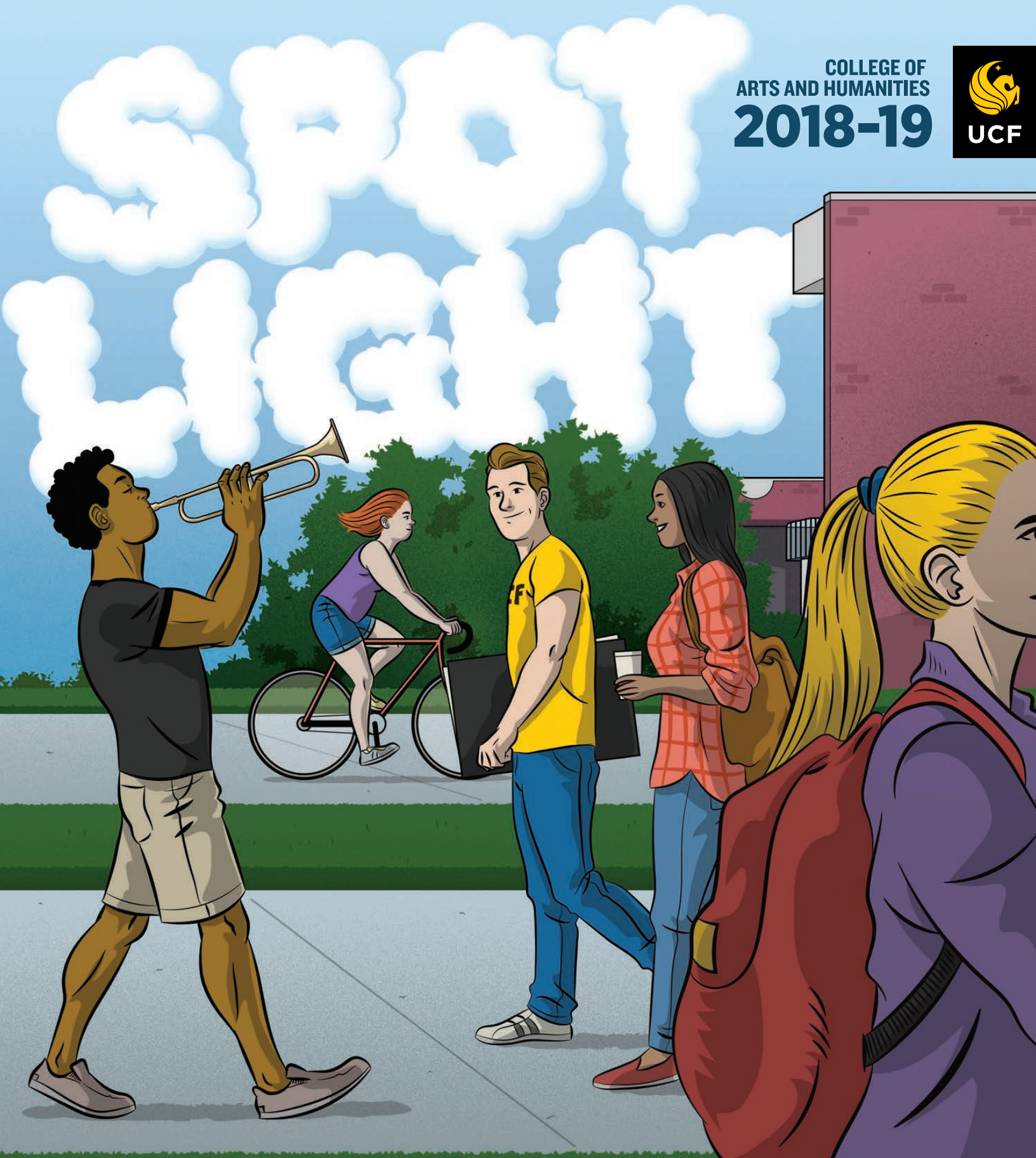


COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
**2018-19**







Students and service members ushered in Veterans Month 2018 by tying yellow macramé around trees on the Student Union boardwalk. The collaboration between the Community Veterans History Project, the Veterans Academic Resource Center, artist Victoria "Macramé Momma" Walsh and the Art & History Museums - Maitland raised awareness about veteran homelessness. Events honoring veterans continued throughout November.





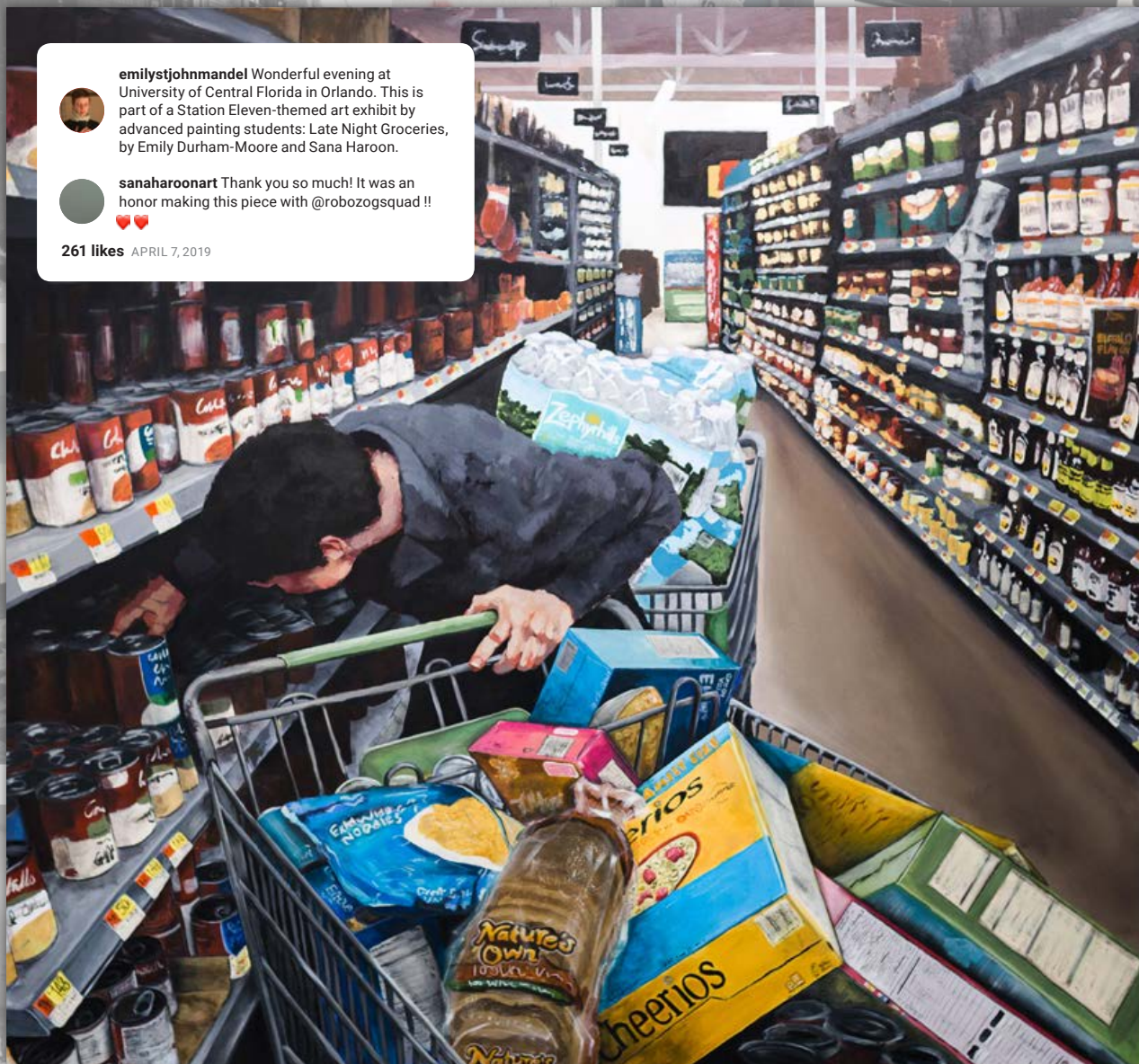
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Search



**emilystjohnmandel** Wonderful evening at University of Central Florida in Orlando. This is part of a Station Eleven-themed art exhibit by advanced painting students: Late Night Groceries, by Emily Durham-Moore and Sana Haroon.

**sanaharoonart** Thank you so much! It was an honor making this piece with @robozogsquad !! ❤️❤️

261 likes APRIL 7, 2019

# “Survival is insufficient.”

This quote from Emily St. John Mandel’s novel *Station Eleven* (and originally from *Star Trek: Voyager*) surfaced a few times over the year as the College of Arts and Humanities was planning for the NEA Big Read at UCF. The dystopian novel presents an interesting premise: Even in a time of mass extinction when safety, food and technology are limited, the arts and humanities are still vital to human survival. The novel addresses a question our college is frequently asked: In an era where so much emphasis is placed on STEM disciplines, why should we put resources into the arts and humanities?

As someone who has devoted his life to the arts, this is always a difficult question to answer without feeling defensive. The answer, of course, is that we need STEM disciplines *and* the arts and humanities. Without context, communication and cultural understanding, society cannot make progress in any discipline.

One of the historical functions of arts and humanities has been to help humans process challenging experiences. We see evidence of this in writing and artwork throughout the ages. This year, as UCF Celebrates the Arts was being planned, we noticed a common thread throughout events. Nearly all the events addressed the idea of resiliency: the response to and recovery from adversity. The Titanic, Hurricane Maria, the impact of arts and wellness, the Middle Passage, and global pandemic were among the difficult topics that were explored through the arts and humanities.

I think it was no coincidence that our annual festival celebrated resiliency. 2019 has been a year of administrative transition for UCF, with unique challenges for our faculty, staff and students. Our arts and humanities community has responded with compassion, thoughtful

action and resourcefulness. I could not be more impressed with the high levels of scholarship, service and research being done in the College of Arts and Humanities.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the accomplishments of our faculty, students, alumni and staff in these pages. When you find a story that sparks your interest, I encourage you to get involved. Join us at a gallery opening, a reading or a play. Support a student scholarship. Share our research stories on social media. Whatever your level of involvement, we look forward to moving forward together.

**CHARGE ON!**



**JEFF MOORE**  
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities



# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY. OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.

*“As much as this performance is about forced migration under duress, it’s about resilience. My intention is not to have a broken back. Stand tall.”*

— Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz

When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in 2017, there were 130,000 people forced to migrate due to unsafe living conditions. Among those displaced were thousands of children and their families. UCF was quick to lend a helping hand, extending in-state tuition rates to help those affected by the tragedy improve their lives.

At UCF Celebrates the Arts this year, several artists wanted to remind the Central Florida community that Puerto Ricans’ struggles are far from over, and also highlight the incredible strength and resilience of this group in the face of unprecedented adversity. These events included a panel discussion about Puerto Rican art, a screening of

*Después de María, las 2 orillas/After Maria, The 2 Shores, and Exodus | Pilgrimage.*

In *Exodus | Pilgrimage*, performance artist Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz from the School of Visual Arts and Design teamed up with costume designer Kristina Tollefson from the School of Performing Arts to create a gown made of hurricane debris collected from Puerto Rico.

“We wanted to represent the lives that were impacted and the lives that were changed...forever,” says Tollefson.

Once the gown was complete, Raimundi-Ortiz wore it while leading a procession through the streets of downtown Orlando. And when she

reached Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, she danced to the tune of Afro-Puerto Rican bomba drumming.

For Raimundi-Ortiz, the performance gave her the chance to not only teach others about her cultural roots, but to come to terms with the struggles her people have faced — and acknowledge the great strides they’ve made in overcoming them.

“There has been never-ending oppression for more than 500 years, and somehow our people are able to figure it out—always,” says Raimundi-Ortiz. “We come back, stand proud in the most difficult situations. And there is beauty in that kind of tragedy.”

*Bottom-left photo by Dominic DiPaolo*



*Exodus | Pilgrimage* is the second performance on which Raimundi-Ortiz and Tollefson have collaborated; neither project would have been possible without the complementary expertise of the other person.

“Wanda gives me ideas that are really more descriptive than specific, and I take those ideas that she gives me and turn them into something three-dimensional that she can wear,” says Tollefson.

“Kristina is able to get to the feeling of what I am trying to achieve,” says Raimundi-Ortiz.

