

Dresher Center for the Humanities

Annual Report 2013-2014

Jessica Berman, Director

Ana Oskoz, Associate Director
Director, Humanities Scholars Program

Rachel Brubaker, Assistant Director
Grants and Program Development

Natalia Panfile, Program Management Specialist

La Atwater, Administrative Assistant for Humanities Scholars and Linehan Artist Scholars Programs

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Dresher Center for the Humanities	
I. Vision and Mission	4
II. Relationship to UMBC Vision	4
III. Background	4
IV. Resources, Staff, and Space	5
V. Goals	7
VI. Objectives and Accomplishments	7
VII. Opportunities and Challenges for the Future	17
Conclusion	19
Humanities Scholars Program	
I. Mission and Vision	20
II. Hallmarks of the Humanities Scholars Program	20
III. 2013-2014 Goals of the Humanities Scholars Program	21
Appendices	
Appendix I	27
Appendix II	29
Appendix III	32
Appendix IV	36
Appendix V	37
Appendix VI	40
Appendix VII	41
Appendix VIII	44

Executive Summary

In just a few short years, the Dresher Center for the Humanities has become an emerging leader in the cultural life of UMBC and the region. As an incubator for humanities research, the Center fosters a robust humanities environment that benefits the university, the local community, and the wider mid-Atlantic region. The scholars it supports have begun to publish important new work and its faculty working groups are active participants in Baltimore's civic life. Public programs, like the long-established Humanities Forum, draw increasingly large audiences to events at UMBC. The Center is becoming known for the excellence of its programming – and perhaps more importantly – for the range and quality of humanities scholarship at UMBC. Its Humanities Scholars Program is the envy of other centers nationwide.

As this report will show, 2013-2014 was a time of transition and growth for the Dresher Center, with new staff members and programs that brought vibrancy to the humanities on campus. The Center acknowledges the generous support of the Dresher Foundation, and at UMBC, the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; the Provost; and the Vice President for Research. With increasing funding and a mission to support and promote research into the social, historical, and cultural dimensions of the human experience, at UMBC, in the Baltimore-Washington region, and beyond, we look forward to building on these achievements into the future.

Jessica Berman
Director

The Dresher Center for the Humanities Annual Report 2013-2014

I. Vision and Mission

The Dresher Center for the Humanities supports and promotes research into the social, historical, and cultural dimensions of the human experience, at UMBC, in the Baltimore-Washington region, and beyond.

The Center encourages intellectual exchange among UMBC faculty and students, cultivates interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship, and promotes the humanities as indispensable to the mission of the contemporary public university. The Center fosters creative thinking about the role of the humanities in public life. It promotes innovative work linking the humanities to civic engagement, and participates in the public conversation about the value of the humanities to our increasingly interconnected global world.

With its Humanities Forum, the Dresher Center seeks to make UMBC's achievements in the humanities more widely known, while connecting UMBC researchers and students to the broader scholarly community. Through its support of the undergraduate Humanities Scholars Program it helps to nurture a generation of humanities thinkers for the future.

II. Relationship to UMBC Mission

The Dresher Center's mission complements the mission of UMBC. As a dynamic public research university UMBC integrates teaching, research, and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. The campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership. It contributes to an educated, informed, and creative citizenry through initiatives that include entrepreneurship, collaboration, and technology. UMBC is dedicated to cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

By promoting and supporting research into the social, historical, and cultural dimensions of the human experience, as well as nurturing humanities scholarship at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the Center exemplifies the best practices of the liberal arts. Through its digital humanities initiative it integrates technology with scholarship. The Center's focus on collaborative research and teaching, along with its emphasis on the role of the humanities in civic life, mobilize social entrepreneurship in service to the citizens of Maryland and the wider mid-Atlantic region.

III. Background

The Center for the Humanities at UMBC was established in 1996 with three original missions: plan and coordinate the Humanities Forum, administer the Humanities Scholars Program, and participate in the development of a program linking science and technology with the humanities.

The James T. and Virginia M. Dresher Center for the Humanities at UMBC was established in May 2007 and dedicated in September 2007. The Center moved into the new Performing Arts and Humanities Building (PAHB) in September 2010. The Dresher Center's goal, then and now, is to serve as an incubator for scholarly work in the humanities at UMBC and to become a major humanities research hub in the Baltimore-Washington area.

The Dresher Center continues to organize the Humanities Forum and manage the Humanities Scholars program. The Center has expanded upon its earlier mission through new funding opportunities, programs, and initiatives that encourage intellectual exchange among UMBC faculty and students, cultivate interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship, and promote the humanities as indispensable to the contemporary public university. The Dresher Center seeks to link the humanities to civic life, and engage in the public conversation about the value of the humanities to our increasingly interconnected global world.

IV. Resources, Staff, and Space

Resources:

The year 2013-2014 was an important transitional time for the Dresher Center. We began the year with some significant new resources including:

- Increased funding from the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences;
- Continuing support from the Provost and Vice President for Research;
- Increased Humanities Forum funding made possible in part by a generous grant from the Dresher Foundation in 2012-13, in support of the new Performing Arts and Humanities Building.

In 2014-2015 we are looking forward to benefitting for the first time from a return on the Dresher endowment, which will provide increased operating funds. This return will allow us to increase the funding available to the Dresher Center Faculty Research Fellows and to invite several more prominent speakers for our Humanities Forum, especially in support of the opening of phase II of the PAHB. Still, some potential initiatives, such as the hosting of external fellows, the expansion of our internal fellows program, and the extension of our Faculty Working Groups initiative, remain beyond our financial reach at this time.

Staff:

In 2013-2014, the Dresher Center staff underwent a transition and expansion. Beverly Bickel, who served as the Acting Director from January 2013 through December 2014, returned to the LLC program. Jessica Berman, English, assumed the position of Director in January 2014, after returning from a year of sabbatical and fellowship leave. Ana Oskoz, MLLI, was the Dresher Center's Acting Associate Director and Acting Director of the Humanities Scholars Program in 2013-2014. She will continue in these roles as Associate Director and Humanities Scholars Director in 2014-2015. La Atwater is the Administrative Assistant for the Humanities and Linehan Scholars Programs.

In Spring 2014 the Center added a full-time (up from half time) Program Management Specialist, Natalia Panfile, who comes to the Center with strong experience in event management. She is responsible for office administration and management of the Humanities Forum and other

programs. We also hired a new Assistant Director for Grants and Programs, Rachel Brubaker, who has an extensive background in this area and has worked with UMBC's Center for History Education for 12 years. Ms. Brubaker develops Dresher Center research initiatives and supports the Director in developing new grants activities.

The Dresher Center Advisory Board meets from two-four times a year to review fellowship and funding proposals and to provide guidance on a range of operational matters. Board members serve two-year terms, communicate regularly, and participate in Dresher Center programs.

2013-2014 Advisory Board:

- Rebecca Adelman, Media and Communications Studies
- Beverly Bickel, Language, Literacy, and Culture
- Amy Froide, History
- Theodore Gonzalves, American Studies
- Preminda Jacob, Visual Arts, Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellow, Spring 2013
- Carole McCann, Gender and Women's Studies, Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellow, Spring 2014
- David Rosenbloom, Ancient Studies
- Jessica Berman, Director, Dresher Center
- Ana Oskoz, Associate Director, Dresher Center and Humanities Scholars Program
- Rachel Brubaker, Assistant Director, Dresher Center

Space:

The Dresher Center's suite of offices in the PAHB includes staff offices, our conference room, offices for residential faculty and graduate student research fellows, and space for the Humanities Scholars Program. The two Dresher Center faculty research fellows are provided with office space during the term of their fellowship in the spring semester. Two graduate student fellows share office space in the fall semester.

We have welcomed the new Center for Innovation, Research, and Creativity in the Arts (CIRCA) to the office suite and benefit from the opportunities for cooperation, co-sponsorship and scholarly synergy offered by having them nearby.

During this transitional period in our staffing, the Dresher Center is experiencing some space challenges and was unable to provide an office to Rachel Brubaker, who maintained an office in the history department. We expect to provide space for her in the Dresher Center in summer 2014. We will look for creative ways to maximize use of the Dresher Center offices and conference room as we increase capacity and build towards our vision of hosting an external fellow in the future.

Scheduled meetings, public programs, workshops and seminars have made the Dresher Center's conference room a sought-after campus space. We make our conference room available to CIRCA for its Catalyst events, the Humanities and Linehan Scholars for their core courses, to current and former fellows (when possible) for their classes, and to the Dean of CAHSS for monthly chairs and directors meetings. The wider humanities community on campus also uses the room for events, talks, and workshops. Allowing campus groups access to our conference

room contributes to our efforts to make the work of the humanities at UMBC and the Dresher Center in particular more widely known.

V. Goals

Three broad goals have emerged from our central mission:

- **To encourage intellectual exchange among UMBC faculty and students**
- **To cultivate, support, and promote interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship and education in the humanities on campus**
- **To promote the mission of the humanities as indispensable to the contemporary public university**

VI. Objectives and Accomplishments

We have identified eight objectives that support the Center's goals:

- **Objective 1:** Provide a high level of research support to faculty and graduate students, while cultivating interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship
- **Objective 2:** Support the Humanities Scholars program in its efforts to educate and nurture a cadre of undergraduate humanities thinkers
- **Objective 3:** Develop and present exceptional public programming in the humanities
- **Objective 4:** Cultivate partnerships with allied centers and organizations
- **Objective 5:** Develop new initiatives that encourage intellectual exchange among UMBC faculty and students
- **Objective 6:** Support digital humanities scholarship and teaching at UMBC
- **Objective 7:** Promote humanities scholarship on and off campus
- **Objective 8:** Begin long-term strategic planning to advance the Dresher Center's mission

The Dresher Center's activities in 2013-14 supported each of these eight objectives:

Objective 1: Provide a high level of research support to faculty and graduate students, while cultivating interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship

i. Dresher Center Funding Opportunities:

The research mission of the Dresher Center encourages and supports scholarship in the humanities by UMBC faculty and graduate students through competitive funding opportunities. The Dresher Center's Advisory Board and Director review all proposals and select awardees for fellowships and funding programs.

- **Summer Faculty Research Fellowships (SFRF)** – Provides support for the development of proposals intended to lead to extramural funding or research activities related to grants and fellowships, the completion of book manuscripts, or for projects of a similar stature. Summer research fellows receive a \$6,000 stipend to support their external grant proposal and/or the development of a proposal for a book or other extended project. Applications are considered from all full-time faculty pursuing humanities research in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. After their fellowship

summer, fellows submit a draft grant or book proposal and report on the progress made towards completion of their fellowship project.

In summer 2013, the Center granted five Summer Faculty Fellowships to seven faculty members. This was made possible by combined support from the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and the Vice President for Research.

- **Residential Faculty Research Fellowships** – The Dresher Center hosts two internal faculty fellows in residence in the spring semester. Each fellow receives course releases equivalent to one course, \$500 to hire an undergraduate research assistant for the semester, and an office and staff support in the Dresher Center for the term. Fellows benefit from each other's work and their association with the Dresher Center. During their term of residency, fellows present their works-in-progress to other former fellows and faculty in the CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now and Fellows and Others workshops. After their fellowship, fellows submit a statement summarizing the work accomplished and progress made towards completion of their fellowship project.

