Dear Student of High Achievement,

I would like to tell you about a special opportunity available to you through the Humanities Center at the University of Hartford.

The Humanities Center is accepting applications for Student Fellows for next year’s honors seminar. Students with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the 2021-2022 academic year are eligible to participate in the Humanities Center as Student Fellows. You do not need to be an honors student to apply.

As a Fellow, you attend a year-long honors seminar on the yearly theme. Rashmi Viswanathan, Assistant Professor of Art, will lead the Humanities Center Seminar for this next year. She has selected the theme of “Fiction, Fabulation, Futurity” for the seminar. Here you will get to know some of the brightest and most articulate students at the University of Hartford. You will also attend lectures by both university faculty who are doing research on this theme and visiting speakers. Here is a description of the seminar:

The narrative, poetic, and artistic forms of speculative and science fiction offer modes of storytelling that question our relationship with received truths. They not only effectively function as platforms for social critique -- ‘looking from the outside in” -- they dream new ways forward and backward. Whether in the contributions of the novelist Octavia Butler, that unstick time and space to activate empathy across Modern divides, or Begum Rokeya, whose writings challenge received gender roles and the imperialism of the Western liberal imagination of the early 20th century, speculations on the past, present, and future permit imaginative re-alignments of power, identity, and meaning making.

Over the course of the class, students will be assigned readings, directed responses, and presentations that address the issues under analysis. Through interactive discussion and presentation-based learning, I hope to productively place the process of learning in the students’ hands. The final project will represent a culmination of the scholarship as well as methodologies of the class. Students will be asked to curate a speculative exhibition on the topic of their choice. Whether dreaming new cities or new roles and functions for the arts, the students will apply their interdisciplinary education to reinterpreting modern life.

This course aligns with the University of Hartford Gallery programming for 2021 and serves as a complement to the university’s eponymous International Distinguished Artist Symposium and Exhibition. The Spring semester will feature series of lectures by faculty members and visiting speakers on the topic of “Fiction, Fabulation, Futurity.”
Students who are selected for this seminar are awarded a fellowship and will receive a stipend of $500 and take the seminar for a total of six credits, three in the fall term and three in the spring term.* The courses are listed as HON 389 in the fall 2020 schedule and HON 390 in the spring 2021 schedule. The class meets both semesters on Tuesday evenings, 5:00-7:20 pm, and student fellows must take both semesters.

**English** students will be able to take HON 389 and HON 390 as electives toward their major and count HON 389 as an advanced literature course (if necessary). **Art History** students will be able to take HON 389 as a modern/contemporary distribution credit and HON 390 as an elective in the major. Credits for other majors are still pending.

**To apply, send an email by Friday, April 2** to Dr. Rashmi Viswanathan (viswanath@hartford.edu) and to me (Dr. Bryan Sinche, Humanities Center Director at sinche@hartford.edu) that includes the following information:

- a brief explanation of why you want to participate in the Seminar (1 page)
- your major and minor (if you have one)
- your grade point average
- your local AND home phone number and mailing address
- your e-mail address
- your student ID number (not your social security number)

*If you send your application as an attachment to your email, please make sure that (1) you have your name on the attached document and (2) you have your name as the name of the attached file (example: BryanSinche.docx or Bryan Sinche.pdf).*

**You will be notified of acceptance by Friday, April 9, with instructions for registration. Do not attempt to register for HON 389 (Fall 2021) until you have been notified of your acceptance.** If you have any questions about the application process, please contact me at sinche@hartford.edu. In the meantime, I recommend you register for four classes for Fall 2021, as this would be a fifth class for you.

Sincerely,

Bryan Sinche
Director, Humanities Center

* Students who already receive a full tuition discount are not eligible for the stipend.