### HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

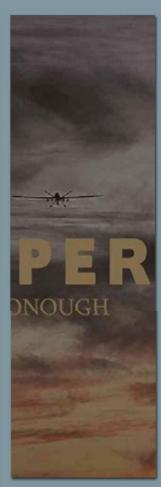
Challenge. Create. Connect

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA











## Spring **2017**

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 11

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the Director
- 3 Blind Date with a Book
- 4 Black Lives Matter in Age of Trump
- 5 Resident Scholar, Peter Balakian
- 6 17th Century Medicine & Murder
- 7 Video Activism in Neoliberal Age
- 7 Graduate Education Conference

- 8 Poet, Jill McDonough
- 8 The Smithsonian at Sulphur Springs
- 9 Humanities & Hops
- 9 Graduate Interns Talk Climate Change
- 10 Spring 2017 Calendar
- 11 Support the Humanities Inst.

#### USF HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107 Tampa, FL 33620

www.humanities-institute.usf.edu

#### **STAFF**

DIRECTOR: LIZ KICAK, M.F.A. ekicak@usf.edu

PROGRAM ASSISTANT: MALLORY DANLEY mdanley@usf.edu

GRADUATE ASSISTANT: LORRAINE MONTEAGUT Imonteagut@mail.usf.edu

#### FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

Charles Adams, Honors College

NANCY CUNNINGHAM, USF Library

KARLA DAVIS-SALAZAR, Global Citizens Project

ANNE KOENIG, History

STEPHAN SCHINDLER, World Languages

### From the Director: Looking Forward to 2017

It's a new year and I suspect many of you, like me, couldn't say farewell to 2016 soon enough. It seemed like it was the year that just kept giving...one awful gift after another. Cultural icons died, an election divided our country, and violence continues to erupt both at home and abroad. So what do we have to look forward to in 2017?

Everything. We have everything to look forward to this year. In spite of (or perhaps because of) the uncertainty of our world we are seeing a rebirth of social activism and civic engagement, including art and literature that tackles deeply unsettling topics. You do not have to look far to see people, especially young people, working to make the world better. From Standing Rock to USF courtyards, people are opposing inequality, violence, exploitation, and bigotry.

The University of South Florida, like so many



other campuses across the nation, is trying to find its voice and leadership responsibility in this volatile time. President Genshaft joined more than 450 college and university presidents from public and private institutions to send a strong public statement

of support of the DACA Program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) which defers removal proceedings for eligible individuals who came to the U.S. while under the age of 16, are enrolled in school, have graduated high school, or have been honorably discharged from the armed services. The DACA Program ensures that lawful individuals who were brought to the U.S. as children can continue their USF education. Additionally, nearly 1,100 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community advocates have signed a letter pledging support for our vulnerable student populations and calling on the administration to provide resources as needed.

The humanities have taught us how to act in times like these. It is through our understanding of history, ethics, literature, art, gender studies, race relations, politics, and social movements that we know how to express our beliefs, advocate for them, and respectfully debate them. Universities are often the incubators of exceptional discussion, action, and change. This is not to imply that they are places of agreement; disagreement is inevitable and healthy when it is rooted in truth and respect for one another.

The humanities provide scaffolding for how to respond to current events but they also provide a needed respite from the weight of anxiety and anger. The December 6 edition of *Literary Hub*, an online literary news partnership, published an essay by Matthew Zapruder

called "Poetry and Poets in a Time of Crisis." It was so moving that I wish we could reprint the entire essay here; instead I will share the parts I think are most relevant to the work we do at the Humanities Institute and post the link to the full article:

http://lithub.com/poetry-and-poets-in-a-time-of-crisis/#

Zapruder invokes Wallace Stevens' claim that poetry helps us "resist the pressure of the real." Regardless of political ideology, we all experience the endless drone of news, social media, and discussion leaving so many of us exhausted, discouraged, and afraid. Zapruder claims that poetry (and I would argue other arts) provide relief from the noise by preserving space for our imagination. The goal is not to avoid "the pressure of the real" but to "preserve within ourselves the necessary space of imagination, possibility, humanity, love, a space that can help us live our lives."

In addition to providing us a desperately needed space to recharge, Zapruder argues that imagination may be the tool that helps bridge these great divides between so many people.

