



## Spring 2013

### Upcoming Events

[“Minor Matters –Asian/African, Muslim/Christian”](#)

**April 9**

[“Becoming Jewish-Argentines: Marriage choice, and the construction of a Jewish Argentine Identity \(1920-1960\)”](#)

**April 16**

[Radical Reading Practices, A Symposium](#)

**April 18-19**

[Brenda Shaughnessy Poetry Reading](#)

**April 25**

[Leviathan: Celebrating 40 Years of Jewish Journalism at UCSC](#)

**April 28**

[Helen Diller Family Endowment Lecture with Ari Kelman: “Learning to be Jewish”](#)

**May 8**

Spring term is always a busy time, as projects and plans underway all year come to fruition in a full calendar of events, including all the year-end celebrations and the formal graduation ceremonies in June.



During the winter term, History, Languages, Linguistics, and Literature all successfully recruited new faculty. Look to the fall newsletter for profiles of our six new faculty colleagues. On March 7, Humanities graduate programs collaborated in welcoming prospective grad students to campus to directly experience the opportunities awaiting them if they decide to pursue their advanced degrees here.

Notices about honors and awards—and successful placements of new PhDs—appear weekly. Look to the Spring Awards ceremony on May 30th for our attempt to collect them all into one celebrative shout-out to faculty, students, and staff.

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I wish you all a successful end of the academic year and best wishes for a pleasant and productive summer.



William A. Ladusaw

Dean of Humanities

## CRES Speaker: Lisa Lowe

In anticipation of the development of a formal Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) proposal to the Academic Senate, the Humanities Division is sponsoring a 2012-13 CRES visiting speaker series, which brings scholars from other programs at other universities to UCSC.

Last fall, we hosted Sunaina Maira, Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Davis. Professor Maira presented "More Delicate Than a Flower, Yet Harder Than a Rock: Human Rights in the Shadow of an Empire." During winter quarter, we welcomed Roderick Ferguson, Professor of American Studies at the University of Minnesota, who presented "Comparative Ethnic Studies: Retrieving, Redistributing, and Holding the Institution Under Erasure."



Our third and final scholar in the CRES visiting speaker series is Lisa Lowe, Professor of English at Tufts University. On Monday, May 20, Professor Lowe will present "[Sugar, Tea, Opium, and Coolies: The Intimacies of Four Continents.](#)" This lecture examines the fetishism of colonial commodities as a mediation of often obscured connections between the transatlantic African slave trade to the Americas, settler colonialism, the import of Asian indentured labor, the East Indies and China trades, and the emergence of European liberal ideas of citizenship, wage labor, and free trade in the late-18th and early-19th centuries

Lisa Lowe is a professor of English and American Studies at Tufts University and a scholar in the fields of comparative literature, and the cultural politics of colonialism and migration. Before joining Tufts, she taught in the Literature Department at UC San Diego for over two decades. She is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the

Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, the UC Humanities Research Institute, the American Council of Learned Societies, the School of Advanced Study - University of London, and the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Lowe is the author of *Critical Terrains: French and British Orientalisms* (Cornell UP), *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Politics* (Duke UP), and coauthor of *The Politics of Culture in the Shadow of Capital* (Duke UP). Her current project, *The Intimacies of Four continents*, is a study of the global conditions for liberal economy, knowledge, culture, and politics. Lowe received her Ph.D. in Literature from UC Santa Cruz.

# Extraordinary Achievement

## Living in Research: History Ph.D candidate Dustin Wright in Japan on Fulbright- Hays doctoral fellowship

Nearly 5,500 miles away, a Japanese Cold War protester serves History Ph.D. candidate Dustin Wright a steaming cup of green tea as a kerosene heater rattles in the corner. A Fulbright-Hays doctoral fellowship recipient, Wright is spending 2013 in Japan, working on his dissertation that explores the histories of communities around U.S. military bases in Japan, which includes protest movements in Tokyo, Okinawa, and Iwakuni.

