

Disability Awareness Week

February 16 - 25, 2007

Cultural Film: *Touch the Sound* (2004)

Friday, February 16 - 8 pm, ARH 302

Saturday, February 17 - 8 pm, ARH 302

Sunday, February 18 - 2 pm, ARH 302

This documentary explores the connections among sound, rhythm, time, and the body by following award-winning percussionist Evelyn Glennie. Evelyn is the first person to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist. As one of the most eclectic and innovative musicians today she is constantly redefining the goals and expectations of percussion, and creating performances of such vitality that they almost constitute a new type of performance. Evelyn gives more than 100 performances a year worldwide. Her diversity of collaborations have included artists such as Nana Vasconcelos, Kodo, Bela Fleck, Bjork, Bobby McFerrin, Sting, Emmanuel Ax, Kings Singers, Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Fred Frith. What is particularly surprising to people who see her perform is that Ms. Glennie is nearly deaf.

Stephen Kuusisto

Stephen Kuusisto is Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University. He is the author the acclaimed memoir *Planet of the Blind*, a New York Times "Notable Book of the Year" and *Only Bread, Only Light*, a collection of poems from Copper Canyon Press, and his new book about traveling the world as a blind man: *Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness and Listening*. He is editor of *The Poet's Notebook: Selected Journals of American Poets* and contributing editor, *Seneca Review*. Kuusisto's poems and essays have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*; *Harper's*; *Poetry*; and *Partisan Review*. He is a frequent commentator on National Public Radio, The BBC, The Voice of America, and Dateline NBC, and he lectures widely on disability and public policy. Professor Kuusisto's visit is co-sponsored by the English Department's 'Writers @ Grinnell' series and the Center for International Studies.

- Discussion: "Moving Beyond the ADA to Make Grinnell Truly Disability Friendly"
Tuesday, February 20
4:15 pm
Joe Rosenfield Center 101

Is Grinnell's campus accessible to all people? Do students, staff and faculty move freely to where they need to go? Do visitors feel welcome and have full access to events? Can Grinnell move beyond simply compliance with the law? This discussion will focus on campus accessibility: where Grinnell does well, where Grinnell falters, and next steps towards a more open campus. We will take advantage of Stephen Kuusisto's expertise to dialogue about Grinnell's current challenges. All members of the campus and community are invited to attend.

- Reading from his new memoir, *Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness and Listening*
Tuesday, February 20
8:00 pm
Joe Rosenfield Center 101

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson is Associate Professor of Women's Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her fields of study are feminist theory, American literature, and disability studies. Her scholarly and professional activities are devoted to developing the field of disability studies in the humanities and in women's studies. She is the author of *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Literature and Culture* (Columbia UP, 1997), *Staring: How We Look* (Oxford UP, forthcoming 2007), editor of *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body* (NYU Press, 1996), and co-editor of *Disability Studies: Enabling the Humanities* (MLA Press, 2002). She is currently writing a book on the cultural logic of euthanasia. Rosemarie Garland-Thompson's visit is sponsored by the Convocation Committee, the Diversity Steering Committee, and the Academic Advising Office.

- Discussion: "Faculty Discussion on Disability in the Classroom:
(1) Accommodating Students with Disabilities & (2) Disability As Course Content"
Wednesday, February 21
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm
Joe Rosenfield Center 101

A fluid roundtable on disability in the classroom. The workshop is designed to help faculty better accommodate students with disabilities in classrooms at Grinnell and to generate strategies for integrating the study of disability into teaching and research. Rosemarie Garland-Thomson will share ideas about making classrooms more accessible and negotiating the accommodation process. As one of the founders of disability studies in the humanities, she offers guidance about bringing disability into the curriculum across all disciplines.

- Convocation: "Reframing Disability: New Ways of Seeing and Representing Disability"
Thursday, February 22
11:00 am - Noon
Joe Rosenfield Center 101

In the climate fostering diversity and minority rights that has been encouraged by the larger civil rights movement, new ways of seeing and representing disability have emerged in US popular culture. Disabled people have entered the public sphere much more fully in the last 30 years due to a newly accessible built environment, positive disability identity politics, and legal mandates for integration. This presentation traces that entry into the public sphere of visibility from the early displays of disabled people as curiosities, through charity campaigns, commercial culture, and the new disability art.

Assistive Technology Showcase

Thursday, February 22
4:15 pm – 7:00 pm
Joe Rosenfield Center 101

Come over and learn about various kinds of assistive and adaptive technologies at this board-game themed event. Interact with various hardware and software used on campus for students, faculty and staff with learning and physical differences. Celebrate our differences as you travel around the board visiting various avenues and trying to stay out of jail. Enjoy food and fun with the ITS Desktop support staff and student Technology Consultants!

SGA Film: *Emmanuel's Gift* (2005)

Friday, February 23 – 4:30, 7:30 and 10:30 pm
Saturday, February 24 – 1:30 pm
Harris Center Cinema

A narrated, inspirational documentary looking at living with a disability in Ghana as seen through the eyes of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah who was born with a badly deformed right leg. While many of Ghana's two million disabled citizens suffer discrimination, abandonment and ridicule, Emmanuel has dedicated his life to traveling the country via bicycle to open people's minds and to transform lives.

Cultural Film: *Dirty, Filthy Love* (2004)

Friday, February 23 - 8 pm, ARH 302
Saturday, February 24 - 8 pm, ARH 302
Sunday, February 25 - 2 pm, ARH 302

An offbeat romantic comedy – darkly funny, quirky and poignant – "Dirty Filthy Love" tells the story of a man with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Tourette's Syndrome negotiating his way through divorce, his best friend's matchmaking efforts and a woman who introduces him to therapy, filth and unconditional love.

Disability Awareness Week events are sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Disability Issues at Grinnell. Contact [sternjm] or [savarese] for questions or comments. Grinnell College welcomes the participation of people with disabilities. If you plan to attend any of these events and need accommodation, please contact the Office for Communications and Events, x3178, as soon as possible to make your request.

