



HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

Challenge. Create. Connect.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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MAYOR PAM IORIO TO ADDRESS “STRAIGHTFORWARD LEADERSHIP” AND ITS DEBT TO HUMANITIES

Signature Theme: Morality and Ethics in Public Life

As Mayor of Tampa, Pam Iorio established herself as a respected leader, able to move initiatives forward and work across party and other divisions. After two successful terms, she left office with a remarkable 87 percent approval rating – a distinguished achievement in today’s (or any) political environment. This January, the Humanities Institute is pleased to welcome her back to USF, where she graduated with an M.A. in History.

Iorio will introduce her new book, *Straightforward: Ways to Live & Lead*, and

will focus especially on how education in the humanities prepares people to be effective leaders. Her book describes a leadership style that empowers others, facilitating on-going development and constant learning. She argues that “straightforward leadership is distinctly direct, clear, honest, strategic, and respectful. It provides room for compromise and seeks to bring people together instead

of dividing them. This brand of leadership is pragmatic, not ideological; solutions based and results oriented.”

The former mayor will speak on Thursday, January 11, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Patel Center for Global Solutions on the USF Campus. The talk is free and open to the public; the Institute will host a reception for invited guests starting at 6 p.m.



OUR NEW VISION: CHALLENGE, CREATE, CONNECT

This newsletter unveils a new look and a new motto: Challenge, Create, Connect! Those words launch a commitment to make the humanities meaningful, not only to faculty and students at USF, but also to the larger community to which we all belong.



Dr. Liz Bird, Director

We are presently working on programming to address a series of interdisciplinary “signature” themes, within which specific events will be located. They will draw on both the expertise of

USF faculty, and the insights of visiting scholars and artists. It’s an ambitious vision, and in an era of dwindling resources, we can’t do it without help – which is why you’ll also find a “begging letter” in this issue. Please consider our appeal.

But whether you contribute financially or not, we invite you to share in building a place where ideas may provoke and delight - engaging your intellect, your emotion, and your sense of shared cultural citizenship. Together, our signature themes argue that humanities truly matter! Our new themes include:

Morality and Ethics in Public Life
Perhaps nothing is more urgent, as

we witness the clash of values today – whether in politics, medicine, technology, the media, or the environment. We envisage a series of events throughout the year, building an ongoing debate about the vexing issues that confront us.

Science, Medicine and Culture

The sciences and humanities are inextricably bound, as the humanities lead the way in the consideration of the human ramifications of scientific, technological and medical changes. Building on our successful Darwin Day tradition, we hope to extend the discussion to other pressing and relevant issues.

Continued on Page 5...

Humanities Institute

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RENOWNED USF PROFESSOR DISCUSSES NEW BOOK

Dr. Lawrence Broer, Professor Emeritus of English, will speak about his most recent book, *Vonnegut and Hemingway: Writers at War* (U. of South Carolina Press) in which he studies the intersections of biography and artistry in works by both writers. Broer sees Vonnegut and Hemingway as fundamentally at war—with themselves, with one another's artistic visions, and with the idea of war itself. Against this onslaught, he asserts, they wrote as a mode of therapy and achieved literary greatness through combative opposition to the shadows that loomed so

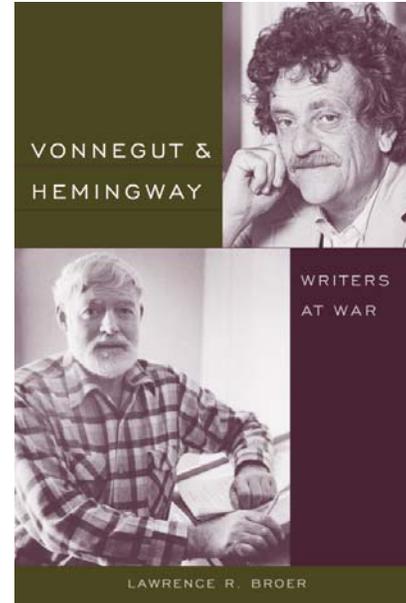
large around them.

