

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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Vincent van Gogh Feature Film

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We try not to have favorites...but Humanities & Hops is our favorite event. Hosted twice each semester, these community-friendly research presentations focus on a central broad theme and give the audience ample

Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Matt de la Peña

In this spring, we are thrilled to host two dynamic writers, Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Matt de la Peña. They will perform a joint reading and hold individual workshops during their visit to USF.

Nezhukumatathil (neh-ZOO / koo-mah / tah-TILL) was born to a Filipino mother and Malayali Indian father, both doctors. In an interview with Kato-nah Poetry Series, she says, “I started out, as many children

of doctors do, as pre-med, majoring in chemistry. I’m glad I switched to English, but I still have a deep love of the language of the sciences, the musicality of the names of flora and fauna.” She is the author of four books of poetry: *Sea Level*, *Small Wild Things*, and *Place*. Her illustrated collection of nature essays, *Small Wild Things*, is forthcoming from Milkweed in 2018. The essays offer detailed observations about the oddities of our planet. Nezhukumatathil tells them in the context of her unusual childhood growing up on the grounds of mental institutions in rural America, as she navigated her fascination with language and the sometimes conflicting pressure to study science.

Matt de la Peña is the #1 *New York Times* Bestselling, Newbery Medal-winning author of six young adult novels, including his debut novel, *When I Was a Monster*, which was made into a major motion picture starring Ludacris, Nick Cannon, Emelie de Ravin, Grayson Boucher, and Rosanna Arquette (*Night and Day Pictures*). The

book was named an ALA-YALSA Best Book for Young Adults and an ALA-YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. In his Newbery acceptance, de la Peña writes, “I didn’t read past page twenty-seven of *When I Was a Monster*, but I read *When I Was a Monster* cover to cover. Every single month.

I’d show up at my junior high library an hour before school, find an empty table in back, and tuck the latest issue inside the covers of the most high-brow book I could find – usually some Russian novel with a grip of names I couldn’t pronounce.” de la Peña is author of six young adult books as well as the critically-acclaimed picture books *When I Was a Monster* and *When I Was a Monster*.

Both Nezhukumatathil and de la Peña are concerned with issues of representation in English Literature. He will conduct a workshop for K – 8 educators and education researchers where attendees will come away with an appreciation for why and how to incorporate diverse children’s literature into the classroom or how to frame a research project around these topics. This event will be held on Monday, February 19 at 2 p.m. in the Grace Allen Room and is open to the public.

Nezhukumatathil will be conducting a closed workshop with M.F.A. students before she and Matt give a joint public reading on Monday, February 19 at 6 p.m. in the Grace Allen Room, on the fourth floor of the library. A reception and book signing will follow.

This series is co-sponsored with the USF Library Special Collections.

The American Constitution has been at the core of many of the rights debates over the last year. As we continue to experience mass shootings, the public sphere has become rife with commentary about whether the second amendment rights should protect the ownership and use of semi-automatic weapons. As white supremacist Richard Spencer succeeded in booking a public talk at the University of Florida, people wondered whether the Framers ever meant for the first amendment to protect hate speech. Opponents

to currently accepted interpretations of the Constitution typically point to slavery and its abolition as an example of how important it is to periodically review and challenge our understanding of the Constitution.

Simon Gilhooley, assistant professor of political studies and American studies at Bard College, will talk about how the rise of abolitionism in the 1830s saw renewed attention to the topic of slavery in Washington, D.C. For abolitionists, slavery in the nation's capital represented a failure to live up to the standard professed in the Declaration of Independence's claim that "all men are created equal." For the advocates of slavery, attempts to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia were seen as the first step to abolition throughout the nation and were thus to be resisted. His talk traces how the process

of these debates about the U.S. Constitution and its meaning developed in important ways – both for the future of slavery in the United States and for American understandings of constitutionalism more generally.

Gilhooley is a recipient of a prestigious ACLS Fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year, and the USF Humanities Institute has been proud to serve as his host institution. The American Council of Learned Societies is a private, nonprofit federation of 75 national scholarly organizations and serves as the preeminent representative of American scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences that advances scholarship by awarding fellowships and strengthening relations among learned societies. Gilhooley received M.A.'s from Edinburgh University and the University of London, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research builds upon insights from American politics and political theory in

order to address issues of constitutionality and authority within the American polity.

