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USF HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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From the Director

Fall is upon us again, and the Humanities Institute is gearing up for another semester of engaging and thought-provoking events, focusing on everything from “impolite conversations” about race to ecofeminism and the Anthropocene.

We’ll build on a successful year, in which we reached an all-time high average of almost 100 people per event, and welcomed ever-growing numbers of students and community members. We seem to be doing something right! This year, along with our usual talks, we’re continuing to develop several initiatives and partnerships that have brought added value and visibility to the Institute and to the humanities in general:

DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT USF

Over the last year or so, faculty from across the disciplines and in the USF Library have been meeting to discuss and shape a Digital Humanities initiative at USF. DH blends computer technology and humanities, informing teaching, research, and public dissemination; many USF faculty are already active “digital humanists,”

and there is scope for considerable development. Participating faculty have created a website, and we invite you to visit: <http://www.usf.edu/dh>. Last year, the Institute contributed resources to the initiative by hosting two leaders in the field – Henry Jenkins, our 2014 Fall Dis

events; we encourage proposals and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you at all our exciting events, proving that Humanities Matter at USF!

THE USF COMMON READING EXPERIENCE

This year's Common Reading Experience (CRE), *Complete Persepolis*, a graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi, chronicles her childhood and coming of age in Tehran



during the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Themes of personal identity, gender, family, history, religion, and social justice intertwine throughout the text. This year, the Institute joins the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Student Affairs, the Global Citizens Project, and USF Libraries to support the initiative, by co-sponsoring an evening with noted Iranian-American writer Firoozeh Dumas. For the past eleven years, Firoozeh has traveled the country



reminding audiences of our shared humanity.

We are pleased to support her visit to share her insights on the complex

issues of being an Iranian immigrant in the U.S. She will speak at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sep. 24, in MSC 2500 (Oval Theater), with a book signing to follow.

USF/EXETER

This will be a banner year for the USF/Exeter Humanities Exchange, as the Institute continues to support the flourishing Global Academic Partnership between USF and the University of Exeter, one of the UK's top universities. In previous years, three USF faculty have traveled to Exeter to interact with students and faculty, and establish research and teaching connections. We have also

welcomed several Exeter faculty, who have been involved in similar activities and have given well-received talks for the Institute.

This year, the Provost has provided funds to support USF faculty to visit Exeter during 2015-16; after an application process, three were selected: William Goodwin (Philosophy), Peter Funke (GIA), and Christian Wells (Anthropology). The Institute will be using its own funds to bring several Exeter faculty here, including John Dupré, an internationally-renowned philosopher of science, who will be here as our Fall Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence. In the Spring, we'll be hosting additional guests – stay tuned for details!

FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Over the last couple of years, the Institute has been awarded several FHC grants in support of our work, and we have created a successful partnership with the Council. This coming year, the FHC has chosen the Institute to host a high-profile speaker in honor of its initiative to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize, with a special focus on presidential history. We're thrilled to host Jon Meacham, the Pulitzer-winning writer, editor, and presidential historian, who will speak at USF in January. More details in our Spring newsletter.

USF LIBRARIES

We're always happy to partner with the USF Library; this year we launched a new grant program together, designed to encourage and support scholarly use of the Library's unique Latin American Science Fiction collections. A grant of up to \$2,000 will be made to cover travel and expense for a scholar to come to USF and work in the collections in Spring 2016; he or she will also give a talk under the auspices of the Institute. For more details of the program, visit <http://www.lib.usf.edu/special-collections/research-awards/> or contact Pablo Brescia in World Languages: pbrescia@usf.edu.

OSHER LIFE LONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OLLI-USF is a membership-based organization serving mature adults in the community who want to pursue life-long learning and intellectual stimulation. We have had many OLLI people at our events, and this semester, we're delighted to have them as formal co-sponsors of all our events. We look forward to welcoming many more members this year, and we promise a feast for the mind!

Why We Need “Impolite Conversations” on Race with John L. Jackson

At a time when the need for a national discussion on race is increasingly urgent, we're delighted to welcome a leading scholar who in “Practicing Impolite Conversations on Race,” challenges us to be fearless in speaking about topics that are often whispered in secret.

