



BYU Humanities Center

2021-2022 Newsletter



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Statement from the Director

Matthew Wickman

In a poem from his beautiful collection *Bower Lodge*, Paul J. Pastor imagines himself as a sculpture emerging from marble: “My block used to be so much something / I was nothing, slab of rigid possibility, / stone that could not live until potential / had all been chunked away.” What struck me when I first read this poem was how it inverts a customary idea about potential that informs university life, namely that potential is a function of growth: more knowledge, more skill, more opportunity. In Pastor’s vision, by contrast, actualization is a product of loss: loss of marble, of mass, and of endless (and as yet unexpressed) possibility. But with this loss, paradoxically, comes more distinctiveness, more personality, more form. Every sculpture is a kind of survivor, a product of what has been taken away all around it.

I’ve been thinking about this principle lately at personal as well as institutional levels. As I conclude my ten-year term as founding director of the BYU Humanities Center, and as I enter the third act of my career, it’s been dawning on me how I’m beginning to run out of future. At the same time, I reflect with so much gratitude on past opportunities, choices, and (mostly) people that have led me to where I find myself personally and professionally—that have, in effect, coaxed the specific shape of my life out of the messy marble of my circumstances.

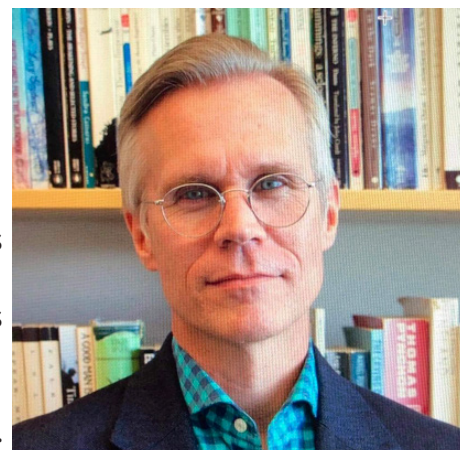
As for the BYU Humanities Center, I marvel when I recall its frenetic first few years of existence. Our experimental approach, scattershot of initiatives, and false starts gradually gave way to a cleaner vision of our mission as a research institute at a religious university that embraces faith as well as intellect, and that seeks what is good and full as well as what is new. I have met extraordinary people from universities worldwide, had my mind opened again and again by the brilliance and all-around goodness

of scholars across multiple fields, and have come to appreciate the wonderful friendship of so many colleagues and students.

Our annual themes over the years tell a story about the center’s development.

Our first year, trying to identify the present zeitgeist, we chose “States of the Humanities: New Keywords.” This was followed in later years by themes focusing on innovation, the work (or labor) of art, vulnerability, and more. A recent theme that resulted in publication and has generated a lot of follow-up interest is “Faith after the Anthropocene,” exploring the resources religion prospectively brings to climate crisis. This past year, we chose a theme expressive of our perpetual sense of wonder and possibility. We labeled it, simply, “On Belief.”

My overwhelming feeling as I conclude my term is one of gratitude. I’m grateful for one dean, John Rosenberg, who initiated the center and for another, Scott Miller, who earned it ongoing university support. I’m grateful for colleagues across the college who have given life to the center and for students who have enhanced its quality and reach. I’m grateful to dozens of guests we’ve brought to campus who have made us smarter and to peers across the university sector who make us better. And I thank you, cherished friends, for your support of the humanities and the vision and promise of higher education at BYU.



Humanities Center Fellows



Earl Brown

Earl Kjar Brown works as an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics. He received a PhD in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of New Mexico in 2008, and his doctoral thesis was published in the LINCOM Studies in Romance Linguistics series in 2009. His research agenda centers on the quantification of language variation, especially in Spanish. In most of this research, he employs the acoustic software Praat and uses the corpus linguistics techniques of text searching, data manipulation, and statistical analysis with the programming languages R, Python and Julia. Some of his research has appeared in the journals *Language Variation and Change*, *International Journal of Bilingualism*, *Journal of Linguistic Geography*, *Journal of Research Design and Statistics in Linguistics and Communication Science*, and *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*.

Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson is associate professor of English and a writing teacher. His book *Teaching Mindful Writers*, published in 2020, lays out a new pedagogy for helping writing students build metacognitive abilities. His work has been published in a number of venues in rhetoric and writing studies; his book *Trained Capacities*, co-edited with Greg Clark, brings together scholarship related to John Dewey and democratic practice. He teaches courses in GE writing, film studies, and advanced style. He serves as coordinator of the Writing Across the Curriculum program.



Francesca Lawson

Dr. Francesca R. Sborgi Lawson is the Humanities Professor of Ethnomusicology and a professor in the Department of Comparative Arts and Letters at Brigham Young University. She received a B.M. degree in harp performance from Brigham Young University, an M.A. degree in ethnomusicology from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Washington in Seattle. She conducted research on the inter-relationships of language and music in the narrative arts of Tianjin, China as a Fulbright-Hays and National Academy of Sciences Research Fellow. Her first book, *The Narrative Arts of Tianjin: Between Music and Language*, was published by Ashgate Press in January 2011, and her second book, *The Women of Quyi: Liminal Voices and Androgynous Bodies*, was published in 2017 by Routledge.



Brian Price

Brian Price is Professor of Spanish American Literature and Culture. Before joining the faculty at BYU, he completed doctoral work at the University of Texas at Austin and taught at Wake Forest University. His areas of scholarly interest include 20th and 21st-century Mexican literary, film, and cultural studies; Latin America's historical novel; comparative literature; and rock and roll. He is the author of *Cult of Defeat in Mexico's Historical Fiction: Failure, Trauma, and Loss* (2012), editor of *Asaltos a la historia: reimaginando la ficción histórica hispanoamericana* (2014), and coeditor of *TransLatin Joyce: Global Transmissions in Ibero-American Literature* (2014) and *The Lost Cinema of Mexico: From Lucha Libre to Cine Familiar and Other Churros* (2022). He is currently completing two book projects on the way that rock music transformed Mexican literature and cinema. Over the last couple of years, Brian has spent a fair amount of his spare time practicing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Humanities Center Fellows



Laura Catharine Smith

Laura Catharine Smith, an associate professor of Germanic Linguistics, joined the faculty in 2004 after earning a joint PhD in Theoretical and Germanic Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Laura regularly teaches classes in phonetics, the structure and history of German, and seminars on proficiency, second language acquisition, experimental linguistics, and older Germanic languages. She enjoys helping students develop their academic writing skills. Laura serves as co-editor for the sister series, (Open) Studies in Germanic Linguistics (LSP and Benjamins respectively) and is on the Executive Board for the Society of Germanic Linguistics.

Paul Westover

Paul Westover joined the BYU English Department in 2008 after completing a Ph.D. at Indiana University. He specializes in British Romanticism, literary geography, and the history of literary tourism. Paul is the author of *Necromanticism: Traveling to Meet the Dead, 1750–1860* (Palgrave, 2012) and co-editor, with Ann Wierda Rowland, of *Transatlantic Literature and Author Love in the Nineteenth Century* (Palgrave, 2016). Over the last several years, Paul has collaborated with some terrific colleagues and students on two major electronic critical editions: *William Wordsworth's Guide to the Lakes* (published by Romantic Circles in 2012, revised in 2020) and *Dorothy Wordsworth's Lake District* (forthcoming). He was also a book-review editor for the *Journal of British Studies*. Paul teaches, among other things, courses in post-1800 Anglophone literature, and currently he supervises our BYU interns at the Wordsworth Trust.



Special Projects & One-Year Appointments

Marc Yamada

Marc Yamada received a BA in Japanese and International Relations and a MA in Comparative Literature from Brigham Young University and a PhD in Japanese Literature & Culture from UC Berkeley. Marc has published articles and books on modern Japanese literature, film, and manga. He is the recipient of a Fulbright fellowship, a scholarship from The Japanese Ministry of Education, and a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from the US Department of Education. His current work takes up interconnections between the bodies of filmmakers, subjects, and audiences worldwide.