> It seems to me that results of this election, and the widespread refusal to acknowledge obvious truths about the problems that face us, are not

due to ignorance or lack of information. It is not that people have not been told enough times what our problems are, and what we need to do about them. People do not disbelieve in inequality or racism or global warming because they have not been informed: they disbelieve because they cannot or choose not to imagine it. They are cruel because to them, others have become an abstraction, and cannot be truly imagined.

So I look towards this semester with a desire to balance the task of engaging with "the pressure of the real" and providing a space where we can restore our energy and drive to tangle with tough issues in what is sure to be a marathon not a sprint. It's tempting to stay in the safe space of either avoiding difficult issues or only talking about them with people who already agree with us, but let's all commit to reaching out to the "other" not as abstractions. The ideas at the core of the humanities are undergoing a necessary and overdue resurgence. I hope we all deepen our knowledge of current events and the cultural and social forces behind them. Then let's take it a step further and cultivate more than information; let's cultivate imagination.

### Date with a Book





In an effort to improve our engagement with students, we hosted "Blind Date with a Book" outside the library this September. We collected over 100 literary-quality books of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction and wrapped them in plain brown paper to obscure any identifying information. HI staff then wrote a "dating profile" from the point of view of the book and students were encouraged to find their "perfect (literary) match" and select a free book. Due to the overwhelming positive response, we have set a goal of distributing 300 free books to students this semester. Do you have bookshelves in need of a good cleanout? We are happily accepting donations of used books and will do our best to put them in a healthy, loving relationship as part of "Blind Date with a Book." For any additional information please contact Mallory Danley, the Humanities Institute Program Assistant, at mdanley@usf.edu or 813-974-2913.

# Black Lives Matter in the Age of a Trump Presidency

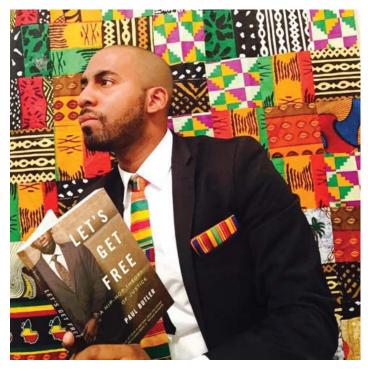
The Institute is proud to launch its Spring 2017 lineup with Frank Leon Roberts on Jan. 24. Recently referred to by Dr. Cornel West as one of the "powerhouse intellectuals" of his generation, Frank Leon Roberts is an educator and political organizer on the frontlines of the contemporary movement for black lives. He is the Creator of Black Lives Matter Syllabus, the nationally acclaimed, public educational curriculum that provides resources for teaching BLM in classroom and community settings. Frank's pioneering work as the "Black Lives Matter Professor" has been featured in *Fader Magazine*, NPR, CNN, *The San Francisco Gate*, CBS and an extensive variety of other national media outlets.

During his visit to USF, Roberts will meet with faculty and graduate assistants to discuss how to productively discuss racial inequality in the classroom. Later he will give a public talk entitled, "After Obama: Notes on Black Lives Matter in the Age of a Trump Presidency." This self-described "teach-in style talk" promises to be an important and inspiring event.

"As the era of America's first black president draws to a close, the nation finds itself in a moment of a renewed racial crisis," Roberts says. "From the rallying cries of "Black Lives Matter," to national proposals calling for a ban on Muslims entering the United States; to the struggles of indigenous peoples in Standing Rock, North Dakota—the ongoing spectacle of racial inequity continues to arrest the development of American democracy."

Roberts will discuss what the age of Donald Trump might mean for the future of the American left, the movement for black lives, and for the future of American democracy more broadly.

Roberts is on the faculty at New York University and is committed to the idea of teaching as a form of community organizing. His courses continue to make headlines as national interventions and his work inspires audiences to use the energy of today and the teachings of yesterday to create a world that works for everyone. His forthcoming book, *Black Lives Matter Syllabus: Key Writings from the Movement for Black Lives* is currently under review at The University of California Press.



He will speak at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 24, in CWY 206, with a reception to follow.

