

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Annual Report 2017-18

Submitted: September 15, 2018

Major Objectives & Progress Report

The mission statement for the College of Humanities and Social Science (HSS) at Southern Utah University states that it seeks to create everyday leaders and lifelong learners by emphasizing superior teaching, experiential learning, and educational activities that encourage critical thinking and creativity. Toward this end, the six departments within HSS strive to maintain exceptional quality while meeting the demand for growth in our academic programs. Through high impact practices such as study abroad and internships as well as professional training experiences like working as peer tutors or student teaching in 7-12 classrooms, HSS students have a host of opportunities to find and follow the passion that will allow them to excel in their chosen professions.



Communication

The mission of the Department of Communication is to provide opportunities for its students to apply the principles and theories of mass media and human communication in situations that simulate the professional world. Undergraduate students choose between Communication Studies, Media

Studies, and Strategic Communication as their emphasis area.

The Department of Communication also offers a Master of Professional Communication (MAPC) degree, which is designed to focus on advanced applied research skills required for effectiveness in the communication industry. MAPC graduates are working as teachers in community colleges, college recruiters, television studios, marketing directors, newspapers, and event planning. Others have entered Ph.D. programs at prestigious universities.

English

The English Department currently houses four different program tracks, one minor, one certificate, the University Composition Program and the University Writing Center. The Department is also heavily invested in General Education (GE) offerings,



including two Core courses, three GE Humanities courses, and one GE Fine Arts class. In addition, the English Department contributes to three important university-wide programs that support university recruitment and retention efforts: the Venture Program, the Jumpstart Program, and the Semester in the Parks Program. All of these programs represent English's long-term commitment to GE programs, particularly when they involve innovative learning and high impact practices.

History, Sociology, & Anthropology

The Department of History, Sociology, and Anthropology provides a curriculum that educates students about the history of past peoples and the role of social organization on human interaction. Its faculty equip students with analytical and communicative skills that enable them to investigate past and present human cultures and societies and to communicate their findings logically, scientifically and effectively. The Department offers major and minor



programs for the disciplines of History, History Education, Sociology, and Anthropology. It also supports a Social Science Composite Degree for secondary teaching certification and is the administrative home for the minors in Ethnic Studies, Sustainability Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

Languages & Philosophy

The Department of Languages & Philosophy faculty dedicate ourselves to fostering students' progress in four skill areas — reading, writing, speaking, listening — and developing cultural awareness as they cultivate productive community connections in and outside the classroom. We prepare students for lifelong enrichment, graduate studies, and entrance into the global workforce.

Diversity/Global learning is deeply embedded in all departmental languages course, German, French and Spanish, at every level. Students engage in undergraduate research and collaborative projects, such as volunteering in the local dual immersion school.

Philosophy students are engaged in writing intensive courses and undergraduate research, as they actively participate in conferences, film festivals, and symposia throughout the state and beyond.



Political Science & Criminal Justice



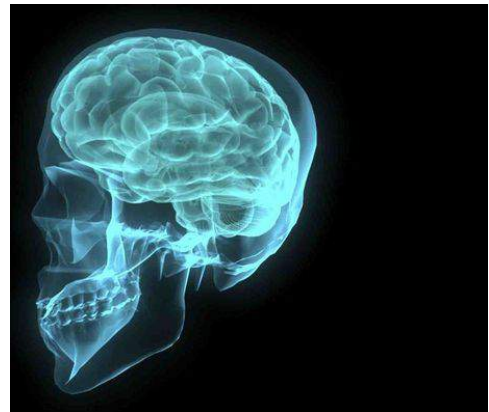
The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice has strengthened our faculty with new talent, broadening and diversifying curricula in all Departmental programs, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and bringing diverse and accomplished guests to the classroom to meet and challenge students.

The mission of the Master of Public Administration Program, which includes high-performing undergraduate Bridge students is to maintain a high quality of instruction and engaged learning. The program is primarily on-line and serves a wide constituency.

The Legal Studies program was restructured and now offers an AA/AS degree option as well as a minor in Legal Studies. The Department also works closely with the Michael O. Leavitt Center for Politics & Public Service to identify and encourage students to serve internships at the local, state and federal levels. Likewise, we collaborate with Utah's Fifth District Court and Cedar City Police Department to maximize experiential learning opportunities for our students.

Psychology

The mission of the psychology department is to support the University and the larger community. It does so by providing a diverse, dynamic, and personalized learning environment and experiences that inspire student achievement, foster academic excellence, instill ethics and values, promote service, and facilitate lifelong learning. Psychology students will develop the knowledge, understanding, appreciation, discipline, and skill that will enable them to function personally and professionally as informed and socially responsible citizens. These are achieved through lectures, readings, research, laboratory experiences, writing assignments, discussions, service, and other personal and professional academic and scholarly activities.