In Spring 2014 the second cohort of Faculty Research Fellows took up residence in the Dresher Center:

Carole McCann, Professor and Director, Gender and Women's Studies

Research Project: "Malthus, Mathematics, and Modern Masculinity: Demographic Discipline and Mid-Twentieth Century Population Politics"

Dr. McCann writes, "The time, research space, and collegial conversation provided by the Dresher Center faculty fellowship had enabled me to stay on track to complete the full book manuscript by the fall. I would not have been able to make this progress without the fellowship."

Kimberly Moffitt, Assistant Professor, American Studies

Research Project: "Acting While Black (and Male) in Disney's Land"

Dr. Moffitt says, "The Dresher Fellowship afforded me an undergraduate research assistant for the semester [who] played a vital role . . . The semester as a Dresher Fellow provided the dedicated time for carrying out this project . . . I found the opportunity to share my work-in-progress via the Fellows and Others session most helpful."

- **Residential Graduate Student Research Fellowships** – The Dresher Center hosts two internal graduate student fellows in residence in the fall semester. Graduate fellowships are open to all doctoral and master's level students working on humanities-related research projects that will culminate in a dissertation or thesis. Graduate fellows reside two days a week in a shared office in the Dresher Center and receive up to \$1,000 for research travel, materials, or other directly related research expenses. Fellows present their research at a CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now workshop and participate in other Dresher Center events. After their fellowship, fellows submit a statement summarizing the work accomplished and progress made towards completion of the dissertation or thesis.

In Fall 2013 the Center hosted its initial cohort of Graduate Student Research Fellows, providing office space and research funding to **Emek Ergun** and **Teresa Foster**, both doctoral candidates in the Language, Literacy, and Culture Program.

- **Scholarly Development Grants** (formerly Emergency Scholarly Support Fund) – Support of up to \$1,000 is available to full-time faculty or Ph.D. students pursuing humanities research who have already exhausted all departmental, DRIF and CAHSS Travel Fund and publication subvention support.
- **Scholarly Completion Grants** – These grants of up to \$2,500 are intended to support tenured and tenure-track faculty and Ph.D. students pursuing humanities research in completing the final stages of a scholarly project. They may be used for such items as research travel, publication subvention, indexing, or a technology purchase necessary to bring a scholarly project to completion.

Four grants were awarded from the Dresher Center's Scholarly Completion and Scholarly Development Fund in 2013-2014.

(See Appendix I for a list of all 2013-2014 Fellowships and Grants)

ii. Dresher Center Faculty Accomplishments:

Recent Dresher Center research funding supported faculty in a number of endeavors this year, resulting in a range of accomplishments, including:

One book and eight book chapters and introductions (published and forthcoming); four conference papers and invited lectures; four journal articles (published and in review); one grant proposal; and one theatrical work in production.

(See Appendix II for faculty research support and accomplishments)

iii. Dresher Center Development Initiatives:

The hiring of a new Assistant Director of Grants and Program Development in January 2014 set the stage for an increase in development activities at the Dresher Center. The Center is proceeding with a number of development activities and has plans for a robust roster of new activities in 2014-2015:

- The Critical Engagement Faculty Working Group, formed in Spring 2014, is using its seed funding to develop a database of innovative interdisciplinary projects in Baltimore communities, many of which are seeking or could benefit from extramural support. The group will continue its work in Fall 2014. We will provide assistance in finding likely funders and developing funding proposals.
- An exploration of funding for Digital Humanities projects is underway. Faculty in the Center for Digital History and Education will pursue National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding, using internal support as the impetus for preparing a grant proposal.
- Discussions were initiated with NEH program officers in the Divisions of Public Programs, Education, and Office of Digital Humanities with the goal of connecting the Center and UMBC humanities and arts faculty to NEH programs. We are planning a grants workshop in 2014-2015 that will include NEH.
- A grants area of the Dresher Center website is in development, with resources and timelines for grant opportunities and proposals.

- Consultations have begun with humanities and arts faculty who are planning grant proposals for joint or individual research projects.
- We are coordinating with the Vice President for Research, the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, and Corporate Relations office to identify sources of extramural funding and develop workshop sessions.
- We will participate in external grants and non-profit development workshops.

Objective 2: Support the Humanities Scholars program in its efforts to educate and nurture a cadre of undergraduate humanities thinkers

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 cadre 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.

The Humanities Scholars Program at UMBC encourages humanities scholars to carry out the following:

- To think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions that maintain an on-going dialogue;
- To learn about the values of different cultures, about what goes into making a work of art, and about how history is made;
- To prepare for engagement with a wide variety of social and career settings for the betterment of society;
- To create a strong and vocal constituency at UMBC for the humanities and related fields.

(See full report below)

Objective 3: Develop and present exceptional public programming in the humanities

- i. **Humanities Forum** – Founded in 1996, the Humanities Forum builds on a tradition of advancing the study of human thought and culture at UMBC and the Baltimore region. The Forum offers the community a program of events that illustrate the richness of contemporary work in philosophy, history, culture, language, media, literature, and the arts. Forum events present exciting new ideas and lively exchanges, in the spirit of inquiry and conversation. These events are always free and open to the public.

The Dresher Center co-sponsors named departmental lectures in the Humanities Forum, including the Webb Lecture with History, the W.E.B. Du Bois and Daphne Harrison Lectures with Africana Studies, the Korenman Lecture with Gender and Women’s Studies, and the Barker Lecture with Philosophy. Ancillary events organized by the Dresher Center include dinners with speakers, Humanities Scholars, and invited faculty on campus. Post-event receptions provide opportunities for small-group discussions among speakers and audience members.

The Humanities Forum had a strong year, presenting 20 events in the fall and spring of 2013-2014, made possible in part by generous funding from the Dresher Foundation.

Additional support for selected events came from the National Endowment for the Humanities and PNC Bank. The audience size for Forum events averaged 75 people and regularly included members of the community as well as faculty and students on campus. (See Appendix III for the complete list of 2013-2014 Humanities Forum events, co-sponsors and partners)

Additionally, eight Humanities Forum events were promoted by the Office of Institutional Advancement in radio spots on WYPR and/or display ads in *The Baltimore Sun* and *Baltimore City Paper*. These events attracted a total audience of 782 people.

Fall 2013

- “Hispanic Americans: The Cosmic Race,” Marie Arana, Writer and Literary Editor
- “What Remains? Baltimore Neighborhoods in Transition,” Panel Discussion, Denise Meringolo, UMBC Associate Professor of History, Moderator
- “W.E.B. Du Bois Fifty Years after the March on Washington,” Dr. David Levering Lewis, Professor of History, New York University (W.E.B. Du Bois Lecture)

Spring 2014

- “The Living Edge – Delights and Dilemmas of the Chesapeake Bay,” Tom Horton and Dave Harp, Environmental Journalists
- “On Hip Hop, Race and Politics: The Way we Talk about Things,” Jay Smooth, Hip Hop Culture Critic (Daphne Harrison Lecture)
- “Curious Behavior: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research at UMBC,” Robert Provine, UMBC Emeritus Professor of Psychology
- “The Aesthetics of Astronomy: A Subjective Look at Cosmographical Depictions through Time” Michael Benson, Writer, Photographer and Artist
- “Examining the Book of Lies,” Corazon Del Sol, Artist and Curator

Planning for the 2014-2015 Forum, with the overall topic “Humanities and Civic Engagement,” is nearly complete. The schedule will include signature events to highlight the opening of phase II of the PAHB, including a lecture by celebrated scholar and public intellectual, Kwame Anthony Appiah.

Members of the Humanities Forum Committee in 2013-2014 included: Tom Beck, Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery; Beverly Bickel, Language, Literacy, and Culture; Kate Brown, History; Chris Corbett, English; Preminda Jacob, Visual Arts; Tyson King-Meadows, Africana Studies; Ana Oskoz, Dresher Center/Humanities Scholars; Michele Osherow, English and Judaic Studies; Lynn Watson, Theatre; Tom Moore and Max Cole, OIA ex-officio members; and Jessica Berman, Director, and Natalia Panfile, Program Management Specialist, Dresher Center.

- ii. **Dresher Center Partner Events** – The Dresher Center also partners with departments, programs and centers on talks, workshops, colloquia, panel discussions, and film series. Dresher Center Partner Events are often geared to smaller audiences than Humanities Forum talks and can be more specific to certain disciplines or campus interest groups. Partner events are not listed in the Humanities Forum flyer, but benefit from all the other means of publicity offered by the Dresher Center.

Dresher Center Partner Events in 2013-2014 included:

- Anthony Bale, Professor of Medieval Studies, University of London/Birkbeck, “Race and its Medieval Prehistories: Jews and Stereotypes in Norwich and London, 1233,” with English; Judaic Studies; History; Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication; and Medieval and Early Modern Studies (February 19, 2014)
- Rwany Sibaja, UMBC Post Doctoral Fellow, “Breaking the Mold: Contesting Identities and Stereotypes in Argentine Soccer,” History (March 5, 2014)

Objective 4: Cultivate partnerships with allied centers and organizations

- i. **Imagining America Consortium** – With generous support from Provost Philip Rous, UMBC joined the Imagining America Consortium, an association of approximately 90 universities that includes many of the country’s most prestigious institutions of higher learning, in 2013. The consortium explores and promotes the idea that the arts, design, and the humanities have a significant role to play in helping our country overcome its biggest challenges by understanding our past and present, and imagining our future.

The Dresher Center led and organized a delegation to the October 2013 Imagining America conference in Syracuse, New York. Attending from UMBC were Scott Casper, Dean of CAHSS; Preminda Jacob, Visual Arts and Spring 2013 Dresher Center Fellow; Bev Bickel, Dresher Center Acting Director; Lee Boot, Associate Director, Imaging Research Center; Kimberly Moffitt, American Studies and Spring 2014 Dresher Fellow; and Steve Bradley, Visual Arts. Doctoral students Romy Hubler, Diane Kuthy and Shawntay Stocks, Language, Literacy, and Culture Program, also attended. The conference provided a dynamic setting for the UMBC team to network with humanities and arts professionals from around the country and consider possibilities for publically engaged scholarship at UMBC.

One direct outcome of UMBC’s participation in this conference was the formation of two Dresher Center Faculty Working Groups in Spring 2014: Critical Engagement in Baltimore, led by Lee Boot, and Public Spheres and Scholarship, led by Preminda Jacob and Bev Bickel. Another was the inclusion of civic agency in the CAHSS strategic plan, which will be a central focus of the 2014-2015 Humanities Forum.

- ii. **Center for Innovation, Research, and Creativity in the Arts (CIRCA)** – In fall 2013, the Dresher Center embarked on a new partnership with the newly-inaugurated CIRCA at UMBC. The CIRCA and Dresher Center partnership co-hosted its first event in 2013-2014. We are planning more collaborative events for 2014-2015. Because CIRCA is housed near the Dresher Center’s suite of offices, and CIRCA events often take place in the Dresher Center Conference Room, a tremendous opportunity exists for increased synergy between the arts and humanities. Through our ongoing partnership on events, workshops, programs, and other initiatives, we hope to support CIRCA as it grows and promote the interconnection between the arts and humanities that is already a hallmark of CAHSS.
- iii. **Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes** – The Dresher Center joined the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) in December 2013. This 200-plus member international organization provides support, professional development, and networking to member centers. CHCI serves as an arena for the discussion of issues germane to cross-disciplinary activity in the humanities and as a network for the circulation

of information and best practices related to the organizational and management dimensions of humanities centers and institutes. The Consortium produces a major annual meeting of its membership, maintains a content-rich website, develops an annual print directory, and serves as a re-circulator for information about its members via listservs and its website. CHCI members also assist one another with ideas, evaluation, and other forms of service.

