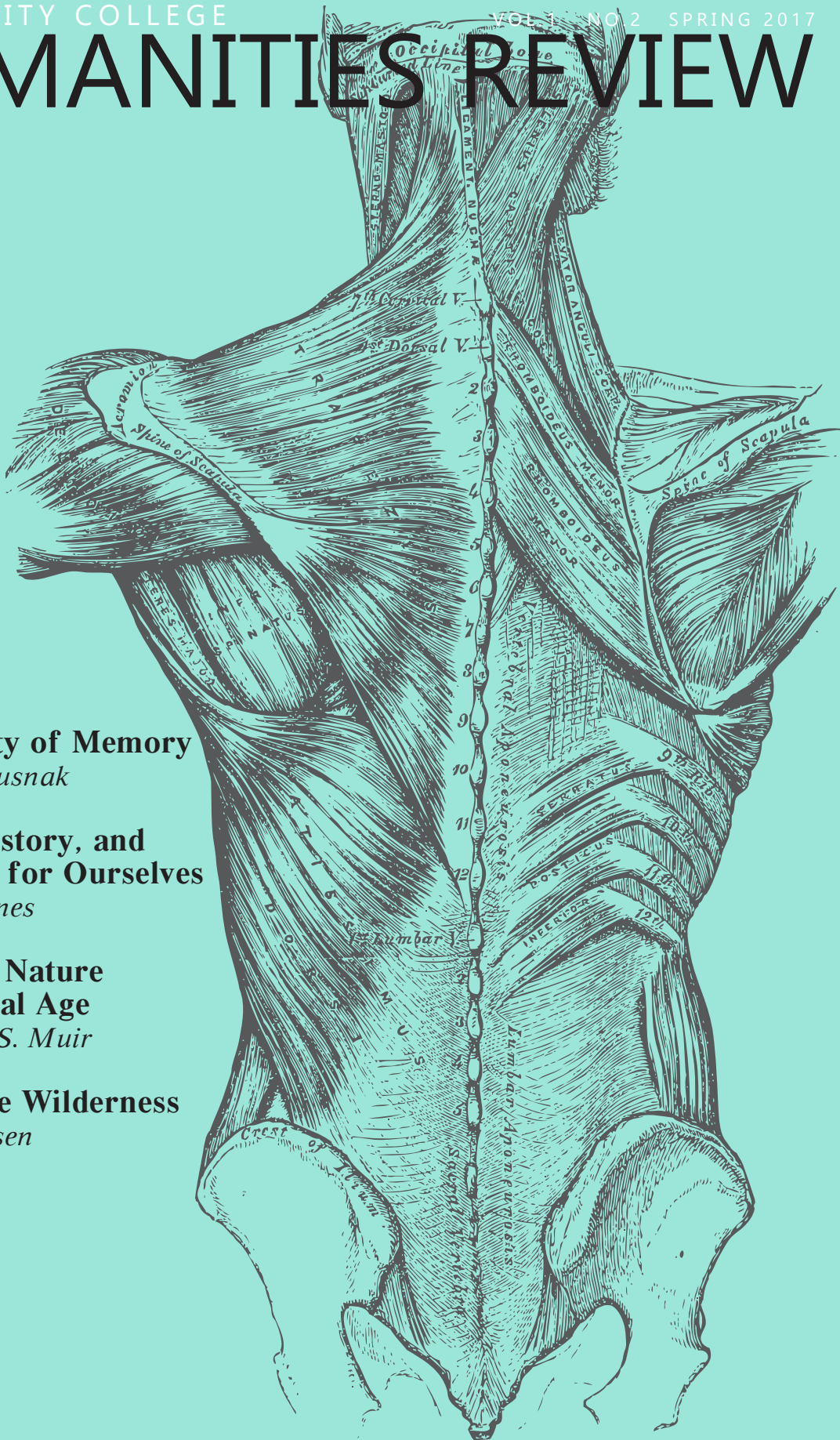


# HUMANITIES REVIEW



**The Banality of Memory**  
*by Andrew Rusnak*

**Vikings, History, and  
The Search for Ourselves**  
*by Terri Barnes*

**On Human Nature  
in the Digital Age**  
*by Donavan S. Muir*

**Wi-Fi in the Wilderness**  
*by Chris Jensen*

# Community College Humanities Review

SPRING 2017

Question More  
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The Community College Humanities Association (CCHA), founded in 1979, is the only national organization of its kind for humanities faculty and administrators in two-year colleges. It is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the humanities in two-year colleges.

