

The Humanities Scholars Corner

Mission Statement

The Humanities Scholars Program enables undergraduate humanities scholars to become independent thinkers who examine cultural products and practices from a multitude of perspectives. It provides educational opportunities and strong support for learning, research, and civic engagement to a cohort of particularly talented young people who, over time, will have an impact on the intellectual atmosphere of the campus and will make significant contributions to the humanities in society.

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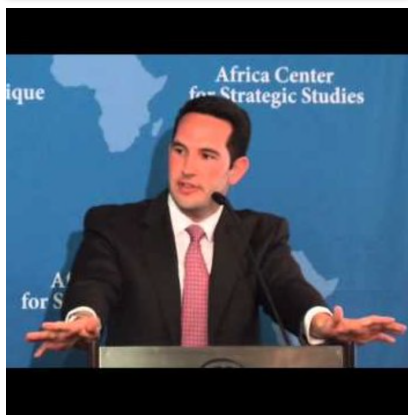
Welcome, Humanities Scholars Class of 2020!

A Note From the Director



Once again, I'm amazed at the dynamism and enthusiasm of the humanities scholars! In addition to excelling academically at UMBC, scholars participate in a variety of internships, volunteer work, and hold on- and off-campus jobs that help them professionally and personally. As you read this newsletter, you will notice that we have been busy. Partnering with Career Services, we continued the Professional Series. In our second Humanities Scholars Salon, several scholars presented their research, ranging from an analysis of the meaning of Roman coins in the third century AD to the intricacies of creating a poem. A number of scholars are already thinking of their future research and we cannot wait to hear the findings of two of our own humanities scholars who were awarded Undergraduate Research Awards! And that's not all... last fall, we hosted our first Humanities Scholars Program Alumni brunch, where I had the chance to meet many of you, and this spring we held our first very inspiring alumni panel. Make sure that you join the Humanities Scholars Alumni Group to keep updated about the program. And of course, we hope to see you at the Humanities Scholars Program Alumni Reception on September 17 at the Dresher Center to celebrate UMBC's 50th anniversary. We look forward to seeing you soon! – Dr. Ana Oskoz

Alumnus Interview



Dr. Ralby, who will be receiving UMBC's 2016 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award (Humanities), graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude as the 2002 Valedictorian with a BA in MLL (Spanish and German). He also received an MA in Intercultural Communication later that year.

What activities were you involved in while at UMBC?

While I certainly never lost sight of my academics, much of my life at UMBC revolved around athletics. I was a recruited diver on the Men's NCAA Division I Swimming and Diving Team, so I spent about 20 hours a week, year-round, training and competing for UMBC. In 2000, I was named the North East Conference's Most Outstanding Diver, and I remain closely connected to my teammates from that time, as well as to the current Swimming and Diving program.

When I wasn't in the pool or pursuing my studies, I was involved in a number of activities, such as the President's Student Cabinet and the Provost's Student Advisory Council. I also co-founded the MLL Theater Club to generate interest in theater performed in foreign languages. In addition, I was heavily involved in the

informal work of speaking on behalf of the University in a wide range of contexts, from admissions sessions to political engagements to media events. The combined involvement in so many different aspects of life at UMBC led to my being honored with the Student Affairs Leadership Award in 2002.

What were some highlights of your time in the Humanities Scholars Program (HSP)?

The first semester Humanities Seminar (with Professors Brigitte May and Gala Stern) was one of the most formative experiences of my entire education. We read a book per class, and I continue to refer to material I learned then. Additionally, one of the most pivotal moments in my life occurred while studying abroad, thanks to the HSP. I was studying international conflict resolution as a "Caux Scholar" in Switzerland when I found myself in the middle of the Sierra Leone peace process. I can trace most of my academic and professional decisions since 2001 to a conversation I had there with one of the rebel leaders from the conflict. After the encounter, I struggled with my own experience of having liked the man, despite knowing the atrocities for which he was responsible. My desire to see through that murkiness led me to study law and pursue a career at the intersection of international security and justice.

How would you define the HSP in a few words?

Exceptional education without financial burden

What do you have planned for the future?

Currently, my focus is divided among my work for the US Government, the Atlantic Council and my own consultancy, I.R. Consilium. For the US Government, I'm involved in a number of ongoing projects to help develop maritime security in Africa. In particular, I am working with several African states on national maritime

strategies, one state on broad maritime security governance, and a group of states on formalizing a legally-binding maritime security cooperation regime. I hope to continue that work over the next few years, as it is extremely rewarding to watch strategic initiatives produce visible results on the water that, in turn, help improve food security, economic development, and general stability on land.

In my role as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, I am leading the most extensive study ever conducted concerning global refined oil theft and related illicit hydrocarbons activity. That work will continue into the new year, and I am hoping it will lead to other projects in the energy sector. In my role as CEO of I.R. Consilium, my team and I are working with multinational companies to align their business activities international objectives concerning security, human rights and development. I am thoroughly enjoying this work – both as a conduit between governments and industry, and as an advisor on some interesting and impactful projects.

