Illuminations

Alternative endings for Romeo and Juliet, enacted through ballet and music. The science of perception, interpreted by student artists. Graphic interfaces explored by dancers in video installation. Links between art and health discussed by a campus leader in nursing science. These are among the experiences that Illuminations provided for undergraduates in 2014-15. Building on UCI’s demonstrated excellence in the arts and humanities, Illuminations aims to ensure that all of our students, regardless of major, have serious and meaningful exposure to the creative arts. In addition, we seek to strengthen the connections between UCI and our regional arts and culture centers and institutions.

Making the arts a deeper and more pervasive part of the student experience reinforces the sheer joy of creation and discovery that is at the heart of all academic inquiry and expression, and highlights the fundamental contributions made by the creative arts to our understanding of the world and our place in it. Serious exposure to arts and culture enables our students to grow in ways unavailable to them in any single field of study, and it should equip them to participate more fully in the continuing dialogue between science and the humanities.

Julia Reinhard Lupton
Faculty Director, Illuminations
Associate Dean for Research, School of Humanities

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Irvine Barclay Theatre
2014-15 Overview

Illuminations was founded in the early weeks of September 2014. We swiftly found a suitable name and visual identity; established two advisory groups; and drafted our first call for proposals. We celebrated our launch with a special evening at Segerstrom Hall. In the winter of 2015, we began hosting our first programs and initiated our first grant cycle, with 36 applications and 27 funded projects for 2015-16.

EVENTS WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER 2015
Illuminations hosted 13 events, cosponsored eight events at UCI, and held five offsite events. Our hosts included the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Pacific Symphony, the Viet Film Festival, Shakespeare Orange County, and the Orange County Museum of Art.

Campus partners for events at UCI included the Departments of Nursing, Asian American Studies, Chicano-Latino Studies, Film and Media Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, History, Literary Journalism, Dance, Drama, Political Science, and Cognitive Sciences. We also partnered with the Chancellor’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion, the Photonics Club, the Art History Undergraduate Association, ZotFest, the Brown Bag Theater Company, Ballet Folklorico, the Cross-Cultural Center, the Counseling Center, ASUCI, and MECHA.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION
During winter and spring quarters, over 500 registrations were processed through the Illuminations website; through audience-building with courses and co-sponsors, over 1000 students attended events. All of the on-campus performances were registered to capacity. Opening night of Altered Perceptions at the new Viewpoint Gallery had over 300 attendees. The three film screenings exceeded seating capacity. Our trips to the Segerstrom Center, the Viet Film Fest, Shakespeare OC, and Orange County Museum of Art featured full buses (35+). Over 260 students took advantage of Student Rush at the New Swan.

ADDITIONAL ENTERPRISES
Working with the Student Center, Illuminations assisted in the launch of the Viewpoint Gallery. During spring and summer quarters, Julia Lupton met with Illuminations community partners to plan 2015-2016. Excursions have been planned or completed to the Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Orange County Museum of Art, Irvine Museum, South Coast Repertory, and Pacific Symphony. Our Pacific Symphony partnership includes on-campus learning opportunities followed by concerts at Segerstrom. Our Irvine Museum collaboration combines nature observation and photography with art appreciation. We are partnering with the Irvine Barclay Theatre to deliver programs appealing to undergraduates. Illuminations was also involved in the Chancellor’s Investiture, the 2015 Convocation, the 50th Anniversary Festival of Discovery, and a special event featuring actor and writer James Franco. We provided innovative programming using applied theater techniques to the 2015 Summer Student Parent Orientation Programs (SPOP). We have also launched the Illuminations Colloquium, a one-unit course designed to encourage participation and develop a cohort of student arts ambassadors.
Art for Health: A Conversation with Ellen Olshansky (Jan. 28)  
Professor of Nursing Ellen Olshansky spoke with dance teacher Diane Diefenderfer about the role of the arts in the care of body, soul, and community. 80+ attended, including Dance and Nursing Science majors.

JazzReach (Jan. 30)  
30 students received free tickets to attend JazzReach at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, a concert illustrating the history of jazz. They were invited backstage for photos and conversation.

Plein Air (Feb. 11)  
100+ undergraduates working in Santa Ana JumpStart programs attended a lecture and demonstration of California plein air painting by artist Jeff Sewell and then conducted projects with preschool students.  
Faculty organizer: Virginia Mann, Cognitive Science

Black History Month (February)  
Illuminations cosponsored a number of events, including a performance and lecture with Haki Madhubuti, renowned poet and scholar. The film screening of The Long Road to the Hall of Fame, featuring Reda Zine, Chuck D, Greg Tate and Malik Farrakhan, brought together students, faculty, staff and community members. Finally, the two-day urban music conference organized by Nicole Mitchell, professor of music and acclaimed flutist, featured discussions and performances by artists including Greg Tate’s Burnt Sugar, the Arkestra Chamber, Ryat, Ras G, Ugochi and the Agindotan Family Band. 200+ participated.

