

Dean's Message

It's a pleasure to welcome everyone back for the fall semester, and to serve the college community as its new Dean. I am a cultural anthropologist who has worked for the past 20+ years on problems surrounding the politics and economics of inequality in West and Central Mexico. I come to SUU by way of the University of Texas at San Antonio, where I served in a variety of capacities over the past twelve years, including Chair of Anthropology, Senior Associate Dean in the College of Sciences, and Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Support. Prior to that, I was on faculty for three years at the University of Michigan-Flint.

I was attracted to SUU by its strong commitment to undergraduate education, in which the liberal arts are central. I am also energized by HSS's new graduate programs and look forward to working with them as they grow and develop. SUU's goal of providing a private educational experience at public prices, coupled with becoming the premier liberal arts university in the intermountain



West, proved to be a strong attractor. The institution's core values (academic excellence, social responsibility, and engaged personal growth), along with the themes of leadership, diversity/cultural awareness, mentoring that emerge in the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan together resonated strongly with my own values and institution building interests.

Key among those initiatives will be working on the college's vision and identity. We would probably all agree that a liberal arts education includes holistic knowledge, critical thinking and analytical skills, great written and verbal communication skills, and a strong sense of global citizenship. HSS's diverse disciplines each contribute key intellectual pieces that together shape our next generation of everyday leaders. In sum, Everyday Leadership is embedded in a liberal arts education, which is a hallmark signature of the college's collective educational effort.

I look forward to a great year (and many more to come) as we together steward the college toward the common good. James McDonald, HSS Dean

Accolades

Study Abroad Programs Summer 2008

- English Literature, London
- French in Paris, Nice
- German in Vienna, Salzburg

Also . . .

- \$65,000 Grant
- Speech Writing Certificate
- Speech Writing Lab
- Hispanic Center

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New Faculty

Please join the Dean's Office in welcoming our new HSS faculty for 2008-09. They are:

- ◆ **Jezreel Kang-Graham** (Communication), assistant professor of communication
- ◆ **Irei Nozomi** (English)
- ◆ **Rosa Perez Alvarez** (Foreign Languages and Humanities), assistant professor of French
- ◆ **James Gustafson** (Foreign Languages and Humanities), assistant professor of Spanish
- ◆ **Rachel Kirk** (Foreign Languages and Humanities) assistant professor of Spanish
- ◆ **Kholoud Al-Qubbaj** (History and Sociology) assistant professor of humanities
- ◆ **Randle Hart** (History and Sociology), visiting assistant professor of sociology
- ◆ **David Admire** (Political Science and Criminal Justice), assistant professor of criminal justice
- ◆ **Randy Allen** (Political Science and Criminal Justice), assistant professor of political science
- ◆ **Luke Perry** (Political Science and Criminal Justice), assistant professor of political science
- ◆ **David Shwalb** (Psychology), associate professor of psychology
- ◆ **Carly Wilson**, HSS academic adviser

Also, we wish to recognize new leadership in the college for the coming year:

- ◆ **Steve Barney**, department chair, Psychology
- ◆ **Kurt Harris**, department chair, English
- ◆ **James McDonald**, dean, HSS

HSS Kudos

Britt Mace, an associate professor of psychology, has received a grant for his work on Soundscapes in the national parks, and he is getting big-time national press.

The following links lead to articles in *Newsweek* and *USA Today*, where he was interviewed:



Mace

◆ www.newsweek.com/id/144838/page/1

◆ www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-07-07-700125194_x.htm



SUU Honors Director Matt Nickerson and English Professor **Todd Petersen**, along with Cedar Breaks Superintendent Paul Roelandt, were awarded a \$63,750 Centennial Initiatives grant from the National Parks Service.



Petersen

SUU President **Michael T. Benson** said he supports faculty's efforts to reach out beyond the campus to the community.

"Beyond the obvious benefit this funding will have amongst students and the Parks, this program is also

a great example of creative faculty members at SUU looking to partner with local entities, like Cedar Breaks, to benefit students in a meaningful and powerful way," Benson said.



SUU received the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents to open a **Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence** on campus.

The Center has several goals, which include building relationships with local Hispanics, the recruitment and retention of Hispanic students at SUU, and efforts to contribute locally and regionally to the closing of achievement gaps for Hispanic students in K-12.

Student Successes, Everyday Leaders

Adam Bair (M.A., Communication, 2009) is on the faculty at BYU Idaho.

Scott Church (M.A., Communication, 2008) has been accepted to the doctoral program at the University of Nebraska.

Sherry Nay Simkins (Communication, 2006, and M.A., Communication, 2007) is an instructor at North Idaho College.

Ben Wyeth (M.A., Communication, 2008) is on the faculty at BYU Idaho.

Brandon Schrand (English, 1998) won the 2007 River Teeth Award for best book of literary non-fiction for *The Enders Hotel*. The book is scheduled for publication by the University of Nebraska Press.

Liz Beacham (English, 2006) is enrolled in a graduate program for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at San Jose State University.

Claudia Hensel (English, 2003) is enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Brianne Millett (English, 2005) is an editorial assistant in economics and finance at Cambridge University Press.

Thomas Burr (Communication, 2002) is the senior Washington D.C. correspondent for *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

Val White (Communication, 2007) is a copy editor at *The Spectrum & Daily News*.

Darren Vaughan (Communication, 2007) is the assistant sports editor at the *Daily Times* in Farmington, N.M.

Ashley Langston (Communication, 2007) is the editor of the *Cedar City Review*.

Russell Wilde (Communication, 2009) is a reporter and associate news producer at News 8 Austin in Austin, Texas.

Pete Chidester (English, 1997) is enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of Connecticut.

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Travis Lovell (Political Science, 2004) is in graduate school at New York University.

Lyle Goulding (Communication, 2003) is the sports editor of the *Ketchikan Daily News* in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Julie Marchant (Political Science, 2007) is currently serving an internship in the Office of the Vice President of the United States in Washington D.C.

James Thorne (Political Science, 2008) is currently serving an internship in public relations at the State Department in Washington D.C.

Katie Rossman (Sociology, 2004) recently completed basic training and is now a police officer with the Reno Police Department.

Megan Hutchins (Criminal Justice, 2006) is a probation & parole officer in Salt Lake City.

Shawn Ledingham (Political Science, 2007) participated in the inaugural Model Congress in Washington D.C. Only one student from each congressional district was chosen. He is pursuing a master's degree at New York University.

Jodi Jex (Political Science, 2008) works in the administrator's office for the Utah State Court system as an assistant administrator. She was also a finalist for a fellowship in the governor's office in Illinois.



The 7th annual **HSS Academic Journal** was published in May 2008 with 20 of the top papers from SUU students. This year represents the first-ever hardbound edition. Students whose papers were published were honored at the HSS Academic Awards ceremony on May 1 and were given a free copy of the academic journal. PDF versions may be downloaded at this URL:

www.lulu.com/content/2347665

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