

University of San Diego

Digital USD

Humanities Center Annual Reports

Humanities Center

Summer 2018

Humanities Center Annual Report 2017-2018

Humanities Center, University of San Diego

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Annual Report 2017-18
Humanities Center
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



Letter from the Director

It has been two years since USD's Humanities Center opened its doors, and its impact on campus – and beyond – has been dramatic and extensive. The first year of operations revealed the Center to be a bustling hive of activity, with a heady mixture of art exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, seminars and discussions together bearing witness to the vibrancy of the humanities at USD. As originally conceived, and now emphatically put into practice, the Humanities Center is a home for faculty, students and community members to exchange ideas and engage in interdisciplinary activities fostering collaboration between the humanities and other modes of inquiry into the human condition.

In 2017-2018, we built upon the successes of our first year, deepening and extending the ventures that have made the Humanities Center such a central part of USD life. In addition to continuing our exciting program of lectures and events, a highlight of this year's work has surely been the implementation of a \$250,000 award from the W.M. Keck Foundation, the centerpiece of this funding being the creation of the Keck Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellows program. With this program we have developed unprecedented opportunities for our students.

In what follows, you will read about the activities and achievements in 2017-2018 of each of the elements of the Humanities Center's work: collaborative research, digital humanities, interdisciplinary curriculum development, public humanities, and our gallery exhibitions. I believe you will agree that the Center continues to fulfill its promise as a lively and crucial part of the University of San Diego, and I look forward to welcoming you at events scheduled for our third year.

In my two years as Director, I have been overjoyed to see so many people attending and supporting our events, and to see our central space – the Vassiliadis Family Salon, named in honor of our founding donor Carol Vassiliadis – so constantly full of activity. The Humanities Center was launched, in part, to stand as an ever-present reminder on campus of the incomparable value of the arts and humanities for the creation of meaningful lives, and in this task its successes have been deeply satisfying.



Dr. Brian R. Clack
Director



BRIAN R. CLACK, PHD

Director, Humanities Center
Professor, Philosophy

USD's Humanities Center is dedicated to the exploration of the human condition and the limitless ways in which human beings understand and interact with our world.

Dashboard 2017-18

3

Faculty and
Post-docs

1

Staff and
Administrators

3

Student
Assistants

18

Advisory Board

8

Student Board

5

Element Chairs

Partners

- Anti-Defamation League San Diego
- Career Development Center
- Center for Educational Excellence
- Center for Ethics, Economics and Public Policy
- Center for Inclusion and Diversity
- Changemaker Hub
- Combat Arts
- Copley Library
- Frances G. Harpst Center for Catholic Thought and Culture
- Hillel
- Human Resources
- Mission and Ministry
- Travis Manion Foundation
- USD Veterans and Military Program
- Values Institute
- Warwick's Books
- Women's Center



Keck Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellows (L to R): Briana Jurries, Katelyn Allen, and Tiasha Rogers with Dr. Jesse Mills.

4

Knapp Chairs of
Liberal Arts

4

Collaborative
Research Grants
Given

6

Keck Undergraduate
Humanities Research
Fellows

16

Collaborative
Research Advisory
Committee

Collaborative Research

Accomplishments

The collaborative research element aims to initiate, convene and promote exceptional opportunities for student-faculty-community partnerships centered on relevant humanities issues. Activities range broadly from short-term learning occasions to more ambitious and longer-term projects.

In 2017-18, collaborative research programs have expanded outreach and participation, and we've recognized the first projects completed on our W.M. Keck Foundation grant funds. Collaborative research programs have contributed great vitality to the Humanities Center and USD community.

The first cohort of Keck Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellows set a high bar in completing their projects on women printmaking (including a featured gallery exhibition), racial disparity and liberatory education, Norse justice and jurisprudence, the ethics of intoxication, and a participatory ethnography of religious conversion through yoga practice. The Fellows presented at Creative Collaborations and the Humanities Center's Interdisciplinary Humanities/Keck Humanities Fellows research presentations event, and were featured at our first Collaborative Research Appreciation Dinner. Additionally, Alcala Award winner Tiasha Rogers was proudly announced as a Keck Humanities Fellow at commencement. Next year's cohort was selected with outstanding proposals in digital humanities, English, philosophy, theater, and theology and religious studies.

