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Director's Statement

The start of the new school year is one of my favorite times—people come back (hopefully) rested, full of ideas, and excited to start with a clean slate. There's endless potential in August and the Humanities Institute is anticipating one of our best years ever.

Dr. Elizabeth Spiller begins her first year as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and we're looking forward to hearing her vision for CAS and learning from the experience she brings from her most recent position as the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In other exciting hiring news, the Humanities Institute is delighted to announce that Dr. Jennifer Knight has accepted the role of Assistant Director of HI. With both her outstanding academic credentials, as well as her detailed experience in administration, she brings energy and practical skills that are going to help HI expand its support for students and faculty.

We're launching our first Humanities Graduate Symposium this October. Like the Undergraduate Humanities Conference, this will be an excellent opportunity for professional and scholarly development. You can read all about this new initiative on page 6.

Finally, I want to make sure that all our readers know about the College of Arts and Science's Center for Sustainable Democracy, lead by Dr. Josh Scacco. This nonpartisan, multidisciplinary research center emphasizes research and engagement regarding how political and civic leaders, journalists, and everyday individuals sustain democratic life in Florida, the United States, and globally. Since it is a major election year, Josh and his team will be even busier than usual—make sure to check their website for upcoming events at www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/centers/csd.

I hope to see many new and familiar faces this semester!



Liz Kicak, M.F.A.

Director

Associate Professor of Instruction, English

ekicak@usf.edu // CPR 474D



Your support matters!

<https://usf.to/Hlgiving>

If you enjoy the USF Humanities Institute's events and programs, please support our work by making a gift online today.



Extraordinary Philanthropic Gift for Future Writers

USF alumna, Dr. Honey Rand, has built an incredible life—from her service in the United States Army to building a juggernaut environmental public relations firm, and now as a philanthropist providing a transformational gift to the College of Arts and Sciences. Her gift comes in the form of a deferred \$3 million contribution, 90 percent of which will go toward creating an annual creative writing retreat hosted by the Humanities Institute.

“We are extremely grateful to Dr. Honey Rand for her generous gift in a subject area that will benefit students studying at the University of

South Florida in a wide range of academic disciplines,” says USF President Rhea Law. “Creative writing fosters critical thinking and future innovation, and the works produced by these writers are crucial for cultivating understanding, connection and progress in our global community.”

The Humanities Institute is honored to be given the opportunity to bring Rand’s vision to reality and create a vibrant annual retreat by gathering writers of diverse voices, experiences, and backgrounds.

Scan to read more
about Rand’s gift:



Creative writing fosters critical thinking and future innovation, and the works produced by these writers are crucial for cultivating understanding, connection and progress in our global community.

- USF President, Rhea Law



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José Ángel Maldonado

Alejandro Márquez

CPR 478F

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Adriana Novoa (History)

Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)

Alaina Tackitt (English)

Martine Wagner (World Languages)

Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

An Evening with Ocean Vuong

This November, we're hosting a "can't miss" event with one of the world's most exciting and powerful literary voices: Ocean Vuong. Vuong erupted on to the literary scene in 2016 with his first poetry collection, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*, for which he became only the second debut poet to win the T.S. Eliot Prize.



For more information on the speaker, please visit www.prhspeakers.com

Winner of a 2019 MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Vuong has also been named A Ruth Lilly fellow from the Poetry Foundation, and he has received fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the Elizabeth George Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, and the Pushcart Prize. He is also the winner of the Whiting Award, the Thom Gunn Award, the Stanley Kunitz Prize for Younger Poets, and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

Ocean Vuong's striking body of work contains timeless themes of class, queerness, and identity. His *New York Times*-bestselling novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, is an evocative coming-of-age epistolary and lyrical work of self-discovery and diaspora. Framed as a letter from a son to his mother, this shattering portrait of family, first love, and the redemptive power of storytelling asks how to survive, how to find joy in darkness, and the meaning of American identity—questions that power the most important debut novel of many years.

