The 2017–18 Wayne Morse Chair, Jose Antonio Vargas, will give a lecture “Define American: My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 7 p.m. in 156 Straub Hall. Vargas will discuss how American identity and citizenship are construed in culture and policy, through the telling of his own story. Born in the Philippines and raised in the United States from the age of twelve, Vargas wrote an essay for the New York Times Magazine in 2011 in which he revealed and chronicled his life in America as an undocumented immigrant. He detailed how he came to discover his status as a teenager and kept it hidden for almost 15 years, during which time he worked, paid taxes, and worried that he would be exposed. In June 2012, Vargas wrote a cover story for TIME magazine about the uncertainty of his life “in limbo” during the year following his revelation. The day after the TIME article appeared, President Obama announced that his administration would halt the deportation of undocumented immigrants age 30 and under, who would qualify for DREAM Act relief, and provide work permits for them, allowing them to remain in the U.S. legally. Vargas, at age 31, was not himself eligible for this program, but greeted it as a “victory for DREAMers.”

In the years since revealing his immigration status, Vargas has become a public voice for undocumented immigrants. He presented emotional testimony at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in February 2013. He also wrote, produced, and directed Documented, an award-winning documentary about his experience.

Jose Antonio Vargas shares his story as an undocumented immigrant on page 3
Wulf Professors examine medical humanities and mental health

Recipients of 2017–18 OHC Wulf Teaching Professors, Mary E. Wood, English, and Kristin Yarris, International Studies, are teaming up to teach an interdisciplinary course this fall called “Mind, Madness, and Society: Schizophrenia Across Cultures and Genres.” The course will introduce students to the fields of medical humanities and global mental health, and will investigate connections between cultural representations of mental illness and the lived experience of people diagnosed with mental illness.

In conjunction with the course, Gail A. Hornstein, Psychology, Mount Holyoke College, will give a talk titled “Madness: Inside Out” on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in 111 Lillis Hall. Hornstein asks, how can we picture disturbed mental states? Is there some sign, some subtle indicator that can portray the madness in a person’s mind? Her illustrated talk compares a range of visual approaches to this question, both historical and contemporary, emphasizing the striking differences between the external standpoint of psychiatrists and the subjective depictions by sufferers of their own psychological lives.

Hornstein’s most recent book, Agnes’s Jacket: A Psychologist’s Search for the Meanings of Madness, shows how the insights of people diagnosed with mental illness force us to reconceive fundamental assumptions about madness, treatment, and mental life.

The Wulf Professorship in the Humanities was established in 1993 through an endowment made to the Oregon Humanities Center by former OHC Board of Visitors member Robert F. Wulf and Evelyn Nelson Wulf. The teaching fellowship supports faculty who develop courses that identify, examine carefully, and respond critically to ethical issues that confront individuals and society.

Hornstein’s talk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mary E. Wood, mewood@uoregon.edu, or Kristin Yarris, keyarris@uoregon.edu

Mary Kathryn Nagle speaks about tribal sovereignty and the law

In conjunction with the UO’s 2017–18 Common Reading, Louise Erdrich’s novel The Round House, Ethnic Studies is hosting attorney and playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee) on Friday, November 17, 2017. Nagle will explore themes echoing those found in the novel in her talk titled “Sovereignty in the Law, Sovereignty in Our Stories” at noon in the Knight Library Browsing Room. At 6 p.m., also on November 17, there will be a reading of her play Sliver of a Full Moon by Native American Studies faculty, students, and community members in the Many Nations Longhouse, 1630 Columbia St.

Nagle specializes in federal Indian law and appellate litigation. She is a frequent speaker at law schools and symposia on issues related to restoration of tribal sovereignty, tribal self-determination, Indian civil and constitutional rights, and safety of Native women. She also represents the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center in support of their work to end violence against Native women.

Nagle is also an accomplished playwright who has written and produced several plays relating to Indians and the law, including Waaxşı’s Law, Manahatta, My Father’s Bones (with Suzan Shown Harjo), Miss Lead, Fairly Traceable, and Sliver of a Full Moon.

