

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

2026 ADE-ALD Summer Seminar

Meeting the Current Moment: Leading for the Future of the Humanities

Host and Lead Sponsor: San José State University

Additional support from The Henry Luce Foundation and The Mellon Foundation

28–30 May 2026

San José State University, San José, CA

Thursday, 28 May

7:00–8:00 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Check-in for preseminar workshop participants

7:30–8:00 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Continental breakfast for preseminar workshop participants

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Preseminar Full-Day Workshops

Leading Comparative and Multidisciplinary Programs, Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Departments and programs of comparative literature, English, and world languages often sponsor, and sometimes compete with, interdisciplinary fields such as medical humanities, ethnic studies, digital humanities, environmental humanities, and global and international studies. Similarly, faculty leaders who want to build or protect interdisciplinary programs, especially in the current environment of anxiety about enrollments and budgets, encounter both opportunities and opposition. This workshop will address aspects and strategies for undergraduate and graduate programs, such as institutional metrics (what

counts as success?), ways to gain visibility, pros and cons of joint appointments, add-on models for multiple majors or minors, interdisciplinary internships, five-year undergrad/grad programs and dual doctorates, and collaborations and consortia beyond the humanities or beyond one institution.

New Chairs in English, Interdisciplinary Science Building 874

New Chairs in World Languages, Interdisciplinary Science Building 876

In the new chairs workshops, offered for faculty members in English (ADE) and world languages (ALD), department chairs can gather practical advice and have questions answered by seasoned administrators about all aspects of chairing. Objectives include strategies for managing the responsibilities of the chair, programmatic goals and their priorities for your department, personnel and fiscal management, effective use of resources, leadership styles, and setting short- and long-term goals for your term as chair. Past participants have also stressed the importance of connecting with colleagues in their discipline and the value of forming a cross-institutional network that was available to them throughout their term as chair and beyond.

Strategic Planning, Interdisciplinary Science Building 878

Strategic planning can be an important mechanism for identifying priorities, setting goals, and advocating for your program. However, it requires a clear purpose and framework, as well as a clear structure for assessment and follow-through, to be effective. Participants in this workshop—meant for department chairs and program leaders who might be a few years into the position—will learn the components of strategic planning, how to foster engagement with the process among faculty and staff department members, heuristics for managing change, and how strategic planning can be beneficial for a variety of priorities, including hiring and preparing for external review.

12:00–1:00 p.m.

Lunch for preseminar workshop participants

1:00–2:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Seminar check-in

2:30–4:15 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Welcome and Plenary I: Morale and Mattering: How Humanities Leaders Can Support Faculty, Staff, and Students in Challenging Times

Presider: Paula M. Krebs, MLA

Speakers: Additional speakers to be announced

4:15–4:45 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Coffee break

4:45–6:00 p.m.

Discussion Groups I

DG A, Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Moderator:

DG B, Interdisciplinary Science Building 874

Moderator:

DG C, Interdisciplinary Science Building 876

Moderator:

DG D, Interdisciplinary Science Building 878

Moderator:

6:00–7:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Reception and Welcome from the ALD Executive Committee and ADE Executive Committee Presidents

Speakers: Muriel Cormican, Texas Christian Univ.; Andrea Kaston Tange, Macalester Coll.

Welcome Reception followed by dinner on your own

Friday, 29 May

8:00–8:30 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Continental breakfast

8:30–10:00 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Plenary II: From Experimentation to Leadership: AI in the Humanities

Presider: To be announced

Speakers: Xuenan Cao, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong; Katherine D. Harris, San José State Univ.; Richard Kern, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Emily Todd, Eastern Connecticut State Univ.

10:00–10:30 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Coffee break

10:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Discussion Groups II

DG A, Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Moderator:

DG B, Interdisciplinary Science Building 874

Moderator:

DG C, Interdisciplinary Science Building 876

Moderator:

DG D, Interdisciplinary Science Building 878

Moderator:

12:00–1:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Lunch

1:00–2:30 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Plenary III: Cultivating Good Mentorship from Graduate School to Mid-Career

Presider: To be announced

Speakers: Lauren D. Ginsberg, Duke Univ.; Andy Oler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.; Jennifer L. Wojton, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.

2:30–3:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Coffee Break

3:00–4:30 p.m.

Discussion Groups III

DG A, Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Moderator:

DG B, Interdisciplinary Science Building 874

Moderator:

DG C, Interdisciplinary Science Building 876

Moderator:

DG D, Interdisciplinary Science Building 878

Moderator:

4:45–6:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Reception

Light reception followed by dinner on your own

Saturday, 30 May

8:00–8:30 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Continental breakfast

8:30–10:00 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Plenary IV: How to Change: Building Curricula that Attract and Sustain Students

Presider: To be announced

Speakers: Felix Kronenberg, Michigan State Univ.; Lara Smith-Sitton, Kennesaw State Univ.; Xinyi Tan, Coastal Carolina Univ.; Charlotte Teague, Alabama A & M Univ.

10:00–10:30 a.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Lobby

Coffee break

10:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Discussion Groups IV

DG A, Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Moderator:

DG B, Interdisciplinary Science Building 874

Moderator:

DG C, Interdisciplinary Science Building 876

Moderator:

DG D, Interdisciplinary Science Building 878

Moderator:

12:00–1:00 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall Terrace

Lunch

1:00–2:15 p.m., Yoshihiro Uchida Hall 124

Closing Keynote Plenary: What Now? Leading Institutional Change

Presider and Respondent: To be announced

Featured Speaker: Christopher Long, Univ. of Oregon

2:30–5:30 p.m., Interdisciplinary Science Building 870

Postseminar Workshop

Big-Picture Thinking for Humanities Leaders

Facilitators: To be announced

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

ADE-ALD Summer Seminars are closed meetings, and confidentiality in personnel matters should be assumed and respected. The ADE and ALD Executive Committees request that seminar attendees err on the side of discretion in their use of social media and that they refrain from recording the meetings.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs will be taken throughout the seminar. These photos may be used in the MLA's print and electronic publications.