



In this issue

Director's Statement	2	Graduate Humanities Symposium	7
DeBartolo Chair Update	3	Conference on Democratic Violence in Latin America	8
Garry Fleming Poetry Series	4	Faculty Resources	10
Ocean Vuong Recap	5	Spring Events Calendar	11
Undergraduate Humanities Conference	6		



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

College of Arts & Sciences

Humanities Institute

4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
813-974-3657

usf.edu/humanities-institute



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jennifer Knight

jlknight@usf.edu // CPR 474A

ACADEMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

Jade von Werder

jvonwerder@usf.edu // CPR 474C

DEBARTOLO ENDOWED CHAIR

Meredith Johnson

maj5@usf.edu // CPR 478D

FACULTY FELLOWS

Diana León-Boys

José Ángel Maldonado

Alejandro Márquez

cas-cdvla@usf.edu // CPR 478F

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

Andrew Berish (HCS)

Deborah Bowen (Advertising)

Jessica Cook (English)

Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)

Adib Farhadi (Religious Studies)

Roberto Jimenez Arroyo (World Lang)

Deborah Kochman (HCS)

Richard Manning (Philosophy)

Adriana Novoa (History)

Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)

Alaina Tackitt (English)

Martine Wagner (World Languages)

Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

Director's Statement

The Humanities Institute team wishes you a very happy 2025!

The hurricanes certainly made last semester a challenge, and we hope that all our friends and neighbors continue to recover and rebuild. Like everyone else, we're looking forward to a more peaceful semester.

Spring is all about conferences and poetry at the Humanities Institute. The storms forced us to reschedule a few events, including a poetry reading with Alison Rollins (now scheduled for February 3) and the Graduate Humanities Symposium (now scheduled for February 21). We are excited to host our 6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference on January 23 and 24 with over 100 students presenting original humanities research in discussion panels and poster sessions.

Thanks to our generous donors, HI is sponsoring a group of students who have been accepted to present their research at the annual National Undergraduate Humanities Symposium at Johns Hopkins University this March. The 2024 – 2025 Humanities Institute Faculty Fellows will be hosting their international conference on Democratic Violence in Latin America March 12 – 14, bringing together scholars from across North America.

Additionally, we continue the Garry Fleming Poetry Series with readings by Paul Hlava on February 18 and conclude this year's series with a reading by Dana Levin on April 3.

It's a wonderful and busy time at the Humanities Institute. Please follow us on social media to stay up to date on all these exciting events.



Liz Kicak, M.F.A.

Director

Associate Professor of Instruction, English
ekicak@usf.edu // CPR 474D

Group tour of Fat Beet Farm



DeBartolo Endowed Chair Update

This fall, Dr. Meredith Jonson, the DeBartolo Endowed Chair in the USF Humanities Institute, launched an innovative, interdisciplinary program for humanities faculty seeking peer mentoring and social connection. The program, which includes tenure-track, tenured, and non-tenure-track faculty, is designed to foster workplace satisfaction, engagement, and well-being, which have dipped nationally in recent years.

participate in evidence-based practices proven to enhance workplace culture and aid in professional development.



Sitting at the table over lunch with other colleagues (who work in my same building, but I had never met), engendered a brilliant discussion that overlaps with my research. It truly felt as it should be at this university...I appreciate this initiative very much, and I am grateful to have been included.



Buff City Soap Making Workshop

The first cohort spent their semester planning new collaborations, including publications and grants, and sharing insights into promotion processes and the pedagogical opportunities afforded by A.I. as they shared meals, toured a local urban farm, participated in craft workshops, and spent time together in nature.

Johnson looks forward to leading the spring 2025 peer-mentoring cohort and supporting more faculty in the new year!