#### The Origins of #BlackLivesMatter

Following the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman for the murder of Trayvon Martin, Alicia Garza posted a "love letter to black people" on Facebook. She wrote, "Black people, I love you. I love us. We matter. Our lives matter. Black lives matter." Her friends and fellow community organizers, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, helped transform this message of love into one of the world's most recognizable social media tags. This hashtag turned social movement has a wonderful website explaining their purpose and goals as well as providing resources for local chapters: "Black Lives Matter affirms the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, black-undocumented folks, folks with records, women and all Black lives along the gender spectrum. It centers those that have been marginalized within Black liberation movements. It is a tactic to (re)build the Black liberation movement."

(http://blacklivesmatter.com/about/)

## Pulitzer Winner for Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence

This spring, the Institute is proud to welcome Peter Balakian as our Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence the week of Feb. 13. Balakian has a diverse background in



poetry, memoir, translation, history, and international affairs, making him an ideal candidate to work with stu-

In 2016, Balakian won the Pulitzer Prize for his poetry collection, *Ozone Journal*, which is praised for its historical depth and meticulously documented detail. The collection is a vivid journey through the personal and the political. The long title poem is a sequel to Balakian's acclaimed "A Train-Ziggurat Elegy" (2010). His persona excavates the remains of Armenian genocide survivors in the Syrian Desert and remembers New York City in the 1980s, ravaged by the AIDS crisis, the precarious context for his personal struggles against loss and catastrophe. His poems traverse wide swaths of time and space, from Native American villages of New Mexico to the slums of Nairobi, to the Armenian-Turkish borderland. With sensual language and lyrical insight, they call forth the danger and beauty of contemporary life.

During his time at USF, Balakian will be visiting classes in English, Sociology, Africana Studies, and the Honors College. Additionally, he will be spending time

# His poems traverse wide swaths of time and space, from Native American villages of New Mexico, to the slums of Nairobi to the Armenian-Turkish borderland.

dents in a number of different academic disciplines. He is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English and Director of Creative Writing at Colgate University. His memoir, *Black Dog of Fate*, is winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir and a *New York Times* Notable Book. His nonfiction book, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, won the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and a *New York Times* Notable Book.

Additionally, Balakian's prizes and awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship; National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship; Emily Clark Balch Prize for poetry; Movses Khorenatsi Medal from the Republic of Armenia (2007); the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Book Award (1998); Daniel Varoujan Prize, New England Poetry Club (1986); and Anahid Literary Prize, Columbia University Armenian Center (1990).

with the Digital Heritage work group in the USF Library which is actively working to save ancient churches in Armenia.

Balakian will give a poetry reading at 6 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 16, in CWY 206 with a reception and book signing to follow.

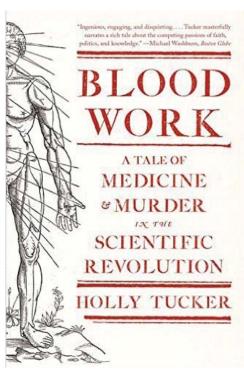


OZONE JOURNAL

PETER BALAKIAN

## Medicine & Murder in the Scientific Revolution

There was a scientific battle underway in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. The French and the English were in a medical arms race to see who could solve the mystery of successful blood transfusions. Their efforts sparked fierce debates, heated rivalries, and raised profound



and history. She also works closely with colleagues across the Vanderbilt campus to build bridges between the humanities and the Medical School. She is the recipient of Vanderbilt's Chancellor's Award for Research and is currently completing an MPH in Global Health at Vanderbilt.

Blood Work was a Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist in Science and Technology. The book was also named a Best Book of 2011 by the Times Literary Supplement and the Seattle Times as well as garnering Honorable Mention in the general nonfiction category from the American Society of Journalists and Authors. The book was published in Japan, China, and Taiwan—where it won the China Times Book Award (Taiwan). Her newest book, City of Light, City of Poison: Murder, Magic, and the First Police Chief of Paris, will be released in March and is available for preorder through W.W. Norton.

# How do social fears about the history of blood transfusion fit within the context of the modern stem cell research debate?

questions about human nature and mortality. On March 28, Holly Tucker will explore this fascinating chapter in medical history and philosophy in her talk, "Blood Work: A Tale of Murder & Medicine in the Scientific Revolution." Her book, by the same name, is much more than a simple historical recounting. It asks fundamental questions and positions them in relation to contemporary medical issues. How far should science go toward solving our problems? How are bioethics embedded in contemporary literature? How do social fears about the history of blood transfusion fit within the context of the modern stem cell research debate?