**“I came to her saying I want a dress that feels heavy. I want to physically feel this weight on me.”**







▲ ANIMATIONS FOR THE POSITIVE  
*Parenting videos are created by a team of animation students under the direction of Cheryl Briggs. This screenshot is from a fable that helps new parents identify signs of postpartum depression. It will be distributed in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.*

# ARTS + WELLNESS

The path to parenthood can be a confusing journey, even when there are books to read and videos to watch about best practices. For non-English speaking families who are navigating this new territory in Florida, this can be an even more confounding time of life.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of local philanthropists Chuck Steinmetz and Margery Pabst Steinmetz, these new parents may have an easier time. The Pabst Steinmetz Foundation is supporting two annual grants to fund arts and wellness initiatives that involve the College of Arts and Humanities, at least one other UCF unit and a Central Florida community organization. One of the projects being supported this year is a series of animations that will guide new parents in how to take care of their new baby.

The “Positive Parenting” video series consists of seven animated fables that outline the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s tips for parenting infants from birth to year one in English, Spanish

and Haitian Creole, the three most widely spoken languages in Florida homes today. The team took care not only to translate the parenting lessons across languages, but to also tell the stories in a culturally sensitive and compelling fashion.

“The traditional fable, as a narrative vehicle, is one of the most enduring and culturally versatile genres of storytelling. Across time, fables have transcended geopolitical borders, and, with careful craftsmanship, they can be relevant today for purposes such as conveying memorable lessons to new parents,” says Tyler Fisher, who is leading the project along with Kimberly Renk from the College of Sciences.

“The project is broadly interdisciplinary, bringing together UCF faculty members’ expertise in cross-cultural communication, child psychology, creative writing, translation, and digital animation. That teamwork across vastly different disciplines was only possible through the support of the Pabst Steinmetz Foundation. Moreover, Margie and Chuck Steinmetz have followed the project with keen interest during every step of its development—even participating in my class on theories of fable-making at the

University of Oxford in May and visiting CAH’s animation studio as the visual stories took shape. They have been a source of profound personal encouragement.”

The Positive Parenting videos are now being incorporated into the parenting curriculum at local maternity and pediatric centers, including the Children’s Advocacy Center and Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando. The animated fables advise new parents on matters such as screen-time limitations, postpartum depression and infant immunization. The Children’s Health Alliance has also requested that the animated fables be made available in Arabic and Mandarin Chinese—languages that UCF’s Department of Modern Languages and Literatures now offers.

The second project funded this year is “The Arts and Aging,” bringing faculty from the arts and humanities together with the Atlantic Center for the Arts and colleagues from the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing. The team is researching how the literary and performing arts can be used to improve elderly well-being.

Learn more at  
[cah.ucf.edu/arts-wellness](http://cah.ucf.edu/arts-wellness)



*“By supporting innovative, interdisciplinary art projects, our goal is to inspire and build community. We’ve seen success in our inaugural year and I look forward to watching these partnerships flourish.”*

— MARGIE PABST STEINMETZ

*Photo by Rafael Tongol*



# Real Solutions TO FAKE NEWS

*Komysha Hassan, a Writing and Rhetoric student, won the 2018 Honors in the Major Outstanding Thesis*

How do you navigate the digital landscape in an age of fake news, privacy concerns and an explosion of user-generated content? Writing and Rhetoric student Komysha Hassan won the 2018 Honors in the Major Thesis Scholarship for her answer. Under the guidance of Steffen Guenzel, Hassan investigated how the internet has filled with “filter bubbles” — algorithms and patterns that cause people to find information that doesn’t challenge their biases and viewpoints.

“The distributed, horizontal nature of the internet makes it difficult to ascertain value and differentiate between texts of varying validity, bias and purpose,” says Hassan.

In her thesis, Hassan provides a framework for combating this “crisis of information and control,” a task she says requires teaching people how to analyze and challenge what they read on the internet.



Steffen Guenzel of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric poses with Honors in the Major Outstanding Thesis winner Komysha Hassan.

UCF’s **Honors in the Major Program** is designed to encourage hardworking undergraduate students to undertake research in their fields of study. Participating students research, write, defend and publish an original Honors thesis. The thesis is then published in UCF’s library, where it can be accessed by researchers worldwide. In 2018-19, 17 students from the College of Arts and Humanities completed Honors in the Majors theses.

# Preserving a Literary Artifact

With a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, UCF researchers began working on bringing Samuel Johnson’s *A Dictionary of the English Language* into the digital age earlier this year.

The project will create the first complete, online and fully searchable version of the famous 18th century writer’s magnum opus from 1755. With over 42,000 words, the dictionary is considered one of the most influential works of English literature of all time.

“It’s a major piece of English literature,” says Beth Rapp Young, the project’s principal investigator and an associate professor of English. “The 18th century has been called ‘the age of Johnson.’ People have credited it with helping to establish the literary canon. It’s also very important to the history of the language, and it’s still important to scholarship today. There are a lot of reasons we want to know what words meant back in the 18th century, and this is the book people turn to in order to find out.”

*“We’re doing something that’s great, useful, and makes UCF look good.”*

— Beth Rapp Young,  
associate professor of English

Johnson’s dictionary is one of the earliest dictionaries of the English language and is distinct in its comprehensive entries that included almost all of the words of the time. It is also noted for its memorable definitions and illustrative quotations, which made it not just a study aid, but also a readable book. Young and her team expect to complete the project in about three years.

 [Learn more at johnsonsdictionaryonline.com](https://johnsonsdictionaryonline.com)



Photo Courtesy of John Garcia, Indiana State University Multimedia Services



# A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION




*The fifth annual  
UCF Celebrates the Arts  
placed creativity and collaboration  
in the spotlight.*

“This year’s festival was back in a big way with more collaborations from across the university and Orlando community, more immersive arts events and unique performances you can only see at UCF Celebrates the Arts,” says Michael Wainstein, director of the School of Performing Arts and chair of the festival steering committee. “We presented some of the most diverse and innovative art projects UCF has to offer.”

The festival, held April 5-14 at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, included more than 35 public events and exhibitions, opening with the Tony Award-winning musical *Titanic*, and closing with the National Young Composers Challenge Composium.

The festival included presentations by the School of Visual Arts and Design and the School of Performing Arts, with collaborations across the university and community partners, including the Orlando Repertory Theatre, Orlando Shakes, the Creative City Project, the Nicholson School of Communication and Media, and units from across the College of Arts and Humanities. Offerings included a jazz concert featuring the music of Ray Charles, Aaron Copeland’s opera *The Tender Land*, a talk with author Emily St. John Mandel, events for young children, digital media exhibitions, concerts by UCF music ensembles and bands, art in the public spaces, and much more.

 Learn more at [arts.ucf.edu](https://arts.ucf.edu)





*Steve Goldman, Alex Burtzos and Jeff Moore have a shared vision of establishing Central Florida as a hub for composition.*

# A COLLABORATION OF NOTE

When the National Young Composers Challenge was looking for a long-term solution for hosting its annual event, the Composium, Dean Jeff Moore saw an opportunity for partnership. The multi-faceted event involves juggling several educational institutions, school-aged participants and a professional orchestra, as well as finding a venue to host the free event. Moore recognized that by integrating the event into UCF Celebrates the Arts and by activating UCF's partnership with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, the Composium could become a sustainable event.

And for UCF, it has allowed the university's composition program to grow. This comes as at critical time, says Moore, because the need for innovative composers is increasing. The need for new music is closely tied with many growing industries in the region, including gaming, entertainment and film. "The Composium provides young composers access to professional musicians and UCF is committed to providing access for people to pursue their passions," says Moore. "The longtime partnership between UCF, the Orlando Philharmonic, and the National Young Composers Challenge demonstrates Central Florida's commitment to the past, present and future of classical music."

The partnership between UCF and the National Young Composers Challenge now allows the School of Performing Arts to employ a full-time composition faculty member, Alex Burtzos. In addition to his teaching duties, Burtzos will steward the NYCC partnership and help organize the Composium, in concert with NYCC founder Steve Goldman.

At UCF, Burtzos has designed an intensive, thorough and uniquely collaborative composition program. He hosts weekly masterclasses, champions the Pegasus Composers Society, and has established a Center for Multimedia Composition, an exclusive workspace that ensures students are trained on technology that will prepare them for a successful career in composition.

*Photo courtesy of Steve Goldman*





*“Chiara Mazzucchelli has a winning combination of vision, disciplinary interests, and leadership ability that positions her to succeed in the Neil Euliano Endowed Chair of Italian Studies.”*

— Geri Smith, chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

# IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

At UCF, we pursue two closely related objectives: to educate and prepare students for success and to advance knowledge through faculty scholarship and research. A strong faculty is vital to both.

Academic excellence is the vital force that strengthens our programs, inspires our students and powers the innovation that makes the world a better place, and nothing is more important than a world-class faculty.

Faculty superstars are recruited by top-notch colleges and universities across the globe, often with the incentive of an endowed position. Recruitment is aggressive and endowed positions give us a competitive edge. Named for the donor, these endowed faculty positions recognize the accomplishments of the holder and allow them to advance their work.

Increasing the number of endowed positions represents a significant step toward achieving the goal of raising UCF to the ranks of pre-eminence. In the last year, the College of Arts and Humanities invested two faculty members into endowed positions.

Associate professor Chiara Mazzucchelli was named the Dr. Neil Euliano Endowed Chair of Italian Studies. Having an endowed position in languages allows us to enhance our students’ experiences with extended offerings, such as guest speakers and study abroad programs.

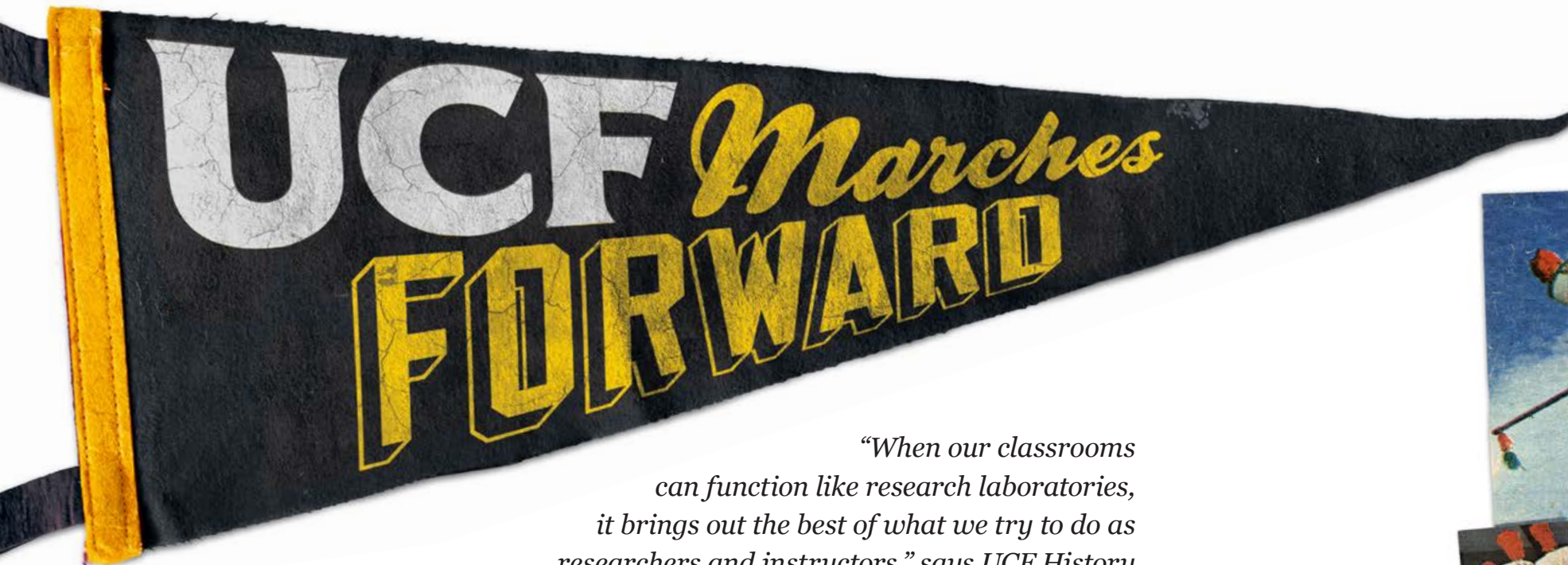
Philosophy assistant professor Cyrus Zargar was invested into the newly funded Al-Ghazali Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Islamic Studies. Founded by the Islamic Center of Orlando, the position recognizes Zargar’s accomplishments and allows him to advance his research, pedagogy and community outreach in the area of Islamic Studies.