Chimes at Midnight (Feb. 26)  
Screening of the film by Orson Welles with lecture by visiting scholar Michael Anderegg. 80+ students and community members attended.  
Faculty organizer: Catherine Benamou, Film and Media Studies

Viet Gone: Staged Reading and Conversation (Feb. 24)  
Playwright Qui Nguyen and two actors performed a dramatic reading of Qui’s play Viet Gone, a romantic comedy about the meeting of his parents in a refugee camp. 200+ students attended.  
Faculty organizer: Linda Vo, Asian American Studies

Music in Motion (April 11-14)  
This installation involving music, dance, and technology features a green screen, prerecorded dance routines, and an original recording of Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring. The large open booth, supported by UCI’s CALIT2-incubated “hiperwall,” was set up in the Viewpoint Student Center Gallery in order to allow access for a wide cross section of the UCI community.  
Artistic director: John Crawford, Dance

Viet Film Festival (April 17)  
40 students attended the 8th Annual Viet Film Fest.  
Faculty organizers: Linda Vo and Tram Le, Asian American Studies

Altered Perceptions (April 16)  
Illuminations cosponsored Altered Perceptions, a two-day event that was planned, organized and curated by UCI’s Art History Undergraduate Association (AHUA), a student organization – open to all majors – that builds community through a common interest and passion for art. 300+ attended the opening reception.

Romeo & Juliet Reimagined (April 19)  
40 students took a bus to the Segerstrom Hall, where they attended preconcert lectures and then saw a performance of Prokofiev’s alternative-ending Romeo and Juliet. Julia Lupton gave a public lecture for students and Pacific Symphony supporters.

Shaken Shakespeare (Spring 2015)  
40 drama students gave short live performances in unexpected locations across campus.  
Artistic director: Jane Page, Drama

Shakespeare Shorts (April 30-May 2)  
One-hour adaptations of Macbeth, Two Gentlemen of Verona, and The Tempest were staged in the stairwells, balconies, and plazas of the Intercollegiate Athletics Building. 500+ attended these free, site-specific, outdoor performances.  
Artistic director: Jane Page, Drama

Brown Bag Theater Company / The Service Workers Project (May 1-3)  
This student-run, Latino/Latina theater company interviewed service
Activities, 2014-15

workers at UCI about their lives as immigrants and employees. The resulting drama featured student actors, service workers playing themselves, an on-stage mariachi band, and original video projections. 200 students, faculty, staff, and service workers and their families saw the performances. **Artistic director: Lonnie Alcarez, Drama**

**The Emotional Terrain of Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies (May 7)**
60 students discussed sex trafficking with the invited guest scholar, Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza. **Faculty organizer: Ana Elizabeth Rosas, History and Chicano/Latino Studies**

**Photonics Exhibit (May 4 – 6)**
In honor of the International Year of Light, the Photonics club organized an exhibition of photographs curated by the United Nations documenting the role of light on our planet and in our cosmos. **Organizers: UCI Photonics Club (graduate students in Engineering)**

**Coup de Comedy (May 7-10)**
Workshops and performances featured the talents of student groups, drama faculty, and visiting artists. Illuminations sponsored the visit of comedian Keegan-Michael Key, of the hit comedy duo Key and Peele. 200+ attended. **Faculty organizer: Joel Veenstra, Drama**

**Here One Day: Film + Discussion (May 12)**
Filmmaker Kathy Leichter screened her film on depression and led a post-screening discussion. 180+ attended. **Faculty organizer: Heidi Tinsman, History**

**Circle Painting with Hiep Nguyen (May 18)**
The participatory Circle Painting event and Afternoon Tea at the Orange County and Southeast Asian Archive (OC & SEAA) Center brought the UC Irvine campus community together for a fun, interactive art-making experience. **Organizer: OC and South East Asian Archives, UCI Libraries**

**CounterBalance Theater’s The Odyssey (May 30 – June 1)**
Physical theater rendition of Homer’s epic poem. 150 attended three performances in Grotowski Barn. Repeat performance planned for September 2015 so that incoming freshmen to Humanities Core can experience this innovative theatrical interpretation. **Artistic Director: Annie Loui, Drama**

**Romeo and Juliet in Garden Grove (July 18)**
40 students attended multicultural production in Garden Grove.

**Student Rush for New Swan Shakespeare (July and August)**
267 students attended performances of *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing.*

**Young Chinese Artists at Orange County Museum of Art (August 21)**
35 students attended contemporary art show featuring young artists from China.

