

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

SUMMER 2021 SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

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Conference Report

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities
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Dean's Corner



Jean Boreen | Dean of HSS

"Here we go again" was a phrase I was hoping NOT to use in conjunction with the start of our fall semester; however, with the Delta variant and myriad concerns around vaccines and masking, we are feeling a bit of déjà vu. Although we have moved some of our courses to hybrid and on-line formats, we have kept the majority face-to-face. That said, I am pleased to note that we are planning for activities here on campus with encouragement to all visitors to wear face masks so that we can continue to meet here in Cedar City and share the beauty of our SUU campus as we move from summer to fall scenery. I offer a special shout-out to our wonderful faculty and staff in the college who are confronting these ongoing challenges with ample grace and determination.

We had quite the summer at SUU, both

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Meet Dr. Donna Handley: New MPA Program Director

By: Nathan Wiggins

"I am honored to join the dedicated team at SUU and continue working to promote public service values and quality leadership among our community."

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is excited to welcome Dr. Donna Handley as the new director of the Master of Public Administration program. As the new director, she succeeds Dr. Angela Pool-Funai, who was hired as the Dean of the Graduate School for Fort Hays State University. Dr. Handley received her Doctorate in Public Administration and Public Policy from Auburn University. She has served as an Assistant and Tenured Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and as a nonprofit consultant, where she conducted strategic planning, program evaluation, and board and staff trainings. Her most recent



position before coming to SUU was as the Online MPA Director at Arkansas State University. "The SUU MPA Program is a dynamic, growing program that has strong leadership and has just been re-accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Affairs, Policy, and Administration (NASPAA)," Handley says. "I am honored to join the dedicated team at SUU and continue working to promote public service values and quality leadership among our community." The College of HSS as a whole is likewise honored to work with Dr. Handley and are eager to see where the MPA program goes under her confident leadership.

WRITING CENTER

Achieving Goals

This past semester, the SUU Writing Center set a goal to complete 1,000 tutoring sessions during the course of the summer. Not only did they meet their goal - they exceeded it. In total the Writing Center had 1,100 sessions during the summer and over 5,000 sessions during the course of the year.

GRANT WRITING

Featuring Addy Rich

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences celebrates the grant writing of English 3120 and Technical Writing student Addy Rich, whose project for a class evolved into a mountain bike trail here in Cedar City. Addy was required to find a community partner and write a grant for the partner's non profit organization. Her first attempts at the project were with an organization in Davis county that referred her to an organization in Cedar City. Together, they shared a plan that they had been considering, and her project grew from there. Addy subsequently worked with a collaborative group in Cedar City to bring the bike trail to fruition.

To learn more about Addy's project, read the St. George News Article that was published in June featuring Addy at the link below.

[St. George News Article](#)



Public Apology Central

To view the Public Apology Central Website, [click here](#).

Public Apology Central is a website developed by Dr. Kevin Stein, hosted by the SUU Communication Department, and maintained with the help of students in the Master of Arts in Professional Communication program (MAPC). The site is the web's most comprehensive source for crisis summaries, transcripts, videos, and audio of public discourse following scandals (apologia) involving politicians, celebrities, athletes, organizations, religious leaders, media figures, heads of state, and lay citizens. People will sometimes ask Dr. Stein why he is archiving statements from people who are not actually apologizing. The answer is that apologia encompasses the whole gamut of persuasive defense. When someone's reputation is at stake, he or she will employ a variety of strategies in order to repair image and those often include things like denial ("I didn't do it"), shifting blame ("He did it"), minimization ("It wasn't that bad"), corrective action ("I'm going to fix this"), and mortification ("I'm sorry"). The website deals with all forms of persuasive defense and not simply "apology," where one takes responsibility for his her actions.

The website was funded initially with a \$500 grant from the Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CETL). Kevin Stein and Matt Barton (chair of the communication department) had already published an extensive amount of research on attack and defense rhetoric and would frequently make use of this material in their classes to

demonstrate principles of crisis communication, persuasion, communication theory, and research methods. However, Stein noticed that there was not a good one-stop resource online for public apologies. The main reason is that most people who have tarnished their reputations have an interest in making stories about their failures go away, so often transcripts and videos of public apologies are removed after they serve their initial purpose. In fact, Stein has had to vehemently defend his own right to post this material and often wins those arguments because of the educational nature of the website and that fact that it's a not-for-profit site.

Currently, the website has exploded with interest from teachers, researchers, and others who are simply intrigued by the strategies of image repair and public apology. Just last year alone, there were 300K unique visitors to the site and website analytics show that they tend to be interested in not just the most current scandals, but also the educational resources available. The website not only contains archives of 204 scandals, but also Stein and Barton's analysis of the trends of apologia over the last several decades, definitions and examples of the key strategies, illustrations of apologia strategies in popular culture, and a reference list of the most seminal books/articles in the area. If you are interested in checking out the website, you can find it at www.publicapologycentral.com.





HSS PUBLICATIONS

DRIFT MIGRATION

A new collection of poems by Dr. Danielle Dubrasky is in its final sketches, and is set to be published in December. This new publication was selected as the Editor's Choice for the 2020 Richard Snyder Memorial Publication Prize.