His newest collection of poems, *Time is a Mother*, has been hailed by critics as "piercing" and "intimate and iconic." Helen Vendler calls Vuong, "An undeniable voice, fiercely directed by a shaping imagination as relentless as its raw ma-

terial." His public talks are known to be moving and thought-provoking. Make sure to mark your calendar for this exciting event!

This event is free and open to the public. Vuong will give a reading on **Thursday, November 14** at **7:00 p.m.** followed by a moderated Q&A. The event will take place in C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206). RSVP by visiting the link or scanning the QR code below.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/oceanvuong-usf>

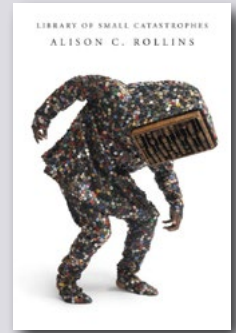




Alison C. Rollins Featured Poetry Reading

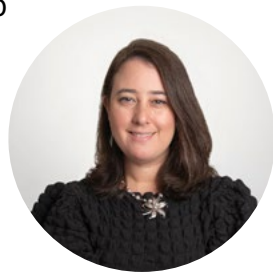
Alison C. Rollins will be the inaugural poet in the Garry Fleming Poetry Series, hosted by the Humanities Institute and the Michael Kuperman Memorial Poetry Library. She will join USF students for a workshop and give a featured reading open to the public on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

Rollins will be reading and performing from her groundbreaking collection *Black Bell*. Inspired by the nineteenth-century image of an enslaved woman wearing iron horns and bells, these poems explore the intersections between individual experience and collective memory. Rollins was named a 2023-2024 Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellow and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellow in 2019. She is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Partnership in Poetry

The Humanities Institute has entered a new partnership with the Michael Kuperman Memorial Poetry Library, based in the Department of English, to create the Garry Fleming Poetry Series. This exciting new collaboration will bring nationally recognized award-winning poets annually to the University of South Florida to interact with students for small workshops as well as give featured readings that are open to the public.



Poetry pre-dates the written word and is a bedrock of the Humanities. We are excited to further grow our support at USF and in the Tampa Bay community for poetry in such a meaningful way.

- Natalie Scenters-Zapico

Director of the Michael Kuperman Memorial Poetry Library

Garry Fleming Poetry Series

2024



Tuesday, October 22
Alison C. Rollins

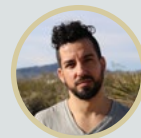
6 PM | C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)



Thursday, November 14
Ocean Vuong

7 PM | C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

2025



Tuesday, February 18
Paul Hlava Ceballos



Thursday, April 3
Dana Levin

Friday, October 11

Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)



NEW!

Graduate Humanities Symposium

Encouraging student research is one of the primary goals of the Humanities Institute, and this fall we are launching a new annual symposium for graduate students in the humanities. This day-long event will be held in the Marshall Student Center and will feature interdisciplinary panels of 3 – 4 graduate students. Each student will give a 15-minute presentation on their research, and then the group will take questions from the audience. We're excited to provide this new opportunity for professionalization and for students to interact with their colleagues from different departments. Many students will present work that is part of their ongoing thesis or dissertation and having a venue to field questions and discuss the future of their research is an important part of the graduate experience.

Please consider attending one or more panels to support our graduate students. The full schedule will be posted on our website at the end of September. Any faculty interested in volunteering to serve as panel moderators can email Liz Kicak.

More information, FAQs, and how to apply:



Apply Today!

- Open to all USF graduate students conducting research in the humanities (any major)
- Great experience for C.V. or professional resume
- Opportunities to network with other graduate students
- Free breakfast, lunch, and swag bag for presenters



Format: Panel Discussions

Apply with an existing project or research that may still be in progress

Apply as a full 3-person panel or as an individual (we will place you on a panel)



