



# CoLA Lowdown

## A NOTE

### *From the Dean*

As the Spring 2024 commencement approaches and we begin to look back at the last academic year, there is much to be grateful for. Despite some difficult financial and organizational challenges, CoLA has managed to hire (or will hire) seven new tenure-track faculty and seven new non-tenure track faculty this year. Some of these came to us as spousal hires, some with changes to the

## College Calendars

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff  
Calendar](#)

organizational structure of what was once known as “exploratory” students, and some from previous unsuccessful attempts last year that were successful this year. This new class of 14 faculty will be joining our ranks in the fall, and I want to thank everyone involved in getting this done.

But I want to especially thank our Associate Dean for Budget, Personnel, and Research, Dr. Jennifer Smith. While the hiring season was just getting started, our hiring software changed (from HireTouch to NeoEd). This change was for the good, but it made Jennifer’s job even more difficult as she transitioned from old processes and procedures, to interim fixes, to present-day reality of a new system. Some of the new faculty mentioned above were in the old system, some in an interim (manual) system, and some in the new system. Compounded with this was all the normal back-and-forth between CoLA, the Provost’s office, and the Vice Chancellor for Research. I just want to highlight her work here today not because others working in CoLA do not also deserve this kind of recognition, but because the hiring season is starting to come to a close and we owe our thanks to Jennifer for helping us be successful.

We also have all of our CoLA Awards and our CoLA Incentive Program winners announced in this Lowdown. Please help us celebrate all the wonderful things happening in our college, and I am grateful for our growth, especially at this moment.

## College Committees

[CoLA Committees Webpage](#)

The CoLA Committees webpage lists all the committee meeting minutes.

## College

# Meetings

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

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

## Upcoming

# Deadlines

May 15: 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 2024 CoLA Incentive Programs

The College of Liberal Arts is pleased to announce the following faculty proposals have been awarded funds through the CoLA Incentive Program.

Pedagogy Exploration Incentive (\$1,000):

- **Michael Olsen** (Linguistics). Dr. Olsen will be able to use PEI funds to continue an academic license with the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and related corpora. The license will permit multiple graduate students and faculty to use the COCA database for scholarly research in sociolinguistics and beyond. Dr. Olsen noted in his application that several graduate students in his linguistics seminar are successfully using COCA in and out of the classroom to investigate linguistic change in contemporary sociopolitical events. The funds can help future students and faculty continue similar research projects in multiple related courses.
- **Josh Daniel** (English). Dr. Daniel's funds will be used to help develop content for a new retention initiative in ENGL 101. The initiative is intended to help reduce the DFW rate in ENGL 101, a course that nearly all SIU students are required to take before graduating. As part of this effort, Dr. Daniel will work with the Center for Virtual Expression (CVeX) to provide students an optional toolkit of videos and assignments that can help illustrate SIUs support services and show students how those support services can be utilized.

- **Josh Houston** (Communication Studies). Josh will use his funds to help continue development of a PR Spin course. One of the most interesting innovations in the course is that Josh uses the word Spin in both of its forms: Students will learn how public relations professionals use persuasive language, which is often known as ‘spin.’ At the same time, the course will be located in the Rec Center’s Cycle Studio, and students can do spin exercise while they participate in the course.

Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching Summer Incentive (\$3,000):

- **Randall Auxier** (Communication Studies and Philosophy). Dr. Auxier’s proposal focuses on his work creating the Cassirer Center, a global interdisciplinary center of learning, research, and cultural diplomacy operating in part through a bilateral relationship between SIU and the University of Wrocław in Poland. The funds will be used to help further develop the center, including completing the work of offering lecture and course opportunities for students participating in the Cassirer Center.

Inclusive Excellence Incentive (\$3,000):

- **Santiago Gualpuro** (Linguistics and Spanish). Dr. Gualpuro’s proposal focuses on creating an inclusive, collaborative, and community-oriented approach to studying, teaching, and researching indigenous languages and cultures in the Americas. This project includes the creation of a new cross-listed course focused on linguistic and cultural studies of the Americas.

Associate Professor Summer Research Incentive (\$5,000):

- **Hale Yilmaz** (History). Dr. Yilmaz’s funds will be used to complete research and writing for a larger project about the historical transformation and contemporary significance of panayirs (fairs) in Turkey, which typically take place after the fall harvests. The funds will allow Dr. Yilmaz to travel to Turkey and finish her research.
- **Rachel Whaley** (Sociology). Dr. Whaley’s proposal focuses on completing multiple research projects. One project seeks to better integrate the role of gender into the study of criminology. Another project uses national survey data to examine patterns in abortion and religion responses post-*Dobbs*, and three related projects will help complete collaborative work with current and former graduate students. Dr. Whaley will travel to conferences to present this research and work on completing these projects.

Assistant-Full Faculty Summer Research Incentive (\$5,000):

- **Ryan Netzley** (English). Dr. Netzley’s funds will allow him finish work on a new book project focusing on the role of poems and the poetic form in the larger social order. Dr. Netzley will travel to at least one conference to present the first chapters, and will then work on completing the full manuscript. This will be Dr. Netzley’s fourth book.
- **Brianna Janssen Sanchez** (LCIS). Dr. Janssen Sanchez’s project examines world language teacher leadership initiatives from a diverse array of perspectives. The funds will be used to conduct qualitative interviews with

teachers and administrators to examine their views on these important leadership programs and efforts.

