

SUU SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Dean's Corner Message

Dean Jean Boreen

Greetings from the Braithwaite Building at SUU. I am writing this to you on a rainy day here on campus. No complaints though—we certainly need the moisture. It's quiet today, but faculty are back on contract this week and students will be joining us next week, and I can't wait. Summer is always lovely, but it is fantastic to feel the energy that our wonderful students will bring back with them to campus.

This newsletter focuses on students and one of the most exciting opportunities for many of them to learn about the world—our study abroad programming. We are featuring faculty and students who were on study abroad programs this summer and what they gained from the experience. I suspect that for many of you reading these articles, you will be reminded of your own experiences as you traveled through Europe, Asia, South America, Australia or Africa.

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Meet Emily Waite

HSS Student Senator

Emily Waite is a Junior from Payson, Utah and came to Southern Utah University because of her appreciation for the small town and welcoming environment of Cedar City. With her studies in Anthropology and Criminal Justice, she is working towards a career in Forensic Anthropology. She caught the travel bug early this summer, having the opportunity to join the Theater Study Abroad to London. If she had all the time in the world, she would spend it traveling, going to museums, and enjoying gelato. She is so excited for the opportunity to be the Senator for

the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, having previous experience advocating for students before as an involvement captain. She knows what it is like to feel overwhelmed as a college freshman, and hopes that her work as a senator will be able to assist incoming and present HSS students. Emily will do this through helping build communication between departments within HSS, and increasing social media presence. In addition, she will ensure that on-campus relationships are prioritized as student needs require. We look forward to having Emily Waite as our Humanities and Social Science Senator!



Jackie Hammack's Study Abroad Experience

Global Justice in Italy and Psychology in Spain | May 2022

One of our HSS students who studied abroad was Jackie Hammack. Not only did she participate in the Global Justice program in Italy during the first part of May, but later that month, she got to go study Psychology in Spain. When reflecting on her experience, Jackie stated that the experiences of these programs allowed her to look at the topics she studied from a completely new perspective. The component of cultural differences gave her a new way to think about the concepts and how to make new connections. One of Hammack's favorite experiences during her travels was in Montserrat, Spain, a mountain range and small community in the Catalonia region of Spain. While there, Jackie's group went on a hike that led to an outcrop overlooking a valley. "I was awestruck by the beauty of the land and felt completely free. We could see the whole world from up there. It was one of the many moments of the trip that I felt so blessed to have had the opportunity to experience another country like that."

Since being back, she has viewed daily life in a different light as she now has a higher appreciation for cultural differences between home and places 5,000 miles away. If someone is considering a study abroad program, Jackie's advice was to go for it. Though the common obstacle of studying abroad is often the cost of the programs, she says that the experiences and memories that one would gain on a study abroad are well worth it, especially considering that students can get up to six credits for a short-term trip. When asked how this experience was different than what she expected, Hammock said, "I guess going into these programs I had the impression that they would feel more like a vacation than they did. Instead, it was amazing to see how much I learned from these two trips and how applicable the information was to my majors and daily life. It is a unique academic experience that simply can't be replicated on campus" (programs led by HSS faculty members Dan Swanson and Jeanne Subjack, and Grant Corser, Daniel Hatch, and Steve Barney).



Study Abroad Group in Paris

Aspen Bentley

London and Paris Grace A.
Tanner Center Trip | May 2022

Studying abroad can be the perfect way to travel for the first time if you're concerned about going alone or without an experienced guide. For Aspen Bentley, a student who attended the "Following Grace" trip to London and Paris with the Tanner Center at the beginning of May 2022, this trip was exactly that. On her first trip out of the United States, Aspen wasn't totally sure what to expect. Thanks to the detailed planning by those leading the trip, it was a wonderful and smooth-as-possible experience. She stated, "I'd recommend studying abroad to anybody nervous to travel on their own. The itinerary on our trip was beautifully planned and had a great mix of activities and time to enjoy the cities we visited."

One of the most impactful moments for Aspen was getting the chance to view the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet, particularly influential artists for her. "To see things in person that I would normally see on a PowerPoint slide in class really shifted my perspective," she reflected. These experiences are ones she knows she will look back on for the rest of her life, especially in her career. Aspen also added that not only was it life-changing to see the things she saw and learn the things she learned, but she also left the trip with several new friendships that she still has today, and hopes to keep those connections for the foreseeable future (program led by HSS faculty members Grant Corser, Jean Boreen, and Danielle Dubrasky).