Broer is an internationally acclaimed scholar of modern and postmodern American and British Literature.

and has authored or edited nine books on such writers as Ernest Hemingway, Kurt Vonnegut, and John Updike. Broer is Professor Emeritus

of English at the University of South Florida, where he received the Theodore and Venette Askunes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award and the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The event will be held on Feb. 15 in the Grace Allen Room on the 4th floor of the Library. There will



He has published widely in critical collections and professional journals,

be a light reception at 3:30pm and the lecture will begin at 4:00pm.

VIOLENCE, MEMORY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Signature Theme: History, Myth and Memory

This semester, over 50 scholars from across the U.S. and several other countries will come together at USF to share research on “Violence, Memory, and Human Rights,” focusing on the never-ending incidents of mass violence that continue to plague the world. So often, such atrocities are concealed, and witnesses silenced or ignored, often in the name of “moving on.”

Yet the impulse to tell the story seems universal, and may be essential

if true reconciliation is to be achieved. Worldwide, movements have emerged to break the silence and to restore dignity to those who died. This three-day conference offers a unique, interdisciplinary forum, in which historians, anthropologists, poets, legal scholars, forensic scientists,

philosophers and more will examine questions such as: What circumstances precipitate mass violence? What is the impact on surviving individuals, families, and communities? How are massacres remembered – or forgot-

ten? When and how can perpetrators be brought to justice, and victims acknowledged and compensated?

The event is sponsored by the Humanities Institute, with the support of a USF Conference Grant, and co-sponsored by the departments of Anthropology and History. An open call brought submissions from scholars in Peru, Israel, the U.K., Sweden, Australia, and many U.S. institutions, including USF, and topics addressed include the politics of memory, the language of violence, art and memory, and post-conflict reconciliation and memorialization.

In addition to the paper sessions, invited speakers include international human rights activist David Hawk, genocide scholar Alexander Hinton (Rutgers Uni-



versity), and philosopher Margaret Urban Walker (Marquette University). A special evening event will feature a screening of the award-winning documentary film *Prosecutor*, which profiles controversial International Criminal Court prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo. This will be followed by a Q and A with the film's director, Barry Stevens, who has made numerous acclaimed films, often addressing human rights issues. Karen Holbrook, USF's Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Global Affairs, will offer a welcome. Says HI Director Elizabeth

Bird, "this is a truly exciting program that puts USF at the forefront of the international debate on violence and transitional justice scholarship."

The conference will also feature a special showing of the exhibit "Witnessing a Genocide: the Children of Darfur," which features drawings made by Darfuri children in refugee camps in Eastern Chad, provided by Waging Peace, in conjunction with the USF Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center.

The event, in the Marshall Student Center, rooms 3708, 3709, and 3711

starts at 8:30 a.m. Monday, January 30, and continues until 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1. The program, speaker bios, and other information about the conference is available (and will be regularly updated) at <http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/memory.aspx>. It is open to all faculty and students at USF, as well as community members. Registration is advised, and can be done online at the same site.

ResearchOne
ONE UNIVERSITY : ONE COMMUNITY : ONE VISION

STAR SCIENCE EDUCATOR HEADLINES DARWIN DAY 2012

Signature Theme: Science, Medicine, and Culture

The Humanities Institute continues its tradition of celebrating the birthday of Charles Darwin, with an exciting slate of events this February, hosted in partnership with the Departments of Integrative Biology and Anthropology.

We're delighted to welcome Dr. Eugenie Scott as the headliner for this year's event, which will feature a public lecture, a talk aimed at faculty and students in biology, and innovative workshops for area high school students and teachers.

Dr. Scott is a physical anthropologist who has been the executive director of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) since 1987. For many years, she has led the national movement of scientists and educators against the teaching of creationism and its more recent cousin, intelligent design, which Scott has described as "ultimately a science stopper."

Throughout her distinguished career, Scott has received multiple awards from academic associations in biology and anthropology, as well as bodies devoted to science literacy and skepticism. She has numerous honorary degrees, including from McGill University



and the Ohio State University. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which she has also chaired, and in 2009, she was the inaugural recipient of the Stephen Jay Gould Prize from the Society for the Study of Evolution.

