



College of Arts and Sciences

YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

FALL 2020

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Letter from Dean Crane

I would start by congratulating everyone for surviving one of the most difficult semesters in modern American history. One doesn't get to say that every often, but as a historian of modern America I feel qualified to name that reality. This semester has challenged us in so many unanticipated ways—the ongoing and worsening covid-19 pandemic; the corresponding disproportionate impact on women, BIPOC faculty, staff, and students, first responders, and teachers; the political turmoil of the presidential election; and ongoing economic concerns. Along the way we have all had to quickly pick up new educational and organization skills and adjust to the ever-shifting “new normal.” This has been a challenging period and while we can perceive a steadily growing light at the end of the tunnel there is still a great deal of work to do.

It is impossible to adequately express my deep gratitude for all of the hard work accomplished by faculty and staff to prepare for and get through this semester. You have shown great dedication, forbearance, and positivity in the face of severe stress and regular challenges. Our success this semester and into the future is because of the work you have done. Thank you.

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Interim Dean, College of Education & Counseling
Professor, History

Meet our CAS Office Assistant!



Jessica Cameros is a junior at SMU majoring in Biology. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she is interested in pursuing a two-year physician assistant master's program and specialize in either dermatology or pediatrics. Before attending SMU, she graduated from Kamehameha Schools Hawaii on the Big Island. She likes hiking, eating sushi, and going to the beach.

Meet our Graduate Intern!



Tia Gass is a second-year M.Ed.—Higher Education & Student Affairs (HESA) candidate at SMU. She is interested in a variety of different aspects of higher education management. Before she moved back to the Pacific Northwest, she taught ESL in Istanbul, Turkey and Atlanta, GA. She received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State University. In her spare time, she likes to garden and hike.

Meet our Nursing Program Administrative Assistant!

A recent graduate of SMU, **Atlas Kulish**, is the newly hired Administrative Assistant for the Nursing Program. He is very excited to be returning to SMU in the spring semester as graduate student in the Master's of Education in Higher Edu-

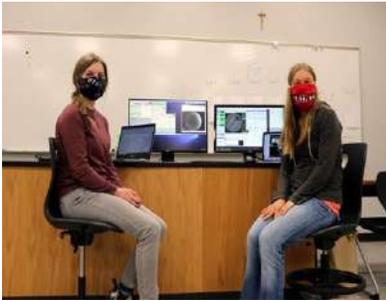


cation & Student Affairs (HESA) program. After receiving his Master's, Atlas aspires to work in student life so he might offer to others the type of mentorship and guidance he found so valuable while attending SMU as an undergraduate student. In his free time,

Publications & Scholarship

SMU 2020 Astrophysics Summer Research: Observing with the Anglo-Australian Telescope

Dr. Andrea Kunder (Physics) carried out astro-



physics research with SMU undergraduate students over the summer of 2020.

Most of the work was remote, but they did meet in person to use the Anglo-Australian Telescope, which was controlled remotely from SMU. Kunder won four nights of the Anglo-Australian Telescope (worth \$65,800) from the NSF's National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory (NSF's OIR Lab), and her telescope time was scheduled for June 20-23, 2020.

As covid-19 prohibited travel to Australia, they operate the telescope remotely from the Physics lab on campus. The one-gigabyte (1-Gb) bandwidth afforded to them from IT and the screen real-estate

the IT department set up enabled to be carried out successfully. **Danielle Miller** (Civil Engineering major) led the data collection of the observations.

Riley Crabb (Mechanical Engineering major) led the data analysis to confirm or refute the hypothesis that there is a galactic nuclear ring in the center of the Milky Way galaxy. Their results were presented at the virtual MJ Murdock conference in November.



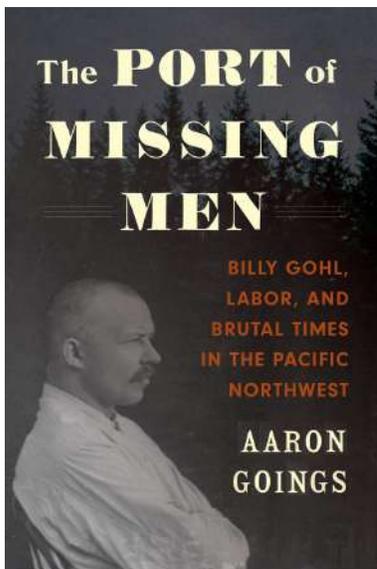
Murdock Conference

Students at participating institutions in the states of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska, presented their own research through poster displays throughout the Murdock College Science Research Conference. At the conclusion of the conference, the Murdock Trust awarded SMU student **Riley Crabb** the **2020 Murdock Poster Prize for Physics and Engineering** for his poster entitled: "Spectroscopic Investigation of Inner Galaxy Stars: 2MS-GC02, Terzan 4 and the 200 km/s peak." This came with a cash prize of \$125. The research was conducted through SMU Physics under Dr. Andrea Kunder. Riley Crabb is majoring in mechanical engineering with a physics minor, pictured below, in the center.