As a staunch proponent of statesmanship, I have recently been made a member of the Board of Directors of the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship, and I look forward to helping build its DC presence in the coming years. In addition, I remain fond of studying current and emerging issues in the world, so I intend to continue to publish and speak on international law and security, and participate in expert discussions and activities on a wide range of matters from maritime security to private security to global affairs. I also remain committed to assisting the US Government, NATO and our other allies whenever possible. In general, I will keep looking for opportunities to put my education and my skills to use in a way that will improve the lives of others.



Kelly Wan at the Imagining America conference



Dr. King at the Imagining America conference

Research and Publications

Humanities Scholars have had their research published and presented at and beyond UMBC. Alongside Dr. Nicole King, hum scholar Kelly Wan spoke at the Imagining America Conference about her research on Chinatown in Baltimore, work conducted in the Humanities seminar in spring 2015. During the spring 2016 semester, Julian Tash presented his work at the Student Research Conference on Asia and the Environment at Bard College. Both Melina Latona and Arielle Erenrich (class of '14) published their papers in the Global Baltimore Report and Yoo-Jin Kang (class of '15) published her work in the *UMBC Review*.

Many humanities scholars have published their creative work in *Bartleby*. For example, freshmen Alex Armbruster and Lane Kennedy published their poems "Between Her Hands" and "Alleyway," respectively; sophomores Carrie Cook and Emily Grace published their poems "Panic" and "Snow"; sophomore Emory Zoe published her fiction work "Alone Together," and sophomore Morgan Zepp and senior Anna Crow published their creative nonfiction work "Lifelines" and "Nothing is Wrong."

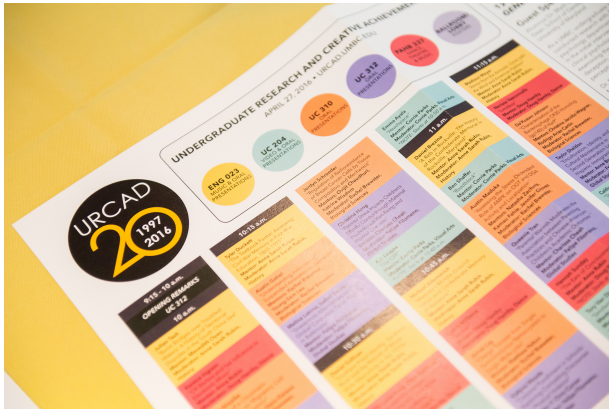
Humanities Scholars Program Salon

To encourage and showcase the current research conducted by humanities scholars, the program held the second Humanities Scholars Salon on April 22, 2016. The Salon, which took place the week before URCAD, served also as a rehearsal venue for the URCAD presenters Flora Kirk, Julian Tash, Sidrah Shayiq, Melina Latona, Emily Grace, and for Lauren O'Connell, who was defending her final paper at the end of the semester. Several humanities scholars are in the process of starting their own independent research projects. We're looking forward to them presenting at future URCADs!



Julian Tash presenting at the Salon

URCAD presentations



Poster presentations

Sidrah Shayiq

“Answer the Question: Writing Proper Thesis Statements”

Julian Tash

“The Middle Kingdom’s Middle Ground: Understanding China’s Conciliatory Policy in the Mekong River”



Sidrah Shayiq at URCAD
Image credit: Agniva Banerjee

Growing from their course work, humanities scholars gave six presentations of their research (either poster or papers) at URCAD on April 22, 2016.



Melina Latona and Isabel Geisler at URCAD
Image Credit: Nicole Bravo

Oral presentations

Julian Tash

“Burnt Bridges over Troubled Waters: A History of Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea”

Melina Latona

(with Sondheim scholar Isabel Geisler)
“Grassroots Alternatives to the Global Corporate Food Regime in Baltimore”

Flora Kirk

“I Was Here: Roman Coins in the Third Century AD and their Role in Immortalizing Emperors”

Emily Grace

“By Ear: Hearing Poems into Being”

Study Abroad

Studying abroad provides opportunities for students to acquire the skills, attitudes, and perceptions that allow them to become globally and cross-culturally competent. In addition to spending a semester abroad during their junior year, several scholars looked for supplementary opportunities to gain exposure and other culture and language other than their own. Kelly Wan, for instance, was accepted into the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Chinese 2016 Program, a fully funded summer language and cultural immersion program, and studied for eight weeks in Xi'an, China at Shaanxi Normal University in June and July. Anthony Alberti participated in a ten-day creative writing program at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David in Lampeter; and Morgan Chadderton, through the Critical Language Institute of Arizona State University, studied Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for eight weeks.