Unit Effectiveness Plans Summary

In an effort to tie resources back to strategic outcomes, the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness has implemented annual Unit Effectiveness Plans (UEP) across the University. These UEPs will be a critical element of assessment by the Planning and Budget Office in making budget recommendations. The following section features highlights of UEP assessments for each HSS department.

Communication

The Communication faculty devoted itself to a number of efforts during AY 18, most notably working on new certificates and badges related to social media and event planning. In addition, the department has been working to streamline curriculum and look for ways to offer the broadest range of courses for on-campus as well as online students. The department continues to work with Wuhan Polytechnic University and the 2+2 program and have hired a full-time instructor to support those effort. The department has also created a virtual reality lab and is working with other departments in the college on a number of interesting projects. The department also continues to provide excellent internship opportunities through the radio station and online publications.

English

English recently implemented a new specialization in Writing and Rhetoric for English majors, which will provide students pursuing graduate admission into Rhetoric and Composition programs with the preparation they need to be more competitive. This program will also provide more professional training to our students, increasing their chances for employment in writing fields.

The Writing Program, which includes English GE Core courses offerings, makes notable contributions to SUU's mission and themes, especially with course cohorting and participation in the Jumpstart program, all of which promote High Impact Practices such as learning communities, collaborative projects, and interdisciplinary learning. The Writing Fellows Program helps SUU faculty introduce intensive writing practices into their courses. The program provides training for faculty and trains student fellows who work directly with those faculty and their students. Last year, this program served nearly 10% of the SUU student population at SUU. Faculty and students benefited from this program in Biology, History, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Nursing, Engineering, Geology, Accounting, and Human Resources.

History, Sociology, & Anthropology

This past year, HSA streamlined and revamped their Sociology, Social Science Composite, and Sustainability Studies degrees. New courses were added in Anthropology, History, and Sociology. HSA also began conversations with the College of Education, Concurrent Enrollment, and Student Advising about how the department can better meet student needs at the high school level and work

together more effectively.

Languages & Philosophy

Efforts in the Department of Languages and Philosophy include consistently working to offer interesting and engaging courses, continually refining curriculum, augmenting our course offerings with study abroad opportunities, and offering film festivals and other extracurricular activities such as conversation tables to enhance the learning environment. Efforts in Philosophy include maintaining a high level of rigor and excellent teaching and providing a rich learning environment enhanced by special talks and an active PHIL club, as well as professional experiences such as the Undergrad Symposium.

Further, Languages and Philosophy work to offer a rotation of courses that prevents bottlenecks. A number of pre-reqs have been eliminated to support this effort. Faculty also revised the Spanish and French majors and minors and the German minor to count the second year towards these degrees, which is a positive step.

Political Science & Criminal Justice

Overall enrollment has been growing in all areas of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. The departmental plan to increase or retain favorable numbers is focused on three components: recruitment, support of current students, and curriculum.

The department inaugurated a fundamental restructuring of the Legal Studies program this academic year. The alterations included adding an AA/AS degree options in Legal Studies and a minor in Legal Studies for students interested in learning more about the law and/or entering the legal profession. The changes were designed to broaden the scope, appeal, and applicability of the program beyond the narrow paralegal lane without adding additional student credit hours or time toward graduation. A new, highly motivated and qualified Legal Studies Coordinator was hired to implement the new program.

Psychology

The SUU Psychology Department had 300 unduplicated headcount majors enrolled at SUU. In the past decade, psychology has seen a 32% increase in students and accounts for 21% of the total College of Humanity and Social Science students. Consequently, the Psychology Department needs additional lines to maintain the

excellence of its programming (the use of High Impact Practices, enrollment growth, and improvements in retention within our major). The Department also continues to consider how it can respond to the mental health crisis in the state,

Faculty Development Recap

HSS faculty are committed to being excellent educators. During the 2017-18 academic year, our faculty completed numerous professional development activities. Some examples in this area include:

- Participating in Semester in the Parks
- Participating in Jumpstart
- Coordinating concurrent enrollment courses for the local high schools
- Attending numerous Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL) and Care & Support Team (CAST) workshops
- Becoming Allies on campus
- Leading study and service trips domestically and abroad.
- Conducting research sabbaticals
- Preparing students for the Festival of Excellence

Recognitions & Accomplishments

HSS faculty, staff, and students have received numerous awards and recognitions during the previous academic year.

