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Eminent Scholars

» Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow
  Women’s and Gender Studies Scholars

» Valerie Traub, Robert Bernasconi,
  Michael Lynch, Malini Johar Schueller,
  Sherryl Vint, James Shapiro, and
  Alain Badiou

Public Programming

» Yaa Gyasi: Best-selling novelist

» Affect studies symposium

» Thomas Crofts: Insight into the
  contemporary state of medieval studies

» Vandana Singh and Joe Haldeman:
  Science fiction writers

Faculty Research

» Andrei Gandila, Molly W. Johnson,
  Nicole Pacino, Joseph Taylor,
  David S. Johnson, and
  Anne Marie Choup

Contact Us

ERIC SMITH
Professor, Department of English
Director, UAH Humanities Center

uah.edu/humanities
DAISY MAY SMITH

“I SEE WELFARE IN YOUR FUTURE” // 12” x 16” Mixed Media on Wood Panel
In addition to its continuing support of the outstanding research of faculty in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, this year featured some of the UAH Humanities Center’s most distinguished campus visitors in its twenty-six-year history. Engaging diverse topics of urgent and immediate social relevance, internationally eminent visiting scholars and writers discussed with the UAH and Huntsville community issues of U.S. race relations, politics, technology, feminism and religion, and sexuality within a framework of humanist inquiry. From best-selling literary sensation (and Huntsville’s own) Yaa Gyasi to renowned philosopher Alain Badiou, from eminent Shakespeare scholar James Shapiro to pioneering scholars of feminist spirituality Carol Christ and Judith Plaskow, Humanities Center visiting scholars and the hundreds of attendees spoke emphatically to the capacious scope, utility, and social necessity of the humanities. Moreover, in attracting scholars and students from around the region, Humanities Center-sponsored programs demonstrate that UAH is a destination for humanities-based research.

Let me once more express my gratitude to all those who continue to support the efforts of the UAH Humanities Center, not least the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. As always, it is an honor to serve such an excellent and innovative faculty, and I look forward to another exciting year.

Eric Smith  
Professor, Department of English  
Director, UAH Humanities Center

Library Grants

Dylan Baun  
- Modern Middle East Youth Culture

Jeremy Fischer  
- Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy  
- Social Science Philosophy

Anna Foy  
- British Literature and Culture

Andrei Gandila  
- Ancient and Medieval Studies

Amy Guerin  
- Theatre Theory and Gender Inclusivity

Molly Johnson  
- The French Revolution  
- Women’s and Gender Studies  
- Russian History

Melody Ng  
- Music History and Culture

Christine Sears  
- Early American Republic  
- Early American Religious, Public, and Women’s History

Stephen Waring  
- Environmental History

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History

Joseph Taylor  
English
EMINENT SCHOLARS

The Humanities Center hosted preeminent feminist theologians Dr. Carol P. Christ and Dr. Judith Plaskow as Eminent Scholars in support of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program’s new lecture series, “Women’s Spiritualities: Experience, Identity, and Action,” which seeks to promote discussion of the relationship between gender identity and religious practice in a global and intercultural context.

Regarded as the “founding mother” of the study of women and religion, Dr. Christ is the author of five books: Diving Deep and Surfacing: Women Writers on Spiritual Quest (1980/2015), Laughter of Aphrodite: Reflections on a Journey to the Goddess (1987), Odyssey with the Goddess: A Spiritual Quest in Crete (1995, revised and reissued as A Serpentine Path in 2016), She Who Changes: Re-Imagining the Divine in the World (2003), and Rebirth of the Goddess: Finding Meaning in Feminist Spirituality (2012/2015). Professor Plaskow is Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, Manhattan College, and (like Dr. Christ) holds a Ph.D. from Yale University. Her first book was Sex, Sin, and Grace: Women’s Experience and the Theologies of Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich (1980). Co-founder and co-editor of the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, she has edited or co-edited several collections on feminist theology, including two with Dr. Christ, as well as The Coming of Lilith: Essays on Feminism, Judaism, and Sexual Ethics, 1972-2003 (2005, with Donna Berman). Her most influential book, Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective (1990), argues for reframing the discourse of Jewish theology outside the patriarchal template that has cast women as both other and lesser. Drs. Christ and Plaskow have collaborated on three influential volumes about feminist spirituality, mostly recently Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology (2016).

