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October 2021 The Humanities at Otterbein: A Newsletter of the Humanities Advisory Committee

Humanities Advisory Committee

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The Humanities at Otterbein

A newsletter of the Humanities Advisory Committee, October 2021

Happy National Arts & Humanities Month!

From President Biden's [Presidential Proclamation](#):

“As our Nation continues to grapple with consequential crises — from combating the ongoing global pandemic and addressing cries for racial justice to tackling the existential threat that climate change poses to our planet — the arts and humanities enable us to both understand our experiences and lift our sights. During this National Arts and Humanities Month, we celebrate the power of the arts and humanities to provide solace, understanding, and healing. We recognize the ability of the arts and humanities to amplify important and diverse voices and messages. We reflect on the fact that, as we have struggled with isolation, anxiety, and the loss of loved ones, we have turned to music and dance, literature and poetry, and philosophy and history to bring us together and help us persevere through, and grapple with, our current moment...”

HAC Grant News and Updates

HAC Grant applications can be found on the Academic Affairs Committee page [here](#) as well through the links below. Current grant applications are being accepted for:

[HAC Faculty Conference Grants](#): HAC Conference Grants support faculty attendance and participation at regional, national, and international conferences, workshops, and symposia focused on the humanities. Grants may also support the cost of registration for virtual conferences. Grants may support attendance at conferences that are not necessarily central to humanities disciplines, but which do have direct bearing on the study of the humanities. All Faculty are eligible to apply. Faculty from any department may apply, so long as the conference and/or the work done at the conference meets the NEH definition of the humanities. The award cap for virtual conferences and/or travel to domestic conferences is \$1300, and the award cap for travel to international conferences is \$2500. Conferences must take place between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022. **ROUND ONE DEADLINE: Friday, October 29, 2021.**

[HAC Enrichment Grants](#): This grant has been revised to support both on and off-campus faculty-student enrichment opportunities in the humanities. HAC Faculty-Student Enrichment Grants support Humanities faculty who wish to provide experiential learning opportunities for their students. This may include off-campus fieldtrips and/or overnight travel to conferences and events, as well as on-campus classroom experiences like workshops, films, or speakers. These grants are available to any faculty member teaching a Humanities course (whether departmental or in General Education). Funds can be used to pay for honoraria, supplies, fees, travel expenses, registration and/or admission tickets, and meals. See the grant application for more information.

[HAC Co-Sponsored Grants](#): The Humanities Advisory Committee helps sponsor events and activities on campus that fall within the definition of the Humanities as defined by the NEH. The HAC will provide funds to cover up to, but not exceeding, half of the actual expenses for the event. We imagine these funds supporting activities such as, but not limited to: visiting speakers, film screenings, and book clubs. The proposed event or activity must occur during the academic year.

While the activities can be connected to the work of a particular class, they do not need to be. Sponsors of these programs can apply multiple times during the year, and funds will be allocated as resources allow. There is no deadline for applications; the HAC will consider applications on a rolling basis. Any department, program, or organization on campus is eligible to apply for these funds, so long as the activity in question supports work in the humanities.

Welcome New Arts & Humanities Students!

Humanities faculty, with the support of the Humanities Advisory Committee, welcomed new Arts & Humanities students to campus with an early arrival event on August 17. We pondered philosophical questions in the graveyard, explored Westerville's history, had an early preview of the new Frank Museum exhibition, and partied with a BBQ at the end of the day!



Humanities Faculty Scholarship News

The Humanities Advisory Committee provided grants to support faculty scholarship over the summer of 2021. Below are a few examples of their work...

Alex Rocklin, Religion & Philosophy

With the help of the summer writing award, I completed the submission draft for my chapter in a future edited volume that will be part of the American Examples series, published by the University of Alabama Press. This year I have been a member of the American examples working group and we are putting together a volume of essaying approaching the study of religion in America differently from how that is usually done. My chapter compares the construction of Hindu identity by two groups in the Circum-Caribbean world, one by a group of South Asian merchants in Panama and one by a mixed group of Afro- and Indo-Caribbean practitioners of what colonial officials called "obeah" or African Caribbean witchcraft. I use these examples as a way to think about how identities are constructed and the role of the construction of relatedness in those processes of identification.

Amanda Kline, Art & Art History

Project: *Women of the National Park Service Oral History Film*

I used funding provided by the Humanities Advisory Committee (HAC) Faculty Projects Grant to start a short film titled *Open a Window: Women of the National Parks Service*. The film shares the experiences and stories of women employees of the National Park Service. The film combines oral histories told by women with landscape images of the parks shot in poetic and interpretive ways. I traveled to Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts to interview Leslie Reynolds, the Deputy Superintendent. I also went to Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky to interview Moria Painter, a Park Guide. Both women have long histories in the National Park Service, serving in multiple capacities and parks across the country. Next, I will interview women in Cuyahoga National Park. Even though the project is in its infancy, it has already proved to be a rewarding experience and I look forward to working on it in the long term. There are 423 national park sites in the United States and even more women who are essential to their existence and growth.

Karen Steigman, English

For my 2021 Summer Writing Award, I completed and submitted an essay entitled "Spike Lee's American Tragedy: Teaching the Aftermath of 9/11 in *25th Hour*" for publication in *Teaching 9/11 and its Aftermaths* (part of the MLA Options for Teaching Series). The essay considers the importance of Lee's 2002 film—the first to depict a post-9/11 NYC landscape—in the emergent 9/11 canon and includes my reflections on teaching it in my American literature survey courses over the past twenty years. I first taught the film in 2003, as a graduate student instructor at the University of Minnesota in my first upper-level American literature survey course and have since regularly included it in survey courses variously focusing on the "new American century," the "global American novel," "the paranoid style," and "homeland insecurity" in post-45 fiction and film at Otterbein. It remains a crucial touchstone of the American empire in literature and film.

Megan Chawansky, Health & Sport Science

With the summer writing funds, I was able to work with colleagues from Canada and New Zealand to finish out collaborative book: *Sport, Gender and Development: Intersections, Innovations and Future Trajectories*. We are currently revising the proofs, and we hope to have it readily available (ebook and

open access) by the end of the year. I led the writing and research on two chapters. Both addresses if, how, and under what instances sport can be used as a tool for social change in the lives of youth. One chapter involves fieldwork I did with a sport organization in India and the other involved work with an organization in South Africa.

Link: <https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Sport-Gender-and-Development/?k=9781838678661>

Humanities Advisory Committee Members:

Margaret Koehler, Department of English; Deborah Solomon, Department of History, Political Science, and Modern Languages; Stephanie Patridge, Department of Philosophy; Allen Reichert, Library; Janice Glowski, Director of University Museum & Galleries; Amy Sheeran, Department of History, Political Science, and Modern Languages; Amy Johnson, Department of Art and Art History.

For questions and more information about the Humanities Advisory Committee, contact Amy Johnson, Chair of HAC, ajohnson@otterbein.edu.