Mary Eyring

Mary Eyring is an Associate Professor of English and American Studies. She specializes in the early American period. This year, a Humanities Center fellowship allowed her to finish a manuscript titled *Saltwater: Globalizing Early American Grief*, which proposes that the sources of most grief in early America were not events—such as death and other crises—but minor, chronic, mostly invisible afflictions that left people mourning out of tempo with each other and so did not trigger familiar rituals of grief central to the delineation of nations and the perpetuation of families. This suffering has mostly slipped beneath notice, but it shaped early American life in profound ways. In chapters on homelessness, disability, miscarriage and stillbirth, and unhappy marriages, she reads early American documents with an ear for the thrum of mundane pain rather than the cacophony of catastrophe.



Eliza R. Snow Undergraduate Fellows

Heather Bergeson

Heather Bergeson was born and raised in Utah County and has spent much of her childhood and adult life taking full advantage of the mountains and national parks Utah is famous for. Heather is a senior majoring in English and minoring in editing and creative writing. At BYU, Heather spent five semesters volunteering as an editor and as editor-in-chief for *Criterion: A Journal of Literary Criticism*, which helped her discover her passion for editorial work. She's also worked as a reference assistant in the HBLL, interned for the *New Era* (now *For the Strength of Youth*) magazine at LDS Church Publications, and now works as a writer/editor on the Digital Media and Communications team for the College of Humanities. Living through COVID-19 in an empty apartment prompted Heather to try her hand at many new hobbies, including playing the guitar, road biking, and binge-watching tv shows. She hopes to continue growing her list of interesting personality traits and will pursue a career in writing and editing after her graduation in the spring.



LeeAnn Broderick

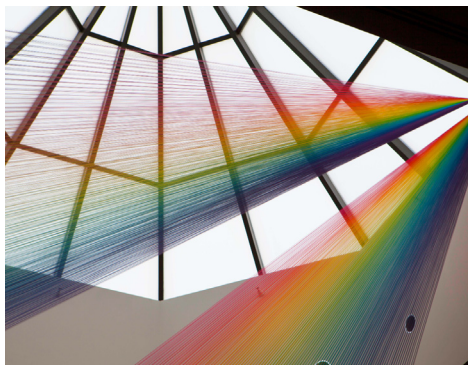
LeeAnn Broderick was raised on farmlands of central Illinois. Her childhood there instilled a deep love for rain and the seemingly endless green fields. She discovered her two great academic loves, French and art history, while in high school, and hasn't been able to let go of them since. Her favorite areas of study are French fairy tales and religious images of women from the Renaissance period. Although she hasn't been able to actually travel to France yet, she hopes to be able to put her studies to use there soon. LeeAnn works as a research assistant at the BYU Library and as a student educator at the BYU Museum of Art, and she loves the opportunities these jobs give her to use both of her fields. She loves learning about other cultures, and tries to explore different media from around the world as often as possible in her free time. You can also often catch her watching movies with her roommates or reading the newest fantasy novel in her growing book collection.



Jarom Hickenlooper

Jarom Hickenlooper grew up in Utah, hiking the Rockies as long as he can remember. He enjoys anything outdoors including camping, skiing, climbing, sports, and running. Jarom dances ballroom at BYU and loves international Latin dance in particular. He speaks Spanish, German, and Persian (Farsi), having learned German from his German mother and a two-year mission in northern Germany, where he also studied Persian. After teaching Persian at the Missionary Training Center for a couple years, he currently works as a student instructor for a German 101 course at BYU. Passionate about social issues and the refugee crisis, he serves as a campus liaison for the non-profit organization Their Story is Our Story (TSOS) and is president of the TSOS chapter at BYU. Jarom is working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a double-major in German and a minor in sociology. Double-majoring in German is one way he satisfies some of his passion for culture, literature, philosophy, art, and music, but will turn to reading, podcasts, and composing on the piano if he does not get "his fix." He has enjoyed doing research

with multiple professors at BYU and is fascinated by trauma psychology and societal sensemaking and resilience, which he hopes to continue to study in graduate school. He plans to eventually teach as a university professor, conduct research, and practice clinical psychology. In his career he aspires to incorporate his love for the humanities into his work helping individuals, organizations, and society and improving the human condition.



