



CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Liberal Arts *and* Sciences

ALEXANDER GRASS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

*Undergraduate Research in the
Humanities*

Presenter:

Alison Walsh | Grass Scholars Coordinator

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WHO WE ARE

Launched in 2009, the UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere is a dynamic hub that supports UF humanities scholars and students in fostering a deeper understanding of what it means to be human.

We are dedicated to cultivating vibrant intellectual communities, enhancing interdisciplinary research, and promoting the importance of the humanities across the UF and beyond.



OUR MISSION

1

Facilitate and promote the research programs of humanities scholars at UF

2

Provide an intellectual space and a physical location for critical and collaborative discussions of the humanities that reach across and beyond individual disciplines

3

Offer a place for outreach to the community in which we live and teach

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Speaker Series
Pop-ups/Social Scholarship
Symposia

FACULTY

Writing Retreat
Hackathons/Grant Writing Support
Workshops/Collaborative Learning

GRAD STUDENTS

Graduate Engagement
Graduate Institute
Workshops/Grant Writing Support

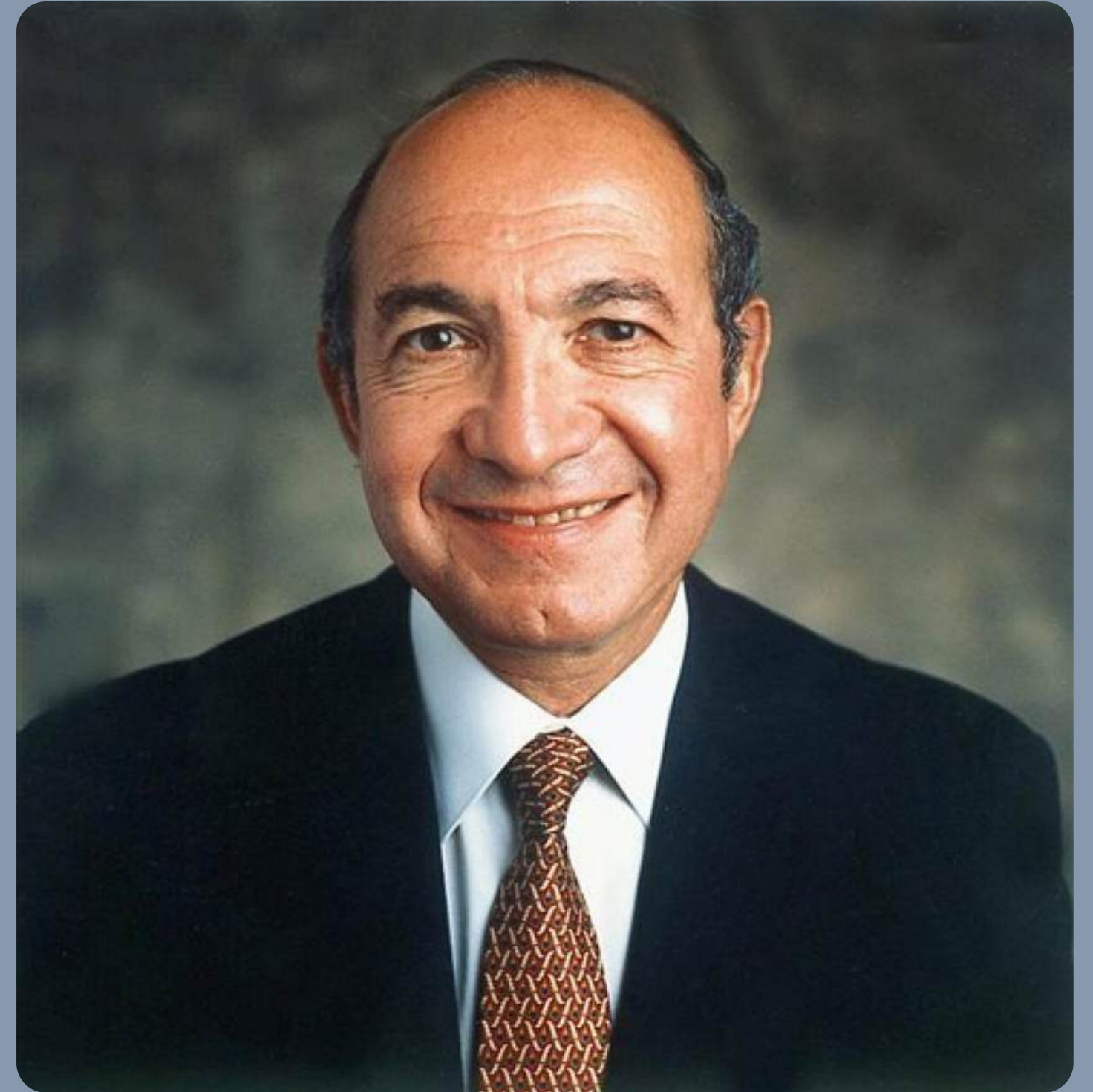
UNDERGRADS

Humanities Engagement Scholars
Alexander Grass Scholars!



WHO WAS ALEXANDER GRASS?

Alexander Grass (1927-2009) was an attorney, businessman, and founder of the Rite Aid Corporation, a major national retail drugstore chain. Mr. Grass completed his law degree at UF in 1949. Beyond his success in business, he is remembered for his commitment to community service and his generosity as a community philanthropist. Although Grass originally hailed from and operated his business in Pennsylvania, his generous support of UF's campus, including the endowed chair in the Center for Jewish Studies, is a testament to the impact of his time as a student here. As noted in a 1997 interview (archived with UF's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program), the humanities courses he completed at UF fostered an interest in the arts that continued throughout his life.



ALEXANDER GRASS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

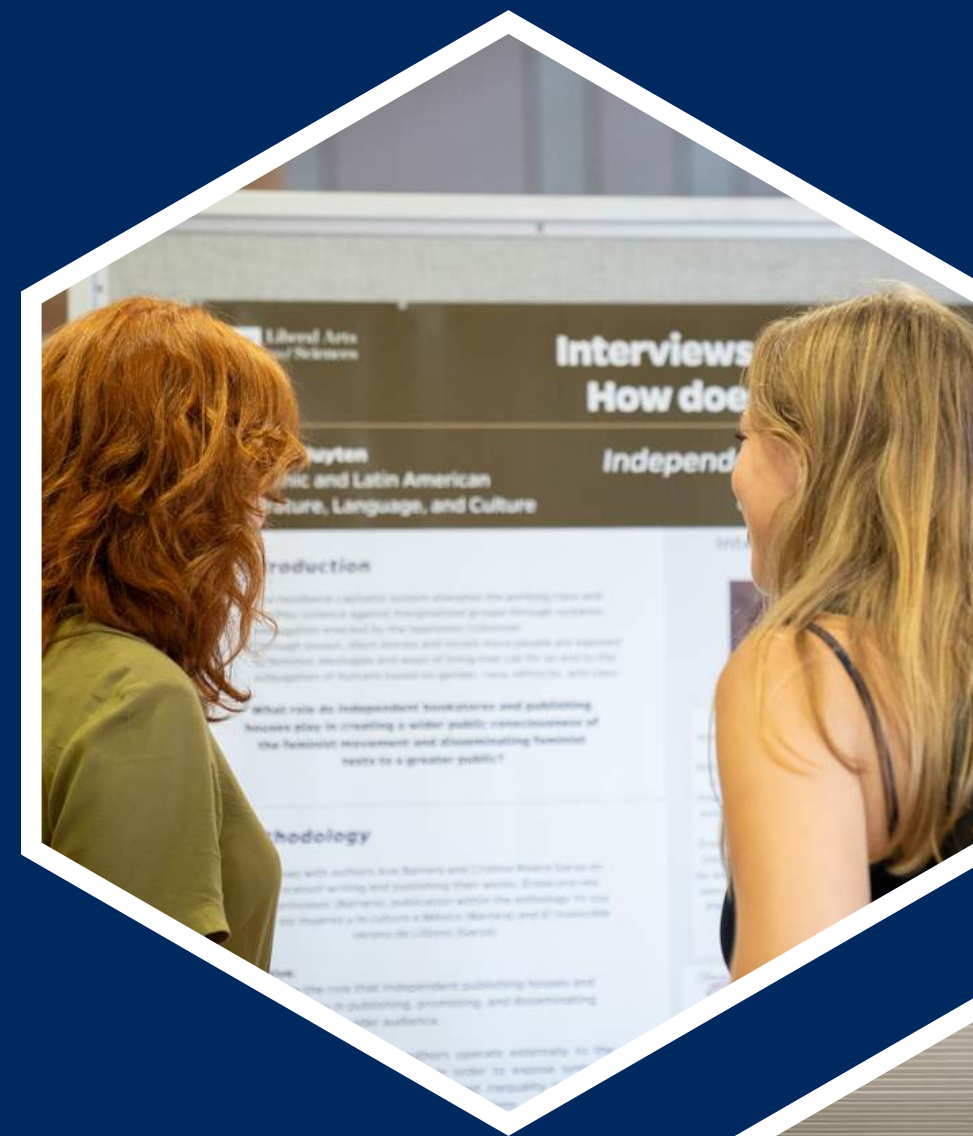
Launched in 2024, Grass Scholars is UF's only undergraduate research program dedicated to the humanities. The program emphasizes **interdisciplinary** and **project-based, experiential learning**. We have 20 spots for the 2025 cohort.