He will speak on Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m. in CWY 206, with a reception to follow.

Mental Maps and Climate Apps: Screen Culture and the Environment

As environmental concerns shape the corporate initiatives and public image of major industries and companies across the world, and as environmental policies become more central to non-profit organizations and governmental institutions, there is increasing demand in both the private and public sectors for graduates with skills that connect screen media with environmental

in Special Collections. Additionally, Sarah and Candace curated a large display case on the fourth floor of the library with texts, photos, and artifacts they found during their research process.

Every semester we have to turn away outstanding candidates who want to participate in our internship program. We have the space to accommodate more, but only have funding to support two graduate students each semester. A gift of \$3,000 supports a graduate student's semester-long internship at the Humanities Institute.

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There are some things that college students just can't say no to: free t-shirts, pizza, stressing over midterms, etc. It turns out that they also can't say no to a free book. In fact, they love our "Blind Date with a Book" giveaway each semester. Fall's theme was "Banned Books," the books most challenged to be removed from schools

from around the world and will be assisting the HI staff in preparing all the books for the giveaway. It will be our most diverse offering yet, and we appreciate the students for volunteering their time and energy.

Support Blind Date with a Book!

Each semester we give away 300 books but with additional financial support, we could give away so many more. Every \$100 donation can result in an additional 30 books we can distribute to students. Make a donation today: <http://bit.ly/2lqchj9>

and libraries as tracked by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. HI purchases, wraps, and puts "dating profiles" on the covers of over 300 books. We set up in front of the library and invite students to select a book for free. But students don't just grab a copy and run; most spend at least 10 minutes reviewing their options, trying to guess what book they're holding, or asking for input from friends. Some even resort to posting on social media to solicit advice in making their selection. It's heartening to see the intensity and excitement surrounding this event.

This semester we are proud to be working with the USF International Student Association to host a special International Edition of BDWAB on March 5. Club members have been researching fiction and poetry

Distinguished Alumni Award: Nicole Sealey

The Humanities Institute owes its success to many people who have advocated, volunteered, and worked for better humanities research and programming at USF, but HI owes the most to its founding director, Bill Scheuerle. It was his vision and drive that took the Humanities Institute from concept to reality and, after his passing in 2014, it was only natural to rename our alumni award after him. Now the William H. Scheuerle Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award, this honor is given periodically to an alumnus who uses their humanities education to make distinguished contributions in their field.

Each semester the HI Faculty Advisory Board unanimously agreed to give this award to Nicole Sealey, who received a B.A. in English and Africana Studies from USF in 2001 and her M.L.A. in Africana Studies from USF in 2008. She went on to earn her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from NYU in 2014. Sealey is the author of *My Teachers at USF* and *My Teachers at USF*.

My Teachers at USF, winner of the 2015 Drink-

in Brooklyn, New York.

Founded in 1996 by Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady, Cave Canem Foundation's goal is to "remedy the under-representation and isolation of African American poets in the literary landscape" and is part of a national

coalition of poetry organizations working together to promote the value poets bring to our culture and the important contribution poetry makes in the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds. Sealey's leadership at Cave Canem and her creative work exemplify the at-

My teachers at USF encouraged and nurtured my curiosity, without which I could not have written a single poem.

ing Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *My Teachers at USF*, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem, MacDowell Colony, and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *My Teachers at USF*, *My Teachers at USF*, and elsewhere.

In addition to her work as a poet, Sealey is also the executive director at Cave Canem Foundation, Inc.

tributes of a well-rounded, humanities-based education. When asked about her studies at USF, Sealey said, "My teachers at USF encouraged and nurtured my curiosity, without which I could not have written a single poem."

Sealey will be presented with the William H. Scheuerle Distinguished Humanities Graduate Award on Monday, April 2. She will be giving a poetry reading, and the event will be followed by a reception and book signing. The event will be held in the USF Alumni Center and begins at 6 p.m.

