

“A Whole World Opens Up...”

Reflections on the Clemente Course in the Humanities

In June, thirty-two adults who live in or near poverty in Dorchester and New Bedford completed the Clemente Course in the Humanities. Nearly all of the graduates earned six college credits for their yearlong studies in American history, art history, literature, philosophy, and writing and critical thinking.

You can meet Martine Amazan and Angel Gonzalez, two of the graduates from the Dorchester program at Codman Square Health Center, by watching a new short video at our Web site, www.masshumanities.org. The video is called “A Whole World Opens Up,” which is how Angel described his experience. You will hear about how Clemente changed Angel’s life after he lost his job last year. As he said at graduation,

“American history class was my favorite. We studied about freedom, from the American Revolution all the way to the Civil Rights Movement. We live in a city that is rich with this type of history, yet we know very little about it because we don’t take the initiative to read and learn about those that paved the way through blood, sweat, and tears so that we can enjoy the freedom that we have today. To me it was a thrill to read about men like Prince Hall, David Walker, John Brown, James Baldwin and Martin Luther King.”

Angel and Martine share a deep concern for the next generation, and they see the humanities as a critical part of child development. Angel describes being a scholarly role model for his nephews, while Martine, in her graduation speech, talks about the program’s positive influence on her children:

“In art history class, we learned that art is not just something distant from us, hanging on some wall in a museum somewhere. It matters as much to us as to the people who create it. Art is an expression of the soul, the heart, the mind, the world; it is life. I recently took my children to the Museum of Fine Arts. They were eagerly moving from exhibit to exhibit asking questions, and I knew they too had been changed. I’ve lived in Boston for twenty-one years and I had never been to the MFA until we went there for class, and now I share art with my friends on Facebook.”



2010 Clemente graduates Martine Amazan, above, with her children and Angel Gonzalez, below

Photos by Amanda Kowalski



The Mass Humanities Clemente Course depends on charitable contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. One hundred percent of donations to Mass Humanities that are designated to the Clemente Course are used to run the program.

You can donate online at www.masshumanities.org.

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Special Supplement

New Theme and Guidelines

As part of its newly adopted strategic plan, Mass Humanities has launched a new thematic focus: “Crisis, Community, and Civic Culture.” This replaces the previous theme, “Liberty and Justice for All.” New grant guidelines place a stronger emphasis on underserved audiences, and special grants for social media projects. Read about the theme and new grant making guidelines in the enclosed supplement.

Mass Humanities News

Welcome to Five New Board Members



Jean Beard of Amherst is a local philanthropist and advocate for the mentally ill and their families. She has a special interest in non-traditional families and has co-edited exhibits and co-authored a book on the subject. Jean has served as a board member of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, and she is a founding trustee of the Icarus Foundation and the Falcon Fund, both of which support programs dedicated to social justice, economic development, and the empowerment of women and girls.



James Burke is a partner in the Corporate and Business Group at the law firm Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP. He has worked with a number of public and private clients, including several high-technology companies. He is currently a trustee and board clerk of the Boston Classical Orchestra and sits on the National Advisory Council to The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Jim is also a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Civil War Preservation Trust. Born and raised in western Massachusetts, Jim currently lives in Brookline.



Javier Corrales is professor of political science at Amherst College. He is the author of *Presidents Without Parties: the Politics of Economic Reform in Argentina and Venezuela in the 1990s*. His research has been published in many international academic journals. Javier serves on the editorial board of *Latin American Politics and Society and Americas Quarterly*. He has also been a consultant at the World Bank, the United Nations, the Center for Global Development. Javier was appointed to the board by Governor Deval Patrick.



John Stauffer is chair of the History of American Civilization Program and professor of English and African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Among the leading scholars of the Civil War era, antislavery in particular, John is the author or editor of eight award-winning books, and more than fifty articles. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and on *The Huffington Post*. He is currently an advisor to a film documenting abolitionism for The American Experience at WGBH.