Eliza R. Snow Undergraduate Fellows

Anna Pulley

Anna Pulley is double-majoring in Linguistics and Spanish. She grew up in Colorado, California and Utah before serving an LDS mission in the heart of the Amazon rainforest in Bolivia. Anna is no stranger to change and loves exploring new places — especially if there is a beach. She also works as a TA for two Interdisciplinary Humanities courses within the department. Anna fluently speaks English, Spanish, and Italian and is currently learning Greek and Portuguese. She is extremely passionate about diversity and connecting foreign cultures through mutual understanding. She plans to obtain a Master's Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Anna plans to pursue a career in which she can help others around the world gain access to both basic and higher educational opportunities. Anna is especially passionate about providing young underprivileged girls with educational opportunities, regardless of cultural norms or expectations. She has found that her education has brought her great satisfaction and has helped her to develop a greater sense of self, and she wants all people to feel this same passion for learning and progression.



Joseph Rowley

Joseph Rowley is a senior majoring in Interdisciplinary Humanities with an emphasis in Art History and a minor in Statistics. If asked, he would say that he's not really sure how that happened; his varied interests have something to do with a passion for the act of learning itself—the moment of realization when you see “that which had not been told [you]” and consider “that which [you] had not heard.” Joseph and his wife Julia met in High School while performing Shakespeare together, and are both earning degrees at BYU while enjoying life as the parents of a beautiful baby boy. Joseph hopes to become a professor in the humanities and help to create a world with more empathy and stronger communities. Although interdisciplinary at heart, he is currently pursuing a path to a doctorate in Art History.



The Faith and Imagination Podcast

Matthew Wickman

What does faith bring to intellect, to our capacities to learn? And not just learn: what does faith bring to our ability to discern, plan, promise, enjoy, hope, and love? Isn't faith integral to life-building itself? In the words of the nineteenth-century treatise *Lectures on Faith*, "Would you have ever sown if you had not believed that you would reap? Would you have ever planted if you had not believed that you would gather? ... What have you, or what do you possess, which you have not obtained by reason of your faith? Your food, your raiment, your lodgings, are they not all by reason of your faith?"

Nearly two centuries later, it's probably fair to say that we imagine faith less often in this expansive, life-encompassing sense. Even religious communities can sometimes define faith in narrowly creedal terms, while those who identify as non-religious often resist or ignore religious terminology. The result is that the vital affordances of faith—the layers it adds to our experience of a world now sacred as well as mundane; the vistas it brings to view of divinity amid beauty and wonder; the ways faith opens us and prompts us to act, to move—recede behind the supposed possession or dismissal of it. Faith becomes an object, a thing.

But faith in its more animate forms is all around us, still. And that is what the Faith and Imagination podcast addresses in conversation with people experiencing lives of fullness and grace. For our Humanities Center, the podcast has been an unexpectedly good thing to come from the era of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. Forced to suspend

or cancel our events, we took up podcasting as a way to sustain our activity. We named the podcast after a lecture series and, flying blind—or, perhaps, acting on faith—initially sought guests whose scholarship dovetailed with some aspect of religious and cultural life in a meaningful way.

Before long, however, a deeper set of conversations ensued.

We're now up to 50 episodes between last school year and this one. Our guests range from academics and theologians to poets and artists. Here is a small sampling of the riches guests brought to our conversations during Season 2:

- Norman Wirzba shared how the battle against climate change requires that we view life as sacred, not just sustainable. Hope, he observed, is an activity more than an attitude, and is born naturally from our attachments to what we love.
- Irena Dragaš Jansen described her experience living through the war between Serbia and Croatia, and how the conflict in Ukraine has brought old memories to life. God's peace, she attests, is real, but it is active, not passive; it prompts deep change.