David Baxley

UK English Study Abroad | Summer 2012

Studying abroad has impacted HSS students for many years. In May of 2012, English major, David Baxley, had the opportunity to study abroad in London and Edinburgh for two and a half weeks. A few experiences stood out to Baxley; one being the impromptu open mic nights that would be held in the evenings. During these events, students all around the globe would share their work. Being his first time away from home, David noted that he was also able to grow as a person. All the little things such as navigation, laundry, and operating different life skills in another country allowed for personal development. When reflecting upon how this experience has

influenced his daily life he stated, "In all of the good and sad ways... I never thought that I would see anything outside of my regular life. Travel was for the rich and studying abroad made it very affordable. I became a little bit of that area and it felt like I left a little bit of myself there." Even though he was nervous, and had never been on an airplane before, let alone left the country, his fears of the study abroad ended up being 'shattered' once he got there. He realized that it was simply another place on a map, with people much like himself. If a student is considering whether or not to go on study abroad, David's advice was to "go go go go, absolutely go" (program led by HSS English faculty member Kyle Bishop).

Sierra Arroyo



Sierra Arroyo's Experience

"Following Grace" in London & Paris | May 2022

Another HSS student that was able to study abroad this year was Sierra Arroyo. She participated in the "Following Grace" program in London and Paris, which lasted ten days early in May. The students on this study abroad studied the pillars of meaning, and what gives life value: purpose, belonging, storytelling, and transcendence. To learn these concepts in a classroom setting is one thing, but to be in spectacular places and have amazing experiences helped Sierra understand these pillars in a more significant way. While she appreciated the organized activities, going to museums, seeing the sights, and trying new foods, one particular experience stood out. Sierra particularly enjoyed reading at the Luxembourg gardens in Paris. "The weather was perfect, and there were families and children enjoying the park. Three of us just got books from Shakespeare and Company and were reading it during our limited freetime in our busy schedule. It was also pleasant to have a genuine conversation with a Parisian local regarding our books." The memories made during this trip will stay with her for life. One important lesson that she gained from this experience is that often, things do not go according to plan, especially when traveling, but having a positive perspective can make all the difference. Sierra had never been to any of these places before and had formed her expectations on what she heard from online or from friends, which lead her to anticipate a worst case scenario. Instead, she enjoyed a wonderful journey with new friends and had a great time. "If you have an opportunity to study abroad, then you should absolutely jump on it. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and will help expand your comfort zone like no other, in a completely good way" (program led by HSS faculty members Grant Corser, Jean Boreen, and Danielle Dubrasky).

Studying WWII in Europe

Taylee Dunlap's Study Abroad Experience

For most, studying abroad is just as impactful after you come home as it was while you were on the trip. For Taylee Dunlap, a History Education student who attended the Advancement of Aviation and WWII in England, the Netherlands, and France study abroad in the summer of 2021, her worldview upon coming home had shifted. A common theme that Taylee found in her travels was that the world, especially history, is not black and white. She learned that there were so many shades of gray on both sides of a conflict.

While in France, Taylee was able to visit Angoville-au-Plain Church. A church that had been turned into a hospital by 2 American medics during WWII. They treated soldiers from all countries, with the rule that weapons had to be left at the door. Being there made history become so real. This was one of the many experiences she had that really impacted her perspective.

When asked what she would say to students on the fence about studying abroad, without hesitation she said, "Do it! Try it at least once." Taylee reflected on her own experience saying that it was different from what she expected in all the right ways and that she gained new life philosophies. She made friendships and felt emotions that she wasn't expecting to feel. Studying abroad is about traveling, yes, but about so many other things as well (program led by HSS History faculty member Ryan Paul).



Angoville-Au-Plain Church

Dr. Kyle Bishop

Leading a Study Abroad

SUU English Department Chair, Dr. Kyle Bishop, has had the opportunity to lead many HSS study abroad experiences. The most recent trip he led was Gothic in the United Kingdom. When asked how leading the study abroad program had impacted his life, he stated that the most rewarding consequence was the students' experience. While he personally benefited from traveling and learning new things, the real impact had come from the transformations that his students went through. "Most have never been out of the US before, and seeing them awoken to the possibilities of the international community is extremely rewarding". Some of the many benefits Dr. Bishop witnessed of taking students to study abroad were watching them be able to make connections between literature and films and the real world, and learning about the texts in terms of not just space, but a place. "Most importantly," Bishop says, "is that the students develop a



Dr. Bishop's Gothic Literature Study Abroad Group

love of traveling, and gain the skills that will allow them to travel on their own. It may be a bit silly, but I always enjoy it when students in my Harry Potter class discover, purchase, and consume foods mentioned in the series of books, especially the ice creams. They get so excited!"

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.

