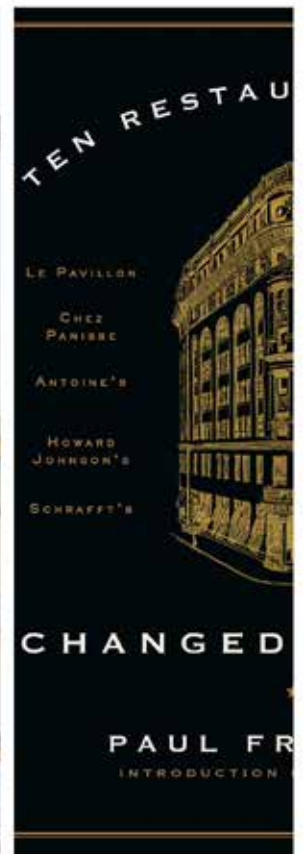
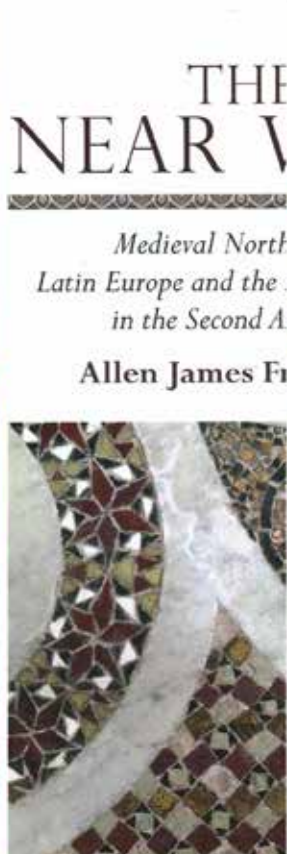
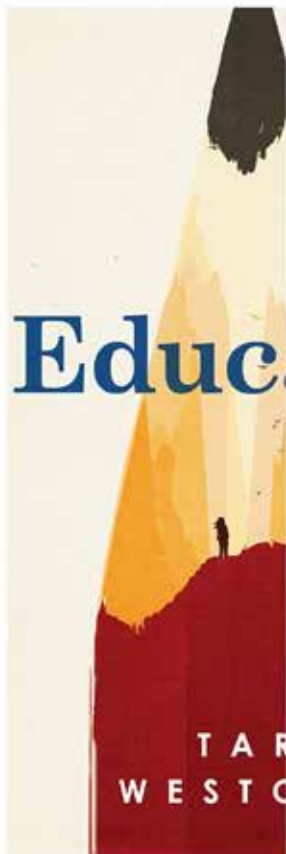




# HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

## 15TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Spring 2019

Issue 12 Vol. 2

# USF HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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# Spring 2019 at HI

Happy 2019! I hope the New Year finds you and your family and friends doing well. The Humanities Institute staff certainly enjoyed all the fun and creative events this past semester. From a moving talk by Roxane Gay at the Straz Center, to the incredible artwork created by Blake High School students for the Frankenreads Read-A-Thon, we are always inspired by the work being done by so many remarkable people.

We continue the celebration of the Humanities Institute's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with another semester of fun and educational programs. See you there!



Oct. 31: Advanced Drawing & Painting students from Blake High School bring their art to campus for Frankenreads



Sep. 27: Roxane Gay talks to a full house at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts

## The Humanities Institute Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida is to generate critical dialogue about what connects us to each other and our world, facilitating those conversations through research, education, and community programs.*

# The Color of Monstrosity



As we wrap up a successful season of honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Giselle Anatol, Professor of English at the University of Kansas, will expand our understanding of the "monstrous" in the final event dedicated to this theme with her talk, "The Color of Monstrosity: The

Skin-Shedding, Bloodsucking Soucouyant of Caribbean Folklore and Fiction."

Toni Morrison, and others), who take up the demonic folk figure and reconfigure it to urge for female mobility, racial and cultural empowerment and/or anti-colonial resistance.

