

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

SPRING 2020 SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

DEAN'S CORNER



JEAN BOREEN | DEAN OF HSS

I'm not sure that there is any way to start this message but to say that this has been a strange semester for all of us in The College of Humanities & Social Sciences at Southern Utah University. Like other universities around the country, we switched our face-to-face instruction to remote/on-line instruction and kept in touch with our students and each other through video conferences and e-mail. Our faculty and staff have been amazing in their response to this situation and have worked tirelessly to get their courses on-line, respond to student concerns, and contribute to the smooth functioning of the college.

[Read more...](#)

HSS ANNOUNCES NEW BFA FILMMAKING DEGREE

We are pleased to announce a Bachelors of Fine Arts (BFA) in Filmmaking as our newest academic program in HSS. The Filmmaking major is a collaborative effort between HSS and the College of Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) and was recently approved by our board of trustees. This program will allow students to understand all aspects of the film making process and prepare students for multiple career options in the film industry. This program was built on the strong foundation of our Film Studies minor and many programs within CPVA. Multiple

faculty and deans from across our two colleges worked tirelessly to develop a strong curriculum and a practical path to graduation. The pathway to graduation will afford students many hands-on learning experiences that will allow them to develop and hone their skills as filmmakers while still receiving traditional aspects of becoming educated. Our BFA in Filmmaking is currently in the process of review for NASAD Accreditation and we are positioned to welcome our first students to the major in during the Fall 2021 semester. More information will be available soon on our HSS website.



WELCOMING THE NEW HSS ADVISORY BOARD

We would like to welcome our nine new members of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences advisory board. The advisory board consists of valuable members with a background in HSS that provided strategic advice to the college. We would like to spotlight the first four of them in this newsletter and the next five in the following.



CRYSTAL ROCKWOOD

Crystal Rockwood was born in Long Beach, California, and moved to Cedar with her husband, Richard, in September 2018. As a college student, she majored in journalism at Cal State University, Los Angeles, but quickly discovered that reporting was not her calling during an assignment in which she had to cover a campus incident involving two bitter factions. Instead, advocating people's stories, correcting false perceptions, and leveling the playing field for those who were being out-shouted and out-spent excited her and still does today. Her company, Rockwood Communications Counsel, helps clients with PR challenges and opportunities. She handles crisis management situations, which includes situations that are complex, high-stakes, or simply awkward and embarrassing.

Since arriving in Cedar City, she has met many fascinating people at SUU whose stories are continually enriching her life. She looks forward to making many more connections and memories during her time here. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring bakeries in any city or country that she finds herself in. She also enjoys having people over at her house to laugh and eat together. She says, "[It] fills me with incredible joy, it is such an honor." Crystal hopes that all HSS students will focus on fostering curiosity and grace in all that they do, promising that, "with ample supply, you will be afforded more opportunities imaginable."



TREION MULLER

Treion J. Muller was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and later in his life moved to Farmington, Utah. He is married to his wife, Soni, who is a professional singer with the women's trio Mercy River. He received his undergraduate degree from SUU, and has fond memories of his time there. He particularly enjoyed the smaller class sizes that allowed him to get to know so many fellow students and many of the professors as well. He went on to receive his Master degree from USU. Treion currently works in product management and innovations, and it is his lifelong dream to provide resources to help troubled and impoverished youth find purpose and meaning in their lives.

Treion believes that success in life is determined by both doing what you love, and loving others. In his own words, "It's all about being human, isn't it? Being good social citizens... Find the sweet spot between what you love to do and what loves you back - something that renews you, energizes you, and allows you to give back." Treion has spent much of his professional life giving back, and continues to live by his philosophy of seizing the moment as he continues to contribute and give back to his community around him.



GWEN KNIGHT

Gwen Knight was born in Indiana, and moved to Salt Lake City when she was in eighth grade. After graduating from Highland High School and marrying her husband, she and her family moved to Cedar City, where they raised their family. Many of her children graduated from SUU, and it was their love of SUU that inspired her to go back to school. During her time at SUU, Gwen immersed herself in campus life by joining organizations such as Psi Chi, Psychology Club, and Pi Alpha Alpha, even though she was a non traditional student. Gwen graduated from SUU with her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2012 (the same year as her son Ryan!) and received top honors, including being named SUU's Valedictorian. She went on to receive her Master of Public Administration in 2016. Gwen's professional career has been spent in Public Administration. After working for 25 years for the Utah State Courts in several capacities, she then became the Executive Director of the non-profit "Prevent Child Abuse Utah." Today, she currently works for a public charter school.

