



CoLA Lowdown

A NOTE

From the Dean

This is our last CoLA Lowdown for the academic year, and I want to make sure everyone knows how hard Mandy Hine works on this valuable communication portal. She puts this newsletter together regularly, without complaint, and with very little acknowledgement. So I just want to very publicly say, “Thank you, Mandy.”

Truth is, I need to thank everyone in CoLA (and at SIU in general). You seem to have welcomed me and I feel warmth and collegiality on a daily basis. We talk about “belonging” a lot, especially with regard

College Calendars

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff Calendar](#)

College Committees

to marginalized groups, as we should. But everyone likes to feel they belong—every one of us. We all operate in many spheres, many contexts, many academic and non-academic environments, and it's imperative that we derive some amount of comfort from belonging with others—especially as we emerge from a global pandemic. There is also some satisfaction as we welcome others, help others. There is much research that connects the act of giving with our own mental health. So as we seek to belong, we can also seek to welcome.

I hope to see you all at commencement. Go dawgs!

[CoLA Committees
Webpage](#)

The CoLA Committees webpage lists all the committee meeting minutes.

Position Announcement

Associate Dean for Budget, Personnel and Research. Deadline is Sunday, April 23rd or until filled. [Job Details](#)

College

Meetings

Undergraduate Program Coordinators meetings will take place the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

Directors meetings take place the first Thursday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

Upcoming

Deadlines

April 21: NTT Workload Assignments

May 10: NTT Annual Performance Review

May 15: GA Performance Evaluations

Share Your News

Do you have news to add to an upcoming CoLA Lowdown? Submit [**this form**](#) to share news, events, awards, and more with the rest of the College.

Selectees of the 2023 CoLA Incentive Programs

This spring the College of Liberal Arts introduced five new faculty incentive programs. Different from awards for past achievement, the incentive programs are intended to help support faculty in the completion of new or ongoing research projects and teaching activities. The Faculty Development Committee and the CoLA Dean's office are pleased to announce the selectees of the 2023 CoLA Incentive Programs:

Faculty Summer Research Incentive Program (\$5,000 each) – [**José Najar**](#), Assistant Professor of History, and [**Nilanjana Bardhan**](#), Professor of

Communication Studies. The Faculty Summer Research Incentive Program provides funds to support the research of faculty members at the rank of Assistant Professor and Professor. Dr. Najar's projects focus broadly on understanding the reasons behind state and mob violence in Brazilian socio-political culture. Dr. Bardhan's project involves research that will lead to the creation of a new monograph on inclusive leadership.


The Associate Professor Summer Research Incentive Program (\$5,000 each) – **Stephen Bloom**, Associate Professor of Political Science, and **Ulrich Reichard**, Associate Professor of Anthropology. Funds allocated under this program support the research and creative activities of Associate Professors. Dr. Bloom's research program will take him to Senegal to study multi-ethnic parties. Dr. Reichard's research will take him to Thailand to study vocal communication patterns in Gibbons.

The Interdisciplinary Research/Teaching Incentive Program (\$3,000 each) – **Mont Allen** and **Gretchen Dabbs**, Associate Professor of Classics and Professor of Anthropology, respectively, and **Lourdes Albuixech** and **Brianna Janssen Sanchez**, Associate Professor of Spanish and Assistant Professor of World Language Education, respectively. Dr. Allen and Dr. Dabbs's incentive funds will allow for the purchase of marble coffins to test a theory of ancient Roman bodily decomposition. Dr. Albuixech and Dr. Janssen Sanchez will use the funds to allow for better virtual language exchange in Spanish courses.

Pedagogy Exploration Incentive Program (\$1,000 each) provides support for faculty members of any rank to promote innovative pedagogical offerings within new or existing courses. Up to five awards can be supported through the PEIP. This spring, all four faculty proposals that were submitted were selected for funding:

- **Chris Chiasson**, Assistant Professor of Practice, German, to help establish a German study abroad program
- **Kimberly Berger**, Assistant Lecturer, ASL, to purchase instructional videos that will aid in aspects of teaching ASL.
- **Katherine Martin**, Associate Professor of Linguistics, to provide funds that will allow students in advanced Linguistics courses to work in local schools.
- **Rachel Olsen**, Assistant Professor of Practice, Linguistics, to purchase books for interdisciplinary courses.