Jessica Berman, Dresher Center Director, and Scott Casper, Dean of CAHSS, attended the CHCI annual conference in Hong Kong in June 2014, which focused on the “Performative Humanities.” Membership in CHCI has already begun to pay benefits through the Dresher Center’s participation in the Consortium’s workshop for new chairs, on the public humanities, and on the digital humanities, as well as through its extensive network of established centers.

Objective 5: Develop new initiatives that encourage intellectual exchange among UMBC faculty and students

- i. **Dresher Center Faculty Working Groups** – The Dresher Center Faculty Working Group initiative encourages and supports collaborative, interdisciplinary communities of scholars working on humanities projects, research concerns, or matters of public interest. The Dresher Center provides seed funding of up to \$1,000 per year (or \$500 per semester) for the first-year activities of these groups in an effort to promote intellectual exchange about the humanities among scholars across campus. Working groups are expected to meet regularly and may use their funds to travel to sites or archives, host speakers, explore technologies, and create new resources or materials, or other similar activities. Groups must submit periodic reports on their activities. They may then apply for continuing funding support, pending review and approval of an action plan by the Dresher Center Advisory Board and Director.

Four working groups were funded in Spring 2014:

- **Critical Engagement: Socially-Engaged Research in the Baltimore Region**

Leader: Lee Boot, Imaging Research Center

This interdisciplinary group is exploring the potential of participatory action research and social practice in the arts and humanities to have a positive impact in communities local to UMBC. The group, which grew from CAHSS’s participation in the Imagining America Conference in October 2013, has identified social engagement projects already underway. It will find synergy between them and help to link them in a broader, more visible UMBC effort.

Participating departments and programs include American Studies; English; Gender and Women’s Studies; History/ Center for Digital History and Education; Media and Communication Studies; Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication; Visual Arts; and Language, Literacy, and Culture. Other participants include BreakingGround, the Shriver Center, CADVC, CIRCA, the New Media Studio, and the Dresher Center.

The group’s community partners include: Maryland Traditions, Maryland Transportation Authority, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore City Public School System, Chesapeake Arts Center, Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, Filbert Street Community

Garden, MICA, Open Society Foundation NY, Baltimore Teachers' Network, Youthdreamers, Baltimore Green Space, and the Baltimore Ecosystem Study.

Accomplishments:

The Critical Engagement working group met three times in Spring 2014. The meetings confirmed a substantial interest in highlighting and increasing the impact of university research on people's lives in surrounding communities. The group recorded 14 projects (recent, ongoing, initiated) in a database. There is significant potential for synergy between many of them.

Participants stated that it would be valuable to characterize, profile, and "brand" these efforts for on- and off-campus audiences. To that end, there is interest in creating media that covers a spectrum, from multi-modal (e.g. digital) publication, to documentaries and journalism. Group members also see the potential for forming media partnerships; several of the projects have partnered with Mark Steiner's Center for Emerging Media.

The group plans to meet three more times in fall 2014 to further explore these ideas and search for external funding and partnership opportunities.

- **Issues in Digital Humanities: Definitions (or What Precisely Do You Mean by Digital Humanities?)**

Leader: Craig Saper, Language, Literacy, and Culture

This study group hopes to define digital humanities in a more systematic, nuanced, and complete way. Its activities have included speaking with leaders in the digital humanities with the expectation that some of its work will lead to publications, possibly through the UMBC Digital Publishing Initiative (UPI).

Participating departments and programs include: Ancient Studies; English; Media and Communication Studies; Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication; Language, Literacy, and Culture; and Music.

Accomplishments:

The group met via email several times but had difficulty in finding in-person meeting times in spring 2014. The group hosted Dr. Michelle Ferrier, Associate Dean for Innovation, Research/Creative Activity, and Graduate Studies for the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University, for a presentation and lively discussion of her work in digital media and hyperlocal electronic journalism. The group is exploring having Dr. Ferrier return in 2014-2015 for a workshop, as well as bringing other DH leaders to campus.

- **Mathematics and What it Means to be Human**

Leader: Michele Osherow, English

"Mathematics and What it Means to be Human" is a faculty-led, interdisciplinary group bringing together the departments of Theatre, Mathematics and Statistics, and English, with the goal of creating a play script and performance. The project grew from a humanities course co-taught in fall 2011 by Manil Suri, Mathematics and Statistics, and Michelle Osherow, English and Judaic Studies, that resulted in a conference presentation on ways that scholars of various disciplines engage with mathematics. The

presentation, which was delivered in the style of a “reader’s theatre,” has inspired further exploration of the theme, as well as the participation of Alan Kreizenbeck, Theatre, to develop and stage a theatrical work in one act. The piece will be performed for the campus community and in disciplinary and interdisciplinary venues in the future. The working group will ready the script for performance and consider formats for future collaborations.

Accomplishments:

The group is planning a theatrical production in November 2014. Scripting and staging are ongoing.

- **Public Scholarship Discussion Group**

Co-Leaders: Bev Bickel, Language, Literacy, and Culture & Preminda Jacob, Visual Arts
This group of arts and humanities faculty has proposed readings and discussions of classic and recent theories about the term ‘public,’ as it pertains to the notion of public scholarship. The group’s leaders have decided to delay its starting work, having discovered a degree of overlap in purpose and participation with the Critical Engagement group. The leaders will re-visit the group in fall 2014.

- ii. **CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now** – In January 2014, the Dresher Center’s Works-in-Progress Brownbag workshop series was re-named CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now. CURRENTS showcases exciting new faculty work in the humanities in a dynamic interdisciplinary setting. Designed to promote ongoing conversation and multi-disciplinary investigation, these meetings offer faculty and advanced graduate students an informal venue for presentation, conversation, and ongoing collaborative exchange.

CURRENTS presentations take many forms, including:

- Discussion of key research questions in projects and articles;
- Conversations about methodological issues surrounding multi- or trans-disciplinary work;
- Presentations of working drafts of new papers;
- Explorations of digital and multi-modal scholarship;
- Consultations with other scholars about grant or other major project proposals.

The research presented at CURRENTS sessions has resulted in publications and several grant proposals. The average attendance at each session was 14. The faculty participants represented seven CAHSS departments and programs.

(See Appendix IV for a list of 2013-2014 CURRENTS workshops.)

- iii. **Fellows and Others Workshops** – The Fellows & Others workshops began in Spring 2014 as a cornerstone of the Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Program. Current and past fellows and other faculty were invited to participate in small-group discussions on issues concerning humanities research and scholarship. Faculty commit to attend multiple sessions, which include preparatory work such as short assigned readings or selections from the presenters’ works in progress. The first Fellows and Others workshop focused on scholarly writing.

The Dresher Center 2014 residential faculty fellows, Carole McCann and Kimberly Moffitt, each presented an aspect of her sponsored research during a session and received feedback from colleagues. Fellows and Others met three times during the spring, with an average attendance of six faculty members. The feedback was positive and we expect that Fellows and Others will become a valued program in 2014-2015.

Objective 6: Support digital humanities scholarship and teaching at UMBC

The Dresher Center's **Digital Humanities Initiative** continued to grow and evolve in 2013-2014. From the initial committee meetings that resulted in the white paper submitted to the Dean of CAHSS in May 2012, the initiative can point to a number of accomplishments this year, including:

- Eight interdisciplinary collaborations and courses with a DH focus;
- Six professional education workshops, presentations, and conference participation;
- Five funded (2 internal and 3 external) projects;
- Two proposals to NEH and Institute for Library and Museum Studies for funding (pending awards).

Faculty participating in this interdisciplinary initiative represented the following departments, programs, and centers: American Studies; Geography and Environmental Systems; History/Center for Digital History and Education; Language, Literacy, and Culture; Media and Communications Studies; Visual Arts; Orser Center for the Study of Place, Community and Culture; IRC; and CIRCA.

Activities planned for 2014-2015 include Humanities Forum presentations with a digital humanities focus, new digital humanities workshops, and outreach to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Office of Digital Humanities.

(See Appendix V for the list of 2013-2014 Digital Humanities activities, courses, and projects)

Objective 7: Promote humanities scholarship on and off campus

- i. **Website and social media** – In February 2014 the Dresher Center website added a Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/UMBCHumanities>), which follows 494 individuals and humanities organizations and has 530 followers. The Center's tweets and re-tweets, which average of 15-20 per week, promote UMBC humanities faculty accomplishments, events, and news, as well as concerns and topics of interest to humanities audiences.

The Dresher Center's website (<http://dreshercenter.umbc.edu>) is a hub for disseminating information about events, programs and fellowship opportunities. A new section with grant resources is in development.

- ii. **Communications** – The Center expanded its procedures for internal and external communications, including e-mail "blasts" to faculty and improved mechanisms for maintaining calendars and promoting deadlines.

We have taken on other communications projects and improvements:

- After an internal evaluation of the management and scheduling of Humanities Forum events, improved systems were put in place for planning, coordinating, and communicating about events.
 - The Center has regularized procedures for receiving and reviewing faculty applications for summer and residential fellowships, with new application forms and improved communication with the Dresher Center Advisory Board.
 - The Center has embarked on a semester-long effort re-examining its graphic identity and exploring options for improved typography. We have begun work with the Creative Services office on a possible logo.
- iii. **Advocacy activities** – From March 10-11, 2014, Dresher Center Director Jessica Berman participated in Humanities Advocacy Day, sponsored by the National Humanities Alliance on Capitol Hill. This was the first of what will be annual visits to participate in the national conversation on the continuing value of the humanities, in partnership with major voices from Maryland, such as the Maryland Humanities Council. She visited the Congressional offices of Reps. Elijah Cummings, Chris Van Hollen, and Steny Hoyer and Senators Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin. Advocacy activities and issues are tweeted regularly on the Center’s twitter page (see above).

Objective 8: Begin long-term strategic planning to advance the Dresher Center’s mission

The Dresher Center began exploring options and procedures for a strategic planning process to take place in 2014-2015. Preliminary groundwork included data-gathering through focus groups with faculty from all UMBC humanities departments, conversations with administrators of comparable centers across the country regarding planning procedures, and beginning efforts to identify appropriate members of an outside review team.

From February to April 2014, the Center held a series of focus group meetings with faculty in humanities departments and programs. The purpose of the focus groups was to learn which current programs (events, workshops, fellowships and small grants) were the most and least successful. We asked faculty to tell us about the types of programs that were valuable to them, to suggest new programming for the future, and to let us know the best ways for the Center to communicate with them. The groups yielded significant insights into our most popular programs (CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now workshops were especially valued for their interdisciplinarity) and the continuing value of our print flyer for Humanities Forum events. All faculty expressed appreciation for the various research support programs, although it is clear that the Center needs to do a better job of promoting these opportunities. Also clear was the faculty endorsement of our three-part mission, especially the promotion of humanities research both at UMBC and beyond campus.