Her visit will kick off at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 9, in MSC 2100C, with "Dr. Scott's Handy-Dandy Guide to Teaching Evolution," a talk in the Integrative Biology Seminar Series, which she describes as "a lighthearted if serious presentation for faculty, teachers, and students of ideas about teaching evolution that may help to avoid or at least head off misconceptions and opposition."

At 7 p.m. that evening, in FAH 101 (College of the Arts), she will present a public talk: "Florida's 'Critical Thinking' Bills: Creationism du jour?" Florida legislators have often contemplated bills addressing the teaching of evolution, most recently in 2011. In such proposed legislation, teachers are directed to "critically analyze" evolution, or to present the "full range of scientific views of

origins." Scott points out that like everything else, these bills have a history – and that history shows they are the current manifestations of the old creationism and evolution controversy that has dogged science education for over 100 years.

On Friday, the departments of Integrative Biology, Anthropology, and Philosophy will welcome high-achieving high school students, who will be treated to a day of hands-on, lab-based activities coordinated by faculty and graduate stu-

dents from all three departments. And on Saturday (Feb. 11), Hillsborough County Public School District and the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) are hosting a workshop for school teachers, with participation from Scott and USF faculty. Scott's presentation, "Teaching Evolution in a Climate of Controversy," will show that evolution is an essential part of the biology curriculum, and a similarly-critical part of the Earth sciences curriculum. She argues that "it is simply not possible to teach good biology or Earth science and omit evolution." Scott will offer useful tips for teachers about handling what shouldn't be a controversy, but unfortunately is.

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SPRING 2012 CALENDAR

January 11

An Evening with Pam Iorio: How History Guides Effective Leadership
Patel Center for Global Solutions, 7:00pm

January 30 - February 1

Violence, Memory, and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Conference

Jan. 30: Panel Discussions 8:30am - 5:00pm, MSC 3708, 3709, 3711

Jan. 30: Film Screening: *Prosecutor* and Q&A with Barry Stevens
MSC Oval Theater, 7:30pm

Jan. 31: Panel Discussions 8:30am - 5:00pm, MSC 3708, 3709, 3711

Feb. 1: Panel Discussions 8:30am - 12:00pm, MSC 3708, 3709, 3711

February 6

Near Andersonville: Winslow Homer's Civil War with Dr. Peter Wood
Grace Allen Room (Library), 3:00pm

February 9 - February 11

Darwin Day with Dr. Eugenie Scott

Feb. 9: Dr. Scott's Handy-Dandy Guide to Teaching Evolution
MSC 2100C, 3:30pm

Feb. 9: Florida's "Critical Thinking" Bills: Creationism du jour?
FAH 101 (College of the Arts), 7:00pm

Feb. 10 - 11: Hillsborough County Workshops

February 15

Vonnegut and Hemingway: Writers at War with Dr. Lawrence Broer
Grace Allen Room (Library), 3:30pm reception, 4:00pm lecture

February 20

Mary Catherine Bateson
TECO Conference Hall (Education), 7:00pm

March 1

New Religions, Science, and Sustainability Mini-Conference
MSC 3707. Times and Schedule TBA. Please visit our website
for more details: <http://humanities-institute.usf.edu>

March 19 - March 21

Vision of the Apocalypse

Mar. 19: "The Ancient Maya Doomsday Prophecy: Some
Helpful Tips for Surviving the End of the World"
with Dr. Christian Wells
MSC 2707, 7:00pm

Mar. 20: Readings by Joe Haldeman and Nancy Kress
TECO Conference Hall (Education), 7:00pm

April 1 - April 30



April 2

Melanie Hubbard MSC 2707, 7:00pm

April 4

Erica Dawson MSC 3704, 7:00pm

April 9

Film Screening: *Il Postino* MSC 4200, 7:00pm

April 11

Helen Wallace MSC 2709, 7:00pm

April 13

Jon Blair USF Graphicstudio, 7:00pm

April 18

James Kimbrell Center Gallery (MSC 2700), 7:00pm

April 20

Sasenarine Persaud MSC 3708, 7:00pm

April 24

The Future is Sustainable: Poetry, Food, & Place

USF Botanical Gardens. Times and Schedule TBA
Please visit our website for more details:
<http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/poetry/>

April 25

Jennifer Clarvoe USF Graphicstudio, 7:00pm

Popular Culture: Love it or Hate it

We live in a media-saturated culture that is changing almost daily. Popular culture is often derided - yet we revel in it every day. How do we understand the impact of the popular? We plan an annual event to explore this; we began this Fall with a successful discussion of the cultural salience of the zombie, which drew well over 300 people to hear a visiting speaker and USF experts.