Of her time at SUU, Gwen says, "The skills and tools gained in my education provided me with a very enjoyable and successful career in public service! I value my education and love that I have become a lifelong learner. It also provided me with a desire to serve my community and I have adapted what I have learned as I served on several coalitions and committees, most of which have benefited child welfare. My education has helped me to become a better collaborator, communicator, parent, grandparent and mentor." Gwen continues to build on her education every day, and plans to continue learning about and trying new things as she continues her constant quest to be a life-long learner.



ISAAC HOLYOAK

Isaac Holyoak was born in Monticello, Utah, and then moved to Murray, Utah. Currently, he and his wife of five years live in a century-old bungalow just south of Liberty Park in Salt Lake City with their two dogs: an aging Boston Terrier and an energetic German Pointer. Isaac graduated from SUU in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Communications and went on to receive his Master of Arts in Rhetoric from Purdue University in 2010. He then started a Ph. D. program at Texas A&M, but eventually decided not to pursue a doctorate degree (which he jokes that it makes him a college drop out). Isaac currently works at the intersection of executive communications, operations, and policy at the University of Utah health system. He also teaches workshops on communication, leadership, and storytelling, and edits and writes for a health care publication called "Accelerate."

Isaac says that he continues to benefit from the education he received as an HSS major at SUU even today, particularly when it comes to knowing how to write well. Additionally, the connections he made as a student continue to have a huge impact on his life. "My best friends to this day," he says, "are people I met at SUU... At SUU I learned who I am. I came out, changed my faith views, embraced a wide range of literature, worked in my chosen field, and was supported the entire time by my friends and most of my professors. Cedar City remains my dream town!" In his spare time, Isaac is an avid gardener, and he actively encourages SUU students today to broaden their horizons as they further their education, just as he continues to do in his professional and personal life.

2020 HSS VALEDICTORIAN



TAYLEE CICCONE

Meet Taylor Ciccone, the 2019-2020 HSS Valedictorian. Taylor is from Clearfield, Utah, and completed a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is a member of the Student Programming Board, Criminal Justice Club, and Psi Chi and lives life to its fullest with her philosophy: "Always forward, never backward."

Taylor says that she found success at SUU by not being afraid to ask for help, say no, and challenge herself, and finding joy in the little things in life. In her spare time, she enjoys puzzles, mystery books, hiking, game nights with her friends, and spending time with her girlfriend. And she can also move her ears without touching them!

Taylor is excited to see where life takes her after SUU. But SUU has truly become a home for her, and a part of her will always remain here.

TELTON HALL: ALUMNI FEATURE

2006 GRADUATE | ENGLISH EDUC

Telton Hall was raised on a small ranch in Virgin, Utah and before he attended SUU, spent some time in Wyoming and California. It was "the allure of mountain biking and playing T-bird basketball" that brought him here to Southern Utah University. Telton says that he had a great experience at SUU and feels a lot of gratitude toward the faculty and staff that made that happen.

Telton majored in English Education at SUU and now is the owner of Advanced Financial Planning, LLC with offices based in Cedar City and St. George. Many of the company's clientele are actually faculty and staff from SUU. Telton says that this makes his career more enjoyable because he gets to maintain close relationships with some of his mentors at SUU. Telton got licensed and started selling retirement investments while still attending SUU for his English Education degree. He also loves to be involved with scholarships, mentorships, and the employment of SUU graduates.

In 2008, Telton gained an appreciation and knowledge of how his HSS degree set him up for

success in his career. After being impressed by a presentation on investment strategies during the 2008 economic collapse, Telton found out that the presenter had majored in English. Because of his background in the humanities and social sciences, he was able to give a presentation that connected with more people. Reflecting on the experience, Telton said, "I realized there were certain real-world benefits that grew organically out of my experience in a Humanities and Social Sciences focused classroom. There is something universal about the education I received."