Frankenstein's Bicentennial

2018 marks the 200-year anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus*. Her seminal work is considered to be the first piece of English science fiction and introduced themes that are still central to

She will be the guest curator of an exhibition on Frankenstein with the Morgan Library & Museum in 2018. Previously, Denlinger was co-curator of the Library's exhibitions *Frankenstein: The Monster in the Machine* and *Frankenstein: The Monster in the Machine*; she also wrote the companion volume (of the same title) to *Frankenstein: The Monster in the Machine*. Denlinger received her Ph.D. in English from New York University and an M.L.I.S. from the Palmer School at Long Island University.

Denlinger writes, "We all know what Franken-

The story of the pale student, his pale creature, their multiple killings, their failed attempts at marriage, and their deaths on the ice urgently pose the question: What would it be like to see this?

many intellectual debates including bioethics, progress and innovation, and the role of the monstrous in society. Next year, the Humanities Institute will be joining a number of USF departments to host a year of Frankenstein-related events, but this spring, we are pleased to host Elizabeth Denlinger as a "teaser" of what's to come.

Denlinger is the curator of the Pforzheimer Collection at the New York Public Library, where she builds the library's collections and documents British Romantic literature through the classroom, publications, digital projects, and exhibitions.

stein's monster looks like: he looks like Boris Karloff. But, at one time, he looked like a Roman senator – and, another time, like a weird clown. First, though, he was black marks on a white page. The story of the pale student, his pale creature, their multiple killings, their failed attempts at marriage, and their deaths on the ice urgently pose the question: What would it be like to see this?"

Many artists and writers have attempted to answer this question, and since 1823, there has been a proliferation of plays, movies, comic books, and graphic novels exploring Frankenstein and the monstrous. It's not hard to find Frankenstein in popular works today – Shelley's influence is still pervasive. Denlinger says, "In Shelley's novel, the Creature's face as a textual entity allows the reader a more subtle and moving emotional experience than either stage or the movies do, but theatrical and cinematic depictions offer a more viscerally appealing, and perhaps more intimate experience, than the book."

Denlinger will speak on Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. in CWY 206. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Harry Potter & Medieval Medicine Exhibit

In spring, the Shimberg Health Sciences Library at USF will present an exhibit called “Harry Potter’s World – Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine” from the National Library of Medicine. In 1997, British author J. K. Rowling introduced the world to Harry Potter and a literary phenomenon was born. Although a fantasy story, the Harry Potter book series features magic that is based partially on Renaissance traditions that played an

important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrol-

ogy, and natural philosophy. Incorporating the work of several 15th- and 16th-century thinkers, the series examines ethical topics such as the desire for knowledge, the effects of prejudice, and the responsibility that comes with power.

An open house with refreshments and activities will be held Thursday, February 15 at 4 p.m. at the Shimberg Health Sciences Library.

AWP Writer’s Conference at Tampa Convention Center

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference & Bookfair is an essential annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Each year more than 12,000 attendees travel to this national conference for four days of readings, academic presentations, and conversation with authors, poets, publishers, editors, and other industry leaders. Tampa was selected to host the 2018 AWP Annual Conference (now the largest literary conference in North America) offering Tampa residents the opportunity to attend the premiere literary event in their own city. The conference features over 2,000 presenters and 550 readings, panels, and craft lectures.

In between events, make sure to check out the AWP Bookfair; over 800 exhibitors will be on site including independent literary presses and journals, cre-

ative writing programs, writing conferences and centers, and literary arts organizations.

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Annual gifts in support of the Humanities Institute have a big impact on developing innovative programs that reach not only those on the USF campus, but the larger Tampa Bay community as well. Here's how your support has helped with our three primary goals:

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- Pulitzer Prize-Winning author and human rights scholar, Peter Balakian, worked with over 100 students in small class visits across five different academic departments.
 - Frank Leon Roberts, a renowned expert on community organizing and the Black Lives Matter movement, held workshops and gave a lecture to over 200 people.
 - MacArthur Fellow, Robin Fleming, spent a week meeting with students and faculty in seven departments sharing her interdisciplinary work on the Early Medieval period.

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- Grow the popular Humanities & Hops series which brings USF faculty into the community to explain their work and participate in discussion with local residents. These events make
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