- Amy Julia Becker spoke about how raising a daughter with Down Syndrome has caused her to rethink our common humanity and the vulnerabilities that define and open us to others.
- Charles Shiro Inouye discussed the misplaced values of our attitudes toward higher education. People come to be educated in order to have a career, but we should also, and primarily, be teaching them how to live a fuller life.
- Jessica Coblentz described depression as a state of “unhomelikeness,” what Biblical writers describe as an experience in the wilderness. Theological resources may not alleviate all its effects, but they can help us sit more deeply with others in their pain.
- Alice Fryling spoke about how the poignant losses associated with aging (losses including health, jobs, energy, and opportunity) also help us think beyond “productivity” and grow from a transactional to a transformational relationship with God.
- Yolanda Pierce, a distinguished theologian, described ways that her grandmother has been her most important theological influence, and how that influence has shaped her work on race as well as religion.
- Glen Scorgie rehearsed what he has learned over a career of studying spiritual life in the modern world, reflecting on how we ultimately become like what we adore.
- Robyn Wrigley-Carr upended conventional understandings of religious devotion in remarking how real prayer is an entering into ignorance. Whatever we learn of the divine, she adds, comes gently, gently ...
- Daniel P. Horan elaborated on the Catholic theologian Karl Rahner’s evocative phrase about what it means to be engaged in just causes—healing systemic racism; building a sustainable future—during a “wintry season” of faith in humankind as well as God.
- Kim Langley talked about poetry as a way to deal with grief. Her own alcoholic father made strides in the years before he passed; however, he hauntingly told her, “Everything I handed over to God has claw marks on it.”
- And Patrick Saint-Jean poignantly described ways that spiritual discernment empowers him, and might empower all of us, to pursue racial justice more committedly and effectively.





The Faith and Imagination Podcast: Season Two Episodes

Season 2 Episodes

"Art as a Window onto the Divine, with guest Katie Kresser," Seattle Pacific University

"Teaching Spirituality in the Humanities, with guest Richard White," Creighton University

"Grief and Poetry," with guest Kim Langley

"The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice, Parts 1 and 2," with guest Patrick Saint-Jean, Creighton University

"Shakespeare, Religion, and Literary Criticism," with guest Charles LaPorte, University of Washington

"The Art of Christian Reflection," with guest Heidi J. Hornik, Baylor University

"Faith Crisis and a Franciscan Response," with guest Daniel P. Horan, St. Mary's College

"Music for Eternity: Meditations for Advent," with guest Robyn Wrigley-Carr, Alphacrucis College



"Some Favorite Books We Read in 2021," with guest George Handley, Brigham Young University

"This Sacred Life: Hope in an Era of Climate Crisis," with guest Norman Wirzba, Duke University

"Disability, Grace, and Life Beyond the Meritocracy," with guest Amy Julia Becker

"Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit," with guest Yolanda Pierce, Howard University

"A Theology of Life with Depression," with guest Jessica Coblentz, St. Mary's College

"The Theology—and Poetry—of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy," with guest Laura Reece Hogan

"Christian Spirituality Today," with guest Glen Scorgie, Bethel Seminary

"Aging Faithfully," with guest Alice Fryling

"'Perhaps': Reclaiming the Space between Doubt and Dogmatism," with guest Josh McNall, Oklahoma Wesleyan University

"God's Peaceful Presence in Seasons of War," with guest Irena Dragaš Jansen

"Permeable Selfhood, or The Persons within Persons We Are," with guest Barbara Newman, Northwestern University

"Finding Christ in Poetry," with guest Paul J. Pastor, poet

"On Writing of Spiritual Things," with guest Charles Shiro Inouye, Tufts University



Annual Symposium: On Belief

Has belief truly waned in our postmodern era? Or has it simply evolved? Are all such apparent differences illusory? What is belief, and what does it indeed mean, today? Our 2021 BYU Humanities Center Symposium raised these questions, and others, about belief—the forms it may take, its objects and sources, and the projects it may inspire. Jointly sponsored by the BYU Humanities Center and the journal *Literature and Belief*, this symposium served as the occasion for rigorous discussion of these and related questions.