When asked if he had a piece of advice that he remembers often, Telton quoted one of his professors from SUU. "Your integrity comes through in your writing. That's what we need. You've done the work to understand. Now present it in your voice. When it's done right, the reader will know that you know... And together we'll know the right course forward." Not only does Telton remember this advice, he uses it in his everyday life.



HSS DEPARTMENT GRADUATE AWARDS

As part of graduation, each department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences selects students to receive an award and be recognized for how they excelled during their time in the program. In addition, students selected demonstrated a passion for their studies, exemplified commitment, professionalism and showed a positive attitude toward program peers and instructors. We would like to recognize them and congratulate them for their achievements.



OVERALL BEST COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT

KADEN SMITH

Originally from St. George, UT. Kaden has a strong connection with the faculty in the Communication Department at SUU and is currently pursuing his MPA through SUU, and hopes to finish by 2022.



BEST LITERATURE STUDENT

ALYSSA OTTMAN

Originally from Walnut, CA, Alyssa's favorite part about SUU were her professors. She loved how they took a personal interest in her learning and education. This fall, she will start attending Cal Poly Pomona to get her Master of English Literature.



OUTSTANDING STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS STUDENT

LIZZIE LEE

Originally from Bountiful, UT, Elizabeth has fallen in love with the warm, welcoming, and homey environment of SUU. She and her husband are heading out to Boston for her to attend law school at Boston College.



OUTSTANDING ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT

ZOE PRETTYMAN

Originally from Coffman Cove, AK, Zoe loved her outdoor experience at SUU. She fell in love with learning abroad, and will work as a Learning Abroad Coordinator at SUU while pursuing her Master of Public



OUTSTANDING MEDIA STUDIES STUDENT

KURT MEACHAM

Originally from Pleasant Grove, UT, Kurt is grateful for the friendships he made during his time at SUU. He has completed an intern at KSL, and is following his passion and looking for a job at a news station.



OUTSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES STUDENT

DALLIN TRIPP

A Cedar City native, Dallin enjoyed being involved in the Presidential Ambassador program where he helped future T-Birds find their home at SUU. This fall, he will be attending the University of Utah to study law.



OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENT

ASHLEY ARSENAULT

Originally from Anchorage, AK, Ashley is grateful for the experiences she was given at SUU that allowed her to grow into the person she is today. This fall, she will begin to pursue a Masters of Communication Studies at the University of Montana.



OUTSTANDING HISTORY EDUCATION STUDENT

MEGAN PAGE

Originally from Bountiful, UT, for Megan, SUU feels like home and she has loved the welcoming environment that is felt on campus. This fall, she will begin teaching 7th grade at Cedar Middle School.



BEST ENGLISH ED. STUDENT

JAMIE MARBLE

Originally from Pulman, WA, Jamie loves the student-teacher relationships that she built during her time at SUU. She plans to apply the things that she learned during on campus as she begins teaching English at Canyon View Middle School.



OVERALL OUTSTANDING HSA STUDENT

JACQUELYN COWDELL

Originally from Grantsville, UT, Jacquelyn graduated with a major in Sociology and a minor in Art. She enjoyed participating in the Governor's Honors Academy while at SUU.



BEST CREATIVE WRITING STUDENT

MEGAN WARNER

Originally from West Jordan, UT, Megan particularly enjoyed the small class sizes at SUU. After graduating with an emphasis in creative writing, she is currently searching for her dream job of working in a publishing company.



OUTSTANDING SOCIOLOGY STUDENT

JOEL ONTIVEROS

Originally from Salt Lake City, UT, Joel found fulfillment at SUU as he completed a triple major in Philosophy, Sociology, and History. He plans to continue his education as he applies to Ph. D programs.



BEST ENGLISH STUDENT & OUTSTANDING GERMAN STUDENT

MALCOLM BOYACK

Originally from Littleton, CA, Malcolm enjoyed the opportunity that he has had to work with so many amazing, engaged people. As he moves toward the future, he will always have fond memories of his time here at SUU.



