

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

SPRING 2024



CELEBRATING

20
Years

est. 2003

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

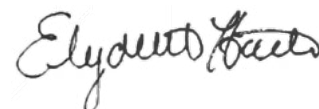
Happy 2024! We're entering a new semester and new calendar year with gratitude and excitement at the Humanities Institute, and both are directly related to the incredible impact of donor support. This semester we will be launching several new projects funded by individuals with a passion for the humanities including two gifts by the late Garry Fleming. Mr. Fleming adored poetry and left a legacy-defining gift that will allow the Humanities Institute to fund guest readings and workshops with some of the nation's most exciting poets, beginning with Leila Chatti in April (see p. 10 for more information).

Additionally, the Garry Fleming Poetry Award will be given each year to a deserving writer through a collaboration with the English Department and their annual literary journal, *Saw Palm*. Established in 2006, and run by the creative writing M.F.A. students, "*Saw Palm's* mission is to go

beyond the tourist brochures and capture the unique experience of Florida lives, landscapes, and tropes through the work of artists and writers in-state and out." The editorial board will select one outstanding poem each year for the Garry Fleming Poetry Award and highlight the selection in the printed journal.

It's always wonderful to sit down with people and discuss passion projects—to find ways of ensuring a legacy, empowering young scholars, shedding light on a critical issue, or developing new ways to bring the community together. If you would like to learn more about how you can help the humanities thrive at USF, please email me: ekicak@usf.edu.

I hope to see lots of new and familiar faces at our events this semester. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year.



Liz Kicak, M.F.A.
Director

CELEBRATING

20
Years

est. 2003

Your support matters! If you enjoy the USF Humanities Institute's events and programs, please support our work by making a gift online today: <https://usf.to/Hlgiving>

The Mission of the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is to generate critical dialogue about what connects us to each other and our world, facilitating those conversations through research, education, and community programs.

The Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is an interdisciplinary research center that aims to address fundamental and longstanding questions about the human condition through the examination of the complex dynamic between race, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, ethnicity, sexual identity, age, and other factors. The Humanities Institute supports and encourages collaboration, engaged scholarship, and intellectual conversation among scholars at USF and in the community.



Liz Kicak
Director
Associate Professor of Instruction, English
ekicak@usf.edu // CPR 474D



Jade von Werder
Administrative Specialist
jvonwerder@usf.edu // CPR 474C



Rachel Hudson
Staff Assistant
rhudson4@usf.edu // CPR 474



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

College of Arts & Sciences

Humanities Institute

4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
813-974-3657

www.humanities-institute.usf.edu



DEBARTOLO ENDOWED CHAIR

Meredith Johnson
maj5@usf.edu // CPR 478D

FACULTY FELLOWS

Jennifer Dukes-Knight
Matthew -Knight
Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones
Jerry Rumph
IrishStudies@usf.edu // CPR 478F

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

Kristin Allukian (English)
Aaron Augsburger (SIGS)
Andrew Berish (HCS)
Deborah Bowen (Advertising)
Jessica Cook (English)
Karla Davis-Salazar (Anthropology)
Aisha Durham (Communication)
Adib Farhadi (Religious Studies)
Roberto Jimenez Arroyo (World Lang)
Matt Knight (History)
Deborah Kochman (HCS)
Anne Latowsky (World Languages)
Richard Manning (Philosophy)
Adriana Novoa (History)
David Ponton III (SIGS)
Natalie Scenters-Zapico (English)
Alaina Tackitt (English)
Catherine Wilkins (Honors College)

FALL 2023 RECAP

Humanities & Hops

In September, our previous Faculty Fellowship cohort came together for an evening of thoughtful discussion with the community at New World Brewery Tampa. Alex Levine, Lorena Madrigal, Adriana Novoa, and Christina Richards discussed their research on human diversity, reflecting on their time as the 2022-23 USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellows.