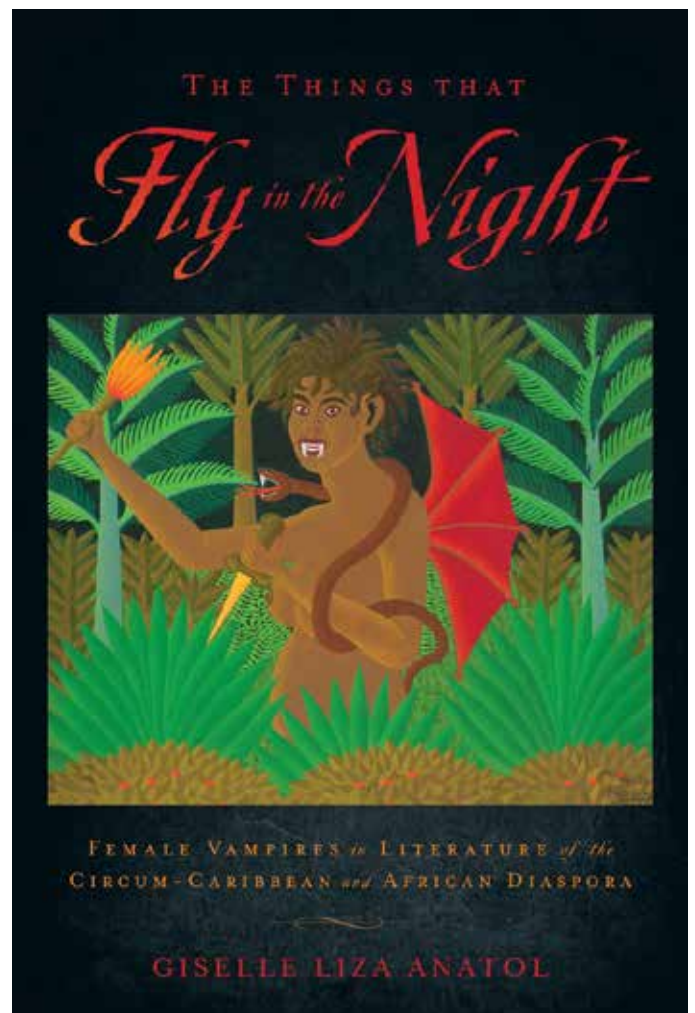
Her talk will be Thursday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. in CWY 206 and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

*The Humanities Institute thanks the Florida Humanities Council for their support of the Frankenstein Bicentennial events.*

*In a world where skin color is used to identify race (and often social position), does the ability to remove one's outer covering increase monstrosity or enable transcendence?*

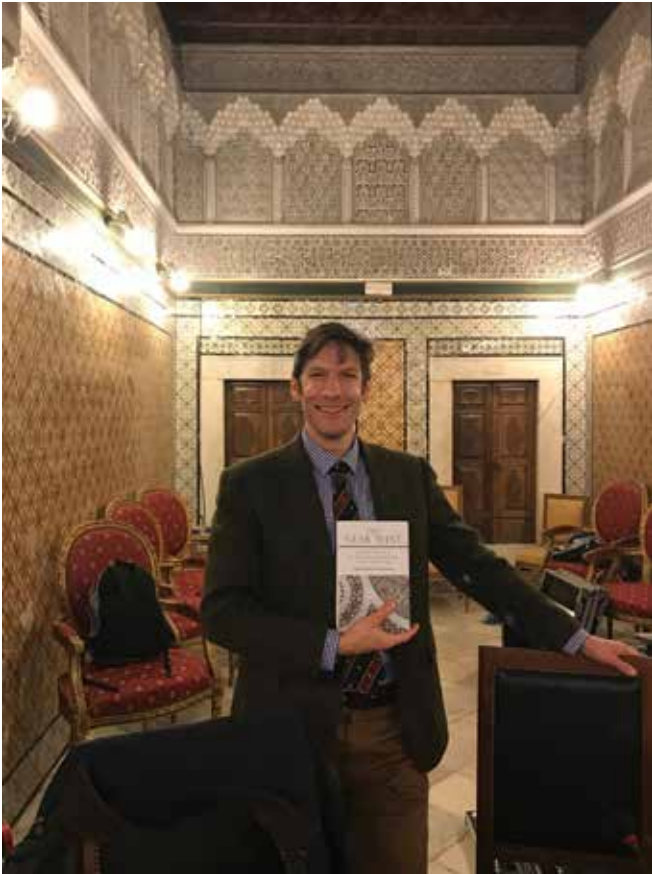
"Nineteenth-century monsters in British literature are often marked by the eerie color of their skin," she says. "Frankenstein's monster possesses a 'yellow skin scarcely cover[ing] the work of muscles and arteries beneath'; Bram Stoker's Dracula is of 'extraordinary pallor'. In the present day, J.K. Rowling's Lord Voldemort is a deathly white, in striking contrast to the glittering diamond skin of the vampires in Stephenie Meyers' *Twilight* series. Numerous scholars have analyzed these depictions as commentaries about race and ethnicity—commentaries that reveal society's cultural anxieties as well as its aspirations. I will touch on a few of these images, and then turn my focus to the figure of the soucouyant—a female vampire who sheds her skin before flying to suck the blood of her neighbors. In a world where skin color is used to identify race (and often social position), does the ability to remove one's outer covering increase monstrosity or enable transcendence?"