Sliver of a Full Moon is a powerful reenactment of the historic congressional reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2013: a movement that restored the authority of tribal governments to prosecute non-Native abusers who assault and abuse Native women on tribal lands. The staged reading documents the legal and jurisdictional issues raised in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision in Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe which left Native women and children at a higher risk of domestic violence than any other group in the United States. The story then follows the bipartisan legislative battle to reauthorize VAWA with a provision that would protect Native women and children from violence.

Cosponsored by the OHC as part of the “We the People” series, both events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (541) 346-0900.
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tics from mid-October to mid-November 2017. His visit is in conjunction with the Morse Center’s 2017–19 theme of inquiry, “Borders, Migration, and Belonging” and is coproduced by the Oregon Humanities Center under the rubric of the OHC’s 2017–18 theme “We the People.”

Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker, and founder of Define American, a nonprofit organization that uses storytelling to humanize the conversation around immigration and citizenship. He also founded #EmergingUS, a production company that focuses on race, immigration, and the emerging American identity. As a creator and curator of stories, he produces the annual Define American Film Festival, a traveling event that showcases conversations focused on America’s changing demographics.

The Vargas event, which is free and open to the public, will also feature an exhibit by Eugene Filipino-American photographer Melissa Nolledo, “Our Stories: Immigrants of America.”

For more information, please go to: waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu

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the diversity of opinions that represent the complexity of our country. Her goal as a journalist is to share America’s untold stories and to highlight today’s critical issues in a responsible and respectful manner.

Hinojosa has won numerous awards for her work, including four Emmys; the 2012 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism; the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Reporting on the Disadvantaged; and the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Overseas Press Club for best documentary for her groundbreaking “Child Brides: Stolen Lives.” In addition to broadcast work, Hinojosa has been a syndicated columnist and is the author of two books.

The lecture is free and open to the public. View live-streaming video at: ohc.uoregon.edu. No tickets or reservations. For disability accommodations, which must be made by September 28, contact ohc@uoregon.edu or call (541) 346-3934.

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Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship (HURF) Program provides humanities undergraduate students with an opportunity to undertake a 16-week research project under the guidance of a UO faculty mentor during the winter and spring terms, and to present their work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in May. During the fellowship period the cohort of fellows meets regularly to workshop their projects and participate in seminars on topics such as developing research skills; communicating research orally and in writing; understanding the ethics of research; and preparing for graduate school and/or other career opportunities. Fellows receive a $2,500 stipend, faculty mentors receive a $500 stipend.

The HURF Program is the result of a collaboration between the Oregon Humanities Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, and the Division of Undergraduate Studies. Application deadline is November 6, 2017. For information, visit: ow.ly/mml53o4fsQ
UO Poetry Slam Team opens evening of poetry with Cheryl Boyce-Taylor

Enjoy an evening of poetry with Cheryl Boyce-Taylor and the UO Poetry Slam Team on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room.

Cheryl Boyce-Taylor is a poet, visual artist, and teacher. The author of the poetry collections Raw Air, Night When Moon Follows, and Convincing the Body, Boyce-Taylor served as poet-in-residence at the Caribbean Literary and Cultural Center in Brooklyn. She is the founder and curator of Calypso Muse and the Glitter Pomegranate Performance Series. Boyce-Taylor’s poetry has been commissioned by The Joyce Theater and the National Endowment for the Arts for Ronald K. Brown: Evidence, A Dance Company. Her work has been published in Poetry, Prairie Schooner, Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Pluck!, Killings Journal of Arts & Letters, and Adrienne.

The recipient of the 2015 Barnes and Noble Writers for Writers Award, Boyce-Taylor’s life papers and portfolio are held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City.

As described by her publisher, Boyce-Taylor’s most recent collection of poetry, Arrival, “is a poetic love story between mother and daughter. The poems are road maps, intertwining generations with a narrative beginning in 1950 with a woman who is pregnant with twins. In her seventh month she delivers a stillborn boy and a baby girl weighing less than two pounds. From there, the evocation of a series of catastrophic family events brings forth Cheryl Boyce-Taylor’s power to strip her readers down to their most vulnerable. Boyce-Taylor is steeped in the narratives of Trinidad and New York City, colored with metaphorical stew-pot images. She revels in her lyrical range as she weaves these poetic retellings of family, place, and identity.”

The reading, cosponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, is free and open to the public. For more information, call (541) 346-1505.