Kenneth Vacovec is the founding partner of Vacovec, Mayotte & Singer, LLP, a firm specializing in all areas of tax law, based in Newton. He is a member of numerous professional organizations, boards, and committees and currently serves as President of the 66th Annual Congress of the International Fiscal Association to be held in Boston in 2012. He has been repeatedly selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in Boston," "Best Lawyers in Massachusetts," and "Best Lawyers in New England." Ken has also served on the boards of The French-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Metro West Foundation, and also on the Mass Humanities advisory board.

Don't Miss Events in Your Area!

Right are just a few of the Mass Humanities-funded events and exhibits around Massachusetts that you can find on the events calendar at our Web site, www.masshumanities.org, where you can also sign up for monthly emails about events in your area, or subscribe to our calendar.

Dinner is Served! Dining and the Decorative Arts

Explores the social, cultural and artistic importance of dining in early America.

When: August 21–February 28, 2011

Where: Historic Deerfield,
80 Old Main Street

Web: www.historic-deerfield.org

A Feast for the Eyes

Families will enjoy a visit to the smorgasbord of picture book art as they explore the role food plays throughout children's literature.

When: September 21–March 20, 2011

Where: Eric Carle Museum,
125 West Bay Road, Amherst

Web: www.carlemuseum.org

Last year's
AIA-MOS
Archaeology
Fair



4th Annual AIA-MOS Archaeology Fair

Showcasing dozens of hands-on activities, live presentations, and special programs.

When: Saturday, October 16, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Where: Museum of Science, Boston

Web: www.mos.org

Remembering Galileo: An Evening with Dava Sobel

This series concludes with a talk by the author of *Galileo's Daughter*.

When: Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 pm

Where: Conlon Music Building,
Fitchburg State College

Web: www.fsc.edu/cultural

MASS HUMANITIES

66 Bridge Street
Northampton, MA 01060
tel (413) 584-8440
fax (413) 584-8454
www.masshumanities.org

STAFF

David Tebaldi
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
tebaldi@masshumanities.org

Pleun Bouricius
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER
pbouricius@masshumanities.org

Deepika Fernandes
FISCAL OFFICER
dfernandes@masshumanities.org

Kristin O'Connell
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
koconnell@masshumanities.org

Anne Rogers
SYSTEMS MANAGER
arogers@masshumanities.org

John Sieracki
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS
EDITOR OF MASS HUMANITIES
jsieracki@masshumanities.org

Melissa Wheaton
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR
mwheaton@masshumanities.org

Hayley Wood
PROGRAM OFFICER
hwood@masshumanities.org

Recent Grants

■ LJA: Funded through the Mass Humanities initiative, Liberty and Justice for All

■ CED: Funded through the Cultural Economic Development fund

▲ RIG: Research Inventory Grant

Boston

\$5,000 to the Archaeological Institute of America for the annual AIA-MOS Archaeology Fair at the Museum of Science, featuring ancient technologies, on October 14 and 16

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\$5,000 to Boston Book Festival, Inc. toward hosting authors at the festival on October 16

\$5,000 to Documentary Educational Resources of Watertown for a discussion guide and publicity to promote screenings of the film, *Marion Stoddart: Work of 1000*

\$5,000 to Revels, Inc. of Watertown for a theatrical production about the Hutchinson Family Singers, who shared stages with leaders of the abolitionist, women's suffrage, and temperance movements ■ LJA

\$5,000 to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay of Boston to support archaeological day trips to Spectacle Island for urban youth from communities surrounding Boston Harbor

\$5,000 to the *USS Constitution* Museum for a book about sailors in the U.S. Navy to accompany the exhibit *All Hands on Deck: A Sailor's Life in 1812*

Central Massachusetts

\$5,000 to the Fitchburg State College Foundation to support the public series, *Remembering Galileo*, including keynote speaker Dava Sobel

Connecticut River Valley

\$10,000 to Five Colleges, Inc. to support *Table for 10*, a Museums10 series of exhibitions and lectures about food ■ CED

\$10,000 to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association to create a podcast tour, map, and online resources for African American sites in Old Deerfield ■ LJA

\$5,000 to the Westfield State College Foundation to support the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts'* 75th commemorative issue and build a database of articles published since 1990

Metro West Boston

\$10,000 to the Center for Independent Documentary of Waltham for preproduction work on *Prison Dogs*, a documentary examining a program to train service dogs for veterans