OUTSTANDING HISTORY STUDENT

KATELYN NIELSON

At SUU, Katelyn will always remember the connections that she was able to make with others. Now that she has finished her degree at SUU, Katelyn plans to start a family and be a stay at home mom. She is originally from Centerville, UT

**OUTSTANDING FRENCH STUDENT****DAVID EVANS**

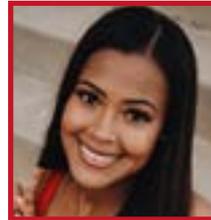
Originally from Midvale, UT, David has enjoyed the close association that he has had with his professors and mentors. He is currently teaching French Dual Immersion and World Language at Butler Middle School in Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

**OUTSTANDING POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT****CHRISTIAN PARKINSON**

Christian is forever proud to be an alumnus of SUU. He is currently applying to law schools and is excited to see where his continuing professional education takes him. He is originally from Kaysville, UT.

**OUTSTANDING PHILOSOPHY STUDENT****RUTHIE REED**

Originally from Salt Lake City, UT, Ruthie loved her experience with the Philosophy Department at SUU. She plans to work in her family business while she determines further academic or career pursuits.

**OUTSTANDING POLITICAL SCIENCE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT****SADIE SANCHEZ**

Originally from Las Vegas, NV, Sadie loves how invested her professors have been in helping her succeed. She has recently accepted a full time job offer with the Middle East Investment Initiative.

**OUTSTANDING SPANISH STUDENT****MADISON MCBRIDE**

One of Madison's favorite things at SUU is the strong sense of family and community that is found on campus. As she continues to look towards the future, she will always be grateful for her experience at SUU. Madison is originally from Orem, UT.

**OUTSTANDING LEGAL STUDIES STUDENT****EVAN MILLER**

Originally from Rupert, ID, Evan will miss the wonderful people he's met at SUU. After having interned alongside Senator Evan Vickers, Evan plans to attend law school at the University of Missouri.

**OVERALL OUTSTANDING MAPC STUDENT****LANA MEDINA**

Originally from Sacramento, CA, Lana loved every part of her experience as an online student! She hopes to teach journalism in higher education, and is currently applying to doctoral programs to meet that goal.

**OUTSTANDING PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT****DREW BEATTY**

During her time at SUU, Drew has appreciated how caring and personal each of the professors are. She is currently applying to Ph.D. programs in Psychology. She is originally from Cedar City, UT.

**OUTSTANDING MIS THESIS & STUDENT****ASHLEY TYLER**

Originally from Oakley, UT, Ashley has fallen in love with the culture and beautiful campus at SUU, and plans to continue working at SUU as a Research Assistant in the Outdoor Pathways Department.

**OUTSTANDING PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLAR****DALLAS GUYMON**

Originally from Bountiful, UT, Dallas enjoyed SUU's professors and classroom discussions. After graduation he will attend graduate school and become a researcher in social and behavioral psychology.

**OUTSTANDING MIS THESIS & STUDENT****ERIN FLORES**

Originally from Forks, WA, Erin has enjoyed having the ability to really customize her degree to fit her current and future careers, and she plans to continue working for SUU with the Forest Service.

**EXCEPTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT****HEATHER GOW**

Originally from Hampton, VA, Heather loved being welcome and embraced by professors, students and the university alike. She plans on taking a break to spend time with her son and plan her next steps.

**OUTSTANDING MPA STUDENT****LANDRY IGRANEZA**

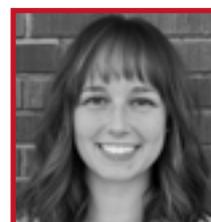
Originally from Burundi, Landry will forever remember the connections that he made here at SUU during his time in the MPA program. It is his dream to be able to work with and help refugees and displaced populations as a public administrator.

**PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT CONTRIBUTOR****XIADANI VARELA PERALTA**

Originally from Kearns, UT, Xiadani fell in love with the outdoors, fun peers, and amazing professors at SUU. She plans to further her knowledge of human behavior so she can better learn how to help others.

**OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT****ALEXIS BRYAN**

Originally from Orem, UT, Alexis attributes her success as a dual Criminal Justice and Anthropology major to her professors and friends at SUU. She has secured an archaeology internship over the summer.

**APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT****SOFIA SCARLETTA**

Sofia loves SUU's drive to offer an individualized experience to each student. Her plans for the future include attending a Ph. D. program for Counseling Psychology to become a clinician, professor, and researcher. She is originally from Henderson, NV.