The soucouyant is central to Anatol's most recent book: *The Things That Fly in the Night: Female Vampires in Literature of the Circum-Caribbean and African Diaspora* (2015), which explores representations of vampirism in African diasporic folklore and in recent narratives by writers of African descent (Edwidge Danticat, Octavia Butler, Nalo Hopkinson, Helen Oyeyemi,





# Cauldron of Culture in the Near West



In February, the Humanities Institute welcomes Allen Fromherz to campus. A Professor of History at Georgia State University, Fromherz directs the school's Middle East Studies Center and is the current Vice President of the American Institute for Maghreb Studies. He is the author of several books including *The Almohads: The Rise of an Islamic Empire* (2010), *Ibn Khaldun: Life and Times* (2011), *Qatar: A Modern History* (2012), *The Near West: Medieval North Africa, Latin Europe, and the Mediterranean in the Second Axial Age* (2016), and *The Global Gulf, A History* is expected to be published in 2019.

His talk, which shares the name of his 2016 book, will focus on the essential role that North Africa played in medieval Western Europe, particularly in the areas of commerce, slavery, mercenary activity, art, and intellectual and religious debates. Fromherz draws on the personal biographies of remarkable Mediterranean travelers, scholars, rulers, and historians to explore this often overlooked historical connection between Africa and Europe.

His talk will be Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in CWY 206. A book signing and reception will follow.

## Humanities & Hops

Grab a sweater and get a seat by one of the fire pits because Humanities & Hops is back. These community-friendly research presentations take place at Southern Brewing and Winemaking in Seminole Heights. Talks begin at 7 p.m. but come early, grab a drink and something tasty from the food truck, and enjoy!

**Feb. 5:** "Demons, Clones, and Poetry." What does the Humanities Institute staff do in their off hours? Find out when Liz Kicak, Stephanie Lance, and J. Tyler Odle present their research.

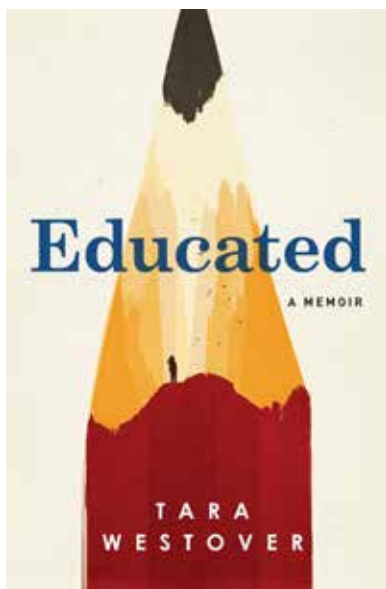
**Mar. 25:** "America at War." Faculty will discuss American attitudes and cultural trends during times of war. Faculty presenters include Andrew Berish (Humanities & Cultural Studies) and Nicolas Thompson (School of Information and Global Studies) \*There is one remaining opening for this event.



# Wicked Brews Book Group



The community book group has a fresh set of books that tackle wicked problems—that is, issues in society that defy understanding and easy solutions. This semester’s theme is “Families” and all of the complications that go with them. Read all or part of the book and join the group for great discussion. This semester we’ll be meeting in different Tampa locations.