Applications Due: September 18

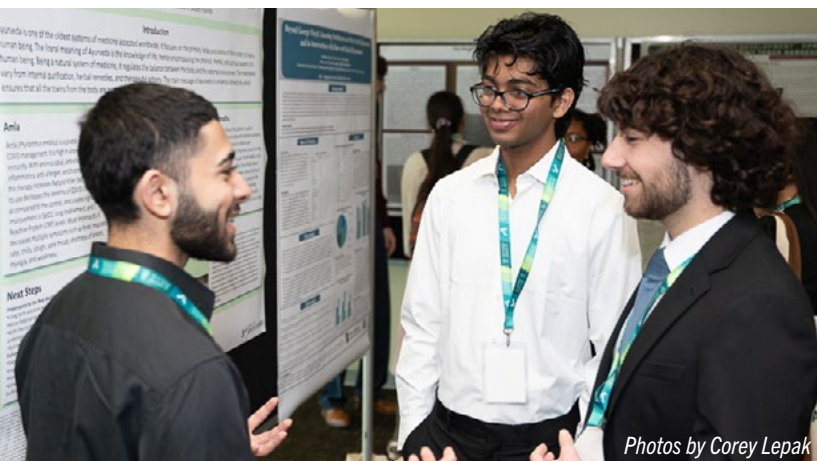
6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference

January 23-24, 2025 | Marshall Student Center 3rd Floor

Undergraduate students, the Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference is scheduled for January 23 – 24, which means it's time to start thinking about your application! This will be our 6th year hosting the conference and we're expecting our largest applicant pool yet.

Undergraduate Research is a High Impact Practice (a well-known technique for enhancing student success) and a State of Florida Performance Based Metric. It's a fun, supportive environment for young scholars to gain confidence and experience using research projects they have completed as part of their coursework.

This conference is free and includes breakfast, lunch, and a swag bag for presenters. Visit our website for frequently asked questions and preparation resources.



Photos by Corey Lepak

30 poster projects were on display at the 2024 conference

Dr. Kisha Tracy from Fitchburg State University gave a keynote address on why people should still study the middle ages



OCT. 1

Applications Open

DEC. 6

Standard Application Deadline

JAN. 23-24

Undergraduate Humanities Conference

Early-bird Application Deadline

NOV. 8

Decision Emails

DEC. 13

Get Involved

Faculty

Share the conference and application information in your class and encourage students to apply using an existing midterm or final project. To schedule an in-person visit or request flyers, contact Jade V. at jvonwerder@usf.edu.

Graduate Students

Volunteer to serve as a panel moderator and earn a great line for your C.V. For more information, contact Liz Kicak at ekicak@usf.edu.

Community Members

Help us fill the audience! Please drop in and walk the poster session, or observe a panel discussion. We want students to look out and see a roomful of supportive, happy faces.



Faculty Fellowship Program

The Humanities Institute welcomes its fourth cohort of Faculty Fellows for a year-long collaborative research experience. This year's cohort will study the social, cultural, and political relationship between Latin America and the United States, with a particular focus on "democratic violence." While it may appear contradictory (peace and safety *should be* the result of democracy), the use of violence in democratic nations has often been seen in the West as necessary to bring about a humanistic age through revolutionary movements.

These scholars will explore how political violence in Latin American countries can serve as a warning for democratic institutions, while also drawing on effective, practical examples in Latin American nations that further a robust, democratic culture. Their fellowship year will culminate in a three-day Conference on Democratic Violence in Latin America March 12-14, 2025.

Meet the 2024-2025 Cohort



Diana León-Boys

Assistant Professor | Communication

Diana León-Boys is the author of *Elena, Princesa of the Periphery: Disney's Flexible Latina Girl*. Her research and teaching interests are in critical media and cultural studies, Latinx studies, and girlhood studies. She is a leader and developer of the subfield of Latina girls' media studies.



José Ángel Maldonado

Assistant Professor | English

José Ángel Maldonado specializes in rhetorical theory and criticism. His work on geopolitics, indigeneity, and deadly violence appears in journals like *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, and *Southern Communication Journal*.



Alejandro Márquez

Assistant Professor | Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Alejandro Márquez is a political sociologist interested in social movements, borders, migration, emotions, and care work. His current project is an ethnography on the practice of solidarity in the immigrant rights movement. It highlights the role of emotions and resources in the everyday life of movement organizations on the US Mexico border providing crucial services to migrants and asylum seekers.