19-20 HSS FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

At the end of each school year, the faculty and staff of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences nominate deserving individuals for 5 different awards. After the nominations are collected, the Chairs vote on the award winners. These individuals are celebrated at an end of the year college banquet. Due to recent events, this year's banquet will take place at the beginning of the next school year. Congratulations to the following awardees!



OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

Jana Williams

In addition to taking great care of her own department on campus, Jana Williams is well-known for always being willing to step in to help other departments when they need it, providing excellent training for all who join the team, and for always having a smile on her face.



INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY AWARD

Dr. Charla Strosser

Charla Strosser's ability to use popular texts and ideas to teach formal rhetoric and composition, combined with her dynamic pedagogical approach that she takes with all of her classes sets her apart as an especially engaging and effective educator.



OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Dr. Corey Twitchell

Not only is Corey Twitchell a dedicated educator who has single-handedly revamped the entire German program, but he has also maintained a rigorous and active research agenda that is evident in his work as a translator and scholar of record on peer-reviewed articles, all while teaching a full course load.



EARLY CAREER AWARD

Bethany Bibb

Bethany Bibb has been tirelessly running and improving the Writing Center, has piloted and gone to exceptional lengths to implement and fund the Graduate Writing Center, and continues to work to secure funding to keep the integrity and initiatives of both with maximum efficiency.



COLLABORATION AWARD

Dr. Kholoud Al-Qubbaj

Kholoud Al-Qubbaj's teaching, scholarly activities, and service work revolve around various aspects of diversity and inclusion, and for the last twenty years has been teaching diversity courses at Southern Utah University, as well as regularly guest lectures within and outside of her department.



DR. JIM ATON RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS AT SUU

English department professor, Dr. Jim Aton, retires after 40 years of teaching at SUU.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. James Aton received a BA in English from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, in 1971; an MA in English from the University of Kentucky in 1977; and a PhD in American Literature from Ohio University in 1981. Dr. Aton has been a faculty member of SUU in the Department of English at SUU since 1980, where he teaches classes in Writing, Mythology, Continental European Literature, and American Studies, including advanced classes focusing on the author Ernest Hemingway and another on Nature Writing. Dr. Aton has twice been a Visiting Fulbright Scholar in American Studies, first in 1989-90 at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and second in 1997-98 at Sichuan University in Chengdu, People's Republic of China.

Dr. Aton has published articles on environmental history in *The Georgia Review*, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, *Western American Literature*, *South Dakota Review*, and *Southwest Art*. He has also published a number of books focusing on the American West, including *River Flowing from the Sunrise: An Environmental History of the Lower San Juan* coauthored with Robert S. McPherson, which was awarded the 2000 Norris and Carol Hundley Award; *The River Knows Everything: Desolation Canyon and the Green*, with photographer Dan Miller (2009); *John Wesley Powell: His Life and Legacy* (2009), and *The Crimson Cowboys: The Remarkable Odyssey of the 1931 Claflin-Emerson Expedition* (2018), coauthored with Jerry D. Spangler, which won the Don D. and Catherine S. Fowler Prize for best book on anthropology.

Dr. Aton has published two books on Utah landscape painter Jim Jones: *Jim Jones: The San Blas Years* (2013) and *The Art and Life of Jimmie Jones: Landscape Artist of the Canyon Country* (2015), which one the 2015 Evans Handcart Award for biography and the 2016 15 Bytes Book Award for Art.

Finally, Dr. Aton has produced two films, *Jimmie Jones: Redrock Painter* (with Jon M. Smith) and *Voices of Desolation Canyon* (with Jennifer Little).

Dr. Aton has contributed to the Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance's surveys along both sides of Desolation Canyon, of Nine Mile Canyon, of the Paria Plateau, Labyrinth Canyon, and the Shivwits Plateau, and currently serves as the President of that organization's Board of Directors.

Aton is married to Carrie Trenholm, a fused glass artist and formerly the Beverly Taylor Sorensen Endowed Chair of Art Education at SUU. He is the father of Jennifer Aton Parietti, a registered dietitian at Seattle Children's Hospital. He is an avid river runner, skier, hiker, and backpacker.

To read SUU's article highlighting Dr. Aton's time at SUU, [click here](#).

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