JOIN US TO EXPLORE THE WORLD OF DICKENS

on the University of California's Santa Cruz campus
Presented by the Dickens Project

THE DICKENS UNIVERSE

August 2 – 8, 2009
THE DICKENS UNIVERSE

The Dickens Project, begun in 1981, is a multi-campus research unit of the University of California, as well as a consortium of universities from around the world. Faculty and graduate students from more than 30 affiliated schools meet each summer for an entire week to discuss a single novel by Charles Dickens. In addition, members of the general public are invited to participate. You need not be a scholar; the conference is open to anyone who reads and enjoys Dickens. Spend a week with us and discover why the Dickens Universe has been called "California's best-kept literary secret."

REPORTS FROM FACULTY RESEARCH GROUPS

On the afternoon of Friday, August 7 and the morning of Saturday, August 8, the Dickens Universe will host a series of roundtable discussions. “The Dickens Project Collaboratory” offers faculty members an opportunity to share their work in progress. All Universe participants are invited without additional fee. Registration for non-University participants is $125. This year the Collaboratory will feature three Dickens Project research groups: "Real Dickensians," "19th-Century Poetry," and "Visual Cultures." In addition, on Friday afternoon, all are invited to join us in remembering our beloved colleague: "Partings Welded Together: A Celebration of Our Friend Sally Ledger."

DAILY WORKSHOPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

These workshops are devoted to presenting innovative and successful ideas for teaching nineteenth-century novels (usually Great Expectations and A Tale of Two Cities) to junior high and high school students. Offered at no extra charge, each workshop will demonstrate practical teaching strategies developed by experienced teachers and tested in the classroom. Special emphasis will be given to cooperative learning techniques and to approaches that recognize differences among student learning and thinking styles.

SEMINARS FOR NON-AFFILIATED FACULTY

The Dickens Universe includes a post-doctoral seminar for Victorianists from non-affiliated colleges and universities. Participants have access to all regular Dickens Universe lectures and programs. In addition, they attend a small seminar, led by Dickens Project faculty, that meets daily during the week. The seminar is designed to encourage intensive examination of the featured novel and to foster peer discussion of lectures, films, and professional issues of interest to the participants. Some secondary reading will be recommended.
“...like many food parents, I have in my heart of hearts a favourite child. And his name is David Copperfield.” So wrote Charles Dickens, late in life, confessing a special tenderness for his most autobiographical work, David Copperfield: The Personal History And Experience Of David Copperfield the Younger.

The middle child in his family of novels, David Copperfield appeared in one-shilling, monthly installments from May 1849 to November 1850. From David’s “posthumous birth” to his own paternity (of books and children alike), the novel absorbs readers in the poignant memories hidden in the “undisciplined heart” of its hero and perhaps of Dickens himself.

The grip of childhood trauma—those days young Dickens labored in the blacking factory—clings to our narrator in David Copperfield. Victimized by his venomous stepfather Mr. Murdstone, entranced by his dazzling classmate Steerforth, and bucked up by his irrepressible Aunt Betsey Trotwood, David struggles toward adulthood. Here as perhaps nowhere else, Dickens captures a child’s teetering between shame and self-forgiveness, loss and hope, loneliness and longing, visions of what was and longings for what might be. From an adult perspective, David traces his youthful path through a panorama of joys and disappointments from calf love to donkey dalliances, heart-breaking seductions, excessive libations, and woeful emigrations.

The constellation of stellar presenters at this year’s Dickens Universe includes Bob Patten (Rice Univ.) on Phiz’s illustrations, Rosemarie Bodenheimer (Boston College) on Dickens’s autobiographical impulses, Galia Benziman (Univ. of Tel Aviv) on Victorian childhood, Bob Polhemus (Stanford Univ.) on the character as author, Leah Price (Harvard Univ.) on speedwriting and slow reading, Rebecca Stern (Univ. of So. Carolina) on Dickens and time, Marty Gould (Univ. of So. Florida) on theatrical adaptations, John Jordan (UCSC) on tempests of various kinds, and more. You’ll want to bring along your dancing shoes and your taste for tea.

What better novel to read as we all learn to tighten our belts and share in a national economic recovery? As Mr. Micawber wryly observes: “Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.” We promise if you invest a few of your pounds in the Dickens Universe that the dividends in new and old friendships, the fellowship of those who treasure Dickens’s novels, and a week in the California redwoods will be worth far more than gold.

Our literary adventure takes place far from Blunderstone and Yarmouth. The Santa Cruz campus of the University of California, 75 miles south of San Francisco and 50 miles north of Carmel, is perched on a hill high above Monterey Bay and the city of Santa Cruz—a place of open vistas, shady redwood groves, and nearly tame deer. The climate is normally mild, with cool mornings and evenings, and warm afternoons. While we dwell imaginatively in nineteenth-century England, we will simultaneously enjoy the amenities of the most beautiful of the University of California’s campuses.