Photo by Jade von Werder

Silvia Moreno-Garcia

In October, over 240 booklovers welcomed Silvia Moreno-Garcia to USF for a moderated Q&A with USF Alumna, Carmen Alvarez (@tomesandtextiles). After an insightful conversation about re-



Carmen Alvarez | Photo by Corey Lepak



Silvia Moreno-Garcia | Photo by Corey Lepak

search methods and writing advice for aspiring horror authors, the evening concluded with desserts and an hour-long book signing line wrapped around the 2nd floor of the Marshall Student Center.

Christine Kinealy

Professor and preeminent scholar of the Great Famine in Ireland, Dr. Christine Kinealy from Quinnipiac University, gave a lecture as part of the 2023 American Conference for Irish Studies Southern Regional gathering at the USF St. Petersburg campus. This conference was put on by our 2023-2024 Faculty Fellowship cohort and USF Irish Studies Interdisciplinary Team: Matthew Knight, Jennifer Dukes-Knight, Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones, Susan Mooney, and their graduate assistant, Jerry Rumph.

Kinealy presented a talk titled, "Mislike Me Not for my Complexion": Three Black Artists in Ireland, 1829-1860." Kinealy highlighted these artists and abolitionists alongside Frederick

Douglass to show the related connections between the people of Ireland and the black abolitionists in their fight for independence, equality, and social justice.



Jennifer Knight and Christine Kinealy
Photo by Jade von Werder

Blind Date with a Book

To wrap up the semester in December, over 250 free books were given away to students outside of the USF Library. 22 different titles were included in this semester's theme, Strong Female Protagonists. Blind Date with a Book was planned and executed by our intern, Rachel Hudson. Rachel selected the theme, ordered the books, wrote the clues, designed the flyer, and ran the event flawlessly. We are proud to have her on our team.



Photo by Jade von Werder

5th Annual UNDERGRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

January 25-26, 2024

Marshall Student Center 3707

What do you think of when you hear the term *undergraduate research*? For many people it conjures images of students in lab coats carefully measuring chemicals, identifying tiny organisms under high-powered microscopes, or testing complex engineering projects. While all these STEM projects are accurate representations of undergraduate research, so are the research



projects analyzing 18th century literature, surveys exploring how religious beliefs affect health-care decisions, and the creation of new short stories and films.

In 2019, we set out to establish a conference that highlights the rich and complex research being conducted by undergraduate students in the humanities at USF. This year marks our 5th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference and will feature 110 projects from more than 130 students. With the help of faculty, graduate students, and other volunteers, we will host two days packed with discussion panels, poster sessions, and guest speakers. Student presenters

are then encouraged to take their projects and apply to other conferences at both the local and national level.



The full schedule of events is posted on our website. Please select a session or two and attend—it makes a huge difference to the students to see friendly faces in the audience. I know you will be impressed by the incredible quality of the research our students are conducting.

Kisha Tracy: “Why Study the Middle Ages”

Co-sponsored with USF Libraries

Thursday, Jan. 25 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (MSC 3707)

Dr. Tracy is a Professor of English Studies and Chair of the General Education Program at Fitchburg State University, a small liberal arts college in Massachusetts. Dr. Tracy will “share ideas from my book about the various ways the Middle Ages are significant to us, focusing on multiple areas of study to reimagine our perceptions of the medieval. Representations of the Middle Ages appear everywhere – in films, books, social media, language, architecture, etc. – influencing popular (mis)conceptions about the time period.”

Honey Rand: “Humanities and Professional Life Roundtable”

Friday, Jan. 26 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (MSC 3707)

How can we balance our intellectual passions with the reality of earning a living? How do community, vocation, and aspiration intersect (or not)? These are some questions that students will be able to discuss with USF Alumna, Honey Rand. While Rand has always been a compulsive writer and reader, she has had an incredible career that often looks different than what people expect a “writer’s life” to look like. From serving in the Army to owning her own company, The Environmental PR Group, Rand will share insights from her remarkable career with students beginning their professional journeys.

