

Living a Legacy of Leadership

Curt and Christie Brungardt retired from Fort Hays State University in May of 2019. In honor of their dedication to Fort Hays State University and The Department of Leadership Studies, an endowed fund was established in their name. The fund will support scholarships and needs within the Department of Leadership Studies. If you wish to make a gift, please visit <https://foundation.fhsu.edu/donate> and type "Curt and Christie Brungardt Endowed Fund" as your area of designation. Our department thanks you in advance for your contribution. Notably, Curt and Christie received the Outstanding Service Award from Fort Hays State University, in October, from the Alumni Association.



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Rarick Hall 235 www.fhsu.edu/leadership
Hays, KS 67601 fhsuleaders@fhsu.edu
785-628-4303

Alumni please visit:
<http://www.fhsu.edu/leadership/graduates/>

Stories Written By: Jeff Bourgeois, Jeanae Brungardt, Allison Muth, Brett Whitaker, Donnette Noble, Jeni McRay
Newsletter Designed By: Allison Muth

Department Highlights

- The Leadership Studies Certificate program is now textbook free, and course information will be provided through Open Educational Resources.
- Jeni McRay, Assistant Professor and International Coordinator for the Department of Leadership Studies, received the Outstanding Online Course Award at the SIDLIT Conference in July of 2019.
- Brett Whitaker, Assistant Professor in the Department of Leadership Studies, has been appointed Department Chair.
- Justin Greenleaf, Associate Professor, and Allison Muth, junior Organizational Leadership major, planned and executed the Association of Leadership Educators Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in July of 2019.
- In November, Dr. Kaley Klaus successfully defended her doctoral dissertation.
- Brendon Fox earned a prestigious spot as the faculty liaison between Zhengzhou Sias University, China and Fort Hays State University.
- The department welcomed 27 prospective students during the Fall Shadow Days held on October 24th and November 12th.



2019 Leadership News

Fort Hays State University Department of Leadership Studies

Greetings from the Department of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University. We appreciate you taking time to learn about the Department's opportunities and accomplishments over the past year. This year is a time of change, and we're excited to share about some of the developments happening in the Department. As you will read in the following pages, we have had several faculty members retire or move on to new roles at the university, and we have also welcomed new faculty and staff members into our team. Throughout this transition, our students continue to do amazing work, and we are so proud of all that they accomplish. From the routine work that we see in our classes every day, to some of the exemplary work that you will see highlighted in this newsletter, our students are making positive changes in their communities around the world. Your support makes this possible, and we thank you. We appreciate you taking time to stay connected with the Department. Please follow us on social media for regular updates. Our departmental website (www.fhsu.edu/leadership) also features a 'giving' tab on which you can learn more about various ways in which you can support our students. Thank you for your continued support of Leadership Studies.

~ Brett Whitaker, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Leadership Studies

New Faculty and Staff



Gentry Denise Benjamin, Esq. is an Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies with Fort Hays State University. Gentry spent more than 16 years practicing law in Palm Beach County, Florida before pursuing her MBA. Her passion for teaching, along with a passion for travel, led her to Zhengzhou Sias University as a professor in various business topics, including Business Law, Applied Management, Business Ethics and International Trade Theory & Practice, among others. To further her education and commitment to the field of Leadership Studies, Gentry is currently pursuing a PhD in Global Leadership from the Indiana Institute of Technology.

Michael Larson is an Instructor of Leadership Studies teaching at FHSU's International Partner school Zhengzhou Sias University. Michael received a bachelors in Finance from the University of Central Florida and a Masters in Leadership Science from Palm Beach Atlantic University. Originally a native of Orlando, Florida, Michael has lived in China for 3 years. He is passionate about engaging the Chinese culture as their country develops because there is an ever growing need for leadership education. Outside of the classroom, Michael is dedicated to mentoring the next generation. He is involved in several groups that facilitate personal and civic leadership among the students.



Donnette Noble is the new Omer G. Voss Distinguished Professor of Leadership Studies and Director of Civic Learning and Engagement. Dr. Noble earned a doctorate (PhD) in Human Science with a specialization in Leadership Studies from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Management with a Leadership Emphasis and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Organizational Communication – all from Doane University. Prior to joining FHSU, she was an Associate Professor in the Heller College of Business at Roosevelt University in Chicago. For more information, please see the Center for Civic Leadership insert.

Jeanae Brungardt is a sophomore from Ellsworth, Kansas and is currently an Organizational Leadership major with a minor in Sociology. Currently, she is the Women's Event Coordinator for Catholic Disciples on campus. She began working in the department in the fall of 2019. Jeanae is looking forward to learning more about the department, meeting new leadership students, assisting with Shadow Days, recognizing the Students of the Month, maintaining databases, and compiling assessment data throughout the year. Outside of school, Jeanae enjoys reading, running, and spending time with family and friends.



