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UCI School of Humanities

You are cordially invited to our annual Fall Reception

Monday, September 24th | 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Humanities Gateway 1030

Meet the dean and our new faculty

Meet Dean Miller

What does Dean Tyrus Miller believe the outlook for the humanities is? What's important to him? Where did he grow up? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this feature story by Annabel Adams here.

During the summer, Dean Miller was a guest of Claudia Shambaugh's "Ask a Leader" on KUCI Radio. In the interview, he discusses his priorities as dean, how the humanities fit into the context of the university, and what interdisciplinary cross-campus partnerships he'd like to see take place. We invite you to listen to the segment here.

Welcome our New Faculty

Matthew P. Canepa, Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran, Department of Art History and Program in Visual Studies

Dr. Matthew P. Canepa, an historian of art, archaeology and religions, joins UCI from the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on the intersection of art, ritual and power in the eastern Mediterranean, Persia and the wider Iranian world.

His newly published book is entitled *The Iranian Expanse: Transforming Royal Identity through Landscape, Architecture, and the Built Environment (550 BCE – 642 CE)* (UC Press, 2018). It is a large-scale study of the transformation of Iranian cosmologies, landscapes and architecture from the height of the Achaemenids to the coming of Islam. His publications include *The Two Eyes of the Earth: Art and Ritual of Kingship between Rome and Sasanian Iran* (University of California Press, 2009; paperback ed. 2017), the first book to analyze the artistic, ritual and ideological interactions between the late Roman and Sasanian empires in a comprehensive and theoretically rigorous manner. It was awarded the 2010 James Henry Breasted Prize from the American Historical Association for the best book in English on any field of history prior to the year 1000 CE.

Canepa earned his Ph.D. in art history from the University of Chicago and his B.A. in art history and psychology from University of Colorado, Boulder.

Fun fact: Matthew grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is incredibly excited to return to the west after a long Midwestern exile.

Qian Du, Lecturer Potential Security of Employment, Academic English/ESL

Dr. Qian Du received her Ph.D. and M.A. in foreign, second and multilingual language education from the Ohio State University, where she also taught English academic writing courses to international undergraduate and graduate students. Before joining UCI, she worked as the undergraduate composition coordinator in the Linguistics Department at Ohio University. Her research focuses on academic literacies development, intercultural rhetoric, and reading and writing connections. Her work has appeared in *English for Academic Purposes, Journal of Second Language Writing and System*. She is currently working on a project that examines what constitutes convincing argumentation in different cultures and how source use plays a role in argument construction.

Fun fact: In her spare time, Qian likes to hike and camp with her two border collies.

Sandra Harvey, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies

Dr. Sandra Harvey's research focuses on the production of race and gender through surveillance technologies originating in colonialism and chattel slavery. Her current book project, *Passing for Free, Passing for Sovereign* traces narratives of race/gender passing within science, settler colonial law, and Enlightenment philosophy. Her writing has appeared in *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*.

Harvey was a UCI Chancellor's ADVANCE Postdoctoral fellow with the Criminology, Law, and Society Department in 2017-2018. She earned a Ph.D. in politics with a designated emphasis in history of consciousness from UC Santa Cruz and an M.A. in sociology from the Universidad de Chile.

Fun fact: In her spare time, Sandra enjoys dancing timba and reading literature and fiction about her hometown (Oakland, CA/Huichin).

Joseph Jeon, Professor, Department of English

Dr. Joseph Jonghyun Jeon joins us from Pomona College where he taught for seven years. Jeon's research focuses on transnational Asian/American literature and visual culture with a particular emphasis on film and poetry. He is the author of *Vicious Circuits: Korea's IMF Cinema and the End of the American Century* (Stanford University Press, forthcoming 2019) and *Racial Things, Racial Forms: Objecthood in Avant-Garde Asian American Poetry* (University of Iowa Press, 2012). His work has appeared in *positions: asia critique; Cinema Journal*, and *Representations*. He was a Fulbright Senior Research Fellow in South Korea for the 2016-2017 academic year, and, though he is very happy to be here in Irvine, he very much misses living in Seoul.