Anna Crow in Paris



Ahana Mairead, Caleb Campbell, Will Hutchins and Dr. Stefano



Mairead Alexander conducting interviews in Baltimore City
Images credit: Bill Shewbridge

Humanities Freshman Seminars

In Fall 2015, in conjunction with ongoing faculty public humanities projects, freshmen scholars conducted research in Baltimore City with Dr. Michelle Stefano and Dr. William Shewbridge. In the seminar *Documenting Culture in Baltimore*, scholars critically engaged with concepts of culture, both personal and shared, and its audio-visual documentation.

In their spring humanities seminar, *Markets, Morality, and the State: Adam Smith's Legacy in Europe and America*, together with Dr. Michael Nance and Dr. Lisa Vetter, hum scholars explored ways in which the works by Adam Smith, G.W.F. Hegel, Karl Marx, and several thinkers in American political thought can be interpreted in different historical, political, social, and cultural contexts.

Internships, Volunteer Work and Relevant Employment



Rebecca Haddaway working at UMBC

Humanities scholars participate in internships, volunteer work, and hold jobs on and off campus. In 2015-2016, for example, sophomores Emily Grace (English) was an assistant online editor at BrickHouse Books and Kelley Bennett (History and MCS) served as the social media assistant for Dr. Mitch Yockelson's fourth book, *Forty-Seven Days*. This past summer, freshmen Sage Burch (Global studies and Professional Writing) was a communications intern at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Scholars also engage in a variety of volunteer opportunities at UMBC and beyond. Junior Allison Feeny (American Studies and Financial Economics) volunteered for the World Relief office in Anne Arundel County, and freshman Helena Wachhaus (Ancient Studies) was a content research and development volunteer for an exhibition on climate change at an environmental and historical conservation organization in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Humanities scholars search for employment opportunities that will help them enter the workforce. For example, freshman Mairead Alexander (English and Music) worked as an assistant to a music educator at the Wolfe Street Academy in Baltimore City. Sophomores Carrie Cook and Rebecca Haddaway work in the UMBC Office of Undergraduate Admissions leading prospective students and parents on tours around campus. Sophomore Flora Kirk was employed by UMBC Special Collections, where she retrieved archival material and updated archival metadata.

In addition, many humanities scholars assume leadership roles in their home academic environments or in their extracurricular activities. Senior Caroline Davis was the Secretary of the Linguistics club in the MLLI department. Sophomore Morgan Zepp is a Service Learning Coordinator for Arbutus Achievers organizing events for students to learn about themes, such as diversity.

To prepare humanities scholars for future career endeavors, we continued our Professional Series workshops, with the goal of providing scholars with the necessary professional and financial skills to enter the work force. Humanities scholars attended a session on internships and volunteer work. Humanities scholar and Career Services assistant Dylan Rogers offered a second



Jordan Thomi Crisler, Alex Armbruster and Austen Edelenbos

Awards to scholars

The humanities scholars dedication to their academic work is noticed by their home departments.



Flora Kirk, Emily Grace, Emory Russo and Melina Latona

Emily Grace

English
Malcolm C. Braly Award (Poetry)

Emory Russo

English
Malcolm C. Braly Award (Fiction)

Morgan Zepp

English
Malcolm C. Braly Award (Non-fiction)

Lauren O'Connell

History and MLLI (German)
John Bell-Clifford Maas Prize for
Academic Excellence (History)

Flora Kirk

Ancient Studies
The William and Martha Christopher
Award

Melina Latona

Global Studies
Outstanding Research

Amanda Burns

Music

Keeping the tradition alive!

Once again, several humanities scholars applied for a Research or a Teaching Fulbright.

Matthew Poissant (class of '15)

Teaching Fulbright to teach in Indonesia

Alex Szabo (class of '15)

Teaching Fulbright alternate to teach in Nepal

Lauren O'Connell (class of '16)

Semi-finalist to teach in Germany

And wait, that's not all....

other scholarships and awards

Julian Tash

Alternate for the Boren scholarship
Japan

Kelly Wan

Critical Language Scholarship
China

Alex Armbruster

Award Winner in Bartleby Creative Arts Journal

Other Humanities Scholars Highlights

This Spring, the Class of 2019 invited some of their high school teachers to UMBC for the annual Exemplary Teachers day, a day to celebrate and recognize their humanities teacher's hard work and inspiration. (Right, Will Hutchins and Sage Burch)



This year the Humanities Scholars Program hosted the first Humanities Scholars Program Alumni brunch in Fall 15. The event resulted in a Facebook group where we share articles, news about the program, and updates about current humanities scholars and alumni. (Below, Dr. Harrison, Dr. Field, Dr. Casper and other brunch attendees)



The Humanities Scholars Program section of the Performing Arts Building now is now marked by the official Humanities Scholars Program sign, installed this spring. Thank you Dean Scott Casper!