ADRIAN MILLER

FEB. 15

The Humanities Institute loves partnering with community organizations and this February we're delighted to work with the Tampa Bay Collard Greens Festival (TBCGF), the USF Urban Food Sovereignty Group, and the Department of Religious Studies to welcome Adrian Miller aka The Soul Food Scholar. In addition to being the featured presenter at the TBCGF evening event on Friday, Feb. 16, Miller will be spending the day with USF students and faculty on February 15. They will visit several urban farms in the area, learn about sustainable farming practices, and even harvest collard greens for the festival.

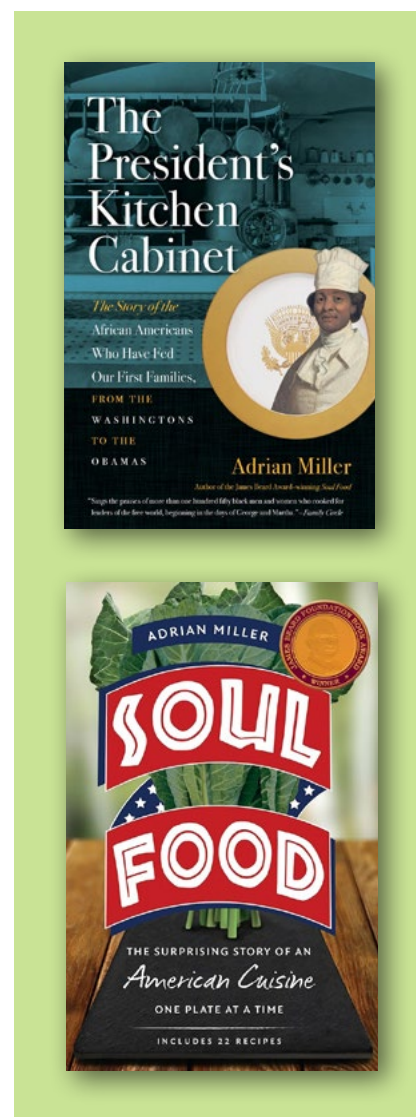


After receiving his J.D. from Georgetown University, Adrian Miller served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton with his Initiative for One America – the first free-standing office in the White House to address issues of racial, religious and ethnic reconciliation. Miller

went on to serve as a senior policy analyst for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter Jr. From 2004 to 2010, he served on the board for the Southern Foodways Alliance. In June 2019, Adrian lectured in the Masters of Gastronomy program at the Università di Scienze Gastronomiche (nicknamed the “Slow Food University”) in Pollenzo, Italy. He is currently the executive director of the Colorado Council of Churches and, as such, is the first African American, and the first layperson, to hold that position.

His first book, *Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time* won the James Beard Foundation Award for Scholarship and Reference in 2014. His second book, *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African American Who Have Fed Our First Families, From the Washingtons to the Obamas*, was a finalist for a 2018 NAACP Image Award for “Outstanding Literary Work—Non-Fiction” and the 2018 Colorado Book Award. His newest book, *Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue* is out now.

Miller's scholarship is wonderfully interdisciplinary and provides a fascinating analysis of how food intersects with history, culture, economics, religion, and ethics. He will be giving a free public lecture at USF on February 15. Time and location to be announced.



HUMANITIES & HOPS

FEB. 28



7:00 PM // **New World Brewery Tampa** // Music Hall

810 East Skagway Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604

We're back again this year at New World Brewery. Doors will open at 6:30pm, so come early to get your seat, grab some food, and relax. This event is free to attend and open to all students, faculty, staff, and the community.

Any faculty interested in presenting their research at a future Humanities & Hops event can email Liz Kicak.

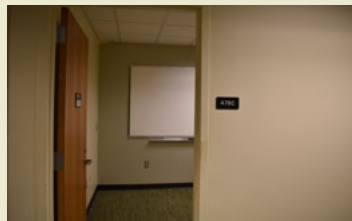
NEW YEAR, NEW SPACE

From the annual Faculty Fellows to the DeBartolo Endowed Chair, the Humanities Institute is rapidly expanding, and to accommodate that growth, we are adding a new suite of offices and communal workspace to our current area on the 4th floor of Cooper Hall.

