



Event Title: "Jesting Pilate: Ann Eliza Young and the Rhetoric of Credibility"  
Event Type: Reception and Lecture (in Conjunction with Alumni Advisory Council Meetings and Dinner)  
Sponsors: Clark Honors College  
CHC Contact: David Frank/DeNel Stoltz  
Date: Friday, February 21, 2003 @7:00pm  
Location: Chapman 301 (Clark Honors College Library)  
Total Attendees: Approximately 42

**"What is Truth?" said jesting Pilate, and would not wait for an answer"**  
\_Sir Francis Bacon, paraphrasing John 18:38\_

By: Lucie Serravo  
University of Oregon Clark Honors College – Tuesday, February 27, 2003

On Friday, February 21, 2003 after the semi-annual Alumni Advisory Council Dinner and first day of AAC Meetings, the Clark Honors College Library was filled with faculty, students, alumni and the public. Among those in attendance were Honors College Founder, Dr. Robert D. Clark accompanied by his son-in-law, and twelve members of the CHC Alumni Advisory Council. They gathered to enjoy a reception of home-style cookies, nut breads and coffee before listening to a lecture by Frances Cogan, Assistant Professor of History.

The Friday evening lecture discussed research for Cogan's third book, which examines the rhetorical features of a first-person narrative. During the 50 minute talk, Professor Cogan explored her theory of "nested credibility" with the nineteenth century expose, *Wife No. 19* by Ann Eliza Young, the wife of Brigham Young. She posed the question, "What makes an extraordinary life credible to another person?" And investigated Young's ability to attain "credibility" through the use of rhetorical tools such as: argument, form, autobiographical "first person" effect, and rhetorical figures.

Dr. Cogan has won every major teaching award at the University of Oregon, including the Ersted Award and the Burlington Northern Senior Faculty Teaching Award, as well as two "Professor of the Month" awards, the latest in 1998. Her two previous works *All American Girl* (University of Georgia Press, 1989) and *Captured* (University of Georgia Press, 2000) have established her as a national figure in social history and narrative analysis.