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National Geographic Exhibit Set Record Breaking Attendance

(Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah) The *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits* exhibit set record-breaking attendance for the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery.

During the seven weeks that *In Focus* was open, 7,032 guests visited this exhibit. Gallery Director, Reece Summers projects that because of the *In Focus* exhibit, the 2008-2009 season will be the best attended. Student attendance in one month for *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits* surpassed the total student attendance for any of last year's exhibits.

The educational programs that surrounded the exhibit attracted over 2,000 children from kindergarten to 6th grade. School groups were welcome to explore and discuss the various emotions of the *In Focus* exhibit. Young school children learned how a camera works, the history of the camera and how to capture different societies through photographs.

In Focus: National Geographic's Greatest Portraits closed November 1, 2008. The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery just opened their next exhibit, *Fiona Phillips: A Passage: New Paintings and Photography*, on November 6, 2008. Fiona Phillips is a local Cedar City artist and adjunct professor at Southern Utah University. Fiona uses her painting and photography as a link to the past. She links the relationship of these images to the present.

The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 7:00 p.m., and is located on the ground floor of the Braithwaite Liberal Arts Center building on the east end of the SUU campus. Admission is free. For more information, contact the Gallery at 435-586-5432 or visit our website www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery.

The Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is supported in part by the Friends of the Braithwaite Gallery, The Utah Arts Council, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

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About the college:

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The college's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespearean Festival, and the performance group Acclamation and the Ballroom Dance Company. Over 550 students are majoring in 16 different degree areas in the arts. Both liberal arts B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered as well four professional degrees: Bachelor of Music (B.M.); B.F.A. in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Arts Education; and the B.F.A. in Theatre. The College's Art and Design, Music and Dance programs are nationally accredited. More than 60 full and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring students in their pursuit of a degree in the arts. The college regular enrolls 1100 students each semester over 195 classes on the SUU campus. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts contact Office of the Dean 435-865-8561 or by e-mail at byrnes@suu.edu.