*“I hope to make UCF a center of discussions— a center of learning where scholars and artists from around the U.S. and the world are heard by a curious and participating campus community.”*

— Cyrus Zargar, Al-Ghazali Distinguished Professor







*“When our classrooms can function like research laboratories, it brings out the best of what we try to do as researchers and instructors,” says UCF History Professor Robert Cassanello.*

“Chief and Del are the unsung heroes. They took risks and did what was right despite the color lines of the time. That took courage.” Robert Cassanello is speaking of Chief James Wilson and Delbert Kieffner, band directors for Jones and Edgewater High Schools, respectively, in the 1960s. The two made history by convincing Orlando leaders to send the two high school bands—one all-black and one all-white—to the New York World’s Fair in 1964.

This is the story that the new documentary *Marching Forward* aims to tell. The film covers more than the world’s fair trip. It’s also about the nuances of race relations in Orlando during the latter days of Jim Crow and the unlikely friendship forged between

the band leaders. It’s about tireless devotion to musical excellence and the foundation of traditions that remain to this day. And it’s about how the synchronicity of all those things may have helped lure Walt Disney World to Central Florida.

This is the fourth documentary that associate professor of history Robert Cassanello and associate professor of film Lisa Mills ’99MA have made in the past decade along with students in their Honors Advanced Documentary Workshop class. Their 2014 film, *Filthy Dreamers*, won an Emmy in the College Television Awards in 2016.

*Marching Forward* is also having a positive reception, having been selected for a screening at the Florida Film Festival and winning the Atman

Award for Diversity in Film at the Southern States Indie Fan Film Festival in Biloxi, Mississippi.

“Our team collaborated to provide an original thesis to the Jones High School Band’s trip to the 1964 World’s Fair within the context of civil rights and Sunbelt growth for the up and coming city of Orlando,” says Cassanello. “I think with some imagination, we did not produce this conclusion in the traditional form of a peer-reviewed book or article, but through a film media project that can be shared publicly, discussed and debated with both academic and popular audiences alike.”


 Learn more about *Marching Forward* at [ucf.edu/pegasus/tale-two-bands](http://ucf.edu/pegasus/tale-two-bands)







Photo by  
Stephen Allen

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

As **UCF Downtown** opens its doors to 7,700 students, two UCF programs that have long been housed downtown continue their exemplary work in the community.

In April, **Flying Horse Editions** and **CREATE** moved into renovated spaces in Orlando's Creative Village. With new homes beside the up-and-coming downtown campus, the programs

can continue serving the Orlando community while fostering connections within the city's thriving business epicenter. The **Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA)**, now part of the Nicholson School of Communication and Media, also remains downtown at the renovated and renamed Communication and Media Building.

## SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

FLYING  
HORSE  
EDITIONS

For more than 20 years, Flying Horse Editions has helped visual artists push the boundaries of their work. A non-profit publisher of limited-edition prints, artist books, and art objects by internationally renowned artists, Flying Horse Editions offers visiting artists the opportunity to work with FHE technicians while UCF

students who intern for the studio get the unique experience of creating limited-edition prints, books and other objects by operating massive presses that inhabit the studio.

In its new storefront space on Amelia Street, FHE now houses together processes that were once spread across different rooms. Director Theo Lotz says that the new, open space has allowed the FHE team to work much more efficiently. "Our new home is specifically designed to be a state-of-the-art, collaborative, creative research space," he says.

Passersby can also peer in and watch the artists at work, as well as walk through a gallery featuring pieces by artists from UCF and beyond. Small but mighty, FHE has attracted internationally renowned artists and major collectors alike. And it plans to keep on growing.

"Flying Horse Editions is at a place of growth where we're being recognized on a national level," says board member Katie Lehr. "It's exciting that we're getting this new space at the same time."

📌 Learn more at [flyinghorse.cah.ucf.edu](http://flyinghorse.cah.ucf.edu)



*"Interning at Flying Horse Editions inspired me to pursue printmaking and taught me how to work professionally in the medium and on my own work."*

**Evan Rosato '18**, SVAD alumnus and Fulbright Research grantee

# FULL STEAM AHEAD

Dana Barnes, a student in the Character Animation MFA program, is sharing his knowledge with a set of eager learners by leading animation camps for school-aged students at UCF CREATE (Center for Research and Education in Arts, Technology and Entertainment).

CREATE, located in downtown Orlando, received a grant from Disney to create new after-school programs, workshops and summer camps for K-8 students in Central Florida in partnership with local non-profit Page 15. Program participants write stories with Page 15, then bring them to life in animated short films at CREATE. By infusing arts into traditional STEM disciplines, CREATE and Page 15 demonstrate to students how their innate creativity can be used in many different ways.

CREATE has brought in UCF professors, former Disney animators and Maya-certified instructors to teach the young learners about animation, digital media and sound design, providing opportunities to work with new technology and instructors.



But the children being mentored aren't the only ones benefiting from CREATE's programs. UCF students like Barnes work at the center, using the skills they've acquired in their classes to teach the next generation. And in turn, they've gained valuable experience in their fields of study and in education.

"This experience has influenced my perspective of what it means to learn. It has become clear to me that technology shapes the value our students place on their learning experience. Working with CREATE, I have been able to identify ways animation and digital media can be intertwined to better help students understand their relationship to the world."

📌 Learn more at [create.cah.ucf.edu](http://create.cah.ucf.edu)







# WORDS FROM THE WISE

The college hosts many guest speakers on a range of topics. Some highlights from the last year include (clockwise from top):

## THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of their hit horror film *The Blair Witch Project*, UCF film alumni Robin Cowie, Michael Monello, Dan Myrick, Eduardo Sánchez and Ben Rock participated in a panel discussion on navigating a career in the industry after graduating film school.

## EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

As part of the NEA Big Read at UCF, author Emily St. John Mandel discussed her award-winning novel *Station Eleven*, what she's working on next and which five books she'd put in a museum for future generations. Her answer? Definitely *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky, but the rest she'll have to think about.

## CHRISTIAN HOENIGSCHMID

At UCF Celebrates the Arts, Christian Hoenigschmid from Grimshaw Architects spoke about the firm's design process and approach to architectural projects. He discussed current projects in Miami and Gainesville, as well as transportation projects and how they impact the urban fabric.

## FRED PLOTKIN

Why is opera so popular? World-renowned opera expert Fred Plotkin gave his take and more at the 10th Neil R. Euliano Professorship Lecture Series, an annual event that highlights Italian and Italian-American culture.

## A'LELIA BUNDLES

The great-great-granddaughter of self-made black businesswoman Madam C.J. Walker, writer A'Lelia Bundles recounted her foremother's legacy of leadership, activism and service at the John T. Washington Lecture Series.



*The College of Arts and Humanities is strengthened by the Dean's Executive Council, a group of committed community leaders and visionaries. Their guidance and support helps increase the college's visibility and outreach; they are sincerely appreciated.*

For the new year, we welcome Anna V. Eskamani and Treva Marshall to the Dean's Executive Council. We sincerely thank Christopher Ranck and Janice Fisher, who have stepped down from the council, for their many years of service and friendship.

## DEAN'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Judith Albertson  
 Carlos Barrios  
 Victor A. Diaz  
 Judith M. Duda  
 Janice Fisher  
 Flora Maria Garcia  
 Stephen H. Goldman  
 Kathryn C. Kinsley  
 Rita Lowndes  
 Margery Pabst-Steinmetz  
 Sibille Pritchard  
 Christopher J. Ranck  
 Eric Rosoff  
 Rocky Santomassino  
 David Withee  
 Holly Kahn, *ex officio*  
 Julie Stroh, *ex officio*



# AN ARTS AND HISTORY CHAMPION

Judy Duda has left an indelible mark on Central Florida and UCF. For her work promoting education, arts, social ministry and history, Duda was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from UCF at the spring 2019 commencement ceremony.

She has had a 25-year relationship with the UCF Symphony Orchestra and served as chairperson of the executive council for the dean of the College of Arts and Humanities for more than a decade. In recent years, she co-authored a book celebrating the centennial of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and created a large digital collection that can be accessed on the Central Florida Memory website.

Over the course of more than 45 years of volunteer service, Duda has chaired capital campaigns, executive searches and organized many special events in the community.

But despite all of her accomplishments, she says the highest priority of her life is family, which includes her husband Col. Howard (Bud) Weber, her two sons, two daughters and their beloved spouses, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*"Thanks to Judy Duda's indefatigable efforts and energy, our students have had the opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities and many of them have gone on to distinguish themselves as educators and professionals."*

— Jeff Moore, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities



Photo by  
 Oviedo Photo Club





Jason Gregory (center) and the cast of his TV pilot  
"Waking Up White." Photo by Alberto Santos.



# HONORING 30 YEARS OF ZORA!

At UCF, we are not just *in* the community, we are *of* the community. One example is the College of Arts and Humanities' longstanding relationship with the Association to Preserve Eatonville Community, Inc.

This year, UCF celebrated the 30th anniversary of the association's week-long ZORA! Festival with events and initiatives that spanned the entire academic year. The university's celebration highlighted the life of renowned author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, as well as the Eatonville community, the town where she grew up and often featured in her writing.

UCF's "Year of Zora Neale Hurston and the Historic Eatonville Community" featured lectures, art exhibits, student projects and more. Activities were held on the UCF campus and in Eatonville.

Congratulations to the Association to Preserve Eatonville Community, Inc. on this notable anniversary.

## Events and initiatives included:

Hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Collegium for African American Research, an international gathering of scholars that showcases pioneering work in the fields of Black Studies and African Studies. Visiting professor Simon Dickel helped organize the event and prepare students for participation. The conference culminated in a talk with author Alice Walker, held in collaboration with the ZORA! Festival.

Offering all first-year students a copy of Hurston's autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road* as part of the Common Read program. English professor Anna Lillios created a reading guide and complementary materials for the book.

Screening of "Waking Up White," a TV pilot by film alumnus and English faculty member Jason Gregory '19MFA.

"Zora Neale Hurston's 'Native Village': Historic Eatonville Remembered," an exhibit from the History department and curated by Scot French that explored Hurston's anthropological research into the people, history and culture of Eatonville.

"Why Not Us? The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community – The Early Years, 1987-97," an historical research project by history student Gramond McPherson.

A talk with activist A'Lelia Bundles (see page 23).

 Learn more at [dtl.ucf.edu/ucfzora](https://dtl.ucf.edu/ucfzora)





# A TRIBUTE TO RESILIENCE

“You are alive.”

These three simple words, painted on a wall by an anonymous author near the World Trade Center ruins, brought Chrissy Kolaya to a halt.

“The image of it just took my breath away,” says Kolaya. “It struck me that whoever had made it was engaging in a kind of entirely understandable magical thinking: If I write that this is so, it will be.”

The words inspired Kolaya to write the poem *Annus Mirabilis*, which is being published in her forthcoming book, *Other Possible Lives*.

Fast forward to 2018, when Kolaya joins the UCF English department and meets a new member of the music faculty, Alex Burtzos, at orientation. The two immediately hit it off and “Alex asked if I’d like to collaborate on a choral work he’d be composing for UCF Celebrates the Arts,” says Kolaya.

Burtzos selected *Annus Mirabilis*, and “composed a gorgeous, haunting, and innovative piece around it,” according to Kolaya. It was the first time Kolaya had worked with a composer and she was struck that it wasn’t merely putting her words to music. There was a certain type of poem that would lend itself well to music, and *Annus Mirabilis* had the qualities that Burtzos was seeking. The collaborators checked in frequently during the process, with Kolaya making some adjustments to the poem to better fit the musical score.

“I love those moments when artists from different areas are able to come together to create work,” says Kolaya. “There’s a fantastic energy in interdisciplinary collaboration. Being part of UCF Celebrates the Arts is also a great introduction to some of the cool things happening on our campus and the possibilities we have as an institution full of really interesting, creative people!”



*Mirabilis* was performed by the UCF Chamber Singers under the direction of David L. Brunner at UCF Celebrates the Arts 2019. Listen to the premiere performance of *Mirabilis* at [youtu.be/vrx7CB\\_hdVw](https://youtu.be/vrx7CB_hdVw).

## ANNUS MIRABILIS

by Chrissy Kolaya

“See, I have written you  
on the palms of my hands”  
—Isaiah 49:16

You are alive.

The words cling to the side of the wall,  
a statement of desperate belief,  
that she might come walking—  
and who knew—  
out of the rubble,

a year of miracle and wonders.

I will never forget you.

See, I have written you  
on the walls of the city.

“*Mirabilis* deals with a powerful national trauma, but our piece is intended to transcend that event by drawing attention to aspects of love, hope and optimism about the future.”