\$10,000 to the Filmmakers Collaborative of Waltham for preproduction work on *The Popular Romance Project*, a documentary about romance fiction and its authors

\$9,844 to Historic Newton to revamp its abolitionism exhibit with current scholarship about the Underground Railroad ■ LJA

\$3,500 to the Thoreau Society of Concord to support research and the creation of entries for an interactive online map of Thoreau's travels in Massachusetts

\$1,500 to the Vine Lake Preservation Trust to catalog gravestone inscriptions, conditions, and artwork in the four acre "Old Section" of Vine Lake Cemetery, dating back to 1651 ▲ RIG

\$1,500 to the Waltham Museum to inventory and create a finding aid for the Charles H. Metz and Waltham Manufacturing Company collection ▲ RIG

Northeast

\$5,000 to the Ipswich Council on Aging to create an oral history and photography exhibit about Ipswich during the first half of the 20th century

\$3,495 to the Peabody Leatherworkers Museum to create a Google Earth map of the leather industry in Peabody from 1939 through the 1990s, when the industry folded

Mass Memories Road Show Heads for Stoneham and Duxbury



Duxbury and Stoneham residents: become a part of Massachusetts history by sharing photos and stories with a state-wide archive of local history at UMass Boston.

Bring two or three photos for MMRS staff to scan (immediately returned to you). You will be invited to share a 3-4 minute story about your photographs on camera and take a "keepsake photo" to document your participation in the event. All photos and stories scanned at the event will become part of the UMass Boston digital archive, online at www.massmemories.net.

Stoneham Public Library
431 Main Street, Stoneham
Saturday, October 16
10:00 am–3:00 pm

Duxbury Free Library
77 Alden Street, Duxbury
Saturday, October 23
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Southeast and Cape Cod

\$9,070 to the Community Economic Development Center of New Bedford for ten audio segments based on interviews with a variety of workers in the commercial fishing industry ■ CED

\$1,470 to the Holbrook Historical Society to inventory 2,500 photographs of Holbrook from the 19th through the late 20th centuries ▲ RIG

\$10,000 to the Norfolk Historical Commission to collect, transcribe, archive, and present oral histories of former Norfolk Prison debaters from the 1930s to the 1950s ■ LJA

\$5,000 to the Truro Historical Society/Highland Museum to install a permanent, hands-on exhibit based on the historical society's collection of Native American artifacts

Save the Date

Annual Fall Symposium

The End of American Exceptionalism?

Saturday, December 4, 12:30–5:00 pm
Robsham Theater, Boston College, Chestnut Hill

The rise or fall of America can be measured both externally and internally, as James Fallows explained in a recent essay for *The Atlantic*:

“Today’s fears combine relative decline (comparing ourselves to China, say) with domestic concerns about a polarized society of haves and have-nots that has lost its connective core. They include concerns about the institutions that have made America strong: our manufacturing base, widespread and affordable higher education, a viable and vigorous press, religion that can co-exist with secularism and secular values, and a government that expresses the nation’s differences while also addressing its long-term interests and needs.”

Following this framework, the symposium will open with a short prologue followed by two 90-minute sessions (including audience Q&A), one focused on the international context and the other on the domestic context. *New York Times* columnist **Ross Douthat** (pictured right) will moderate the sessions, sum up, and close.



December 4 panelists Rabein Salam, Carol Graham, Peter Beinart, and Ta-Nehisi Coates

Panel 1: American Leadership Abroad

Peter Beinart, *The Icarus Syndrome*
Gregg Easterbrook, *Sonic Boom: Globalization at Mach Speed*
Carol Graham, *Happiness around the World: the Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires*
Paul Starobin, *After America, Narratives for the Next Global Age*

Panel 2: The Promise of America at Home

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Beautiful Struggle*
Peniel Joseph, *Dark Days, Bright Nights: From Black Power to Barack Obama*
Elaine Kamarck, *The End of Government As We Know It: Policy Implementation in the 21st Century*
Reihan Salam, co-author (with Ross Douthat) of *Grand New Party: How Conservatives Can Win the Working Class and Save the American Dream*