

Spring 2020 Internal Newsletter

Message from the Dean

We begin this spring quarter in the midst of the COVID-19 emergency, faced with many challenges collectively and individually.

No matter what amount of previous experience we have had with remote instruction or telecommuting, none of us have had to do these on such a scale and so comprehensively, as we have now been asked to do. We are all learning and adapting together, and I want to thank each of you for your initiative, your patience, and your dedication to our mission of educating our students, who represent the future beyond this grave crisis of today.

I also want to applaud all the sharing and mutual support that you have given one another to prepare for this quarter and to sustain our teaching and operations by other means. I've been witness to your extraordinary generosity with one another and the reserves of expertise and ingenuity that you have mobilized to help each other. These are, unquestionably, our most valuable resources in this difficult moment, and we are fortunate to have such powerful bonds of intellectual and personal community to support us as we navigate the uncertainties ahead.

So many of you have worked tirelessly in the past few weeks to help us meet this challenge, and to all of you I want to give my sincere gratitude. Given how important our technology resources have been for our move into the virtual world of remote instruction and telecommuting, I do want, on all of our behalf, to give especially grateful acknowledgement to Dwayne Pack and Colin Andrews and their teams for their toil in the very actual world to help us be ready for what lies ahead.

Stay connected, stay safe, and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Tyrus Miller, Dean of the School of Humanities

New Staff

Michelle Spivey, Undergraduate Program Coordinator: We are happy to announce that Michelle Spivey has joined the history staff in our Undergraduate Program Coordinator role! Michelle earned her B.A. in political science from National Taiwan University and an M.A. in international affairs from George Washington University. She has experience coordinating international student programs at National Taipei University and general administrative expertise working for the Irvine School of Music, a local medical office as well as a research internship with the Stimson Center in Washington, DC.

Communications

COVID-19 website

The School of Humanities has developed a resource website for COVID-19 here. Organized by audience (instructors, students and staff), the website compiles the many tools and resources that have been sent out by SOH leadership in previous communications in one central hub. The website will continue to be updated as new resources and tools become available. If you have suggestions on content that would be useful to add, please email me and Marcie.

The humanities in a time of uncertainty

The work we do matters always, but especially now. We are looking for faculty scholars who can share insights, comment on, or write about the following topics:

- **Humanistic approaches to COVID-19.** The Conversation (an independent, nonprofit publisher of commentary and analysis, authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public, which reaches 10M readers a month) is seeking scholars who can approach the current COVID-19 pandemic from new perspectives. Much continues to be written from scientific perspectives, much less has been written from humanistic ones. Here are some angles *The Conversation* is currently seeking scholars to approach: 1) how religions have helped people keep hope in times of distress; 2) the role rituals play in our lives, why they matter more at this time and how we can find new rituals and meaning; and 3) the inability to have proper burials at this time. What is the significance of this and what are historical precedents that can explain how people have coped? They would be open to additional humanistic approaches, including medical and social ethics (who lives and who dies? The real-life Trolley Problem that hospitals in Italy have faced; how do social contracts evolve during these times?); previous pandemics or epidemics - how different cultures have dealt with them, what can history teach us that informs how we act today?
- **Acts of service.** UCI's Communications team is looking to highlight students and faculty who are finding ways to help out others during the pandemic. If you are aware of any community outreach-type projects - being conducted remotely, of course - that any of you, or your students, are involved in, please let me know.
- **MOOCS.** For social media posts, do you have open-access online courses or instruction materials that would intellectually engage a broad audience?
- **How have the humanities helped you through uncertain times?** For social media posts: Is/was there a book, poem, film, TV show/episode, work of art (or anything humanities related) that you have found comforting or that has helped you during times of uncertainty? Tell us what you recommend and why. We'd love to share our social media platforms to help our followers stay connected to meaningful forms of engagement during this tough time.
- If you have other ideas on topics you'd like to write about, or ideas you would like to pitch to media outlets, please connect with us.

Email humanities@uci.edu (this goes to me and my coordinator, Audrey) should you have a fit for any of the above.

Yield

UCI Admissions has begun sending out admittance emails to freshmen undergraduates. Given the current state of affairs, Admissions will not be hosting in-person events like Celebrate UCI and will instead move to virtual events. More information on that will be forthcoming from the SOH Undergraduate Office. In terms of our communications to admitted students, my team is working on a series of emails from the school. I will be reaching out to undergraduate directors and managers this week with information on how to participate.

Annabel Adams
Executive Director of Marketing and Communications

Advancement

Dear Humanities faculty and staff,

Due to the coronavirus and the instability of the market right now, we can expect most donors to wait until there is a return to normal economic conditions before they consider a gift. However, there is much we can do to continue moving forward with our fundraising activities. We are increasing our focus on stewardship, which is one of our cornerstone activities. Stewardship means finding ways to communicate with our donors about the impact of their giving, by sharing our School's accomplishments and our plans. We do this through in a wide range of ways, from personal phone calls to written reports describing the impact of giving in a particular department or center, and Zoom calls to give donors updates. Our donors have been grateful to receive our calls as we check in on them and give them updates about SOH.

For our team, it's also a chance to take time to focus on planning for the 20/21 academic year. We have several new initiatives we're working on to raise more support throughout the School. It's a chance to be creative and strategic about our next steps.

We may be contacting you to ask specific questions about activities in your areas made possible by donors, so we can compile impact reports for donors.

Until then, take care and be well.

