

THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Newsletter

FALL | 2021

Dean's Corner

As we in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences finish up the fall semester, we certainly have a lot to be thankful for. Our PsyD program launches in Fall, 2022 semester and is garnering a great deal of attention. There are many people who are interested in being part of the solution to the state and region's mental health crisis and they are applying in strong numbers; the first cadre will have ten students. Further, we have just been generously awarded funds for a scholarship from Intermountain Health Care for one of those students which will pay for a student's first year of study.

We also made it through the fall semester and kept the bulk of our courses on campus, which generated much happiness among faculty and students. We were able to welcome alumni and students to Homecoming on the SUU campus and we plan to do the same in the spring. I would be remiss, though, if I didn't send out a grateful "Thank YOU!" to our wonderful faculty and staff in the college who have dealt with the many changes going on here at SUU with grace, humor, and determination.

Our "Travels with HSS" program to Spain in October 2022 remains on track and we have planned a wonderful program that will offer friends of the college the chance to experience...

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HSS SENATOR: KYLER HARRISON

Kyler Harrison, a Junior from Fillmore, Utah, has the opportunity to serve as this year's HSS Senator. He is majoring in Political Science and is working towards applying to law school and becoming a politician. His goal as senator is to "make sure students know they have a voice". One of Kyler's favorite things about SUU are the plentiful leadership opportunities offered here. Kyler has already done some great work as Senator by working with the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Eric Kirby, to develop a text message system that will be sent out to students. It will ask them a variety of questions about topics such as mental health, finals, finances, etc. Students will then be directed to the appropriate resources based on the responses received. "The other senators and I are exploring several different ways in which we can improve the mental health of students on campus." Thank you, Kyler, for all your work and dedication to improving the lives of not only current SUU students, but also the lives of those yet to come.

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SUU Hosted International 3-Day Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference

By: Cynthia Kimball Davis

It was a privilege to host, after being selected by the international Association of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) Board of Directors, the 43rd annual AIS Conference. Our conference team worked together for the last three years to create a conference experience that could bring together the global community of AIS members. Having already planned many exciting opportunities for our in-person conference, we made the difficult decision to adapt to a fully virtual conference. The conference had a final count of 298 registrations. Seventeen countries were represented as well as 31 U.S. states. In total, there were 96 planned conference sessions, including concurrent sessions, workshops, keynotes, etc. We were able to offer 165 scholarships to cover the cost of a student conference registration and a 1-year AIS student membership. On the second day of the conference, HSS Dean Jean Boreen not only welcomed participants from around the world but praised the conference committee for the excellent work they were doing.

[\[read more\]](#)

Our Amazing Faculty and Staff

One of the great things about the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at SUU is how active our professors are in their industries. From articles and awards to television episodes and screenplays, [here](#) are just some of the recent accomplishments made by our great faculty.




Make a Students Dreams Possible


Donate a [gift](#) to the HSS college scholarship fund to ensure students of all backgrounds have an opportunity to learn.

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hss@suu.edu to provide feedback, or submit a story idea for a future newsletter.

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Chemo to 100 Miles

Kevin Robison was born and raised in Orem, Utah, attended Southern Utah University, and received both a bachelors and masters degree in Communication. He has been a runner since the age of 13—something he loves and shares with his family. Looking back at his college career, Kevin says the athletic coaches, small class sizes, and student camaraderie that is so present at SUU helped in making it such a special and valuable experience. While attending Southern Utah University, Kevin met his wife, and since graduating, he has worked in the ski industry and the running industry.



Things came to a halt last year when Kevin was diagnosed with cancer. Though highly curable, it was a brutal treatment. The effects of the harsh treatment had left him feeling exhausted, and it was extraordinarily difficult to return back to his active lifestyle. His motivation had disappeared until Kevin's seven year old son ran a phenomenal 5k and inspired him to make a change. Ultimately, Kevin was sick and tired of feeling sick and tired.



George Scott Photography

Thus began the two month-long training to prepare for the challenge Kevin set his sights on; the Last One Standing Ultra Race, a 102 miles long race taking place in St. George. Participants had to run 6 miles within 90 minutes in order to advance to the next round, where they would repeat the same process, all through the night. The training was strenuous and very difficult, but Kevin could feel the strength and endurance returning.

"It really was kind of a perfect day." Kevin said. With the support of his parents, wife, and three kids, he endured the longest race of his life. Getting through the night was tough, and the daylight sun in St. George also proved to be a challenge, but 25 hours and 20 minutes after the start, and seven months after remission, Kevin finished the Last One Standing Ultra Race.

"I think in some form or another, as human beings, we all do that. We go through something difficult, whatever it may be, and we want to do something, or have something happen that [makes us] feel like 'okay, I've got a handle on things again because for a minute there I didn't feel that way'" Kevin stated.

"After seven months of remission, I ran a 100 miler. I felt stronger than I ever had before. In that moment I felt like I had officially beaten cancer."

New HSS Advisory Board Member: Dave Bollard

Dave Bollard attended Southern Utah University (SUU), graduated in Communications, and minored in Graphic Design and Spanish. As a student at SUU, he was part of the student association (SUUSA) and worked in public relations and marketing. Dave said, "SUU gave me unique experiences that prepared me for life. The relationships, mentors, and friendships have helped me with my career – and I will be forever grateful."

Dave has worked in the marketing industry for over 20 years as an artist, creative designer, and marketing executive. He is the winner of multiple awards, including Best of State, the Utah Marketing Association and the Utah Business SAMY award. He currently is the VP of Marketing at eLearning Brothers and contributes to SUU as a Humanities and Social Science Advisory Board member. Find his website [here](#).



Spain Program 2022

Our Spain 2022 program (originally planned for October, 2021) has been re-approved and the application portal is open! Plans are in place for [Barcelona](#), [Zaragoza](#), and [Madrid](#) with day trips scheduled to Montserrat, Segovia, and Toledo. Our travel dates are October 16th through October 23rd (price includes all in-country transportation, 4 or 5 star hotel accommodations, all scheduled activities, and a few reception meals). Some of the highlights include



the architectural wonders of Antonio Gaudi, and viewing works of Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, and the Spanish Masters. Food options will, of course, be excellent. We will visit a mountain monastery and the ancient Roman aqueduct in Segovia. Throughout the program, Professors Jason Stinnett (Spanish Department), Grant Corser (Psychology Department and Associate Dean), and Jean Boreen (English Department and Dean of the College) will weave together a rich tapestry of Spanish History, psychological connections, and literature to promote an unforgettable Iberian experience.

More details and application information can be found by visiting <https://www.suu.edu/onthego/trips/spain/> and for specific questions please contact Dr. Grant Corser, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (corser@suu.edu)