On March 28, Drs. Christ and Plaskow gave a class lecture to the 25 students enrolled in Women’s and Gender Studies 200 followed by a public keynote lecture titled “Goddess and God in the World: Conversations on Women’s Spirituality” to approximately 125 attendees.
Valerie Traub

**English Scholar**

In March 2017, Adrienne Rich Distinguished University Professor and Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of English and Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan Valeri Traub visited UAH in support of the English Department’s Graduate Student Conference “Geologies of Sex: Gender, Sexuality, and Historicity in Cross-Theoretical Contexts,” March 24-25. She delivered the conference’s keynote lecture, open to the public, titled “Normality, c. 1600: A Visual History” in which she reframed questions of historicity and queerness via early modern anatomy illustrations and bodies on maps. In addition, Professor Traub conducted the workshop “Finding your Way in the Humanities: A Conversation with Valerie Traub” for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in which she addressed issues like choosing a field of study, selecting a thesis or dissertation topic, working with a faculty committee, professionalization, and preparing for both the academic and non-academic job markets. Professor Traub also conducted a classroom visit and lecture for students in 20th Century Women Playwrights. She is the author of more than thirty articles and three monographs: *Thinking Sex with the Early Moderns* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015); *The Renaissance of Lesbianism in Early Modern England* (University of Cambridge Press, 2002), which won the best book of 2002 award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women; and *Desire & Anxiety: Circulations of Sexuality in Shakespearean Drama* (Routledge, 1992, reissued 2014). She has twice won the Modern Language Association Lesbian and Gay Caucus Crompton-Noll Award for best essay and has received the John H. D’Arms Faculty Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities (2006).

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**ROBERT BERNASCONI**

**Philosophy Scholar**

On April 7, the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Philosophy and African American Studies at Pennsylvania State University delivered a lecture on genealogical conceptions of race to an audience of approximately 100 students and faculty.

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**MICHAEL LYNCH**

**Eminent Scholar, Philosophy**

Michael Lynch of the University of Connecticut came to UAH as Visiting Eminent Scholar from November 14 to 18, 2016. Professor Lynch is the author of numerous articles and five books, including *In Praise of Reason* (MIT: 2012) and *The Internet of Us: Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data* (W.W. Norton: 2016). While on campus, Professor Lynch was a guest lecturer in Professor Cling’s sections of *Technology, Science, and Human Values* and *Introduction to Philosophy*, both of which were reading and discussing *In Praise of Reason*. Professor Lynch also gave a workshop to the philosophy faculty on a paper on the nature of understanding that he is currently writing. On Friday, November 18, he gave a public lecture titled “Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data.”
Malini Johar Schueller
English Scholar

Scholar and filmmaker Dr. Malini Schueller, a Professor of English at the University of Florida, visited UAH March 1-4, 2017, for a public viewing and discussion of her award-winning documentary film In His Own Home (http://inhisownhome.com), which concerns the shooting of an unarmed disabled black graduate student by campus police at the University of Florida in 2010. The film uses this incident and its aftermath to explore more broadly racist policing practices in general and the militarization of campus police in particular. Dr. Schueller also presented a public lecture titled “Gendering Benevolent Tutelage and US Empire: Bulosan, the Philippines and Now” and held a workshop for English majors and graduate students interested in pursuing additional graduate study in the discipline. Dr. Schueller is the author of numerous articles and three books: Locating Race: Global Sites of Post-Colonial Citizenship (2009), U.S. Orientalisms: Race, Nation, and Gender in Literature, 1790-1890 (1998; reissued in paperback, 2001), The Politics of Voice: Liberalism and Social Criticism from Franklin to Kingston (1992).