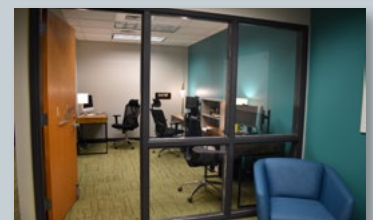
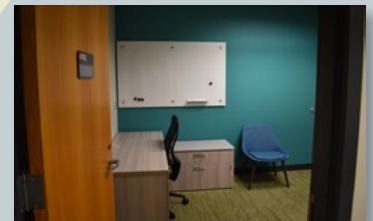
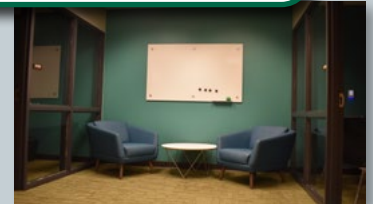
We are especially excited about the new conference room—fully equipped for video conferencing and presentations with modular furniture and a massive white board. This space will be available for CAS departments to use for workshops and seminars at no charge. The USF Contemporary Art Museum will be installing some incredible artwork in early February and once complete, we will host an open house style party to celebrate and welcome guests to this new space in CPR 478.



BEFORE



IN PROGRESS...



A HAPPIER 2024: HOW TO SAVOR THE NEW YEAR

Edward DeBartolo Endowed Chair
2023-2025



Meredith Johnson, PhD

Professor // English

2024 is officially underway. Perhaps you've made progress towards America's most popular New Year's resolution: improving fitness. The enduring appeal of this particular resolution may be attributable in part to exercise's ability to improve both our physical *and* mental health. The positive effect of exercise on happiness and well-being has been thoroughly established.¹ Unfortunately, committing to exercise in the New Year is too often accompanied by a knee-jerk rejection of another powerful, evidence-based strategy proven to enhance happiness and well-being:

savoring. As counterintuitive as it may seem at first glance, embracing the act of savoring is another fruitful path to a happier and healthier 2024.

Bryant and Veroff's foundational work established *savoring* as people's capacity "to attend to, appreciate, and enhance the positive experiences in their lives".² They traced *savor* to its Latin root *sapere*: "to taste" or "to have good taste."³ It makes sense that some of the most ready-to-hand examples of savoring are gustatory given these origins. Yet savoring is more than enjoying a good meal—or music, art, books, or any other number of positive stimuli. Deliberately reflecting on enjoyment to prolong and intensify it transforms pleasure into savoring. Like

mindfulness meditation, another related but distinct practice shown to promote happiness and well-being, savoring often directs focus on inner experience happening in the present moment.⁴ However, mindfulness meditation brings attention to the internal experience of the breath, and its practitioners strive to cultivate an attitude of non-judgmental curiosity towards any thoughts or feelings that may arise without attempting to direct those thoughts and feelings.⁵ Successful savoring can attune one to an internal state or the external world and requires intentional discernment to amplify positive experience. It can happen during a pleasant moment, when we anticipate good things still to come, or when we reminisce about happy memories in ways that im-

¹ Zhang, Zhanjia, and Weiyun Chen. "A Systematic Review of the Relationship Between Physical Activity and Happiness." *Journal of Happiness Studies* 20, no. 4 (April 1, 2019): 1306. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-018-9976-0>.

² Bryant, Fred B., and Joseph Veroff. *Savoring: A New Model of Positive Experience*. New York: Psychology Press/Taylor and Francis, 2007, 2.

³ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 15-16.

⁵ Bishop, Scott R., Mark Lau, Shauna Shapiro, Linda Carlson, Nicole D. Anderson, James Carmody, Zindel V. Segal, et al. "Mindfulness: A Proposed Operational Definition." *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice* 11, no. 3 (2004): 232–234. <https://doi.org/10.1093/clipsy.bph077>.

