

## \* Fall 2007 Honors Colloquium - The Effects of Media on Children \*

104 Cockefair Hall / Wednesday 3-3h50

Prof. Gayle Levy (levyg@umkc.edu or x. 2820)

Office hours: M 10-11:50; W: 1-2:50 (211 Scofield Hall) or by appointment

You can find contracts and other information at <http://cas.umkc.edu/honors/>

Assigned articles are available on the Colloquium BlackBoard site.

### Guiding questions:

- 1) What are the significant changes in types/content of children's media since the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- 2) Does children's media have a direct correlation to behaviors and attitudes in adulthood?
- 3) What can be said about American culture based on children's literature, films, etc. (particularly in terms of gender roles and racial stereotypes)?
- 4) What is being taught by means of different kinds of media?
- 5) What themes and traditions prevail throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

August 22: Introduction to Honors Program and Colloquium; presentation of candidates for new co-director of University Honors Club.

August 29: Lewis Diuguid, Vice Pres. Community Resources, KC Star: "The Effects of Media on Children and You!"

September 3 (Monday): Pamela Shane-Dillard, Office of Diversity, Access and Equity: Mandatory new honors student orientation (returning students are enthusiastically invited to attend!), 10-3ish (lunch will be served) in 207 Scofield Hall. Please watch the film *Crash* (dir. Paul Haggis) before this event. If you are not a new honors student, RSVP to Prof. Levy.

September 5: Welcome party and *Lucerna* launch in the lobby of Scofield Hall.

September 12: Prof. Pellom McDaniels, Dept. of History: "The Fact of Blackness: Representations of African American Men in Western Culture and the Challenges of Positive Identity Construction".

September 19: Discussion of articles: "The Making of Children's Culture" and "Seducing the Innocent."

September 26: Prof. Jane Greer, Dept. of English: ""The Academy and Disney World: What Does a Professor Do with a Degree from Mickey Mouse University?"

October 3: Prof. Caitlin Horsmon, Dept. of Communication Studies: "Disney, TV, and the Happy Meal: examining the forces that have made American animation entertainment for children".

October 10: Lisa Campbell-Ernst, children's book author and illustrator: "Storytelling for Children *and* Adults"

October 17: Matt Raithel, Director of Art + Design, Black Lantern Studios, Inc.: "Bleeding Pixels: The Effects of Gaming Violence on Children of Today".

October 24: Prof. Kati Toivanen, Dept of Art and Art History: "Identity and Image".

October 31: General discussion

November 7: Prof. Miriam Forman-Brunell, Dept. of History: "Decoding Dolls: Material Culture and Girlhood".

November 14: Prof. Jenny Huberman, Anthropology: "Innocent Children, Desperate Street Kids, or Cunning Little Adults?"

November 21: No class: Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28: Discussion of Colloquium topic for next semester.

December 5: Vote on Colloquium topic; presentation of Senior Honors Theses