History, Myth and Memory

What are the lessons for humanity provided by history and archaeology? How does collective memory (or myth) shape our actions today? We will explore these questions and all the complex inter-sections between history, myth and memory, starting this Spring with an international symposium on “Violence, Memory, and Human Rights,” followed later in the semester by “Visions of the Apocalypse.”

We have an ambitious vision, which continues to take shape. We can't do it without help - not just financially, but in developing and sharing ideas.

The Power of the Poetic

John F. Kennedy once noted that poetry reminds us of “the richness and diversity of man’s existence;” the poetic voice challenges us to see the world in new and inspiring ways. The HI has celebrated National Poetry Month for years; this year, we have an especially exciting array of activities, including readings and workshops, as well as a new initiative, Poetry Matters at USF, through which USF notables will share a special poem, and explain what it means to them. Some may surprise you!

Global Identities

As the world shrinks, and USF positions itself as a global university, increasingly pressing questions present themselves. HI will offer events that speak to the

challenges and opportunities presented as the world grapples with issues of migration, ethnicity, citizenship, gender, human rights, sports, imperialism, and more.

Focus on Florida

Even though it’s often said that everyone

in Florida is from somewhere else, we really do live in a unique place, with its own distinctive history, culture, and natural environment. Starting this year, we plan to find ways to celebrate (and perhaps even critique) that uniqueness. Plans are underway for a special event next Fall that will explore the human connections with the Hillsborough River, bringing the community and university into close partnership.

We have an ambitious vision, which continues to take shape. We can’t do it without help – not just financially, but in developing and sharing ideas. The new HI Faculty Advisory Board has been a great resource for such ideas, and I thank them all for their commitment and energy. I also thank the CAS School of Humanities chairs for their support. One person needs a very special acknowledgment – HI Program Assistant Liz Kicak. Liz does it all: she designed our new look, maintains our website, and handles all the logistics of our many events with grace and style. I believe we’re becoming a great team – stop by our new offices on the fourth floor of Cooper Hall, and say hello!

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS VISIT USF

We often have the opportunity to co-sponsor events, and are delighted to help bring two distinguished scholars to USF this Spring. On Feb. 20 (7 p.m., TECO Room, Education), the Communication Department will host Mary Catherine Bateson, Professor Emerita of English and Anthropology at George Mason

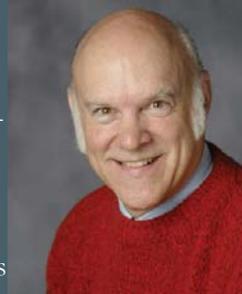


University. Her most recent book, *Composing a Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom* (Knopf, 2010) was written to raise consciousness of the changing life cycle

and encourage older adults to claim their voices. As the daughter of noted anthropologists Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, she has continued their intellectual legacy, and has written about her parents in *With a Daughter’s Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson*.

Historian Peter Wood will speak on Feb. 6 (3 – 5 p.m., Grace Allen Room, USF Library). Wood is Professor Emeritus at Duke University, and is an authority on American history, especially the Colonial and Civil War eras. He is the author of many books, including an influential text book, *Created Equal*, now in its third edition. His newest book is *Near Ander-*

sonville: Winslow Homer’s Civil War (Harvard University Press 2010), which will also be the title of his talk. The work offers a fresh view of Homer’s early career, the struggle to end slavery, and the closing years of the Civil War. His visit is co-sponsored by the departments of Anthropology, History, and Africana Studies.