Spring Welcome Luncheon

Johnson's program alleviates barriers to connection across career tracks, years in rank, and departments by gathering faculty from multiple campuses to

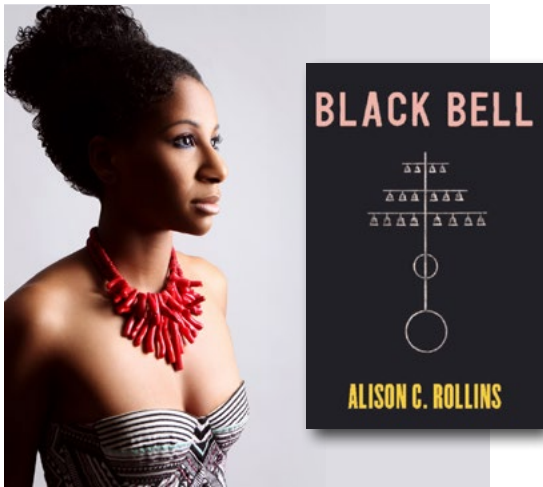
One cohort member who reflected on their experience praised the program's professional and personal benefits:



Tampa Bay Yacht Starship Cruise

Garry Fleming Poetry Series

Partnership



Alison C. Rollins

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.

Monday, February 3 | 6:00 PM | MSC 3709

Paul Hlava Ceballos

Paul Hlava Ceballos is the author of *banana []*, winner of the AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry and the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. His collaborative chapbook, *Banana [] / we pilot the blood*, shares pages with Quenton Baker and Christina Sharpe. He has fellowships from CantoMundo and the Poets House. He is the Poetry Editor of the Seattle Met and practices echocardiography.

Tuesday, February 18 | 6:00 PM | MSC 3707

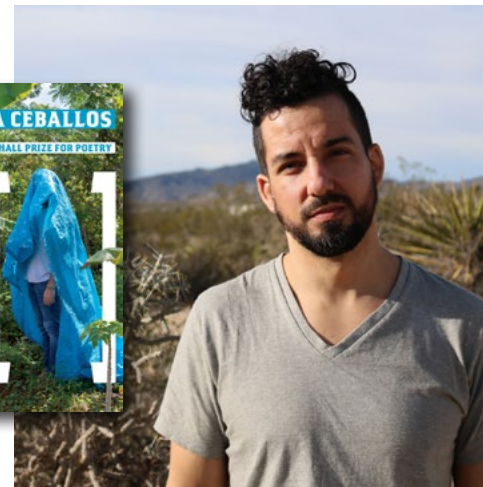


Photo by Tasha Nicole Uria

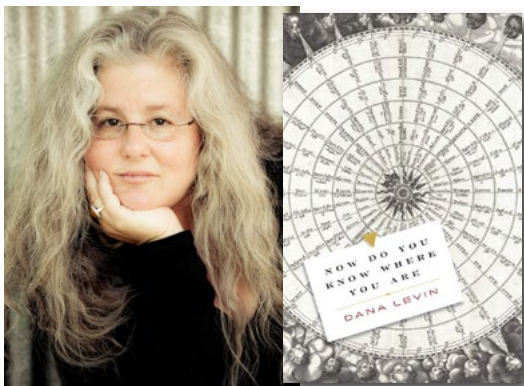


Photo by Anne Staveley

Dana Levin

Dana Levin is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *Now Do You Know Where You Are*, a *New York Times* Notable Book and NPR "Book We Love." Her first book, *In the Surgical Theatre*, was chosen by Louise Glück for the 1999 American Poetry Review/Honickman First Book Prize and went on to receive numerous honors, including the 2003 PEN/Osterweil Award. Levin currently serves as Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at Maryville University in St. Louis, where she lives.

Thursday, April 3 | 6:00 PM | CWY 206

in Poetry

Ocean Vuong *Recap*



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 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.

Our first poet of the series was Ocean Vuong, who visited campus on November 14 for a conversation with 230 USF students, faculty, and community members. Vuong shared how writing has allowed him to make sense of his life and honor his family and their histories. His talent and passion were inspiring and getting to share in the conversation meant so much to our literary community.





6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference

January 23-24, 2025

Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)

The Undergraduate Humanities Conference has become a well-loved tradition. During two very full days, students from over a dozen majors come together to present original research and creative projects in the humanities. This year there will be 30 posters and 50 paper presentations as well as an incredible keynote speaker.