We are looking forward to a rigorous and productive strategic planning process in the next year.

VII. Opportunities and Challenges for the Future

Research Support

1. Plans for the Dresher Center have long included a more extensive faculty fellows program, funds permitting. While we are pleased to offer a residential fellows program

for faculty (spring) and graduate students (fall), we want to complement these internal awards with fellows invited to be in residence from other institutions. We will investigate various options for beginning an external fellows program, such as hosting a scholar who holds an ACLS fellowship, inviting fellows from universities in the region, and structuring short-term residencies for outside scholars. We will investigate grants and other funding opportunities for this program. In the meantime, we plan to supplement the stipend of the internal Residential Faculty Research Fellows so as to release them from all their teaching obligations in their fellowship semester (rather than from only one course).

2. In 2014-2015 the Center will co-host **New Faculty Micro-Talks** with the Dean of CAHSS. In these talks new faculty from the College will be invited to present 5-7 minute talks on their current research. The purpose of the talks will be to introduce new faculty to the UMBC scholarly community and to link scholars across departments from their early years on campus. The Center will also co-host, with CAHSS, a celebration of recently published faculty books
3. Other planned new initiatives in support of faculty and student research include: development of new programming to assist mid-career faculty; book proposal writing workshops with visiting editors and opportunities for faculty to work on their proposals; summer residencies; and “bootcamps” or “labs,” designed as short-term, project-oriented venues for faculty scholarship.

Humanities Scholars

The Humanities Scholars Program will need continuing and expanded support as its recruitment efforts bear fruit and its cohorts increase. Humanities Scholars continue to face challenges in funding their study-abroad semesters (as described in the Humanities Scholars Program Report that follows). We will continue to assist the program in its support of student study abroad, as well as in its recruitment and outreach efforts.

Public Programming

1. The Center will expand the reach and significance of the Humanities Forum by including more prominent external scholars as well as connecting Forum events to workshops or seminar meetings with on campus constituencies and faculty-student groups. In fall 2014 we will begin to develop materials to circulate to faculty in advance of events: e.g. topics for class discussion, short bibliographies, keywords, and questions. We also hope to expand our co-programming with CIRCA. Such an expansion of the Forum will, however, need to be modest, given our current budget.
2. In fall 2014, the Center will pilot a program of short video interviews with Humanities Forum speakers to be posted to the Dresher Center website. These interviews will help to promote humanities activities and provide valuable, lasting materials linked to Forum events for use in teaching and scholarship on campus. With the assistance of Media and Communications Studies students, we plan to record two interviews per semester in 2014-2015. We will search for further resources to support expansion of this interview program in the future.

3. Over the next several years we will expand the number and range of Dresher Partner Events to provide more varied funding and promotion of programming within humanities departments and programs on campus.
4. We will expand our co-programming and coordination of events and workshops with CIRCA as it grows. We already see CIRCA as a closely allied center, with many shared goals, whose development we will promote where possible. We also hope to partner with CADVC (Jessica Berman has just joined their Board), as well as with the IRC and with MIPAR.

Affiliations and Outreach

1. We anticipate opportunities to coordinate and partner with other CHCI institutions in part as a way to spread scarce programming resources. Plans are already underway for a coordinated visit by a European scholar to the Dresher Center and the University of Cincinnati's Taft Research Center in 2015. We also see the potential for shared initiatives in the digital and public humanities.
2. We are already expanding our outreach and cooperation with other institutions in the region, including the Maryland Humanities Council, the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, the UMCP Center for Synergy – especially through its Humanities “Thinkathon” – and in the future possibly also with City Lit, Howard County arts and cultural organizations, and the Maryland State Arts Council.
3. We expect to increase our partnerships with campus groups through the use of our space.
4. We will seek to partner with the Dean of CAHSS and Dean of the Graduate School in the development of new humanities graduate programs and opportunities.
5. We will continue to develop and implement improved office, business, and communication procedures, and make better use of social media (Twitter and Facebook) and the Dresher Center website. Dresher Center materials and promotions will undergo evaluation and revision to make them more effective and attractive. We will coordinate and continue to work with Media Relations and OIA to ensure that the humanities at UMBC are known on campus and beyond.

Conclusion

In just a few short years, the Dresher Center for the Humanities has become an emerging leader in the cultural life of UMBC and the region. As an incubator for humanities research, the Center fosters a robust humanities environment that benefits the university, the local community, and the wider mid-Atlantic region. The scholars it supports have begun to publish important new work and its faculty working groups are active participants in Baltimore's civic life. Public programs, like the long-established Humanities Forum, draw increasingly large audiences to events at UMBC. The Center is becoming known for the excellence of its programming – and perhaps more importantly – for the range and quality of humanities scholarship at UMBC. Its Humanities Scholars Program is the envy of other centers nationwide. With increasing funding, we look forward to building on these achievements into the future.

HUMANITIES SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2013–2014 YEAR-END REPORT

I. Mission and Vision

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 cadre 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.

The Humanities Scholars Program at UMBC encourages humanities scholars to carry out the following:

- To think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions that maintain an on-going dialogue;
- To learn about the values of different cultures, about what goes into making a work of art, and about how history is made;
- To prepare for engagement with a wide variety of social and career settings for the betterment of society;
- To create a strong and vocal constituency at UMBC for the humanities and related fields.

II. Hallmarks of the Humanities Scholars Program

Through the study of history, literary and cultural studies, art, philosophy, and language, motivated humanities scholars seek a better understanding of the human condition. Some of the highlights of the Humanities Scholars program are:

Individualized advising

Throughout their four years in the program, humanities scholars are advised by their program director before registration each term and when the need arises during the semester. The program director establishes a strong relationship with each student and knowledge of his or her goals and experiences at UMBC.

Crossing disciplinary boundaries

From their first semester, humanities scholars work closely with faculty from different disciplines. During the first year humanities scholars engage in a seminar each semester that is team-taught by faculty in the different disciplines. The purpose of these seminars is to enable the cohort to bond with one another and at least four faculty members. They are taught to think across disciplinary boundaries and to think about independent research. In their senior year, students participate in mini seminars, in which they are re-united with their freshman seminar professors and the members of their cohort. They reexamine selected texts they read as freshmen and note the ways in which their understanding of the readings and worldviews have changed.

Study abroad

A semester of study abroad is required for all humanities scholars, and this generally takes place during their junior year. Some students, especially those interested in language, may study abroad for a full year. Study Abroad Director Dr. Brian Souders works with students in the

program to assure them of experiences that will best serve his or her intellectual and professional goals.

Emphasis on a well-rounded education

Humanities scholars apply for Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) and present their work at Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). They also participate in a myriad of extra-curricular activities, internships, and on- and off-campus jobs.

III. 2013-2014 Goals of the Humanities Scholars Program

1. To attract high quality applicants while operating within a restricted budget

The national attention garnered by UMBC in recent years has attracted a greater number of high-achieving applicants. The number of applicants to the Humanities Scholars Program for the year 2014-2015 was above that of last year, and the quality of applicants was very high. The increased number of applications allowed the humanities scholars' selection committee to be quite selective in choosing the applicants invited to campus (see Appendix VI for the committee members). After the final selection, the selection committee was able to extend offers to the most deserving of those in the applicant pool (25 out of the 44 students, 56%). Eighteen of those 25 applicants accepted our offer, and one applicant deferred to Fall 2015. The yield on this year's offers presented a substantial increase of 72% from the previous 2012 (55%) and 2013 (42%) yields. The increase of scholars in the program reflects, no doubt, UMBC's improved national status as we are better able to compete with top-level institutions, many of which have increased their financial awards to students.

Two of the challenges this year were to increase both the number of applications and the yield rate. To address these issues, several strategies were successfully put in place:

- After each admission event that took place at UMBC from September to December 2013, the acting director of the Humanities Scholars Program followed up with an email to all the high school students who attended the humanities orientation sessions or stopped at the Humanities Scholars Program tables during the admission events.
- In December 2013, the acting director obtained a list of students interested in the humanities admitted to UMBC from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. After receiving the list, she emailed those applicants with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a minimum SAT score of 1700 to make them aware of the Humanities Scholars Program and to invite them to submit their applications.
- In January 2014, the acting director followed up on the incomplete applications to ensure that the applicants' dossiers could be reviewed.
- In March and April 2014, after sending the offers to the new class of humanities scholars, the acting director (a) sent regular emails to each accepted applicant, inviting him or her to come to campus, (b) organized meetings among current scholars and the invited applicants, and (c) invited the accepted students to come to campus to specific events, such as the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) and Shakespeare's birthday readings of sonnets. Several applicants came to campus to meet the scholars, e-mailed professors, and attended the events at UMBC.

Similar strategies will take place next year, albeit better organized. To ensure a smoother process, it is necessary to work closely with the Office of Admissions and the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships to obtain regularly updated lists of the applicants interested in the

humanities and admitted to UMBC. The acting director will be meeting with the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at the end of June to develop and put in place a series of strategies that will help us to ensure a successful application and retention process in future.

Other steps for the future include:

- Making applicants aware of the existence of the Humanities Scholars Program. Although this year the Humanities Scholars Program worked closely with the Admissions Office, which helped with the development of the Humanities Scholars Program postcard, several students admitted to UMBC were unaware of the program until well into their application process.
- Requesting applicants to include their personal and UMBC email addresses in their applications. Despite emails sent from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships communicating with applicants regarding incomplete applications or acceptance into the program, it was not until the acting director of the Humanities Scholars Program emailed these applicants to their personal addresses that the applicants submitted all the required paperwork or followed up on their acceptance to UMBC.
- Ensuring that applicants are aware that they can be part of the Humanities Scholars Program and the Honors College. Given that many applicants believe they can be part of only one program, there seems to be a miscommunication in the process. There is a need to clarify the fact that many of our scholars participate in both programs.

This year we increased the freshmen class by 125%. Yet, we are aware that we are competing for some of the very best students (1600 SATs, 4.0 GPAs, school leaders, etc.), who are also getting good, and probably even better, financial offers from other institutions. Since UMBC does not offer full scholarships and several parents have expressed concern with the fact that tuition will go up, but their awards will not, we need to play to our strength: we provide a nationally unique program for strong undergraduate humanities students, individualized attention, faculty committed to undergraduate education, and a diversity of study-abroad programs for scholars to pursue their majors and minors. Students and parents seem to be excited about the study-abroad requirement, which often becomes one of the deciding factors to come to UMBC and the Humanities Scholars Program (see goal #2).

However, the problem is that, in the past, the scholarship covered the cost of study abroad. The reality today is that, even at the top in-state award of \$7,500 per semester, students are still approximately \$5,000 short of the cost of their programs, which are usually priced at private school levels. A promise of paying most of the *required* semester abroad might make a difference to families weighing their options. This would probably cost about \$90,000 per year, which, of course, is not an insignificant amount of money. Yet, it might be a prudent investment to stabilize the yield rate and to attract those top students who will excel and thrive in our program.