CCHA serves as a catalyst for defining the issues which face humanities faculty and administrators today, finding solutions to problems in the field, and establishing a communications network for humanists. The Community College Humanities Review is a publication of CCHA. Submission guidelines can be found at our website: [www.cchumanities.org](http://www.cchumanities.org)

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*Review*

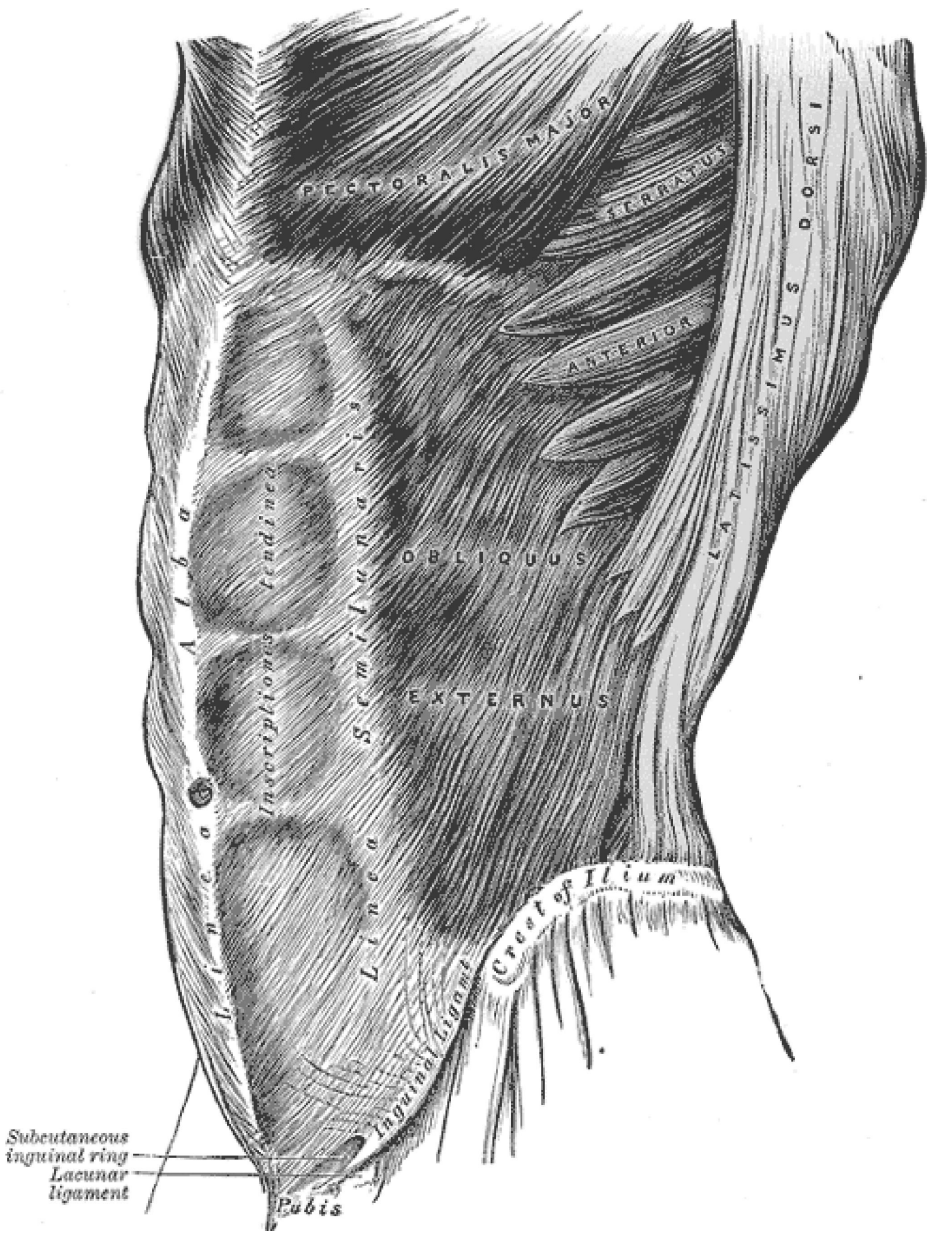
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## Contributors



**Scott Ash** is a full Professor of English at Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY, where he has taught since September 1996. He teaches composition and various courses in American Literature, and he has published and presented on a variety of topics including Kurt Vonnegut, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Stephen King, vampires, and American utopianism. He earned his BA from Brown University and his MA and PhD from the University of Rochester.



**Terri Barnes** teaches History at Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus in Portland, Oregon, where she is also a department chair for Social Science. She earned her graduate degree in History from Portland State University. Her research interests are focused on Scandinavia during the Viking Age, as well as late-medieval and early-modern England.