Debra Rienstra (Calvin University) explored tribal epistemologies in America and whether belief is to be properly understood as cognitive assent, particularly as trust/narrative vacuums leave religious people vulnerable to fractured narratives. Mark Knight (Lancaster University) teased out the content of belief within the mythologies of Middlemarch's Edward Casaubon, paying careful attention to moments when Casaubon's struggles with his belief offer points of connection with many who work in literary studies. Lori Branch (University of Iowa) presented her ongoing project of articulating a theological turn at the



heart of secularism as seen through the novel, as she challenged the commonplace of linking novels with secularism and explores what happens when writers take up the novel—a “theological genre and liturgical form”—to explore experiences of belief. Charles LaPorte (University of Washington) demonstrated how Shakespeare, Christina Rossetti, and Gwendolyn

Brooks participate in a “poetics beyond belief,” even as their admirers and critics engage faithfully with their work.

Departing from the belief object of clothing irons, ironing boards, and the planks of slaver ships, Leslie Wingard (College of Wooster) illustrated the pressing need to reclaim and critique master-slave rhetoric within Christian belief, and African American culture's unique ability to carry out such work. Jeffrey Kosky (Washington & Lee University) recast Roland Barthes as a “believing critic” when looking at photographs and argued for the language and disposition of belief as a “resource for those who are looking for alternatives to the pervasive spirit of critical disenchantment.” Yvonne Schlobitten (Pontifical Gregorian University) presented her work on Gaudin's

"Seeing of Christ" as the origin of transdisciplinary comprehension of the world—a "triadic dialogue" between author, the created work, and the observer that creates central categories of "form, formation, and trans-formation."

Colin Jager (Rutgers University) provocatively twined Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" with Chris Jordon's film *Albatross* to undo certain "comforting theodicies of modern secularism" in an age of

anthropogenic climate crisis. Ed Cutler (Brigham Young University) raised questions of pre-modern belief in myth and magic alongside the question: does critique write literature off as literature, or do the phenomena, artifacts, and forms of experience humanistic study concerns itself with elude a reduction to numbers or unified, explanatory formulae? What if, Cutler asked, "sometimes a ghost is just a ghost?"

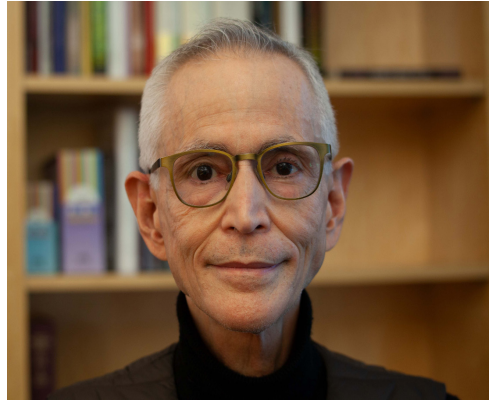


Visiting Scholars



Kenton Rambsy

Kenton Rambsy, an Assistant Professor of African American literature at the University of Texas at Arlington, presented his online publication of *The Data Notebook* (Mavs Open Press, 2021), a suite of open interactive resources that provide instructional materials for introductory data analytics within the humanities. He shared powerful experiences working with students in data-driven literature courses at the intersections of Black Studies and Digital Humanities, including creating models of recurring trends and thematic shifts in the work of Black rappers and writers such as Jay-Z, Beyoncé, and James Baldwin.



Walter Melion

Walter Melion, the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Art History at Emory University, spoke provocatively about autograph insertions into printed books, and of printed images collaged, or interpolated, into manuscripts. His exploration of a customized copy of Franciscus Costerus's *Dutch New Testament* raises new questions of representation, images, and one's ability to "pray through prints."



