

UMassAmherst

College of Humanities & Fine Arts



HFA Dean's Newsletter | March 2026

Dear HFA Community,

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the weight and uncertainty some may be feeling in this present moment. I recognize that many of us, especially those with family and loved ones abroad, are experiencing current events in a deeply personal way. If you need assistance, I encourage you to contact the [Employee Counseling and Consultation Office \(ECCO\)](#).

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you will be excited by all that is happening in HFA. There are faculty achievements to celebrate, community meals to share, a rich calendar of events, and HFA Days coming up at the end of the month. There is meaningful work ahead, and I am honored that we get to do it together.

Be well,

Maria del Guadalupe (Lupe) Davidson

Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts

NEWS & UPDATES

Awards & Fellowships

HFA offers a range of awards and fellowships recognizing outstanding faculty contributions in research, teaching, creative activity, and service — including the new Dean's Fellowship Program and Humanities at Work Fellowship. Nominations are currently open for several honors.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Call for HFA Faculty Honors and Awards Submissions

Please share recent faculty honors, awards, and recognitions. Submissions help us maintain an accurate internal record and identify opportunities to highlight accomplishments through appropriate channels, including web stories, social media, annual reports, and newsletters.

[Submit Your Award](#)

NEW Tiny Spaces, Big Ideas



Tarnished Promises: Peace Medals in North America

In the latest episode of Tiny Spaces, Big Ideas, Professor of History Samuel J. Redman, traces the history of Indian peace medals. Drawing on his forthcoming book, archival research, and interviews with Native historians and community members, Redman asks: "How could an object that is so intensely colonial also become in this way sacred to Native people?"

[Watch the Video](#)

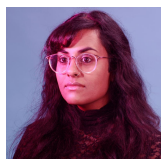
IN MEMORIAM

Janis Greve

We are profoundly sad to share the passing of Janis Greve, who taught and advised students in the English department at UMass Amherst for more than 30 years. The Department of English has shared an in memoriam honoring her life and work.



[Read About Greve](#)



Roopa Vasudevan Featured in MASS MoCA Exhibition

Assistant Professor of Art Roopa Vasudevan will have several artworks featured in *Technologies of Relation*, an exhibition at MASS MoCA, on view now.

[Read More](#)



Kirsten Leng Publishes Book on Humor's Power in U.S. Feminist History

Associate Professor Kirsten Leng published a book exploring the role of humor in late twentieth-century U.S. feminism. Titled *Pleasure, Play, and Politics*, the book centers humor as a vital feminist resource.

[Read More](#)

History PhD Candidate Emily Whitted Named a Groundbreaking Graduate Student

PhD candidate in History Emily Whitted was recognized as a UMass Amherst Groundbreaking Graduate Student for her dissertation research exploring the economics, gender dynamics, and material history of textile repair in early America.

[Read More](#)

Julia Edwards, Maine's 2026 Teacher of the Year

HFA alum Julia Edwards (BMus '10) is featured in a Maine Department of Education Q and A after being named Maine's 2026 Teacher of the Year.

[Read More](#)

David Mednicoff Publishes "Iran war: 4 big questions that help clarify the future of the Middle East"

Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Public Policy David Mednicoff published an article in *The Conversation* analyzing the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and its potential political consequences.

[Read More](#)

UMassGives — April 29–30

UMassGives is right around the corner! It offers an excellent opportunity for departments and programs across HFA to inspire students, alumni, friends, and community members to support impactful work across the college. If your department isn't sure where to start, please reach out to [Morgan Lentz](#) for guidance.

EVENTS

For a full calendar of HFA Events, [visit our website](#).