**Chris Jensen** has taught for the English Department at Portland Community College for seventeen years at the Rock Creek campus. His teaching interests include eco-composition and the Bible as Literature. He has worked as a newspaper reporter, whitewater river guide, and ranger-naturalist in Yosemite National Park.



**Amy Knapp** teaches at Clark State Community College in Springfield, OH. She teaches courses in American History, Western Civilization, Art History, and Appreciation of the Arts. In 2012, she was one of 24 scholars selected to take part in the CCHA/NEH Seminar Etruscans and the Early Roman City, which took place at various locations in Italy. In 2015, she was awarded the CCHA Affiliated Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, where she was able to examine multiple artifacts and utilize both the AAR and Vatican libraries to polish my research of Etruscan sarcophagi, veiled female effigies, and funerary iconography. "My research plays a predominant role in my ability to engage students, and encourage them to travel, research, and discover."



**John M. Lawlor, Jr.** taught part-time at Reading Area Community College from 1976 until 1990 when he took a full time position. He retired on December 31, 2015 with *emeritus* status. He served as professor of history, division chair and director of instructional technology. In 1999, the National Archives selected him as Constitutional Community member to design American history digital lesson plans. As fellow and

mentor at the Community College Humanities Association/NEH/Library of Congress *American Cities/Public Spaces* Institutes, he researched Progressive Era safety in public places and the arts in the temperance movement topics. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council named him “Commonwealth Speaker” for this project in 2008. In 2014 and 2015, he served as mentor for the CCHA/NEH/Library of Congress/National Archives/Smithsonian Institute *On Native Ground* summer institute. Having served as consultant on the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum (CPAAM)-Pennsylvania State University Civil Rights oral history project, CPAAM recognized him in 2016 for community service. In 2016, the Community College Eastern Division awarded him “Distinguished Humanities Educator” recognition. Current activities include volunteering as a consultant for the Education Department at the National Archives, frequently working in the Boeing Education Center, and continuation of the Veterans History Project at RACC in conjunction with the Library of Congress American Folk Life Center. He is video editor for the Amending America Conversations #RightsAndJustice at the National Archives.



**David Leight** is a professor of English in the Communications, Arts, and Humanities Division at Reading Area Community College in Pennsylvania, where he also serves as Coordinator of College-Level Writing and teaches English Composition I and II, Technical Writing, Writing for the Media, and American Literature II. He co-chaired his college’s most recent Middle States Self-Study and has served as a co-chair of multiple General Education review committees. He has presented at CCHA, NeMLA, TYCA Northeast, and Transitions & Transactions. His most recent research has focused on Ernest Hemingway’s response to the 1935 Labor Day hurricane in the Florida Keys and on Mark Twain’s evolving interest in William “Buffalo Bill” Cody and Native Americans. His current research has focused on the experimental playwright Virgil Geddes and the theatre of the 1930s. He was recently elected to the MLA Delegate Assembly as a representative of community colleges.



**Eli Merchant** (Ph.D. New York University) is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Queensborough Community College, and former editor *Beacon: A Literary Journal*. He has published articles and stories in various magazines and journals.





**Donavan S. Muir** is an Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Miramar College and Palomar College in San Diego, California. He possesses an M.A. in Philosophy from San Diego State University with a concentration in 20th Century Continental Philosophy and the Philosophy of Technology. He is also a member of the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA), the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), and the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (SACP).



**Andrew Rusnak** was a stringer for several weeklies while earning a B.S. in English from Towson University. As a technical writer, manufacturing and quality engineer for an aerospace company, he wrote research reports, process plans, training curricula, and repair dispositions as well as coordinated basic literacy and writing programs. Returning to journalism, he covered the White House, Capital Hill, the EPA and DoE, writing on environmental remediation technology, renewable energy, and nuclear and hazardous waste cleanup. As an association Communications Director, he edited trade magazines and peer-reviewed journals, and managed online content covering the composites industry. He wrote hard news, features, profiles, histories, speeches, and script. From the Johns Hopkins University, he has a Masters in Liberal Arts/History of Ideas and a Masters in Writing. He also has a Masters in Modern Studies from Loyola University. He is Associate Professor of English and teaches contextualized STEM-focused composition at his alma mater, the Community College of Baltimore County. He also serves as Executive Director of the Community College Humanities Association.



**Emily Sohmer Tai** (Ph.D. Harvard University) is an associate professor of History at Queensborough Community College. From 2002-2015, she served on the CCHA Publication division. She continues to serve as the Intake Editor of the Community College Humanities Review.

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