Jeon earned his Ph.D. in English from UC Berkeley and his B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University. In addition to Pomona, he also taught previously at the University of San Diego.

Fun fact: Joseph enjoys cycling, traveling, and taking his daughter to museums.

John Murillo, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies

Dr. John Murillo III joins UCI from California State University, Dominguez Hills where he was a lecturer of Africana studies and humanities. Murillo's research interests include African-American literature (20th and 21st Century), Black studies, creative writing and theoretical physics.

Murillo earned a Ph.D. in English from Brown University and a B.A. in English from UCI. While at UCI, Murillo worked as staff, and briefly as co-editor, of *Umoja News Magazine*, and held the position of director of communications for UCI's Black Student Union.

James Robertson, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Dr. James Robertson joins UCI from Woodbury University where he was Assistant Professor of Politics and History. His research focuses on the intellectual history of Eastern Europe, particularly the philosophical and literary cultures of the Balkans. His current book project, *Literature, Politics and the Balkan Idea on the Yugoslav Left, 1870-1956* interrogates the imagined geographies that underpinned the intersection of revolutionary politics and literary modernism in Yugoslavia. His work has appeared in *East European Politics* and *Societies and Nationalities Papers*.

Robertson received his Ph.D. in history from NYU and his bachelor's in history and philosophy from the University of Sydney.

Fun fact: James is an avid fan of cult horror films, with a special fondness for the Italian giallo tradition.

Chelsea Schields, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Dr. Chelsea Schields' scholarship explores the histories of sexuality, race, and decolonization in Europe and its former empires. Schields is assistant editor of *The Political Thought of African Independence* (Hackett, 2017) and co-editor of the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism*. She is currently at work on a book manuscript about sexual politics and imperial aftermath in the Dutch Caribbean.

Schields earned her Ph.D. in history from the Graduate Center, City University of New York and a B.A. in history and anthropology from Goucher College.

Fun fact: Chelsea was born and raised in Orange County. She is happy to return home after many years spent living on the East Coast.

Deanna Shemek, Professor, Department of European Languages and Studies

A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, Dr. Deanna Shemek arrives this fall from UC Santa Cruz, where she taught for twenty-eight years in the Department of Literature. She holds a B.A. in English (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and master's and Ph.D. degrees in Italian (Johns Hopkins University). Shemek's research focuses on the Italian Renaissance, with special interests in women writers and in such popular forms as adventure narratives, letters, and staged comedies.

Her most recent book is a collection of 830 letters she selected and translated from the correspondence of Isabella d'Este, princess of the Renaissance city-state of Mantua. She co-directs IDEA: Isabella d'Este Archive, which offers students and researchers new ways to explore the culture of early modern Italy through digitally available materials, and is currently finishing a book on Isabella d'Este as a Renaissance correspondent.

Fun fact: Deanna loves dogs. She shares her life with her husband, Tyrus Miller, and their canine, Bentley, a Papillon-Corgi mix who rescued them in 2016.

Elizabeth Tinsley, Assistant Professor, East Asian Studies

Dr. Elizabeth Tinsley joins us from Columbia University where she did a Ph.D. in Religion, and previously to that, Otani University in Kyoto, where she attained a Ph.D. in Buddhist culture. Tinsley has also undertaken research fellowships at Yokohama City University and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She researches Buddhist history and culture in Japan, and is currently writing about mountain gods, spirit possession, and Buddhist institution formation. She also works on the visual culture of Buddhism in postwar subcultures of Japan. She has published in various academic journals in both Japan and the U.S.

Tinsley has also earned M.A.s in history of art at the University of Cambridge and in Japanese studies from SOAS University of London.

Fun fact: In her spare time she loves creative writing, cooking for friends, and comedy.

New Staff

New Staff:

Cynthia Bee, History, Finance Analyst: Cynthia joins us from the UCI Department of Neurobiology & Behavior where she was a Specialist/Researcher in the Frostig Lab. Taking her career in a new direction, she is excited to transfer and apply her administrative/management skills along with her research and statistical skills to our department.

