Hampton Sides speaks at conference fundraiser

by Andrew Rogers
Mayborn Scholar

Award-winning author Hampton Sides entertained local writers and UNT guests at Brookhaven Country Club on Sunday, March 16. He discussed how he recreates history in an engaging way.

“[I] look for stories with a pulse and weight today,” Sides said.

Almost 100 friends of the Mayborn gathered to listen to Sides and celebrate the arrival of the Texas State Historical Association to UNT. The event, hosted by Nick and Ann Ricco, also served as a fundraiser for the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest.

Sides encouraged a laid-back atmosphere. He explained to the audience he didn’t want it to be a lecture or speech as he reclined in his chair, dressed in beat-up cowboy boots, stone-washed jeans and a khaki sports jacket. He welcomed a conversation and invited all to join.

George Getschow, UNT professor and Mayborn writer-in-residence, interviewed Sides and asked how he brought history to life in his recent book about the American West, Blood and Thunder.

“Narrative history puts focus on the story rather than a thesis or text,” he said. “I don’t want it to be dull. Just a story told from a disciplined novelist.”

Sides talked about the painstaking four years he researched the book and the one year he spent writing it.

“It’s lonely, lonely work, lots of reading,” he said. “Historians can’t just pick up the phone to interview their subjects.”

Sides also talked about fact-checking (“whatever you do, don’t make a mistake on ballistics”), books he’d bring on a deserted island (“not mine. It’s like sausage, I don’t want to know what’s in them”) and the average age of his reader (“80”).

The audience stayed engaged, peppering Sides with questions. Afterward, he chatted with people.

|Cont. on pg. 3. See SIDES.|

Mayborn Conference features Pulitzer Prize winner

by George Getschow
Mayborn Writer-in-Residence

Native American writer N. Scott Momaday will headline the fourth annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference. Called “the dean of Native-American Literature” by The New York Times, Momaday has earned numerous literary awards and published several books, plays and poems in his career.

In 1969, he became the first Native American to win the Pulitzer Prize with his book House Made of Dawn, and he has also earned Italy’s highest literary honor, the “Mondello.”

Momaday is the founder and Chair of The Buffalo Trust, a nonprofit foundation for the preservation and restoration of Native American culture and heritage. The trust promotes the sharing of story, song, art and history in Native communities across the United States.

A senior scholar at The School of American Research in Santa Fe, Momaday has held tenured teaching posts at University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University and the University of Arizona.

Currently, Momaday is the poet laureate of Oklahoma and teaches a class on Oral Tradition at Santa Fe’s Institute of American Indian Arts.

Momaday will speak on Saturday evening of the conference about how storytellers must learn to harness the magic of imagination and mystery in language.Momaday believes that if nonfiction writers can learn to harness the precision, emotion and power of poetry, their stories will assume a

|Cont. on pg. 3. See SPEAKERS.|

An Evening With Hampton Sides
The award-winning author visits The Mayborn

2008 Mayborn Conference Preview
Scott Momaday to be keynote speaker in July

Journalism Banquet
Find out about this year’s speaker, Emily Callahan

Calendar
Alumni Updates
Summer Courses

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UNT University of North Texas
Discover the power of ideas
An Evening With Hampton Sides

**3-Week Session**
(May 12-29)

JOUR 5510*
Direct Response
Instructor: Busby
*UNT Dallas campus

**5-Week Session I**
(June 2-July 3)
*Classes in this session do not meet, but are available for students who want to complete individual work.*

JOUR 5900*
Adv. Problems in Journalism
*Multiple sections

JOUR 5910*
Adv. Problems in Journalism
*Multiple sections

JOUR 5950*
Thesis
*Multiple sections

**5-Week session II**
(July 7-Aug. 8)

JOUR 5260
Research Methods I
Instructor: TBA

JOUR 5350
Seminar in Journalism
Instructor: Getschow

JOUR 5900, 5910 AND 5950
Instructor: Land

**8-Week Session**
(May 12-July 3)

JOUR 5900
Adv. Problems in Journalism
Instructor: Lambiase

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**Left:** Mayborn graduate students Andrew Rogers, Candace Carlisle and Spencer Campbell help set up for the event.

**Below:** Barbara Colegrove and Bill Hobbs browse through copies of Hampton Sides’ books for the book signing held after the lecture.

**Above:** Hampton Sides answers questions from the audience with George Getschow at his side.

**Right:** Johanna Hurley, left, UNT Regent Gayle Strange, Nick Ricco and Nick Ricco Jr. pose for a quick picture before dinner. Ricco and his wife Ann hosted the event.
realism and a meaning that will yield the “true spirit of the story” over time.

The Friday night keynote speaker is Bob Shacochis. A contributing editor at Outside magazine, Shacochis is an acclaimed literary journalist.

His book, Easy in the Islands, was a National Book Award Winner. The book is a collection of stories about topics such as reggae bars established on tiny slivers of sand and characters meandering aimlessly through the warm waters and soft breezes of the Caribbean paradise.

Shacochis published his first novel, Swimming in the Volcano, in 1993. It was a Booklist Editors’ Choice selection and a finalist for the National Book Award.

His first full-length nonfiction book, The Immaculate Invasion, was a result of his reporting for Harper’s on the United States government’s 1994 occupation of the tiny Caribbean island of Haiti.

