

SUU SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities & Social Sciences



Dean's Corner Message Dean Jean Boreen

It's a wonderfully sunny day here in Cedar City as I greet you from all of us in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Graduation is just behind us and it was a wonderful day of celebration for students, families and faculty alike. We also recently hosted our Faculty and Student Awards Banquet and came together to celebrate the wonderful academic work our graduates have participated in and acknowledge the academic and service work of our faculty and staff. You can see all of our awardees in this newsletter.

I have noted before in our newsletters how important it is in the College to create opportunities for our students to have cutting edge opportunities here on campus. I think you'll enjoy hearing about our new "Career-a-van" concept and how students are able to participate and be better positioned to move into jobs that expect new hires to be aware of what is current in that industry....

[Read more...](#)



Kimberly Winward, HSS Interdisciplinary Studies & Honors Student, Named University Valedictorian

Kimberly Winward has been announced as the valedictorian for Southern Utah University's Class of 2025. Originally from Orem, Utah, Winward is graduating with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, emphasizing psychology and exercise science, and a minor in Spanish. Her exceptional academic performance and dedication to learning have earned Winward this prestigious honor.

"When I walked into Provost Mendini's office, I had no idea I was about to be named valedictorian," said Winward. "I was completely shocked. It felt like a dream, and I still sometimes wonder if they made a mistake. But when I

realize it's real, I feel so grateful for all the hard work that led to this moment."

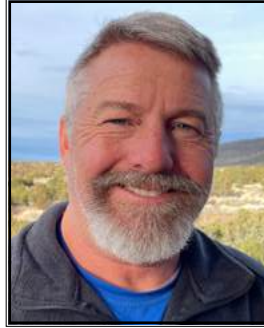
During her time at SUU, Winward has been an active member of the Honors Program, where she completed 21 honors credits and a capstone project. Her project, titled "Stigma, Attitudes, and Awareness of Mental Health Services for College Student-Athletes," focused on reducing the stigma surrounding mental health in athletics. She presented her research at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Kansas City during the Fall 2024 semester....

[Read more...](#)

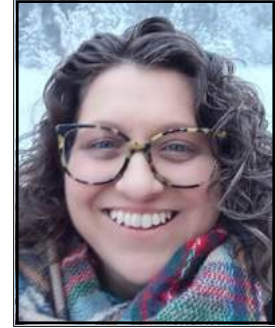
2024-2025 HSS Faculty & Staff Awards



Dr. Kyle Bishop
Outstanding Scholarship



Dr. Mark Miller
Outstanding Scholarship



Dr. Charla Stosser
Collaboration Award



Dr. Sean T. Murphy
Early Career



Dr. Katerra Johnson
Early Career



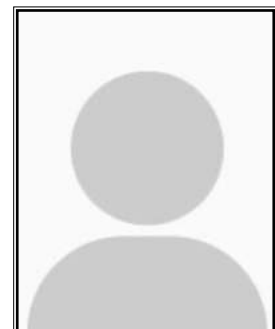
Dr. Merry Gravett
Early Career



Dr. Kevan LaFrance
innovative Pedagogy



Dr. Britton Mace
innovative Pedagogy



Jennilee Thayer
Outstanding Staff

2024-2025 HSS Valedictorian



MaKaylee B. Cole, Communications

MaKaylee Budge Cole, from Lehi, Utah, has been named the 2025 Valedictorian for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She is graduating with a degree in Strategic Communications and a minor in Graphic Design. Known for her creativity and drive, MaKaylee is continuing her role as a marketing manager at a digital marketing company and is excited about what the future holds.

Her favorite SUU memory was her spring break study abroad to Lisbon, Portugal with the Communication Department. "I will forever love and cherish my spring break study abroad trip to Lisbon, Portugal," she says. "It was filled with the best people and experiences and will always be my favorite SUU memory."

Congratulations, MaKaylee! We're proud to celebrate your achievements and can't wait to see what's next.