⁶ Bryant and Veroff, *Savoring*, 136-140.

⁷ Smith, Jennifer L., and Fred B. Bryant. "The Benefits of Savoring Life: Savoring as a Moderator of the Relationship Between Health and Life Satisfaction in Older Adults." *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development* 84, no. 1 (December 1, 2016): 3–23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0091415016669146>.

⁸ Cheung, Rebecca Y. M., Man Chong Leung, Hey Tou Chiu, Joyce L. Y. Kwan, Lydia T. S. Yee, and Wai Kai Hou. "Family Functioning and Psychological Outcomes in Emerging Adulthood: Savoring Positive Experiences as a Mediating Mechanism." *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 36, no. 9 (September 1, 2019): 2693–2713. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407518798499>.

⁹ Costa-Ramalho, Susana, Alexandra Marques-Pinto, Maria Teresa Ribeiro, and Cicero Roberto Pereira. "Savoring Positive Events in Couple Life: Impacts on Relationship Quality and Dyadic Adjustment." *Family Science* 6, no. 1 (January 1, 2015): 170–80. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19424620.2015.1082047>.

¹⁰ Burkhart, Margaret L., Jessica L. Borelli, Hannah F. Rasmussen, and David A. Sbarra. "Cherish the Good Times: Relational Savoring in Parents of Infants and Toddlers." *Personal Relationships* 22, no. 4 (2015): 692–711. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.12104>.

prove the present. When we luxuriate in the warmth and glow of a fireplace, bask in praise from a supervisor, marvel in awe at a clear night sky, or give thanks for finding a great parking spot, we are savoring.⁶

To experience savoring's benefits, including increased life satisfaction,⁷ fewer depressive symptoms,⁸ and stronger relationships with partners⁹ and children,¹⁰ ask yourself:

- *What can I do to take in every detail of the events and activities I enjoy the most, including sights, smells, tastes, and sounds? How can I stay absorbed in these moments and block out distractions?*
- *What was the best part of my day today? What precisely made it so special? What can I memorize about this moment?*
- *What happened recently that made me feel lucky? Blessed? Grateful?*
- *What takes my breath away? Why is it so awe-inspiring?*
- *What did I achieve in the last year that I was praised for? Proud of?*
- *What was my favorite memory from 2023 that I want to hang on to because it makes me happy when I recall it?*
- *What am I most looking forward to this day? This week? In 2024?*

COLSON WHITEHEAD

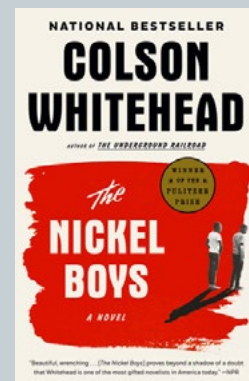
FEB. 7

7:00 PM // USF Marshall Student Center Oval Theater

Don't miss the College of Arts and Sciences special event with acclaimed author, Colson Whitehead.

Colson Whitehead is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad* (an Oprah's Book Club selection and winner of the 2016 National Book Award and 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction), *The Noble Hustle*, *Zone One*, *Sag Harbor*, *The Intuitionist*, *John Henry Days*, *Apex Hides the Hurt*, and one collection of essays, *The Colossus of New York*. He was named New York's 11th State Author in 2018. His *New York Times* bestseller *The Nickel Boys* won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (making him only the fourth writer to win two Pulitzers in the Fiction category), the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Fiction, and the 2020 Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. His latest bestselling novel, *Harlem Shuffle*, was published in the fall of 2021.

Colson Whitehead's reviews, essays, and fiction have appeared in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *Harper's* and *Granta*. He has received a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, the Dos Passos Prize, a fellowship at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, and the 2020 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. He has taught at the University of Houston, Columbia University, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, New York University, Princeton University, Wesleyan University, and been a Writer-in-Residence at Vassar College, the University of Richmond, and the University of Wyoming. He lives in New York City.