Monday, Jan. 14

*Educated: A Memoir,*

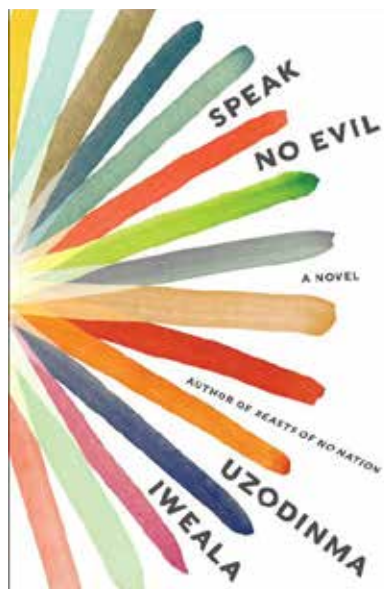
Tara Westover

Lector Social Club

305 E. Polk St.

Tampa, FL 33602

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her memoir explores how her quest for knowledge took her across oceans and her journey back home.



Thursday, Feb. 28

*Speak No Evil,*

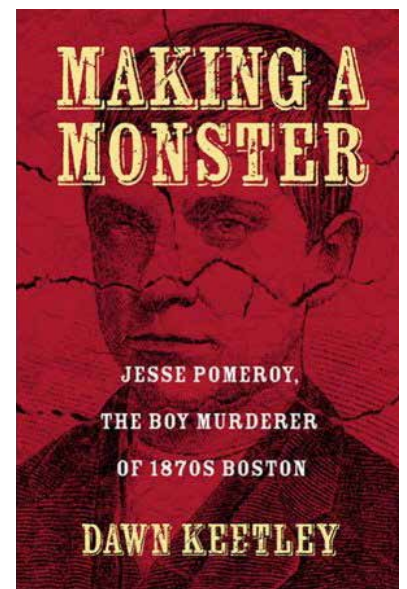
Uzodinma Iweala

Floridan Palace: Lobby Bar

905 N. Florida Ave.

Tampa, FL 33602

A revelation shared between two privileged teenagers from very different backgrounds sets off a chain of events with devastating consequences. This novel explores the inner and outer struggles of being different in a fundamentally conformist society.



Wednesday, Apr. 10

*Making a Monster,*

Dawn Keetley

The Bunker

1907 N. 19th St.

Ybor City, FL 33605

Keetley details the story of Pomeroy’s crimes and the intense public outcry. The reaction to Pomeroy’s acts, then and now, demonstrates the struggle to account for exactly those aspects of human nature that remain beyond our ability to understand.

# What is American Cuisine?

This spring, in partnership with the USF College of Arts and Sciences Frontier Forum Lecture series, we are thrilled to welcome Paul Freedman as our Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence the week of March 18. Freedman specializes in medieval social history, the history of Catalonia, comparative studies of the peasantry, trade in luxury products, and the history of cuisine. His latest

American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

During his time at USF, Freedman will be visiting classes in World Languages, History, and Anthropology. The Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence program gives students and faculty the opportunity to work directly with academic leaders from around the country.

*Foreign observers often say there is no such thing as American cuisine, only fast food, or (more favorably) a miscellaneous collection of international, immigrant cuisines.*

book, *Ten Restaurants that Changed America* (2016) addresses the entangled history of America's taste in food with American history itself.

Freedman is the Chester D. Tripp Professor of History at Yale University and has won numerous awards for his scholarship including a 2008 Reference and Technical Cookbook Award from the International Association of Culinary Professionals for *Food: The History of Taste*. Other award-winning books include *Out of the East: Spices and the Medieval Imagination* (2008); *Images of the Medieval Peasant* (1999); *The Origins of Peasant Servitude in Medieval Catalonia* (1991). Edited volumes, including *Food in Time and Place: The American Historical Association Companion to Food History* (2014). He is a member of the

Additionally, Freedman will be giving a public talk at Armature Works in Tampa addressing the question "What is American Cuisine?" Freedman notes that "Foreign observers often say there is no such thing as American cuisine, only fast food, or (more favorably) a miscellaneous collection of international, immigrant cuisines." He will discuss the history of food in the United States from the point of view of both old regional traditions and the standardized industrial food available at supermarkets that has largely replaced it. He will also address the changing preferences and priorities of Americans reflected in the revival of seasonal, local, and sustainable foods.

## "What is American Cuisine?"

Thursday, Mar. 21 7:30 p.m.