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS NEW RELIGIONS, SCIENCE, AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Humanities Institute is one of several USF entities co-sponsoring the Department of Religious Studies' mini-conference on New Religious Movements on March 1, 2012. Headlining the event will be lectures by two of the world's most notable scholars of new religions: J. Gordon Melton and James R. Lewis. Melton founded the Institute for the Study of American Religion in 1968 and remains its director. Author of more than 35 books and numerous articles, Melton is a pioneering scholar in the study of new religions; he sits on the international board of the Center for Studies in New Reli-

gions (CESNUR) based in Turin, Italy, the primary academic association focusing on studies of new and alternative religions.

Lewis co-founded the International Society for the Study of New Religions and is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Tromsø in Norway. He is also an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Wales, Lampeter. His most recent publications include *Children of Jesus and Mary* (Oxford UP), *Religion and the Authority of Science* (Brill), and *Violence and New Religious Movements* (Oxford UP). He is also one of the leading scholars of UFO reli-

gions, having edited the definitive collection on the subject, *The Gods have Landed* (SUNY Press).

They will be joined by several other significant scholars in the field, including, Phillip C. Lucas (Stetson University), Dawn Hutchinson (Christopher Newport University), Ryan Cragun (University of Tampa), and several USF faculty members. All events will take place in MSC 3707, the Oak Room. The detailed schedule will be posted on the Humanities Institute website as soon as it is available.

It's 2012: THE END OF THE WORLD (AGAIN)?

Signature Theme: History, Myth, and Memory

For the last few years, the blogosphere has been buzzing with dire predictions, most notably the claim that the ancient Maya predicted the end of the world in December 2012. This scare is only one symptom of a long-standing cultural preoccupation with the apocalypse, and it seemed like a good moment to explore this theme at USF. We'll do this over a few days this Spring: March 19 – 21.

We kick off with a public talk

by Christian Wells, Associate Professor of Anthropology at USF, and a well-known scholar of ancient Maya culture. On March 19, at 7



Christian Wells

p.m. in MSC 2707, Wells will address "The Ancient Maya Doomsday prophecy: Some helpful tips for surviving the end of the world."

Says Wells, "the ancient Maya were brilliant astronomers and mathematicians, who measured the movements of the heavenly bodies with astounding accuracy. On the eve of their own demise, some 1,200 years ago, they wrote in stone

that December 21, 2012 would mark the end of their calendar—the 13th *b'ak'tun*, a time that would produce "the display of B'olon-Yokte [the ancient Maya god of war and conflict] in a great investiture." While it's not clear what the Maya meant by this, it has invited endless speculation. New Agers believe this period corresponds with a global "transformation of consciousness," while astrologers argue that the period will bring an extremely rare "galactic alignment" witnessed only once every 26,000 years. Wells will make a different argument, based on archaeological evidence, showing that predictions of a universal doomsday are not found in any classic Maya accounts.

Beginning March 20th, we're pleased to host two leading apocalyptic science fiction writers: Joe Haldeman and Nancy Kress. Haldeman, who teaches science fiction writing workshops at Mas-

sachusetts Institute of Technology, is the author of nearly 30 novels and short story



Joe Haldeman

collections. His work has won numerous awards and his 1998 novel, *Forever Peace*, won the Hugo, Nebula, and John W. Campbell Award.

Nancy Kress has authored 26 novels and collections and often focuses on the topic of genetic engineering. She has won several Hugo and Nebula Awards and her novel, *Probability Space*, won the 2003 John W. Campbell Award.



Nancy Kress

Both authors are experts in the particular subset of science fiction literature that addresses the apocalypse and will treat audiences to a reading on March 20, at 7 p.m. in the TECO Room (Education Building). On March 20 and 21, they will be visiting USF classes to discuss their writing techniques, genre-specific ideas, and cultivating creativity. Additional events may be added, so be sure to check the Humanities Institute website. Special thanks to Dr. Rick Wilber and the Department of Mass Communications for their support of these events.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2012

Signature Theme: *The Power of the Poetic*

It's a familiar story—resources are shrinking and organizations are facing tough decisions. This was almost another one of those stories. In 1996 the Academy of American Poets launched a nationwide initiative called National Poetry Month. Every April schools, libraries, publishers,

and literary organizations host readings, workshops, and festivals to promote the vital

role of poetry in American society. The Humanities Institute has a long tradition of supporting NPM with a month-long series of public readings but this year's budget presented us with a challenge. We (reluctantly) accepted the reality that this year's NPM would be modest—fewer

events but still of excellent quality. Thanks to the enormous help of Dr. Jay Hopley from the Department of English, we began asking poets to consider reducing their fees, looked for funding opportunities, and new partnerships. An amazing thing happened—poets began

volunteering their time, we found groups eager to be involved and even scraped together some money. The calendar slowly started to fill. Then, it overflowed. Somehow, in the midst of the worse financial drought the Institute has ever seen, we found ourselves struggling to accommodate the wealth of talent suddenly at our

fingertips.