Tucker holds appointments as Professor of French & Italian and in the Center for Biomedical Ethics & Society at Vanderbilt University. Her teaching interests include narrative medicine, medicine and literature, early history of medicine, and early-modern culture Tucker will speak at 6 p.m.,
Tuesday, March
28, in CWY 206,
with a reception
and book signing
to follow.

This event is supported by a grant from USF ResearchOne.





## Video Activism in a Neoliberal Age

The Arab Spring. Occupy Wall Street. Black Lives Matter. Stand With Standing Rock. In the last few years, we have seen a new wave of video activism, as civilians



around the world engage in citizen journalism to cut through the stratified media landscape and create global communities of support for their causes. Witness videos, often recorded on smartphone cameras, proliferate on social media, providing a counterpoint to mass media and the

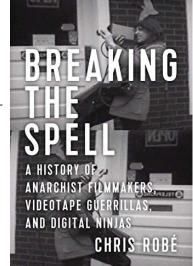
surveillance state. This kind of activism has acted as a corrective to the failures of corporate news organizations to cover everyday concerns and injustices, and on many occasions, it has proven to be an effective tool for organizing social resistance and political reform.

In his talk, "Breaking the Spell: The Rise of Video Activism in a Neoliberal Age," Chris Robé will address the role of this kind of media in our social and political systems. Robé is an associate professor in Film and Media Studies at Florida Atlantic University. His research concerns the use of media by various activist groups in their quest for a more equitable world. He contends that in the 21st century, media does not simply offer a representational platform for disenfranchised

voices, but more importantly serves as a material practice to engage in collective struggles for equity, justice, and more sustainable systems.

Robé publishes widely on radical media in various journals like *Jump Cut*, *Framework: Journal* 

of Cinema and Media, and Journal of Film and Video and has written two books: Left of Hollywood: Cinema, Modernism, and the Emergence of U.S. Radical Film Culture (2010) and Breaking The Spell: A History of Anarchist Filmmakers, Videotape Guerrillas, and Digital Ninjas (2017).



His current work concerns state repression,

surveillance, and video activism regarding animal rights campaigns, copwatch and community organizing among working-class communities of color, counter-summit protesting, and anti-Muslim-American surveillance and resistances to it. In his spare time, he works for his faculty union.

Robé will speak at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 13, in CWY 206, with a reception and book signing to follow.

### Graduate Education Conference

**Re-Shaping the Future of Graduate Education in the Humanities:** Feb 9 & 10, 2017

The Humanities Institute is proud to support the Department of English and the English Graduate Student Association's important conference on the future of humanities graduate studies. The symposium will be held at the Patel Center for Global Solutions and aims to create a space where students, faculty, and administrators engage in scholarly conversations that contribute to developing a graduate educational experience that reinforces the value of obtaining a humanities degree.

Join in the efforts to re-build graduate programs that contribute to society in ways that push the boundaries of the customary career track for graduates.

The symposium will include keynote addresses and roundtable discussions with speakers from multiple disciplines to include History, Anthropology, Women's and Gender Studies, Philosophy, and English, among others. Sessions and workshops will focus on job placement, grad activism, digital humanities, dissertation development, curriculum reform, and more. Please go to http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/reshape/ for more information on the conference and to register.

# The Things that Really Matter: Poet, Jill McDonough

April showers...and final exams, thesis deadlines, mountains of grading, and the welcome relief of poetry. This April, as part of National Poetry Month, the Institute is



pleased to welcome Jill McDonough for a poetry reading on Thursday, April 20.

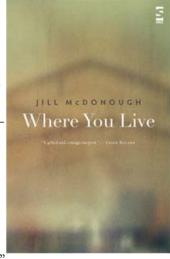
McDonough is the author of three books of poetry including *Habeas* 

Corpus (2008), Oh, James! (2012), and Where You Live (2012). Her newest collection, Reaper, will be released in April, 2017. She was awarded the 2014 Lannan Fellowship and is a three-time Pushcart Prize winner. She is also the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fine Arts Work Center, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and Stanford's Stegner program. McDonough taught incarcerated college students through Boston University's Prison Education Program for thirteen years. She

currently teaches poetry at UMass-Boston and directs 24PearlStreet, the online writing program at the Fine Arts Work Center.

