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# School of Humanities

*A message to faculty and staff from Georges Van Den Abbeele*



Dear friends,

As I ponder the beginning of a new academic year, I am struck by our increased vulnerability and responsibility as educators in an ever more volatile political environment. Hate crimes, deportation threats, overt and unrepentant racism, disinformation campaigns and the undermining of free speech, the ongoing defunding of public institutions of all kinds, the very rejection of reason, logic, and evidence-based knowledge, all these and more strike to the very principle of a university like ours. While we contemplate awful events at other university campuses such as Charlottesville, Berkeley, Cornell, or Georgia Tech, it should be clear that the kinds of hostility and even violence that have occurred there could just as easily arrive here at UC Irvine. We no longer have the luxury of living in a protective ivory tower where we need only dedicate ourselves to the objective pursuit of knowledge. Some will say that we never had that luxury, while others will declare the value of maintaining our own special cocoon, come what may. It is certainly the case, however, that we should fully expect our values as academics to be sharply tested in the months and years to come. That does not mean shirking from controversy or evading the discussion of difficult ideas, on the contrary. What it does mean is reaffirming our commitment to ourselves, to our colleagues and most especially to our students that the university should remain that utopic space for the free exchange of ideas, lively but mutually respectful debate, and the upholding of our shared collective values. Many members of our community may be living in fear or distress, many may feel lost or hopeless. It is up to every one of us to reach out to our fellow colleagues and students, from part-time staff to above-scale professors, from first-generation beginning students to those on the cusp of receiving their Ph.D. In these turbulent times, we must hold on to each other and protect that very precious value that is our community of learning, a community where every one of us has much to learn from each other.

Georges Van Den Abbeele, Dean

## Fall 2017 Schoolwide Reception

***Monday, September 25th***
***HG 1030***
***3:30 - 5:00 p.m.***

## New Faculty, Post-doctoral Fellows and Staff

**New Faculty** - Click here for more info: http://bit.ly/2hdUAUf

Larisa Castillo, Lecturer with Security of Employment, Humanities Core

Christopher Fan, Assistant Professor, English

Simcha Gross, Assistant Professor, History

Bambi Haggins, Associate Professor, Film and Media Studies

Joan Malczewski, Associate Professor, History

Rick Snyder, Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment, Classics and Humanities Core

Hector Tobar, Associate Professor, English/Literary Journalism & Chicano/Latino Studies

**New Post-Doctoral Fellows:** Click here for more info: http://bit.ly/2w3ah3r

Dr. Erin Gray - Recipient of a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship

Dr. Sandra Harvey - Recipient of a UCI ADVANCE Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Criminology, Law and Society

Dr. Jacob R. Lau – Recipient of a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2nd year

Dr. SA Smythe - Recipient of a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship

**New Staff:**

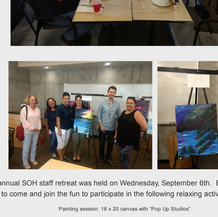
**Ying Jin, Administrative Analyst, Academic English/ESL:** Ying recently graduated cum laude from UCI, where she earned a B.S. degree in Physics and completed a business concentration minor in Accounting. Ying will be working to strengthen program initiatives and will provide administrative support to expand and enrich our program.

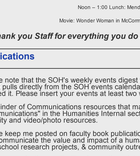
**Leslie Legaspi, Administrative Assistant, Academic English/ESL:** Leslie graduated from UCI with honors, earning a B.A. degree in Political Science. Leslie most recently completed a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Public Finance Management from California State University, Fullerton. Leslie will be a great asset to our program and administrative team, and we are excited to welcome her back to UCI.

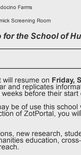
**Malinda Pang, Academic Counselor, Office of Undergraduate Study**: Malinda is a UCI graduate with a degree in English and a minor in Asian American Studies. She worked as a Humanities Peer Academic Adviser during the 2016-2017 academic year, and the entire Undergrad Study team is thrilled she has joined the office on a full-time basis for 2017-2018!

**Megan Schleh, Scheduling and Events Coordinator, Comparative Literature and European Languages and Studies:** Megan worked previously in the School of Education, where she assisted in grant writing, preparation and event coordination. Prior to her two years at UCI she worked as an executive assistant at the USC Keck School of Medicine. Megan studied English at Whittier College and Sociology at Indiana University. We heartily welcome her to our school and departments!

## Staff Retreat







This year's annual SOH staff retreat was held on Wednesday, September 6th. Everyone was encouraged to come and join the fun to participate in the following relaxing activities:

Painting session: 16 x 20 canvas with "Pop Up Studios"

Noon – 1:00 Lunch: Mendocino Farms

Movie: Wonder Woman in McCormick Screening Room

***Thank you Staff for everything you do for the School of Humanities!!***

## Communications

- Please note that the SOH's weekly events digest will resume on **Friday, September 29th**. The digest pulls directly from the SOH events calendar and replicates information exactly as you've entered it. Please insert your events at least two weeks before their start date.
- A reminder of Communications resources that may be of use this school year: Under "Communications" in the Humanities Internal section of ZotPortal, you will find general publicity and video/photo resources.
- Please keep me posted on faculty book publications, new research, student & alumni stories that communicate the value and impact of a humanities education, cross-disciplinary and inter-school research projects, & community outreach.
- The Communications unit will welcome three interns in the fall--all SOH undergraduates--who will be instrumental in crafting stories about the Humanities meant to inspire action, for and via a variety of mediums.