Linda Haghi
Executive Director, School of Humanities Advancement

Humanities Center

U.S. Census

As part of our exploration of the theme of Borders & Belonging, we want to remind our community of the importance of the U.S. Census. The census only takes place every 10 years, and the results really matter. They shape political apportionment and distribution of government resources. The data also is used by scholars to understand our society and by community leaders to identify pressing issues that need to be addressed. There's only 9 questions, and you can complete it online. If you do this before April 1 (Census Day), you save some trees, too, since paper versions of the survey will be sent after that date. And, if you want to avoid door-to-door visits by census workers, please respond online, by phone, or by mail. Non-English language support is provided, too.

UCI was undercounted for the last census, and our students, staff and faculty are likely to fall into officially designated hard-to-count categories, which include young children, highly mobile persons, racial and ethnic minorities, non-English speakers, low-income persons, persons experiencing homelessness, undocumented immigrants, persons who distrust the government, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, and persons who do not live in traditional housing. For more information, see UCI Counts and please help UCI achieve complete count!

School of Humanities receives $1.5M Mellon Grant

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded $1.5 million to the School of Humanities. "Cross-disciplinary Engagement and Career Pathways for 21st-Century Humanities Doctoral Education" will support graduate student research positions in cross-disciplinary settings such as STEM departments and research centers that increase interdisciplinary fluency. Grant funds will also support summer internships that provide professional experience in higher education administration and with local and national cultural organizations. The Humanities Center will hire a Graduate Professional Development Manager to implement the embedded graduate research and summer internship programs, as well as organize a consistent program of horizon broadening career development activities for graduate students in the School of Humanities.

Grants to faculty and graduate students

The Humanities Center will have a regular spring grant cycle for faculty publication support grants and for faculty and graduate student collaborative conferences (to support events in AY 2020-2021). If you received a grant award and are not able to travel or hold your event, please contact me about an extension.

Humanities Center event videos

Do you have videos of Humanities Center events online? Send us a brief description of the event and a link. We'll post to our Facebook page or tag us if you post past events on your Facebook page. There are more things to watch and listen to than Netflix while we are social-distancing.

Amanda Swain
Executive Director

Undergraduate Study

Office of Undergrad Study Operating Procedures for Spring 2020:

Our physical office space in HIB 143 is closed. **Staff and faculty** can contact the Office of Undergrad Study team by email:

- Brittney Pinney – BrittneyPinney@uci.edu – Staff/faculty can contact Brittney for anything, or if you aren't sure who to contact.
- Whitney Young – wyoung@uci.edu – Staff/faculty can contact Whitney for Catalogue issues, Schedule of Classes issues, study abroad questions or petitions, or general questions.
- Lisa Payne-Miller – lpaynemi@uci.edu – Staff/faculty can contact Lisa for regular petition questions or general questions.
- Ashlee Walker – ashleetm@uci.edu – Staff/faculty can forward student advising question emails directly to Ashlee or Malinda.
- Malinda Pang – pangmr@uci.edu - Staff/faculty can forward student advising question emails directly to Ashlee or Malinda.

Students can contact the Office of Undergrad Study using one of the following methods:

- **Email** through our website – These emails are sent directly to academic advisors, and we will respond as quickly as we can, and within 1-2 business days.
- **Chat** – Students can go to our website and sign on to Humanities Undergraduate Chat to connect directly with an academic advisor. Chat hours are generally Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Dates and Deadlines:

- **April 10 (Friday)** – Deadline for undergraduates to add and drop Spring quarter classes. Please see the Undergrad Study website for complete details on this policy here and direct any students with questions to Whitney Young.
- **April 30 (Thursday)** – **"New"** extended deadline for departments to enter nominations for all undergraduate awards in the Student Awards System Database.

Please refer to the Registrar's Quarterly Academic Calendar for all other important dates and deadlines. Contact Brittney Pinney, Director of Undergraduate Study, with any questions.

Commencement and Convocation:

The Commencement and Honors Convocation ceremonies in June have been cancelled. We will update you with details on alternate plans for celebrations as we learn more.

Brittney Pinney
Director of Undergraduate Study

Facilities

Due to Governor Newsom's stay-at-home order in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, effective midnight 3/20/20, most campus services have switched over to a remote service model. However, UCI Facilities still has some limited personnel who will be attending to maintenance and custodial services, so if you have an issue with facilities, please email me or Jeremy Saine, and we will pass the issue on to them.

All events in our conference rooms have been cancelled for the moment.

We understand that this situation continues to evolve. Please visit the Coronavirus information hubs at uci.edu/coronavirus or ucihealth.org/covid-19 for important updates.

Colin Andrews
Director of Facilities

Human Resources

To ensure the health and safety of UCPath employees, the UCPath leadership team has made the decision to shift all UCPath Center **Riverside** employees to remote work effective March 20, 2020.

As the UCPath Center shifts to remote work, UCPath Center phone service will be unavailable.

The fastest way for UCI employees to get support is by creating a ticket through UCPath Online using "Ask UCPath Center."

The UCI Employee Experience Center (EEC) continues to provide support to UCI employees and transactors through 949.824.0500 and eec.hr.uci.edu.

Mindy Han
Director of Personnel

Computing

Just a reminder, all computing staff can be reached by emailing hcf@uci.edu

For Humanities Studio related questions, please contact Arianne at aschulth@uci.edu

Please let us know what you are having problems with and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Dwayne Pack
Director of Computing



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