No proposals were submitted for a fifth incentive program, the Inclusive Excellence Incentive Program.



2023 CoLA Awards

The College of Liberal Arts Dean's office is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 CoLA Awards:

Early Career Faculty Excellence Award (\$2,000)– Francesca Dennstedt, Assistant Professor of Spanish. The Early Career Faculty Excellence Award recognizes one CoLA faculty member who has demonstrated significant contributions to the research and teaching missions of the university within their first five years at SIU.

Scholar Excellence Award (\$2,000)– Randall Auxier, Professor of Communication Studies and Philosophy. The Scholar Excellence Award recognizes a CoLA faculty member who has demonstrated scholarly excellence through a program of peer reviewed research or creative activity that has been shown to have a national and international impact on their discipline.

Tenured/Tenure-Track Outstanding Teacher Award (\$2,000)– Betsy Dougherty, Associate Professor of English. The Outstanding Teacher Award is given to faculty who have established a strong record of teaching excellence through pedagogy, course delivery, and inspirational mentoring of students.

The **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** (\$250 each) is given to graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts who have demonstrated quality teaching and innovative teaching practices as Teaching Assistants in CoLA courses. Three students are recognized this year for Outstanding Graduate Teaching.

- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (Ph.D.) – **Alicia Utecht** (Communication Studies)
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (M.A.) – **Luis Gomez España** (Spanish)
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (M.A.) – **Lauren Stengel** (English)

Please join us in congratulating this year's winners. We would also like to give a special thank you to the 2023 CoLA Awards committee members for their hard work and thoughtfulness in reviewing the nominations.

Recent Accomplishments

Faculty

Dr. Gretchen R. Dabbs, Professor of Anthropology, will be delivering the Keynote Speech at the American Research Center, Egypt's 2023 Fellows' Symposium. The symposium is titled "Questioning Narratives: Reflecting on New Questions with Old Evidence". Dabbs' talk, titled "The importance of time, space, and reflexivity in Egyptology: Examining the evidence for an epidemic disease at Akhetaten", introduces mortuary practice and biological data from the skeletal remains of individuals buried in four non-elite cemeteries at Amarna (ancient Akhetaten) to the corpus of previously published work addressing the presence of an epidemic disease at the New Kingdom capital city. These sources, which come from religious texts, diplomatic correspondence, and archaeological remains from broader Egypt, have been used to claim an epidemic disease was a driving factor in the near-abandonment of the ancient capital after the death of Akhenaten, the pharaoh.

In collaboration with his former student and SIU PhD Leonidas Vournelis, **Dr. David Sutton** published a chapter in the volume [The Handbook of Food and Material Culture](#) (Bloomsbury, 2023). The chapter explores some of the key symbolic dichotomies of Neoliberalism in Greece, and is titled "'When the Numbers Prosper, The People Suffer: Robust Food Cultures, Tacit Knowledge and the Abstractions of Contemporary Neoliberal Culture.'"

Graduate Students

Abraham Packard (MA Student, Anthropology) recently won First Place among graduate student oral presentations in Anthropology and Archaeology at the Illinois State Academy of Sciences annual meeting in Peoria. His paper was based on his recently defended thesis, titled "Bones, Bugs and Bioerosion: Dermestid Beetle Substrate Preference and their Taphonomic Effect on Bone". His advisor, Gretchen R. Dabbs (Professor, Anthropology) was co-author of the paper.

Recent Events

Southern Regional Illinois History Day Competition





On March 25th, the annual Southern Regional Illinois History Day Competition was host to over 150 students from 6th through 12th grade from all over Southern Illinois. The event was held at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and was sponsored by the History program. This History Fair was one of four regional contests where student entries could qualify for the State Competition at the University of Illinois at Springfield on Saturday, April 22, 2023. This year, judges sent 90 State Qualifiers to the Illinois History Day event.

Parents and students were able to watch a History Department Live Student Podcast – “How American Fashion and Media from Spaghetti Westerns Clashes With the Reality of Historical Black and Indigenous Cowboys.” They could also see a presentation about Reacting to the Past--historical role playing in the classroom--by Ryan Jurich, and a Digital Humanities on Campus presentation by Matt Gordon. There was also a campus tour for students and parents, and an Awards Ceremony announcing the Junior and Senior division category winners and the State Qualifiers.