2. To encourage scholars to use their study abroad experience to capitalize on the research possibilities it affords.

Humanities Scholars are required to spend a full semester studying abroad to gain exposure to a culture other than their own. Studying abroad provides the opportunity to acquire the skills, attitudes, and perceptions that allow students to be globally and cross-culturally competent.

To prepare scholars for their study-abroad experience, Dr. Brian Souders, the Study Abroad Director, meets with them both in their freshmen and the sophomore year. In the spring, Dr. Souders guides the freshmen in finding the right program based on their interests, major, and second language knowledge. In the fall semester, Dr. Souders meets with the sophomores to narrow down the programs that better fit the academic and financial needs.

Study abroad also potentially allows students to access documents, artifacts, experts, and experiences, which may contribute to original, independent research. For example, scholar Jennifer Wachtel, who studied in Austria in Spring 2013, contacted Dr. Rebecca Boehling (former Dresher Center director) at the International Tracing Service to access documentation for her research. Study abroad might also help scholars to apply for research Fulbright scholarships.

Preparing a research project in which to engage while abroad does take a significant amount of planning, however. Given that planning for study abroad is time-consuming and can be stressful in terms of the many choices students must act on about institutions, living arrangements, credit transfers and the like, thinking about specific research projects on top of these decisions can be somewhat daunting. To encourage and facilitate research while studying abroad, Janet McGlynn (see goal #4) will give an information session about conducting research to the freshmen and sophomore classes. It is expected that learning about the research process will encourage scholars to think about research possibilities while abroad. As others have done in the past, scholars might well apply for URAs, which will not only facilitate their travel but will allow scholars to have a clear plan for conducting their research when studying abroad.

3. To encourage scholars to engage in opportunities that provide them with a rounded education

Humanities scholars participate in a series of on-campus and off-campus cultural activities (see Appendix VII for a list of the Humanities Scholars Program activities). Scholars often comment that participating in these events gives them exposure to topics, films, performances, and discussions of topics unfamiliar to them. In addition, scholars participate in internships, volunteer work, and hold on- and off-campus jobs. For example, in the 2013-2014 academic year Vanessa Rueda and Gagan Singh were editors of the *UMBC review* and Anna Crow was a Poetry staff for *Bartleby*; Molly Bradtke volunteered at the Longwood Apartments in Columbia, MD, helping elderly Chinese male and female residents with limited English skills to communicate with the staff at the center and translate during group activities. Because of her commitment to service, Molly was recently awarded the Community Service Award by the Asian Studies Program. After completing her study-abroad semester in the U.K. in the spring, Jessica Martin now holds an internship at the American Embassy in Romania. This variety of internships and volunteer work reflects the diverse interests of the humanities scholars.

The humanities scholars' dedication to their academic and professional work allows them to apply and successfully receive several scholarships: Molly Bradtke received a Critical Language Scholarship to study in China this summer; Anna Kearns received a Boren Scholarship to study in South Korea in winter, spring, and summer, 2015; Yoo-Jin Kang received the Frank Karel Fellowship in Public Interest Communication; Joshua Gehret received a Teaching Fulbright to teach in Indonesia; and Andrea Duval was awarded a place in the Teaching Assistant Program in France. Several scholars have recognized that completing the Humanities Scholars Program requirements, such as studying abroad, gives them an "edge" when applying for these scholarships.

Aware that not all scholars are as active at pursuing opportunities, Dr. Brian Souders and Dr. Simon Stacey were invited by the acting director to speak to the scholars about different scholarships. In the fall semester, Dr. Stacey introduced the scholars to a variety of prestigious scholarships, such as the Gate Cambridge and the Rhodes scholarships. In spring, Dr. Souders spoke about the various Fulbright Scholarship types (teaching and research) available. The purpose of these invitations was not only to make scholars aware of their opportunities but also to help them to prepare themselves to apply for the scholarships, such as informing them of the depth and breadth of various topics that scholarships reviewers are looking for in the applications. In the next fall semester, Dr. Souders and Dr. Stacey will meet with the incoming scholars' class so that they start thinking of what is needed for the future.

4. To continue to prepare scholars to engage in independent research while at UMBC

As in previous years, the acting director emphasized to scholars the importance of completing original research and the opportunities for engaging in research at UMBC. Our scholars conduct research with faculty members in their departments, present their work at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD), and apply for the Undergraduate Research Award (URA).

Based on the work in their classes, two humanities scholars presented their research at URCAD on April 23, 2014. Their topics were "College Students' Reading Comprehension Monitoring of Lexical and Semantic Violations in Think Aloud and Response Time" (Alicia Serrato) and "Learning in the French Language Classroom: The Effect of Weekly Listening Comprehension Exercises on Student Learning" (Andrea Duval). Three students—Daniel Roeder, Jennifer Wachtel, and Yoo-Jin Kang—applied for the URA. Jennifer Wachtel received the award for her project, which will also be her honors capstone research project, titled "An Unlikely Refuge: The Shanghai Jewish Ghetto during the Holocaust." In Spring 2015, Jennifer will also present her findings at URCAD. Although Yoo-Jin and Daniel did not receive this competitive award, both are highly involved in research. Daniel Roeder will complete his undergraduate thesis in the English Department next year, and Yoo-Jin presented her work "A Tale of Two Survivors" (poster) at the 2014 End Violence Against Women International Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking. For Yoo-Jin's reflections while attending the conference in Seattle, go to <http://yoojinexplores.blogspot.com/>.

Given that after their initial introduction to the URA program and the application process scholars generally require two years to submit their proposals, Janet McGlynn has been invited to talk to the scholars in fall 2014. Ms. McGlynn will focus on the relevance of and the processes involved in conducting original research. In addition, the instructors of the seminars (Fall and Spring) will include an assignment that students can potentially submit to present at URCAD. Scholars Yoo-Jin Kang and Jennifer Wachtel also spoke with the incoming humanities scholars' cohort about conducting research on topics of interest during the orientation session on June 12, 2014. It is expected that these measures will increase the quality and quantity of the humanities scholars' submissions to URA and their presence at URCAD.

5. To prepare scholars to engage in graduate studies or enter the work force

The diversity of interests of the humanities scholars is evident in the variety of paths they take after graduation. Our graduates pursue further studies in graduate school, continue their research, teach abroad, and enter the work force.

In previous years, humanities scholars have been accepted, often receiving funding of some kind, to graduate programs at Yale University, Duke University, New York University, University of Maryland, College Park, American University, and York University (UK), among others. Alicia Serrato, a double major in MLLI and psychology, will apply to graduate schools to continue her studies in psychology. There is also a growing interest in pursuing accelerated BA/MAs among the scholars. Recently, Jennifer Wachtel and Jessica Martin were accepted into the accelerated BA/MA in the History Department, and Caroline Davis has expressed her interest in applying for the accelerated BA/MA in the MLLI Department. Two of our graduates will teach abroad: Joshua Gehret, who received a Fulbright Scholarship, will teach English in Indonesia, and Andrea Duval, who was accepted in the Teaching Assistant Program in France, will be a teaching assistant in France. Upon her return, Andrea Duval intends to teach French in middle school, and Joshua Gehret is considering applying to graduate school. Vanessa Rueda, former editor of the *UMBC Review*, was hired as an editor even before graduating from UMBC. Vanessa is an example of those humanities scholars who, before submitting graduate applications, aim to gain work experience.

6. To maintain the popularity and success of the community and to increase students' participation in Humanities Living Learning Community activities.

The acting director of the Humanities Scholars Program also serves as the academic program coordinator of the Humanities Living Learning Community (LLC), which is located in Harbor Hall, East Wing, 2nd floor (Harbor 2nd East), and serves 32 students. Approximately one third of the students are freshman or sophomore humanities scholars (they are invited, but not required, to live on the Humanities LLC floor) and the rest are drawn from the broader student population. Students living in the Humanities LLC take advantage of cultural events on and off campus. (See Appendix VIII for a list of Humanities LLC activities).

The position of Humanities LLC liaison was created last year to help the director of the Humanities Scholars Program in his role as coordinator of the honors LLC. Joshua Gehret, who took this position, successfully served as liaison between the humanities LLC residents and the acting Humanities LLC coordinator. Having him on the floor avoided personality problems and clashes that appeared the previous year. He also helped the floor RA to organize several floor events, such as the analysis of the Super Bowl ads.

While there was a positive atmosphere and environment on the floor, attendance at some of events, such as the humanities forums, was initially not as high as expected. To enhance participation in the humanities forums, during the spring semester, the LLC director sent residents (a) a reminder at the beginning of the semester and (b) emails before each Humanities Forum. Not only did participation in the Humanities Forums increase, but Humanities LLC residents enjoyed participating in them and discussing the topics further during the following receptions or dinners.

Finally, the mission of the Humanities Scholars Program—providing educational opportunities and strong support for learning, research, and civic engagement—does not focus only on the humanities scholars or the Humanities LLC, but extends to all humanities students at UMBC. Students across campus are invited to attend the Humanities Forums and participate in the conversations with the forum speakers. To recognize the academic strength of UMBC humanities students, the Dresher Center and Humanities Scholars Program continue to oversee

the Mary Akaras Book Scholarship competition for undergraduate students majoring in the humanities. This year's awardee, Gregory Strack (double major in philosophy and music technology), was praised by the Philosophy Department for his extraordinary philosophical talents. With this and other initiatives stated in the report, the Humanities Scholars Program maintains its commitment to creating a strong and vocal constituency at UMBC for the humanities and related fields.

(See Appendix VI-VIII for 2013-2014 Humanities Scholars Selection Committee and Program Activities)

Appendices

APPENDIX I: 2013-2014 SPONSORED AWARDS

Dresher Center Summer Faculty Research Fellowships (Summer 2013):

Amy Bhatt, Asst. Professor, GWST *At Home in Globalization: Gender, Labor, and the Migrant Household* (\$6,000)

Marjoleine Kars, Chair, History *Gendering Rebellion: Women and the Berbice Slave Uprising, 1763-1764* (\$3,000)

Kelley Bell, Asst. Professor Visual Arts *Mapping Memory: Sherman's March and America* (\$3,000)

Michele Osherow, Assoc. Professor English *Leah's Dybbuk: Adapting and Revisioning Ansky's Play through a Feminist Lens* (\$2,000)

Rebecca Adelman, Asst. Professor MCS *The Shadow Rules of Engagement: Visual Practices, Citizen-Subjectivities, and America's Global War on Terror* (\$6,000)

Susan McCully, Senior Lecturer Theatre *Leah's Dybbuk: Adapting and Revisioning Ansky's Play through a Feminist Lens* (\$2,000)

Christine Mallison, Assoc. Professor LLC *Minding the (Opportunity) Gap: Building Partnerships with Schools of Education to Address Systemic Language-Based Challenges in STEM Education* (\$3,000)

Eve Muson, Asst. Professor Theatre *Leah's Dybbuk: Adapting and Revisioning Ansky's Play through a Feminist Lens* (\$2,000)

Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellowships (Spring 2014):

Carole McCann, Professor and Director, Gender and Women's Studies
Project Title: "Malthus, Mathematics, and Modern Masculinity: Demographic Discipline and Mid-Twentieth Century Population Politics" (\$4,000 course release, \$500 research assistant)
Presented one Fellows & Others session and one CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now session.