SHERRYL VINT
English Scholar

On September 7 and 8, 2016, Professor of English and Director of the Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies program at the University of California, Riverside, Sherryl Vint visited campus and delivered two lectures. Professor Vint is the author of numerous essays and the books Bodies of Tomorrow: Technology, Subjectivity, Science Fiction, Animal Alterity: Science Fiction and the Question of the Animal, Science Fiction: A Guide for the Perplexed, and a volume on the television series The Wire. She is editor of “Science Fiction and Cultural Theory: A Reader,” co-author of the Routledge Concise History of Science Fiction and co-editor of the volumes Beyond Cyberpunk (2010), The Routledge Companion to Science Fiction (2009), and Fifty Key Figures in Science Fiction (2009). She is also editor of the scholarly journals “Science Fiction Studies” and “Science Fiction Film and Television” and is current president of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts. In 2008, she received the Science Fiction Research Association’s prestigious Pioneer Award. Her first lecture, supporting the UAH Honors Program’s EH 105 common text initiative, was titled “Android Dreams, Anthropocene Nightmares,” and her second, public lecture was titled “What Androids Teach Us About Politics: Rosa Montero’s Tear in Rain.”

JAMES SHAPIRO
Philosophy Scholar

In March, Dr. James Shapiro of Columbia University presented two public lectures on the UAH campus. In the first lecture, Dr. Shapiro examined the role of Shakespeare in America by looking at several case studies: an 1840s performance of Othello, with U.S. Grant playing Desdemona; the conflicting memories of a dinner conversation between John Quincy Adams and Fanny Kemble, the leading actress of her age; the dismissal of Macbeth as a hero by the 20th-century writer Mary McCarthy; and a short story about Hamlet by a Japanese-American incarcerated during World War II. In the second lecture, Dr. Shapiro discussed how Shakespeare wrote Macbeth in response to the crisis caused by the Gunpowder Plot, the arrest of several Jesuit priests, and especially the discovery of a treatise on “equivocation” (a term for several types of lying). During the day, Dr. Shapiro visited a graduate Shakespeare class and taught a masters class on “Sonnet 138.” Dr. Shapiro is the author of numerous prize-winning books: Shakespeare and the Jews, A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare, The Year of Lear, and Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?. He is also a governor of the Folger Shakespeare Library and he has taken numerous productions of Shakespeare into the prisons.
THE REAL POSSIBILITIES OF FICTION:
A Symposium on the Thought of Alain Badiou

In November, the UAH Humanities Center hosted a symposium featuring world-renowned French philosopher Alain Badiou, who made a rare visit to the American Southeast. In addition to a culminating lecture by Professor Badiou on Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables*, the two-day event featured a talk by Susan Spitzer, the foremost English translator of Badiou’s voluminous writings; a lecture by UCLA literary scholar and cultural theorist Professor Kenneth Reinhard; and a lecture by the Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar at the University of Florida, Professor Phillip E. Wegner. The symposium events were attended by approximately 200 people and drew scholars and graduate students from Vanderbilt University, the University of Alabama, UAB, and Middle Tennessee State University among other local and regional institutions, making it one of the largest humanities events in the Center’s history.
On November 1, 2016, Yaa Gyasi visited UAH to read from her highly acclaimed first novel *Homegoing* before a capacity crowd at Chan Auditorium. *Homegoing* received the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Award for best first book, the PEN/Hemingway Award for a first book of fiction, and Gyasi received distinction as one of the National Book Foundation’s “5 under 35.” Born in Ghana, Gyasi relocated to the United States in 1991 as her father, Kwaku Gyasi, pursued graduate study at Ohio State University (Dr. Kwaku Gyasi is currently Associate Professor of French in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at UAH). Gyasi attended Grissom High School and earned a B.A. in English from Stanford University before enrolling in the prestigious Iowa Writer’s Workshop, where she earned an M.F.A. in creating writing. The catalyst for *Homegoing* was a 2009 trip to Ghana, where Gyasi visited the notorious Cape Coast Castle, a colonial fortress and hub of the British slave trade, where slaves were imprisoned to await transportation aboard the slave ships. The experience profoundly affected Gyasi, who took a tour guide’s remark about British soldiers sometimes marrying Ghanian women as the inspiration for the novel’s formally complex and visceral exploration of slavery and its contemporary legacy through an intercontinental and intergenerational saga of two sisters. Michiko Kakutani, reviewer for *The New York Times*, writes of *Homegoing*: “At its best, the novel makes us experience the horrors of slavery on an intimate, personal level; by its conclusion, the characters’ tales of loss and resilience have acquired an inexorable and cumulative emotional weight.”
Affect Studies Symposium