Outstanding Student Awards

Outstanding Student Award, Communication | Makenzie Zundel

Outstanding Student in Message Design & Human Interaction | Cassidy Dean

Outstanding Student in Media Studies | Anna Mower

Outstanding Student in Strategic Communication | Emilie Rupprecht

Outstanding Student in Sports Communication | Gabriel Small

Outstanding MaPC Student Award | Richard Davis

Top English Student | Erin Atkinson

Top Literature Student | Morganne Price

Top English Education Student | Sydnie Nilsson

Top Creative Writing Student | Elias McDaniel

Top Rhetoric and Writing Student | Erin Atkinson

Outstanding Film and Screen Studies Student | Elias McDaniel

Outstanding Technical Writing Student | Erin Atkinson

Outstanding History, Sociology, & Anthropology Student | Abby Edwards

Outstanding Anthropology Student | Paige Iverson

Outstanding History Student | Kenadi Cherry

Outstanding History Teaching Student | Theodore Dunlap

Outstanding Social Science Teaching Student | Molly Costello

Outstanding Sociology Student | Izzy Miller

Interdisciplinary Studies Outstanding Student | Lillie Honeycutt

MIS Outstanding Student | Jennifer Weaver

L&P Outstanding Student | Mahonri Brady Corona

Outstanding Spanish Student | Juan Daniel Villegas-Parra

Outstanding German Student | Russell Bodily

Philosophy Outstanding Student | Mahonri Brady Corona

Outstanding French Student | Mayzie Smith

Outstanding Chinese Student | Cameron Stewart

MPA Outstanding Student | Paige Murch

Political Science Outstanding Student | Erin Green

Criminal Justice Outstanding Student | Jacqueline Hammack

PSCJ Outstanding Student | Dillon Walia

Legal Studies Outstanding Student | Jauzlyn Templin

Psychology Outstanding Student | Alexis Downey

Psychology Outstanding Scholar | Isaak Palomaki

Applied Psychology Student | Jackie Hammack

Psychology Student Contributor | Reagan Wexels



Welcome our newest HSS Advisory Council Member

Natalie Christensen

We're thrilled to welcome Natalie Christensen to the HSS Advisory Council!

Natalie earned her Master of Public Administration from Southern Utah University, where she says her time was "an incredible experience that provided valuable international exposure and government project experience." Now working as a contract analyst for the State of Utah, Natalie credits her SUU education for opening critical doors in her career, especially the opportunity to participate in SUU on the Hill, where she connected with a key contact who helped launch her role in state government.

When asked what advice she'd give current or incoming students, Natalie said, "Say yes to opportunities. They may not always come at the most convenient time and often require sacrifice, but each experience adds to your growth and opens doors for future success."

We're excited to have Natalie's insight and experience on the council as we continue to shape meaningful educational experiences for HSS students.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Save the dates and plan to join us!

On March 20, 2025, eight students participated in the first-ever Career-a-van event hosted by the HSS Advisory Council's Internship & Career Subcommittee. The group traveled to Salt Lake City to tour the Statewide Information and Analysis Center (SIAC), where they learned about state operations, career opportunities, and areas of personal interest.

Thanks to Gwen's thoughtful feedback survey, we received glowing reviews—students praised the event's flow, the depth and clarity of the information shared, and the chance to have their questions answered thoroughly. SUU alumni even joined in to help make the experience more impactful.

We're excited to build on this success and look forward to more Career-a-van adventures with HSSAC members and SUU alumni!



Travel with us through HSS Learn on the Go

Prague & Vienna, Oct. 11-19, 2025

Join us for an unforgettable 8-night journey through the enchanting cities of Prague and Vienna. Immerse yourself in the rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant culture of these two captivating European destinations.

More information about this trip, past trips, and future trips, can be found at:

<https://www.suu.edu/hss/learn-on-the-go/>



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. For questions on the giving process, contact the advancement office at giving@suu.edu or call 435865-8196.