The program offers:

- \$2000 scholarship - \$1500 at completion of Summer A and \$500 after Fall 2025.
- Mentorship from faculty and graduate students.
- Participation in the life of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.

Students will produce:

- Summer group projects in partnership with a community organization.
- Fall independent research and a poster presentation at the **Grass Scholars Research Symposium** on November 13, 2025.



PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Graduating Fall 2025 or later
- GPA above 3.0
- Available to enroll in 3-credit, in-person course during Summer A 2025.
- No previous research experience is required.
- Students of all majors may apply.

NOTE: University Scholars and CLAS Scholars cannot hold both awards unless they can clearly demonstrate two entirely different research subjects for Fall 2025.



2025 SUMMER PROJECT PARTNERS

THE LANGUAGE OF LEGACY: EXPLORING THE ART OF BLACK FOLK LANGUAGE

Partnering Organizations:

- Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center (CCMCS)
- Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network (FAAHPN)

LEGACY ON STAGE: UNCOVERING THE STORIES BEHIND THE HIPPODROME'S THEATRE CURTAIN

Partnering Organizations:

- The Hippodrome Theatre



2025 SUMMER PROJECT PARTNERS

GULF SCHOLARS PENSACOLA ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY PROJECT

Partnering Organizations:

- UF Gulf Scholars Program (GSP), Bob Graham Center for Public Service
- Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP)

FROM STREETS TO STORYMAPS: A DIGITAL WALKING TOUR OF GAINESVILLE'S HISTORIC DUCKPOND NEIGHBORHOOD

Partnering Organizations:

- Historic Preservation Program, College of Design, Construction, and Planning



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SUMMER A 2025

Enroll in an in-person Summer A course (May 12 - June 20):

IDS 4911, 3 credits, M-F 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Course schedule:

- Mon, Tues, Wed:
 - All 20 students meet together on campus
 - Classroom work on the foundations of humanities research
- Thurs, Fri:
 - Groups of 5 will meet on-site with their partner organization
 - Hands-on practice and specialized training

Each group will produce a digital project by end of summer.

Students will collaborate with a Graduate Student Mentor assigned to each project.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FALL 2025

