Dear MTL students, affiliated faculty, and alumni,

With best wishes for continuing good health, I am happy to share this newsletter that captures some of the many events and news from this very special Autumn quarter.

Héctor Hoyos, Director

Celebrating Monica P. Moore

As many of you know, our own Monica P. Moore, dearest program administrator, retired after a lifetime spent at Stanford University. We celebrated with her over Zoom, as per our current times, but hope to host an in-person celebration for her at the next in person Monica P. Moore speaker series event.

Monica shares with a photograph of her gift, a Stanford University crystal vase, and the below message of thanks to all of her colleagues and friends within the MTL community.

The Simon Pearce vase is simply lovely – a perfect way to remember my years at Stanford and the people who made my life there so very special. This may be a bit of a metaphorical stretch, but I see the vase as a symbol of Stanford, with all its possibilities to display beautiful and creative ideas.

I have found what I think is the perfect setting for the vase: sitting on a Chinese chest, a wedding gift to my father (PhD, Chemistry, Stanford, 1948) and mother (employee, Stanford Registrar’s Office, c. 1946-48), on a bookshelf that belonged to my grandfather (MA, History, Stanford, 1923; baseball and football coach, Stanford, 1920-23) and grandmother (BA, English, Stanford, 1905; Lecturer, English, 1920-23), flanked by the photo book compiled by MTL students to mark my 40th anniversary working at Stanford.

My heart is full. I thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Monica
What Does it Mean to be an Academic Online?

At this event, we'll learn about trends in scholarship and social media, while also reflect on MTL's own purchase on this topic.

The event will be held on **Friday, January 22, 2021 at 11:00 am.**

Joining us will be Laura Goode, Director of the Humanities Public Writing Project at Stanford, and other guests TBD. We hope you'll be able to join us for what is sure to be a fascinating discussion.

MTL EVENTS ARCHIVE


The session was recorded for those who were unable to attend. You can access the video recording on the MTL website at:


EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

MTL Welcomes New Members to our Committee in Charge. Four of the new members will join us for the 2020–21 academic year. Our fifth will join starting Autumn 2021.

Prof. Shane Denson joins us from the Department of Art and Art History. His research and teaching interests span a variety of media and historical periods, including phenomenological and media-philosophical approaches to film, digital media, comics, games, and serialized popular forms.

Prof. Aileen Robinson joins us from the Department of Theater and Performance Studies where she explores the contribution of theatre and magic performance to emerging practices of science communication in the nineteenth century.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Colonization of Socio-Semiotic: The Derivative Condition

*1) Semiotics, representations, and categories of social difference function as financial derivatives in the economic value of their underpinnings and as means of structuring risk for capital.
Prof. Wendy Salkin joins us from the Department of Philosophy. Her primary research is in social and political philosophy, moral philosophy, black political thought, philosophy of race, and philosophy of law.

Prof. Dafna Zur joins us from the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures where she is working on a new project on moral education in science and literary youth magazines in postwar North and South Korea.

During the 2021-22 Academic Year, Prof. Angele Christin will join us from the Department of Communication where she studies fields and organizations where algorithms and ‘big data’ analytics transform professional values, expertise, and work practices.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our friends in the English Department, in particular Maritza Colon and Patrick Heyer, who have taken on some of Monica’s responsibilities with her retirements. We are thankful for their willingness to take on these new roles and look forward to our continued collaboration!
In the time since Commencement, Maria Cichosz has seen her first novel published. For more information, visit https://camandbeau.ca.

Maria was also selected as a Stanford Humanities & Sciences Dean’s Fellow for the Department of Art & Art History this year.

Prior to graduation, Jonathan Leal accepted an amazing double offer from the University of Southern California. For the next two years, he will be writing and teaching as a postdoctoral scholar with the Society of Fellows, and, in August 2022, he will officially join the Department of English as an Assistant Professor!

Umniya Najaer was awarded a Mellon Fellowship from the Library Company of Philadelphia’s Program in African American History, where she is in residence for the year.

Three of our advanced students - Melanie Leon, Calvin Cheung-Miaw, and Luz Jimenez Ruvalcaba - received fellowships from the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity for the 2020-21 academic year.

First year student Antonio Lopez won a seat on the East Palo Alto City Council during the November 3rd Election. For more on his story, see the Stanford Daily article! https://www.stanforddaily.com/2020/12/07/stanford-ph-d-student-antonio-lopez-wins-east-palo-alto-city-council-election/
Alberto Quintero recently edited a book with Mexican writer Carmen Boullosa, *Let’s Talk About Your Wall*, published by The New Press. It’s an anthology of essays written by Mexican writers, journalists, and other public intellectuals discussing the proposal of Donald Trump to build a wall at the border from the perspective of politics, literature, the environment, indigenous peoples, etc. Contributors include Valeria Luiselli, Juan Villoro, Yuri Herrera, Yásnaya Aguilar, among many others.

https://thenewpress.com/books/lets-talk-about-your-wall

Former Committee in Charge member and affiliated Faculty, Jisha Menon, won the inaugural Faculty Women’s Forum Outstanding Leader Award.


Alum Tomas MATza achieved tenure in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh! The program offers him congratulations on reaching a true milestone in his academic career!

As we prepare for an online Winter quarter, it is important more than ever that we stay connected. I look forward to hearing from you! If you know of any news we have not shared in this newsletter, or events happening early in Winter quarter, please share with Amy and she will advertise come January.

All initiatives are, as always, welcome.

Please stay safe, and have a wonderful 2021.