— Alex Burtzos





# VOICES FOR CHANGE

*“Our students are activists,” says M.C. Santana, the director of Women’s and Gender Studies at UCF. “They have causes they work to defend and are very active in social justice concerns. You can probably see one of our students on TV every week.”*

Through partnerships, scholarships and mentorship activities, the Women’s and Gender Studies program has become a voice for change within the UCF and Central Florida community. While most people know there is an academic course of study at the university, the program engages the community in other ways, as well. Here are a few of the initiatives:

## 1 We have partnerships across the country.

Last year, WGS partnered with Duke University to sponsor the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Feminist Theory Workshop, engaging faculty and young scholars in dialogue about feminist theory. WGS also partners with the Farmworker Association of Florida in hosting the annual Woman-to-Woman Conference in Apopka, at which women farmworkers gather to discuss women’s health, domestic violence, financial freedom and overall empowerment.

## 2 WGS has a mentorship program to teach girls about STEM.

Funded by a grant from the American Association of University Women, UCF students in the Science Leadership and Mentoring Program encourage 7th grade girls to pursue careers in male-dominated STEM industries and helping them grow leadership and problem-solving skills. “The program has been so successful that Indian Trails Middle School has 20 girls being mentored by our students every Wednesday,” says Santana.

## 3 There are thousands of dollars in scholarships available for students.

Women’s and Gender Studies annually offers seven undergraduate/graduate scholarships ranging from \$250-\$500.

## 4 Many students find jobs before they even graduate.

Since many WGS courses require hours of service learning, students volunteer with community partners and national organizations. This often leads to internship opportunities, which can turn into jobs. WGS graduates use their education in fields such as education, government, healthcare, law and more.

## 5 Women’s and Gender Studies is for everyone.

WGS faculty and students want people to know that feminist theory is for everyone—not just women. “Feminism fights oppression, and that can come through body shaming, sexual harassment, racism, transphobia and many other complex situations we believe should be included in the definition,” says Santana.

Learn more at [wgst.ucf.edu](http://wgst.ucf.edu)





# Finding Zen



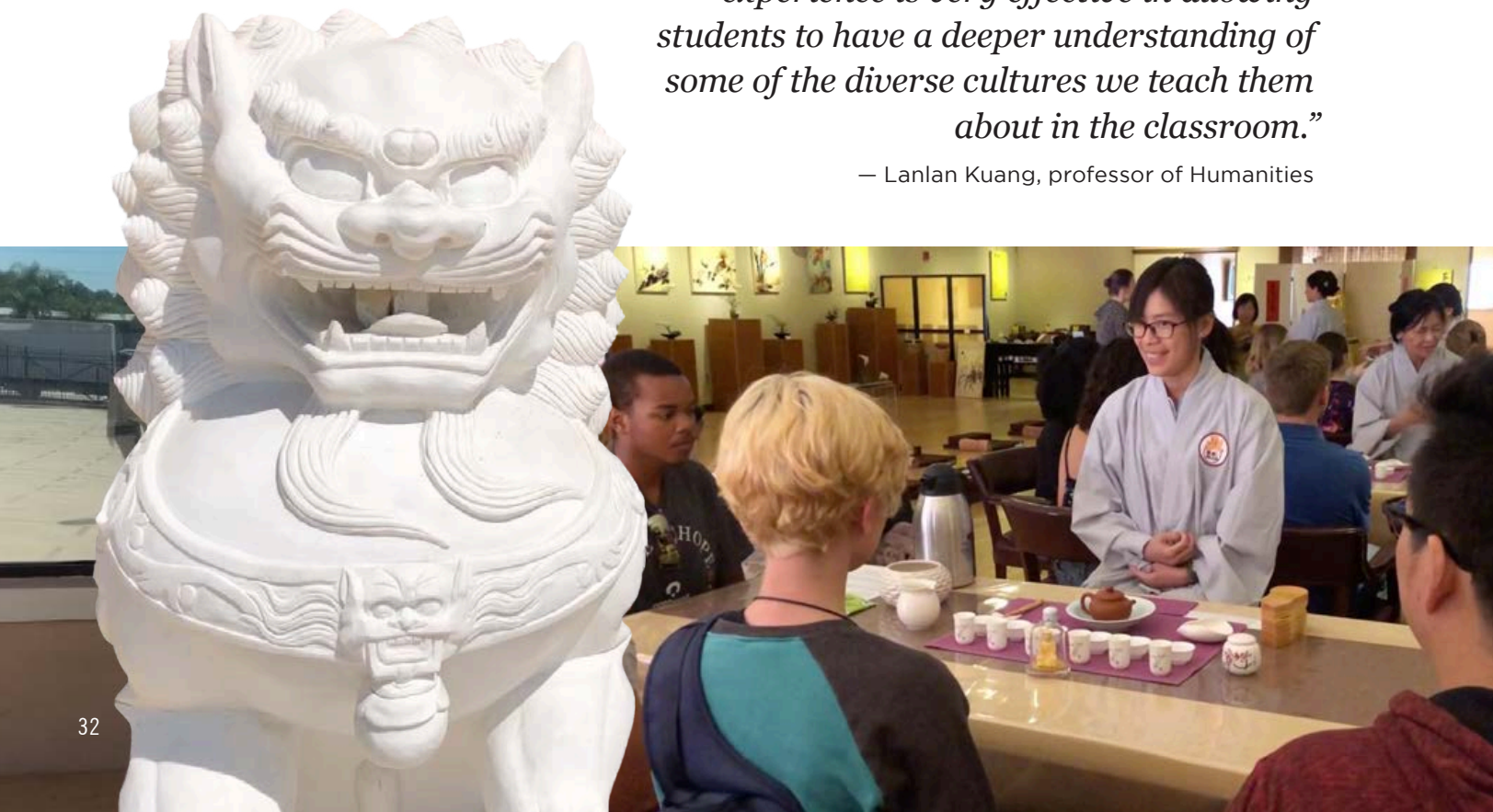
While a lot of learning occurs in the classroom, for many people experiential learning has the most impact. But hands-on experiences can be difficult to obtain for students who are learning about faraway cultures like Asia. An afternoon getaway to China isn't exactly practical.

However, associate professor of humanities Lanlan Kuang has found the next best thing: each semester, she invites students in her classes on a local trip to learn about different cultures beyond the classroom. Last fall, she took them to Orlando's Guang Ming Temple, a temple that serves as a center for multicultural education, social functions and worship within the Orlando Buddhist community. Students toured the site, learned about the teachings of Buddhism and engaged in dialogue with members of the temple's community. The day concluded with a traditional Buddhist tea and zen ceremony.

Watch [youtu.be/szCQEC7hgil](https://youtu.be/szCQEC7hgil)

*"This type of ethnographic-driven, in-person experience is very effective in allowing students to have a deeper understanding of some of the diverse cultures we teach them about in the classroom."*

— Lanlan Kuang, professor of Humanities



# PASSAGES

## RETIRING FACULTY AND STAFF

Best wishes to the arts and humanities faculty and staff who have recently retired from UCF, including five faculty members who were honored with Emeritus status at the 2019 Founders' Day convocation.

Cathy Baust

Paul Dombrowski,  
*Professor Emeritus, English*

Douglas Evans

José Fernández,  
*Dean and Professor Emeritus,  
History and Modern Languages  
and Literatures*

Paul Giordano, *Professor Emeritus,  
Modern Languages and Literatures*

Patricia Hurter

Kate Ingram

Peter Ives

Daniel Jones,  
*Professor Emeritus, English*

Barbara Kyle

Anthony Major

Patrick Rushin

Joseph Rusnock

Donald Stap,  
*Professor Emeritus, English*

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Lani Harris

Theatre professor Lani Harris, who passed away in December, will be remembered for her contributions to Theatre UCF, the university and the community. She joined UCF in 1997 and taught acting and directing. She was active at the university, and received recognition in research and teaching, and served on the Faculty Senate. A Fulbright scholar, she presented work across Europe and the Americas. She will be missed by family, friends and former students.



### Anthony "Tony" Major

Anthony "Tony" Major, who retired this spring after a long career as an actor, producer, director, documentary filmmaker and professor, passed away in May. Major spent more than 40 years creating films and theatre productions that depict slices of the African-American experience in the United States. Major joined UCF in 1995 and served as a member of the theatre and film departments. He also served as the director for the Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies and the Africana Studies program. He served as president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and was the faculty advisor of the John T. Washington Association.



Major believed that the reason the students were successful was because they had learned to think and to network: "Nothing is given in this business. You have to look for opportunities and hustle. It works." His impact on the film and theatre industry in Hollywood will continue through the exceptional work of his students whom he mentored and introduced to the professional community.



# AMAZING Alumni

*The CAH alumni chapter board ensures UCF graduates from the arts and humanities stay connected and active in the community.*



Last year, more than 1,000 UCF students graduated with a degree from the College of Arts and Humanities. An additional 630 students earned a minor or certificate from the college while completing their degree in another discipline.

One of the college's alumni is Florida State Rep. Anna Eskamani '12 '15MNM '15MPA, who, along with her colleague Carlos Guillermo Smith '03, are championing arts and cultural funding within the state of Florida. Because of their work and support, funding within the state increased from \$2.65 million to \$21.25 million this past year.

"Investing in arts and culture is critically important for our state," says Eskamani. "It's economically smart: for every \$1 we invest in arts and culture, we generate \$9. It also carries an altruistic value, as I want to make sure that arts and culture are accessible to Floridians of every age and class. We also know that the arts have been tied to health and well-being, with new PTSD and trauma-informed programs piloting art components. I am proud of our bipartisan efforts to increase funding for arts and culture, and will continue to be an advocate in seeking a dedicated source of public funds."

One of the events Eskamani and Smith attended this year was UCF Celebrates the Arts, where they spoke with other alumni and community members about the effect UCF's arts and humanities programs have on Central Florida.

"As an alumna of the College of Arts and Humanities myself, it was an honor to help kick off UCF Celebrates the Arts and highlight the positive impact UCF has had on our region's arts community," says Eskamani.

Eskamani will be serving on the College of Arts and Humanities Dean's Executive Council beginning this fall.

Other College of Arts and Humanities events hosted this year by the college's alumni chapter included Eclectic Knights XI and a dessert reception at Symphony Under the Stars. The chapter also launched a mentorship program, pairing over 150 students and alumni.

We'd like to thank the Arts and Humanities alumni chapter board for its service and look forward to welcoming our new officers this fall.

◆ Learn more at [cah.ucf.edu/alumni](http://cah.ucf.edu/alumni)





UCF @UCF 11:26 AM · 27 Jun 2019

As the @USWNT is on their quest for its fourth Women's World Cup championship, @UCFALUMNI and @ucfsvad faculty member Ashley Taylor '12 is supporting them on a whole new level with her designs for the @AmericanOutlaws 🇺🇸

#FIFAWWC #TourDeFour



USA Fans at Women's World Cup are Decked Out in Knight's Designs  
UCF art grad and faculty member Ashley Taylor has created posters, scarves and T-shirts as a member of the American Outlaws.  
ucf.edu

UCF College of Arts & Humanities @ucfcah 10:14 AM · 4 Jun 2019

Differences are our strengths, especially in the arts and humanities. Different can be a good thing! David James Poissant, an associate professor in the @UCF English Department MFA program in #creativewriting, comments on the pros of stubbornness. 📖



When 'Wrong' may be Right: In Praise of Stubbornness | University of Centra...  
When 'Wrong' may be Right: In Praise of Stubbornness | Read more about UCF Community, Opinions, Orlando and Central Florida news.  
ucf.edu

UCF College of Arts & Humanities @ucfcah 7:18 AM · 24 Apr 2019

We're in denim 📖 to show our support and solidarity for survivors of sexual assault. Learn more about #DenimDay and the "Let's Be Clear" campaign and resources available to you @UCF. 📖📖📖 #DenimDayUCF



62

UCF College of Arts & Humanities @ucfcah May 4

Congratulations to our 2019 grads! Reach for the stars and charge on in all you do 📖📖📖 #UCFGrad



2 Shares

ucf.cah Please give a big #UCF welcome to our newest CAH-leagues! This fall, we have 41 new faculty members joining our college. Charge on!