Kassandra Ceja, English, Composition Program Assistant: Kassandra joined us on September 4th. Kassandra is a recent graduate of UCI and during the past four years studying for a B.A. in Educational Sciences and Psychology and Social Behavior, she worked as a work-study student in the Department of English. We are very pleased to welcome Kassandra back to the English Department in her first career staff position!

Cheryth Dai, Program in Academic English/ESL, Administrative Assistant: Cheryth graduated from UCI with a B.A. degree in East Asian Cultures. She has administrative experience with Advance Academy, a bilingual (Chinese and English) institution in Irvine for K-12 and college students, where she coordinated two programs within the school, developed program policies, and assisted with payment collections. She has valuable experience working with international student advising and tutor program administration. We are excited to have Cheryth back at UCI as a member of the Academic English team.

Valerie Elwell, Marketing & Communications, Communications Specialist: Valerie joins the School of Humanities as Communications Specialist reporting to Annabel Adams, Director of Marketing and Communications. In her more than 15 years of experience, Valerie has written for broadcast, print and online media and developed award-winning content strategies. She has previous communications experience in higher ed with the University of Hawaii and was a producer for Arizona PBS. Valerie earned a B.S. in broadcast production with a minor in English from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Courtney Hemenway, Spanish & Portuguese, Grad Program Coordinator: Courtney joins the Department as our new Graduate Program Coordinator. She has over 13 years of experience in purchasing and reimbursements and comes to us from The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, Office of The Dean. Please come by and welcome Courtney to the School of Humanities!

Angeline Hernandez, Program in Academic English/ESL, Administrative Analyst: Angeline recently graduated from UCI with a B.A. degree in Business Economics and a minor in Accounting. Angeline has worked as the Lead Student Assistant for the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. We are excited to welcome Angeline where she will provide valuable support to our program and students.

Alexa Lopez, Humanities Commons, Finance Analyst: Alexa joins Humanities Commons with experience in the Department of Criminology, Law & Society as well as extensive experience in the Travel Accounting Department as a Senior Admin Analyst. We welcome Alexa with her much needed experience to assist us all in the Humanities Commons and please welcome her to our School when you get a chance. Her office is on the first floor of Humanities Gateway.

Gloria Simpson, Philosophy, Department Manager: Gloria joins the Philosophy Department on 9/26 as the Department Manager reporting to the Chair of Philosophy. She comes to us with almost 10 years' experience having worked in the International Studies Program, as well as experience with the Department of Economics at UCI. We are excited to have Gloria with our team and please come by to say "hi"!

Communications

Updates:

- The weekly events digest resumes Friday, September 28. The weekly events digest pulls events directly from the SOH calendar (as inputted into our content management system). Please work with your Department staff to ensure all events are inputted into the calendar at least two weeks prior to the event date.

- The school’s monthly newsletter resumes this fall. The newsletter compiles our latest stories, announcements, and select events and media coverage.

- Center directors and staff: the start of Fall is a great time to send out a Zotmail of upcoming events for the quarter being hosted by your center. If you have not already, please feel free to work with me on crafting a Zotmail for this purpose.

- In you case you’ve missed them, we published several stories this summer. Here are a few of them:

Excavating antiquity

From mentee to mentor

The modern Middle Ages

Renowned UCI chemist supports breakthroughs in Armenian studies

Keeping Japan's past at the forefront of scholarship

Vicki Ruiz named scholar-in-residence at Occidental’s Institute for the Study of L.A.

- Have you noticed the new outdoor SOH banners located in the Humanities Gateway plaza, in between HG and HIB as you head to the Humanities-Arts bridge and between Krieger and HH? Please feel free to snap a photo of your favorite one and tag the UCI School of Humanities on social media.

- 1888 Center, a community partner of the school and university, is seeking nominations for its inaugural “1888 OC laureate,” which recognizes great local storytellers and “creatives.” I know we have several in the SOH! Nominees must be dedicated to collaboration and storytelling and demonstrate a commitment to community engagement and education. Nominations are open through October 31 here. Julia Lupton is one of the esteemed judges.