The English Department hosted the Third Annual Meeting of the Alabama Symposium on Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Studies, a reflection on the state of the field called “The Affective Turn, 15 Years Later” on Saturday, October 1, 2016, on the UAH campus. The event attracted 23 attendees from five area institutions—UAH, UA-Birmingham, Auburn University-Montgomery, the University of North Alabama, and the University of Mississippi—with interested members of the Huntsville public in attendance as well. The morning session was dedicated to a free-flowing discussion of the emergent interdisciplinary field of affect studies—where we are now, and where we might be going. In the afternoon, the group enjoyed presentations by two Alabama Symposium members: Dr. Seth Reno (Romanticism, AUM), “Intellectual Love and the Affective Turn,” and Dr. Danny Siegel (Victorian Era, UAB), “Thought on Display in the Land of Feeling: Griffith and Dickens.” The day concluded with an evening reception at Yellowhammer Brewery in Huntsville. All events were organized by Dr. Anna Foy with the help of Dr. Joe Conway, Jeremiah Williams, and the English Department administrative staff and supported by the UAH Humanities Center.

Imagining the Present: Science, Science Fiction, and Society

On April 8, 2016, award-winning science fiction author Vandana Singh and legendary science fiction writer and Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Hall of Fame member Joe Haldeman visited campus to give readings from their published works and to participate in a panel discussion on the diagnostic and prognostic capabilities of science fiction for producing relevant and actionable concepts of the present. The lively panel discussion was moderated by Professor Richard Miller of the UAH Physics Department.

Thomas Crofts
East Tennessee State University

In April, Professor Thomas Crofts of East Tennessee State University delivered two talks about Arthurian myth: “King Arthur in Greek and Latin: Texts from Italy and Points East” and “The Rise of Gawain among the Prose Romances: Early Bloomer or Late?” For Professor Crofts, each manuscript is a performance, created in a particular context for a particular reason. Each text is shaped by a specific cultural context, the goals of its creators, and its reception history over the centuries. In tracking down the clues provided by the language, script, and physical nature of these two texts, Professor Crofts provided insight into the contemporary state of medieval studies and the way in which archival research raises and answers new questions. These talks concluded a yearlong study of Medieval Latin by the UAH Society for Ancient and Medieval Studies.
Andrei Gandila
History

The recent waves of Syrian refugees have reminded Europe of its ancestral fear of invasion and massive population movements from the East. With their usual arrogance, ancient Romans described it as the struggle between civilization and savagery. This project is loosely based on a point made in my dissertation where I argue that the frozen Danube was Rome’s worst enemy because it facilitated massive crossings of “barbarians” into the empire. Although the topic was familiar, there was still a lot of ground to be covered and I needed access to an excellent library to jump-start the project. After the end of the spring semester 2016, I traveled to Cincinnati (May 2-12) to conduct preliminary research in the superb Classics library of the University of Cincinnati. Being a short visit, my main objective was to mine the primary sources for information regarding the crossing of the Danube by various barbarian invaders. Thankfully, many sources were available online through UC’s many database subscriptions, but I also needed access to standard editions of the original Latin or Greek texts currently used by classicists and historians, as well as the standard English translations that I will use for block quotations in my essay. Everything I needed was available, so I made significant progress gathering primary accounts for my topic. Furthermore, the longevity of the Danube frontier invited a longue durée approach and an emphasis on long-term tendencies and structures. The Danube became a political frontier during the Hellenistic age. It was further strengthened by the Romans who maintained it until the seventh century and was subsequently reinstated by the Byzantines in the tenth century. Finally, the Ottoman Empire, as heir of Byzantium, inherited this frontier, which they continued to use until the birth of modern Turkey in the nineteenth century. The John Miller Burnam Classical Library was strong in all these areas. Having access to a selection of primary sources drawn from all these cultures will provide greater depth to my argument. This grant has been extremely useful for appreciating the real potential of this topic and for making significant progress with my preliminary research. To be sure, I will have to make at least one more research trip to a good library before I can afford to rely exclusively on interlibrary loan to complete my research. I intend to submit the paper to the Journal of Roman Studies.
Molly W. Johnson

History

Funding from the Humanities Center enabled me to travel to Germany last May to undertake library and archival work on urban planning and citizen activism in reunification-era Berlin. I examined these topics through the lens of Berlin residents’ support for and opposition to the city’s failed bid between 1991 and 1993 to host the 2000 Olympic Games.