62 3 Comments 3 Shares

# GETTING SOCIAL

Throughout the year, we love sharing stories about our faculty, students and alumni and how they shape creativity, culture and collaboration. Here are a few of our favorites.



artsatucf Back in October, @JerushaCavazos '14 made her Broadway debut in a new musical comedy about acceptance & love. Now, @ThePromMusical is nominated for 7 @TheTonyAwards. So, we had to catch up with Jerusha again! Link in bio 📖📖 She's also going to be taking over @UCF.edu's Instagram this Saturday! 📖📖 #TheatreUCF #AlumKnight

savannahjberry This is so wonderful OMG!!  
Liked by kateskilpatrick and 228 others  
JUNE 6



ucf.cah "Making artwork about my experience gives me a sense of closure and allows me to think about — and look at — my experience as an object." — #AlumKnight Evan Rosato '18

#UCFSVAD alumnus Evan Rosato '18's tumor diagnosis felt like a death sentence. But instead of letting fear consume him, he found understanding and closure through his art. Now, he's a Fulbright Research grantee. 📖📖📖 Swipe to see Evan's work, displayed in Praxis: the SVAD Biannual BFA Exhibit from Fall 2018, and read Evan's story on our site. 📖

flyinghorseeditions Not bad for a guy with half a brain. And we mean that figuratively not literally. 📖📖 Love ya @evanrosato

Liked by artsatucf and 90 others  
MAY 21



ucf.cah May the fourth be with you - or may the course be with you? 📖 Coming to our galaxy fall of 2019, CRW 3930 - Special Topics: Star Wars will focus on the popular films' storytelling techniques and is open to all majors. Taught by Peter Telep (pictured left of Mark Hamil himself) — UCF English graduate, two-time Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award winner, and #StarWars fan since 1977. Read more about the course on our site! Link in bio 📖 #UCF #MayThe4thBeWithYou #RevengeOfTheFifth #StarWarsDay

courtgetsinsta This is awesome! Hope it'll eventually be offered as an online course too!  
brentwiggins Peter Telep knows his scripts and how to flip them to.  
Liked by ucf.edu and 123 others  
MAY 6

UCF School of Visual Arts and Design @ucfsvad December 17, 2018

Huge shout out to our super SVAD colleagues, Victor Davila, Matt Dombrowski, and Kirkland Macy who helped make this reality with Limbless Solutions!  
Get your copy of The Bionic Kid today! 📖📖📖 TheBionicKid.com



Follow along!

@UCFCAH @UCF.CAH

UCF College of Arts & Humanities @ucfcah November 30, 2018

Dean Jeff Moore was awarded the Yamaha Legacy Education Award at the 2018 Percussive Arts Society International Convention, one of the largest drum and percussion events in the world. The award is given once a year by the Yamaha Music USA to individuals who are considered legendary in their service to and effect upon music education. Congrats, Dean Moore! 📖📖



NEWS.CAH.UCF.EDU  
Dean Moore honored with Legacy Education Award - CAH News

69 7 Comments 27 Shares



# ENGLISH PROFESSOR GETS HIS WINGS

Tison Pugh is best known among students for his Harry Potter Studies class, but that's nowhere near his biggest accomplishment. He arrived at UCF in 2001 after receiving his doctorate in English literature from the University of Oregon, published 19 books in 17 years and served as the first faculty editor of the UCF undergraduate research journal, *The Pegasus Review*. And this year, he won the highest academic honor a UCF professor can receive: the Pegasus Professor award.

Pegasus Professors are faculty recognized for their excellence in teaching, research and service. Recipients of the award receive a \$5,000 stipend and a \$5,000 research grant. Pugh was one of four Pegasus Professor award winners this year.

In his popular Harry Potter studies class, Pugh challenges his students to analyze the character development, plot trajectory, cultural relevancy and more in the iconic books about wizards and

magic. For added fun, he divides students into teams named after the Harry Potter "houses," with the winning house at the end of the semester receiving \$100.

Tison's newest book, *The Queer Fantasies of the American Family Sitcom*, won The Popular Culture Association John Leo and Dana Heller Award for the Best Work in LGBTQ Studies. PCA, a national group of scholars and enthusiasts who study pop culture, gives the award annually to recognize work that contributes to the understanding and representation of sexual minorities and pop culture.



Pugh joins four other CAH faculty who are Pegasus Professors: José Fernández, Humberto López Cruz, Jeff Rupert and Stella Sung.



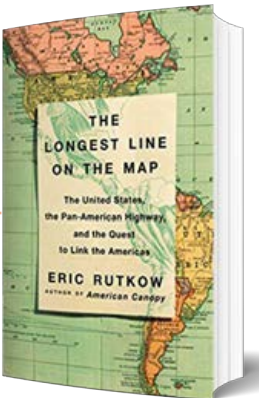
# HOT OFF THE PRESS

Looking for a good read? Members of the CAH faculty have published 29 books in the last year. Here's a sampling:

## THE LONGEST LINE ON THE MAP: The United States, the Pan-American Highway, and the Quest to Link the Americas

By **ERIC RUTKOW**, History | Nonfiction, History

After his first book made it on Oprah's Book Club Selection list, Rutkow's new book about the little-known history of the longest road in the world has received national praise. *The Longest Line on the Map* was released in January and has since received glowing reviews from *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*.



## BREAK THE BODIES, HAUNT THE BONES

By **MICAH DEAN HICKS**, English | Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror

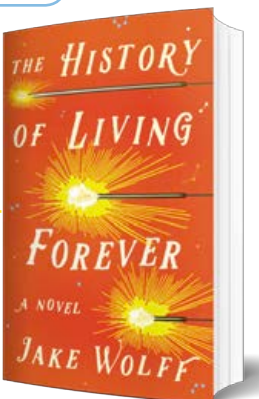
Ghosts and robots and aliens, oh my! These are just some of the characters in Hicks' new novel, *Break the Bodies, Haunt the Bones*. Although it's set in a haunted town where monsters roam free, characters deal with real-world issues of otherness and economic anxiety. *Sci-Fi Magazine* called the novel, which was published by UCF alumnus John Joseph Adams, "extraordinary."



## THE HISTORY OF LIVING FOREVER

By **JAKE WOLFF**, English | Fiction, Science Fiction, LGBTQ

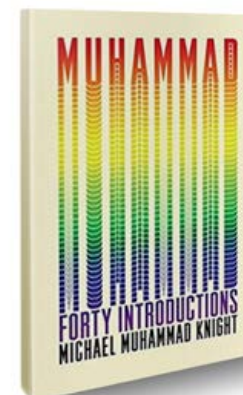
When a chemistry student's teacher and first love passes away, he uncovers his centuries-old quest for immortality. *The History of Living Forever*, which touches on themes like mental illness, love, morality and science, made the Indie Next List for June of 2019 and received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*.



## MUHAMMAD: FORTY INTRODUCTIONS

By **MICHAEL MUHAMMAD KNIGHT**, Philosophy | Nonfiction, History, Religion

*Muhammad: Forty Introductions* details the life and teachings of Muhammad the prophet by using a traditional genre of Islamic literature called the forty hadiths, reported sayings and actions of Muhammad collected throughout history. Addressing topics such as gender, sexuality and law, Muslim scholars retell hadiths to demonstrate their own personal understanding of Islam.



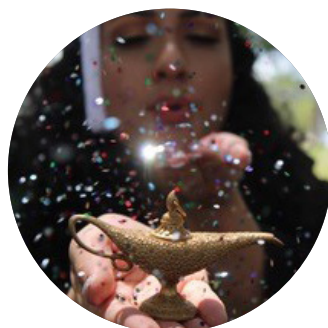


# STUDENT SUCCESS

*Before they even walked across the commencement stage, these CAH students made big moves within their fields of study.*

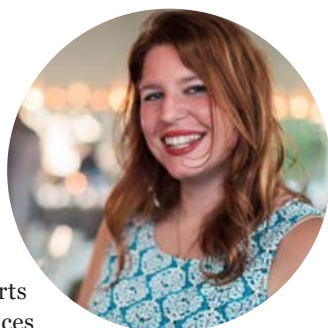
## MAKING IT TO BROADWAY

During her time as a student double-majoring in Theatre Studies and Marketing, **Gabriela Mercado '19** interned at high-profile companies like the Disney Theatrical Group and Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. As a company management intern for *The Lion King* national tour and *Hamilton's* second national tour, she learned what it takes to organize a major theatre production, from travel logistics to event planning. Passionate about all things entertainment, Mercado is now a production coordinator for *Aladdin* on Broadway in New York City. "When one door closes, don't look at it as a missed opportunity. Look at it as a redirection to another door. You might not end up where you thought you would, but you'll end up right where you belong—which is even better."



## TEACHING THEATRE TO THE NEXT GENERATION

For **Kate Kilpatrick**, pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Young Audiences and directing UCF's touring production of *The Last Paving Stone* was just the beginning. She was one of 22 students this year to receive Order of Pegasus, UCF's highest student honor. By partnering with the Orlando Repertory Theatre and acting as vice president for UCF's TYA organization, Kilpatrick has brought theatre activities to young audiences throughout Central Florida. After graduation, she plans to continue working as a teaching artist and TYA playwright. "Without my UCF network of artists and academics, I wouldn't be the person or professional I am today."



## INTERNING AT DREAMWORKS

Many animation students can only dream of the internship **Kenna Hornibrook** received. Over the summer, Hornibrook spent 12 weeks as a production intern at DreamWorks Feature Animation in Glendale, California, where she helped create the upcoming feature film *Boss Baby 2*. She's the first UCF student to ever land an internship at DreamWorks. A major accomplishment indeed!



## TOURING WITH HER FIRST NOVEL

It's rare for a student to have a publishing deal before starting her MFA, but **Caitlin Lochner** is no ordinary student. Lochner published her first novel, *A Soldier and a Liar*, in February of 2019 and spent the rest of spring on a speaking engagement tour. She also completed another novel inspired by Japan, where she worked as an assistant English teacher for three years before pursuing her MFA.



For the first time in UCF history, the Knights Saxophone Quartet won the southern division of the MTNA Chamber Music Competition. Noah Mosca, Jade Deatherage '19, Najee Lee and Dylan Hannah '19 competed against top music students in the region to bring home the gold (while repping black and gold). Under the direction of saxophone professor George Weremchuk and jazz studies director Jeff Rupert, the quartet went on to compete in the national competition. Way to go, Knights!

*"I just love getting together and playing music with these people. We've all become better in our musicianship and the whole experience has really helped us grow."*

— **Noah Mosca**, music performance major



# ON VIEW AT THE GALLERY

The UCF Art Gallery serves as a catalyst for visual arts experiences and education, culture, and community engagement by providing a framework for intellectual and creative inquiry. In the 2018-19 academic year, the gallery hosted exhibitions and programming that examined cultural and social contexts while supporting contemporary art practices.

🖼️ Learn more at [gallery.cah.ucf.edu](https://gallery.cah.ucf.edu)

## EXHIBITIONS

❶ The 2018 Annual **Faculty Exhibition** provided an opportunity for current and prospective students to connect to the artistic research and practice of their instructors.

❷ **Time Stretch** by **Elizabeth/Sidebotham** included installation, video and 2-D and 3-D artworks exploring themes of sacrifice, challenge, freedom and the joy of parenthood. The collaborative duo utilizes a combination of non-traditional materials, such as cake and sprinkles, as well as traditional paint mediums.

Look familiar? Artwork for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual UCF Celebrates the Arts festival was selected from this exhibition.

❸ **Silent Lines** by **Yvette Cummings Arendt** included a mix of large-scale paintings, collage and two site-specific installations that explored transitions between experiences of recalled child abuse and the dynamics of motherhood.

❹ The Fall 2018 Biannual BFA exhibition, **Praxis**, showcased undergraduate students studying in book arts, ceramics, drawing, experimental animation, illustration, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

❺ The 2019 Annual MFA exhibition, **Domestic Imports**, showcased a variety of mediums and processes and functioned as a major stepping stone into the graduates' professional careers as studio artists.

❻ The spring biannual BFA exhibition, **NOVA**, included a showcase for animation students and interactive VR/AR installations, as well as the disciplines seen at the fall show.

**Specters of Capital: An Exploration in Architecture and Identity** by **Morgan Craig**, included large-scale oil paintings exploring architectural structures as repositories and vehicles for memory, providing a framework through which culture and identity can be expressed.

*“We encourage all visitors, students, and artists to see the gallery as a space to support contemporary dialogues and practices in the visual arts.”*

— Shannon Lindsey, director

## EVENTS:

The **art(WORK)ing: a FATE Southeast Regional Conference** provided a unique opportunity for art faculty and administration in the Southeast to share new and developing pedagogical approaches, curriculae and projects.

The first **Art Prizes Info Session** in collaboration with the major regional art prize directors for South Arts, ArtFields and 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art. This event gave visual artists in the community, as well as students and alumni, the opportunity to learn about art prizes available in the southern region.