Armature Works

1910 N Ola Ave. Tampa, FL 33602

Cosponsored with the USF College of Arts & Sciences Frontier Forum Lecture Series

Free and open to the public. Tickets are not required but seating is on a first come, first serve basis.





# Haunted Houses in the Amazon

What better way to end the semester than to revel in the beauty of poetry? This April, as part of National Poetry Month, HI is proud to welcome poet, Traci Brimhall.

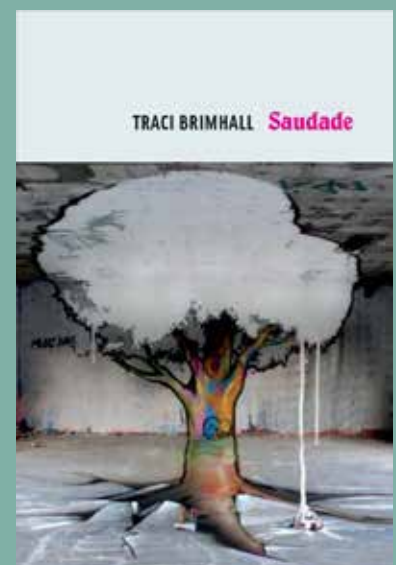
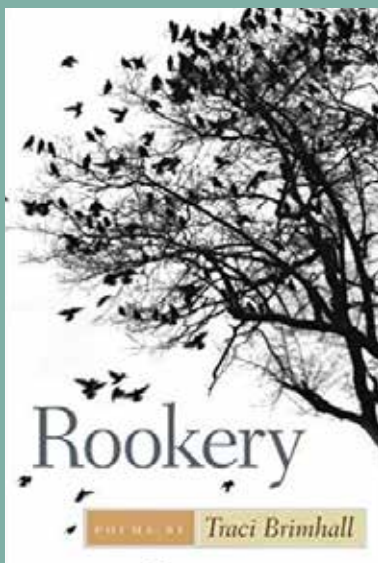


Brimhall, a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, teaches creative writing at Kansas State University. She has been awarded the 2012 Summer Poet in Residence at the University of Mississippi, and the 2008-2009 Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellowship at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. Her book, *Our Lady of the Ruins* won the 2011 Barnard Women Poets Prize, judged by Carolyn Forché and *Rookery* won the 2009 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award, and it was a finalist for the ForeWord Book of the Year Award.

Brimhall's reading will include poetry from her most recent book, *Saudade*, inspired by stories from her Brazilian-born mother. *Saudade* (a feeling of longing, melancholy, or nostalgia) is set in the Brazilian Amazon and is described as being one part ghost story and one part revival. Brimhall calls it "autobiomythography."

Her reading will be Thursday, Apr. 18 at 6 p.m. in the TECO Room (College of Education). A book signing and reception will follow.

## Books By Traci Brimhall



# Spring 2019 Calendar

Jan. 14 Mon. 7pm Lector Social Club	Wicked Brews Book Group: <i>Educated</i>	Mar. 5 Tue. 7pm Southern Brewing	Humanities & Hops: "America at War"
Jan. 24 Thu. 6pm CWY 206	Giselle Anatol: "The Color of Monstrosity: The Skin-Shedding, Bloodsucking Soucouyant of Caribbean Folklore and Fiction"	Mar. 21 Thu. 7:30pm Armature Works	Paul Freedman: "What is American Cuisine?"
Feb. 5 Tue. 7pm Southern Brewing	Humanities & Hops: "Demons, Clones, and Poetry"	Apr. 10 Wed. 7pm The Bunker	Wicked Brews Book Group: <i>Making a Monster</i>
Feb. 20 Wed. 6pm CWY 206	Allen Fromherz: "Cauldron of Culture in the Near West: Medieval North Africa, Latin Europe and the Mediterranean in the Second Axial Age"	Apr. 18 Thu. 6pm TECO Room	Traci Brimhall: " <i>Saudade: Haunted Houses in the Amazon</i> "
Feb. 28 Thu. 7pm Floridan Palace Lobby Bar	Wicked Brews Book Group: <i>Speak No Evil</i>		

## ON-CAMPUS VENUES

CWY 206: CWY Bill Young Hall is on USF Maple Drive north of the Sundome

TECO Room: First floor of the College of Education building on USF Apple Drive near the Library

