Conversation with John Arnhold

October 24, 2013

Attendees: Robert Bitsko, Joshua Fischer, Megan Fisher and Natalie O'Brien

Reception

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Arnhold Endowment for Excellence in English

This fund will be used to support courses, projects, and programs that support the undergraduate research experience; graduate student training; postdoctoral teaching fellows affiliated with departmental centers, initiatives and research projects; and curricular innovations that enhance the quality of the undergraduate English major. The fund is to be administered by the Chair of the English Department in consultation with appropriate departmental faculty.

English Department Chair: Bishnupriya Ghosh

With a doctorate from Northwestern University, Bishnupriya Ghosh is Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she teaches postcolonial theory and global media studies. Much of her scholarly work interrogates the relations between the global and the postcolonial; area studies and transnational cultural studies; popular, mass, and elite cultures.
**Benjamin Moss ’15**

I am a third-year English major working on a senior honors thesis. My work deals primarily with the literature of transformative historical moments, spanning a wide range in texts and content from Shakespeare’s *Richard II* to Saul Bellow’s *Mr. Sammler’s Planet*. Beyond this project, I am deeply involved on campus. I write a regular column for UC Santa Barbara’s newspaper, *The Daily Nexus*, and I have served as an officer in Sigma Pi Fraternity since Winter Quarter 2013. I’d just like to thank the Arnholds for helping to involve undergraduates in the research function of this university, and for staying loyal to the English Department in both actions and words.

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**Robert Bitsko ’14**

I am currently a fourth-year English major concentrating my studies in literature regarding the study of gender and sexuality. I wish to thank the Arnholds for providing a program and resources that further my undergraduate academic studies and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas regarding literature.
Samuel Humy ’14

I am a senior English major at UC Santa Barbara, and I am currently working on a thesis on Kazuo Ishiguro’s Never Let Me Go, specifically how the post-colonial/post-race themes, in particular Du Bois’s double-consciousness paired with science fiction, relate past injustices of racial reification to new potential future injustices due to genetic modification and the act of redefining what is human in our rapidly advancing technological day and age. The Arnhold Program not only gave me a chance to pursue what I want to study, which is the obvious purpose of this program, but it also allowed me to discover what it is I want to pursue. It provided a refreshing environment full of students like me, who immerse themselves in literature and go beyond the simple scope of working for nothing more than a grade. Through the sharing of ideas and conversing in the environment this program provides, I honed my research and hope to continue some form of it in the future. Thank you.

Megan Fisher ’14

I am a senior at UC Santa Barbara studying both English and Studio Art, with an interest in painting and printmaking. I work at the UC Santa Barbara Alumni Association as the Marketing and P/R Supervisor Intern, am a writer for the Daily Nexus and an art gallery curator at the campus Women’s Center.
Natalie O’Brien ’15

I am a third year English major currently working on a research internship on Faulkner with Professor Candace Waid, and I will hopefully write my Honors Thesis with her as my advisor. In addition to my academic career, I am the EIC of The Catalyst Literary Arts Magazine, starting from the ground up. I am also currently the Assistant Art Director and artist at the Daily Nexus, an Artsweek (Daily Nexus) Journalist, contributing writer/artist for Speak Volumes (student music blog), and artist/designer for WORD Magazine and for the 2014 Reel Loud Film Festival poster series.

To the Arnholds: Thank you for your belief in the undergraduate effort. It means a lot to have a program where students can do this kind of research within a department. In my experience at UC Santa Barbara I have conveyed to other students that within the College of Letters & Science, the English Department here is the perfect place for motivated students who want to go beyond classes. This department has a unique environment, one of talent and brilliance but with students who, in commanding their education, encourage other students to do the same. The Arnhold Program manifests the best qualities already existing in this department into a form available to students who understand the value of working with faculty and students in a community.

Other Participants

Joshua Fischer ’13
Briana McCluskey ’14
Katey Dager ’15