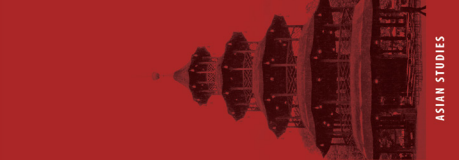
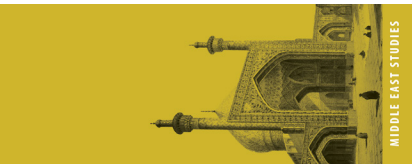
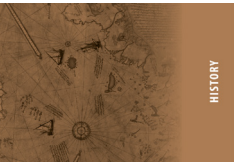
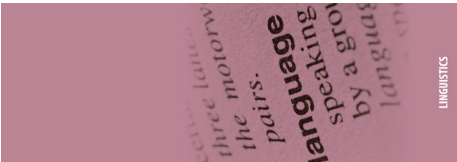


Humanities Newsletter

OCTOBER | 2016



In This Issue

Dean's Message | Exceptional Talent

Featured Alumni | Steven T. John

Featured Student | Charissa Che

Featured Faculty | Ben Cohen

Upcoming Events | World Leaders Lecture Forum with Blake Mycoskie, Founder of TOMS Shoes

News | Professor Jake Jensen Wins NCA Golden Anniversary Monograph Award for 2nd Straight Year



Message From The Dean

Fall is an exciting time in the College of Humanities. As I watch our faculty, staff, and students work, I become ever more convinced that we are truly blessed with exceptional talent at every level in this college. The last few months have been marked by an abundance of good developments: New publications from faculty in every department based on their leading research; New grants and awards won through some of the most competitive processes in recognition of our faculty's research excellence; New experiences for our students who engage in fresh intellectual challenges every day as they take part in the life of this outstanding college and university.

Three of our faculty members received awards in recognition of their excellence in General Education instruction, joining the ranks of their College of Humanities peers who are among the most frequently recognized excellent teachers at the "U." And on October 4th, our new "Digital Matters Lab" launches as a pop-up space in the Marriott Library, which is generously providing space for the lab and crucial library services, and is also serving as a key collaborating partner in this venture, along with the School of Architecture and the College of Fine Arts. With a growing College of Humanities faculty that focuses on digital humanities, digital media, and critical studies of the digital world, this is an exciting development that will facilitate computationally enhanced/digitally focused teaching and scholarship across our intellectually diverse departments, programs, and centers. These are just a few of the exciting things happening in the College. I invite you to read the pages that follow, and as ever, we welcome and thank you for your support of all we do.

With my best wishes,
Dianne Harris, Dean



The Digital Matters Lab's purpose is three-fold: First, to serve as the locus for computationally enhanced humanities research and pedagogy, with a strength in cultural criticism and theory; Second, to provide a space for undergraduate, graduate, and faculty to learn both method and methodologies of humanities-centered information technology; And third, to link the humanities with other disciplines and the broader community. The lab will support scholars working in textual, visual, and aural domains.

To watch the "Digital Matters Lab" video, provided by the Marriott Library, please follow this link:

<https://vimeo.com/182566001>



Featured Alumni

Steven T. John

BA, Philosophy, 1996



Steve John is a principal and founder of Steven John & Associates, LLC, an attorney executive search firm. Prior to starting his own search practice, Steve was a principal in the Legal and Technology Practices at Korn/Ferry International

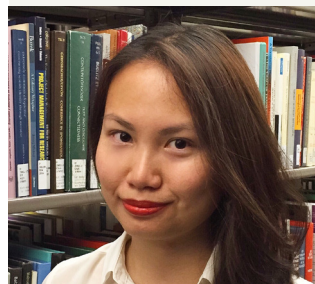
in San Francisco, the world's largest executive recruitment firm and leadership consultancy. As a lawyer by training, recruiting attorneys comes naturally to Steve, and he has placed a number of general counsel as well as senior intellectual property counsel in many technology companies, including Google, CBS Interactive, and Dolby Laboratories.

Before attending law school, Steve attended the U, with an intention to study accounting. However, early in his education, he discovered Philosophy in the College of Humanities and was hooked. He believes the study of philosophy, in particular, is valuable because it is at the highest reaches of many disciplines – from law and math to science and art. In the Department of Philosophy, he says he learned who he was as a student. "Philosophy stretched me," he recalls. "It invites you to think. It's hard, deep, and really pushed me to think in a new way."

Featured Student

Charissa Che

Doctoral Student in Writing & Rhetoric Studies



Charissa Che, a third-year Ph.D. student in Writing and Rhetoric Studies (WRS), researches the identity practices of Chinese-speaking students at the U.S. University. Specifically, she investigates how transitioning from their

home culture to an American one affects language attitudes and use, and how this in turn shapes their values and sense of self. Charissa's current position as a WRS Research Assistant in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) follows this belief. **"We often find a rift in how the humanities and STEM fields are valued and discussed in academia, but our diversifying student body calls for an increased need to bridge these disciplinary gaps,"** she says. "As an RA, I am working congruently with Dr. Neal Patwari, his graduate lab students, and WRS Chair, Dr. Jay Jordan, to investigate the writing practices of engineering students on-site. Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) is a burgeoning area of study in my field, and while much has been written on the need to understand how writing occurs outside of the traditional composition classroom, more needs to be done to find out how writing instructors and administrators may better assist the particular writing needs of students like those in STEM – and conversely, how their writing expertise may inform our own practices."

