

## SOCIAL LIFE AT A GLANCE

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## INSPIRING SOLUTIONS



### Alumni Spotlight

Meet Dave Gessel! Political Science Alumnus. When asked about his time at the U, Dave stated: "I loved my time in the Political Science Department at the U and especially all I did with the Hinckley Institute of Politics. I had passionate professors like J.D. Williams. Dr. R. J. Snow became a mentor and guide. Bae Gardner was so good to all of us. Through the Hinckley Institute I interned with Speaker of the Utah House Norm Bangerter (later Governor) and Congressman Dan Marriott. I was able to get a full ride scholarship for a Masters in Political Science at Rutgers University at the Eagleton Institute of Politics and a J.D. at the University of Virginia. I worked for a U.S. Congressman in Washington where I met my wife. I have been involved in Utah politics professionally since college and have been the lead lobbyist at the Utah Hospital Association for 26 years. It has been a great ride and My career has been a great mix of law, politics, health policy and business. My experience at the U has played a big part in my professional career and life ever since. Thank you."

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### Student Spotlight

Meet Augusto Lopez! Augusto is a Solution Scholar and Psychology major. When asked about himself, Augusto stated: "I was actually born in a small town in Venezuela before I moved to Utah when I was a few months old! While I don't have many hobbies, listening to music is something I just love to do. I love matching reaction memes/videos with my own captions, it is fun and a unique way to be creative. I was drawn to the program for number of reasons honestly. For one, I like the fact that the cohort is small because having the chance to connect to like-minded individuals and creating a community as we are doing big and amazing things is super special to me. I was also super interested by the research opportunities as it got me thinking "what would I do research on if I could?" and plus, many students do not get that opportunity so why not go for it? Ultimately, the key word of the program being 'solution' drew me in as being able to help others and answer unsolved questions is what I strive to do with my education."

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



### 50 years of Inspiring Solutions

The College of Social and Behavioral Science is celebrating its 50th anniversary! In the spirit of celebrating our history, we're encouraging our many students, alumni, staff, faculty and community members to share a bit about their academic experience with CSBS and how their time at our college has influenced their personal and professional story. [SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

Your story and photos will be archived and shared through our communication channels as part of our annual celebration. Storytelling is a powerful way to preserve the legacy and tradition of our college! [VIEW](#)

#### STORIES



### Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and festive holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of our college and its students!

All the best,

**Dean Cindy Berg, Associate Deans Rick Forster and Matt Burbank and the entire CSBS office staff**

[VIEW VIDEO MESSAGE](#)

## FEATURED NEWS

To view our news archive, [click here](#)



### If Aridification Choked the Southwest for Thousands of Years, What Does The Future Hold?

Andrea Brunelle, professor of the geography department explained, "the next really important step is getting this into the hands of water managers or land managers or whoever it is that makes the plans and lays out the policies for the future."

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### How promise of COVID-19 vaccine could impact economy

The news of a vaccine brings hope but won't have a major impact on Utah's economy immediately, professor of economics Peter Phillips said. The economy will start seeing a positive impact when people start feeling comfortable again.

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### Air pollution spikes linked to lower test scores for SLC third graders

Sara Grineski, professor of sociology said, "There are so many studies showing us that air pollution damages our brain's cognitive processing ability...We already know it will improve Utahns respiratory health, but it also can help kids do a little bit better in schools."

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### Does marriage education work?

"Other education efforts to make sure couples succeed are varied, ranging from premarital classes taken by devout Catholics to endeavors by legislatures in some states..." said Nicholas Wolfinger, a professor of family and consumer studies and adjunct professor of sociology

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER - JANUARY

#### CSBS Event Calendar

Many of our December & January events are happening remotely. Please check our calendar for updates to our events. We invite you to attend wherever you are located.

#### Geography Colloquium: Proposals

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021, 10 – 11AM | Virtual Meeting

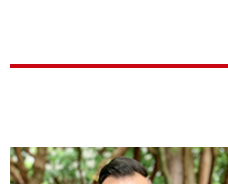
#### Geography Colloquium: Proposals

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021, 10 – 11AM | Virtual Meeting

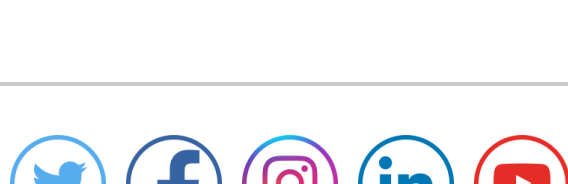
#### Friday Forums: "A Call for Racial Healing"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021, 1 – 3PM | Virtual Meeting

## AWARDS & KUDOS



Political Science Assistant Professor Jesus Valero, and Hee Soun Jang, University of North Texas, have been awarded a RWJF Systems for Action Grant. This grant supports a 2-year project which will study the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless service networks across the US. Research is being conducted on case studies of networks in COVID-19 hotspots to better understand their resiliency and efforts to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. This research opportunity will contribute to an important area of study, generously supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation! Congratulations Jesus on your continued efforts to #bethesolution!



**Stay connected with us!** Check out our social media accounts to learn more about CSBS including news, events, pictures, videos and more!

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

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