- Two of our communications interns return this fall—Audrey Fong, fourth-year English major, and Erika Higbee, third-year English major. Audrey is our social media strategist who has done an incredible job increasing the reach and impact of the SOH's social media platforms. Erika will work specifically on communications and marketing projects related to our Armenian Studies Program. They will sit in the Advancement and Communications Library on the 3rd floor of Humanities Gateway, #3016.

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

Computing & Humanities Studio

Humanities Studio will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. starting October 1st. We now have 2 multimedia computers for Faculty to use for projects in HH 269. The full Adobe CC suite is installed; please let me know of any additional software that you think we should install.

Humanities Studio Rentals (HH 269): Just a reminder that we have laptops, iPads, webcams, dongles, clickers and more for 1-day rentals … if you have anything you recommend us putting in our rental inventory, please let me know.

Contact me if interested in Adobe Acrobat Pro, Microsoft Office or a Zoom license.
Canvas: Starting to move from EEE to Canvas and don't know where to start? Let me know.

Dwayne Pack
Director of Computing and Humanities Studio

Undergrad Studies

New Student Convocation will be held in the Bren Events Center on Monday, 9/24/18, 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 here. 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, 9/27/18.

The deadline to add and drop classes is Friday, 10/12/18, at 5 p.m. Details about this policy are on the Add/Drop Policy section of the Office of Undergraduate Study website here. Please direct any students with questions to the Undergrad Study Office in 143 HIB.

Brittney Pinney
Director of Undergraduate Study

Humanities Commons

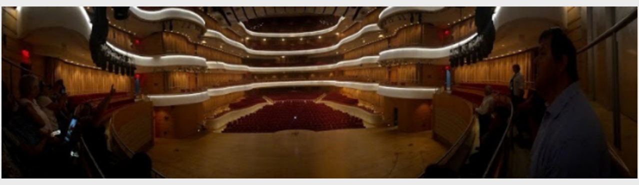
We are proud to announce that the Commons will be the new home for the Center for Asian Studies, directed by Qitao Guo (History) and the Center for Medical Humanities, directed by Doug Haynes (History).

Our programming theme this year is “Climates of Communication.” We are collaborating with Professor Steven Allison, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, on a graduate seminar on science communication that will be hosted in the Humanities Commons. Graduate students in humanities can take the course for credit, and some sessions will be open to any students, faculty, and staff interested in this topic. Humanities contributors to the series include Erika Hayasaki (Literary Journalism), Annabel Adams (SOH Communications), and Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow (Humanities Commons). We are also excited to welcome author and environmentalist Bill McKibben to UCI on February 8 as the keynote speaker for this year’s Forum for the Academy and the Public Symposium. Elizabeth Kolbert (*The New Yorker*) will be speaking on February 9.

Events to look for this fall include a special appearance by food writer and celebrity chef Simon Majumdar on Tuesday, October 9. Julia Lupton will be leading a reading group on King Lear that is open to staff from across campus and also serves the community.

Julia Lupton, Associate Dean for Research
Amanda Swain, Executive Director

Humanities Staff Retreat 9-5-18



RENÉE AND HENRY SEGERSTROM CONCERT

What a great experience to tour Segerstrom!

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

Shakespeare Tour by Julia Lupton!
And special thanks to the Staff Assembly for the donuts and coffee! Fun morning!

Facilities

Please be reminded of the policy restricting animals on campus here.

NEW BEVERAGE and FOOD KIOSK

PROVISIONS ON DEMAND
POD

We are pleased to announce that we have arranged with UCI Hospitality and Dining Services and Aramark to install a Provisions on Demand food and beverage kiosk in the Humanities Hall 2nd floor courtyard. Similar to the POD pictured above, it will stock snacks, sandwiches/salads, coffee and cold beverages. The installation will occur during Fall quarter, and outdoor furniture will also be added, in order to provide a gathering space for students, staff and faculty.

We have long advocated for a coffee/snack solution for our School, and are pleased the campus and Aramark have now approved its installation. We'll let you know when it is ready to open.

Penny Portillo
Assistant Dean

UCI School of Humanities

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