Honors Day



Thank you to all faculty and staff who helped to make this year's Honor's Day a success for CoLA! The Honor's Day ceremony was held on Saturday, April 1st in Shryock. This year, we had 32 students attend the ceremony, along with their parents and other guests. A light reception followed the ceremony.

State of the College



Over 50 faculty, staff, and graduate students attended the State of the College on Friday, April 7th! Dean Murray gave brief remarks on the positive direction of CoLA, and recent successes. He also recognized new faculty hires in CoLA in recent years.

Important Information

The College of Liberal Arts **Retention Committee seeks faculty volunteers** to give a 50-minute lecture to one or two sections of University 101 during the fall 2023 semester. The sections, comprised of new CoLA students, will meet on Wednesdays, 10-10:50am and Thursdays, 1:00-1:50pm. A faculty member would give one lecture at most twice (i.e., on a Wednesday and a Thursday) during one week of the fall semester, most probably in week five, seven, nine, or eleven. The lectures offer a unique opportunity to introduce new students to your disciplines and programs and relate the class's common text—*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*—to your

area of scholarly expertise. Any faculty member from any school may volunteer; the committee particularly seeks broad representation of academic units. These sections of UNIV 101 will help “pilot” a future CoLA 101 course (projected for fall 2024). CoLA 101 will be an interdisciplinary class, taught by faculty from different schools, that exposes students to the intellectual breadth and diversity of the College of Liberal Arts. If interested, please contact Patrick McGrath (pjmcgrath@siu.edu).

CoLA Electives Webpage - CoLA is looking to highlight courses for Summer and Fall 2023 that majors across the university can take as electives. We're looking for courses that do not require a prerequisite and are likely 200/300/400 level courses. Think about courses that you are most excited to teach. These courses will be included on the [CoLA Electives](#) webpage and sent out to advisors across the university. If interested, please contact Rachel Wolters (rachelw@siu.edu).



College of Liberal Arts Commencement will be held Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m., at the Banterra Center. Faculty information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, April 26th at 5pm the School of Languages & Linguistics will have an **online talk by Dr. Megan Schildmier** from Cresta AI. Dr. Schildmier is a

linguist who works on AI conversation tools. She will discuss her path to this career and what she does as a linguist in this industry. [Zoom link](#)

THE MORTON-KENNEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS LECTURE SERIES
presents

ENGAGEMENT AND PLURALISM: PATHS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

with

Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier

Ohio State University Professor

April 25 • 6:00 p.m.

Morris Library Guyon Auditorium



JANET M. BOX-STEFFENSMEIER is one of the leading political scientists in the United States. Box-Steffensmeier is the Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science and Distinguished University Professor at The Ohio State University. In 2017, she was selected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Box-Steffensmeier recently served as President of the American Political Science Association. She has also served as the President of the Midwest Political Science Association and Political Methodology Society.

She has received numerous awards for her research. She was an inaugural Fellow of the Society for Political Methodology. She has twice received the Gosnell Award for the best work in political methodology and the Emerging Scholar Award of the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section of the American Political Science Association in 2001. The Box-Steffensmeier Graduate Student Award, given annually by the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) is named after her in recognition of her contributions in political methodology and her support of women in the field.

She directs the Program in Statistics and Methodology (PRISM) and is a scholar of American Politics and Political Methodology.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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For disability accommodations call 618/453-5738.



Online
SKY HAPPINESS RETREAT

April 28-30
Friday: 6 pm - 9 pm CST
Sat & Sun: 11.00 am - 2 pm CST

A weekend retreat filled with an evidence-based meditation, powerful breathwork practices, social connection, self-development and stress-management skills which improve focus, bring calm, clarity and happiness

Register at
<http://tiny.cc/skyretreatIL>

Contact sky.siuc@gmail.com



Fully funded for SIUC students, staff and faculty, upon acceptance.
Limited seats available.





Finals Week Carbs & Caffeine Bagels, fruit, coffee and juice every day of finals week starting at 7:45am with highlights from local bakeries!



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