- Lisa Arter was commended for Outstanding Leadership and Student Mentoring by the Kappa Delta Pi, International Honors Society for Educators. In addition, along with Betty Ann Rember, COEHD, she re-installed Phi Delta chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honors Society for Educators. Phi Delta is the only KDP chapter in Utah.
- Lisa Arter aided in establishing WriteOut: A Writing Camp for Teens that included an Author Night with Q&A, book sale, and signing for participants and community members.
- Kris Philips led a "Master Class" at NYU sponsored by the journal of the history of philosophy and was invited to be part of a workshop on expanding the canon in medieval and modern philosophy in Gais, Italy.
- Kris Philips also founded a chapter of the international philosophy honors society, Phi Sigma Tau, and inducted 8 students into the organization.
- Jen Burt's COMM 4950 class served as consultants to Student Involvement & Leadership in a rebranding campaign that overhauled the student-run organization to increase student engagement for the 2018-19 school year.

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- Lance Jackson was a guest presenter at the Kanab Writer's Conference last October (Oct . 20-21, 2017). The title of the presentation was "Telling a Story with Photos."
 - Gavin Feller was nominated for SUU Professor of the Year; he was also awarded a Curriculum Innovation Grant.
 - Carlos Bertoglio started the first Spanish literary club at SUU (Cazapalabras)
 - Kevan Jacobson received the HSS Collaborative Excellence Award.
 - Michelle Grimes received the Early Career Award from HSS
 - Britt Mace served as Interim Dean for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - Junice Acosta organized a multidisciplinary celebration of the Day of the Dead in conjunction with colleagues from the library.
(<https://www.suu.edu/academics/provost/pdf/newsletters/summit-v7-2.pdf>)

Student & Alumni Spotlights:

- Two philosophy students have been accepted to Berkeley Law and Colorado Law for Fall 2018
- A Philosophy student attended the prestigious UC San Diego Summer Program for Women in Philosophy
- A Philosophy student presented at the SUNY Oneonta undergraduate philosophy conference
- Eight Spanish students presented two panels on colonial literature in Latin America for the Festival of Excellence; two of the students submitted their papers to the HSS Journal and their work was accepted for publication.
- Brookayla Nelson, a Spanish major, was awarded a \$2500 study abroad Sigma Delta Pi scholarship; this is a national and competitive undergraduate scholarship and only twelve students are awarded the \$2500 stipend.
- MA program alum Shawn Doomgaard was accepted into a PhD program in Communication at Washington State Univ.; Helena Looser is an account manager at Pinterest; Sierra Bonner is the social media manager for Layton Construction.
- Psychology students were accepted into MA or Ed.S programs around the country: Giovanna Del Sordo at New Mexico State University, David Longhurst and Megan Golson at the Utah State University, and Dyllen Cafferty at SUU.
- 24 Psychology undergraduates presented at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Regional Conference
- 4 Psychology undergraduates participated in two poster collaborations for the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy National Conference.

Faculty & Staff Spotlights:

- Jim Aton was named Spring 2019 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.
- Many of our faculty received SUU Influencer certificates, and the list of top ten Influencers in the University was heavily weighted toward HSS.
- Kelly Ferguson gave a reading at the Cleveland Heights Public Library and was a visiting writer at Brigham Young University.
- Jason Smith, Rosa Perez, Elise Leahy, and Corey Twitchell organized the International Film Festival. As part of this collaboration, I selected films and presenters for the Spanish section, discussed themes and project details with the committee, and assisted with publicity on/off campus, radio, and in social media. The film archive can be accessed [here](#). A copy of the SUU A.P.E.X. radio show in which Elise Leahy and Jason Smith discuss the film festival can be accessed [here](#).
- Lijie Zhou worked with the Communications department and the College to build the visual reality lab (eye-tracking lab).
- Garrett Strosser served as IRB chair for SUU
- Grant Corser served as the SUU University Research Integrity Office.
- Steve Barney co-authored the revised Promotion & Tenure Policy for SUU
- Michael Stathis is a regular guest on SITREP for the British Forces Broadcasting System

Scholarly/Creative Activities Highlights

Faculty within HSS contribute to the literature in their fields through peer-reviewed publications and other scholarly activities. In addition, our faculty serve on editorial boards for academic journals and participate in research endeavors with students. Highlights of articles, books, and other publications from 2017-18 include:

Publications include:

- Jim Aton published "The Crimson Cowboys: The Remarkable Odyssey of the 1931 Claflin-Emerson Expedition" (with Jerry D. Spangler) in the *Utah Historical Quarterly*. This article was drawn from a book by the same title which will appear from the University of Utah Press in 2018.
- John Belk published "Horace's Odes as the 'Hidden Rhetoric' of the Principate, 27 BCE to 14 CE" in *Rhetoric Review*.