Drs. Jeff Birkenstein (English) and Robert. Hauhart (Criminology & Criminal Justice) are scheduled to publish *Dogs and Ladies: Connections and Influence in the Russian and American Short Story* by the end of 2020. Also serving as editors, they have assembled a collection of eighteen original essays written by literary critics from around the globe. Collectively, these critics argue that the reciprocal influence between Russian and American writers is integral to the development of the short story in each country, as well as vital to the global status the contemporary short story has attained.

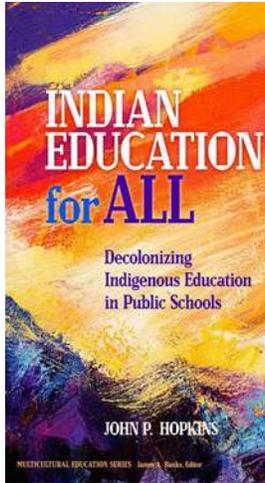
This collection provides original analyses of both well-known Russian and American stories, as well as some that might be more unfamiliar. Each essay is purposely crafted to display an appreciation of the techniques, subject matter, themes, and approaches that both Russian and American short story writers explored across borders and time. Stories by Gogol, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Chekhov, and Krzhizhanovsky, as well as short stories by Washington Irving, Faulkner, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ursula Le Guin, Raymond Carver, and Joyce Carol Oates populate this essential, multivalent collection. Perhaps more important now than at any time since the end of the Cold War, these essays will remind readers how much Russian and American culture share, as well as the extent to which their respective literatures are deeply intertwined.



Dr. Aaron Goings (History & Political Science) published *The Post of Missing Men: Billy Gohl, Labor, and Brutal Times in the Pacific Northwest* this summer with the University of Washington Press. Here's a peek from the UW Press website:

In the early twentieth century so many dead bodies surfaced in the rivers around Aberdeen, Washington, that they were nicknamed the “floater fleet.” When Billy Gohl (1873-1927), a powerful union official, was arrested for murder, local newspapers were quick to suggest that he was responsible for many of those deaths, perhaps even dozens—thus launching the legend of the Ghoul of Grays Harbor.

More than a true-crime tale, *The Port of Missing Men* shed light on the lives of workers who died tragically, illuminating the dehumanizing treatment of sailors and lumber workers and the heated clashes between pro- and anti-union forces. Goings investigates the creation of the myth, exploring how so many people were willing to believe such extraordinary stories about Gohl. He shares the story of a charismatic labor leader—the one man who could shut down the highly profitable Grays Harbor lumber trader—and provides an equally intriguing analysis of the human costs of the Pacific Northwest's early extraction economy.



Dr. John Hopkins (Associate Dean of Students; Director of the Diversity & Equity Center; Communication Studies, Political

Science; Gender & Identity Studies) published this fall *Indian Education for All: Decolonizing Indigenous Education in Public Schools* with Teachers College Press in their Multicultural Education Series.

In his new book, Hopkins critiques recent efforts to reform Indigenous education in public schools, centering his critique on Montana State's innovative and bold multicultural education policy called Indian Education for All (IEFA), and demonstrates why Indigenous education reforms must decolonize the curriculum and pedagogy to address the academic inequalities facing Native students. Using tribal critical race theory and culturally sustaining and revitalizing pedagogy, *Indian Education for All* proposes a shift in the ways teacher candidates learn about Indigenous

education and instruct Native students. It explains why teachers and schools need to privilege Indigenous knowledge and explicitly integrate decolonization concepts into teaching and learning to address the academic gaps in Native education. This book will also help non-Native educators to engage in productive and authentic conversations with tribal communities about what Indigenous education reform should entail.