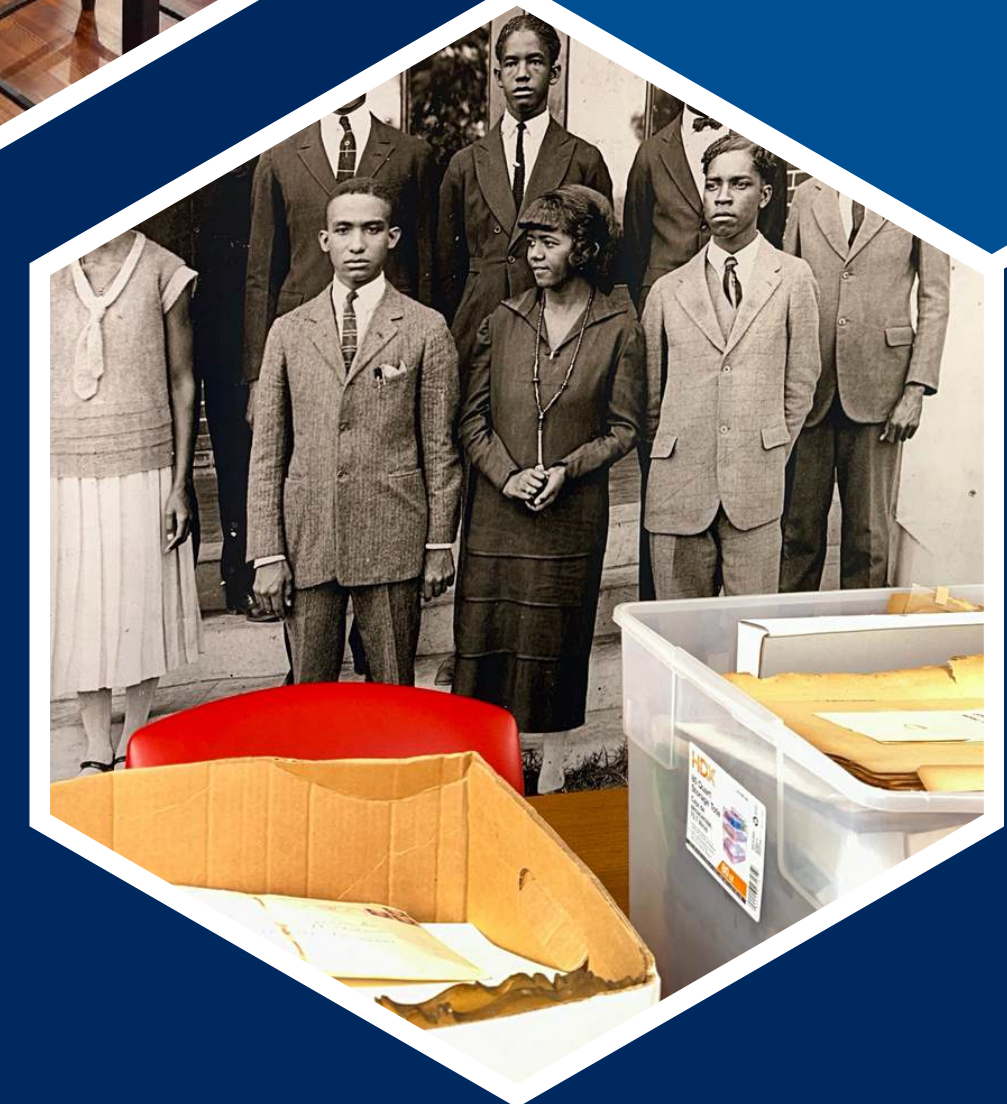
Conduct an individual, independent humanities research project with support from:

- Program staff
- Faculty mentors
- Graduate student mentors

Enroll in 0-3 credit elective credit (IDS 4911):

- Regular Canvas announcements
- Practical support

Create a research poster to present your individual project at the **Grass Scholars Research Symposium.**



APPLY ONLINE!

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

3 short narrative questions:

- Describe a formative experience you have had in the humanities (for example, a class, a museum visit, a community event, a film, etc.) and the impact it had on you. (100 words)
- What would you like to learn by participating in the program? (50 words)
- Please describe any areas, topics, or methods in the humanities that interest you, and/or faculty collaborations or mentorship you have ongoing. (30 words)

Optional faculty endorsement

- brief statement of support - not a recommendation letter!



**APPLICATIONS
OPEN UNTIL
FEB. 21!**



APPLICATION TIMELINE

Deadlines:

Friday, February 21, 2025: Application closes at 11:59 p.m.

Friday, February 28, 2025: Last day for optional faculty endorsement

Applicants will be notified of status and recipients announced by the end of March 2025.

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 5:00 pm:

Kickoff Event and Grass Scholars Orientation

CHPS Conference Room, Keene-Flint Hall 013





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THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!

*Additional questions or
unique concerns?*

Alison Walsh, Grass Scholars Coordinator
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*To learn more and stay in
touch, visit our website:*

humanities.ufl.edu

*Sign up for our Weekly
Agenda newsletter!*