Charissa attended the College of Humanities' commencement ceremony last summer at the U, with a friend, and at the end, Dean Harris led the graduates to cheer, "I have a degree in the humanities!" Having received an education in the art and power of words, and in continuing to explore its applicability across sociocultural contexts, she says, "I can attest that being in the humanities is indeed something to take great pride in." Before coming to Utah, she received a Bachelor's Degree in Writing and Literature at Pace University, and a Master's in Literature and Rhetoric at the City University of New York (CUNY).

Featured Faculty

Ben Cohen

History Professor



History Professor Ben Cohen has been hard at work as the coordinator of a major grant project in India receiving international attention. The grant, focused on urban sustainability, was awarded in 2015 by the US Consulate, Hyderabad. This grant allowed students,

faculty, and professionals from India and the U of U to work together, across disciplines and regions, across languages and faiths, and across deadlines and datelines, to investigate current and creative responses to sustainable urbanization in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha in India.

"It was wonderful to work with Indian students and colleagues as well as U students and my colleagues from campus. The grant project was less about archives, and more about us being engaged with the community in Hyderabad," Cohen says. "We literally walked the streets, sloshed through the edges of lakes, and talked deeply with a wide range of people. Most satisfying was that all six students from the U, and my colleague Stephen Goldsmith, said they would come back to India, and many already have. Plus, we were able to help two of our Indian students come to the U.S. This is global engagement and international partnerships at their best."

In October 2015, calls for student participants were issued through universities in India as well as at the University of Utah. By November, a team of nine Indian students and six American students formed. Then, in December and January, the entire team, overseen by Cohen, met in Hyderabad for two weeks of intensive fieldwork. "We studied ongoing planning and policy initiatives, and heard of the challenges faced by local governments and businesses. We stood on the banks of Husain Sagar, walked the streets and lanes of Maredpally, toured Sultan Bazar, stood amazed at the beauty of the Char Minar, and visited remote village sites in Ranga Reddy District. From January, students broke into smaller teams and – working together from different sides of the globe – began collating notes, conducting more detailed research into their specialized areas of interest, and compiling their final reports," the grant team reports.



During this process, they decided that because sustainable urbanization encompasses almost every aspect of human life, a focus on the role of water was paramount. "Water needs no introduction. It is necessary for life, and is arguably the single most important resource on our planet. It transcends every real and imagined divide that we have erected between us, from gender, race, and class, to caste, faith, and nationality. In Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha, the water challenges are many, and how they are addressed in urban (and rural) areas will largely shape the future of those states and beyond," Cohen says. "Thus the projects in this collection – like the twists and turns of the Musi River – follow an aquatic thread. From urban education to the role of women, from indigenous knowledge(s) to information technology, they comprise a series of creative solutions to the challenges of sustainable urbanization."





Events

Chinese Culture Week

September 30 – October 9

Africa Meets Africa: Art, Math and the Culturally Inclusive Classroom

A talk by Helene Smuts and Jackie Scheiber
October 5, 2016 | 2pm | CTIHB Room 109

Shakespeare’s First Folio: The Most Famous Book You Don’t Know

A lecture presented by Mark Higgs Matheson, Barry Weller, and Richard Preiss
October 6, 2016 | 12pm | Marriott Library Gould Auditorium

Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars (Even When They Lose Elections)

The 2016 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture by author Stephen Prothero
October 6, 2016 | 7pm | Salt Lake City Public Library

World Leaders Lecture Forum with Blake Mycoskie, Founder of TOMS Shoes

October 20, 2016 | 3pm | UMFA

“Voices from a Post-Genocide Generation”: A Public Debate, featuring The Rwandan National Debate Team and The John R. Park Debate Society

October 20, 2016 | 5pm | CTIHB Room 101

B. Aubrey Fisher Lecture featuring Dr. Patrice Buzzanell of Purdue University

October 20, 2016 | 7:30pm | LNCO Room 1110

Philosophy Colloquium Series presents Miriam Solomon of Temple University

October 21, 2016 | 2:30pm | CTIHB Room 459

For all **events** and to read more about these, please visit our website at: humanities.utah.edu/events

“Being a communication major has enabled me to see the world more richly and deeply. The classes I’ve taken have introduced me to frameworks and viewpoints I had never thought of or been exposed to. I have broadened my thinking, improved my writing abilities and become a more socially conscious person. These achievements extend far beyond the classroom and wouldn’t have been possible without my humanities education.”

