



## News Release

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### **Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities to Speak during Inaugural Iowa Humanities Festival at Salisbury House**

Des Moines, IA (February 8, 2013) — Long-time Iowa Congressman Jim Leach, now serving as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will return to Des Moines on March 9, 2013 to speak at the inaugural Iowa Humanities Festival at Salisbury House & Gardens.

Inspired by the long-running Chicago Humanities Festival, curated by the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Iowa, hosted by the Salisbury House Foundation, and underwritten by Humanities Iowa, the Iowa Humanities Festival will be dedicated to exploring "Collectors, Collections and Collecting." This event will bring together Iowa-based scholars, museum directors, librarians, and collectors for a public event celebrating the continuing importance of art, literature, libraries and museums, and providing thoughtful reflection on our state's cultural heritage.

"We look forward to welcoming Chairman Leach and sharing the fascinating work of our State's college and university professors, archivists, museum and other cultural leaders with our fellow Iowans," says Teresa Mangum, Director of the Obermann Center, an interdisciplinary research center that supports scholarly research at the University of Iowa. "We will be offering a daylong series of panel discussions, informal presentations and conversations related to museum work and collections, while also highlighting notable books and works of art held in the Salisbury House collection."

Currently scheduled speakers and presenters for the Festival include:

- Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities;
- Chris Rossi, Executive Director of Humanities Iowa;
- J. Eric Smith, Executive Director of Salisbury House & Gardens;
- Cyndi Pederson, Deputy Director of Salisbury House & Gardens;
- Teresa Mangum, Director of the Obermann Center;
- Gregory Prickman, Head of Special Collections at the University of Iowa;
- James Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English at Grinnell College;
- H. Glenn Penny Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at University of Iowa;
- Eric Gidal Ph.D., Associate Professor of English at University of Iowa;
- Jim Elmborg Ph.D., Associate Professor of Library and Information Science at University of Iowa;
- Robert Bork Ph.D., Professor of Art History at University of Iowa;
- Blaine Greteman Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English at University of Iowa;

- Kim Marra Ph.D., Professor of Theatre and Performance History at University of Iowa;
- Matt Brown Ph.D., Center for the Book and Associate Professor of English at University of Iowa;
- Melisa Klimaszewski Ph.D., Associate Professor of English at Drake University;
- Sean O’Harrow Ph.D., Director of University of Iowa Museum of Art;
- Leslie Wright, Director of Faulconer Gallery at Grinnell College;
- Jeff Fleming, Executive Director of Des Moines Art Center;
- Wallace Tomasini Ph.D., Professor of Art at University of Iowa.

Salisbury House is a 42-room manor estate built in the 1920s by cosmetics magnate Carl Weeks and his wife, Edith. The house is filled with the Weeks Family’s worldly collections, ranging from rare editions of literature from William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, James Joyce and D.H. Lawrence, early edition Bibles and Books of Mormon, art collections spanning the globe from Renaissance Europe to Midwestern modernism, Native American art, musical instruments, and much, much more.

Additional co-sponsors of this inaugural event include the University of Iowa’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Iowa, University of Iowa Libraries, and the University of Iowa Museum of Art; Drake University’s Center for Humanities; Grinnell College’s Center for Humanities and Faulconer Gallery; the Des Moines Art Center; and the Des Moines Public Library.

The Iowa Humanities Festival will be held at Salisbury House & Gardens, 4025 Tonawanda Drive in Des Moines, Iowa on Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 9 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$10, which includes a box lunch and light refreshments at a day-end reception. To purchase tickets for the event, please visit the [Salisbury House website](#). Early purchase is strongly recommended given limited seating and high demand.

