Jean Boreen  | Dean of HSS

Musician and social justice advocate Vijay Gupta delivered the 2019 Grace A. Tanner Lecture in Human Values. In partnership with the A.P.E.X. event series, the lecture took place on October 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gilbert Great Hall on the campus of Southern Utah University.

A celebrated speaker, Gupta is a leading advocate for the role of the arts and music to heal, inspire, provoke change, and foster social connection. Gupta's lecture, titled “Music, Community, and the End of Apathy,” drew on his experiences as the founder of Street Symphony, a non-profit organization that provides musical engagement for homeless and incarcerated communities in Los Angeles.

Vijay Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2007 at age 19, after having completed an undergraduate degree in biology from Marist College and a Master's degree in violin performance from the Yale School of Music. Gupta has been named one of six national Citizen Artist Fellows by the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Alex Ross of The New Yorker named him “one of the most radical thinkers in the unradical world of American classical music,” and “a visionary violinist.”

Read more...
Best Friends Announces Nation’s First University-Endorsed Animal Services Leadership Program

By David Bishop

“Southern Utah University has been at the forefront of innovation and educational excellence for years, and I am beyond thrilled to be partnering with them on this history-making program,” commented Castle.

Castle continued, “This new leadership program is rooted in proven animal services techniques, skills, programs and policies and is pivotal in transforming animal services as a profession and ending the killing of pets in shelters. We are excited to be engaged in such a powerful academic partnership.”

The ultimate objectives of the BFELC are to create organizational action, professional development and business plans. The program connects participants with innovators and national experts in animal services and offers templates, models, checklists, case studies and resources necessary to replicate and implement change in their respective organizations and communities.
SUU Fulbright Scholar Teaches American Literature in Taiwan

By Savannah Byers

“Taiwan is a wonderful place, full of courteous and well-informed people. I am favorably impressed by the country as a thriving and culturally vibrant place.”

Dr. Bryce Christensen, professor of English at Southern Utah University, was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to teach American Literature in Taipei, Taiwan for the 2019-2020 academic year. The nationally recognized Fulbright Scholar program accepts only a select number of applicants each year. Some of the top producing universities for Fulbright Scholars include Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Brown.

Dr. Christensen is teaching a variety of courses at the National Taiwan University as a visiting professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. He is teaching Introduction to American Poetry, as well as major authors courses on F. Scott Fitzgerald, Willa Cather, and Mark Twain.

“I believe my experience with Taiwanese students will broaden my perspective on how students who come from cultural backgrounds, very different from my own, interpret and respond to literature,” Dr. Christensen said...

Online Master of Interdisciplinary Studies Ranked 3rd in Nation

Master of Interdisciplinary Studies

SUU’s online Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) degree is ranked 3rd nationally by Best College Reviews. The MIS degree launched in January 2018 and currently serves more than 40 students, with 15 possible programs of academic study. The degree can be completed entirely online, or via a hybrid format. According to Dr. Cynthia Kimball Davis, degree chair, “Our MIS degree is just a year and a half old, yet this distinction is a testimony to the success of our program and the folks that have put countless research, time and energy into building it. Thus, this ranking does not surprise me.”

PSYCHOLOGY

The SUU Psychology Department has started a new undergraduate journal. Psychology students can submit and publish their research papers.

AIS CONFERENCE 2019

SUU graduate student, Erin Flores, presented at the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) 41st Annual Conference hosted by the University of Amsterdam.

The AIS conference is an annual event that allows for interdisciplinary students and professionals to network, share, and learn about the impact an interdisciplinary studies degree can have on the world as a whole. Flores, along with fellow Master of Interdisciplinary Studies student Ashley Tyler, presented research they had conducted on mosquitoes in Cedar Breaks National Monument.

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Winter Break in Mexico City

HSS Department of Psychology

Twelve SUU students participated in a short-term study abroad to Mexico City.

Dr. Grant Corser, an SUU psychology professor, the Associate Dean of HSS, along with psychology professors Dr. Steve Barney and Dr. Daniel Hatch lead a large group of SUU students on a short-term cultural immersion program to Mexico City, Mexico in mid-December.

“Our students were able to experience seasonal Christmas Markets, see seasonal decorations, and eat seasonal, traditional foods while learning about the rich cultural history of the Aztec, Mexica, and modern-day Mexican societies” commented Corser. During the first week of winter break SUU students learned while exploring places such as the National Museum of Anthropology, Chapultepec Park, the National Zoo, Chapultepec Castle, the Teotihuacan Pyramids, the Zocolo, Templo Mayor, Catedral Metropolitana, Xiochiimilco, the Frida Kahlo Museum and a Lucha Libre event.

Many faculty from HSS offer short term study abroad programs designed to be educational, fun, and an affordable way to experience a new culture and earn credits towards their major. Please considering offering a donation to support student participation in study abroad programs using this link and donating to “Other: Psychology Department”.

TEDxSUU 2019

Speech and Presentation Center

TEDxSUU is a TEDx event that is organized and run primarily by SUU students.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event.

Speaker topics for this event included:
- The Eyes of Leadership: Elephants in the Forest, Eric Kirby
- The Empowering Future of Education, Cory Henwood
- The Importance of Password Administration, John Lisonbee
- Developing an Intelligible Ear, Robb McCollum
- You May Rescue: Talking about Mental Illness, Tasha Seegmiller
- How to Establish a Professional Brand with Novice Experience on LinkedIn, Austin Henline
- Reduce Anxiety by Designing Each Moment, Geoffrey Lewis
- Finding Fulfillment in Failure, Ryan Bailey

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