So welcome, welcome to the second annual College of Liberal Arts Research Conference. I'm Kristin Sobolik, I'm Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and I have been waiting for this day for a while. Ever since I read the reports from last year's professional development leave recipients and became excited about the diverse research and teaching that go on in the College and are developed during those wonderful PDL leaves that everybody so seeks and wants. I'm glad that everyone will have the chance to share in this treasure, so here we are and thank you for coming. I know you are going to learn a lot. Today we are going to have the pleasure of learning more about the many diverse research conducted in the College, including realistic empiricism, contentious
politics in Brazil, archaeological investigations in Greece, the joys and frustrations of classical musical recording, writing and education, and the list goes on.

This is an abundance of riches and I am so looking forward to learning more about our colleague's scholarly lives and pursuits. Scholarship in the Liberal Arts is alive and well. So let the second CoLA Research Conference begin. Associate Dean Linda Caron will introduce each of the speakers. Linda is also a professor of Art History who's research interests include Italian Renaissance art and I want to remind everyone that there will be a reception and open bar following the conference at 4 p.m. here in the atrium. So you gotta make sure to come back or stay through them. So I would like to introduce Associate Dean Linda
Caron who will be the moderator and will be introducing the speakers for the session, Linda.