The Fulbright-Hays grants are awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to support research and training efforts overseas and to focus on non-Western studies.

Wright is affiliated with Waseda University in Tokyo, where he takes advantage of the libraries and archives, but his research will also take him to Iwakuni near Hiroshima.

Wright is intrigued by the military bases throughout Japan that he has already explored in previous trips to the country.

“I noticed that walking along the barbed-wire fence around an American military base in Tokyo feels almost like walking along some sort of space-time-warp,” said Wright. “The U.S. side looks like a Cold War theme park. But on the Japanese side, you see what is often regarded as one of the most advanced and wealthiest nations on earth. The striking disparities between these two spaces are very interesting to me.”

Although Wright has been traveling to or living in Japan for various amounts of time over the past 10 years, he remains humbled by memories of culture shock, something he does not experience as much this time around.

“I’ve always had a habit, even when I could barely muster a word of Japanese, of finding the smallest, most intimate eatery possible. Usually such places only seat about a dozen patrons, and from the outside don’t seem like much; a light or two, maybe a beer sign, but not really much to indicate what the inside is like. I would always find the eatery with the sound of laughter spilling out of the door. I would enter and inevitably the jovial feasting in the place would go quiet for a moment. Then the owner, who was usually the guy



behind the grill, would happily direct me to the one open seat, crammed in between two people who had previously been engaged in deep conversation.”

Wright earned his B.A. at Northern Arizona University, where he studied International Relations. During that time, he began learning Japanese and eventually studied abroad, going on to teach English in Japan after graduating. He also completed an M.A. in Asian Studies at San Diego State University.

Now in his fourth year of the Ph.D program in History at UCSC, he plans to become a professor of Japanese or East Asian history.

“I love teaching and being challenged by students' questions,” said Wright. “In fact, my dissertation project has in many ways been influenced by conversations with my students.”

Wright will be blogging about his time in Japan through the Japan Policy Research Institute ([www.jpri.org](http://www.jpri.org)).

His website: <http://people.ucsc.edu/~jdwright/>



## IHR Spotlight: 2012-13 Society of Fellows

Administered by UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI), the Society of Fellows were begun in 1986 as part of UC President David Gardner's Humanities Initiative. Now a core program of the UC Humanities Network, these competitively selected fellowships support the most compelling research projects of faculty and graduate humanities scholars across the UC system.

Last year's Society of Fellows, "What are we doing when we Do the Humanities," was hosted by the Humanities Division's Institute for Humanities Research. Held at the Museum of Art & History in downtown Santa Cruz, the event engaged leading scholars in the humanities, as well as the public. Faculty Fellows from UCSC included Assistant Professor of Literature Dorian Bell, Professor of History Dana Frank, and History graduate student Kelly Feinstein-Johnson.

This year's [Society of Fellows](#) will include the following UCSC Humanities Division faculty and graduate students:

**Sharon Kinoshita** – Professor of Literature and this year's faculty fellow

**Mark Norris** – graduate student, Linguistics

**Matt Suazo** – graduate student, Literature



The Society of Fellows, which is combined with the 25th anniversary celebration of the UC Humanities Initiative, will be held at UCLA on Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19. The Society of Fellows meeting will take place on the 19th from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., and will be bookended on Thursday and Friday nights by two major public events.

The public event on Thursday evening will include Angela Davis (UCSC), Jean Comaroff, Ken Gonzalez Day and Wendy Brown addressing race, repression, representation, and resistance, taking off from an exhibit of photographs by Ernest Cole at the Fowler Museum. Friday evening's event will include readings and conversation by California writers Karen Yamashita (UCSC), Bharati Mukherjee, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, and Hector Tobar, moderated by writer-critic David Kipen. The evening will conclude with a special performance featuring Chinese vocalist Liu Sola, accompanied by metal-rock guitarist Liu Yijun.

With the theme "Humanities in Circulation," the Society of Fellows organizers hope to convey the complexity and creativity of knowledge production and dissemination in the humanities and layering or collision of ideas, fields, texts, media, geographies, the mergings and morphings, influences and interpolations, consolidations and contestations within and across the humanities, between the humanities and the arts, the social sciences, natural and applied sciences.

# Student Profile: Ethan Kelley's Field Notes on Cultural Observations

Fourth-year Linguistics major Ethan Kelley accidentally started learning German when he couldn't enroll in a Linguistics class, which led to studying abroad in Berlin from September 2011 until August 2012. He appreciates Linguistics for its combination of the humanities with a scientific, theoretical and analytical approach to studying language itself. Ethan graduated this past winter quarter and plans to pursue his certificate for Teaching English as a Foreign Language, an MA in Applied Linguistics and eventually a Ph.D. in Second Language Teaching.

"Ethan embodies the Language Program," said Zsuzsanna Abrams, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics and Chair of the Language Program. "He's a very successful language learner who has taken German and French classes at UCSC, but has also studied other languages. He is curious, and through extensive reading, watching movies, and trying to meet speakers of various languages, he pursues an in-depth understanding of how these languages are used in their social context."

Ethan's story in his own words:

"Culture shock, what results from encountering perceived static cultural paradigms of others, isn't what I found the most interesting about my transition into and out of Berlin.



This is partly due in part to the people who surrounded me in Berlin, the people I surrounded myself with, weren't representative of any sort of monolithic, fundamental other. I knew people of all ages, people who came from North America, from Europe, from Asia, people who cleaned apartments and worked in cafes, people who were students and even professors at the same universities I attended.

What actually shocked me was how these people were not held back by forces we assume as part of our existence in California and the U.S. They were not held back by unreasonably high rents. They were not held back by the overwhelming burden of student debt -- while I paid UC tuition to attend Humboldt University, my German classmates and my friends from the E.U. paid around 180 euros a semester.

They were not held back by the expectation that a university degree, the contents of which were ultimately irrelevant and only granted access to the job market, would lead them into a 9-5 job, bookended by a commute trapped in a car crawling along the interstate. That's because there was belief in and hope for an alternative configuration of life with a real sense of community, where higher learning's means were also its ends. However vain their hope was, immersion in their life was infinitely more significant than any sort of tourism or cultural consumption I could have acted out in Germany.

Spending time in Berlin has also complicated my perspective on being American and living in America. After being the token American in numerous situations and America being an endless source of curiosity for many Europeans, I've answered a lot of questions about why things in America are as bad as they are. Much of what I saw and experienced in the way that Germany as a society is run exemplifies everything that America is not doing right politically, economically and socially.

On the other hand, I think that some of the people asking me these questions failed to appreciate the fact that both Californians and Alabamans are Americans, and that in many respects, these two groups represent larger cultural, religious, economic, demographic, and political differences than the 'diversity' of, for example, Germany or Sweden. So while it may be interesting that northern Germans speak in a different dialect or eat more fish than southern Germans, a lot is lost in totalizing America as a country and a culture.

Germans, especially in Berlin, promoted 'multiculturalism' as this face-value boon to their society in the same way that we might be happy to have Chinese, Burmese, Mexican and Italian restaurants in our neighborhood, but ultimately their motivation and desire to meaningfully incorporate the Turks and Arabs (and other, smaller minorities in the city) into their society stopped largely at assimilation. Their acceptance of these groups seemed conditioned on them becoming 'Germanized'. And that's what I still really love about America: for the most part, our identity, unlike that of the Germany or other other European countries, is not biologically determined -- it's determined more by our desire to belong to this 'project' that is America.”



# A Dash of SALT



The Linguistics Department and Linguistics Research Center are hosting the 23rd annual Semantics and Linguistics Theory Conference ([SALT](#)) at UCSC's Stevenson College on May 3-5. SALT is one of the premiere North American conferences on formal semantics as a subfield of linguistics. The conference provides an opportunity for brilliant minds in semantics and linguistics to gather under one roof.

"For three glorious days, we will have 100 semanticists in one location," said Assistant Professor of Linguistics and conference organizer, Pranav Anand. "This happens once a year in the U.S. It is incredibly rejuvenating to hear what others are working on, and to discuss our own work."

SALT is one of three venues in the world for cutting-edge work in semantics. The invited speakers hail from across the globe: Maria Aloni, University of Amsterdam; Cleo Condoravdi, PARC/Stanford University; Philippe Schlenker, Institut Jean-Nicod of France; and Roger Schwarzschild, Rutgers University.

"These speakers do interesting, useful work, and they reliably give thought-provoking talks," Anand said. "Two of the presenters, Schwarzschild and Schlenker, have spoken at previous SALTs and while Aloni and Condoravdi have not, we wanted to recognize them in our edition of SALT because they are scholars whose work we take to be influential."

In addition to the invited speakers, 15 half-hour long presentations, selected from over 180 abstract submissions, will be given.

"The research presented at SALT, and published in the corresponding proceedings, is incredibly influential in the field," Anand said. "It isn't typically organized around any particular subject matter or theme, and in that sense one may leave the conference without some clear summative take home. But because the guiding imperative is high standards, the work presented is of extremely good quality, and therefore likely to be discussed for many years to come."

# Introducing the Dean's Advisory Council

Dean Ladusaw formed a new advisory council in November 2012 to provide insight, advocacy, and support for the purpose, delivery and impact of a humanities-based, Liberal Arts education and degree from UC Santa Cruz. Council members serve a two-year term and convene at UCSC twice a year for meetings. They provide leadership as donors, advise the Dean on emerging issues and activities that may impact the Case for the Humanities' strategic direction and opportunities, and are informed advocates on behalf of the Humanities Division.

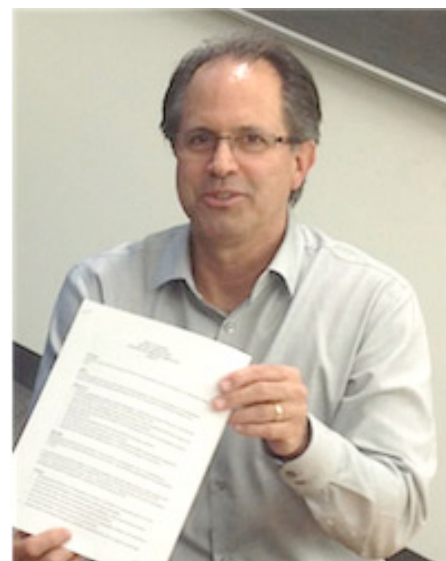
Currently, four members make up the Dean's Advisory Council. In this newsletter, we profile the first member to join the Council: Rob Fernandez, a Team Leader in Wells Fargo's Technology Banking division.

## About Rob

**Hometown:** Sunnyvale, during the birth of the technology industry, before Santa Clara Valley was known as Silicon Valley.

**Education:** UCSC, Religious Studies '95 and Santa Clara University, MBA. Most of my family expected that I would follow my father and pursue law. I was more intrigued by the underlying ethical questions he encountered in his practice as a lawyer and judge.

**Career:** I've been involved in the Silicon Valley business community for over 20 years, providing financing and financial services for both early stage and public technology companies.



**On the Humanities:** I have a unique perspective as someone who was educated in the humanities and applies those disciplines in the world of business and finance. One of the underlying truths in the business world is that it's all about connecting with people on a genuine level. Effective communicators and relationship builders possess cultural competence - an appreciation of others' world views. You can't gain that perspective from an education that's too narrowly focused on vocational skills. I have strong convictions about the long-term importance of the disciplines under the umbrella of humanities. Economic cycles come and go, but we can't let those temporary pressures distract us from our quest to advance human understanding, especially now that we conduct business in a globally connected, mutually dependent fabric of societies.