John L. Jackson is Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice and Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

False Memories of the Messiah: Deconstructing the New Testament

In his book, *Jesus Interrupted*, Bart D. Ehrman argues that “most Americans are increasingly ignorant of the contents of the Bible,” and he has spent his career trying to remedy this. One of the nation’s most distinguished (and controversial) New Testament scholars, Ehrman will speak this October on: “Did the Early Christians Forget Jesus? Faulty, Frail, and False Memories of the Messiah.”

Ehrman, the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has published almost 30 books, including *ve* *New York Times* bestsellers, in which he ques-

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History,
Myth, &
Memory

SIGNATURE
THEME

Global Digital Rebellion: The Rise of the Cyber Left



The 21st century has seen the emergence of a new form of social movement—a globalized, digitized, radically democratic network formation that is reconfiguring how we understand socio-political resistance.

Media scholar Todd Wolfson will address this new configuration in “The Rise of the Cyber Left: Capitalism, Technology and Contemporary Social Movements,” in which he argues that transformations in global capitalism and the information age have resulted in a transnational form of political organizing—flat, networked structures, participatory democratic processes and media organizing practices that link multiple sites of struggle across the world. In his talk he historicizes this contemporary struggle by placing it in the context of the Old and New Left, arguing that “we are entering a new phase in social movement organizing, the Cyber Left, that is interwoven with new information and communication technologies and other globalizing trends.” At the same time, he notes the

limits of this new formation, focusing on the “lack of analysis of class and capitalism and the inability of the Cyber Left to build enduring institutions and consequently proactive power.”

Todd Wolfson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers University. Trained as a socio-cultural anthropologist, his research focuses on the convergence of new media and social movements and he is author of the recently published book *Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left* (University of Illinois Press 2014). He is also co-founder of the Media Mobilizing Project (www.mediamobilizing.org), which uses media and communications as a core strategy for building a movement of poor and working people in Philadelphia and beyond.

Wolfson will speak at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, in CWY 206, followed by a reception and book signing.

Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence: John Dupré

the Institute's Distinguished
Scholar-in-Residence program

Practicing Impolite Conversations on Race

Followed by a reception and book signing

Why We Tell Our Stories

Followed by a book signing

Rethinking Latin American Social

Movements: Radical Action From Below

A Homegrown Humanities Event

Refreshments served at 3:00pm

Did the Early Christians Forget Jesus?

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: Are You a Thing or a Process? And Why it Matters

Followed by a reception and book signing

Feminist Interventions in Surveillance Studies

& Miley and Kim K's Twitpix

A Homegrown Humanities Event

Refreshments served at 3:00pm

Feed the Green: Feminist Voices for the Earth

Followed by a reception and book signing

Homegrown Humanities

The Institute started its Homegrown Humanities project to acknowledge and celebrate newly published books by USF Faculty, allowing students, faculty, and community members to learn about the innovative research taking place



2015 Summer Grant Recipients

The Summer Grant Program is a longstanding tradition for the Institute, with funding initially coming from the Office of the Provost and currently from the USF Office of Research and Innovation. After reviewing almost 40 applications, the advisory board selected the following 8 projects for funding.

1. **D. ...** (History) *Erdemli Survey*

NEW BOOKS

B... , G... (History). *Medici Women: The Making of a Dynasty in Grand Ducal Tuscany*, co-editor and contributing author, Toronto: Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2015.

C... , ... (World Languages). *María Zambrano: Between the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. A Bilingual Anthology*. Co-authored, Madeline Camara and Luis Ortega. Delaware: Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, 2015.

D... , ... (Anthropology). Scott Youngstedt and Hélène Tissières. *Saharan Crossroads: Exploring Historical, Cultural and Artistic Linkages between North and West Africa*. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.

D... , ... (English). *A Companion to Alfred the Great*. Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition 58. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015.

... , ... (English). *Boxcar Politics: The Hobo in U.S. Culture and Literature, 1869-1956*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2014.

... , C... (Communication). *Thank You for Dying for Our Country: Commemorative Texts and Performances in Jerusalem*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

... , C... (World Languages). Co-editor. *The Art of Persuasion: Emblems and Propaganda*. Glasgow: University of Glasgow, Glasgow Emblem Studies, 2014.

... , H... (Government and International Affairs). Gary Prevost, Harry E. Vanden, Carlos Oliva, and Luis Fer-

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