Kimberly Moffitt, Assistant Professor, American Studies
Project Title: "Acting While Black (and Male) in Disney's Land" (\$7,000 course release, \$500 research assistant)
Presented one Fellows & Others session.

Dresher Center Residential Graduate Student Research Fellowships (Fall 2013):

Emek Ergun, Doctoral Candidate, Language, Literacy, and Culture Program
Dissertation exploring the ways in which the feminist virginity knowledges of an American book, *Virgin*, traveled from the United States to Turkey through her politically-defined translation.
Advisor: Dr. Carole McCann, Gender and Women's Studies (\$1,000)

Teresa Foster, Doctoral Candidate, Language, Literacy, and Culture Program

Dissertation research on eighteenth-century British convict transportation to the American colonies. Advisor: Dr. Marjoleine Kars, History (\$1,000)

Dresher Center Emergency Scholarly Support Fund 2013-2014 (now Scholarly Development Fund):

Edward Larkey, Assoc. Professor MLLI: Present a comparison paper on *All in the Family and the British series Till Death Us Do Part* at the European Communication and Research & Education Assoc. Conference in Istanbul, Turkey (Fall 2013) (\$813)

Autumn Reed, LLC Ph.D Program: Present at *In the Frame: Public and Political Discourses of Migration* Conference in Limerick, Ireland (Spring 2014) (\$752.47)

Satarupa Joardar, LLC Ph.D Program: Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Annual Conference in Lima, Peru to present *Social media and multimedia discourses of a social movement: An exploratory case study of the Indian anti-corruption movement of 2011* (Spring 2014) (\$900)

Rahul Gairola, Adjunct Professor GWST: Attend and present a paper at the conference *Tracking Notions of Progress in South Asia: From the Colonial to the Postcolonial* at Wolfson College, Oxford, UK (Spring 2014) (\$500)

APPENDIX II: DRESHER CENTER SPONSORED RESEARCH – FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2013-2014 Faculty Accomplishments

Recent Dresher Center research support has resulted in a range of faculty accomplishments in 2013-2014, from conference papers and external grant applications, to works in progress and the publication of journal articles and books.

Rebecca Adelman, Media and Communications Studies

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2013)

Book Publication: *Beyond the Checkpoint: Visual Practices in America's Global War on Terror* (University of Massachusetts Press, April 2014).

Amy Bhatt, Gender and Women's Studies

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2013), Scholarly Development Grant (Spring 2013), Scholarly Completion Grant (Fall 2012)

- Indexing and final copyediting of *Roots and Reflections: South Asians in the Pacific Northwest*, published by the University of Washington Press in January 2013.
- Articles under review from the work completed, using Dresher Center support given in Summer and Spring 2013.

Kate Brown, History

Support: Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellowship (Spring 2013)

Development of several chapters for *Being There: Doing History in Modernist Wastelands*, to be published in Spring 2015 by University of Chicago Press.

Preminda Jacob, Visual Arts

Support: Dresher Center Residential Faculty Research Fellowship (Spring 2013)

- Paper presentation: "The Semiotics of Street Murals in Chennai." October 20, 2013 at the 42nd Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- Book Chapter: "An Experiment in Publicity - The Poster Sequence for Subramaniapuram." In Subramaniapuram. *The Tamil Film in English Translation*. Edited by Anand Pandian. Blaft Publications: Chennai, India, 2013, pp. 200-213.
- Work in Progress: Manuscript for an article on the street murals of Chennai to be submitted for publication as a journal article. Anticipated date of submission: August 2014.

Marjoleine Kars, History

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2013)

Article: "Dodging the Lash and the Bullet: Gender and Autonomy in the Berbice Slave Uprising of 1763," submitted and in revision. Parts of the work were published in a widely-read online journal, "Opting Out," COMMON-PLACE 14, 3 (Spring 2014), at <http://www.common-place.org/vol-14/no-03/kars/#.U4dA0sbdK04>

Edward Larkey, Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication

Support: Scholarly Development Grant (Fall 2013), Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2012) Fall 2013

- Conference Paper: “Narrating Identities through Television Format Adaptation. A Transcultural Comparison of *All in the Family* and *Ein Herz und eine Seele*,” at the meeting of the European Communication Research and Education (ECREA) in Istanbul, Turkey in 2012.
- Conference Paper: “*Stahlnetz* and *Dragnet*: Transcultural Unfolding of the Crime Drama” at the meeting of the German Studies Association in Denver, CO in Fall 2013.

The resulting articles will form the basis for a chapter on a theory of transcultural comparisons of television series.

Christine Mallinson, Language, Literacy, and Culture

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2013)

Journal articles:

- Charity Hudley, Anne H. and Christine Mallinson. (In preparation). Language and Culturally Responsive STEM Education. To be submitted to *Teachers College Record*.
- Mallinson, Christine, and Anne H. Charity Hudley. (2014) “Partnering through Science: Developing Linguistic Insight to Address Educational Inequality for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students in U.S. STEM Education.” *Language and Linguistics Compass*, Education and Pedagogy section, 8: 11-23.

Michelle Osherow, English; Eve Muson, Susan McCully, Theatre

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (2013)

Writing and production development for *Leah's Dybbuk*, to be staged at UMBC in March 2015.

The work-in-progress was presented in a session at the Drescher Center's “Currents: Humanities Work Now” series in Spring 2014.

Craig Saper, Language, Literacy, and Culture

Support: Summer Faculty Research Fellowship Summer (2012)

Publications (published and forthcoming) from the main research project:

- “Hors d’Oeuvres d’Mescan, or the Homme-letters That is (In) This Book.” Foreword. *Multifesto: A Henri d’Mescan Remix*. Eds. Schneiderman, Davis, and Phoenlia Yeer. 2nd ed. New York: Spuyten Duyvil, 2013.
- “For-Word(s): Radiant Riffs: Literature after ReMix.” *Multifesto: A Henri d’Mescan Remix*. Eds. Schneiderman, Davis, and Phoenlia Yeer. 2nd ed. New York: Spuyten Duyvil, 2012.
- *The Readies* by Bob Brown, ed. and introduction by Craig Saper (1930, new critical edition, Roving Eye Press, forthcoming, 2014). “Introduction The Adventures of Bob Brown and His Reading Machine: Abbreviated Texts 50 Years Before txt, Twitter, and WWW.” (in the volume above)
- *Words* by Bob Brown, ed. and introduction by Craig Saper (1931, new critical edition, Roving Eye Press, forthcoming 2014). “Introduction: For Words” -- in the volume above
- Bob Brown's Gems, ed. and introduction by Craig Saper (Roving Eye Press, forthcoming 2014).
- Chapter accepted into a definitive anthology, *Concrete Poetry: An International Perspective*.

Anna Shields, Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication

Support: Scholarly Development Grant (Spring 2012, Spring 2013)

- Invited lecturer: China Humanities Series at Harvard University.
- New work in progress presented at Dresher Center “Currents: Humanities Work Now” session in Spring 2014.
- Grant application in development (ACLS, Guggenheim, and Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation applications) for submission in September and October 2014.

APPENDIX III: 2013-2014 HUMANITIES FORUM

Humanities Forum Fall 2013

Tuesday, September 10 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 65

"Hispanic Americans: The Cosmic Race"

Marie Arana, Writer

Sponsors: *Latino Hispanic Faculty Association and Dresher Center for the Humanities*

Thursday, September 19 4:30 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 70

"What Remains? Baltimore Neighborhoods in Transition"

Moderator: Denise Meringolo (History). Participants: Nicole King (American Studies), Steve Bradley (Visual Arts), Bill Shewbridge (Media and Communication Studies), Michelle Stefano (Maryland Traditions and American Studies), Deborah Rudacille (English), Eddie Bartee, Jr. (former Sparrows Point steelworker), Tony Pritt (former Sparrows Point steelworker), and Jason Reed (community gardener, Curtis Bay
Sponsors: *Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsors: American Studies Department*

Tuesday, September 24 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 70

"The Worlds of Joseph Conrad: British Imperial Decline and the Dawn of Globalization"

Maya Jasanoff, Prize-winning historian, Harvard University

Sponsors: *History Department. Co-sponsor: Dresher Center for the Humanities*

Thursday, September 26 4:00 pm University Center 310 – Attendees 90

"Electric Orisha: Race, Media and Travel in Transnational Santeria"

Aisha M. Beliso-DeJesus, Africana Studies Research Colloquium, African Studies Department

Dr. Aisha M. Beliso-DeJesus is a cultural and social anthropologist and Assistant Professor of African American Religions at the Harvard Divinity School

Sponsors: *Africana Studies Department. Co-sponsor: Dresher Center for the Humanities*

Wednesday, October 16 7:00 pm University Center Ballroom -- Attendees 440

"HOT: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth"

Mark Hertsgaard, Fellow of the New America Foundation, the environment correspondent for *The Nation*, and a co-founder of the group, *Climate Parents*
Sponsor: *First Year Book Experience Lecture. Co-sponsors: Office of Undergraduate Education, Dresher Center for the Humanities and Division of Student Affairs, through the support of PNC Bank.*

Wednesday, October 23 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 70 **"Roman Gladiatorial Spectacle"** *Ancient Studies Week Lecture*

Garrett Fagan, Professor of Ancient History, Penn State University

Sponsor: *Ancient Studies Department. Co-sponsors: Dresher Center for the Humanities, Sociology and Anthropology Department, History Department, and Theatre Department*

Wednesday, November 13 7:00 pm University Center Ballroom – Attendees 175

"W.E.B. Du Bois Fifty Years after the March on Washington"

David Levering Lewis *35th Annual W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Africana Studies Lecture*

Dr. David Levering Lewis is Professor of History at New York University and author of eight books and editor of two more.

Sponsor: *Africana Studies*. Co-sponsors: *College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Social Science Forum, Dresher Center for the Humanities, Language Literacy and Culture, History Department, American Studies Department, Mosaic Center, and Albin O. Kuhn Library*

Wednesday, November 20 4:00 pm University Center Ballroom – Attendees 195

"Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South tell their Tales"

E. Patrick Johnson *7th Annual Korenman Lecture*

E. Patrick Johnson is the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University and Artistic Fellow at the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Columbia College, Chicago.

Sponsor: *Department of Gender and Women Studies*. Co-sponsors: *Dresher Center for the Humanities*

Tuesday, November 26 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 145

"Exhibiting Erotic Art (shunga) and the Problem of Obscenity in the 20th Century Japan"

Amaury Garcia, Professor of the Center for Asian and Africa Studies, El Colegio de Mexico

Sponsor: *Asian Studies*. Co-sponsors: *Visual Arts Department and Dresher Center for the Humanities*

Humanities Forum Spring 2014

Monday, February 10 12:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 34

"Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle"

The Loving Story film screening

Sponsors: *Africana Studies Department, the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, and the National Endowment for the Humanities*. Co-sponsored by the *Dresher Center for the humanities*.

Tuesday, February 11 4:30 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 25

"Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle" panel discussion

Moderator: Dr. **Claudrena N. Harold**, Associate Professor of History, University of Virginia

Elisabeth Haviland James, producer and editor of the Emmy Award and Peabody Award winning film, *The Loving Story*

Sponsors: *Africana Studies Department, the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, and the National Endowment for the Humanities*. Co-sponsored by the *Dresher Center for the humanities*.

