MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

From: Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: May 9, 2013

Subject: USC Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities

The USC Strategic Vision: Matching Deeds to Ambitions states, “A vibrant community of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars will create the immense intellectual capacity needed to tackle the major challenges of the 21st Century… We must expand postdoctoral scholars programs, well known in the sciences, to the social sciences and the humanities.” Going into its third year, The Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities responds to this call to action by bringing in another class of exceptionally talented and accomplished scholars. Relying on their diverse perspectives and academic backgrounds, they will invigorate discussion and further develop professionally by researching and teaching with our outstanding faculty.

These five postdoctoral scholars were selected from more than 950 applicants from fourteen fields in the humanities. I would like to thank our colleagues who spent many hours reviewing applications and recommending candidates to the selection committee. I would also like to thank the members of the selection committee – Professors Kate Flint, Bill Whittington, Mark Schroeder, Natania Meeker, and Tom Seifrid – for carefully considering the recommended candidates and making difficult decisions to arrive at the final rankings. Members of the new cohort will arrive on campus in mid-August.

I am pleased to report that three Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars from last year’s cohort have secured faculty positions after just one year of postdoctoral fellowship. Bradford Bouley will join the Department of History at Penn State University as an assistant professor in fall 2013; Anastasia Kayiatos will join the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at Macalester College as a visiting assistant professor in fall 2013; and Bryan Roberts will be joining the faculty of the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the London School of Economics in spring 2014. Additionally Alejandro Pérez-Carballo, from our 2011 cohort, has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts in fall 2013. Please join me in congratulating them and in welcoming our new postdoctoral scholars to our vibrant academic community.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
Robert Abeles
Al Checcio
Todd Dickey
Thomas Jackiewicz
Michael Quick
Thomas S. Sayles
Mark Todd
USC Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities
Incoming Cohort for Fall 2013

Alison Annunziata (Slavic languages and Literatures) received her Ph.D. in Russian Literature from Columbia University in 2012. Her research interests cover late 18th and early 19th century Russian prose, postmodern perspectives in the Enlightenment, poetics of domesticity and exile, Russian Formalism and Tolstoy. As a Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar, she plans to refine her dissertation and produce a manuscript distilling two critical periods—Enlightenment and Formalism—to their central motifs of light and form.

Sean Nye (Musicology) received his Ph.D. in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society from the University of Minnesota in 2012. Nye’s research interests include Austro-German musical aesthetics and literature in the 18th-20th century, electronic and industrial music, cultural musicology and subcultural studies, gender and sexuality, media and sound studies, science fiction and Theodor W. Adorno. As a Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar, he plans on turning his dissertation, Teutonic Time-Slip into a book and start a second project dealing with Philip K. Dick’s fundamental interests in music and stereo sound.

Natalia Pérez (Spanish & Portuguese) received her Ph.D. in Spanish from Princeton University this year. Her dissertation, Whispered Materiality: Voice and Gender in the Theater of Early Modern Spain, focuses on the philosophical question of voice in relation to the theatre of Golden Age Spain. She plans to work on a book project tentatively titled, Marrano Theater: Distribution of the Sensible in the Early Modern Comedia, while at USC.

Molly Pulda (English) received her PhD from the City University of New York this year. As a Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar, she plans to turn her dissertation, Sympathetic Ink: Memoirs of Family Secrets, into a book manuscript while furthering her research on secrecy in contemporary American literature.

Atia Sattar (Comparative Literature) received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the Pennsylvania State University in 2012. Her research interests include medicine and literature; science, technology, and society; and 19th century British and French literature. During her time at USC, she intends to turn her dissertation, The Aesthetics of Experiential Medicine: Literature and Scientific Inquiry in the Nineteenth Century, into a book.