



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

SPRING 2023

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Spring 2023

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone got the opportunity to step back from work to rest and connect with people they care about over the last few weeks.

As you browse this semester's newsletter, I think you will get a sense of the optimism and excitement we're feeling here at the Humanities Institute. After so many years of uncertainty, it finally feels as though we're able to confidently step into the semester with clarity and energy (and yes, I knocked on wood as I typed that last sentence). Spring 2023 begins with my favorite project that we do at HI: The Undergraduate Humanities Conference. Now in its 4th year, we've grown from a few dozen student scholars to over 100. If your schedule allows, drop in for one of the sessions—I know you will be amazed at the quality of work these young people are doing.

The Faculty Fellowship Program is thriving; this year's cohort taught a wildly successful undergraduate seminar in fall, and they have ambitious plans for spring. Renowned poet, Chen Chen comes to campus in February to share his award-winning work, and we've partnered with the Department of History to invite Marisa J. Fuentes, an expert on the history of enslaved people in the Caribbean, to visit campus in March. We're also excited to support the Department of Women's and Gender Studies 50th Anniversary commemoration events. Be sure to check out their department website for the incredible events and exhibits they're hosting this semester.

Speaking of anniversaries, the Humanities Institute will turn 20 next year. This is a major milestone, and we plan to celebrate accordingly. We're already deep into planning some exciting events and mapping out future initiatives and goals.



We have a lot to be thankful for at the Humanities Institute—donors, advisors, teammates, colleagues, and friends. I hope the New Year has left you feeling similarly thankful and hopeful about the months to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Kicak".

Liz Kicak, M.F.A.
Director



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Humanities Institute

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4th Annual UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

 **January 26-27, 2023**
MARSHALL STUDENT CENTER

The Humanities Institute kicks off the Spring 2023 semester with our annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference on January 26 and 27. This 2-day conference held in the Marshall Student Center brings together student scholars to present their research projects and papers in the humanities discipline. We have 100 undergraduate students this year with presentation topics ranging from literary criticism to the ethics of artificial intelligence.

We are delighted to add a plenary address to this year's conference and are honored that the inaugural speaker will be Dr. Sara Munson Deats, Dis-



tinguished University Professor. Dr. Deats will be sharing career insight and advice based on her incredible career as a university leader and renowned scholar of Renaissance drama. She was also a dear friend of Clara Cooper, whose generous gift to the Humanities Institute makes this annual conference possible. The plenary address is on Thursday at 11:45am.

Thank you to the USF faculty and graduate students who encouraged their students to apply to present at the conference, and to those who are serving as volunteers throughout the conference.



FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

FEB. 9, 2023
12:30 PM
MSC 3709

USF Marshall Student Center
4103 Cedar Circle
Tampa, FL 33620

What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger? The Future of Coral Reefs and the Humans They Support

Dr. Harmony Martell

University of British Columbia



The Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Program is designed to give a group of faculty members from different academic disciplines the time, space, and resources to pursue a shared research concept from an interdisciplinary perspective. This year's cohort is exploring the complexity of diversity including the scientific and humanistic study of the environment in which we live and our relationship with it, the effects that a loss of biological diversity has on all life, and the socio-political ramification of policies that shape the existence of diverse species on Earth in the Anthropocene. Fellows Lorena Madrigal (Anthropology), Adriana Novoa (History), Christina Richards (Integrative Biology) and Alex Levine (Philosophy) stress the importance of overcoming the artificial separation between the sciences and humanities and how integrating the fields will lead to a deeper understanding of the cultural context of genetic diversity and the inaccuracy of any biological concept of race.



In addition to their research and teaching efforts, the Faculty Fellows have continued their tradition of organizing events for "Darwin Day," an international celebration commemorating Charles Darwin's birth on February 12, 1809. Darwin's research into evolution and biodiversity upended nearly every aspect of both the scientific and non-scientific world and is a cornerstone of the Fellows' work.

On February 9, the Fellows welcome Dr. Harmony A. Martell, an Ocean Leaders Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries at the University of British Columbia. Martell will be discussing "The Future of Coral Reefs and the Humans They Support." Her talk will explore how the loss of biodiversity is not strictly a scientific concern, but one that has far-reaching impacts on public policy, ethics, tourism, and other areas.

Applications for the 2023 - 2024 USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Program are due March 3, 2023



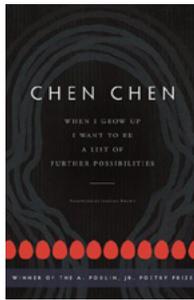
Class Visit & Poetry Reading with Chen Chen

Don't miss the opportunity to see award-winning poet, Chen Chen on February 23rd. The author of two chapbooks and two full-length poetry collections, Chen is an exciting young voice in American literature and *Poets & Writers Magazine* featured him in their *Inspiration Issue* as one of "Ten Poets Who Will Change the World."

Chen's work explores the concept of family (both blood and chosen), what one inherits and what one invents, and how it is we keep finding ways to hold onto one another during times of loss and heartbreak. In an interview with NPR, Chen explains, "I felt like I couldn't be Chinese and American and gay all at the same time. I felt like the world I was in was telling me that these had to be very separate things.' As someone who was struggling with his sexuality and thinking about identity— with immigrant parents and wondering how

to come out, 'Poems were a way for those different experiences to come together, for them to be in the same room.'"