The Knapp Chair of Liberal Arts program brought Brazilian scholar and internationally renowned multimedia artist Mário Ramiro (University of São Paulo, Brazil), seminal "Decolonizing Methodologies" scholar and Professor of Maori and Indigenous Studies Linda

Tuhiwai Smith (University of Waikato, New Zealand), and award-winning MIT father-son duo Martin and Erik Demaine, known for their eclectic work in the mathematics, art, science, and engineering of puzzles, folding, games, and glass blowing. The USD faculty-student teams that hosted the Knapp chairs participated in, respectively, the University Galleries live performance of a recreation of one of Mário Ramiro's original xerographic works, the engagement of San Diego American Indian leaders and a semester-long decolonizing working group (Smith), and the week-long multi-sited interactive installation engaging students in Tijuana, Chula Vista, local high schools, and USD (Demaines).

The Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Startup (FIRST) Grant and Collaborative Research Grant programs continued to provide opportunities for faculty-student teams to catalyze new directions in our funded research, an exciting area of growth for the upcoming years.

Our Collaborative Research Advisory Committee convened, including faculty and staff representation from the College's Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences departments, the School of Engineering, the School of Business Administration, Copley Library, the Office of Undergraduate Research, and the Office of Sponsored Programs. The advisory committee explored the scope of interdisciplinary collaborative humanities research and will continue next year to further strengthen these programs.

Digital Humanities

Accomplishments

Digital humanities is a highly collaborative field of scholarship and pedagogy that blends new technologies with rigorous humanities scholarship. Goals of the digital humanities element fall into three overlapping categories: faculty development, project development, and pedagogy/curriculum development.

The Digital Humanities (DH) element of the Humanities Center had another active year, with this year's focus on outreach to students and faculty. In the outreach process, we developed a constructive working relationship with Digital Initiatives Librarian Amanda Makula, and promoted the use of Digital USD as a vehicle for open-access digital publication of USD faculty scholarship. During 2017-18, we offered ten DH Colloquia and two end-of-year events showcasing DH pedagogy in a range of courses. The DH Colloquium sessions covered tools (HTML and CSS, Scalar, and Pandoc and Markdown), projects ("App Building for a DH Project"), pedagogy ("DH Pedagogy and Public Writing"), as well as a big-picture overview ("What is Digital Humanities and Why Should We All Care About It?"). The advances at USD have been recognized nationally and regionally. Our activities were recognized by the Modern Language Association on their officially curated Facebook page and we consulted with SDSU colleagues on the development of their new DH Center.

The Digital Humanities Studio continued to be an active place. Digital Humanities projects and project development are moving forward, with the primary focuses on students' meaningful engagement with DH as a mode of undergraduate research and on the development and

implementation of DH projects. Moreover, the DH Studio is becoming known as a locus for innovative computational authorship attribution activities. The Tudor Plays Project (TPP) is currently completing work on the corpus of comparanda texts needed for attribution of three anonymous plays from the Humanist intellectual circles of Thomas More and Katherine of Aragon. The TPP gained ten new student participants this year from the fields of English, theatre, history, music, and computer science. A TPP-participant computer science major, Jordan Matuszewski, was awarded a Keck Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellows 2018-19 grant for his proposal to develop regular expressions necessary for the textual analysis of Henrician-era plays. Other TPP students are currently creating TPP website content including annotated bibliographies, newly edited performance videos, collaboratively written critical and contextual essays on topics such as the condition of women at the Henrician court and the representations of women in early 16th-century drama. Additionally, a team of students has begun paleographic analysis on the 1530 manuscript of John Heywood, for which the TPP will create the first-ever Modern English Performance text during 2018-19; these students are currently pursuing an online paleography course offered by the University of Cambridge Library.



Digital Humanities Colloquium Series, *Learning from Cyborgs: Digital Technology and (Post) Humanism* (L to R): Dr. Koonyong Kim, Leilee Ghassemi, Sarah Hankins, Dr. Maura Giles-Watson, and James Douglas.

12

DH Programs

20

DH Working
Group



Political Ideas and Ideologies Series, *Dangerous Music & Radical Politics*: Dr. Timothy Wyatt
McCarty and Dr. Jeff Malecki.