Available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Indian-Education-All-Decolonizing-Multicultural/dp/0807764582>

Dr. Ben Peet (Mathematics) had the paper *Coverings of configurations, prime configurations, and orbiconfigurations* accepted by the pure mathematics journal *Revista Colombiana de Matemáticas*. It is due to be published in January 2021. The inspiration for the paper came from teaching the upper-division geometry course at SMU last spring and is a combination of combinatorics and geometry. A *configuration* is best introduced by the following puzzle:

Suppose you have six trees. How can you plant them in four straight lines so that each line has three trees and each tree is on two lines?

A *configuration* in general is an arrangement where you have n points (trees), m lines, s lines per point, and t points per line. The paper Peet wrote extends this definition and finds crossover with geometric topology.



Dr. Teresa Winstead (Sociology & Cultural Anthropology) is on sabbatical this academic year working with the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (UW ADAI), funded by PEW Charitable trusts. They are investigating the impact of treatment with Opioid Agonist Medication on Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Winstead is leading the qualitative side of the research, conducting a process evaluation of the Buprenorphine Clinic's practices and gathering patient narratives about the impact of clinical treatment.

Winstead has a mentor for this work at University of New Mexico (UNM), Albuquerque, and has consulted with the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation as they build the research design—for support and ideas, too. They are also working on a communication plan and PEW is excited to get the word out about the work as it progresses.



Dr. Andrea Kunder (Physics) was awarded a \$187,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to sustain her research on the Milky Way Galaxy.

The NSF grant will fund a survey Kunder is leading called "the Bulge Radial Velocity Assay for RR Lyrae stars" (BRAVA-RR).

This survey will produce a map of 3D motions of these stars (5,000 of them), which are the oldest stars located in the inner part of the Milky Way Galaxy. The goal of this map is to provide a more detailed picture of the formation processes of them.

"Just like archaeologists use fossils to study the early history of the earth, old stars can [help us] study the early history of the gal-

axy," said Kunder, whose area of expertise is astrophysics with more than 70 refereed scientific publications.

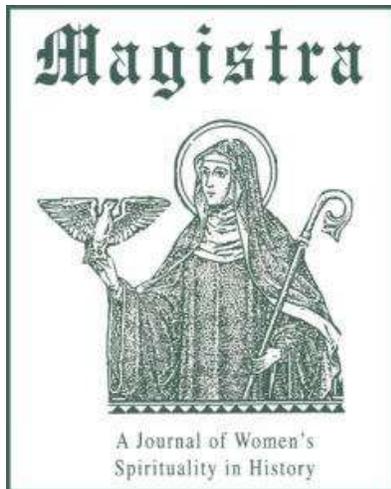
"It's not easy to know if a star is old or young. But here are some stars, called RR Lyrae stars, that pulsate with periods of around 12 hours, because they are undergoing Helium fusion in their core. These stars are unequivocally old, which we know from the physics of how nuclear fusion works and how long it takes for Hydrogen to be depleted in the core of a star and then for Helium fusion to start."

The NSF grant is an expansion of the work Kunder conducted with support from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Fund's College Research Program. Part of the grant

will also help fund six undergraduate research assistants to use the 4-m class Anglo-Australian telescopes to carry out observations.

"A number of undergraduate students, including Jonathan Ogata, Dylon Maertens, Alexander Tilton, Emily Boren, and Emma Murari, worked meticulously on various different analysis of these stars, publishing our results to illustrate to the scientific community that the BRAVA-AA survey is both successful and impactful."

Kunder shared that only one out of five astrophysics NSF grants are funded. The only astronomy and astrophysics NSF research grants awarded in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington this year went to the University of Washington and Saint Martin's University.



Br. Luke Devine, O.S.B., Ph.D. (Religious Studies)

published an article, “Five Beasts for Four Horsemen: Observations on Hildegard’s Use of the Book of Revelation” in *Magistra: A Journal of Women’s Spirituality in History* (Vol. 26, No. 1) this summer.

Hildegard of Bingen was a twelfth-century Benedictine abbess, visionary, writer, and

composer, among her wide range of talents and areas of knowledge. Two of her major writings, *Scivias* and *Book of Divine Works* include her visions of the end times and final judgment of humanity. Br. Luke’s article investigates how she creatively incorporated the Book of Revelation into her visions of the end times.

The Washington State chapter of the national Association of Social Workers (NASW) announced that one of SMU’s senior BSW students, **Ernesto Cabrera**, was appointed to the Board of Directors as the BSW representative for the 2020-2021 term. Statewide, only one BSW student is chosen to serve on the Board. This is an incredible opportunity to participate at the macro-practice level and to represent SMU in a statewide professional organization.

