

## Panelists' Biographies

**Christopher Alvarado** is a junior at the University of Houston-Downtown, a philosophy major, and a professional writing minor. He is most interested in metaphysics and existentialism. He aspires to earn a PhD in philosophy and to teach philosophy at the college level.

**Patrick Graham** is a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown. His major is humanities with a concentration in cultural studies. Patrick's special interest is rhetoric, plain language, and tutoring. He plans to continue his studies in the humanities in graduate school.

**William Gross** is a senior at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He is a history major with minors in teacher education and instructional technology. After graduation, he will seek a teaching certification in order to teach high school history classes while also working on a master's degree.

**Chad Hardy** is a junior at the University of Houston-Downtown. He is a history major with a concentration in secondary education. After graduation, Chad aims to work in a Title I school.

**Justin Hill** is a University of Houston-Downtown philosophy major, with minors in mathematics, psychology, and sociology. He will pursue a joint JD/PhD in philosophy after he graduates in Spring 2019. Justin eventually wants to teach ethics and political philosophy and to develop a new normative theory.

**Jasmine Huynh** is a senior and a philosophy major, with a minor in English literature, at University of Houston-Downtown. The philosophical works of Plato, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Heidegger draw her interest most, as do the fields of phenomenology and existentialism. She hopes to earn graduate degrees in philosophy.

**Jose-Luis Quintero** is a senior and a history major with a minor in English/Spanish translation. He is especially interested in Latin American history, U.S. interventionism, and medieval and ancient history. He intends to attend graduate school in library science.

**Marlayna Revear** is a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown, a history major, and a psychology minor. She plans to begin a master's degree program in 2018 and to specialize in African American history.

## Panelists' Biographies

**Sarah Schmitt** is a junior and a history major at Sam Houston State University. Her main research interests are World War II and the Holocaust. Upon completion of her bachelor's degree, she plans to attend graduate school. She aspires to a career as a professor and academic author.

**Theresa Slovacek** is a history major at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She has a special interest in World War I. She is in her last semester at UHCL and plans to earn a master's degree in library and information science at St. John's University in order to work as an archivist in a history museum.

**Mark Stapelfeldt** is currently a senior and a humanities major at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. After graduation, Mark plans to either undertake creative works as a writer or scholarly research in game theory.

**Randy Torres** is a junior and a double major in history and critical race studies. He is interested in the history of the US, Latin America, slavery, and marginalized populations. After graduation in Spring 2019, he will pursue a doctorate degrees in history with a concentration in Afro-Latino history.

**Uyen Tran** is a senior and a philosophy major at the University of Houston-Downtown. She plans to graduate in May 2018. After graduation, she will pursue a career in the nonprofit sector. Ultimately, Uyen aspires to be gainfully employed and be able to sustain herself financially.

**Keith Valor** a senior at University of Houston-Downtown. He is will graduate in Spring 2018 with a major in professional writing and a concentration in history. Upon graduation, he intends to find work in a writing-related field while relying on the Texas Hazlewood Act to pursue a graduate degree.

**John Vazquez** is a senior and a history major at the University of Houston-Downtown. This fall, he will finish his internship at the University of Houston Consumer Law Clinic and, after graduation this December, he will apply to law school. He is an executive officer with UHD Pre-Law Association.



## **Back to the Sources**

### **2017 HHL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**SPONSORED BY THE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT CENTER & DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, HUMANITIES, & LANGUAGES**

**December 4, 2017  
10 AM—5:00 PM**

Milam/Travis Rooms  
Girard St. Building

**UHD**  
University of Houston  
D O W N T O W N

# Conference Program

**Keynote Address 10 AM -11 AM**

## **"The 1885 Galveston General Strike: The Struggle for Biracial Equity on the Waterfront"**

*George N. Green, Professor Emeritus, History, University of Texas at Arlington*



**George N. Green** earned a BA from UT-Austin and a PhD from Florida State University. He is past president of the Texas State Historical Association and has produced outstanding scholarship on Texas working-class history, such as "The Texas Labor Movement, 1870-1920" in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. In 1966, Dr. Green helped to found the Texas Labor Archives at UT-Arlington, and, for fifty years, to build its impressive collection. Recently, he curated the UTA exhibit, "Walking the Line: The Diverse History of Organized Labor in Texas."



Dr.  
George  
Green

# Conference Program

## **FIRST PANEL SESSIONS: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

### **Panel 1A: "Propaganda & the World Wars" (Milam) Moderator: Dr. Alvarez**

"Nazi Germany's Use of Popular Media as Propaganda: An Examination of Jud Süß (1940) and Der Ewige Jude (The Eternal Jew) (1940)"

*William Gross, University of Houston – Clear Lake*

"Mata Hari: The Betrayal and Execution of a Liberated Woman"

*Kevin Valor, University of Houston-Downtown*

### **Panel 1B: "Human Nature and the Good" (Travis) Moderator: Dr. Elkholy**

"Hobbesian and Rousseauian on Human Nature"

*Jasmine Huynh, University of Houston-Downtown*

"Issues Concerning God and Morality"

*Christopher Alvarado, University of Houston-Downtown*

## **SECOND PANEL SESSIONS 12:45-1:45 PM**

### **Panel 2A: "Contextualizing Struggles for Justice" (Milam) Moderator: Dr. Salinas**

"Soundtrack to the Struggle"

*Chad Hardy, University of Houston-Downtown*

"Aid and Comfort: The ACLU's Clandestine Defense of Fred Korematsu"

*Randy Torres, University of Houston-Downtown*

### **Panel 2B: "Popular Art Forms in Times of War & Terror" (Travis) Moderator: Dr. Gillette**

"Poetry on the Western Front"

*Theresa Slovacek, University of Houston-Clear Lake*

"Casting a Long Shadow: Influences of Modern Terrorism in Middle-earth: Shadow of War"

*Mark Stapelfeldt, University of Houston-Clear Lake*

# Conference Program

## **THIRD PANEL SESSIONS: 2 PM-3 PM**

### **Panel 3A: "Humanities, Health, and the Environment" (Milam) Moderator: Dr. Davey**

"The Truth about Acupuncture"

*Patrick Graham, University of Houston-Downtown*

"The War on Drugs: Hypocrisy, Pesticides, & the Peasant Struggle"

*Jose Quintero, University of Houston-Downtown*

### **Panel 3B: "Exploring Truth and Power" (Travis) Moderator: Dr. Pavelich**

"An Ethical Examination of Andrew Carnegie and 'The Gospel of Wealth'"

*Uyen Tran, University of Houston-Downtown*

"On the Necessity of Erroneous Opinions to the Vitality of Knowledge: A Response to John Stuart Mill"

*Justin Hill, University of Houston-Downtown*

## **FOURTH PANEL SESSIONS: 3:15 PM-4:30 PM**

### **Panel 4A: "Freedom Under Circumstances Not of One's Own Choosing" (Milam)**

**Moderator: Dr. Cueva**

"Jamaican Manumission, 1724-1757"

*Marlayna Revear, University of Houston-Downtown*

"Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1867: Days of Turmoil in Huntsville"

*Sarah Schmitt, Sam Houston State University*

"Hispanic Leadership in the 1940's/1950's in Houston"

*John Vazquez, University of Houston-Downtown*

### **Panel 4B: "Critical Race Studies" (Travis) Moderator: Dr. Robertson**

Presenters and Papers TBA

## **CONFERENCE RECEPTION: 4:30 PM-5 PM**

**Presentation of Award for Best Paper**