-Connor Richards, B.S. Communication, Communication Studies Sequence/Junior



News

Professor Jake Jensen Wins National Communication Association Golden Anniversary Monograph Award



A health communication article by Professor Jakob Jensen will be awarded the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award from NCA, which marks the *second consecutive year* he has won this prestigious award. This top honor is presented to the most outstanding scholarly monograph(s) published

during the previous calendar year. Jensen is the first back-to-back winner of the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award since 1980.

Introducing Katheryn Christy, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Communication

Katheryn (Kate) Christy is a post-doctoral fellow in Professor Jakob Jensen's Health Communication & Technology (HCAT) lab in the Department of Communication. Kate recently completed her Ph.D. at the School of Communication at the Ohio State University, under the direction of Professor Jesse Fox. Her dissertation was titled, "Investigating the Use of Interactive Narratives for Changing Health Beliefs: A Test of the Model of Interactive Narrative Effects." Kate will be working on Professor Jensen's NIH New Innovator grant, conducting research using the Ozo camera in Immersion Lab, and continuing her fascinating research on interactive narrative.

The Department of Communication's John R. Park Debate Society Announces 2016 Debate Series

The John R. Park Debate Society announced today it is again joining with the ABU Education Fund, an affiliate of Alliance for a Better Utah, to host Utah's only legislative debates of the 2016 election cycle. This biennial debate series is an opportunity for leaders to engage with the public and express their views before the upcoming general elections.

Three Humanities Faculty Received Excellence in General Education Awards from the U's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Beth Clement, Associate Professor, History - for her many years of teaching general education courses that were deemed exceptionally demanding and rewarding by her students, by using a variety of sources and methods for students to learn history and American Institutions.

Matt Haber, Chair and Associate Professor, Philosophy - for the rich use of innovative technology used in his classes, and his professionalizing of students taking his classes.

Alf Seegert, Assistant Professor (Lecturer), English - for the provocative and innovative content and structure of his general education classes, focusing on topics and issues that excite students across campus.

The College of Humanities congratulates Professors Clement, Haber, and Seegert for their outstanding achievements!

Professor W. Paul Reeve wins Smith-Pettit "Best Book Award"

History Professor W. Paul Reeve won the Smith-Pettit "Best



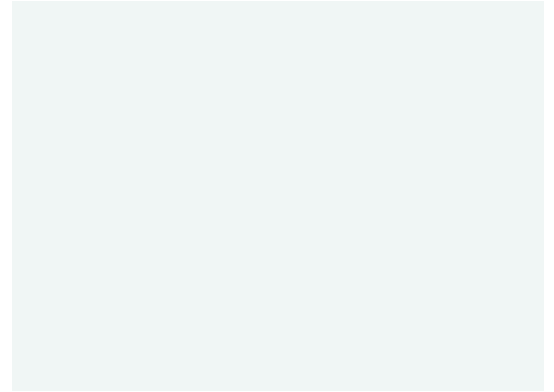
Book Award" from The John Whitmer Historical Association for his book, *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

In this book, Reeve explores the ways in which nineteenth century Protestant white America made

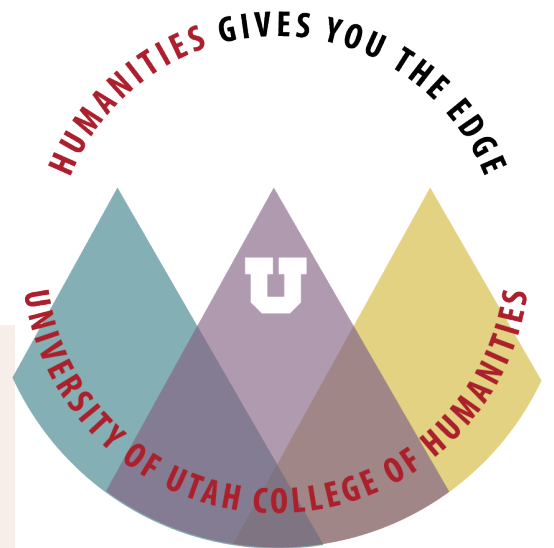
outsiders out of an inside religious group. His book looks at how Protestants racialized Mormons, using physical differences in order to define Mormons as non-White to help justify their expulsion from Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois. The Whitmer Historical Association award is one of three awards Reeve has recently won for the book.

For all **news stories** and to read more about these, please visit our website at:

humanities.utah.edu/news



Our theme for the year reflects a powerful truth: **Humanities Gives You the Edge**. Alumni of Humanities not only lead lives of extraordinary fulfillment, but they also excel at whatever they do. Our thousands of alumni unanimously tell us that **Humanities gave them the edge** that helped them succeed as excellent communicators; multi-lingual and culturally sophisticated global citizens; critical, ethical, and logical thinkers; and outstanding creative partners. And research backs this up! Studies prove that Humanities students find careers that provide financial security and job satisfaction that matches those of students in nearly every other major. Employers increasingly seek employees who have strong skills learned in Humanities (writing, reading, listening, speaking, critical thinking, etc.). Humanities gives people the edge they need to thrive today. How does Humanities give YOU the edge?



Your contributions provide scholarships for students, help develop new programs, and fund innovative research that keeps this college on the cutting edge.

humanities.utah.edu/giving.php