in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To understand these preoccupations is to engage with optics, both literally and figuratively. To this end, my talk takes seventeenth-century theories and technologies of vision as its point of departure. It then probes the

concept of fiction at the intersection of science and literature, especially as it relates to politics and power. For if our vision shapes our judgment, those who manipulate what and how we see possess the power to curate the narratives that define our experiences of reality. The texts I analyze uncover the fictions that conceal the true motivations and operations of France's political actors during a turbulent period in its history. Literature's engagement with those events, however, goes beyond exposing false appearances brought on by visual ailments or faulty lenses. Like its optical counterpart, the textual artifice can only fulfill its amendatory function by creating fictions of its own. I argue that the dangers and virtues of fiction position literature as an active participant, and even as a weapon, in the politics of its time.

## Report from Faculty Lecture Committee, 2020-2021

May 5, 2021

During this period of online learning, the lecture committee has been pleased to support requests for virtual visits to courses with Eastman funds. Our honorarium amounts were limited to \$250 and with no other additional expenses (such as travel, hotel, and entertainment) we were able to fund requests up to the end of the year.

We funded very few public events this year. Anticipating that visitors may not be allowed on campus through 2021, the Faculty Lecture Committee would like to encourage requests for public virtual events. These virtual events can be supported through the Cummings, Lamont, and Lurcy funds (if they meet all applicable criteria for each fund). In addition to funding requests for individual speakers for public presentations, the committee also encourages proposals for lecture series on a topic of campus-wide interest or interdisciplinary/cross-department organized events.

The committee simplified its request form and plans to convert to a “form submission” format by the Fall.

Kristin Bumiller, Wendy Woodson, and Joshua Hyman

Spring Semester 2017

Dear Dean Epstein,

I am writing to report on the work of the Lecture Committee over academic year 2016-2017. As chair of the committee, working in collaboration with Dee Brace, Aneeka Henderson, and Pat O'Hara, I saw up close how ambitious and creative we are as a faculty. The slate of speakers was wide and impressive, reflecting our commitment to study, conversation, and debate. We made a total of 135 allocations. That represents a 13.45% increase in allocations over last year.

Faculty brought speakers to the classroom, to the tune of \$55,250 allocated for in-class visits, lectures, and tutorial sessions. Student life is deepened and expanded in these visits. The Lurcy Fund, which funds speakers addressing issues from an international perspective – so crucial in a moment when we are living our commitment to multicultural senses of the world – spent over \$20,000. And the Cummings and Lamont funds (mostly the latter) combined to spend over \$100,000 to host public lectures, panels, and symposia on the campus, which elevates scholarship on the campus and across the five colleges. When you put all of this together, we get a portrait of a deeply engaged classroom and campus that defines so much of Amherst College education and intellectual life.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our work as a committee. The Lecture Committee has been a great assignment. I have enjoyed it and my work has only confirmed what we already know: this is an exceptional college, staffed by smart faculty with a keen eye for important scholarship and compelling intellectual issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Drabinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John E. Drabinski

Charles Hamilton Houston 1915 Professor

## **College Lecture Committee**

Report of Chair, Thomas Dumm, Professor of Political Science  
For May 22, 2014 Faculty Meeting

The College Lecture committee remains one of the most pleasurable assignments at Amherst for two reasons.

First, we enjoy the extraordinary services of Dee Brace of the philosophy department as our committee administrator. Ms. Brace serves not only to keep the accounts of the various funds from which we draw to fund speakers, but also prepares the letters we send to colleagues granting their requests, or, in the rare occasions when we are unable to fully fund requests, directing them to potential other sources of funding. She makes certain we keep to a regular bi-weekly meeting schedule to process requests, prepares the requests for our meetings, and more generally serves as the administrative memory of the committee. She advises us on which fund is most appropriate for which speakers, and monitors the outflow of funds as the academic year proceeds.

Second, for reasons beyond my understanding, colleagues seem to think we are the source of the beneficence of the College, writing to thank us for giving them money, praising our generosity, etc. Of how many committees at the College can it be said that almost everyone is happy with the work it does, especially when it is, for the most part, so remarkably an easy assignment?

There is only one issue that cropped up during the course of the year to which the committee wants to alert our colleagues. There are programs across the College which are soft funded, so to speak, and that have been depending on Lecture funds to cover elements of the courses and conferences that are essential to their viability. We are delighted to be able to support these programs, but are concerned that for our colleagues who are guiding and participating in these programs to rely so heavily on our funds, rather than having more targeted funds specifically devoted to their programs, they risk the possibility of being denied funding that may be necessary to their programs should the Lecture committee find itself in a situation where – as sometimes can happen due to a drawdown of funds – we are unable to grant their requests. While this situation has not so far arisen, it is a looming possibility in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Dumm