The college applauds the work of the Faculty Development Committee in managing the incentive application process. The CoLA Incentives are open to all faculty in the College of Liberal Arts, and all faculty are encouraged to submit an application for one or more of the incentive categories. The committee reviews and evaluates applications (any committee members who submit applications must recuse themselves from participating in the review and evaluation of all applications in their incentive category). The committee then makes recommendations to the Dean, based on the overall merit of the projects and with consideration for any priorities laid out in each specific incentive description.

## 2024 CoLA Awards

**Tenured/Tenure-Track Outstanding Teacher Award – Scott McEathron**, Associate Professor of English. This Award is given to a T/TT faculty member who has established a strong record of teaching excellence through pedagogy, course delivery, and inspirational mentoring of students.

**Non-Tenure-Track Outstanding Teacher Award – Christopher Chiasson**, Assistant Professor of Practice of German. This Award is given to an NTT faculty who has established a strong record of teaching excellence through pedagogy, course delivery, and inspirational mentoring of students.

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award – India Hagen Gates**, Graduate Assistant (PhD) in Communication Studies. This award 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.

Please join us in congratulating this year's winners. We would also like to give a special thank you to the 2024 CoLA Awards committee members for their hard work and thoughtfulness in reviewing the nominations.

## Recent Events



# Honors Day



This year's Honors Day was held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Shryock. CoLA had close to 50 students attend the ceremony, along with their parents and supporters. Numerous faculty also attended the event (THANK YOU). A reception catered by Crystal's followed.

# Spanish Language Day



## Spanish Language Day 2024

Spanish Language Day was a successful event this year with many participants and activities. Thanks to everyone who contributed!



# Important Information

Students will be registering for Summer and Fall 2024 classes soon! CoLA highlights courses on the [Electives Webpage](#) that students within CoLA, and across the university, may be interested in taking. The focus is on courses at the 200/300/400 level that do not require a prerequisite. Faculty teaching special topics courses, new courses, or classes that have not been offered lately, are especially encouraged to submit their courses so that students and advisors can see more information about those courses. Please see the current webpage for examples. If interested in submitting info for the website, please contact Rachel Wolters ([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu)).

**CTE Hours of Operation Extended During Final Exam Week Hours** May 6 - May 10, the CTE will be open until 5:30 p.m. to accommodate scantron drop-offs. If your exams end later in the evening and a next-day drop-off is inconvenient, please contact us at [teach@siu.edu](mailto:teach@siu.edu) to make alternative arrangements.



**College of Liberal Arts Commencement** will be held Saturday, May 11, 9:00am, at the Banterra Center. Faculty information can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Events



*Brought to you by COLA*

# CARBS AND CAFFEINE WEEK

SECOND FLOOR OF  
FANER WING C ABOVE  
THE MUSEUM.  
EVERYONE WELCOMED!

7:45AM - 2PM  
EVERYDAY OF FINALS  
WEEK

**Monday** - Specialty Donuts from Bake Me Happy

**Tuesday** - Croquembouche Towers from Cristaudo's

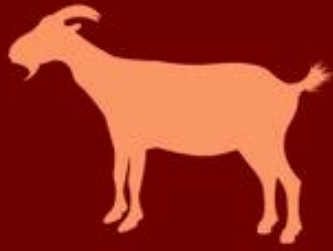
**Wednesday** - Quiche from Get Dipped

**Thursday** - Giant Cinnamon Rolls from Bunmakers

**Friday** - Cupcakes and Keto Bars from Heather's Bakeshop

PANERA BAGELS AND COFFEE SERVED EVERYDAY

Plus fun activities planned out! Goat Yoga Monday  
May 6th from 9-11am!



# GOAT

# YOGA



**COME OUT TO FANER COURTYARD (LOCATED ON THE  
SECOND FLOOR IN WING C) ON MAY 6TH FOR SOME  
GOAT YOGA FROM 9-11AM!**

**REAL LIVE  
GOATS  
INCLUDED**



**COME  
WHENEVER, FOR  
AS LONG AS YOU  
WOULD LIKE!**



## SKY HAPPINESS RETREATS

Option 1: April 19 - 21,  
Option 2: May 31 - June 2,  
Option 3: June 14 - 16

friday: 6 pm cst - 9 pm cst  
sat & sun: 12 pm cst - 3:30 pm cst

a powerful weekend retreat filled with evidence-based meditation and breathwork practices and stress-management skills which bring calm, clarity and happiness

APPLY HERE <https://forms.gle/u6souSFkAEnQVKUz8>



YOGA



MEDITATION



SECRETS OF  
BREATH



NEW  
PERSPECTIVES



POSITIVE  
COMMUNITY

ONLINE EXPERIENCE!  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AVAILABLE  
Contact [diksha.mittal@iahv.org](mailto:diksha.mittal@iahv.org) for more information