Christina Bieber Lake

Christina Bieber Lake, the Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton College, visited for a workshop co-sponsored by the Humanities Center and the Faculty Center, in which she led a discussion of her wonderful book *Beyond the Story: American Literary Fiction and the Limits of Materialism* (Notre Dame UP, 2019). Lake spoke persuasively of storytelling's ability to reaffirm human beings' value in "an inherently personal cosmos," as explored by her original readings of Philip Roth, Cormac McCarthy, Lydia Davis, Toni Morrison, and other American authors.



Heidi J. Hornik

Heidi J. Hornik, Professor of Art History and Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Baylor University, visited to deliver our fall Faith and Imagination Lecture titled “The Art of Christian Reflection: Pictures and Passages.” She presented on her recently published book *The Art of Christian Reflection* (Baylor UP, 2018), and reflected upon the meditative power of Christian art through the ages, from Lorenzo Monaco and Andrea Mantegna to Salvador Dali and Edward Hopper. In particular, she shared how we can explore the Christian moral life through great works of Western art and build stronger communities of believers through Christian art reflection.

Barbara Newman

Barbara Newman, John Evans Chair of Latin Language and Literature at Northwestern University, delivered our winter Faith and Imagination Lecture titled “Behold, I make all things new’: Interpreting the Last Book of the Bible.” She discussed the status of “apocalypse” as revelation, showing how artists have imagined and presented this most enigmatic book of scripture. While here, she also led a conversation about her book *The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships* (Penn UP, 2021).





Keynote Authors

We welcomed two literary giants to our campus this winter.

Celebrated poet Jimmy Santiago Baca came to BYU for a two-day visit in January of 2022. His visit included a poetry workshop, a film screening of the award-winning documentary about his life and work, *A Place to Stand*, a poetry reading, and an interview about social justice and poetry. Baca's poetry and work is intensely shaped by his past: while serving a five-year sentence in a maximum-security prison, Baca learned to read. Literacy provided him "an island rising beneath [his] feet like the back of a whale." While at BYU, Baca shared how the written word helped him find "other freedoms" and, at long last, a "place to stand."

Baca's visit was sponsored by the Humanities Center, the Harold B. Lee Library, the English Reading Series, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Brigham Young University.



Marilynne Robinson, a Pulitzer-Prize winning novelist and American Treasure, joined our Center community over Zoom for a discussion about her body of work. Robinson shared thoughts on a dizzyingly wide range of topics, from Calvinist theology of the seventeenth century to partisan politics in the twenty-first, and from reflections on her own recent work—her novel *Jack* and hinting at more to come within the Gilead series—to how the spiritual life can be fed by religious devotion and communal worship.

Colloquia



September 9: Mary Eyring
"Early American Disability at Sea"



September 30: Nate Kramer
"Norway's July 22: Wounded Memory
and the Working-Through of a National
Tragedy"



October 7: Jacob Rawlins
"Secret Presses and the Prostitute Press:
The Colorful History of Welsh Publishing"



October 14: Scott Alvord
"What can Linguistics Tell Us About the
Human Condition?"



October 28: Marc Olivier
"Tools of the Trade: A Statistical Analysis of
Slasher Hardware"



November 4: Office of Digital
Humanities
"Wrangle Your Data Before It Wrangles
You"



December 2: Jarica Watts
"Virginia Woolf, Textual Mothers"



January 13: Justin White
"Backsliding and Bad Faith: Aspiration, Disavowal, and (Residual) Practical Identities"



January 20: Susan Rugh, Stephen Jones & Jim Faulconer
"BYU's Second Century: How Are We Doing?"



March 3: Rex Nielson, Kristin Matthews & Daryl Lee
"Humanities Crisis and Disciplinary—and Personal—Change"



March 10: Will Carr
"Socrates, Freud, and Francisco Franco Walk into a Bar: How One Spanish Leader Joked Truth to Power"



April 7: Marc Yamada
"Shared Spaces of International Cinema"

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Every year, undergraduate students can apply for faculty-mentored research grants from the College of Humanities, called the Humanities Undergraduate Mentoring Grant (HUM Grant). The Humanities Center recognizes the very best of these recipients in our annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, where students from our college have a chance to present their research findings. The projects this year ranged across many fields and subjects.



