GENERAL EDUCATION PROFESSORSHIP

Associate Professor Bob Hudson (French Literature, Film, and Cuisine) was recently awarded the 2022 BYU General Education Professorship. This award recognizes outstanding professors teaching general courses. Hudson specializes in teaching French literature, art, culture, and French and Italian film general courses. In addition to teaching, Hudson was also nominated for his research and scholarship. He firmly believes in facilitating mentorship and encouraging his students to analyze French culture.

JAMES FAULCONER PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

Retiring professor James E. Faulconer was recently honored for his academic achievements in the College of Humanities at the Latter-day Saint Philosophical Theology Conference. The event ran from November 17 to 19, 2022, featuring philosophy lectures and tributes to Faulconer. Oxford professor Mark Wrathall gave the keynote address speaking on Faulconer’s ideas of faith and belief. Other lectures honoring Faulconer included “Grounding, Trinitarianism, and the LDS Conception of God,” “Obedience as a Principle of Practical Reason,” and “The Book of the Weeping God.”

BYU NATO CONFERENCE

From October 16 to 21, 2022, the NATO Bureau for International Language Coordination (BILC) held its Professional Development Seminar at BYU due to BYU’s reputation as “the language university.” Representatives from 25 countries attended the conference, hearing remarks from US senator Mitt Romney (English ’71), Renata Forste (BYU international vice president), Dean J. Scott Miller (BYU College of Humanities), Irena Prpić Đurić (BILC chair), as well as presentations by 10 BYU professors and 22 representatives from attending countries that focused primarily on experience-based learning, motivating adult learners in a military environment, and assessing language proficiency in government and military positions. Associate Dean Ray Clifford noted the conference’s importance as the first time ever that a BILC conference has been held on at a university campus, observing that “for these people, teaching language can be a matter of life or death.”

TURNING THE ENGLISH DEGREE INTO A JOB

Many students graduating with an English degree worry whether they can get a good job after graduation. On Thursday, October 20, 2022, four alumni presented at the English at Work Panel on their career paths and how they use their English degrees in professional settings. Jennifer Egan writes stories for video games, most recently designing a narrative...
works as a product manager at Deseret Book, helping authors get from manuscript to polished product. The presenters inspired their audience to have confidence in their personal journey.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH MEETS MENTORING
Associate Professors Grant Eckstein (Second Language Writing), Jacob Rawlins (Editing and Publishing), and several undergraduate and graduate researchers presented their research findings on reporting verbs at the TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo in Pittsburgh. Writers use reporting verbs to introduce research from another author (like stated, claimed, and found). More recently, Eckstein, Rawlins, and their students presented at international conferences in Ireland; Flagstaff, Arizona; and Tampa, Florida. The group’s published article on reporting verbs is the start of further research and publishing on both this topic and their larger focus of writing variation among academic disciplines. Rawlins explains, “Students bring a unique perspective and fresh eyes to the research—and a lot of energy and excitement as well.”

EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITIES
Professor Robert D. Newman, director of the National Humanities Center and former dean of the College of Humanities at the University of Utah, spoke at a Humanities Center Colloquium on September 12, 2022. He described how the humanities are most transformative when they “conjoin social and ecological justice, as well as [being] a dynamic intersection between personal and societal transformation.” Newman hoped that the humanities become an interdisciplinary and community-wide effort, joining with science to fight against climate change. “Saving democracy, saving civil society, saving the planet are all intimately intertwined with securing the future of the humanities,” Newman concluded.

OFFICE OF BELONGING AWARD
Adjunct Faculty Michael Easterling (Interdisciplinary Humanities), a four-time Belonging nominee, was honored for his work in expanding belonging on campus at the Office of Belonging Honoree Dinner held November 30, 2022. A recent social media campaign sought to recognize exceptional students, faculty, and staff who facilitate a sense of belonging on campus. Easterling received the most votes out of any nominee in the campaign. “There’s nothing special about me that makes me any better than anybody else. But there’s absolutely something that I can learn from everybody if I open myself to them,” he said.

RENAMEING THE FAITH & IMAGINATION INSTITUTE
The Center for the Study of Christian Values in Literature has recently been renamed the Faith & Imagination Institute, coordinated by Ed Cutler (Critical Theory in Literature). The renaming highlights the institute’s enhanced mission in light of shifting attitudes toward religion in literature and academia. The institute will continue to run the David O. McKay Essay Contest, publish the associated journal (The Restored Gospel and Applied Christianity: Student Essays in Honor of President David O. McKay), hold an annual symposium, and feature the Faith and Imagination podcast.

IN MEMORIAM
Donald Ray Marshall (November 25, 1934–October 25, 2022)
Professor Emeritus of Humanities
Don was born in Panguitch, Utah, one of seven children. He studied art at BYU and served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tahiti. He also served in the US Army Reserves. Don later returned to BYU to earn his MA in English, then a PhD from the University of Connecticut in American literature. In 1971 he returned to BYU to teach humanities. He loved writing, painting, and watching films. His passion for the latter inspired him to lead BYU’s International Cinema from 1975 until his retirement in 2000. Today the College of Humanities sponsors a faculty award in his name.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS


The presenters inspired their audience to have confidence in their personal journey.

NATO representatives highlight the importance of language learning at BILC Conference.

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