I spent most of my days at the Zentral und Landesbibliothek library in Berlin, where I surveyed multiple newspapers from the early 1990s featuring debates about whether or not Berlin should re-use the 1936 Olympic Stadium, central site of the 1936 “Nazi” Olympic Games. I am using this research to write an article tentatively entitled, “Vergangenheitsbewältigung and the 1936 ‘Nazi Olympics’: Memory Politics and Berlin’s Contested Olympia 2000 Bid.” (Vergangenheitsbewältigung meaning “coming to terms with the past.”) While working in this library, I was also able to gather several new materials for my article manuscript, “Whose City Is It?: The Olympia 2000 Bid and Competing Visions of Urban Planning in Reunified Berlin, 1990-1993.”

I also visited Berlin’s 1936 Olympic Stadium. As the International Olympic Committee did not choose Berlin to host the 2000 Games, the debate over whether or not the city should re-use the “Nazi” Stadium ended. Nonetheless, the discussion did stimulate additional historical attention to the site. By 2006, when the final game of the 2006 soccer World Cup took place in the stadium, historians had succeeded in installing two permanent historical exhibits on the 1936 Games at the site. These included an indoor museum exhibit and a series of outdoor display panels placed next to prominent architectural remnants from the 1936 Games. I was able to take photographs that will allow me to analyze the historical narrative on the 1936 Games and their architectural legacies that historians and others settled on in 2006.

I also spent time at the Papiertiger Archiv und Bibliothek der Sozialen Bewegungen (Paper Tiger Archive and Library of Social Movements), where I surveyed materials related to the Olympic bid and protest movements in the 1980s and 1990s in Berlin. I also visited Leipzig, the “sports capital” city of the former communist East Germany, which also made an unsuccessful bid to host an Olympic Games. Yet the residents of Leipzig, unlike those of Berlin, overwhelmingly supported their city’s bid. I surveyed the materials related to Leipzig’s bid to lay the foundation for a visit there during my sabbatical. I hope to write an article about how Leipzig residents saw the Olympic Games as a way to retain relevance as a “sports city” after the collapse of the communist state, while also fostering economic development.

In sum, funding from the Humanities Center enabled me to finalize one manuscript, gather all necessary materials to begin another manuscript, and lay groundwork for two new projects for my future sabbatical.

NICOLE PACINO

History

Last June, I visited the Land Tenure Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the library at the University of Pittsburgh to survey collections related to my research on Bolivia’s 1952 National Revolution. The Center is a repository for studies related to sustainable development and agrarian issues worldwide, while its Bolivia collection houses studies examining the successes and shortfalls of Bolivia’s extensive 1953 Agrarian Reform program. Likewise, Penn library’s Bolivian collection includes an extensive selection of political pamphlets related to the 1952 revolution in general and the agrarian reform law in particular. These pamphlets’ authors include the revolution’s intellectual leaders, major political figures in Bolivia, and critics of the revolutionary regime. These sources will provide the foundation for a discussion of how the agrarian reform law created anxieties in the 1950s and 1960s about Bolivians’ nutritional deficiencies and the country’s potential inability to feed itself. This will constitute a chapter of my book project, “Prescription for a Nation: Public Health and the Geography of Power in Post-Revolutionary Bolivia,” which is an outgrowth of my dissertation research on how rural public health programs helped advance political and economic agendas during Bolivia’s revolutionary period. I will also develop this chapter into a separate article reconsidering the effects of Bolivia’s agrarian reform program for submission to the Hispanic American Historical Review.
Joseph Taylor  
*English*