[Link to the Publication](#)

BEYOND THE MAPPED STARS

By: Rosalyn Eves

Seventeen-year-old Elizabeth Bertelsen dreams of becoming an astronomer, but she knows such dreams are as unreachable as the stars she so deeply adores. As a Mormon girl, her duty is to her family and, in a not too far away future, to the man who'll choose to marry her. When she unexpectedly finds herself in Colorado, she's tempted by the total eclipse of the sun that's about to happen—and maybe even meeting up with the female scientists she's long admired. Elizabeth must learn to navigate this new world of possibility: with her familial duties and faith tugging at her heartstrings, a new romance on the horizon, and the study of the night sky calling to her, she can't possibly have it all... can she?

[Link to the Publication](#)

SUU to Host the 2021 AIS Virtual Conference

By: Cynthia Kimball Davis

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to announce that Southern Utah University will host the International Interdisciplinary Conference, namely the SUU 2021 Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) Virtual Conference held from October 14-16, 2021. The conference planning committee consists of six regional colleges and universities: Brigham Young University-Idaho, Dixie State University, Utah Valley University, Salt Lake Community College, Southern Utah University, and Weber State University. More than one university

has never planned an AIS conference before, making this conference the first of its kind. Given the virtual nature of the conference, students worldwide are urged to attend this conference. The conference will give students the opportunity to not only discover a wide variety of disciplines, but also provide students with a multi-cultural experience, the value of which cannot be overstated. Additionally, this conference will be the first AIS conference to offer college credit. Feel free to attend our conference. Register today. We'd love to have you!



Teaching Ovid to Incarcerated Students

Nicole Dib was invited to submit a chapter for a collection titled *Classics and Prison Education in the US*, which was edited by Nancy Rabinowitz and Emilio Capettini. She co-wrote a chapter with Olga Faccani titled "Teaching Ovid to Incarcerated Students: An Experiential Analysis," in which they discuss their experience as teaching

fellows for the "Foundations in the Humanities" prison correspondence course program, offered by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center at UC Santa Barbara. After a brief introduction about the organization and logistics of this course, they examine their students' reactions to Ovid's "Baucis and Philemon" myth and highlight the elements

of the ancient text that acquired special significance in a carceral context. They then focus on their own experience as instructors, paying special attention to the context of a correspondence course that did not include in-person interactions with students. Their chapter can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



HSS LUNCH BREAK

FEED YOUR MIND WITH RELEVANT RESEARCH

A monthly webinar for SUU alumni and community members featuring research from SUU's top social scientists and humanities scholars

ON THE MENU THIS MONTH

The Role of Emotions in Motivating Yourself and Others

Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:00-12:30pm with Q&A to Follow



Dr. Grant Corser - Department of Psychology

Click [HERE](#) to access the Zoom Link for the Webinar



Project Archaeology Conference Report

This summer, Southern Utah University hosted a conference for educators that was centered on Native American Archaeology. Led by SUU Project Archaeology Director Samantha Kirkley, and funded by a grant from the National Endowment to the Humanities, the conference was attended by 80 teachers from across the nation and featured several Native American presenters and speakers. Along with learning about the culture of the Southern Utah Native American tribes, participants also learned that archaeology is much different than most people realize. While archaeologists are indeed interested in learning the way of life of those who have gone before them, they are also expected to be preservers of that history, making sure that sites are not disturbed and that the history of those predecessors is honored and cherished. "You didn't just sign up for this conference, and you aren't just here by chance," Native American Elder Virgil Johnson told a group of participants on the opening day of the conference. "You were chosen to be here at this time by the great Creator. There is something here for you that you need and that your students need. And only you can bring it to them." Unlike most academic conferences, this conference evoked feelings of great emotion from those who attended, and culminated with tearful goodbyes during the closing hours. Needless to say, those who attended will never forget the experiences they had...

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Utah Lyceum

By: Dr. Kris Phillips

The Utah Lyceum is a non-residential philosophy summer "camp" founded by Dr. Kristopher Phillips, and Dr. Kirk Fitzpatrick. Since 2015, the Lyceum has served as outreach to local middle and high school students, and provided a chance for students as young as 13 years old to get a feel for what philosophy has to offer them. Organized by the philosophy faculty at SUU (Phillips, Fitzpatrick, and Dr. Gretchen Ellefson), the camp runs for just a few hours a day for five days over the summer. Participants are provided lunch each day, instruction in philosophy and critical thinking, and philosophical texts as a way to help students begin building a philosophical library. Philosophy can be an important and transformative educational tool for students well before college, and as such, it should be accessible to everyone. In keeping with this mentality, the program is free to all participants, and we work with students to ensure that they can attend with as few barriers as possible (thanks to generous support from the Grace A. Tanner Center). We do not want students to have to choose between making money and bolstering their education. Too many students are precluded from studying philosophy specifically, and the liberal arts generally, by financial constraints. To head off these concerns, we run the Lyceum early in the summer, and early in the day to allow students the flexibility to pursue other projects – whatever they may be. The overall structure of...

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