

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

FALL 2019 SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

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Dean's Corner



Jean Boreen | Dean of HSS

I am so excited to welcome you to the first reading of The College of Humanities & Social Sciences at Southern Utah University newsletter. We are planning to send our newsletter three times a year so that we can keep our wonderful alumni and college friends up to date on the exciting events, research, and opportunities connected to HSS faculty and students.

As you know, the college is dedicated to elevating the cultural and intellectual community of faculty, staff, students, and neighbors in southern Utah. Leadership in the college centers around our faculty and staff, who are at the heart of all we do. Our mission is supported by six academic departments who house the following majors: communication, criminal justice, English, psychology...

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Grace A. Tanner Lecture in Human Values Presents Vijay Gupta

Grace A. Tanner Center

The [Grace A. Tanner Center at SUU](#) has hosted the Tanner Lecture in Human Values since 1980.

Musician and social justice advocate Vijay Gupta delivered the 2019 Grace A. Tanner Lecture in Human Values. In partnership with the A.P.E.X. event series, the lecture took place on October 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gilbert Great Hall on the campus of Southern Utah University.

A celebrated speaker, Gupta is a leading advocate for the role of the arts and music to heal, inspire, provoke change, and foster social connection. Gupta's lecture, titled "Music, Community, and the End of Apathy," drew on his experiences as the founder of Street Symphony, a non-profit organization that provides musical engagement

for homeless and incarcerated communities in Los Angeles.

Vijay Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2007 at age 19, after having completed an undergraduate degree in biology from Marist College and a Master's degree in violin performance from the Yale School of Music. Gupta has been named one of six national Citizen Artist Fellows by the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Alex Ross of The New Yorker named him "one of the most radical thinkers in the unradical world of American classical music," and "a visionary violinist."



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AIS CONFERENCE 2021

The HSS Master's of Interdisciplinary Studies program has been selected to host the International Association of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) Conference from October 14-16 2021 at SUU.

[Learn more...](#)

GRADUATE WRITING CENTER

Last semester, HSS completed a pilot of the Graduate Writing Center. This center has two specially trained consultants who specialize in graduate-level writing.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY

HSS houses the Utah Project Archaeology program. Project Archaeology works to create relevant curriculum for elementary and secondary level teachers that teach "scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources." Since its founding, Project Archaeology has reached over 17,500 educators and an estimated 350,000 learners.

"There is a magic about this work that I cannot describe, but that is real and powerful," said Samantha Kirkley, Utah state coordinator for Project Archaeology. "Throughout the year, I see perspectives change and true brotherhood kindled between people who may never have even known each other."

[Read more...](#)



Best Friends Announces Nation's First University-Endorsed Animal Services Leadership Program

By David Bishop

"Southern Utah University has been at the forefront of innovation and educational excellence for years, and I am beyond thrilled to be partnering with them on this history-making program," commented Castle.

Best Friends Animal Society and Southern Utah University (SUU) announced the nation's first university-endorsed animal services leadership program for working professionals. The Best Friends Executive Leadership Certification (BFELC) is a comprehensive, six-month blended learning program utilizing in-person and online interactive instruction. Training top-level leaders in animal services throughout the nation, the goal of the program is to end the killing of companion animals in shelters.

"Best Friends is a game-changer in animal welfare, pushing animal services toward life-saving efforts as opposed to control and disposal," said Best Friends Chief Executive Officer, Julie Castle. "There are now more than 4,700 no-kill communities in this country."

Castle continued, "This new leadership program is rooted in proven animal services techniques, skills, programs and policies and is pivotal in transforming animal services as a profession and ending the killing of pets in shelters. We are excited to be engaged in such a powerful academic partnership."

The ultimate objectives of the BFELC are to create organizational action, professional development and business plans. The program connects participants with innovators and national experts in animal services and offers templates, models, checklists, case studies and resources necessary to replicate and implement change in their respective organizations and communities.

[Read more...](#)

Certificate in Human Values Celebrates its Second Year

Grace A. Tanner Center

The Certificate for Human Values program is celebrating its second year in the university. Eighteen students are registered and working toward completing the certificate by

attending Tanner Lectures, Tanner Center Talks, and doing volunteer hours within the community. This year's activities are focused on the theme of "Self, Community, and Human

Values." Students who complete this certificate will be eligible to apply for the Tanner Scholarship or for one of the two Tanner Center Fellowships.