An Uncanny North: The North-South Divide in Medieval England

A generous Humanities Center grant afforded me the opportunity to travel to the UK in July 2016 in order to complete final primary materials research for my book project, *An Uncanny North*. I conducted research at the British Library in London, viewing several manuscripts and rare books, including the fourteenth-century miscellany Royal D.xii, which contains numerous administrative and student letters from the colleges at medieval Oxford. This material is pertinent to chapter 2 of my book project concerning the segregation of students at Oxford’s colleges in the late-twelfth and early-fourteenth centuries. I travelled, further, to the city of Manchester, working for two days in their archives with various records and correspondences related to the Towneley family and to Catholic recusancy in Northern England in the early years of Elizabeth I’s reign, the subject of the final chapter to my book project. In addition, I worked in the Lancashire Archives in Preston, UK, examining, again, family and court records related to the Towneley family and Catholicism’s suppression in the North of England, including the long scrolls of documented Catholic recusants during the reign of Elizabeth, James I, and Charles I. In spring 2017, I will begin the task of completing the book manuscript before sending it for consideration for publication to a university press.
David S. Johnson  
Global Studies and German

Funding from the Humanities Center enabled me to travel to Germany and Poland last summer to pursue research associated with my project, “Silesian Landscapes: Transformations and Tensions, 1900 to the Present,” which employs concepts from landscapes studies in geography and geocriticism. As a result, on-site field work is critical for exploring the physical and literary topographies of the works that constitute my project.

My first stop was a return to the Herder Institute for Eastern European Research in Marburg, Germany, whose library has extensive holdings related to Silesia, a province formerly part of Germany, and now part of Poland. I was able to access texts that are difficult if not impossible to find in U.S. libraries. Serendipitously, the nearby library at the University of Marburg also possesses one of only two copies available of a television program from the late 1980s that chronicled the return of the German author Horst Bienek to his hometown of Gleiwitz (now Gliwice, Poland) for the first time in over forty years.

I then traveled to Jelenia Góra and Szklarska Poreba, both in Poland. I also visited two museums that were the former residences of the Nobel-prize-winning German author Gerhart Hauptmann, who wrote frequently about his native Silesia.

My next two stops were Wroclaw and Opole, Poland, where I explored the cities’ urban geographies to better understand how German and Polish authors employ their landscapes in their works.

I ended with a visit to Katowice, Poland, the largest city in Upper Silesia and the province’s capital. Working coal mines still exist within the population centers, and these landscapes figure prominently in several of the works I am studying. I also visited the new Silesian Museum, which was built in a former coal mine and chronicles the region’s complicated history.

In sum, this trip helped me learn more about the history and geography of Silesia and to discover German and Polish authors whose works deal with the ethnic complexities and contestations of the region. It also enabled me to participate in a seminar on multilingualism at the 2016 annual conference of the German Studies Association in San Diego, CA, which connected me to other scholars whose ideas and suggestions have already significantly enhanced my work.

Anne Marie Choup  
Political Science

With funding from the Humanities Center, I attended the triennial meeting of the Inter-American Commission for Women, held this past May in Lima Peru. This 37th Assembly of Delegates brought together representatives from all 33 active member countries of the Organization of American States in addition to organizations of civil society interested in gender & women’s issues in the Americas. This was a fantastic opportunity to gather information on my research interests in gender equity and gender violence in Latin America. At the assembly, delegates, subject experts, and practitioners described progress and challenges in meeting the goals of the Commission, engaged in panel discussion on priority items, and established the working agenda going forward.

Of particular interest was the role of the Catholic Church in these discussions, as my research examines the rhetoric that Catholic Church representatives use and the working relationships between representatives of the Americas and representatives of the Catholic Church. At the assembly, I observed changes between this meeting and the last, held in 2012 (with the Catholic Church still under Pope Benedict). In 2016, the church presence was indirect (through civil society organizations instead of the Holy See diplomatic representative), and criticisms of Church involvement were also indirect (references to the need for a secular state, as opposed to denouncements of the Holy See). I have been working information into my writing and research on the political positions of the Catholic Church in Latin America.

Using the data I gathered, I finished and presented a research paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in August as part of a panel on the new directions of the Latin American Catholic Church under Pope Francis. I am revising that manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed outlet. I will also use examples of Church political involvement and new perspectives on politics in Peru in my fall 2017 classes on Comparative and Latin American Politics.
FACULTY TRAVELS

HUMANITIES CENTER SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIP
AY 2016-2017

ANGELA BALLA. Respondent for the
"Donne and Herbert" session entitled
"Cross-Pollinations: Teaching Donne and
Herbert Together," 31st Annual John
Donne Society Conference, Louisiana
State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

DYLAN BAUN. “Exploring Sectarianism
from Below in Bahrain,” Middle East
Studies Association Annual Meeting,
Boston, MA.

