UPCOMING EVENTS

DIXIE FORUM. FEBRUARY 6, 12:00-12:50 PM IN DUNFORD AUDITORIUM Signs of Life on the African Plains: Ecology, Conservation, and Sustainability. For more information, contact burns@dixie.edu.

TED TALK BROWN BAG. FEBRUARY 8, 12:00-12:50 PM IN HCC 459 “A Girl Who Demanded School” by Kakenya Ntaiya. For more information, contact comeford@dixie.edu.

APPLIED SOCIOLOGY MAJORS INFORMATIONAL EVENT. FEBRUARY 8, 3:30-5:00 PM IN GARDNER CENTER ROOM B. Applied Sociology majors will learn what they need to stay on track for graduation.

SILENT WEEKEND (AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE). FEBRUARY 9-10. DSU students and faculty will participate in this annual event held in cooperation with Washington County schools and community members. For more information, contact hamilton@dixie.edu.

DIXIE FORUM. FEBRUARY 13, 12:00-12:50 PM IN DUNFORD AUDITORIUM Technology That Changes Our Lives. For more information, contact burns@dixie.edu.

DIXIE FORUM. FEBRUARY 20, 12:00-12:50 PM IN DUNFORD AUDITORIUM Dr. Susan Matt, Presidential Distinguished Professor of History at Weber State University will speak. For more information, contact burns@dixie.edu.

TED TALK BROWN BAG. FEBRUARY 22, 12:00-12:50 PM IN HCC 459 “Your Brain Hallucinates Your Conscious Reality” by Anil Seth. For more information, contact comeford@dixie.edu.

SUBMIT TO SOUTHERN QUILL! DEADLINE MARCH 5 All DSU students and faculty, as well as community members, are invited to submit their poetry, short fiction or non-fiction to the Southern Quill at www.thesouthernquill.com.
ASHLEY IMLAY (ENGLISH ALUM) will have her poetry featured at the St. George Literary Arts Festival.

BOB OXLEY & MATT SMITH-LAHRMAN (SOCIOLOGY) attended the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance to begin the process of bringing a Certified Nonprofit Professional license to campus this semester.


JACK LOUNSBURY (ENGLISH) was recognized for 20 years of dedicated service at Dixie State.

JEREMY C. YOUNG (HISTORY) was interviewed by Newsweek, the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation about the possibility of Oprah Winfrey running for president.

STEPHEN ARMSTRONG & AMI COMEFORD (ENGLISH) were recognized for 10 years of dedicated service at Dixie State.

STUDENTS OF THE FALL 2017 SEMESTER (ENGLISH) Emma Lee (Professional and Technical Writing), Riley Harms (Literary Studies), Leslie Twitchell (Creative Writing), and Kara Chastain (Secondary Education) were all recognized for their hard work in the Fall 2017 semester.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT brought in Kimberly Johnson, a native Utahn who is an award-winning poet and professor at Brigham Young University. The event was included in the newspaper. http://www.dixiesunnews.com/news/articles/2017/11/30/utah-native-visits-dsu-share-published-work/.

TIMOTHY BYWATER (ENGLISH) had his essay “Restoring Transcendent Humanities Values as a Step to Reimagine Western Landscapes” accepted for publication by the University of Utah Press as part of a collection entitled “Reimagining a Place for the Wild.”
SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT

RECURRING EVENTS THAT EXPAND THE MIND

Throughout the school year, there are events to help students connect with each other and with faculty in intellectual ways that go beyond the classroom. Many happen only once, but a few happen regularly. Two of those are the Dixie Forum and the TED talk brown bag series.

Dixie Forums are weekly lectures which cover a wide variety of subjects. They happen most Tuesdays in the Dunford Auditorium. The most recent forum, held on January 23, was entitled “Food for Thought: How GMOs are Made and Regulated” and featured distinguished speakers from a large agricultural company. Other topics this semester will range from technology’s involvement in our lives to discussions of great literature. Admission is always free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Every two weeks, a student from Sigma Tau Delta (the English Honors Society) chooses a TED talk to present, and then leads a discussion about the talk. These events happen on Thursdays at noon in the Collaborative Lounge (HCC 459). Topics can be on anything there is a TED talk for, which means almost anything. Although faculty attend, this event is geared toward helping students engage with each other and with information to become better, more well-rounded people. Specifically, it helps develop the ability to engage in civil discourse with people of differing opinions.

Both series are good resources for students and community members who want to engage with real world problems and the people confronting them. Future issues of CHaSS Connections will include details on that month’s Dixie Forums and TED talk brown bags.
Over the past week, Dr. Jeremy C. Young, an assistant professor of history, has received national attention for his tweets regarding Oprah Winfrey as a potential presidential candidate in 2020. Twenty-two million people and counting have been reached by what some once thought an absurd pipe dream.

Dr. Young wrote a book entitled *The Age of Charisma* which studies charisma in American politics, specifically the impact charismatic leaders had on American society and how charisma continues to shape modern politics. He has long believed Oprah to be the most charismatic person in America, and that she could be considered a presidential candidate. In the wake of Oprah’s Golden Globe speech, he aired his thoughts in the twittersphere. Since then, many publications both national and worldwide, have interviewed Dr. Young including Newsweek, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Christian Science Monitor, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In the interview for this newsletter, Dr. Young said that the best part of this situation is that “all the articles include some mention of DSU.” He added that “I know [Twitter] is a public forum, and I represent Dixie.”

This is an exciting example of the Trailblazer spirit finding its way across the globe.
TWO MINUTES WITH FEATHERSTONE

I recently took a two-day training class from the Gallup Corporation at their US headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. The goal of my course was to learn more about the Clifton Strengths Assessment and determine if it could enhance faculty and staff professional development within our college.

The premise behind Clifton Strengths is that each person possesses talents (or themes) toward which s/he is naturally inclined. For example, some individuals are natural question askers. They want to know the details surrounding an argument or idea. These analytical types have an innate tendency to examine and logically evaluate the evidence for a particular point of view. For Gallup, analytical is a theme to celebrate and develop. Activator is another such theme possessed by people who are anxious to start a project. Such people are action-oriented. The activator wants to stop talking and start doing. Analytical and activator are just two of the thirty-four themes that Gallup has identified in their research (see: www.bit.ly/themes34). While this psychometric assessment cannot indisputably tell you what you are naturally good at, I do believe the overarching paradigm is valid—it is better to focus on building up your strengths than to fixate on perfecting your weaknesses.

This strengths-based approach encourages individuals to identify, understand, develop, and fully utilize the strengths they possess. To determine if the Clifton Strengths Assessment could be beneficial to CHaSS, I would like to invite 30 members of our faculty and staff to take this assessment free of charge. The College will cover the costs for the online test. If you are interested in participating, simply sign up through this Google Form (visit: www.bit.ly/signupstrengths). Once you complete the strengths assessment, you will discover what Gallup considers your top five themes. My top five themes are ideation, analytical, communication, learner, and achiever. You aren’t required to share your results with me; however, I hope those who participate will provide feedback on whether this assessment helped them better understand their own talents and abilities. I would love to reach a place where all our faculty and staff are fully engaging their strengths.

– Richard
Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences