Humanities Center

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The humanities consider how we understand and record human experiences. Encompassing a wide range of disciplines including philosophy, history, literature, religion, visual arts, music, and language, humanistic study teaches us how to think creatively and critically about our own identities and our connections to others—whether they live across the street or across the world, whether they lived long ago or will live in the futures we imagine. The Humanities Center at Lehigh University is thus vital for building community both on and beyond our campus. The Humanities Center creates interdisciplinary intellectual opportunities for students, faculty, and staff engaged in humanistic inquiry across departments and programs. Through speaker series, reading groups, conferences, an undergraduate research journal, research grants, and informal gatherings, the Humanities Center fosters a broad community rooted in vibrant, rigorous, and creative inquiry into what it means and has meant to be human. The Humanities Center has designed an annual speaker series on a theme, hosted scholars, writers, artists, and activists to speak on a single issue and organized year-long faculty seminars to address specific intellectual topics. Recent themes have included Home, Movement, Contagion, Speaking Bodies, and the Posthumanities.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Humanities Center fosters interdisciplinary research activity in several ways. Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates may apply for funding to support reading groups, colloquia, conferences and visiting speakers. Graduate students may apply for modest financial support to enable them to travel to present research at academic conferences. The center sponsors a works-in-progress series, which fosters dialogue about ongoing research projects in the humanities. Summer, Individual and Collaborative Research Grants are available for faculty and graduate students. The objective of these grants is twofold:

1. to strengthen the intellectual community of Lehigh’s scholars in the Humanities and
2. to provide support for faculty to pursue a humanistic research project or creative activity and for graduate students to finish their dissertations.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Humanities Center hosts and sponsors the production of the Lehigh Review, an undergraduate research journal founded in 1992 by the Lehigh humanities faculty. Original articles range in topic and subject across the spectrum of undergraduate study, from English to Economics and Physics. Published annually, the entire publication process—from reviewing submissions to editing to design and illustration—is handled almost exclusively by undergraduate students and supervised by a graduate student instructor. The Humanities Center also hosts a wide range of informal activities to create a lively, unstructured humanistic community.

For more information visit the Humanities Center website http://humanitiesctr.cas2.lehigh.edu/ or contact the Director, Suzanne Edwards at the Humanities Center, 224 West Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18015 or by email at sme6@lehigh.edu.