

# HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

SUMMER 2020 SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

## DEAN'S CORNER



Jean Boreen | Dean of HSS

As I look out my window on this warm September day in Cedar City, what I notice most is the absence of faculty and students on our beautiful campus. As I am sure you know, SUU closed its campus in March in response to the first wave of COVID-19 and we continue to be fairly quiet here in mid-summer. But we have welcomed students and faculty back to campus and amazingly, it's Homecoming week and SUU overall is in very good shape regarding the number of cases on campus.

Our fall courses are offered as a mix of face-to-face, on-line (synchronous and asynchronous), and hybrid modalities. These approaches allow our students and faculty

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## DR. TODD PETERSEN'S PICNIC IN THE PARK RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD

Packed with humor, crime, and thought-provoking topics, *Picnic in the Ruins* by Dr. Todd Petersen has received national recognition. The book, which is soon to be published, was selected as one of the 'Five Essential Literary Fiction Titles of January 2021' in the *Library Journal*. Despite the prestigious award, Petersen remains humble and pensive about the things he learned in the process of creating this story.



The book is a crime novel, "meant to be a fun book to throw in your bag when you go on vacation," Petersen says. His book focuses on land policy, tourism, archaeology, and how these all affect Native

American life. Petersen hopes that the book will pique the interest of the readers in these topics, and motivate them to learn more about ethics and the far-reaching effects of our actions and attitudes towards this subject.

"The biggest surprise to me," he relates, "was learning about Native Americans, specifically the Paiute people. It taught me that each individual person has their own singular perspective." This idea of perspective is a concept that he has been thinking about for a long time. "I want to go to the students in the fall and really reinforce that writing is... [Read more.](#)

# MEET THE NEWEST HSS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



**Darren and Rachelle Cox**

Darren and Rachelle Cox live in Henderson, Nevada, and have been married for almost 28 years. Darren works as an Attorney and is a Chief Deputy Public Defender. Rachelle has worked as a homemaker, raising their 4 amazing children. Darren and Rachelle both received their Bachelor degree from SUU. Their association with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has given them experience in life and provided a strong foundation to move their family forward both at home and at work. They both still have friends that they associate with from SUU, and visit the campus often. They encourage every student that they can to take advantage of the educational and social opportunities that SUU has to offer, even during the pandemic, and to be involved.

The Cox's focus daily on making simple and consistent progress, and are involved in their community and religion. They also enjoy playing sports and going to Pine Valley Mountain in Southern Utah, SUU and UNLV basketball games, University of Utah football games, all the sand dunes in the West, and Huntington beach.



**Stanley Parry**

Stanley Parry is from Las Vegas, Nevada, and with his wife is the father of 5 children and 11 grandchildren. He graduated from SUU (then Southern Utah State College) with his Bachelor degree, which earned him entrance into BYU law school, where he later graduated with his law degree. After graduating, he was able to work in Washington D.C.. He currently works as an attorney in Clark County, Nevada.

While Parry attended SUU, he served on the school government council, and he and his wife were dorm parents. They also welcomed their first two children into the family during their time at SUU. Parry is a strong believer that listening to the inner voice when making decisions is what brings success, and has lived by this motto all during his successful career in law.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

M I T C H O L S O N



**Graduated Fall 2011** I'm a proud Southern Utah University HHS (History major) alumnus, and have had a unique set of experiences since leaving Cedar. Just before graduation my wife, Ashton, and I decided we wanted to see where military life would take us if I enlisted in the Navy. After training for two years as a Mandarin-Chinese linguist in Monterey, CA, we shipped off to Hawaii. Four awesome years (and one false-alarm nuclear ballistic missile warning) later we had re-evaluated our plans and were getting ready to come back to the mainland and civilian life. Together we decided what we wanted to be happiest, and that I should pursue a career in the...

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# GHOST FLOWER

By: Danielle Dubrasky | Professor of English

He rambles after the waitress takes my order  
to the conversation of clinking glasses, margaritas,  
about how he still gets drunk on Friday nights with friends  
from grade school, calls one of his daughters to drive him  
home across the city, though he doesn't see himself swaying  
in the passenger seat when they drop him off and he dissolves  
in the desert heat into crushed jewels and snakeskin.  
He tells me he once almost drowned in Lake Havasu,  
the earth's center exploding in his lungs, but it was Atlantis  
he came back from, an imaginary city on asphalt beneath his high rise.  
Other diners size up the menu, order the special, exchange details of their day—  
I see how the sun has etched lines on his face into a nervous tic.  
He pays the bill across from me, asks about my family,  
my marriage, catches a call on his phone, says he has to go.  
Your brother was messed up, he says in the parking lot,  
I had nothing to do with it, and you—  
I cast petals onto scorched pavement. He flares in that mirage  
and I wonder what he lets himself remember.

*This poem, written by SUU's own Dr. Daniele Dubrasky, is from the manuscript "Ghost Flower" that was a finalist in the University of Ashland Poetry Prize, one of 11 finalists out of 350 submissions. It was originally published in Summer 2019 in South Dakota Review.*

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