NASW—Washington Chapter’s mission is to strengthen the social work profession and promote diversity, inclusion, and social justice. Ernesto joined another SMU BSW graduate, **Britney Davis (BSW ‘19)**, who was recently elected to a position as the Western Washington representative.





Dr. Ian Werrett (Religious Studies) was mentioned in a special feature on the *Dead Sea Scrolls* called “Custodians of the Scrolls.” The article mentioned his 2015 publication titled “Is Qumran a Library?” Here’s a peek from the article:

“For many of these scholars, the hundreds of scrolls recovered at Qumran is persuasive enough evidence of Khirbet

Qumran’s standing as a library, or certainly a place that house a library. Many of the scrolls were written in multiple languages—including Hebrew, Greek, and several regional dialects of Aramaic—lending credibility to the hypothesis that there existed at Khirbet Qumran a large collection of texts available to at least a particular segment of the settlement’s literature populace.

“Whether a library at Khirbet Qumran existed in the formal sense of a building dedicated to housing the written word, such as the modern libraries or the library of Alexandria in Egypt, scholars are uncertain. But as Ian Werrett writes in “Is Qumran a Library?” in ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran and the Concept of a Library,’ “It would seem that the Dead Sea Scrolls are indeed the remains of a library—a private, Jewish library to be sure, but a library nevertheless,” (Custodians of the Scrolls, 2020, p. 46).

Drs. Mary Jo Hartman (Biology) and **Katherine Porter (Mathematics)** were selected to present an hour-long presentation, via Zoom, at the 11th Annual “Transforming the Teaching & Learning Environment” virtual conference on February 13, 2020. Their presentation was titled “Bored at Work?? Energize yourself and your Students!” Selections are decided after a team reviews over 300 previous presentations at other conferences in the past year; there is no call for presentations. Their

previous 20-minute presentation in June 2019 at “The Teaching Professor Conference,” titled “How do I keep myself and my students engaged in excited in the learning process?” is the presentation that generated this selection.



SMU Undergraduates Publish in Top Astrophysics Journal

Dr. Andrea Kunder (Physics) co-published a paper with her Summer 2019 students in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *The Astronomical Journal*, one of the premier journals for astronomy (impact factor 5.8).

The SMU undergraduates on this paper on **Jonathan Ogata, Emilie Boren, and Emma Murari**. Ogata (Mathematics major, Physics minor) led the calculations of the radial velocities of 2768 RR Lyrae stars and showed they are exhibiting cylindrical rotation around the Milky Way galaxy. Boren (Chemistry major) led the analysis of a group of the highest velocity RR Lyrae stars in this sample, finding they all belong to the Halo of the Milky Way galaxy. Murari (Biology major) led the determination of the distances to these stars that are not as centrally confined. The paper is currently in the top 6% of highest cited papers in 2020.

Kunder's 2019-20 Inventions

Oct. 2019: Kunder gave an invited talk at the conference “RRL/Cep 2019—Frontiers of Classical Pulsators: Theory and Observations”

Nov. 2019: Kunder gave the physics colloquium talk at Reed College

Dec. 2019: Kunder was invited to give a colloquium at John Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, MD. These institutions paid for her attendance, including travel arrangements and meals for the two days she was there visiting and meeting faculty.



Dr. Jeff Crane was invited to apply and joined the Board of Trustees for the non-profit nearshore scientific research group Coastal Watershed Institute in Port Angeles, WA. One of their focused is the

Elwha nearshore, a scholarship emphasis for Dr. Crane.



Coastal Watershed Institute

www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org

Title III Grant Awarded to Saint Martin's University

Ann Adams, MBA (Associate Dean of Students; Director of Career Development; Saints Care Manager; Business), Alyssa Nastasi, MBA (Assistant Director of Career Development; Peace Corps Program Coordinator; Business), Dr. Erin Hoiland (Institutional Advancement) and Dr. Jeff Crane (Dean of CAS; Interim Dean of CEC; History) co-wrote a Title III Grant to increase internship participation. The grant from the Department of Education is worth \$2,250,000. The programs supported by this grant should increase student retention and improve student competitiveness in the job market, as well as their applications to graduate and professional programs when they graduate from SMU.

Halloween Zoom-stravaganza!

Dr. Irene Hauzinger's (Social Work) class decided to dress up for their class' Zoom meeting on Halloween! Featured costumes included a fairy, a reindeer, and Wednesday Addams, just to name a few. Sometimes creativity in a Zoom world is much needed.

