

Humanities News



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In November 2023, Professor Doug Weatherford's (20th-Century Spanish American Narrative) translation of the Mexican novel *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo gained recognition from *The New York Times*, which praised his work as "the best of Rulfo in English." In February 2024, German associate professor Teresa Bell (Second Language Acquisition and Language Teaching) was elected president of the Utah Foreign Language Association (UFLA). In her new position, Bell hopes to advocate for increased access to language learning for students of all ages. Sharing Bell's goals is Assistant Professor Jeff Peterson (Extensive Reading, Online Language Learning), who won UFLA's 2024 Teacher of the Year award for his work in the Japanese program.

UNEARTHING PIONEER-ERA GRAVES

In the 1890s, a pioneer woman named Eva Charlotta Andersson lost her two infant sons. Due to the illegal nature of her polygamous marriage, Andersson buried them in secret, leaving their graves unmarked. When College of Humanities students Becca Driggs (History '24) and Jill Barrick (French '25) heard Andersson's story, they petitioned the Orem City Council for permission to turn the site of the boys' graves—an empty lot in Orem, Utah—into a park for those suffering from the loss of a child. Thanks to their efforts and the support of Professor Julie Allen (Scandinavian and Immigration History), the city council has approved plans for the park, and the project remains ongoing.

EXPANDING THE RESEARCH & WRITING CENTER

In spring 2023, BYU awarded the Research & Writing Center (RWC) the Presidential Innovation Grant, which has helped the RWC expand their ability to help students become better at researching and writing. While the RWC has successfully assisted students for decades by hiring talented undergraduate mentors, this grant has given them the funding to hire more experienced mentors (such as adjunct faculty) who can help graduate students more effectively. The RWC has been able to increase the number of appointments with graduate students by 150% in the last year. Between June 2023 and June 2024, the RWC held 15,172 appointments with students, 455 of those being consultations with graduate students.

CHANGES IN COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Professor Daryl Lee (19th-Century French Culture and Literature), who has served as the French & Italian Department chair for the last six years, stepped down on June 30, 2024. Lee was succeeded by Professor Bob Hudson (French Renaissance Poetry and Culture). Additionally, Professors Kerry Soper (Comparative Arts & Letters), Dan Dewey (Linguistics), and Richard McBride (Asian & Near Eastern Languages) renewed their service as chairs of their respective departments. Professors Peter Leman (English) and Heather Belnap (Comparative Arts & Letters) were also appointed as faculty coordinators of Africana Studies and Global Women's Studies programs, respectively.

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