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4



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6



# STANDING OVATION

*“The last year offered an exciting combination of plays and musicals ranging from classical repertoire to contemporary works that provided both education and entertainment for audiences and students.”*

— Julia Listengarten, Theatre UCF artistic director

Theatre UCF’s 2018-19 season brought us important stories, thrilling adventures and new worlds to explore. From the American classic *Of Mice and Men* to the European avant-garde *The Street of Crocodiles* and the epic musical *Titanic*, the season addressed relevant social issues and exposed students to a variety of genres and styles. This summer, Theatre UCF hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pegasus PlayLab, a festival dedicated to emerging playwrights. The plays were selected from over 300 submissions and playwrights came from across the country to develop their works with UCF students and faculty.

## SHE KILLS MONSTERS

*By Qui Nguyen*

Actors and designers straddled the worlds of reality and fantasy in this Dungeons and Dragons-themed comedic play. The cast took the audience on a journey of discovery and adventure while battling demons—both figurative and literal.

## HOT MIKADO

*Book and lyrics adapted by David H. Bell*

A parody of Gilbert and Sullivan’s perennial classic *The Mikado*, the musical allowed students to explore a multitude of musical and visual styles, including jazz, blues and gospel music, and Japanese Kawaii design. It also opened a conversation about how to approach classic works through the modern lens of diversity and inclusion.

## OF MICE AND MEN

*By John Steinbeck*

*Of Mice and Men* is one of the most notable pieces of American theatre and continues to influence and inspire the theatre of today. Plays like this help students to build a foundation in the classics and discover the relevance these characters still hold.

## OUR COUNTRY’S GOOD

*By Timberlake Wertenbaker*

The play follows a young lieutenant directing the first play ever staged in Australia using a cast of convicts sent to a penal colony from Britain. Although the reality of their lives is harsh, the play reveals the transformative power of art to bring meaning and joy into their world.

## THE STREET OF CROCODILES

*Based on stories by Bruno Schultz  
Adapted by Simon McBurney and Mark Wheatley*

A devised piece, students and faculty used stories from Polish writer Bruno Schultz to collaboratively create a script and bring the story to life as an ensemble.

## THE LAST PAVING STONE

*By Y. York*

This play for young audiences espouses the importance of conservation and diversity. The production toured several elementary schools before being produced at the UCF campus and UCF Celebrates the Arts.

## TITANIC: THE MUSICAL

*Story and book by Peter Stone  
Music and lyrics by Maury Yeston*

With over 50 actors, an 80-piece orchestra and a large production team, this collaborative and ambitious effort was one of the highlights of UCF Celebrates the Arts.

## DIVERSITY IN DANCE

*Directed by Judi Siegfried*

Dancers, choreographers and designers showcased their talents in this perennial favorite.

## #GODHATESYOU

*By Emily Dendinger*

After a successful reading as part of Orlando Shakes’ PlayFest, *#GodHatesYou* received a full production as part of the second annual Pegasus PlayLab. The play tackles the challenging but relevant topic of spreading hate in a world where we can hide behind our screens.

## PEGASUS PLAYLAB WORKSHOPS

### El Wiz

*Conceived by Paul Castañeda and Juan Cantú*

### It’s a Small World (or The Robot Play)

*By Amber Palmer*

### They Must be Women Now!

*By Nedra Pezold Roberts*





# A NEW SCHOOL

On July 2, 2018 the **Nicholson School of Communication and Media** was launched, becoming UCF's first interdisciplinary, inter-college entity at the UCF Downtown campus.

NSCM now includes undergraduate programs in advertising/public relations, communication and conflict, game design, web design, film, human communication, journalism and radio-television; and graduate degree programs in communication, digital media, feature film production and interactive entertainment. The school is organized into three departments: Communication, Film and Mass Media, and Games and Interactive Media.

This is an exciting time for NSCM. Not only is the school preparing to move to the UCF's downtown campus to join with FIEA in the newly-named Communication and Media Building, but the school is launching a Ph.D. in Strategic Communication in fall 2019. The highlights for the past year are many and varied. However, this report focuses on the programs that confer diplomas from the College of Arts and Humanities.

## Film and Mass Media

Faculty achievements included both creative and scholarly work: Lisa Danker completed *Foreclosed Home Movie* that was selected for showing by nine international and national festivals; Gary Rhodes published his book, *The Birth of the American Horror Film*; and Lisa Mills collaborated with Robert Cassanello to premiere *Marching Forward* (see page 14).

Student- and alumni-focused activities were showcased. Phil Peters brought six students to India as part of a Fulbright research project and developed an international research conference, "Flickering Landscapes." The alumni filmmakers of *The Blair Witch Project*—Robin Cowie, Michael Monello, Dan Myrick, Eduardo Sanchez and Ben Rock—returned to campus after 20 years to offer advice and direction to film students and faculty about what they learned in their careers (see page 23).

A highlight for the program was the continued international acclaim given to Ula Stoeckl, honored at two major film festivals in Spain and Germany.

The school remembers long-time UCF professor Tony Major, who passed away in May. In his final semester at UCF, he continued his legacy of mentoring students with the influential program *The State of Black Star Power*, focusing on the socio-economic importance of filmmaking in Florida.

## Games and Interactive Media

Faculty and program highlights included scholarly publication, creative work and global recognition. Mel Stanfill published *Exploiting Fandom: How the Media Industry Seeks to Manipulate Fans*, which brings together media and sports fandom studies under the lens of fan labor. Joseph Fanfarelli and Rudy McDaniel published a text detailing the principles, implementation and assessment of digital badging systems entitled *Designing Effective Digital Badges: Applications for Learning*. Peter Smith and his colleagues expanded their work with Limbitless Solutions, creating a collection of training games for 3D-printed bionic limbs. With Carnegie Museums, Maria Harrington created an augmented reality app, AR Perpetual Garden, which blends interactive digital visuals, sounds and other elements into real-world environments and is capturing national recognition. The quality of the faculty and program continues to rise as Matthew Mosher received a Fulbright Fellowship to study and work at Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Austria; and of course, the #13 Princeton Review ranking of the undergraduate program in game design represented a major milestone on a national scale.

## Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy

FIEA continued its claim to the Top 5 for the 10th consecutive year based on The Princeton Review's evaluation of graduate game development programs. An Electronic Arts Diversity Scholarship focusing on women in the game industry resulted in a record increase of women enrolled in the program to 33 percent. In January, FIEA hosted the 2nd Press Play Conference focusing on accessibility for young people with disabilities in games and technology. Student-developed games continued to have success as *Long Arm of the Law* won awards for Best Gameplay and Best Visual Quality at the Intel University Games Showcase and *Tablecraft*, which teaches middle-schoolers the principles of chemistry, won Best Student Game at the I/ITSEC Simulation Conference. *Tablecraft* was awarded a National Science Foundation SBIR grant to further develop the product and research for a commercial release.

*Robert Littlefield, director*

🎮 Learn more at [communication.ucf.edu](http://communication.ucf.edu)

Nicholson School of  
**COMMUNICATION  
& MEDIA**



Photo by Alberto Santos





## Department of ENGLISH

The English Department received several awards in 2018 and 2019, including the Best Online Bachelor's Program in English (from Bestcolleges.com), the Best Online Colleges for Value and the Most Affordable Online Colleges, and its graduate English program was ranked nationally in *U.S. News and World Report*.

The department's strength continues to be the quality of its internationally-recognized faculty and their commitment to the students and to the broader Orlando community. One of our faculty members—Tison Pugh—was selected for the highest academic award a professor can receive at UCF, the Pegasus Professor Award. Another faculty member, Beth Rapp Young, was the principal investigator for a successful \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project will create the first complete, online and fully searchable version of Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*, one of the most influential works of English literature of all time. Our faculty published books, book chapters, journal articles and more in a variety of national and international venues, including with Farrar, Straus, and Giroux; W. W. Norton & Company; Oxford University Press; Houghton Mifflin; Palgrave Macmillan; *The Journal of Scientific Communication*; and *The Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*.

Over the last year, the department began implementation of its new undergraduate certificate in Editing and Publishing and offered new courses in Fantasy and World-building, The Immigrant Experience, and Scholarly Editing and Publishing.

*Aquifer*, the online version of UCF's prestigious literary journal, *The Florida Review*, was named a finalist in the Best Debut

Magazine Category of the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses' Firecracker Awards. In addition, English faculty expanded their involvement in a variety of community endeavors, including the Literary Arts Partnership—which strengthened its partnerships with UCF's Florida Prison Education Project and the Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Sanford—and continued their participation in several successful student-run programs, including the PARCELS Graduate Reading Series, the Graduate Writers' Association, *The Cypress Dome* literary magazine and the Future Technical Communicators' Club.

The department has also hired twelve new faculty members over the last three years, including new professors in Global Modernisms, Romanticisms, Contemporary American Poetry, Linguistics and Anglo-Saxon Literature, Technical Communication, Creative Writing—Fiction, Creative Writing—Poetry, and Creative Writing—Scriptwriting.

*Trey Philpotts, chair*

 Learn more at [english.cah.ucf.edu](http://english.cah.ucf.edu)



*“The history faculty at UCF have been amazing. Every class I’ve taken has strengthened my passion for history.”*

**ELIZABETH KLEMENTS '19**  
Recipient of the 2019 Founders' Award

The faculty and students of the Department of History and its associated programs continue to thrive, working in the classroom and in the community to tell our shared stories. The Veterans Legacy Program, our partnership with the National Cemetery Association, Department of Veterans' Affairs, entered its third year with our students researching and commemorating veterans buried in Florida national cemeteries. Robert Cassanello and his students worked with the Jones High School Historical Society to develop a digital museum experience for the Jones High School Museum. Scot French, director of Public History, created an exhibit at the Maitland Historical Museum on the shared history of the cities of Eatonville and Maitland. The RICHES program, about to enter its tenth year, continues its work in preserving the stories, records, and artifacts of the region while pioneering new digital tools for researching the past.

The department's faculty, students and alumni continue to travel the globe in their study of the past, and several were recognized for their contributions. Undergraduate student Elizabeth Klements '19 won the College of Arts & Humanities



## Department of HISTORY

Founders' Day award and will be joining our MA program in the fall with a Dean's Fellowship to study modern European history. Luis Martínez-Fernández won the bronze medal in nonfiction at the Florida Book Awards for his new history of early colonial Cuba. Several faculty and alumnae were recognized for their work by the Florida Historical Society: Robert Cassanello won the 2019 Hampton Dunn Internet Award for New Media and Lori Walters won the 2019 Caroline P. Rossetter Award for Outstanding Woman in Florida History; alumna Holly Baker '17MA won the 2019 Hampton Dunn Broadcasting award and alumna Porsha Dossie '18MA won the 2019 Governor Leroy Collins award for outstanding graduate thesis.

Along with programs in Africana Studies and Judaic Studies, we hosted dozens of events and workshops, including talks on Madame C.J. Walker, Holocaust-era Art Litigation in the United States, and West Africa and the Making of the French Atlantic World, as well as a new Community Connections Mentorship Panel in association with Central Florida Hillel.

Finally, we remember Anthony “Tony” Major, former director of Africana Studies, who passed away this year unexpectedly.

*Peter Larson, chair*

 Learn more at [history.cah.ucf.edu](http://history.cah.ucf.edu)





## Department of MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures had a productive year, teaching ten languages, Latin-American Studies and Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages. Our activities ranged from conversation tables to film nights to cultural events with the local community. We expanded our certificate programs to prepare students for the professional world and created courses in Haitian Creole. Overall, we have enjoyed a variety of accomplishments by students and faculty, often on the international stage.

Undergraduate student clubs and research projects were recognized by organizations such as the National Italian-American Foundation, the American Council of Teachers of Russian, the US Department of State and the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program. Study abroad included programs in Cuba, Italy, Russia and Spain. Two graduates of our M.A. in TESOL were selected for the Department of State English Language Fellow Program, and a Spanish M.A. graduate earned a doctoral fellowship.

It was an exciting year for faculty as well. We promoted five faculty members, named two Professors Emeriti and one Endowed Chair, and earned eight UCF awards for teaching and research. The Center of Language Outreach, Research & Study was established as a digital hub to promote language research. MLL faculty earned \$206,000 in external funding and continued

research on multi-year grant projects totaling over \$3.9 million. Faculty published and presented over 55 times in peer-reviewed venues.