LEILA CHATTI

APR. 11

6:00 PM // C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206) // 12303 USF Genshaft Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

As part of the newly established Garry Fleming Endowment for Poetry, the Humanities Institute will be working closely with faculty and students to invite distinguished poets to USF for public readings as well as intensive workshops for advanced writing students. We begin this series with Tunisian-American poet, Leila Chatti. She is the author of the debut full-length collection *Deluge* (Copper Canyon Press, 2020), winner of the 2021 Levis Reading Prize, the 2021 Luschei Prize for African Poetry, and longlisted for the 2021 PEN Open Book Award, and the chapbooks *Figment* (Bull City Press), *The Mothers* (Slapering Hol Press), *Ebb* (New-Generation

African Poets) and *Tunsiya/Amrikiya*, the 2017 Editors' Selection from Bull City Press.

Leila Chatti received her M.F.A. from North Carolina State University, where she was awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize, and she is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, and fellowships and scholarships from numerous fine arts centers and institutes.

Deluge chronicles Chatti's experience with a scary medical mystery. In her early twenties, Leila Chatti started bleeding and did

not stop. Physicians referred to this bleeding as flooding. In the Qur'an, as in the Bible, the Flood was sent as punishment. The idea of disease as punishment drives this collection's themes of shame, illness, grief, and gender, transmuting religious narratives through the lens of a young Arab-American woman suffering a taboo female affliction. *Deluge* has been praised as "taut, succinct, and gut-punching at moments" by RHINO and "unspeakably gorgeous" by the Cleveland Review of Books.

This event is free and open to the public. More information will be made available on our website as the event approaches.

VOICES AND VOTES: DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

MAR 23 - MAY 19

Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center // 1101 E. River Cove St., Tampa, FL 33617
www.sulphurspringsmuseum.org

Created by the Smithsonian, this is a state-of-the-art traveling exhibition. Through a selection of photographs, objects, film, audio and interactives, the exhibition takes a broad look at the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government “of, by and for the people.” From the revolution and suffrage, to civil rights and casting ballots, everyone in every community is part of the ever-evolving story of democracy in America. Sections explore the origins of American democracy, the struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. The exhibit comes to the Sulphur Springs Museum through the Florida Humanities Museum on Main Street collaboration. Alongside the exhibit, the Museum will host a series of special events:

Saturday, March 23 | 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. **Grand Opening**



Sunday, April 7 | 2 p.m.

Dr. David Ponton, USF

“Racial Subordination and the Meaning of Democracy”



Sunday, April 21 | 2 p.m.

Dr. Kimberly Voss, University of Central Florida

“Politicking Politely: Women Making a Difference in the 1960s and 1970s”



Sunday, May 5 | 2 p.m.

Dr. Philip Levy, USF

“The Act that Ruined America, and How to Fix It”



Sunday, May 19 | 2 p.m.

Dr. Elizabeth Aranda, USF

“Contemporary Challenges to Im/migrant Rights”



Smithsonian



SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

JAN 25-26	All Day	5th Annual Undergraduate Humanities Conference USF Marshall Student Center 3707
JAN 25	11:00 AM	Guest Speaker: Kisha Tracy “Why Study the Middle Ages”
JAN 26	1:00 PM	Guest Speaker: Honey Rand “Humanities and Professional Life Roundtable”
FEB 7	7:00 PM	An Evening with Colson Whitehead USF Marshall Student Center Oval Theater
FEB 15	TIME TBA	Adrian Miller Location TBA
FEB 28	7:00 PM	Humanities & Hops New World Brewery Tampa
APR 11	6:00 PM	Leila Chatti C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY 206)
Test Free Week	TIME TBA	Blind Date with a Book USF Library Tampa campus

Humanities Institute
4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
www.humanities-institute.usf.edu

CELEBRATING

20
Years

est. 2003