From left to right:

McKay Hammarstrom, "The Divine Carveout: Poetry as Revelation in Plato's Poetics"

Candace Brown, "Hear Him: Listening to the Holy Face"

Bailey Wilden, "Bridging the Canon Gap: Using Digital Humanities to Expand Exposure to Women Writers in Spain and Portugal"

Andrew Murphy, "Folklore and Tourism of the Hungarian Soviet Era"

Emily Durney, "Supporting First-Generation College Students at BYU: A View from the Research and Writing Center"

Caroline Johnson, "'One Status and One Condition': Miné Okubo's Charcoal Representations of Mothers and Children in the Topaz Internment Camp"

Humanities and Social Justice Competition



In December of 2021 the Humanities Center held a student contest asking students to respond to the newly released BYU "Statement of Belonging" and the related College of Humanities "Statement of Inclusion." Specifically, we wanted to know how our students make connections between the humanities, a culture of belonging, and their faith, converting a love of God into a more principled love of all humankind.

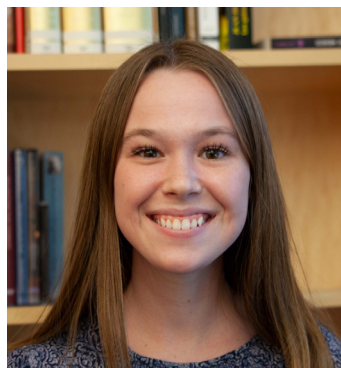
Four students were selected as winners of the competition and were invited to present their work at the weekly Humanities Center colloquium. They shared insights about how their experience as students of the humanities has informed their capacity to navigate the complexities of intersectionality and social justice that they regularly encounter.



Maddison Tenney
First Place Creative Works
"The Generational Impact of
African American & Police
Relationships"



Jayden Itejere
Honorable Mention Creative
Works
"Background"



Madilyn Abbe
First Place Essay
"Proximity"



Lydia Hall
Honorable Mention Essay
"A Song of Redeeming
Love: Michael Jackson and
Olodum"

Research Groups

Current Research Groups:

Boarding School Stories

Editing and Publishing

Education for Leadership

Experiential Learning

Greek and Latin Translation Working
Group

Humanities Plus Haiti Health Initiative
(H+HHI)

Jazz, Blues and Beyond

Medieval and Renaissance Studies
(MARS)

Romantic and Victorian Studies Group
(RVSG)

Spirituality and Imagination

Theology and Humanities

Translation Studies

Women Studies Teaching and Research
(WSTAR)





You can be a part of the BYU Humanities Center

Donations to BYU are primarily used to benefit students, and students are a vital part of our Humanities Center. They attend our events, belong to our research groups, serve as research assistants, and present on their own independent research. We mentor students and their work blesses us and others. So, thank you for supporting our Humanities Center. It helps us enhance the education of our wonderful students.

If you would like to donate to the BYU Humanities Center and help further the cause of the humanities, or if you have any questions about ways to make a gift, please contact LDS Philanthropies at 801-356-5300 or email Philanthropies@churchofJesusChrist.org. To make a gift online please visit our website.

Online:
humanitiescenter.byu.edu
Click on the “giving” button on the top-right side of the page.

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“A central part of what we do in the college can be summed up in one word: conversation. Originally used to describe keeping company with others and becoming familiar with the unknown, the term conversation shares Latin roots with the word conversion, both suggesting a turn toward a new way of seeing and interacting with the world. In the humanities we learn how to see things in new ways, read unfamiliar texts and scripts, and come to know others as human beings and children of God rather than stereotypes. We study the varieties of human accomplishment, in particular how that variety is shared across time and space using languages of all kinds.”

—Scott Miller, Dean of the BYU College of Humanities

BYU College of
Humanities