

SUU SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Dean's Corner Message

Dean Jean Boreen

I am happy to be writing this to you on a beautiful day here in Cedar City. A warm spring day combined with the hustle and bustle of classes, students visiting campus to get their fall registration finished, and the general construction around us that is always a great sign of reinvigoration marks this lovely June day. Graduation was just a month ago and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences graduated a record number—892 to be exact—of students from our seven departments. I love graduation and it was so wonderful to be with our students as they prepare to go off onto the next leg of their life journeys.

This newsletter features some of the exciting events and people who make our college successful and who bring positive attention to what we do here on campus; our article on Dr. Laura Davis's class on Civil War naval warfare

allows you to view one of her lectures on CSPAN, a short piece fills you in on Dr. Dave Lunt's new book, and a third article focuses on the Tbird Film Festival. We would also like to share with you those wonderful faculty and staff who make HSS run so well by noting who received our 2021-22 Faculty and Staff Awards.

We also have an important article on the Civil Dialogue Workshop sponsored by our college and the Provost's Office. As we continue to see discord around us, it is important that we create opportunities for people to come together and actually discuss the differences we have towards certain issues. The Civil Dialogue Workshop did just that in early March, 2022, and the ideas shared by two of our panelists—Douglas Bennett and Sadie Sanchez—help to underscore why that event was such a success.

Our "Travels with HSS" program to Spain in October 2022 remains on track and we have planned a wonderful program that will offer friends of the college the chance to experience the culture of Spain from Barcelona to

Madrid. Spain 2022 travelers will enjoy exciting day trips to a mountain-top monastery and walled, medieval cities in experiences curated and led by SUU Professors Jason Stinnett (Spanish) and Grant Corser (Psychology). Please consider joining us; information about the trip is on our website.

We also like to share some of the great experiences our alumni are having out in the world. This is a regular focus of our newsletter and we are reaching out to alumni to share what they're doing. We are always looking for more of you to highlight, so please take this as my invitation to you to let us know where you're at, what you're doing, if you're willing to let us interview you about your SUU/HSS experience, and how it impacts what you're doing now.

As always, thank you for being a wonderful supporter of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and a proud T-Bird. We couldn't accomplish all we do without your help and encouragement.



SUU Civil Dialogue

A Discussion on Racial Theory

On March 9th the college hosted a Civil Dialogue Workshop. The goal of this event was to demonstrate effective communication during a discussion on a challenging topic: Critical Race Theory. We've interviewed two of the panelists, Professor Doug Bennett and alumni Sadie Sanchez, to get their thoughts on the event's turnout.

During an interview after the event, Prof. Bennett said that his aim was to bring factual information about CRT in order to inform participants on its beginnings, what it is, the authors that made it popular, and more. "Once we understand it, we can talk about it intelligently," he stated. He felt that the panelists were able to achieve a discussion that avoided attacks and inflammatory language, resulting in a more civil conversation. Overall, Professor Bennett's reflection on the event was positive. "We all had the same hesitation, but at the end

of the event, we were all glad we did it. I would like to see more."

Sadie voiced similar feedback on the event, sharing that she was pleasantly surprised and stating, "I felt like it was the perfect model of how discussions ought to be carried out." Sadie thought the event benefited everybody, panelists and audience alike. "It meant a lot to me, as an alumna, of SUU to see the faculty and staff making these discussions a priority. I think that it speaks a lot to the culture of the university... that they truly want to help their students progress."

Both Professor Bennett and Sadie wanted to include a special thank you to Dean Boreen for her work on the event. It turned out wonderfully and was a positive experience for both of them.

Interested in watching the event recording? [Click here.](#)



Sadie Sanchez

Meet Sadie Sanchez, the newest member of the HSS Advisory Board. Sadie is the creator of [Perspectuous](#), a nonprofit whose mission is to mend divisiveness by empowering individuals to share their truth. Use these links to listen to her [podcast](#) or view her [TEDxSUU](#) talk.

Sadie is from Las Vegas and graduated from SUU with a degree in political science. Her favorite thing about SUU is the people, and she stated that a deciding factor for her when choosing to attend SUU was that "people actually cared about what you were doing, and cared about helping you succeed." A fun fact about herself is that she has two cute dogs. Welcome to the Advisory Board, Sadie!



Dr. Davis Features on C-SPAN

Assistant history professor, Dr. Laura June Davis, had the opportunity to have her class on Civil War naval warfare recorded for CSPAN's American History TV's "Lectures in History" series. Dr. Davis, who stated she found the experience both fun and rewarding, reported, "I love teaching and talking about naval history so this opportunity allowed me to combine my two passions into one. I was a little nervous because I knew that the lecture would be recorded, I had a firm 50-minute timeline, and I wanted to represent SUU well," and that is exactly what she did. Not only was it a good experience for Dr. Davis and her students, but for viewers as well. Dr. Davis stated that she unexpectedly received phone calls and emails about her lecture from viewers.

If you have any interest in viewing her lecture, you can find it [here](#).

New Book Launch

Congratulations to Dr. Lunt, who had a signing event for his book, *The Crown Games of Ancient Greece*, on April 28th. When asked about his experience, Dr. Lunt said, "I was honored and humbled by the large turnout of students, faculty, staff, colleagues, friends, and family. I am very grateful to my department for putting it together, and for the folks in the library who made sure we were comfortable."



Thunderbird Film Festival

"Wonderstone" is a seven-minute short "mockumentary" film about a Kanab, Utah business that creates artwork and home décor from natural solid sandstone. In the process of cutting a solid sandstone slab, workers find what appears to be a petrified cell phone. The film documents the process of explaining the origins of the mysterious modern object embedded in 200-million year-old rock and the commotion it creates in town.