Shacochis’ lecture will be about a seldom-addressed but all-important issue facing nonfiction storytellers on every story they write: The need to know when they’re saying too much or saying too little.

Sunday’s keynote address will be given by Candice Millard. A former writer and editor for National Geographic, she has written on a wide variety of topics—from the ancient Ethiopian kingdom of Aksum to a group of people in Mongolia who still hunt with eagles.

Her first book, The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey, was a national bestseller and was named one of the best books of the year by, among others, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Christian Science Monitor. The River of Doubt won the Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers award and was a Book Sense Pick. Millard’s work has also appeared in Time, and she is a frequent contributor to The New York Times Book Review.

Millard will lecture about retracing Roosevelt’s perilous journey down the Amazon River in Brazil, and the role that calamity, symbolism, misfortune and mystery have in writing spellbinding narratives.

To register for the conference and see complete bios for all of our conference speakers, please visit:

TheMayborn.unt.edu

| SIDES. Continued from pg. 1. 1 |

individually while signing books.

Cindy Getschow said, “It really showed Hampton’s character. He’s just personable and laid back.”

The event raised enough funding for five full scholarships, $500 each, to the Writers Conference.

“It was great,” said UNT President Gretchen Bataille. “It’s important that we have Hampton Sides a part of our program and on our side.”

| 2008 Conference Speakers |

| N. Scott Momaday |
| 1969 Pulitzer Prize Winner |
| Bob Shacochis |
| National Book Award Winner |
| Candice Millard |
| River of Doubt |
| John Burnett |
| NPR correspondent |
| Stella Chavez |
| writer, The Dallas Morning News |
| Susannah Charleston |
| The Scent of the Missing |
| Pamela Colloff |
| writer, Texas Monthly |
| Lee Hancock |
| enterprise reporter, The Dallas Morning News |
| Nick Heil |
| Dark Summit |
| Tim Madigan |
| writer, The Star-Telegram |
| Cathleen Medwick |
| contributing editor, O, the Oprah Magazine |
| Paul Meyer |
| writer, The Dallas Morning News |
| Ben Montgomery |
| writer, St. Petersburg Times |
| David Patterson |
| senior editor, Henry Holt & Co. |
| Brian Sweany |
| articles editor, Texas Monthly |
| Wright Thompson |
| ESPN.com |
| Andy Van De Voorde |
| Village Voice Media |
| Ken Wells |
| senior editor, Condé Nast Portfolio |
| Alexandra Wolfe |
| writer, Condé Nast Portfolio |

| Calendar |

| March 31 | Summer Registration Begins |
| April 4 | University Day |
| April 18 | Reception for Susan Yost |
| April 19 | Journalism Banquet |
| April 26 | Graduation Dinner |
| May 5-9 | Finals |
| May 8 | Mayborn Magazine Release Party |
| May 9 | End of Spring Semester |
| May 10 | Spring Commencement |
| July 18-20 | Mayborn Literary Conference |

Photo by Alexander Shelgunov
Marketing executive speaks at 2008 banquet

by
Adrienne Borrego
Mayborn Intern

Emily Callahan will serve as keynote speaker for the 2008 C.E. Shuford Journalism Banquet. Callahan is the managing director for marketing communications at the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Callahan earned her master’s degree in journalism from the Mayborn, where her studies on trauma and the media were selected for presentation at the Southeast Symposium for Journalism and Mass Communications.

She has been an adjunct professor in the graduate journalism program and was named the 2006 graduate alumna “Rising Star.”

“The master’s curriculum really helped hone my skills as a marketing executive,” said Callahan. “The program was a great blend of courses on strategy, practical application, industry trends and leadership skills.

“Most importantly, the team of professors who drive the program are dedicated to helping students reach their professional goals, whatever they might be.”

The banquet will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008, in the Gateway Center Ballroom on the UNT campus. The theme of the night is “Keys to the Future: Unlocking the Secrets to Success.” Callahan will discuss how important it is to find one’s purpose, which is an integral part of success.

Tickets are on sale in GAB 102, 205 and 207. Tickets for students are $15 and $25 for non-students.

Please contact Nancy Eanes at 940-565-4778 or neanes@unt.edu for more information or to purchase tickets.

Alumni Updates

Mike Mooney (‘07) has earned distinction from Village Voice Media for his feature story titled “The Muscle Men.” The company has several papers across the country, and each week, the VVM executives select four stories they call “national features.” Mooney’s March 13 piece was selected as one of them. It was a 7,000-word investigative story about “rejuvenation centers” at the center of the steroid controversy in professional baseball. His story can be found at http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/2008-03-13/news/the-musclemen/.

Taylor Timmins (‘05), a Mayborn scholar and Internet news producer at KHOU.com in Houston, is engaged to Christopher Wiley. The wedding will take place in San Diego on Aug. 10.

Josh Baugh (‘03) and Ashley Cash announced the birth of their daughter, Emma Aubrey. She was born on Jan. 30 and weighed 8 lbs., 8 ozs. More pictures can be seen at thelifeofemma.com. Baugh was also recently promoted and is covering county government and public housing for San Antonio Express-News.

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Marketing executive speaks at 2008 banquet

let your writing take flight.

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