5

Pop-up
Seminars and
Classes

1

Classes

13

Interdisciplinary
Majors and Minors
Committee

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Accomplishments

The interdisciplinary curriculum element is dedicated to the development of mechanisms encouraging and fostering novel cooperation involving the humanities and other disciplines/schools within the University of San Diego. The Humanities Center functions as an incubator, in which interdisciplinary majors, minors and courses, team-taught classes, and course clusters are envisaged, nurtured and brought to fruition.

During 2017-18, the Interdisciplinary Curriculum (IC) element of USD's Humanities Center supported the continuation of several programs and the launch of some exciting new initiatives. Last year, we constituted the Interdisciplinary Majors and Minors committee, consisting of the directors of the College's nine interdisciplinary minors and two interdisciplinary majors that are not within departments. This committee continued its collaborative efforts to publicize interdisciplinary academic programs on campus, and partnered with USD's Career Development Center to hold an interdisciplinary majors and minors fair in the Humanities Center salon in March. The IC element also played an important role in fostering the development of a new interdisciplinary minor in Philosophy,

Politics and Economics, which will become available to students in Fall 2018. Our grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation helped to support a number of pop-up and seminar courses this year, including courses titled: Dangerous Music & Radical Politics, The Human Side of Medicine, Nevertheless She Persisted, The Environment in Popular Media, and How to Get Yourself Killed in Antiquity. Already, we have proposals for a number of new pop-up courses in 2018-19, and this program is becoming increasingly popular among students and faculty. We also launched a new program to provide interdisciplinary course enrichment funds that should facilitate course enrichment and immersion experiences, enhancing active learning for students.

Public Humanities

Accomplishments

The Humanities Center provides opportunities for USD not only to organize and coordinate liberal arts initiatives and programs for our campus community, but also to establish partnerships with the broader San Diego community and beyond. In this manner, the Center is engaged in the practice of what is known as “public humanities” — the intersection of civic engagement and the study of the human condition, and manifests its commitment to ensuring the accessibility of the humanities to our wider community.

During its second year of operations, the Humanities Center continued and expanded its public humanities initiatives. We highlight here three significant accomplishments: the Illume Speaker Series; the launch of the “Beauty, Goodness and Truth” series; and new collaborations with Human Resources to provide unprecedented opportunities for university employees to explore the human condition.

The Illume series consists of two streams: talks by visiting speakers and authors (often undertaken in partnership with Warwick’s Books of La Jolla); and — through the College Lecture Series — a showcase of the remarkable research undertaken by faculty from USD’s College of Arts and Sciences, presented in terms accessible to a non-specialist audience. Visiting speakers this year included Isabel Allende, Alice Hoffman, Scott Kelly, Christine Lahti and Sean Penn. As with so many of the Center’s events, it has been deeply encouraging to see the profound mix of faculty, students, and community members at all of these talks.

The “Beauty, Goodness and Truth” series began in the spring of 2018 and will continue for a further two semesters, each

semester’s series exploring the complex and multi-faceted nature of each of those concepts that inspired the foundation of USD at its inception. Taking the form of weekly panel discussions, the first series — on “The Idea of Beauty” — consisted of lively, animated and consistently well-attended discussions featuring College faculty from the arts, humanities and sciences. The second installment of this series, “The Idea of Goodness”, is already planned for the fall.

Keen to expand access to the humanities to all members of our university community, the Humanities Center, in a highly original collaboration with USD’s office of Human Resources, has developed a program of seminars for university staff and employees called “The Examined Life”. A first variety of this seminar is designed to help employees think about the significance of their lives; while the second is intended for those coming up to retirement, and addresses, via classical texts such as Cicero’s *How To Grow Old*, the problems and opportunities of aging. Further iterations of “The Examined Life” are in development as the Humanities Center seeks to extend the enjoyment of the arts and humanities to other constituencies both on and off campus.



Illume Speaker Series with Warwick's Books of La Jolla: Sean Penn in Conversation.

278

Events

3

Student-led
Programs

15

Illume Speaker
Series

4

The Examined
Life



Keck Humanities Fellow, Katelyn Allen, during Creative Collaborations.