Chen Chen's first book *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, published in 2017, won the A. Poulin Jr. Poetry Prize, Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry, and the GLCA New Writers Award. His highly anticipated second collection, *Your Emergency Contact Is Experiencing An Emergency*, was released in 2022. Critic Stephanie Burt says, "As Chen's younger self had to escape from constricting familial expectations (become a lawyer, marry a woman, buy a house), the adult writer has to escape from the constrictions of autobiography, into hyperbole, stand-up comedy, fairy tale, twisted pastoral. It's easy to imagine a young reader seeing himself here as he had not seen himself in poems before."



St. Pete Humanities & Hops

We'll be hosting our first Humanities and Hops on the Pinellas side of the Bay in March. If you're new to H&H, it's our popular community event where faculty members from different disciplines come together to share research and scholarship around a common topic. This semester's topic is "Nature, Culture, and Sustainable Futures for Florida," and

will feature three faculty members from the St. Petersburg campus who all conduct research on local issues related to sustainability and Florida culture. Thanks to Pinellas Ale Works (PAW) for hosting this event. PAW is a dog-friendly brewery located on 1st Ave. South. We hope to see you and your furry companion at this event!

FEB. 23, 2023

**Class Visit
2:00 PM
MSC 3704**

USF Marshall Student Center
4103 Cedar Circle
Tampa, FL 33620

**Poetry Reading
6:00 PM
C.W. Bill Young
Hall (CWY 206)**

12303 USF Genshaft Drive
Tampa, FL 33620

MAR. 7, 2023

**7:00 PM
Pinellas Ale Works
Brewery**

1962 1st Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

SPRING EVENTS & FALL RECAP

MAR. 22, 2023
6:00 PM
MSC 2707

USF Marshall Student Center
4103 Cedar Circle
Tampa, FL 33620

Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive

Dr. Marisa J. Fuentes
Rutgers University



In March, the Humanities Institute welcomes Marisa J. Fuentes to campus to discuss her interdisciplinary research on the lives and legacies of enslaved women in an eighteenth-century Caribbean colonial town. Fuentes holds the Presidential Term Chair in African American History at Rutgers University where she brings together scholarship in critical historiography, historical geography, and black feminist theory to examine gender, sexuality, and slavery in the early modern Atlantic World.

She is the author of *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* which won the Barba-

ra T. Christian Best Humanities Book Prize, the Berkshires Conference of Women's Historians First Book Prize, and the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians. *Dispossessed Lives* illuminates the lives of enslaved women in Bridgetown, Barbados by reading fragments of traditional archival materials "against the bias grain." The book interrogates the archive and its historical production to challenge the methods and categories by which historians have analyzed slavery in the Atlantic World, in addition to engaging with larger questions of violence, agency, and gender.

Blind Date with a Book: Sci-Fi and Fantasy Edition

The Humanities Institute loves getting to work with students! Our Fall 2022 intern, Vivianne Vincenty, spearheaded our most successful student outreach projects: Blind Date With a Book, and she made it our best ever. Vivienne selected "Sci-Fi and Fantasy" as this semester's theme and selected 16 titles from acclaimed authors like Colson Whitehead and Marie Lu. The HI team purchased over 250 books from Vivianne's list, wrapped them in brown paper to obscure any identifying information, and wrote a dating profile from the book's point

of view. As suspected, a table with stacks of free books outside the USF Library attracted flocks of students



eager to find their "perfect match" and all the books were gone in less than an hour. Later, the clues to all 16 titles were revealed on social media to satiate the students' curiosity about what other books were hidden beneath the mysterious brown paper. We're happy to have Vivienne joining

us as a part-time staff assistant this semester, and can't to see what she comes up with for the Spring 2023 edition of Blind Date With a Book.

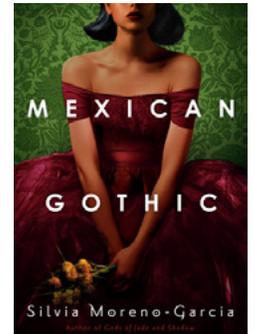


Photo by Martin Dee

An Evening with Silvia Moreno-Garcia

OCTOBER 12, 2023

Mark your calendars now, because you don't want to miss the chance to meet *New York Times* Bestselling author, Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Author of critically acclaimed novels like, *Mexican Gothic*, *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau*, *Velvet Was the Night*, and others, Moreno-Garcia is an exciting young author and we are so excited to welcome her to USF next fall.



Spring 2023 Calendar

- JAN 26-27** **4th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference**
 USF Marshall Student Center (MSC 3707)

- FEB 09** 12:30pm **Darwin Day Lecture: Dr. Harmony Martell**
 USF Marshall Student Center (MSC 3709)

- FEB 23** 2:00pm **Chen Chen Class Visit**
 USF Marshall Student Center (MSC 3704)

- 6:00pm **Chen Chen Poetry Reading**
 C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)

- MAR 07** 7:00pm **St. Pete Humanities & Hops**
 Pinellas Ale Works Brewery

- MAR 22** 6:00pm **Marisa J. Fuentes Lecture**
 USF Marshall Student Center (MSC 2707)

- APR 25** TIME TBA **Blind Date with a Book**



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