Santa Cruz is best served by San Jose International Airport, just 45 minutes away. Travelers may also use San Francisco International Airport (2 hours away), Amtrak into San Jose, or reach Santa Cruz by car via Highway 1. The Dickens Project will provide shuttle service to and from the San Jose airport at scheduled times. Please check the website or contact the office.

Since many people summer in Santa Cruz, off-campus housing is usually in short and expensive supply, so we suggest that you stay on campus at Kresge College, where all conference events are held. Registration, parking, and meals at the dining hall are all included in the room rates. Accommodations at Kresge feature shared apartments with twin beds. Meals are taken at a nearby dining hall.

Those not wishing to live on campus pay $350 for registration. Parking is an additional $27/week. Meals in the dining hall may be purchased ahead of time. Our website includes a link for motels within close driving distance to the campus.

Although UCSC has beautiful paths for walking and biking, the campus is hilly and can be very strenuous for those with mobility issues. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

DIRECTIONS

To UCSC: Take Highway 17 South to Santa Cruz. At the outskirts of Santa Cruz, take Highway 1 North (toward Half Moon Bay). On Business Highway 1 (Mission Street), travel approximately one mile north to Bay Street. Turn right on Bay and proceed up the hill to High Street (UCSC Main Entrance).

To Kresge College: Do not go in the Main Entrance. At Bay and High, turn left and follow High Street, which becomes Empire Grade, for approximately one mile to the West Entrance (Heller Drive) on your right. Follow Heller for another half mile. Turn left at the entrance to Porter College/Kresge College. Follow the road past Porter and look for signs that say "Dickens Universe Registration." If you arrive before 2:00 or after 4:00 on Sunday, please go directly to the Conference Services Office.
SCHEDULE
(subject to change)

Sunday, August 2
2:00-4:00 pm Registration at Kresge College
3:00-5:00 Friends of Dickens Project Board Mtg
4:30-5:30 Orientation for First-timers
5:45-6:30 Dinner
6:30-7:30 Post-Prandial Potations (refreshments)
7:30-9:00 Welcome and Lecture
9:15-10:45 Film

Monday through Thursday, August 3 – 6
7:15-8:30 am Breakfast
8:30-9:30 Faculty-led discussion groups
9:45-11:00 Lectures
11:15-12:30 pm Grad student-led workshops
12:45-1:30 Lunch
1:30-3:00 Special workshops and repeat of film
3:00-3:45 Afternoon Tea offered by the Friends of the Dickens Project
3:45-5:00 Talk or workshop
5:45-6:30 Dinner
6:30-7:30 Post-Prandial Potations and Bookfair (no Bookfair Wednesday evening)
7:30-9:00 Lecture (*no lecture on Wednesday; see note)
9:15-10:45 Film (Thursday night is Grand Party hosted by the Friends)

Friday, August 7
Morning Schedule is the same as Monday through Thursday
1:30-3:00pm Collaboratory: A Roundtable with "Real Dickensians"
3:00-3:30 Refreshments
3:30-5:00 "Partings Welded Together: A Celebration of Our Friend Sally Ledger."
5:45-6:30 Dinner
7:30-8:30 Auction to benefit Friends, announcements
8:30-11:00 Victorian Dance, with Angela Elsey and the Brassworks Band
(light refreshments and desserts provided)

Saturday, August 8
7:15-8:30am Breakfast
9:00-10:30 Collaboratory: A Roundtable on "19th-Century Poetry"
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
11:30-12:30 Collaboratory: A Roundtable on "Visual Cultures"

*the only scheduled activity on Wednesday evening is an early showing of the film at 8:00. This is a perfect evening to attend a performance of the world-famous Shakespeare Santa Cruz at UCSC Performing Arts.

2009 DICKENS UNIVERSE registration form
August 2 – 8, 2009
Kresge College, UCSC

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________
EMAIL __________________________________________
PHONE __________________________________________

ON-CAMPUS PACKAGE (arrive SUN 8/2, depart SAT 8/8; registration, meals, and parking included):

☐ SINGLE accommodations (bedroom to yourself in a shared apartment, sharing a bathroom and common areas) $1000
☐ DOUBLE accommodations $850
(share a bedroom with one other person in a shared apartment)
Please designate a roommate or we will match you with someone:

☐ Arrive early (SAT 8/1) $130
☐ Depart late (SUN 8/9) $120

OFF-CAMPUS COMMUTERS:
☐ Registration $350
☐ Parking for the week (permit required) $27
☐ Lunches M – F (optional) $55
☐ Dinners M – F (optional) $60

TOTAL $__________

Make checks payable to UC REGENTS and mail to:
Dickens Project - UCSC
1156 High St.
Santa Cruz CA 95064
or you may charge to American Express, Visa, or MasterCard:

__________________________________________
number   exp. date

signature

In order to save costs and provide the most updated information, we post details about the conference on our web site at http://dickens.usc.edu, including the schedule, travel information, a bibliography, and valuable links. If you would prefer to receive this information in hard copy, we will mail it to you.

☐ Hard copies of the information, please.