USF locations are near visitor parking areas with automated pay-by-space machines. Visitor parking map: [www.usf.edu/parking](http://www.usf.edu/parking)

## OFF-CAMPUS VENUES

Armature Works: 1910 N. Ola Drive. Tampa, 33602

Floridan Palace Hotel, 905 N. Florida Ave. Tampa, 33602

Southern Brewing & Winemaking, 4500 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, 33603

Lector Social Club: 305 E. Polk St. Tampa, 33602

The Bunker, 1907 N. 19th St. Tampa, 33605



This semester's events are co-sponsored by the Osher Life Long Learning Institute



# The USF Humanities Institute

## 15 Years

The Humanities Institute aspires to be a hub of interdisciplinary research, community education, and student engagement through public programming, grants, and internships.

### 330 Public Events

ATTENDED BY OVER 25,000 PEOPLE

### 125 Presentations

FEATURING WORK BY USF FACULTY

### 1,000 Free Books

DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS  
THROUGH BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

### 6 Humanities Alumni

HONORED WITH THE WILLIAM H. SCHEUERLE  
DISTINGUISHED HUMANITIES ALUMNI AWARD

### \$700,000 Faculty Grants

AWARDED FROM USF OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
TO SUPPORT NEARLY 150 FACULTY

### 22 Interns and Graduate Assistants

SPONSORED BY THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

### HOSTING PREMIER SCHOLARS

10 Pulitzer Prize Winners

5 MacArthur Fellows

3 National Book Award Winners

3 National Humanities Medalists

2 U.S. Poet Laureates

# Support Student Success!

*A student's finances should never dictate their access to opportunity*

The vision of the Humanities Institute is to become a hub of interdisciplinary research, community education, and student engagement through public programming, grants, and internships.

We have identified a very specific need in our student population: travel funding to allow them to present original research at national and international conferences. Sharing original research is a fundamental expectation of all scholars, but it's of particular importance to those early in their careers. Whether it's an undergraduate preparing to apply to graduate school, or a graduate student preparing to enter the job market, their chances for success increase exponentially with each conference presentation they give.

However, the costs associated with attending a conference can be a significant hurdle for many

students. The Humanities Institute is committed to increasing support for College of Arts and Science students who have been accepted to present original research with a strong humanities focus at an academic or professional conference.

To commemorate our 15th Anniversary, the Humanities Institute has a goal of raising \$15,000 to support student travel stipends. Annual gifts are a vital component to meeting this goal. We thank you for your generosity and invite you to make a gift today. Your donation will directly impact students and support their academic success.

**YES! I want to support the Humanities Institute Fund, which provides travel funding for students.**

**Make a secure gift online at <https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420019/>**

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$100     \$250     \$1,000     Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Humanities Institute Fund (420019)

My check # \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to USF Foundation is enclosed

Please charge my gift to:     AMEX     MasterCard     VISA     Discover

Credit Card #

Exp Date (MM/YY)

Name on Card

Security Code

Signature

**Mail to:** USF Humanities Institute, USF College of Arts and Sciences 4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR107 Tampa, FL 33620-5550  
Or Contact: Liz Kicak at 813-974-3657 or [ekicak@usf.edu](mailto:ekicak@usf.edu) to make your gift.

# Annual Gifts at Work: Ryan Grabau

*I would encourage people to support this fund because it can open doors for students that would never be possible without funding.*



Ryan Grabau, a sophomore majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in public health and deaf studies, was accepted to present his research at the International Health Conference at Oxford University, United Kingdom, June 2018. His work explores how Italian history, religion, and culture impacts that nation's current medical practices. However, the costs associated with attending the conference were significant.

"I had no idea how I was going to afford it, and actually considered not attending simply due to the price. Presenting at conferences as an undergraduate is such a rare and exciting opportunity but I was faced with the hard truth that I might not be able to attend simply because of lack of funding," Grabau says.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of his work and its strong grounding in the humanities, the Humanities Institute provided a small stipend that allowed Ryan to travel to Oxford and present his work. Annual gifts help us make funding like this available to many more students.

*I benefited from attending the conference by learning how to express my research in a new, challenging, and diverse environment. It is one thing to write a research paper for a class, but to present it in front of professionals from around the globe is truly a one of a kind, career altering event.*



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