**If I could switch places with anyone in the world:** Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin.

In the Fall 2013 issue of the Humanities Newsletter, we will profile the second member to join the Dean's Advisory Council: Glenn Lindsey.

# Staff Team Profile: Tony Grant, a Team of One

Tony Grant is the Humanities Division's only Space and Operations Assistant, making him a team of one.

Here's Tony, by the numbers:

**2002:** year he started at UCSC as building/facilities coordinator, responsible for orchestrating the sequence of events (and the tradespeople involved - painters, carpenters, campus movers, locksmiths, and custodial and recycling staff) required to keep our spaces operational. He works with capital projects and large building renovations, where he creates security schemes for many buildings on campus and helps maintain their wireless access. Tony also serves as Division Ergonomic Assessor (DEA) to assist faculty and staff in maintaining ergonomic best practices.

**1994:** year Tony moved to Santa Cruz County from New York/New England. After a couple of his musical bands fell casualty to members who fled to California, he decided that he had had enough. He didn't want to spend the rest of his life shoveling snow or dealing with ridiculously humid summers, so he packed up the station wagon and the cats and headed west.

**10:** age Tony started flute lessons.

**7:** grade that Tony started participating in school ensembles. Ever since, he has played with a group, or just practiced music on his own. In high school, he started playing electric bass with rock and blues bands. At Tufts University, he was a music (and history) major. Eventually, Tony found himself immersed in jazz and jazz-fusion. Most recently, he is focusing on jazz standards, and he is honing his skills as an orchestral (rock/fusion/classical) percussionist.



## Mark Your Calendars for the 2012-13 Spring Awards

The [Spring Awards](#) celebrates excellence in Humanities, and gives us an opportunity to acknowledge those who have achieved special recognition, distinctions and honors this year. Highlights include the presentation of the Dizikes Faculty Teaching Award in Humanities, which acknowledges transformative teaching in the liberal arts by Humanities faculty. Beginning in 2002 and bestowed every Spring Quarter, the Dizikes Faculty Teaching Award honors Professor Emeritus of American Studies, John Dizikes, and his powerful ability to inspire and engage generations of students.



The 2012-13 Spring Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 30 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Humanities 1, Room 210. The ceremony will be followed by a reception next door in Room 202.

## News Brief: Office of Sustainability releases first annual report



[The UCSC Office of Sustainability](#), whose mission is to help foster a culture of sustainability, has published its first [annual report](#) offering point in time view into progress meeting the Campus Sustainability Plan. According to Andrea Hesse, Director of Academic Client Relationship Management and member of the Campus Sustainability Committee, “We continue to reach across departments and divisions to integrate sustainability into our daily operations and our campus planning.”

## Humanities Heard

*"I'm a teacher to the core, and that's what helped me survive."*

Karen D. Thompson, Adjunct Professor at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, who presented her lecture, "Love is a Dangerous Promise" at UC Santa Cruz on March 7. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Feminist Studies department, Feminist Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, and the Humanities Division.

Karen Thompson rose to national prominence after the 1983 car accident of her partner, Sharon Kowalski, who suffered a traumatic brain injury after a drunk driver hit her car. After the accident, Kowalski's biological family refused to acknowledge or accept Thompson's relationship with Kowalski, setting off a nearly decade-long legal battle over guardianship and the rights of same-sex couples. Thompson was finally awarded legal custody of Kowalski in 1991.



Published three times a year (fall, winter, and spring), the Humanities Newsletter highlights the constellation of people, programs, and collaborations that demonstrate outstanding work in the Humanities.

We encourage you to contact us at [humanities@ucsc.edu](mailto:humanities@ucsc.edu) with questions or comments.