Tuesday, February 18 5:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 56

"Constructing Heritage" panel discussion

Panel:

James Counts Early, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Mario Santo Domingo, Psychology, UMBC

Michelle Stefano, American Studies, UMBC

Ashley Minner, Community Artist and Activist, Baltimore American Indian Center
Sponsor: *Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the American Studies Department.*

Tuesday, March 4 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 175

“The Living Edge - Delights and Dilemmas of the Chesapeake Bay”

Tom Horton and **Dave Harp**, environmental journalists

Sponsors: *English Department. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Geography and Environmental Systems, Biology, Public Policy, the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.*

Thursday, March 6 7:30 pm University Ballroom – Attendees 165

Daphne Harrison Lecture

“On Hip Hop, Race, and Politics: The Way We Talk About Things”

Jay Smooth, Hip Hop Culture Critic

Sponsors: *Critical Social Justice, Women's Center, Student Life's Mosaic Center, the Africana Studies Department and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.*

Wednesday, March 12 7:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 56

“Curious Behavior: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research at UMBC”

Robert R. Provine, Neuroscientist and Professor of Psychology at UMBC

Sponsor: *Social Sciences Forum. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.*

Tuesday, March 25 4:30 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library, 7th Floor – Attendees 73

“The Fraught Crossroads Where Class, Race, Sex and Violence Keep Converging across American History”

Lawrence Weschler, author

Sponsor: *the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the American Studies Department and the Orser Center for the Study of Place, Community, and Culture.*

Tuesday, April 1 5:30 pm CADVC Gallery – Attendees 60

“The Aesthetics of Astronomy: A Subjective Look at Cosmographical Depictions through Time”

Michael Benson, writer, photographer and artist

Sponsor: *Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by CIRCA and the History Department.*

Wednesday, April 9 4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 65

Barker Lecture

“Dignity and Disability”

Samuel Kerstein, Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park

Sponsor: *Department of Philosophy. Co-sponsored by the Dresher Center for the Humanities.*

Wednesday, April 16 6:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 16

“Examining the Book of Lies”

Corazon del Sol, artist and curator

Sponsor: *Dresher Center for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the Albin O. Kuhn Library.*

Thursday, May1

4:00 pm Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery – Attendees 77

Lipitz Lecture

“Interiors: Identity in Music”

Linda Dusman, Professor of Music at UMBC

Sponsors: *College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and the Dresher Center for the Humanities.*

APPENDIX IV: WORKS-IN-PROGRESS BROWN BAG WORKSHOPS (FALL 2013) AND CURRENTS: HUMANITIES WORK NOW WORKSHOPS (SPRING 2014)

Works-in-Progress Brownbag Workshops (Fall 2013)

Monday, October 14 Attendees: 16 (LLC, MC, MMLC, AMST, ENGL, LIBRARY, VISUAL ARTS)

Queering Entrepreneurship and The Emergence of Punctum Books: Workshop with Dr. Eileen A. Joy

Monday, October 28 Attendees: 10 (LLC, GWST, CAHSS/HIST)

Emek Ergun, LLC student (Carol McCann, advisor) : *Doing Feminist Translation as Local and Transnational Activism: The Turkish Translation and Reception of Virgin: The Untouched History*
Kevin Wisniewski, LLC student (Craig Saper, advisor): *Improving the Art of Paper War: The Literary Gambols of Francis Hopkinson*

Wednesday, November 6 Attendees: 20 (LLC, MCS, Education, Africana Studies, Imaging Research Center, Visual Arts, IMDA, Library)

Kara Hunt, Post-doctoral Fellow, MCS: *Grin and Bear It: Humor as an Economy of Being*
Rebecca Adelman, Assistant Professor, MCS: *Beyond Representation: Approaching Violence and the Visual*

Wednesday, December 4 Attendees: 15 (GWST, Phil, LLC, MLLI, IRC, MCS, Visual Arts)

Kate Drabinski, Lecturer, GWST: *Queer Monuments in the City*
Mike Nance, Assistant Professor, Philosophy: *Democracy, Citizenship and Recognition*

CURRENTS: Humanities Work Now (Spring 2014)

Monday, March 24 Attendees: 12 (LLC, MMLI, ENGL, Theater, History)

Teresa Foster, LLC: 'Pleading the Belly': Convict Transportation and Motherhood
Anna M. Shields, MLLI: *Set in Stone? Posthumous Accounts, Epitaphs, and the Writing of Mid-Tang Literati Biographies*

Friday, April 11 Attendees: 9 (MMLI, ENGL, Theater, ANCS)

Susan McCully, Theatre; Eve Muson, Theatre; and Michele Osherow, English: *Leah's Dybbuk: A Feminist Adaptation of a Classic Yiddish Play*

Monday, April 21 Attendees: 6 (GWST, LLC, MMLI)

Carole McCann, Gender + Women's Studies: *Explosive Figures: Population Projections and the Pill*

APPENDIX V: DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

2013-2014 Interdisciplinary Collaborations and Courses:

- iv. UMBC Digital Publishing Initiatives (DPI): Craig Saper has continued work on DPI. At a digital humanities committee meeting, held in February 2014, existing digital humanities projects were identified that could become the content of an anthology to be published by University Press for Electronic Publications@UMBC (UPEP@UMBC). Dr. Saper has submitted quarterly progress reports on the project.
- v. The Dresher Center has provided seed funding to two interdisciplinary Faculty Working Groups: "Critical Engagement: Socially-Engaged Research in the Baltimore Region," led by Lee Boot, and "Issues in Digital Humanities: Definitions (or What Precisely Do you Mean by Digital Humanities?)" led by Craig Saper. Both groups have multi-modal publication among their stated objectives. These groups will meet through Fall 2014.
- vi. Baltimore Urban Stewardship Project: Tim Nohe, CIRCA; Matt Baker and Colin Studds, GES, UMBC; Miriam Avins, Baltimore Green Space. The UMBC interdisciplinary science and art team is collaborating with Baltimore Green Space to reconnect people to urban forests, and foster woodland preservation and stewardship in the City of Baltimore. The project will make scientific data, images, sound and video readily available to users via the Internet and through smartphones. The project will be seeking funding in FY 2015.
- vii. Post-Industrial Places (PIPP) Project:
 - Mill Stories (AMST 358, MLL 495/695 Maryland Traditions, Spring 2014) Bill Shewbridge, Michelle Stephano. Graduate and undergraduate students are helping to record, edit, and archive oral history interviews with former Sparrows Point steelworkers in this digital documentary project. The project was featured in a radio series with the Center for Emerging Media in May 2014 and through a panel discussion at the Baltimore Creative Alliance on April 12, 2014. It will be seeking funding in FY 2015. Project website, <http://www.millstories.org>.
 - Mapping Baybrook: Preserving Place/Explore Baltimore Heritage (AMST 422 & ART 390 IRC Fellows, Spring 2014) Nicole King, AMST & Stephen Bradley, VA. "Mapping Baybrook" is a collaborative and interdisciplinary exploration of place, blending digital mapping technologies with research into the history and culture of the Baybrook in Baltimore. Project website: <http://www.mappingbaybrook.org>. King and Bradley have submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities (see below).
 - Brick Garden/CULTIVATE: Lee Boot, Rebecca Yenawine, Jason Hughes, Wes Stitt, Marnie Benny, IRC; Baltimore City; MICA; New Lens. This multimodal publishing and collaborative online workspace will explore how to manifest important ideas that have emerged in various domains of research, such as social science and social art.
 - Explore Baltimore Heritage: (HIST 705, Spring 2014) Denise Meringolo, History and Eli Pousson, Baltimore Heritage. UMBC graduate and undergraduate history students and faculty worked in partnership with Baltimore Heritage, a preservation advocacy organization, to build interpretive content on Druid Hill Park for the Curatescape-based app, "Explore Baltimore." The project will be seeking funding in FY 2015.

Professional Education and Presentations:

- The Dresher Center supported talks given on campus by digital humanities scholars:
 - "Queering Entrepreneurship and the Emergence of Punctum Books." Eileen Joy, co-founder and director of Punctum Books, October 13, 2013

- “The Problem with Print: Publishing Digital Scholarship.” Helen Burgess, English, November 25, 2013
- “Digital Quilt: A Conversation with Dr. Michelle Ferrier.” Michelle Ferrier, Associate Dean for Innovation, Research/Creative Activity, and Graduate Studies for the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University, May 14, 2014
- Anne Rubin, History/Center for Digital History & Education (CDHE), will attend the Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching Workshop, given by the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) in August 2014, as part of her Hrabowski Academic Innovation Fund grant (May 2014).
- Denise Meringolo, History/Public History, will participate in “Doing Digital History,” a summer institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Digital Humanities, at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History in New Media, George Mason University in August 2014.
- Maryland Digital Conference (March 2014). Rachel Brubaker, Dresher Center and CDHE, and Michelle Flinchbaugh, Library, attended this conference on expanding the Digital Public Library of America to Maryland libraries and cultural organizations.

Grant Proposals and Funded Projects:

(Funded – Internal)

- Kathryn Bell, Visual Arts, Dresher Center Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (Summer 2013). Project: “Sherman’s March and America: Mapping Memory” website. www.shermansmarch.org
- Anne Rubin, History/CDHE. IRC Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (Summer 2014). Project: “Lost Historic Places: Visualizing the Rumney-West Tavern at Historic London Town.”
- Anne Rubin, History/CDHE and Marc Olano, Computer Science. Hrabowski Academic Innovation Fund Grant (May 2014). Project: “Re-playing the Past: Building a Digital Game for the History Classroom.”

