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Fellowship

Ellis Receives NEH Grant

One of the Humanities Institute's earliest initiatives was the **Great Book Series**. Twice a semester, alumni and community members gathered with prominent USF faculty to interpret and discuss a great work of literature. After a two year hiatus, the Institute has partnered with the **John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government** and the **USF Alumni Association** to revive the Great Books Series.

On September 28, **Dr. Victor Peppard**, Chair of

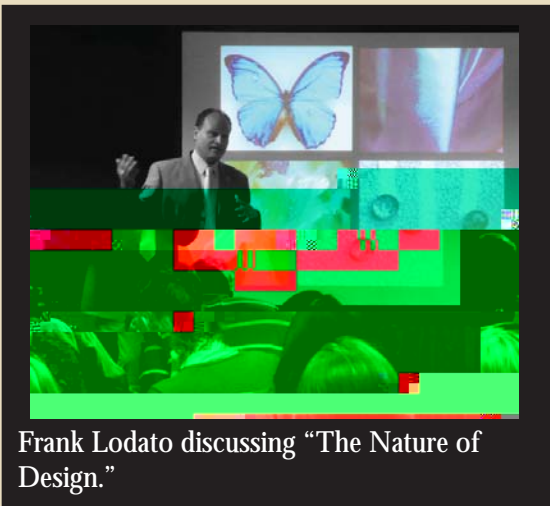
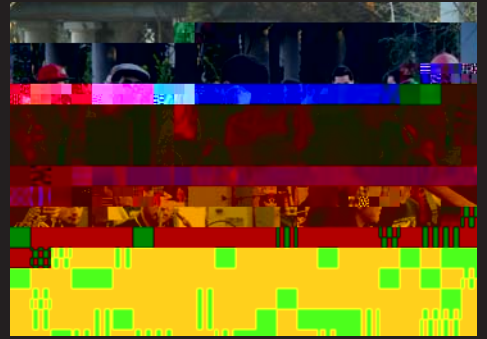
the World Languages Department, will lead discussion on Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We*. This classic dystopian novel was first published in 1924 and is the major precursor to later dystopian works, such as *1984* and *Brave New World*. Participants will read the Mirra Ginsburg translation (ISBN: 0-38063-313-2).

On October 26, **Dr. Mike Gibbons**, Associate Professor in Government and International Affairs, will lead discussion of *The Federalist Papers*. The themes discussed in these essays remain central to contemporary discussion of the nature and scope of government. Participants will read the 2005 edition, edited by J.R. Pole (ISBN: 0-87220-711-0).

Sessions cost \$10 each and participants are responsible. **Cont. on Page 3...**

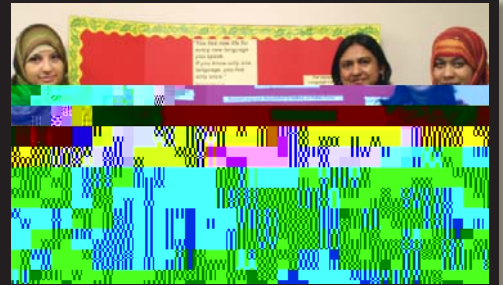
Spring 2010 Highlights

USF Jazz Ensemble II playing at the Marshall Center Amphitheater for *A Stampede of Culture*, co-sponsored with the Humanities and Cultural Studies Student Organization



Frank Lodato discussing "The Nature of Design."

Graduate students present their research at the 2010 WLE Research Colloquium.



(L to R) Ginan Fayad, Sangita Victor, and Abeer Mohammad

Photos by: M. Formentin

Democracy and the Humanities Public Forum: A Discussion of Martha Nussbaum's *Not for Profit*

As universities increasingly are asked to produce more with fewer resources, there is growing pressure to document quantitatively the return on investment in higher education. The resulting situation presents unique problems for Humanities and Liberal Arts programs, where return on investment often cannot be fully measured in any quantitative way, leading critics to question the value of such programs. Martha Nussbaum, distinguished politi-

cal philosopher and ethicist, makes an impassioned defense of the humanities in her newest book, *Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities*. On November 30, Nussbaum will be the featured speaker in the **Phi Beta Kappa Lecture Series**, sponsored by USF Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Alumni, the USF Office of the Provost, and Tampa Mayor, Pam Iorio

Jay Hopley Wins Rome Fellowship

In April 2010, English Professor Jay



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"There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live."

- James Truslow-Adams

Humanities are, without a doubt, the core of that second aim of education.

Director's Statement

Cont. from Pg. 6.

ver individuals with interests in cultural manifestations that challenge national and regional boundaries can be identified. For November we have organized a symposium on Religious Representation, which will have as its focus the ways in which various world cultures have struggled to represent—in words and images—that which seems to defy the limitations of representation. The keynote speaker for this symposium will be François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles, a distinguished and widely published scholar of Religion and graduate of the École nationale des Chartes and the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris (1976), who will give an interdisciplinary talk dealing with visual and verbal representations of God in the Bibles of the Reformation period.

In October we are bringing in Miami based Cuban exile Ricardo Pau-Llosa, who will read and talk about his poems, and in November we will have Olga Gershenson, Assistant Professor of Judaic and Near-Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, who has spoken and written about immigration, cultural hybridity, film, and gender. Dr. Gershenson will talk about her recent research on the Holocaust film in Russia.



Olga Gershenson

No doubt nothing about this is completely new. Culture and ideas have always slipped across borders, creating new forms and new confrontations. And adaptations and translations, even

mis-translations, are not necessarily a bad thing, unless you think that cultural "purity" (if it ever was possible) is an ideal to which one should always aspire. Otherwise they can provide an opportunity for creativity and serendipitous innovation. Monet's paintings demonstrate the greatness of his "eye," but Kandinsky liked the abstraction he saw in them and moved on to pioneer non-objective art. But what's different now is that the pace and quantity of these transactions, translations, and transformations are so intense and ubiquitous that none but the most willfully blind could ignore them. Assuming we don't destroy ourselves first, the world is becoming more radically different and more interesting a place than most of us ever imagined.