



# Elmira College

1855-2005

Sesquicentennial Spring Lecture Series  
Center for Mark Twain Studies



## The Trouble Begins at Eight

**Wednesday, May 11, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.**

**In Search of Mark Twain: The Biographical Complexities, by Fred Kaplan**

Join Fred Kaplan, author of *The Singular Mark Twain* (Doubleday, 2003), as he discusses his recent biography of Samuel Langhorne Clemens – “at once erudite, eye-opening, and highly entertaining.”  
(From the dust jacket)

Fred Kaplan is Distinguished Professor of English Literature at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City of New York. He is the author of the critically acclaimed biographies of Gore Vidal, Henry James, Charles Dickens, and Thomas Carlyle, which was nominated for a National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize. He has held Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and was a Fellow of the National Humanities Center. He lives in Boothbay, Maine.

**Wednesday, May 18, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.**

**(De)Composing Metaphor in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:  
Insights from the Long-Lost Manuscript, by John Bird**

John Bird was one of the first scholars to use the new Huckleberry Finn CD-ROM to analyze the composition of the first half of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. His research suggests that Mark Twain originally wrote the novel with much more figurative language and then very consistently edited it out, giving us the voice of Huck that we know so well. Join us for a fascinating glimpse behind the veil of composition.

John Bird is Associate Professor of English at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He is editor of the Mark Twain Annual and has published articles on Mark Twain and Henry David Thoreau, among others. He is currently writing a book on Mark Twain and metaphor.

**Wednesday, May 25, 2005, in the Barn at Quarry Farm, 8 p.m.**

**Dangerous Intimacy: The Untold Story of Mark Twain’s Final Years,  
by Karen Lystra (University of California Press, 2004)**

“Karen Lystra liberates the author’s last decade of life from a century of popular misunderstanding. In this gripping book we at last see how, late in life, this American icon discovered a deep kinship with his youngest child and experienced the interplay of love and pain that is one of the hallmarks of his work.”  
(From the dust jacket)

Karen Lystra is Professor of American Studies at California State University, Fullerton. She is author of *Searching the Heart: Women,*