McDonough "focuses on the things that really

matter," says Wendy Lesser, editor of *The Threepenny Review. Where You Live* is a mix of lesbian love-poems, conversations, intimate jokes, prisons, and bars. There are stories from familiar figures—Cary Grant, Charles Darwin, Sappho, and strangers—prison inmates Julie and Andrea, friends, lovers. Her work explores "how our bodies have occupied the world and how we have occupied our bodies," Lesser says.



McDonough will read at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 20, in TECO Hall (Education Building), with a reception and book signing to follow.

### The Smithsonian at Sulphur Springs

HI is pleased to partner with the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center as it hosts the "Water/Ways" exhibit, brought through the Smithsonian's Museums on Mainstreet Program. This exciting, multi-media exhibit explores the endless motion of water on Earth's surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, showing its impact on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality.

USF anthropologist Elizabeth Bird wrote the grant to the Florida Humanities Council, which funds the program, and secured additional FHC funding for an event series to complement the 6-week exhibit run. Anthropology doctoral student Vivian Gornik has created a local exhibit, "Sulphur Springs: An Enduring Legacy," that will launch the museum's life in its new

building at Mann-Wagnon Park on the banks of the Hillsborough River. The museum, located in a neighborhood often known for crime and poverty, aims to help instill pride in the community's unique heritage.

The first activity is Saturday, Feb. 4: Grand Opening of "Water/Ways," with a 12 noon ribbon-cutting, featuring anthropologist and Sulphur Springs expert Antoinette Jackson, followed by an open house until 4 p.m., with food, prizes, and community organizations.

Eight additional events focused on social and natural history, are scheduled throughout February and March. For more information about the museum and its programs, visit http://www.sulphurspringsmuseum.org/ or contact Elizabeth Bird at ebird@usf.edu.

# Humanities & Hops: A New Classic



One of the areas of focus for Fall 2016 was to expand the Institute's reach into the community. Thanks to partnerships with a couple local businesses and USF faculty who volunteer their time and expertise, we've founded a great new series called "Humanities & Hops." Southern Brewing and Winemaking, a local brewery in Seminole Heights, reserves their beautiful outdoor garden to host an evening of community-friendly faculty research presentations and audience discussion around a broad, central topic. A food truck is on site and the atmosphere is casual and fun. Both of our fall events had crowds of over 70 people; it's a great way to support local businesses, meet new people, and learn about the fascinating work being done by USF faculty.

Since the idea of good beer, good food, and

good conversation resonated with many people, we have scheduled two events for Spring 2017:

**Tuesday, Jan. 31:** "What's New with Religion These Days?" will feature James Cavendish (Sociology), John Napora (Religious Studies), and Jim Strange (Religious Studies).

Tuesday, Feb. 28: In "The Process of Gender," Jennifer Boson (Psychology) will discuss her work on beliefs about masculinity and its implications and Sara Crawley (Sociology) will explain how "We are All Trans." We still need one more faculty member to join this panel. If you would like to talk about how your work deals with issues of gender, please contact Liz Kicak at ekicak@usf.edu.

## Fall Interns Talk Climate Change

Amy Bolick (M.A. candidate in English) and Faruk Rahmanovic (Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy) spent the fall semester interning with the Humanities Institute learning about non-profit management, event planning, and higher ed administration. For their final project, interns were expected to plan an event on a topic of their choosing, and Bolick and Rahmanovic put together an excellent panel to discuss climate change issues and how they will affect the Tampa Bay area. Bringing together experts from Philosophy, the Honors College, and Tampa Bay Water, the interns' project demonstrated how leaders both within the university and in the community can collaborate together on the theoretical and practical implications of this critical issue. We're very proud of the work Amy and Faruk did and wish them well!

## Spring 2017 Calendar

Jan. 24 Tue. 6pm **CWY 206**  FRANK LEON ROBERTS: After Obama: Notes on Black Lives Matter in the Age of a Trump Presidency Followed by a reception

Mar. 28 Tue. 6pm CWY 206

HOLLY TUCKER: Blood Work: Medicine & Murder in the Scientific Revolution Followed by a reception and book signing

lan. 31 Tue. 7pm SBCo.