5

Exhibitions

2

Acquired
Artworks

Humanities Center Gallery

Accomplishments

The Humanities Center Gallery is an elegant multi-purpose exhibition space nested within the Humanities Center itself. Programming reflects the diverse and innovative practices of the new Center, including (but not limited to) digital humanities, interdisciplinary research, and creative engagement with the public humanities.

During 2017-18, the Humanities Center Gallery mounted five exhibitions. *Brazilian Prints: Recent Acquisitions*, which featured artwork and themes by contemporary Brazilian artists. The works displayed were acquired during research into Brazilian art practices related to the exhibition *Xerografia: Copyart in Brazil, 1970-1990*—a part of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative. The two projects were conceived, planned, and displayed simultaneously at USD.

University Galleries worked with students in creative writing courses to curate a selection of prints from Georges Rouault's series, *Miserere* (1922-27). *Responding to Rouault: USD Student Selections from the Hoehn Gift* included the students' selections of artwork and their own creative interpretations of the work installed alongside each print.

The first in a series of experimental video displays, *Screenings*, featured work by USD faculty Victoria Fu. *Screenings 1: Victoria Fu's Velvet Peel 1* sources imagery from an array of media: desktop screensavers, the internet, original 16mm film, and video. It highlights Fu's concern for how technologies affect our daily lives and explores the tension between screen surfaces and illusory depth.

Keck Humanities Fellow Katelyn Allen's year-long research project entitled *Women*

Who Impress: Women Printmakers from USD's Collection focused on the University's own collecting habits of women artists, alongside the rich history of women printmakers. A tri-fold brochure with an illustrated essay written by Allen accompanied the exhibition; the first publication created for the Humanities Center Gallery.

The University Galleries advised the mounting of *Folding Borders, Making Unfoldings*, paper and glass sculptures, and graphic posters from Knapp co-chairs Martin and Erik Demaine from MIT. The Knapp Chair team projected a real-time video feed of students working at USD and multiple binational community sites. Led by teams of USD students, participants created folded paper sculptures inspired by the Demaine's work and, in some cases, in collaboration with them.

In addition, multiple lectures and panel discussions supported these visual projects. University Galleries sponsored Knapp Chair Mário Ramiro, an artist and professor of the visual arts from São Paulo, Brazil, whose works were featured in USD's *Xerografia* exhibition. Ramiro gave his Illume lecture entitled "Old 'New Media': Xerox Art in Brazil" followed by a performance in which he recreated his work *Lascaux Copy* in the Hoehn Family Galleries.



Student Art Night, Humanities Center Student Board Members (L to R): Jesús Martínez Saucedo, Sienna Todd, Oliver Thiel, Chelsea Johnson, Allison Yniguez, Kayla Beauregard. Not pictured: Neka Lackley, Alyssa Rodriguez, Megan Woody, and Jessica You.

Humanities Center Student Board

The Humanities Center Student Board (HCSB) was established with the purpose of enhancing student participation in the Center. Student board members help to conceive ideas for events, design student-led programs, voice student views, and work to attract prospective students to participate in the success of the Center.

During 2017-18, the first group of Humanities Center Student Board members began to meet regularly and plan events. In Fall 2017, the board held their first student-led event, “Art Night: Explorations of Identity,” which featured student art in multiple genres, including film, sculpture, photography, painting, prints, creative writing, and a poetry reading room. Given the success of this program, the board decided to make Art Night a recurring event. Their second installment, “Art Night: Artivism,” was held in the Spring, which featured a community quilt-making project alongside

other genres of art and expression. To advertise these events, the board members published their own creative zine for distribution.

As part of Black History Month programming in the Spring, board members held a student-led symposium on Beyoncé’s album *Lemonade*, during which they screened selections of the album and invited students and faculty alike to discuss the issues it raises. Slated for Fall 2018 are the next iteration of Art Night, as well as an event on student voting engagement.

Looking Forward

View our upcoming programs and events online at www.sandiego.edu/cas/humanities-center/events.php.

Find us @USDHumanitiesCenter on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

HUMANITIES CENTER

University of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park
Serra Hall, Room 200
San Diego, CA 92110

www.sandiego.edu/humanities-center
(619) 260-2326 | humanitiescenter@sandiego.edu



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