Left: Lulu Downing, Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, Hannah Thieryung, and Jennifer Knight at the 2024 Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH/AOH) convention in Orlando, FL

Top right: Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, Hannah Thieryung, and Matthew Knight



Bottom right: Jerry Rumph, Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, and Jennifer Knight at the 2023 Southern Regional American Conference for Irish Studies at the USF St. Petersburg campus

Humanities & Hops: Irish Studies at USF

Cold Drinks. Hot Food. Smart People.

Join the 2023-2024 Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship cohort as they discuss their year-long collaborative research experience on Global Irish Studies at the University of South Florida and the exciting ongoing programs that have grown out of their fellowship year. Joining the discussion will be USF graduate students, Hannah Thieryung and Lulu Downing, president and vice-president of the USF Irish Culture and Language Club.

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Doors Open: 6:30 PM | Event Start: 7:00 PM

New World Tampa | Music Hall

810 East Skagway Ave., Tampa, FL 33604

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/humandhops9-17>



Guest Speakers



Jennifer Knight, PhD

Associate Professor of Instruction History



Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, PhD

Assistant Professor of Instruction English



Lulu Downing

Master's Student History



Hannah Thieryung

Master's Student History

Summer Grant Awards

2024 Summer Grant Recipients

Heide Castaneda (Anthropology)

Living Indigeneity through Language: Tamazight (Re) Vitalization in Morocco

Peter Funke (SIGS)

The Epoch of Crisis: Capitalism and Wave of Struggle From 1990 to Today

Kiran Jayaram (Anthropology)

Creating a Digital Archive of Haitian Creole Proverbs

Rebecca Johns (School of Geosciences)

Discourses of Interconnectivity at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles: Transformative, Affective and Place-based Narratives of the Human-Nature Relationship

Elena Lesley (Anthropology)

Telepresence as Relational Tool: Remaking Healthcare and the (Virtual) Therapeutic Encounter in Post-Conflict Cambodia

Ratna Okhai (School of Public Affairs)

Lived Experience Perceptions of the 2023 Maui Wildfires

Congratulations to the 2024 Humanities Institute Summer Grant Award recipients. These grants are open to tenured and tenure-earning faculty whose research falls under the NEH definition of the humanities. Awards are up to \$5,000. These funds may be used for travel for research, archival work, essential project-driven equipment, publishing support, research assistance, or summary salary.

Heather O'Leary (Anthropology)

Transnational Frameworks for Gender Equality in Water and Sanitation

David Ponton III (SIGS)

Hatred and Self-Hatred in the Black Male Vulnerability Thesis

Xizhen Qin (World Languages)

Pathways to Advanced Chinese Learners in the US

Diane Wallman (Anthropology)

Analysis and Interpretation of Jaguar and Puma Teeth Pendants from the La Soye Archaeological Site, Dominica, West Indies

Katherine Yaw (World Languages)

Foreign Language Students' Perception of Spoken Language Varieties



The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

- *National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended*

FALL 2024 CALENDAR



Tuesday, September 17 | Humanities & Hops: Irish Studies at USF

Doors Open 6:30 PM // Event Start 7:00 PM // New World Tampa



Friday, October 11 | Graduate Humanities Symposium

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM // Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)



Tuesday, October 22 | A Poetry Reading with Alison C. Rollins

6:00 PM // C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)



Thursday, November 14 | An Evening with Ocean Vuong

7:00 PM // C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)



December (Test Free Week) | Blind Date with a Book

Time TBA // USF Tampa Library

SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

Save the date!



January 23-24 | 6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM // Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)



Tuesday, February 18 | A Poetry Reading with Paul Hlava Ceballos

6:00 PM // Location TBA



March 12-14 | Conference on Violence in Latin America

Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707, 3708, 3709)



Thursday, April 3 | A Poetry Reading with Dana Levin

6:00 PM // Location TBA



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