Human Library Catalog
A HUMAN LIBRARY WORKS
JUST LIKE A REGULAR LIBRARY...
WITH ONE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE:

THE BOOKS ARE HUMAN BEINGS.

EACH READER (UP TO 3 AT A TIME) ENTERS INTO
A UNIQUE 30 MIN. CONVERSATION
ABOUT THE CHALLENGES, STRENGTHS, AND
CONNECTIONS IN OUR SHARED HUMAN
EXPERIENCE.

Wednesday Oct. 21, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Dunning Courtyard, Laband Art Gallery

Reservations open @ 11:30 a.m.
First Check-Out at 12 p.m.

Sponsored by the William H. Hannon Library,
Laband Art Gallery, and Ignatians Service Org.
Poster design by Jacob Hassett ‘16
This Human Book joined the military right after high school and completed two tours of duty in Iraq. After being honorably discharged, he worked various jobs while in school until he lost his jobs and then, subsequently, his home. Due to a felony-level court case (for being at the wrong place at the wrong time), he could not find a new job while trying to clear his name. He then lived in the back of his pick-up truck for a year while trying to get back into school.

The Ishimotos: A Cross Pacific Conundrum

Through a tangled series of events, an L.A. gal raised among Hawaiian relatives and a famous Hawaii-born musician met, fell in love, and began living an interesting life together - she, deeply in love with Hawaiian culture and the arts, and he, struggling to leave all of that and make his new life in Los Angeles. One Human Book is a Hoku (Hawaiian Grammy) Award winning recording artist teaching assistive technology at Junior Blind, with a passion for World Wrestling and its history, who also wants to play more latin, jazz, and country music, all the while being a devoted husband and stepdad. The other Human Book is a manager with the Los Angeles Public Library, dances for one of the oldest hula groups in California, is a former professional dancer on stage and screen, raises plumerias, and loves being mom and wife. Together, they are nurturing a thoughtful and creative relationship.

Bigger Body, Bigger Life

When this Human Book was 15 years old, she thought she'd be better off in life super-thin. She figured out fast how to get that way, but just as quickly did her life spin out of control. After seven sad years of struggling with an eating disorder, this Human Book went to an in-patient treatment facility and began her recovery. The experience changed her life in more ways than you would think. Today, this Human Book is healthy and in a pretty good place. She hopes that her story will be of interest and benefit to others.

It’s Not Your Mother’s Church

This Human Book is an Episcopal priest and community and environmental activist with an interest in permaculture and gardening as a lifestyle. He describes himself as a Christian who follows a yogic practice. He leads a faith community that goes beyond the everyday definition of “church.” Membership is not limited to those who walk through the narrow doors on Sunday morning, but intentionally cultivates entry points as numerous as there are questions. This Human Book is redefining church “membership” as collaboration, connection, and mutual action on matters that directly affect the common good. The community is a gathering place for those promoting worker and wage justice, supporting LGBT rights, and aiding the homeless and hungry. On any given day on campus, you might learn about Vedanta and positive thinking or listen to some new talent in the L.A. jazz scene or take a yoga class or explore new interpretations of Bible favorites or gain insight into the practices of various faith traditions. This Human Book connects with a local rabbi, a lay Zen leader, a Hindu swami, and other faith leaders as vital and integral parts of the life of his church community. He is part of a grass-roots environmental activism group, where the community supports and cares for an on-campus community garden and a community bread oven with the fruits of these labors going to the local food pantry. This Human Book is committed to the yogic lifestyle.

Naked in the Woods: My Five Unexpected Years in a Hippie Commune

This Human Book is presently a preschool director and therapist, but don't judge it by its cover. The real story is in the past. In 1970, she dropped out, along with ten friends and an ever changing mix of strangers, leaving Yale and her anointed future behind for a tree house in Oregon. No jobs, no money, no clothes, but 160 acres of primal forest, a hand pump and each other until land ownership tore them apart. Persuaded by the insistent rhetoric of her husband, a community organizer, she abandoned her career and cashet for humus and harmony. Once there he left her, seduced by the siren call of freer love. Now she had to choose. Was she still committed to utopia and, most importantly, could she make it as a single woman in man’s country? Yes, was her answer as she put her overachieving shoulders to the task of building a cabin, hand-sawing driftwood for the foundation and ripping boards from abandoned shacks for siding. This was home, or so she thought. As a group they were all egos and no leader. Brotherhood frayed when food became scarce. They vied for eggs and grabbed bones off each others’ plates, hungry for shreds of leftover meat. These were small skirmishes, ones they could absorb. Land was a bigger problem. Who owned it? One of them or all of them? Money and their futures were at stake. They were not as far out as they thought.

A Dreamer / An “Alien”

At the age of one, this Human Book – an LMU alumna – was brought to this country in pursuit of the “American Dream.” For years, she lived in this country believing she was just like her friends. This was the case until she found out she was undocumented and did not have legal permission to be live here. Throughout the last twenty years, she navigated a broken system in order to pursue her dreams. Although she has encountered various obstacles, her desire to succeed in the “Land of Opportunity” has allowed her to overcome every single obstacle.

Trans Latina Professor / Mentor / Photographer (12:30 p.m.- 3 p.m.)

This Human Book is a Latina biology professor who was a biology major at LMU as a male undergraduate. She loves working with students in science, especially women and people of color, and has helped many of them to be successful in their post-college lives. She is also a spider expert and nature photographer. Her experiences on both sides of the male/female divide has yielded insights into everything from romance to eating habits, and also informs her day to day work here at LMU.