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.

More information and conference schedule:

<https://bit.ly/6thUHC>

Keynote Speaker



Sarah Kavanagh

Consul General of Ireland in Miami

Prior to entering the diplomatic service, Sarah Kavanagh served in a senior capacity as a Government Adviser during the period 2014-2020 including in the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She also worked for several years in policy and communication roles in the Irish Parliament. A barrister by training, she holds master's degrees in political communication and politics and a BA in history and politics.

This conference is free to attend. We encourage faculty and community members to 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.



GRADUATE 2025 Humanities SYMPOSIUM

Friday, February 21, 2025

Marshall Student Center (MSC 3705)

Due to Hurricane Milton, our Graduate Humanities Symposium has been rescheduled to Friday, February 21. 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.

*Support our
graduate students!*

Attend one or more of the 15 panels below.
View the full symposium schedule online:

usf.edu/humanities-institute

8:45am - 9:45am

Exploring Identities Through Latine Literature
Memory, Landscape, and Growth
Activism, Social Organization, and Political Movements

10:00am - 11:00am

Language and Identity
Journeys of the Spirit: Philosophy to Fiction
Utopia, Dystopia, and Outsiders

11:15am - 12:15pm

Screening Narratives: Media, Identity, and Cultural Representation
Class and Power in the Premodern World

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Narratives Through New Media
Gender and Other Tensions in Horror Genre Film
Human Rights, Empathy, and Communication

2:15pm - 3:15pm

Not at the Dinner Table: Religion, Politics, and Scholarship
Out of Bounds: Morality and Gender Nonconformity
Nonconformity: Living Outside the Boundaries

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Not Just Setting: The Role of Place in Creative Writing



Conference on Democratic Violence in Latin America

MARCH 12-14, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

This conference focuses on the role of “violence” within Latin American democratic contexts. The participants define “violence” broadly and address a wide array of issues by analyzing *some* of the following topics: environmentalism, drug trafficking, militarization, collective and public memory, political corruption, borders, popular culture, advocacy, migration, tourism, and many others.

Violence, the intentional use of force to cause harm and, thus, the phenomenon democratic regimes attempt to eliminate, appears at odds with democracy. Yet, we continue to see violence exist within democratic contexts time and time again. The participants’ analysis of Latin American political culture provides visions into what the future may hold for democratic governance.

Our participants represent universities from across Latin America, the United States, and Canada, showcasing concerns over the development of democracy and violence in the following transnational contexts: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Haiti, Brazil, El Salvador, Chile, Puerto Rico, Perú, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Bolivia.



The conference consists of panels, plenary talks, and professionalization workshops. The four plenary speakers will address these broad issues of democratic violence from their respective perspectives/disciplines, through a 45-minute talk followed by a 30-minute response from two USF professors. The conference will conclude with professionalization workshops led by each one of the plenary speakers. The workshops are open to all participants. The workshops will focus on:

- Dissertation writing
- Journal article writing
- The academic job market
- Turning your dissertation into a book

[Learn more: usf.to/CDVLA](https://usf.to/CDVLA)

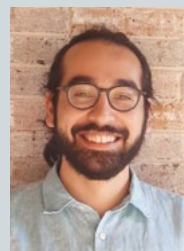
Humanities Institute Faculty Fellows



Diana León-Boys
Assistant Professor
Communication



José Ángel Maldonado
Assistant Professor
English



Alejandro Márquez
Assistant Professor
Sociology, Interdisciplinary
Social Sciences



Marshall Student Center 3rd Floor
4103 Cedar Circle, Tampa, FL 33620



usf.to/CDVLA



CAS-CDVLA@usf.edu

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Nathalie Batrville, Ph.D. // Concordia University

“Haiti, The United Nations, and the Hegemony Peace as Containment”

Dr. Nathalie Batrville is an associate professor at Concordia University’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute, where she teaches in the areas of Black feminisms, queer theory, and prison abolition. A scholar and artist, her work seeks to generate and illuminate frameworks that challenge both state violence and interpersonal violence.



