

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Center for the Humanities & the Public Sphere

POINTS OF PRIDE

- The Rothman Endowment of \$4M establishes the Center as a nationally recognized sponsor of humanities research.
- The Center for Humanities, by design and by philosophy, has no permanent faculty. Instead, it leaves questions of curriculum and hiring to other university units. The Center uses endowed funds to support UF faculty initiatives--colloquia, research groups, workshops, lectures—to bring world-class scholars to campus for collaboration.
- Since 1999, the Center has forged a tradition of cooperation by effective use of existing funds to promote both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary excellence. The Center has drawn over 100 noted humanities scholars from across the US and around the world. In addition to international recognition, the Center has identified innovative areas of research, established new professional contacts, and promoted an impressive array of published articles, monographs, and books.

VISION & GOALS

The central vision involves establishing an endowment, over the next several decades, of \$35M. Endowment funds will be used to expand ongoing activities and to develop new initiatives, among them, a program to support internationally-recognized Resident Humanities Scholars.

A mid-term goal is to expand Center initiatives beyond CLAS to include other UF colleges in new initiatives, e.g., Humanities & the Arts, Humanities & Medicine, Humanities & Law, Science & Technology Studies. Thoughtful expansion will extend the influence of the Center to new audiences and new funding opportunities.

An immediate goal is to develop endowments established by, or in the name of, UF faculty.

An immediate goal is to develop ‘The Humanities Society’ to represent the Center more broadly in the Gainesville community and throughout the state of Florida. The Humanities Society will bring greater visibility and a fresh venue for fund raising through membership and new contacts.

CRITICAL NEEDS

- After appointing a full-time Director of the Center for the Humanities (5-year term, renewable by mutual agreement) to hire a half-time Associate Director to assist with grants and fund-raising. Both appointments will be guided by benchmarks in their letters of appointment.
- To renovate Newell Hall as the permanent home of the Center for the Humanities; the ground floor will be used for lecture halls, seminar rooms, common areas, and a main office for staff.
- To have an annual operating budget for staff.