



versity), and philosopher Margaret Urban Walker (Marquette University). A special evening event will feature a screening of the award-winning documentary film *Prosecutor*, which profiles controversial International Criminal Court prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo. This will be followed by a Q and A with the film's director, Barry Stevens, who has made numerous acclaimed films, often addressing human rights issues. Karen Holbrook, USF's Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Global Affairs, will offer a welcome. Says HI Director Elizabeth

Bird, "this is a truly exciting program that puts USF at the forefront of the international debate on violence and transitional justice scholarship."

The conference will also feature a special showing of the exhibit "Witnessing a Genocide: the Children of Darfur," which features drawings made by Darfuri children in refugee camps in Eastern Chad, provided by Waging Peace, in

An Evening with Pam Iorio: How History Guides Effective Leadership
Patel Center for Global Solutions, 7:00pm

The Humanities Institute is one of several USF entities co-sponsoring the Department of Religious Studies' mini-

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It's 2012: THE END OF THE WORLD (AGAIN)?

Signature Theme: History, Myth, and Memory

For the last few years, the blogosphere has been buzzing with dire predictions, most notably the claim that the ancient Maya predicted the end of the world in December 2012. This scare is only one symptom of a long-standing cultural preoccupation with the apocalypse, and it seemed like a good moment to explore this theme at USF. We'll do this over a few days this Spring: March 19 – 21.

We kick off with a public talk by Christian Wells, Associate Professor of Anthropology at USF, and a well-known scholar of ancient Maya culture. On March 19, at 7



Christian Wells

p.m. in MSC 2707, Wells will address "The Ancient Maya Doomsday prophecy: Some helpful tips for surviving the end of the world."

Says Wells, "the ancient Maya were brilliant astronomers and mathematicians, who measured the movements of the heavenly bodies with astounding accuracy. On the eve of their own demise, some 1,200 years ago, they wrote in stone

that December 21, 2012 would mark the end of their calendar—the 13th *b'ak'tun*, a time that would produce 'the display of B'olon-Yokte [the ancient Maya god of war and conflict] in a great investiture." While it's not clear what the Maya meant by this, it has invited endless speculation. New Agers believe this period corresponds with a global "transformation of consciousness," while astrologers argue that the period will bring an extremely rare "galactic alignment" witnessed only once every 26,000 years. Wells will make a different argument, based on archaeological evidence, showing that predictions of a universal doomsday are not found in any classic Maya accounts.

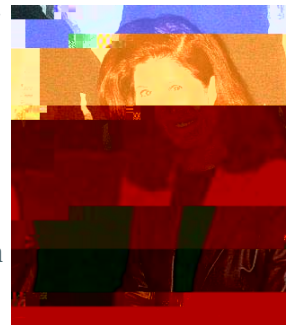
Beginning March 20th, we're pleased to host two leading apocalyptic science fiction writers: Joe Haldeman and Nancy Kress. Haldeman, who teaches science fiction writing workshops at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the author of nearly 30 novels and short story



Joe Haldeman

collections. His work has won numerous awards and his 1998 novel, *Forever Peace*, won the Hugo, Nebula, and John W. Campbell Award.

Nancy Kress has authored 26 novels and collections and often focuses on the topic of genetic engineering. She has won several Hugo and Nebula Awards and her novel, *Probability Space*, won the 2003 John. W. Campbell Award.



Nancy Kress

Both authors are experts in the particular subset of science fiction literature that addresses the apocalypse and will treat audiences to a reading on March 20, at 7 p.m. in the TECO Room (Education Building). On March 20 and 21, they will be visiting USF classes to discuss their writing techniques, genre-specific ideas, and cultivating creativity. Additional events may be added, so be sure to check the Humanities Institute website. Special thanks to Dr. Rick Wilber and the Department of Mass Communications for their support of these events.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2012

It's a familiar story—resources are shrinking and organizations are facing tough decisions. This was almost another one of those stories. In 1996 the Academy of American Poets launched a nationwide initiative called National Poetry Month. Every April schools, libraries, publishers, and literary organizations host readings, workshops, and festivals to promote the vital role of poetry in American society. The Humanities Institute has a long tradition of supporting NPM with a month-long series of public readings but this year's budget presented us with a challenge. We (reluctantly) accepted the reality that this year's NPM would be modest—fewer events but still of excellent quality. Thanks to the enormous help of Dr. Jay Hopler from the Department of English, we began asking poets to consider reducing their fees, looked for funding opportunities, and new partnerships. An amazing thing happened—poets began volunteering their time, we found groups eager to be involved and even scraped together some money. The calendar slowly started to fill. Then, it overflowed. Somehow, in the midst of the worst financial drought the Institute has ever seen, we found ourselves struggling to accommodate the wealth of talent suddenly at our



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FALL 2011 HIGHLIGHTS



Technical Theater students from CoTA