Annabel Adams '06, M.A.
Director of Marketing & Communications

## Undergrad Studies Update

New Student Convocation will be held in the Bren Events Center on Monday, 9/25/17, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. That event will be followed immediately by the Humanities Dean's Welcome (in HIB 100) and the Humanities Transfer Welcome (in HG 1800). For more information on these or other Welcome Week events, please visit the Welcome Week website (www.welcomeweek.uci.edu). If your department would like to advertise any Welcome Week events on that site, please be sure to scroll to the bottom of the main page and click "Add Events."

The first day of classes is Thursday, 9/28/17.

The deadline to add and drop classes is Friday, 10/13/17, at 5 p.m. Details about this policy are on the Add/Drop Policy section of the Office of Undergraduate Study website (www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/students/add_drop.php). Please direct any students with questions to the Undergrad Study Office in 143 HIB.

## Graduate Studies Update

**Humanities New Graduate Student Orientation**

Thursday, 8:30am - 11:00am

Humanities Gateway 1030

**Humanities Graduate Student Onboarding (Walk-ins in OGS office)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday, September 22nd | 9:30am to 11:30am; 1:30pm to 3:30pm |
| Monday, September 25th | 10am to 11:30am; 1:30pm to 3:30pm |
| Tuesday, September 26th | 10am to 11:30am; 1pm to 3:30pm |

**The Fall 2018 graduate admissions application is now open!**

Amy Fujitani, Director, Office of Graduate Study

## Humanities Commons

Research Plus: this year's theme at the Humanities Commons

At the core of the Humanities Commons' mission is fostering the research life cycle, from ideation and inquiry to writing, knowledge exchange, and dissemination. Research Plus, our theme for 2017-2018 as well as a collaboration among 8 UC Humanities Councils, will strengthen and make visible the UCI School of Humanities' thriving research culture. This year, we are framing our different activities under the rubric offered by "Research Plus." The Research Plus theme invites our different constituencies to develop the tools and networks that enhance research in the humanities.

Research + Development shows faculty and graduate students how to find funding sources, write grants, and articulate their evolving research narratives.

Research + Relationships includes the role of mentors and advisers in building the research interests and career opportunities of PhD students, a theme to be explored by Leonard Cassuto, who has devoted much of his professional life to advocating for a broad conception of humanities research.

Research + Skills encompasses new digital tools as well as the role of pedagogy in connecting research to students.

Research + Communications addresses the role of university presses and other publishing platforms in sharing humanities research with other scholars.

The plus sign signals both enhancement and connectivity; we want to allow the research of the School to grow and deepen, and we want to find ways to link humanities research to new audiences and action possibilities.

Julia Lupton, jrlupton@uci.edu

Amanda Swain, ajswain@uci.edu

## Humanities Studio and Computing

Humanities Studio: Quick reminder about our hours, The drop-in lab hours are 8-5 Monday-Thursday and Friday 8-4. Please contact Arianne Schultheis (aschulth@uci.edu, (949) 824-6344) for more information.

Humanities Studio Rentals: We have laptops, iPads, webcams, dongles and more … if you have anything you recommend us putting in our rental inventory please contact Dwayne Pack (dpack@uci.edu, (949) 824-5274)

The Humanities website CMS has a new login process and if a user notices that they are missing a department on their list (or can't login at all) to let Marcie Hague know at mhague@uci.edu or (949) 824-8506.

Interested in Adobe Acrobat Pro or Microsoft Office? Please contact Dwayne Pack (dpack@uci.edu, (949) 824-5274)

## Advancement

The Development team is looking forward to an exciting and productive fall quarter with the following special events planned:

♦ On Tuesday, October 17, we will welcome three prominent SOH alumni back to campus to speak with our undergraduate students about their career trajectories. More info here.

♦ On Wednesday, October 18, we will host a celebratory event to announce the establishment of the UCI Center for Jewish Studies and recognize the 25-year anniversary of the Teller Family Chair in Jewish Studies. A private reception for donors precedes the public event, which starts at 6 p.m. and features the Yuval Ron Ensemble. More info here.

On September 18th, Chancellor Gillman announced a transformational gift of $200 million from Henry and Susan Samueli to create the Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences. Their gift will provide $55 million toward a facility to house the college, including state of the art technology and labs, and a $145 million endowment that will be directed to up to 15 faculty chairs across the medicine, nursing, pharmacy and population health disciplines for senior, midcareer and junior faculty with expertise in integrative health.



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