

A Letter From John Skvoretz Dean, USF College of Arts and Sciences

Friends and Colleagues,
I first want to thank you all for your support of the Humanities Institute.



As the new Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, I am especially grateful. The Humanities Institute is one of the jewels in the crown of Arts & Sciences – it's nice to know it is so well thought of and respected. All the credit for that accomplishment goes to its Director Bill Scheuerle. He has done a magnificent job placing the Institute at the center of intellectual life on campus and in the community.

When I think of “the humanities,” I think of arenas of human endeavor that ask questions that have no definitive answers, covering topics like the meaning of life, the proper

relationship between the individual and society, the nature of wisdom and morality, the roles of emotions and rationality in human affairs, the nature of justice. When I was young, I had little patience for such questions – if they had no definitive answers, what was the point of pondering them? Better to work on some calculus problems where the answers were in the back of the book.

But with age sometimes comes a little bit of wisdom. I now realize that such questions are like exercise equipment for the mind. Just as one's body never “solves” the problem posed by the exercise bicycle, rather working out on it develops and tones one's physical faculties, so too does pondering fundamental questions of human existence develop and tone one's mental faculties – intellectual, moral,

and civic. If we do not ponder such questions, our intellects become flaccid, our moral sensibilities stunted, and our senses of civic virtue atrophied.

We cannot let our faculties decay in this way, particularly since we now face unique and unprecedented challenges as globalization proceeds apace.

So the Humanities Institute is vital to our intellectual, moral, and civic health as a nation and a people, more so than ever. It provides multiple opportunities for each of us to “work out.” It is University of South Florida's Gold's Gym for the mind. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunities the Institute provides – you, and our community will be stronger for it.

Best wishes,

John Skvoretz, Dean

A Tale Of Hobbits Brown To Speak At USF In Fall

The Humanities Institute will present paleo-anthropologist Peter Brown for a public lecture on Thursday, Sept. 29 in the Marshall Center University Ballroom at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Brown is an associate professor in the Department of Archeology and Paleo-anthropology at the University of New England in Australia. On the island of Flores in Indonesia, Dr. Brown and his team recently discovered the skeletal remains of eight members of a species of dwarf humans that lived, and may have co-existed with modern humans, some 18,000 years ago.

These diminutive creatures used primitive tools and hunted a now-extinct species of dwarf

elephant. This species named *Homo floresiensis* has been nicknamed “hobbits” by the popular press and has been featured in articles in such magazines as *National Geographic News* and *Scientific American*.

According to Dr. Brown, his team's discovery has “major repercussions for our understanding of human evolution, touching on aspects of human migration, our interaction with

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the environment, and conceptions of what it is to be human.”

Dr. Brown's lecture – which will be of interest not only to a scientific audience but a general one – will discuss how our knowledge about who we are and where we came from is continually changing and adapting as new discoveries come to light.



For Summer 2005, the College of Arts and Sciences—through the Humanities Institute—awarded competitive research grants of \$5,000 (maximum) to 10 faculty members for research in the humanities.

These awardees and their research projects were as follows:

? Nicole Discenza (English):
“Geography, Cosmology, and the Liberal Arts in the *Enchiridion* of Byrhtferth of Ramsey”
? Carolyn J. Eichner (Women’s Studies):
“Feminism’s Empire: Feminism and Imperialism in Late Nineteenth-Century France”
? Cheryll Hall (Political Science):
“Reason, Passion, and Gender in Theories of Deliberative Democracy”
? Jacqueline Messing (Anthropology):
“Transnational Language Use, Indigenous Identity and Ideologies of Nahuatl-speaking Indigenous Mexican Migrants in Tlaxcala and the Northeast US”
? Deborah G. Plant (Africana Studies):

“Zora Neale Huston: A Biography of the Spirit”
? Martin Schönfeld
(Philosophy): “Confucius and Kant—the Information Transfer from China to the West”
? Kevin A. Yelvington (Anthropology)
“From the New Negro to the New World Negro: Melville J. Herskovits and the *Making of Afro-American Anthropology*”

short story. His work has been published in books, journals and cultural reviews from Argentina, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States.

His main areas of teaching and research are the theory and history of Latin American short fiction; 20th century Mexican and Southern Cone narrative and Colonial Mexico. He also works on

In order to show the diversity of the research being done by graduate students in the humanities, this issue outlines the research of three graduate students: Izabel

Publications

English: **Pat Rogers.** *The Alexander Pope Encyclopedia.* Greenwood Press, 2004; *The Letters, Life and Works of John Oldmixon: Politics and Professional Authorship in Early Hanoverian England,* Edwin Mellen Press, 2004; *The Symbolic Design of "Windsor-Forest": Iconography, Pageant, and Prophecy in Pope's Early Work,* Univ. Delaware Press, 2004.

Philosophy: **Roger Ariew.** *Blasie Pascal's Pensees.* Hackett Publishing Co, 2005.

World Language Education: **Manuel Sosa-Ramirez.** *El Nuevo Teatro Español Latinoamericano.* Society of Spanish and Spanish-American Studies, University of Colorado, 2004. **Ava Chitwood.** *Death by Philosophy,* Univ. Michigan Press, 2004. **Ippokratis Kantzios.** *The Trajectory of Greek Trimeters,* Brill Academic Publishers, 2005.

Awards

Government and International Affairs: **Michael Gibbons'** paper "Rorty, Politics and the Idea of Literary Culture" was nominated for the Best Paper in the Politics and Literature Section at the American Political Science Association.

History: **William Cumming's** *Making Blood White: Historical Transformations in Early Modern Makassar* (Univ. Hawaii's Press, 2002) won the 2004 Harry J. Benda Prize sponsored by the Association for Asian Studies and presented annually to an outstanding new scholar in any discipline who specializes in Southeast Asian studies. It also won the 2004 Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society's Best First Book Award presented annually for the best book in any field of history. **David Johnson's** *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Univ. Chicago Press, 2003) received the 2004 Herbert Hoover Book Award and the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction (Publishing Triangle) besides, as previously announced in the Spring 2005 Humanities Institute *Newsletter*, the 2004 Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award. **Philip Levy's** article "A New Look at an Old Wall: Indians, Englishmen, Landscape 1634 Palisade at Middle Plantation" won the 2004 William E. Rachel Award from the Virginia Historical Society for the best article in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* for 2004.

School of Mass Communications: **Randy Miller** was selected by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Newspaper Division as the Outstanding Educator for 2005. **Tim Bajkiewicz** was awarded second place in the "Promising Professor" competition by the AEJMC Mass Communication and Society Division.

Women's Studies: **Carolyn Eichner** was invited to present her research entitled "Louise Michel, figure de la transversalité" at an international conference sponsored by the Université de Paris-Sorbonne.

World Language Education: **Gaetan Brulotte** has been named Distinguished University Professor and has also been elected to the prestigious French society *Ecrivains Associés du Théâtre*. **Roberta Tucker** was editor of a special edition of the *Journal of Consciousness* entitled "The Unbearable Solitude of Consciousness."

The School of Library and Information Science was awarded a Museum and Library Services Grant of \$758,736.00 to fund library science masters students interested in working for academic libraries. More information at www.cas.usf.edu/lis/alstars/grant.html.

Florida. Directed at general readers with an interest in perceptions of Florida, the book analyzes changing cinematic images of Florida and Floridians.

Humanities Institute

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