New partnerships have opened up opportunities for students and faculty. Highlights include a grant from the Italian government to expand language instruction, a new student exchange agreement with a university in Perugia, Italy, and a \$25,000 Pabst Steinmetz Foundation Arts and Wellness Innovation Award for an interdisciplinary student-faculty collaboration to develop animated fables in three languages, designed to teach parenting skills.

We also shared events with the community, including a lecture by a world-renowned opera expert, the Spanish Graduate Association Colloquium and performances by internationally-known artists. The UCF-Hillcrest Foreign Language Club continued its work with an Orlando elementary school, and the grant-funded “Spanish 4 Children’s Wellness” program distributed books and toys to children in local hospitals.

Building on these successes, we look forward to another year of celebrating languages, cultures and diversity in 2019-2020.

*Geri Smith, chair*

Learn more at [mll.cah.ucf.edu](http://mll.cah.ucf.edu)



## School of PERFORMING ARTS

The School of Performing Arts had an outstanding year on the stage and in the classroom. Over 200 concerts and recitals were performed by our music programs and Theatre UCF presented a spectacular season of plays, musicals and dance concerts. The pinnacle of our academic year was the fifth annual UCF Celebrates the Arts with more than 35 events and over 15,000 tickets reserved, showcasing incredible concerts, theatre productions and interactive performance events.

We welcomed new faculty with expertise in cello, horn, jazz bass, music theory, composition, bands, theatre design and themed experience. Thad Anderson was granted tenure in music and percussion, and two faculty members were promoted to full professorships: Nora Lee García, flute; and Bert Scott, theatre design and technology.

Julia Listengarten was part of a collective awarded a Pabst Steinmetz Foundation Arts & Wellness Innovation Award to fund an initiative to bring art to the elderly. Listengarten was also awarded the University Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. Sybil St. Claire and Kristina Tollefson were granted College Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Kate Kilpatrick, an MFA candidate in the Theatre for Young Audiences program, was awarded Order of Pegasus, UCF’s highest student honor. The UCF Knights Saxophone Quartet won the southern division of the MTNA Chamber Music Competition and Johan Gallardo received the KCACTF Theatrical Design Excellence Award in costume design in Region IV and competed in D.C. Alumna Abby Jaros ’14, recently on tour in *Hamilton*, was awarded the UCF 30 under 30 Award.

The school is also reaching out internationally. The woodwinds visited Thailand in an exchange program with Mahidol University and a new partnership has been forged with the Liszt Academy in Budapest. Professors have been presenting and performing throughout the globe, spreading the UCF brand worldwide in Costa Rica, Spain, Brazil, South Korea, China and more.

Disney and UCF worked together to launch the “Path to Cast” program wherein theatre students work closely with leading professionals from Disney to realize their dreams of working for Disney in various capacities.

*Michael Wainstein, director*

Learn more at [performingarts.cah.ucf.edu](http://performingarts.cah.ucf.edu)



## Department of PHILOSOPHY



The Department of Philosophy offers excellent programs in philosophy, humanities and cultural studies, religion and cultural studies, and graduate certificates in cognitive sciences and theoretical and applied ethics. In the 2018-19 academic year, the department faculty published 48 peer-reviewed works. This included monographs by Ann Gleig, *American Buddhism After Modernity* (Yale University Press), and Michael Knight, *Muhammad: Forty Introductions* (Counterpoint), as well as a co-edited special issue by Steve Fiore of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, one of the world's oldest academic journals, and an edited special issue by Luis Favela of *Cognitive Systems Research*. The Department of Philosophy also sponsored or co-sponsored events on "Justice and Big Data Ethics," "Amo's Critique of Descartes," "Daniel Johnston and a Performance of Disability," "Paywall: The Business of Scholarship" and the Religion and Cultural Studies Program co-hosted a film series on "Religion and Sexuality." Additionally, the Department of Philosophy sponsored the UCF Ethics Bowl team that placed 2nd at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ethics Bowl, which qualified them for a second consecutive year for the national Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

Award winners from the Department of Philosophy for this year include Jonathan Beever for a Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) Award, Mark Fagiano for the International Journal of Philosophical Studies Robert Papazian Annual Essay Prize, Luciana Garbayo for a Pabst Steinmetz Foundation Arts & Wellness Innovation Award, Bruce Janz for a Research Incentive Award and Jeanine Viau for a Teaching Incentive Award. Lastly, Cyrus Zargar was invested into the Al-Ghazali Endowed Distinguished Professorship, which was created through donations from members of the Islamic Center of Orlando.

*Michael Strawser, chair*

📖 Learn more at [philosophy.cah.ucf.edu](http://philosophy.cah.ucf.edu)

## TEXTS & TECHNOLOGY



The Texts & Technology doctoral program, which consists of 35 core faculty from 7 departments and currently serves 59 students, had an exciting 2018-19 school year. Nine students graduated with their doctorates, with several accepting faculty positions. The program saw record numbers of applications and enrollments last year and again for next year.

UCF has approved a new Editing, Publishing and Interdisciplinary Curating track for T&T, which will serve students interested in approaching these disciplines through the lens of changing technologies and emerging platforms. We've also made several changes to the curriculum to allow students more flexibility based on their goals of exploring careers in research, industry or alternative-academic organizations. Students will also have the opportunity to take a new course on Dissertation Research, approved by UCF to go into effect next fall. As part of this new course, students will gain confidence in selecting research methods, navigating Institutional Review Board policies and applying for external funding.

In March 2019, T&T hosted an international conference titled "Flickering Landscapes: The Image of Migration:

Landscapes and People." This conference involved scholars and artists from over a dozen countries, including Guatemala, the UK, Italy, Poland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Japan, India, Korea, New Zealand, the Gambia, Iraqi Kurdistan and the U.S., focusing on the relation of the moving image to migration and landscapes across the globe. The conference also involved many UCF students, faculty and alumni.

A new focus on technical skills mastery was integrated into core courses this year, encouraging students to think from day one about the potential for approaching their scholarship through formats other than the traditional text dissertation. One of our 2019 graduates, Laura Okkema, exemplified the potential for hybrid scholarly thinking with her dissertation that combined archival research and creative nonfiction through a playable text-driven game inviting readers into a multigenerational history. We are excited to see how the next generation of T&T students continues to push towards public, digital and interactive scholarship!

*Barry Mauer, director November 2016–May 2019*

📖 Learn more at [tandt.cah.ucf.edu](http://tandt.cah.ucf.edu)



## School of VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN



*“Studying the arts at UCF has been such an interesting and explorative experience that has not only sharpened my skills but has also given me the space to develop my practice in new and innovative ways.”*

**ZORAYE CYRUS**, student, Studio Art BFA

The School of Visual Arts and Design continued its mission of educating artists and designers to thrive in contemporary contexts. Nearly two thousand students majored and minored in the school’s programs this year, choosing specializations such as studio art, art history, animation, graphic design, photography, visual arts management and architecture. SVAD’s two MFA programs continue to grow: the Studio Art and the Computer program has completed its 15th year and is back on main campus in newly renovated facilities after a decade of being located downtown. Our newer Animation and Visual Effects program will graduate its first cohort in Spring 2020, and the program is already ranked #13 in the country for animation.

Top national rankings highlighted the superior quality of several of SVAD’s programs. Our animation programs were ranked in the top ten percent of programs nationally and our graphic design program was ranked #2 in Florida and in the top ten programs in the south by Animation Career Review.

Students and alumni this year won prestigious awards, including the highly-selective Fulbright Research Grant, an

Atlantic Center for the Arts exhibition and the 2019 ArtFields Grand Prize. A recent alumna illustrated a children’s book, *Fresh Princess*, inspired by Will Smith’s sitcom in the 1990s. The redesigned William and Alice Jenkins Community Arts program launched this year, bringing opportunities for community engagement to our students and strengthening partnerships between UCF and local community arts organizations.

Faculty achievements included notable exhibitions and publications. Highlights include one faculty member designing a 3-D printed musical instrument for the musician Bjork, one winning multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and another being selected to exhibit his work for the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art at the Orlando Museum of Art. SVAD also continued a strong record of programming for UCF Celebrates the Arts at Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts.

The school hired two new faculty members, one in architecture and the other a visiting faculty member in drawing. The school has two searches ongoing: a faculty position in emerging media and a new staff position for technology and lab support. One faculty member in studio art was tenured and promoted to associate professor.

*Rudy McDaniel, director*

 Learn more at [svad.cah.ucf.edu](http://svad.cah.ucf.edu)

## Department of WRITING & RHETORIC



*“What an uplifting experience it was to visit yet another outstanding writing program, to know that in the face of so much negativity and division and, yes, even hate, that writing teachers are keeping faith, continuing to engage and inspire writers to write honestly, think critically, and speak their own truths.”*

**ANDREA LUNSFORD**, former director of the program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford University and Professor of English Emerita


The Department of Writing and Rhetoric had a successful year showcasing the power of writing, literacy and composing in the university, workplace and world.

DWR faculty engaged and inspired students and faculty through events at UCF Celebrates the Arts, multiple keynote addresses at conferences nationwide and the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Knights Write Showcase, which demonstrates how writing and communication is important in every field, with the winners and panelists hailing from a variety of majors. Provost Elizabeth Dooley continued President Emeritus John C. Hitt’s tradition of awarding three students published in the department’s peer-reviewed undergraduate journal *Stylus* with the President John C. Hitt Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing. The University Writing Across the Curriculum program continued to support faculty in embedding writing into their curriculum by hosting WAC Fellows from Chemistry, Integrated Business and Modern Languages, and awarded the 2019 Schell Award for Innovative Writing Instruction in the Disciplines to Martha Hubertz from the department of Psychology.

An impressive list of publications, accolades and awards rounded out this year’s achievements. The department welcomed the promotion of Deborah Weaver to Senior Instructor—the first senior instructor in the department; as well, DWR congratulated Vanessa Calkins and her promotion to Associate Instructor. Nathan Holie’s book *Bright Lights, Medium-Sized City* featured his original watercolor comics and artwork, and faculty members published scholarship

and creative works in venues like *Burningword Literary Journal*; *Computers and Composition Online*; *The Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*; *Learning, Culture, and Social Interaction*; *Next Steps: New Directions for/in Writing about Writing*; *Peitho*; *Redivider* and others. Mark Hall, director of the University Writing Center, received the 2018 Outstanding Book Award for his book *Around the Texts of Writing Center Work: An Inquiry-based Approach to Tutor Education* and was selected as a 2019 Summer Institute Leader for the International Writing Centers Association. Hall and Blake Scott both received UCF Research Incentive Awards and Scott also received the University Excellence in Professional Service Award. Marcy Galbreath won the University Excellence in Faculty Academic Advising and Stephanie Vie won one of two University Awards for Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students. Jamila Kareem won a 2019–20 VPR Advancement of Early Career Researchers award and Laurie A. Pinkert’s work with the McNair Scholars program led to students receiving four NSF Graduate Research Fellowships and a Ford Diversity Fellowship. And our accolades were not limited to faculty: DWR cheered on Komysha Hassan (double major in Political Science and Writing & Rhetoric), winner of the University Honors in the Major Outstanding Thesis Award in the category of Arts, Humanities and Creative Inquiry.