This year, National Poetry Month at USF will be the largest NPM celebration in the state. In twenty-five days, we will host eight readings, two lectures, four workshops, a film screening, and a new day-long event called, "The Future is



National Poetry Month 2012

Sustainable: Poetry, Place, & Food."

This event is designed to highlight the

intersection of place, visual, written, and performance art. Dr. Sara Dykins Callahan and students from her "Regions of America" class will be using the Poetry Garden in the USF Botanical Gardens as their stage for their yearend performances. Students will be presenting critically-

2012 Guest Poets

Melanie Hubbard

Erica Dawson

Helen Wallace

Jon Blair

James Kimbrell

Sasenarine Persaud

Jennifer Clarvoe

inflected oral interpretations of place-based poetry, and Ethics of Food Production students will be presenting their Harvest and Pot Luck, as well as performance art works that challenge the sociocultural meanings and ritual practices of food production and consumption in the United States. The day will conclude with an evening lecture by Scott Russell Sanders. Sanders' writing examines the human place in nature, the pursuit of social justice, the relation between culture and geography, and the search for a spiritual path.

Another new addition to NPM is

a screening of *Il Postino: The Postman*. This 1994 film stars Philippe Noiret, Massimo Troisi, and Maria Grazia Cucinotta and was nominated for five Academy Awards. Noiret plays Pablo Neruda, who is living as a political exile on a small island, while Troisi plays the role of Mario Ruoppolo—a poorly educated man hired to deliver Neruda's mail. Ruoppolo falls in love, both with a local beauty and with poetry, and forges a powerful friendship with Neruda.

While there are several new events as part of this year's NPM, we are continuing the tradition of hosting some of the nation's leading poets for public readings. We're delighted to welcome eight incredibly talented poets to USF throughout the month: Melanie Hubbard, Erica Dawson, Helen Wallace, Jon Blair, James Kimbrell, Sasenarine Persaud, and Jennifer Clarvoe. Each poet will give a public reading and conduct a workshop with advanced poetry students. These talented poets have won numerous awards and, collectively, have published nearly twenty books.

Simply put, NPM is jam packed with great events. It even has its own webpage this year: <http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/poetry>. Here you can find biographies for our guest poets, event descriptions, times, and room locations. Special thanks to the Florida Humanities Council, the Florida Book Awards, the USF Department of English, Botanical Gardens, and Office of Sustainability for their support.

POETRY MATTERS AT USF

One of the goals of National Poetry Month is to demonstrate the influence that poetry has on individual lives, which is why we are happy to introduce "Poetry Matters at USF." Through this program, USF notables, such as faculty, staff, and board members, will have the opportunity to share one of their favorite poems and explain why it holds special significance. The poems may be published or unpublished, famous or obscure. Poems and their responses will be posted throughout the month of April on our website: <http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/poetry/> Check in regularly to see which USF Bulls are featured and what poems matter to them.

University of South Florida

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FALL 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

In Fall 2011, the Humanities Institute conducted and co-sponsored ten events in areas such as film, art, history, music, literature, and cultural studies.

Nearly 1,500 people attended Humanities Institute events last semester.



Technical Theater students from CoTA practice their stage makeup skills by doing zombie makeovers on volunteers.



A panel of zombie experts field audience questions as part of *Brain(s) Matter: Zombies in Contemporary Culture*. This event saw over 300 people in two days.



The USF Jazz Ensemble entertains a large crowd at Stampede of Culture.



Dr. Gaëtan Brulotte outlines his research on the Québec short story.



Dr. Bruce Burgett explains “public humanities” and how a university and its community can mutually benefit one another.