The Humanities Institute was born ten years ago this semester. I hope you can join us Monday, November 2, for “HI@10: A Symposium and Celebration.” In my space here I’ll offer some personal reflections on our ten-year milestone.

More than anything else, HI has been successful in creating intellectual communities beyond departmental lines. When I arrived at UB twenty years ago, I was fortunate to enter a department full of warm, sane colleagues. So I had no pressing need to seek out interlocutors elsewhere. In my first eight years at UB I made plenty of friends in other departments – but few intellectual comrades.

Then my History colleague Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra (now at Texas) convinced the Dean to fund an Early Modern Reading Group. Suddenly I found allies in English, RLL, and Comp Lit who were asking similar questions in their scholarship. They introduced me to literary scholars who brought fresh approaches to the problems I was grappling with. The book I was writing, Death in the New World, was immeasurably enriched by our stimulating discussions.

When HI was founded a few years later, EMRG became EMRW, one of the eight to ten Research Workshops HI funds annually. During my term as Director alone there have been 21 different RWs, each fostering conversations that simply can’t happen within the confines of a single department, and, without the existence of HI, mostly wouldn’t happen. That’s a legacy I’m proud to have carried on.

— Erik R. Seeman

PAIN: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 6PM
UB Honors College
107 Capen Hall
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 9AM-5PM
Center for the arts, Screening room
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 9AM-5PM
Center for the arts, Screening room

PRESENTERS
rita charon, columbia university
veena das, johns hopkins university
shigehisa kuriyama, harvard university
mitchell merback, johns hopkins university
darius rejali, reed college
austin sarat, amherst college
ron schleifer, university of oklahoma

www.painconference.wordpress.com

KEYNOTE
Thursday, October 8th
6:00 PM
UB Honors College
107 Capen Hall
elaine scarry
harvard university
Scholars @ Hallwalls
NEW FACULTY SEMINAR SERIES

FERNANDA NEGRET
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Clinical Aesthetics: Psychoanalysis, Schizoanalysis, and Art's Work on a Body
Tuesday, October 20th
3:30 PM
830 Clemens Hall

HENRY BERLIN
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Confession and the Rhetoric of the Passions in Late-Medieval Iberia
Tuesday, November 10th
3:30 PM
830 Clemens Hall

MARK NATHAN
HISTORY
From the Mountains to the Cities: Propagating Buddhism in Twentieth-Century Korea
Friday, November 13th
6:00 PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center
341 Delaware Avenue

Hershini Young
ENGLISH
The Ground Beneath Her Feet: Towards a Black Poetics and Politics of Movement
Friday, December 4th
4:00 PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center
341 Delaware Avenue

Are we bound by gender? With presentations, performances, and conversations, this 2015 Buffalo Humanities Festival will attempt to answer that question by going beyond the traditional oppositions of male/female and gay/straight. Some experts claim that we live in a “post-gender” era, with stay-at-home dads, female CEOs, and transgendered characters on TV. Yet history, literature, music, and the arts suggest that the story of gender is more complicated – and more interesting – than we often take it to be. Join us for a festival of mind-bending ideas.

SEPTEMBER 23 – 26 / 2015
For tickets, daypasses, and further information, go to buffalohumanities.org or call 645-2591