(Funded – External)

- Dan Ritschel (PI), Marjoleine Kars and Rachel Brubaker, History, Teaching American History Grant (U.S. Department of Education, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, continuation). Projects: “Children’s Lives at Historic London Town: The Stories of Three Families” iPad App; “Foodways at Colonial London Town” website.
- Dan Ritschel (PI) and Rachel Brubaker, History, Teaching American History Grant (U.S. Department of Education, Howard County Public School System, continuation). Projects: “ARCH: Assessment Resource Center for History” website (www.umbc.edu/che/arch); “History Labs” website (www.umbc.edu/che/historylabs).
-

(External Proposals Submitted (Pending Awards))

- Albin O. Kuhn Library, Dresher Center, and CAHSS are collaborating on a consortium grant proposal project, entitled “Providing Improved Library Repository Services to Scholars” (PILRS+DS). The proposal was submitted in February 2014 to the Institute for Library and Museum Studies for a National Leadership Grant for Libraries in the category of Advancing Digital Resources. The project will develop a statewide community of digital scholars and advanced repository features to support the preservation of complex digital objects with a focus on the digital humanities. Bev

Bickel and Craig Saper, LLC, and Bill Shewbridge, MCS, consulted with the Library project team (Larry Wilt, Michelle Flinchbaugh, Chuck Thomas). Anne Rubin, History/CDHE, and Saper are the project's digital humanists. Saper is the co-PI and co-Project Director. (submitted February 2014, awards September 2014)

- Nicole King, AMST/Orser Center for the Study of Place, Community, and Culture; Stephen Bradley, Visual Arts and IRC; Bill Shewbridge, MCS and New Media Studio; and Michelle Stefano, AMST and Maryland Traditions, submitted a proposal to the NEH Division of Public Programs Interpreting America's Historic Places Grant Program for "Post-Industrial Places Project: Mapping the Stories of Industrial Baltimore." (submitted in January 2014, awards to be announced in August 2014)

APPENDIX VI-VIII: HUMANITIES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**APPENDIX VI: HUMANITIES SCHOLARS SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
MOVE INTO TEXT**

2013-2014 Humanities Scholars Selection Committee:

Jessica Berman	English, Director of the Dresher Center
Kate Drabinski	Gender and Women's Studies
Thomas Field	Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication (MLLI)
Carolyn Fitzpatrick	English
Theo Gonzalves	American Studies
Jason Loviglio	Media and Communications Studies
Brigitte May	MLLI
Susan McDonough	History
Michele Osherow	English
Ana Oskoz	MLLI; Humanities Scholars Program Acting Director
Tim Phin	Ancient Studies
Anna Sarah Rubin	History

APPENDIX VII: HUMANITIES SCHOLARS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

September 2013:

- 4th: Humanities scholars Advisory Board meeting. Scholars met to discuss and select different off-campus activities for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- 10th: Humanities Forum: *Hispanic Americans: The Cosmic Race*, Marie Arana, Writer
- 19th: Humanities Forum: *What Remains? Baltimore Neighborhoods in Transition* Moderator: Denise Meringolo (History). Participants: Nicole King, American Studies; Steve Bradley, Visual Arts; Bill Shewbridge, Media and Communication Studies; Michelle Stefano, Maryland Traditions and American Studies; Deborah Rudacille, English; Eddie Bartee, Jr., former Sparrows Point steelworker; Tony Pritt, former Sparrows Point steelworker; and Jason Reed, community gardener, Curtis Bay (and dinner)
- 24th: Humanities Forum: *The Worlds of Joseph Conrad: British Imperial Decline and the Dawn of Globalization*, Maya Jasanoff, Professor of History, Harvard University
- 26th: Humanities Forum: *Electric Orisha: Race, Media and Travel in Transnational Santeria* Aisha M. Beliso-DeJesus, cultural and social anthropologist and Assistant Professor of African American Religions at the Harvard Divinity School

October 2013

- 16th: Humanities Forum: *HOT: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth*, Mark Hertsgaard, environment correspondent for The Nation
- 23rd: Humanities Forum: *Roman Gladiatorial Spectacle*, Garrett Fagan, Professor of Ancient History, Penn State University,
- 28th: Study Abroad Meeting (sophomores with Brian Souders)
- 29th: Reception with students, faculty and administrators (including the Dean, Provost and President)

November 2013

- 4th: Prestigious scholarships. Dr. Simon Stacey spoke to the humanities scholars about the application process for scholarships such as the Rhodes, Cambridge and Golden Gate.
- 13rd: Humanities Forum: *W.E.B. Du Bois Fifty Years after the March on Washington*, David L. Levering Lewis, Professor of History at New York University
- 20th: Humanities Forum: *Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South tell their Tales*, E. Patrick Johnson, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University and Artistic Fellow at the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Columbia College, Chicago

- 20th: *Romeo and Juliet*, Folger Theater (together with the Honors College)
- 26th: Humanities Forum: *Exhibiting Erotic Art (shunga) and the Problem of Obscenity in the 20th Century Japan*, Amaury Garcia, Professor of the Center for Asian and Africa Studies, El Colegio de Mexico

December 2013

- 12th: Study Day Brunch

February 2014

- 10th: Humanities Forum: *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* The *Loving Story* film showing
- 11th: Humanities Forum: *Created Equal Panel Discussion*, Moderator: Dr. Claudrena N. Harold, Associate Professor of History, University of Virginia
- 12th: Mini-seminar: Seniors humanities scholars reconvene with Dr. King and Dr. Eff to discuss topics of their first-year seminar.
- 18th: Humanities Forum: *Constructing Heritage* Panel; James Counts Early, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage ; Mario Santo Domingo, Psychology, UMBC; Michelle Stefano, American Studies, UMBC; Ashley Minner, Community Artist and Activist, Baltimore American Indian Center (and dinner)
- 19th: Humanities Forum: *Race and its Medieval Prehistories: Jews and Stereotypes in Norwich and London, 1233*, Anthony Bale, professor of Medieval Studies, Birkbeck University of London
- 26th: *The Book of Mormon*, Hippodrome Theater (with HUM LLC). Students attended the Broadway hit.

March 2014

- 4th: Humanities Forum: *The Living Edge – Delights and Dilemmas of the Chesapeake Bay*, Tom Horton and Dave Harp
- 6th: Humanities Forum: *Daphne Harrison Lecture On Hip Hop, Race, and Politics: The Way We Talk About Things*, Jay Smooth, Hip Hop Culture Critic
- 12th: Humanities Forum: *Curious Behavior: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research at UMBC*, Robert R. Provine, Neuroscientist and Professor of Psychology at UMBC
- 25th: Humanities Forum: *The Fraught Crossroads Where Class, Race, Sex and Violence Keep Converging across American History*, Lawrence Weschler, author

28th: Study abroad stories: Juniors and seniors provide a 10-minute presentation of their experience while studying abroad

April 2014

- 1st: Humanities Forum: *The Aesthetics of Astronomy: A Subjective Look at Cosmographical Depictions through Time*, Michael Benson, writer, photographer and artist
- 4th: Humanities scholars Advisory Board meeting. Scholars met to discuss strategies and specific activities to enhance the cohesiveness among the different HSP cohorts.
- 5th: Washington DC excursion with the first year seminar instructors, Anna Shields and Susan McDonough.
- 7th: Mini-seminar: Seniors humanities scholars reconvene with Dr. King and Dr. Eff to discuss topics of their first-year seminar
- 9th: Humanities Forum: *Barker Lecture Dignity and Disability*, Samuel Kerstein, Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park
- 14th: Study Abroad Meeting (freshmen with Brian Souders)
- 16th: *Peter Pan* ballet. Kennedy Center (with HUM LLC).
- 16th: Humanities Forum: *Examining the Book of Lies*, Corazon del Sol, artist and curato

May 2014

- 1st: Humanities Forum: *Lipitz Lecture, Interiors: Identity in Music*, Linda Dusman, Professor of Music at UMBC
- 2nd: Humanities scholars Advisory Board meeting. Scholars met to personalize the Scholars Study room and to think of off-campus activities for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- 5th: Fulbright scholarships meeting. Dr. Souders spoke to the humanities scholars about the qualifications needed and the application process for the Fulbright scholarships (teaching and research).
- 14th: Study Day Waffle Brunch
- 21st: Seniors humanities scholars' reception (parents invited).

APPENDIX VIII: HUMANITIES LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

September 2013

- 10th: Humanities Forum: *Hispanic Americans: The Cosmic Race*, Marie Arana, Writer
- 19th: Humanities Forum: *What Remains? Baltimore Neighborhoods in Transition* Moderator: Denise Meringolo (History). Participants: Nicole King, American Studies; Steve Bradley, Visual Arts; Bill Shewbridge, Media and Communication Studies; Michelle Stefano, Maryland Traditions and American Studies; Deborah Rudacille, English; Eddie Bartee, Jr., former Sparrows Point steelworker; Tony Pritt, former Sparrows Point steelworker; and Jason Reed, community gardener, Curtis Bay (and dinner)
- 24th: Humanities Forum: *The Worlds of Joseph Conrad: British Imperial Decline and the Dawn of Globalization*, Maya Jasanoff, Professor of History, Harvard University
- 25th: Meet and Greet at the LLC: Introduction of the Humanities LLC coordinator and discussion of possible activities for the 2013-2014 year.
- 26th: Humanities Forum: *Electric Orisha: Race, Media and Travel in Transnational Santeria* Aisha M. Beliso-DeJesus, cultural and social anthropologist and Assistant Professor of African American Religions at the Harvard Divinity School

October 2013

- 16th: Humanities Forum: *HOT: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth*, Mark Hertsgaard, environment correspondent for The Nation
- 23rd: Humanities Forum: *Roman Gladiatorial Spectacle*, Garrett Fagan, Professor of Ancient History, Penn State University,

November 2013

- 13rd: Humanities Forum: *W.E.B. Du Bois Fifty Years after the March on Washington*, David Levering Lewis, Professor of History at New York, University
- 14th: *Hannah Arendt* film screening. Together with the German area (MLLI department and Judaic studies program)
- 20th: Humanities Forum: *Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South tell their Tales*, E. Patrick Johnson, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University and Artistic Fellow at the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Columbia College, Chicago
- 26th: Humanities Forum: *Exhibiting Erotic Art (shunga) and the Problem of Obscenity in the 20th Century Japan*, Amaury Garcia, Professor of the Center for Asian and Africa Studies, El Colegio de Mexico

February 2014

- 2nd: Super Bowl Party and Cultural Analysis of advertisements.
- 10th: Humanities Forum: *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle The Loving Story* film showing
- 11th: Humanities Forum: *Created Equal Panel Discussion*, Moderator: Dr. Claudrena N. Harold, Associate Professor of History, University of Virginia
- 18th: Humanities Forum: *Constructing Heritage* Panel; James Counts Early, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage ; Mario Santo Domingo, Psychology, UMBC; Michelle Stefano, American Studies, UMBC; Ashley Minner, Community Artist and Activist, Baltimore American Indian Center (and dinner)
- 19th: Humanities Forum: *Race and its Medieval Prehistories: Jews and Stereotypes in Norwich and London, 1233*, Anthony Bale, professor of Medieval Studies, Birkbeck University of London
- 26th: *The Book of Mormon*, Hippodrome Theater (with Humanities Scholars Program LLC). Students attended the Broadway hit.

March 2014

- 4th: Humanities Forum: *The Living Edge – Delights and Dilemmas of the Chesapeake Bay*, Tom Horton and Dave Harp
- 11th: *Combating Systemic Poverty through Empowerment and Partnership*, Faizun Kamal (main sponsor Mosaic Center, co-sponsor with Gender & Women Studies, Women's Center, American Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Oxfam)
- 6th: Humanities Forum: *Daphne Harrison Lecture On Hip Hop, Race, and Politics: The Way We Talk About Things*, Jay Smooth, Hip Hop Culture Critic
- 12th: Humanities Forum: *Curious Behavior: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research at UMBC*, Robert R. Provine, Neuroscientist and Professor of Psychology at UMBC
- 25th: Humanities Forum: *The Fraught Crossroads Where Class, Race, Sex and Violence Keep Converging across American History*, Lawrence Weschler, author

April 2014

- 1st: Humanities Forum: *The Aesthetics of Astronomy: A Subjective Look at Cosmographical Depictions through Time*, Michael Benson, writer, photographer and artist
- 9th: Humanities Forum: *Barker Lecture Dignity and Disability*, Samuel Kerstein, Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park

12th: Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC (together with WILL, ILE and the LLC Council).

16th: *Peter Pan* ballet. Kennedy Center (with Humanities Scholars Program).

16th: Humanities Forum: *Examining the Book of Lies*, Corazon del Sol, artist and curator

May 2014

1st: Humanities Forum: *Lipitz Lecture, Interiors: Identity in Music*, Linda Dusman, Professor of Music at UMBC