**SPOP “Cheater-Beaters” and “Improv for Excellence “(July and August)**
5000 incoming freshmen, transfers, and international students learned about academic dishonesty and college social situations through interactive theatrical performances featuring student actors. **Artistic Directors: Jane Page and Joel Veenstra, Drama; with Michael Knox, Director, New Student and Leadership Programs**
Application Process

Proposals for faculty-initiated projects for 2016-17 are due January 11, 2016. Proposals will be reviewed by the Illuminations Campus Council, with award letters and requests for further information sent out in early spring quarter. We would like broad participation in Illuminations and invite applications from all academic units.

GUIDELINES FOR ILLUMINATIONS EVENTS
A UCI faculty member must initiate the proposal and take the lead in insuring its success. UCI undergraduates must be the main audience. Event must be inclusive and welcoming to all members of the UCI community. Event must have a clear arts and culture component. Event must be free to UCI undergraduates.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
Primary Criteria
Quality and perception: Will the event be of high quality and will it be perceived as such?
Student interest and participation: How will the event attract broad student interest? If students are members of the team proposing the event, how have they been involved in conceptualizing the event? How might students be part of the event itself? Is there a clear audience-building plan?
Feasibility: Can the event be successfully produced and completed in the estimated time and with the funds available?

Secondary Criteria
How will the event promote faculty/student interaction?
How does the event connect to broader curricular or academic goals?
How will the event enhance UCI’s reputation and visibility as a leader in the arts and humanities?

Illuminations grants cannot be used to fund faculty research or academic conferences. Illuminations grants must be submitted and supervised by a Senate faculty member, with staff support from a participating unit. Please note that Illuminations does not produce events; it funds and publicizes them.

Please direct questions to Illuminations@uci.edu, or to Julia Lupton, jrlupton@uci.edu, or to Debbie Nielsen, nielsen@uci.edu.

ILLUMINATIONS INFORMATION SESSION
Monday, October 12, 2015
1:00-2:00 pm
Humanities Gateway 1010
See examples of successful projects, learn about grant process, and meet other grantees.

RSVP illuminations@uci.edu
Selected Events, 2015-16

FACULTY-INITIATED

Forum on Academy in Public Life
Journalists & culture-makers discuss matters of moment. Organizers: Jeff Wasserstrom, History, and Amy Wilentz, Literary Journalism

Zinefest

Music in Motion
Dance, sound, technology at Viewpoint Gallery. Organizer: John Crawford, Dance

Microscopy Exhibit
Photography from the lab. Organizer: Michael Leon, Neurobiology and Behavior

Fab Art
A festival of creative entrepreneurship. Organizer: Jesse Colin Jackson, Visual Art

Care / Cure / Corruption
Plays plus panel discussions. Organizers: Cecilia Lynch, Political Science, and Ketu Katrak, Drama

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Pacific Symphony
New World Symphony and Rhapsody in Blue with on- and off-campus components; plus André Watts plays Beethoven.

Segerstrom Hall
Adios tour of the Buena Vista Social Club, Cuban jazz ensemble

South Coast Rep: Art Meets Life
Red, Vietgone, Amadeus, and Sandra Tsing Loh.

Irvine Barclay Theatre
Hamlet with Cumberbatch; Evita; Man of La Mancha; Jazz Reach; concerts.

Laguna Museum of Art
Exhibit plus lecture on California classicism.

Irvine Museum
Nature photography and plein air painting explorations.

Viet Film Festival
Students view films and meet directors.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dr. Paul Farmer, Global Health
Illuminations is proud to co-sponsor Dr. Farmer’s visit to UCI. Thursday, October 1 @ 5:00, Crystal Cove Auditorium. Faculty Organizer: Cecilia Lynch, Political Science

CounterBalance Theater: Odyssey
In cooperation with Humanities Core, two performances of one-hour play based on Homer. September 24-25.

James Franco: Life and Art
October 3 @ 8 pm, Irvine Barclay Theatre

Illuminations Colloquium
This one-unit course encourages cross-campus participation. Special guests include Michael Haas on music suppressed by the Nazis; Michael Anderegg on Shakespeare and Lincoln; musicologists from Pacific Symphony; Blizzard Entertainment. Instructor: Julia Lupton
FRONT COVER: CounterBalance Theater presents The Odyssey. Directed by Annie Loui. Photo: Paul Kennedy.
BACK COVER: “Altered Perceptions” Exhibit curated by the Art History Undergraduate Association, Viewpoint Gallery.