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- John Belk published the following poetry in a variety of journals: "On meeting a former lover for pie in southern Louisiana" in *Pivot*, "Pick-up" in *Habitat*, "Floodplain," "Baptism," and "Fishing" in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* and "Figgery" in *Wraparound South*.
 - Kyle Bishop wrote the foreword to the anthology *Romancing the Zombie: Essays on the Undead as Significant "Other."*
 - Danielle Dubrasky published two poems "Vespers" and "At the Petroglyphs" with *Sugarhouse Review* and an editorial essay: "Letter to America" for Terrain.org
 - Kelly Ferguson published "On Breaking Up with the Dream of Your Former Self: Megan Daum's 'My Misspent Youth'," in the *New Ohio Review* and "Reading Short, Writing Short: Teaching Brevity," in *Brevity*.
 - Julie McCown published a chapter called "Dissolving into Visibility: Early American Natural History and the Corporeality of Interspecies Encounters" in *Exploring Animal Encounters: Philosophical, Historical, and Cultural Perspectives* and an article called "Bodily Eyes: Vision and Perception in the Works of Jupiter Hammon" in *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Article, Notes, and Reviews*.
 - Kris Philips published two chapters (one with a student) in *Twin Peaks and Philosophy*.
 - Kevin Stein & Matt Barton co-authored "I'm sorry you interpreted my behavior the way you did": Toward a new understanding of the nuances of mortification. It is currently in press with the *Western Journal of Communication*.
 - Lijie Zhou had a single-author publication on PR Review in the *SSCI Journal*, and presented at the AEJMC annual conference (National conference). One of those papers won the top faculty paper. He also published an article with a colleague for *Public Relations Review*,
 - Gavin Feller published three articles this year: "Uncanny and doubly liminal: Social media, cross-cultural reentry, and LDS/Mormon missionary religious identity" in the *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture*, "Communing with

compromise: Mormonism and the early Internet." in *Mormon Studies Review*, and "Literary Technofiles: A Review of Tom Keegan's Craft Critique Culture Conference Plenary Address." for the *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 17(1), 73-75. He also reviewed *The Power of Godliness: Mormon Liturgy and Cosmology* (Oxford University Press). for *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*.

- Angela Pool-Funai published "Globalization and Public Budgeting" in *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance* with Springer and *Ethics in Fiscal Administration: An Introduction* with Routledge.
- Carlos Bertoglio published a poetry book called *Sub-terráneas*, and had a second poetry collection (*Una temporada en el ruido*) accepted for publication by a prestigious publishing house in Argentina (Caleta Olivia)
- Bryan Koenig published two journal articles: Image visual realism: From human perception to machine computation in *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, Teaching anthropology with primate films: Investigating instructors' use of films and introducing the Primate Film Database in *American Anthropologist*, and had one accepted for publication at *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Attitudes and Social Cognition*,
- Lynn White published *Statistics Straight Up: The Essential Guide to Understanding and Using Statistics*, with Linus Learning.
- David Shwalb published two book chapters: "Grandparents' Social Identities in Cultural Context" in *Contemporary Social Science* and "Grandparents in cultural context" for Routledge as well as two on-line articles for *Senior Times 50PlusLife*.
- Grant Corser's "Discovering inner strengths": A Co-facilitative poetry therapy curriculum for groups" for the *Journal of Poetry Therapy* is in press.
- Junice Acosta published an article in the *Journal of Universidad del Caribe* (Unicaribe) about plural disambiguation in Dominican Spanish.
- Michael Stathis published "High Crimes and Misdemeanors, The Constitutional Basis for Presidential Impeachment: A Tribute to the Work of Francis Dunham Wormuth" in *Critical Issues in Justice and Politics*.

HSS faculty are also heavily involved in professional organizations and academic conferences within their respective disciplines. In 2017-18, our faculty presented papers at a diverse array of professional conferences, including:

- Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication annual conference,
 - Midwest Political Science Association.
 - National Communication Association Conference.
 - Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration conference.
 - Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference..
 - Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference,
 - Southern States Communication Association annual conference annual conference,
 - Utah Humanities Book Festival,
 - American Sociological Association Annual Meeting,
 - Utah Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference,
 - International Association for Media and Communication Research.
 - Society for Cinema and Media Studies
 - Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages, Literature and Films
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- Kyle Bishop was the keynote speaker at the Gettysburg College Philosophy and Film Seminar on "Vampires, Mummies, and Zombies: Searching for Sophia among the Undead" in April, 2018.
 - Kevan Jacobson was the keynote speaker on leadership at The Judge Advocate General's School (Army).