[Learn More](#)



SUU Fulbright Scholar Teaches American Literature in Taiwan

By Savannah Byers

“Taiwan is a wonderful place, full of courteous and well-informed people. I am favorably impressed by the country as a thriving and culturally vibrant place.”

Dr. Bryce Christensen, professor of English at Southern Utah University, was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to teach American Literature in Taipei, Taiwan for the 2019-2020 academic year. The nationally recognized Fulbright Scholar program accepts only a select number of applicants each year. Some of the top producing universities for Fulbright Scholars include Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Brown.

Dr. Christensen is teaching a variety of courses at the National Taiwan University as a visiting

professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. He is teaching Introduction to American Poetry, as well as major authors courses on F. Scott Fitzgerald, Willa Cather, and Mark Twain.

“I believe my experience with Taiwanese students will broaden my perspective on how students who come from cultural backgrounds, very different from my own, interpret and respond to literature,” Dr. Christensen said...

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PSYCHOLOGY

The SUU Psychology Department has started a new undergraduate journal. Psychology students can submit and publish their research papers.

AIIS CONFERENCE 2019



SUU graduate student, Erin Flores, presented at the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) 41st Annual Conference hosted by the University of Amsterdam.

The AIS conference is an annual event that allows for interdisciplinary students and professionals to network, share, and learn about the impact an interdisciplinary studies degree can have on the world as a whole. Flores, along with fellow Master of Interdisciplinary Studies student Ashley Tyler, presented research they had conducted on mosquitoes in Cedar Breaks National Monument.

[Read more...](#)

SUU WRITING CENTER

Last semester, 7 SUU Writing Center tutors presented at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW) 2019 in Columbus, OH.

There were also 28 writing tutors and fellows that made it on the Fall 2019 SUU Dean's List; 17 of them had majors or minors in HSS.

ARCHAEOLOGY REPOSITORY

Click [here](#) to learn more about the SUU Archaeological Repository.

Online Master of Interdisciplinary Studies Ranked 3rd in Nation

Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

SUU's online Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) degree is ranked 3rd nationally by Best College Reviews. The MIS degree launched in January 2018 and currently serves more than 40 students, with 15

possible programs of academic study. The degree can be completed entirely online, or via a hybrid format. According to Dr. Cynthia Kimball Davis, degree chair, “Our MIS degree is just a year and a half old, yet

this distinction is a testimony to the success of our program and the folks that have put countless research, time and energy into building it. Thus, this ranking does not surprise me.”

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Winter Break in Mexico City

HSS Department of Psychology

Twelve SUU students participated in a short-term study abroad to Mexico City.

Dr. Grant Corser, an SUU psychology professor the Associate Dean of HSS, along with psychology professors Dr. Steve Barney and Dr. Daniel Hatch lead a large group of SUU students on a short-term cultural immersion program to Mexico City, Mexico in mid-December.

“Our students were able to experience seasonal Christmas Markets, see seasonal decorations, and eat seasonal, traditional foods while learning about the rich cultural history of the Aztec, Mexica, and modern-day Mexican societies” commented Corser. During the first week of winter break SUU students learned while exploring places such as the National Museum of Anthropology, Chapultepec Park, the National Zoo, Chapultepec Castle, the Teotihuacan Pyramids, the Zocolo, Templo Mayor, Catedral Metropolitana, Xiohciimilco, the Frida Kahlo Museum and a Lucha Libre event.

Many faculty from HSS offer short term study abroad programs designed to be educational, fun, and an affordable way to experience a new culture and earn credits towards their major. Please considering offering a donation to support student participation in study abroad programs using this [link](#) and donating to “Other: Psychpology Department”.

TEDxSUU 2019

Speech and Presentation Center

TEDxSUU is a TEDx event that is organized and run primarily by SUU students.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event.

Speaker topics for this event included:

- ◇ The Eyes of Leadership: Elephants in the Forest, Eric Kirby
- ◇ The Empowering Future of Education, Cory Henwood
- ◇ The Importance of P@s\$w0rd Administration, John Lisonbee
- ◇ Developing an Intelligible Ear, Robb McCollum
- ◇ You May Rescue: Talking about Mental Illness, Tasha Seegmiller
- ◇ How to Establish a Professional Brand with Novice Experience on LinkedIn, Austin Henline
- ◇ Reduce Anxiety by Designing Each Moment, Geoffrey Lewis
- ◇ Finding Fulfillment in Failure, Ryan Bailey



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