Ralph Cintrón, Ph.D. // University of Illinois Chicago

“Democratic Violence and Dependency Theory”

Dr. Ralph Cintrón is professor emeritus of English and Latin American and Latino Studies and Senior Researcher at the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a former Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, Fulbright Scholar, honorable mention winner for the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing from the American Anthropological Association, and a Fellow of the Rhetoric Society of America.



Stacey K. Sowards, Ph.D. // The University of Texas at Austin

“Documenting Violence: Presence and Absence in Memories/Re-membering as Democratic Worldmaking”

Dr. Stacey Sowards teaches courses in communication theory, rhetorical theory, environmental communication, gender and communication, and intercultural communication. Her research focuses on environmental, intercultural, and gender and communication in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the United States.



Celeste Wagner, Ph.D. // Rutgers University

“State Violence, Gender Justice, and Social Activism: Lessons from Latin America”

Dr. María Celeste Wagner is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers University’s School of Communication and Information. Her research focuses on media reception and influence surrounding social and political issues, particularly gender inequalities in the Americas.

Faculty Resources



Summer Grant Awards

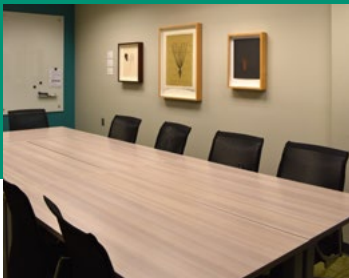
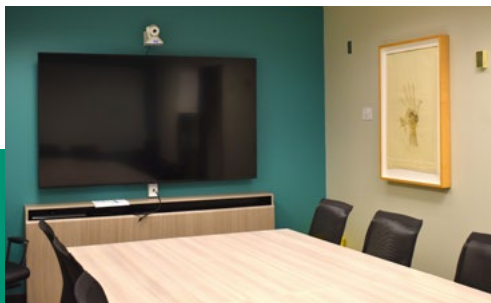
The Humanities Institute Summer Grants are open to tenure-earning and tenured faculty whose research falls under the NEH definition of the humanities. Awards are up to \$5,000. These funds may be used for travel for research, archival work, essential project-driven equipment, publishing support, research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

Applications are due February 14

This program is designed to encourage interdisciplinary research and provide time and space for intellectual inquiry and collaboration among a cohort of USF faculty. Fellows receive course release time, a shared office, and support from the Humanities Institute in order to pursue a year-long project.

Applications are due February 14

Faculty Fellowship



Writing Group

Working on a research or writing project? Need motivation and accountability? Want to connect with colleagues? Join us every Friday from 10:00-11:30am in CPR 478 B. This forum is open to all faculty ranks engaged in writing and research projects at any stage. Participants will have the opportunity to receive feedback and support the work of colleagues. Coffee, snacks, and collegiality supplied! *For more information, contact Jennifer Knight: jlknight@usf.edu*

Learn more at usf.edu/humanities-institute/faculty-resources

SPRING 2025 CALENDAR



January 23-24 | 6th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference

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



Monday, February 3 | A Poetry Reading with Alison C. Rollins

6:00 PM // Marshall Student Center (MSC 3709)



Monday, February 10 | World Languages Event

"Audiovisual Translation as a Language Teaching Tool: Applications and Benefits"

3:00 PM // TECO Hall (EDU 105)



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

6:00 PM // Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)



Friday, February 21 | Graduate Humanities Symposium

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM // Marshall Student Center (MSC 3705)



March 12-14 | Conference on Violence in Latin America

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM // Marshall Student Center 3rd Floor (MSC 3707)



Thursday, April 3 | A Poetry Reading with Dana Levin

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

*Help the
Humanities
Thrive*

The USF Humanities Institute has grown thanks to the generous support of our incredible donors. If you would like to explore ways to keep the humanities thriving at USF, please visit <https://usf.to/HIgiving> or contact Liz Kicak at ekicak@usf.edu.





Humanities Institute
4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
usf.edu/humanities-institute