Future Goals & Objectives

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences has closely aligned goals and objectives with those of the University. Faculty and staff share a commitment to a dynamic learning environment, quality instruction, engaged and experiential learning, and the professional success of our students. Collectively, we seek to maintain and strengthen all aspects of our shared vision. There are several specific future goals and objectives we have identified that will be our focus over the next year.

Faculty/Staff/Programs

- A number of departments in the college are in need of faculty as SUU continues to grow and we will be requesting additional lines.

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- We will continue to grow the MPA and MAPC programs by providing necessary resources to facilitate growth and strengthen these programs and the departments that house them. An additional faculty line for MPA will be searched for this fall.
 - HSS will continue to support and further develop the dual degree program with Wuhan Polytechnic University in China.
 - We will also continue to support and strengthen the SUU-based general education program in South Korea. We are now in the third year of this program and we will continue to work with departments contributing to this program.
 - HSS faculty will work on the development of policies related to writing-intensive courses, course capacity, online teaching/courses, and workload.
 - HSS faculty and staff will work together to market the College in a manner that better represents the strengths of the college to incoming students and their parents, potential colleagues, and the Southern Utah community.
 - The College is dedicated to strengthening professional development and departmental developed opportunities, especially in conjunction with curriculum upgrades.

Curriculum

- We will seek to increase offerings of online courses in select areas to respond to student growth projections for SUU.
- HSS will monitor and report on the number of course releases and their relationship to administrative duties outside of the scope of standard faculty activity.
- HSS will seek additional ideas on how to continue to streamline curricula given the growth of the university and the limited available classroom space. One such approach may be hybrid course that includes both on-campus and online elements.

Other

- The College welcomes our new development officer and will work with her to build a fundraising strategy that supports our students and faculty through additional scholarships, travel funding, naming opportunities, and so on.

Additional Department Specific Goals and Objectives

- This year the English Department will work to gather more information about the kinds of jobs our students are finding to determine whether those jobs utilize their skills. Either way, we will continue our professionalization efforts in the Department and work more closely with Career Services to provide our students with more information and better employment counseling.
- The Communication Department will work with on-line programming to make sure that our undergraduate offerings are being presented clearly and accurately and see if it makes sense to offer all emphases online.
- In order to hold on to its majors, History may need to offer more upper division offerings. According to conversations with HSA's past and current academic advisors, while HIST 1700 is our department's "bread and butter," majors sometimes have a hard time finding enough upper division offerings that allow them to graduate in a timely fashion. Sociology is in a similar situation, with SOC 1010.
- The Department of Languages and Philosophy has been successful at placing students in med school, law school, and grad school, but not as successful at keeping track of all of these placements. The Department will work on this during the next academic year.
- Steady growth of SUU and its student body are increasing the demand for Department services. This is clearly evident in the spiking demand for instruction in American Institutions, a State mandated General Education course. One means of meeting this requirement is completing POLS 1100, American National Government. We have happily complied with requests to expand offerings and sections of this course. We have been able to do so by increasing section size, accepting overloads, and employing adjuncts. These short term solutions have been successful, but growing faculty lines may well prove to be a more sound long term strategy.
- Psychology will monitor courses with a 20% or greater drop, fail, and withdrawal rate and implement changes where necessary. Assessment of the number of credit hours necessary for program graduation is another item under consideration.

Challenges & Opportunities

The projected growth in student numbers on-campus as well as online provides HSS with a number of challenges and opportunities to which we look forward to responding.

Space

- The Braithwaite Building is in the midst of a renovation that will allow the HSS Dean's Office suite to move onto the third floor to be more centrally located to a very diversely-located college.
- Laboratory space and a clinical observation room for psychology are needed immediately for the department to continue providing high impact teaching practices.
- Additional faculty offices are desperately needed throughout the buildings in which the college is housed.
- Interest in a possible major in film studies as well as research possibilities connected to our very small virtual reality space indicate the need for more flex space to use as the college grows.
- A new building that could house the majority of the college would be a great asset to the college.

Budget

- HSS received an upgrade to our E&G budget and these monies were distributed to departments and programs. Program fees within the college were also reallocated and will be monitored based on SCH's and the equitable distribution of these funds.

Curriculum

- The college of Humanities and Social Sciences will be considering a number of enhancements to current degrees as well as contemplating additional on-campus as well as online degrees.

Other

- The hire of a development office will provide HSS with new opportunities to reach out to alumni and other interested parties and share the exciting activities that our faculty and staff are taking part in to support academic excellence.