



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs, and Faculty
From: Michael Galyean, Provost and Senior Vice President
Cc: Lawrence Schovanec, President
Joseph Heppert, Vice President for Research
Date: August 31, 2018
Re: The Humanities Center at Texas Tech

As many of you know, Dr. Dorothy Chansky was highly instrumental in planning and establishing the Humanities Center at Texas Tech. She has served as a pioneering leader and director of the center since its inception in the spring of 2015. Her contributions to the center helped cultivate meaningful programming such as Alumni College and wide-reaching themes such as *Food and....* Under her leadership, the center brought to campus nationally recognized speakers and humanities scholars from across the country and from abroad. As of earlier this summer, Dr. Chansky is stepping down from her role as director of the Humanities Center to return to her full-time faculty position. Please join me in thanking her for her enthusiastic leadership of the center through its initial three years.

There will be a formal search for the next director of the Humanities Center. In the meantime, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Allison Whitney and Dr. Michael Borshuk will serve as interim co-directors of the center through the 2018-2019 academic year. Both Dr. Whitney and Dr. Borshuk have served on the Humanities Center Board and been otherwise involved with the center. They are devoted to the center's mission and growth. As co-directors, they will ensure the continuity of programming already established and will work with my office and the Humanities Center Board to plan for the transition to the next director.

Allison Whitney is an associate professor of English specializing in studies of film technology, genre cinema, and the relationship between technological history and film form. She has numerous scholarly articles published in *The Journal of Film & Video*, *Music, Sound* and *The Moving Image*, and *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*. Her current book project concerns the history of IMAX film.

Michael Borshuk is an associate professor of English specializing in African American literature and cultural studies. He is the author of *Swinging the Vernacular: Jazz and African American Modernist Literature* (Routledge, 2006) which received the Texas Tech President's Book Award in 2008. He has also published short stories and numerous review articles, book reviews, and music reviews.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Whitney and Dr. Borshuk and thanking them for taking on the roles of interim co-directors of the Humanities Center at Texas Tech.