The film was produced by the COMM 4760 Advanced Production class taught by Dr. Jon Smith during spring of 2022. The film was directed by Carson Blickenstaff with other class members working as assistant directors, camera operators, audio, lighting, props, location scouts and other roles.

The film screened at the SUU Festival of Excellence in April and was a selection for the 2022 Thunderbird Film Festival. It was also a selection for the Desertscape International Film Festival in St. George, Utah that screened in June 2022

Students learned valuable, real-world experience of editing a film script, to production, to post-production, to screening in film festivals.

Interested in watching the film? [Click here](#).

2022 Faculty/Staff & Student Awards



Outstanding Scholarship

Dr. Julie McCown, Engl.



Outstanding Scholarship

Dr. Joel Vallett, PSCJ



Innovative Pedagogy

Prof. Ryan Paul, HSA



Innovative Pedagogy

Dr. Lynn White, Psych.



Collaborative Excellence

Dr. Emily Dean, HSA



Collaborative Excellence

Dr. Garrett Strosser, Psych.



Early Career

Dr. Nicole Dib, Engl.



Early Career

Dr. Crystal Koenig, MIS



Outstanding Staff

Deena Marchal, HSS



2022 HSS Valedictorian

Shayla Howe

Originally from Manti, Utah, Shayla is the College of Humanities and Social Sciences 2021-2022 Valedictorian. Shayla will be graduating with a degree in Psychology. Her favorite part of her SUU experience was the education, and information she learned. She loved her professors and could tell that each of them cared about their students' success and were willing to help. Shayla is due to give birth to her second daughter only a few days after graduation. She will stay at home to raise her children for a while and will then return to graduate school with the intention to pursue a degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Congratulations Shayla!

Outstanding Student Awards

Outstanding MaPC Student
Esther Chang

MIS Outstanding Student
Jennifer Franz

MPA Outstanding Student
Lacy Richards

Communication Outstanding Student
Summer Frandsen

Outstanding Student in Media Studies
McKayla Olsen

Outstanding Student in Strategic Communication
Sidney Burrell

Outstanding Student in Communication Studies
Teagan Balls

Top English Student
Elliani Bailey

Top Rhetoric and Writing Student
Angela Hammon

Top Literature Student
Kyler Alm

Top English Education Student
Savannah Byers

Top Creative Writing Student
Sydney Beal

Outstanding Film and Screen Studies Student
Tanner Hallam

Outstanding Technical Writing Student
Taylor Huxley

History, Sociology, & Anthropology Outstanding Student
Luke Boardman

History Ed. Outstanding Student
Jake Crossley

Sociology Outstanding Student
Reagan Hunt

History Outstanding Student
Sierra Law

Social Science Composite Outstanding Student
Tyler Skidmore

Anthropology Outstanding Student
Violet Miller

Interdisciplinary Studies Outstanding Student
Emeline Mortezaadeh

Language and Philosophy Outstanding Student
Colby Meline

Outstanding German Student
Cam Davis

Outstanding French Student
Heather Burr

Philosophy Outstanding Student
Kimberly Knowlton

Outstanding Spanish Student
Valerie Willener

PSCJ Outstanding Student
Lacey Jackson

Political Science Outstanding Student
Alexis Nicole Hamel

PLGL Outstanding Student
Haylie Bradley

Criminal Justice Outstanding Student
Teresa Snarr

Psychology Outstanding Student
Jamie Keller

Psychology Outstanding Scholar
Lindsey Ostermiller

Psychology Student Contributor
Mallory Harris

Applied Psychology Outstanding Student
Sunny Smith

Certificate of Human Values Outstanding Student
Laurel Buxton

SUU On the Go

Experience the Culture of Spain from Barcelona to Madrid

Explore the cultural wonders of Barcelona and Madrid with exciting day trips to a mountain top monastery and walled, medieval cities led by Southern Utah University Professors Jason Stinnett (Spanish), Grant Corser (Psychology) and Jean Boreen, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Throughout this eight-day program, you will be guided by experts in Spanish history and literature, and psychological meaning to some of the most spectacular locations in Spain.

Arriving in the vibrant city of Barcelona, you'll experience the architectural feats of Antonio Gaudi and explore areas like the Gothic district and the famous Las Ramblas. En route to Madrid, by rail, we will have an overnight stay in Zaragoza and see Spanish Inquisition sites, remnants of the ancient Roman Empire, and the famous pilgrimage site (El Pilar) on the Ebro River.



In Madrid, be guided through the world-renowned Prado Museum, Plaza Mayor, and a host of other culturally significant areas. Leaving Madrid, we will adventure to Segovia's ancient aqueduct, Gothic Cathedral, and former Royal Palace before going to medieval Toledo. Our program will conclude with a lively flamenco tablao and dinner.

Interested in traveling with us? [More information here.](#)

Giving

[Please consider a gift to the HSS Dean's Fund for Excellence.](#)

Gifts to the Dean's Excellence Fund immediately enhance the educational experience for our students by strengthening the College of Humanities and Social Science's programs, faculty, and facilities. These gifts are among the most important and valuable forms of support to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences because they can be accessed quickly and used where the need is greatest. Gifts to the Dean's Excellence Fund provide some of the following:

- Competitive scholarships for promising undergraduate and graduate students
- Support for the Dean's strategic initiatives
- Student study abroad and internship opportunities

Last year, 42 scholarships provided over \$60,000 in scholarship support to HSS students.