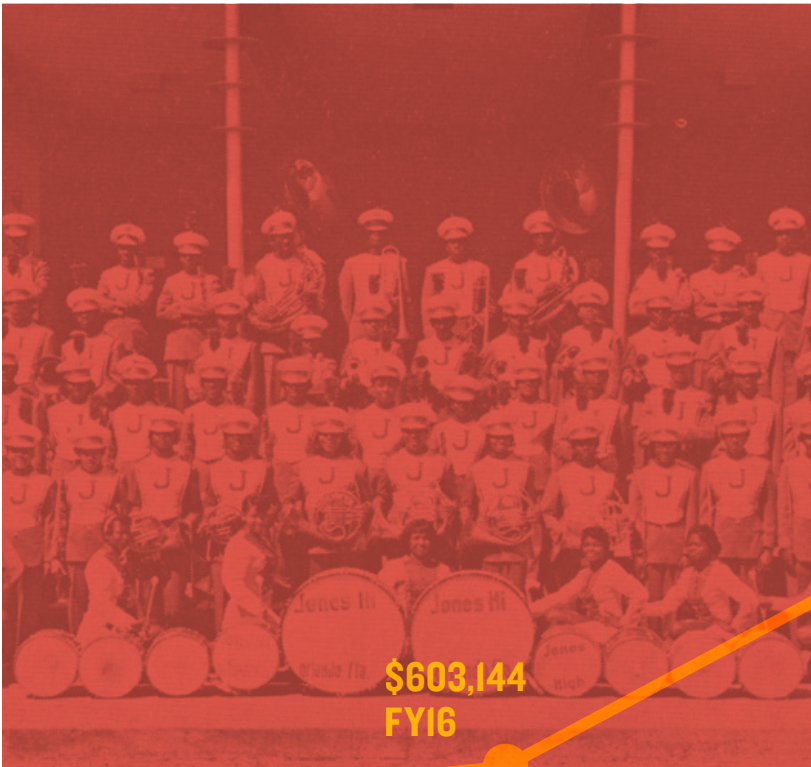
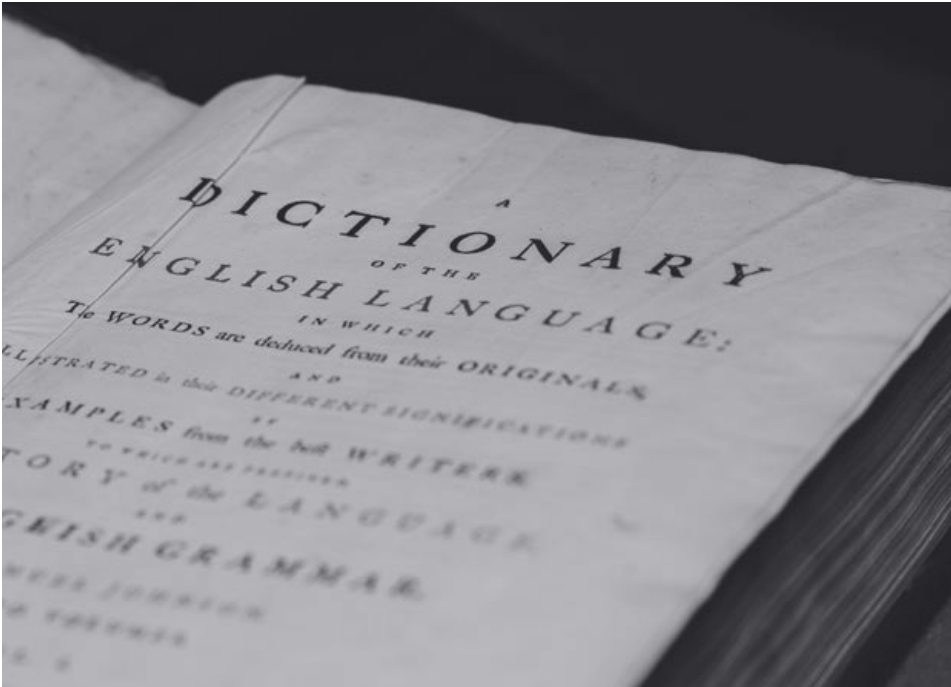
*Stephanie Vie, chair*

 Learn more at [dwr.cah.ucf.edu](http://dwr.cah.ucf.edu)



# RESEARCH REPORT

In 2018-19, 58 proposals were submitted by the College of Arts and Humanities through the Office of Research and 23 contracts and grants were awarded. 55 faculty and staff were involved in proposal submissions and 33 faculty and staff were awarded. The college is once again at a record high for proposal and award credit, with \$51,329,936 in total proposal involvement (\$9,413,309 in CAH credit) and \$2,398,902 award involvement with \$1,650,490 CAH credit.



Before a research grant is awarded, considerable time and effort go into preparing the proposal. We recognize and thank faculty and staff involved in research grant proposals in 2018-19 as either a primary or co-primary investigator, including:

Jonathan Beever	Mark Kamrath	Anastasia Salter	Stella Sung
Rosalind Beiler	Alla Kourova	Maria C. Santana	Terry Thaxton
Cheryl Briggs	Connie Lester	Michael Shier	Alvaro Villegas
Anne Bubriski	Marie Leticee	Peter Smith	Keri Watson
Jason Burrell	Shannon Lindsey	Amanda Snyder	Beth Young
Robert Cassanello	Julia Listengarten	Tara Snyder	
Caroline Cheong	Amelia Lyons	Mel Stanfill	
Byron Clercx	Carmen Mathes	Consuelo Stebbins	
Victor Davila	Barry Mauer	Sonia Stephens	
Matthew Dombrowski	Kevin Meehan		
Joseph Fanfarelli	Florin Mihai		
Marcella Farina	Lisa Mills		
Stephen Fiore	Tracey Morrison		
Scot French	Matthew Mosher		
Barbara Gannon	John Murray		
Amy Giroux	Laurie A. Pinkert		
Ann Gleig	Kerry Purmzensky		
Duncan Hardy	Tiffany Rivera		
Maria Harrington	John Sacher		
Elizabeth Horn			
Bruce Janz			
Emily Johnson			

\$1,650,490  
FY19

\$1,352,976  
FY18

\$846,580  
FY17

\$603,144  
FY16

\$566,543  
FY15

CAH AWARD CREDIT

“We continue to increase activity in funded research proposals both within the college and with collaborations between colleges and community partners. The important theoretical, practical, creative and socially relevant research done in the arts and humanities is an integral part of the human experience and the growth of knowledge in diverse disciplines such as medicine, education, languages, cultures, sciences, engineering and beyond. We look forward to continuing the upward trajectory of our research activity to enhance and develop new relationships and collaborations.”

**NANCY STANLICK**  
Associate Dean of Research  
College of Arts and Humanities





# PILLARS of SUPPORT

The 2019 College of Arts and Humanities Staff Recognition Awards honored staff members for their hard work and dedication to UCF, with three people winning prestigious recognition awards.

The three award recipients are Jon Bowen (Nicholson School of Communication and Media), Meghan Crowther (English) and Amy Giroux (Center for Humanities and Digital Research). Each winner received \$600 along with their award.

The first USPS award was given in memory of the late Dr. David Vickers. The second USPS award was in honor of Dr. Bruce Whisler, who attended the ceremony. The A&P employee award was given in memory of Tony Travaglini.

“It is through the hard work of our staff members that the College of Arts and Humanities continues to succeed,” said Lyman Brodie, who presented the awards. “I’d like to thank all of them for their everyday high intentions, sincere efforts and hard work.”

In addition to the awardees, the college recognized the other nominees and staff members who had reached milestone employment anniversaries.

## Staff Award Nominees

Haley Baker, English  
 Steve Blackburn, Visual Arts & Design  
 Jon Bowen, Communication and Media  
 Gary Brown, Performing Arts  
 Lisa Clendenning, Modern Languages and Literatures  
 Meghan Crowther, English  
 Amy Giroux, Center for Humanities and Digital Research  
 Susan Glerum, Performing Arts  
 Jon Muley, Visual Arts & Design  
 John Parker, Performing Arts  
 Dave Schreier, Performing Arts

## 5 years of service

Haley Baker, English  
 Gary Brown, Performing Arts  
 Adrian Gonzalez, Flying Horse Editions  
 Stephanie LiVigni, Student Advising  
 Jessica Nguyen, Visual Arts & Design  
 Ashli Van Horn, Dean’s Office

## 10 years of service

Jason Effron, Visual Arts & Design  
 Neida Mora-Maus, Dean’s Office

## 15 years of service

Waheeda Illasarie, Visual Arts & Design  
 Janki Maraj, Visual Arts & Design  
 Joe Muley, Visual Arts & Design

# PROMOTION AND TENURE

*Fostering the success of our faculty and staff is critical to meeting the mission of the College of Arts and Humanities. This year, seventeen faculty members received promotions or tenure.*

## Communication and Media

Gideon Shbeeb

## English

Kathleen Hohenleitner  
 Patricia B. Angley  
 Peter Telep  
 Christian Beck

## History

James Clark  
 Patricia Farless

## Modern Languages and Literatures

Dina Fabery  
 Alice Korosy  
 Anne Prucha  
 Maria Redmon  
 Gergana Vitanova

## Performing Arts

Thad Anderson  
 Nora Lee García  
 Bert Scott

## Writing and Rhetoric

Vanessa Calkins  
 Deborah Weaver





# FACULTY HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE



*Congratulations to our faculty members who have been recognized by the university for their outstanding teaching, research and service.*

## Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

**University Award**  
Matt Dombrowski

**College Awards**  
Luis Martínez-Fernández  
Sybil St. Claire  
Kristina Tollefson

## University Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching

Julia Listengarten

## University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Faculty Academic Advising

Marcy L. Galbreath

## University Award for Excellence in Professional Service

Blake Scott

## University Award for Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students

**Social Science, Humanities, Education, Business, Art and Health**

Stephanie Vie

## College Award for Excellence in Research

Yovanna Pineda

## Research Incentive Award

Martha García  
Mark Hall  
Bruce Janz  
Anna Jones  
Alla Kourova  
Adem Ozoglu  
Yovanna Pineda  
Kerry Purmensky  
Blake Scott  
Vladimir Solonari  
Kristina Tollefson  
Charlotte Trinquet du Lys  
Keri Watson

## Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Blake Scott  
Keri Watson

## Chuck D. Dziuban Award for Excellence in Online Teaching

Matt Dombrowski

## Teaching Incentive Program

Thad Anderson  
Matthew Bryan  
Edward Dandrow  
Marcella Farina  
Francisco Fernandez-Rubiera  
Kelly Miller  
Maria Montalvo  
David Poissant  
Julie Pomerleau  
John Sacher  
Laurie Uttich  
Jeanine Viau  
Keri Watson

## Women of Distinction Award

Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz

## Women's History Month Awardees

Cheryl Briggs  
Lisa Danker  
Nora Lee García  
Shannon Lindsey  
Holly McDonald  
Kelly Miller  
Anne Prucha  
Anastasia Salter  
Kacie Tartt  
Vandy Wood

## Pegasus Professor Award

Tison Pugh

## Luminary Award

Humberto López Cruz

## COACHE Innovation Awards

Jonathan Beever (2017-20)  
Laurie A. Pinkert (2017-19)  
John Blake Scott (2017-18)

## 20-Year Service Awards

Patricia Angley  
James Clark  
Kathleen Hohenleitner  
Joo Kim  
Julia Listengarten  
Barry Mauer  
Cecilia Milanés  
Lisa Mills  
William Morton  
Nancy Stanlick  
Anna Prucha  
M. Laine Wyatt

## 30-Year Service Awards

David Brunner  
Maria Redmon





Catherine Mbionwu '19 was awarded the John T. Washington Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

# BY THE NUMBERS

*The College of Arts and Humanities makes one big impact!*

Hosted more than **900** events with over **450,000** patrons

**205** awarded scholarships totaling **\$139,000**, for an average of more than \$675 each!

**1,476** degrees conferred

**6,199** students enrolled

**1,000+** are the first in their family to attend college.

**155** are in the University Honors program

**229,660** credit hours produced

Our faculty produced **29** books, **43** chapters, **109** journal articles, **173** conference proceedings and **212** other items of creative output, including **15** short stories, **7** poems, **14** music compositions, **55** art exhibitions, **6** recordings and entries in **1** encyclopedia\*.

## 2018-19 FACULTY AND STAFF

Professors	<b>52</b>
Associate Professors	<b>90</b>
Assistant Professors	<b>61</b>
Lecturers	<b>38</b>
Associate Lecturers	<b>21</b>
Instructors	<b>36</b>
Associate Instructors	<b>26</b>
Research Associates	<b>8</b>
Assistant in...	<b>2</b>
Faculty Administrators	<b>4</b>
Administrative and Professional Staff	<b>37</b>
University Support Personnel Staff	<b>54</b>

\*Lest anyone think academia is not attuned to pop culture, that encyclopedia is Hip Hop Around the World: An Encyclopedia and the subjects covered by UCF's musicologist include "Combs, Sean (Diddy, P. Diddy, Puff Daddy)," "Smith, Will," "Tupac (Tupac Shakur, 2Pac)," "The Chemical Brothers," and other similarly interesting topics.



## *Publication Production*

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**MICHAEL QUWADE BRETCH** '19  
DESIGN ASSISTANT

**MATTHEW DUNN** '03  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND WEB PROJECTS MANAGER

**HANNAH ESTES** '17BFA  
PHOTOGRAPHER AND MARKETING DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN

**ARIELLE FELDMAN**  
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

**HEATHER GIBSON** '17MBA  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

**STEVEN RISKO**  
MARKETING DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

**VICTORIA WESTON** '15 '18MA  
MARKETING COORDINATOR

## *Additional Credits*

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**WRITERS AND EDITORS FROM *PEGASUS* AND *UCF TODAY***  
FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

COVER ART BY **VICTOR DÁVILA** '97 '07MFA

PHOTOS BY **TONY FIRRIOLO, BELLA MARTINEZ, KEVIN MORA** AND **UCF MARKETING**





# College of Arts and Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



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