Ibid. Organizer and chair for the
roundtable entitled “Where is Culture
Now? The Place of Cultural History in
Middle East Studies,” Middle East Studies
Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

ANDY CLING. “Procedural Reasons and
the Problem of the Criterion,” Alabama
Philosophical Society Annual Meeting,
Pensacola, FL.

ALANNA FROST. “Administrative
Mobility in Composition Studies,” Thomas
R. Watson Conference in Rhetoric and
Composition, Louisville, KY.

Ibid. “Literacy Stewardship in an
Environmental Protest,” Modern
Language Association Annual Conference,
Philadelphia, PA.

Ibid. “Photo-Elicitation Interviews (PEI)
with Chinese Students,” Writing Research
Across Borders, Bogota, Columbia.

ANDREI GANDILA. “Money and
‘Barbarians’: Enhancing Social Prestige
on Byzantium’s Northern Frontier
(Sixth–Seventh Centuries),” 52nd
International Congress on Medieval
Studies, Kalamazoo, MI.

ELETRA GILCHRIST-PETTY.
“Cultivating Classroom Diversity at
Primary White Institutions,” World
Communication Association Conference,
Winnipeg, Canada.

Ibid. “Civic Callings in the
Communication Classroom: Dialogues
of Race and Social Justice,” National
Communication Association Conference,
Philadelphia, PA.

Ibid. “Polysemic Constructions: Fox’s
Empire Provides New Lenses to View
Black Motherhood, Masculinity, Mental
Health, and Modern-Day Families,”
National Communication Association
Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Ibid. “Reimagining Higher Education:
The Influence of Race, Class, Gender,
and Religion on Communication
Pedagogy and Curriculum,” National
Communication Association Conference,
Philadelphia, PA.

Ibid. “Representations of Women,
Race, and Violence in (un)Civil Society,”
National Communication Association
Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
ROLF GOEBEL. Participant in the seminar entitled “‘Yours Truly Forever...’ Exploring the Cultural History of Friendship,” 40th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

DEBORAH HEIKES. “On Being Reasonably Different,” Southwestern Philosophical Society, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Ibid. “Rationality as an Epistemic Virtue,” International Association of Women Philosophers, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

DAVID JOHNSON. Participant in the seminar entitled “Multilingualism,” German Studies Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

NICK JONES. “Everything is Fundamental,” Alabama Philosophical Association, Pensacola, FL.

Ibid. “Strategies of Explanatory Abstraction in Molecular Systems Biology,” part of the symposium Integrating Explanatory Strategies across the Life Sciences, Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

LILLIAN JOYCE. “Allusions to Imperial Cult in Hadrian’s Temple of Venus and Roma,” Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, Toronto, Canada.

NICOLE PACINO. “‘A Grand Crusade!’ Smallpox Eradication and the Exercise of Political Power in Post-Revolutionary Bolivia,” American Historical Association, Atlanta, GA.


JOY ROBINSON. Chair of the panel entitled “Leadership and the Intersection of Games,” Annual Southwest Popular/ American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

CLARKE ROUNTREE. “A Prolegomena to Rhetorical Consequentialism with Illustrations from the U.S. Supreme Court,” National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

CHRISTINE SEARS. Panel Participant, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.


ERIC SMITH. “Narrative Desolation and Postcolonial Naturalism in V.S. Naipaul’s Guerrillas,” 19th Annual Conference of the University of Florida’s Marxist Reading Group, Gainesville, FL.
UPCOMING EVENTS

» SEPTEMBER 28–29
Dr. Juan Cole, Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History and Director for the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan

» OCTOBER 16–17
Nisi Shawl, award-winning science fiction writer

» NOVEMBER 8–9
Dr. Dominik Finkelde, University of Philosophy, Munich, Germany

» NOVEMBER 8–10
Dr. Monica Miller, legal scholar and social psychologist, Criminal Justice Department, and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno

» NOVEMBER 27–28
John Rieder, Professor of English and scholar of science fiction, University of Hawai‘i, Manoa

Learn more at uah.edu/humanities