HUMANITIES & HOPS: What's New with Religion These Days? Refreshments will be served

Apr. 13 Thu. 6pm CWY 206

CHRIS ROBÉ: Breaking the Spell: Video Activism in a Neoliberal Age Followed by a reception and book signing

Feb. 16 Thu. 6pm CWY 206

PETER BALAKIAN: Distinguished Scholarin-Residence, Poetry Reading Followed by a reception and book signing

Apr. 20 Thu. 6pm TECO Hall

**JILL McDonough: Poetry Reading** Followed by a reception and book signing

Feb. 28 Tue. 7pm SBCo.

HUMANITIES & HOPS: The Process of Gender Refreshments will be served



This semester's events are co-sponsored by

the Osher Life Long Learning Institute

#### WHERE IS THAT BUILDING?

CWY: C.W. Bill Young Hall is the ROTC building located between the Recreation Center and the Tennis Courts on Maple Drive.

GAR: The Grace Allen Room is located on the 4th floor of the USF Library. Exit the elevators and go through the door on the left marked "Special Collections."

TECO Hall: This room is located on the 1st floor of the College of Education near the USF Library.

#### WHERE DO I PARK?

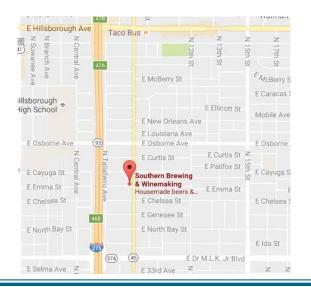
All venues are convenient to visitor parking areas with automated pay-by-space machines. Download a visitor parking map at:

www.usf.edu/parking



**BREWING & WINEMAKING** 

Humanities & Hops: 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, 33603



Help the Humanities Institute Grow!



Dear Friends,

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Institute has been able to thrive despite the difficult financial climate faced by most humanities centers nationwide.

We are committed to growing the Institute—increasing campus participation, supporting faculty research, and expanding the reach of our public programs. We believe that it is more important than ever to provide the community with a forum for discussion and generating new ideas through scholarship and cross-disciplinary inquiry.

Since our founding, we have been committed to making our programs available to the public at no cost because we know the humanities are a public good and access should be never restricted to only those with means. Thanks to the USF Office of Research, the Institute receives a dollar-for-dollar match on donations so your money goes further than ever before!

Please consider becoming a patron of the Humanities Institute. It's never been easier to make a donation and have an impact on your community. You can donate by check, using the attached envelope and the bottom of this form. Checks can be made payable to the "USF Foundation: Humanities Institute." You can also donate online by visiting our website: http://humanities-institute.usf.edu and selecting the "Donate to the Humanities Institute" link.

#### The Institute receives a dollar-for-dollar match on donations.

#### What your donation can do:

- \$250 can fund a lecture by an up-and-coming academic
- \$500 can fund a graduate student's presentation at a national conference
- \$1,000 can cover the travel expenses for a guest speaker
- \$2,000 can pay the honorarium of a nationally known scholar
- \$10,000 can fund a reading by a Pulitzer Prize winning author

Thank you for your support!

Elizabeth Kicak M.F.A., Director

Yes! I want to support the Humanities Institute.	Enclosed is my financial	closed is my financial gift of \$		
res: I want to support the Humanities institute.	Enclosed is my imaneial	. giτ στ ψ		
First Name:	Last Name:			_
Address:	City:	State:	Zip code:	
			zap eouer	
Email:	Phone:			

The University of South Florida Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization soliciting tax-deductible private contributions for the benefit of the University of South Florida. The Foundation is registered to solicit charitable contributions with the appropriate governing authorities in all states requiring registration. The organization is located at 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC 100, Tampa, FL 33620. Financial and other information about the University of South Florida Foundation's purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by contacting Manager of Central Records, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC 100, Tampa, FL 33620 or by calling (813) 974-9110. If you are a resident of any of the following states, please review the applicable, required disclosure statement. FLORIDA: SC No. 59-0879015 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA OR VIA THE INTERNET AT WWW.800HELPFLA.COM.



USF Humanities Institute 4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR107 Tampa, FL 33620

www.humanities-institute.usf.edu