

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/29/2016

Ashley H Pollock, Public Relations & Information Coordinator
College of Performing and Visual Arts
Southern Utah University

Office: (435) 865-8667
Cell: (435) 590-0961
pollocka@suu.edu

Percussion Students Bring Home State Championship

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Under the direction of Lynn Vartan, percussion students from the Department of Music at Southern Utah University attended and competed at the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) of Utah Day of Percussion on March 19. Once again, Southern Utah University came home with two state championship titles.

With the smallest program and school, SUU students competed in the six available college-level categories against the University of Utah and Brigham Young University along with other colleges in the state. SUU walked away with state championships from two of the six categories. State championship winner from last year, Tylor Williams defended his title in the College Marimba Category. Marissa Brown, a junior at Southern Utah University, won the College Timpani Category.

Lynn Vartan, Associate Professor of Music, is overwhelmed by the fact that SUU has such consistent success at these competitions. She said, "We are establishing a strong presence year after year and our students work hard to perfect their performances. Though competitions are not the main focus of our musical pursuits, the recognition of our strength in Percussion at the state level is magnificent."

Discussing the PAS of Utah Day of Percussion, Marissa Brown said, "This was a great opportunity to meet other percussionists from Utah and to participate in and observe many different music cultures and performing groups."

Brown played *Bateria* by Darin Kamstra. She described it as, "a really fun timpani piece that explores Brazilian percussion music and especially the music of Samba schools. The piece uses different types of sticks and mallets to create exciting contrasts between the sections."

It took much preparation to perfect her performance piece. “Since I was doing a Timpani piece and each set of Timpani is different, I practiced playing on five different sets of Timpani at five different locations to try and get used to the many possible circumstances and types of drums. I wasn't sure what I would encounter at the Day of Percussion.”

Her practice paid off as she walked away with the State Championship Title in the College Timpani Category. For more information about the Department of Music and the College of Performing and Visual Arts at Southern Utah University, please visit www.suu.edu/pva.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music and a Center for Shakespeare Studies.

The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

###