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Center for Civic Leadership

After years of loyal service to the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL), Drs. Curt Brungardt, Director of the CCL, and Christie Brungardt, faculty advisor for the Women's Leadership Project within the CCL, retired last spring. The staff and students who worked at the CCL and all those who have been impacted by the work of the CCL offer their gratitude to the Brungardts for the lasting and positive change they made through their work with the Center and they are wished the very best as the next chapter in their lives unfolds.



Dr. Curt Brungardt's successor as the Omer G. Voss Distinguished Professor of Leadership Studies, Dr. Donnette Noble, joined the FHSU community on July 22nd. Dr. Noble serves as an associate professor in the Department of Leadership Studies and also has an administrative appointment as the University's Director of Civic Learning and Engagement. In that capacity, she is responsible for ensuring the CCL's good works continue to thrive.

A Nebraska native, Dr. Noble earned a doctorate (PhD) in Human Science with a specialization in Leadership Studies from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Management with a Leadership Emphasis and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Organizational Communication – all from Doane University. Prior to joining FHSU, she was an Associate Professor in the Heller College of Business at Roosevelt University in Chicago. She is also the Past President (2016-17) of the Association of Leadership Educators (ALE); a professional association whose mission is to strengthen and sustain the expertise of professional leadership educators.

The CCL, a nationally recognized institute for civic engagement, offers high-quality co-curricular programs and initiatives to enhance civic learning, increase levels of engagement, and nurture the leadership development of the FHSU students it serves. The overarching goal of which is to nurture a new generation of engaged, dedicated citizens who have the desire, passion, skills, and abilities to act on behalf of the greater public good and facilitate positive change.

Well into its second decade of operation, the CCL is thriving with four distinct projects under its umbrella:

The American Democracy Project (ADP) is part of a national network of more than 250 colleges and universities that are focused on public higher education's role in developing the next generation of active participants as it relates to our democracy.

The Women's Leadership Project (WLP) draws attention to matters impacting the lives of women and their endeavors to educate, inspire, and empower women to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The Global Leadership Project (GLP) encourages student leaders to act in accordance with global social responsibility and helps to foster students' understanding of the interconnectedness of our common humanity.

Tigers In Service (TIS) acts as a clearinghouse for college students wanting to volunteer and participate in community service activities. TIS hosts service projects on national days of service, sponsors alternative breaks, and works with community agencies to find volunteer opportunities for interested students.

CCL Fall Events

Global Leadership Project

Student Coordinator: Alex Kultgen

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Samuel (Rob) Byer

- Film screening of *Roman J Isreal Esq.*
- Raised Awareness about Suicide Prevention
- Awareness about International Day of Peace
- SWIPE-Out Hunger Food Packaging Initiative

Tigers In Service

Student Coordinator: Marisa Carman

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Robert Lloyd

- Community Paint-A-Thon
- Community Adopt-A-Spot Trash Clean Up
- Socktober: Clothing Collection for Shelters

American Democracy Project

Student Co-Coordinator: Odalis Jimenez

Student Co-Coordinator: Isaiah Schindler

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Larry Gould

- Times Talk: Stigma of Mental Illness
- National Voter Registration Week
- Constitution Day Education

Women's Leadership Project

Student Coordinator: Chelsey Trammell

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Brittney Squire

- Active Bystander Awareness Education
- Avoiding Spooky Situations: Know The Signs
- Film Screening of *I am Evidence*

Project Coordinator/GTA: Devan Flegler



Center for Civic Leadership Fellows Program

This newly created program is designed to provide freshmen and sophomores with hands-on experience creating handbooks, developing activities, recruiting volunteers, and participating in CCL events. Volunteers will start assisting the projects this fall.

Fellows will commit 5 hours each week while school is in session (November through May) to work with Student Project Coordinators and learn more about the CCL, its projects, and to contribute to program activities. Additionally, Fellows will receive support and mentoring for the development or refinement of personal, professional, and leadership skills.

Fellows who successfully complete the terms of service will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and will receive priority consideration for paid student employment within the CCL as openings arise.



For more information and ways to get involved, please contact:

Center for Civic Leadership at <https://www.fhsu.edu/ccl/> or CCL@fhsu.edu or 785.628.5592

Women's Leadership Project at womensleadershipproject@fhsu.edu or 785.628.4312

American Democracy Project at adp@fhsu.edu or 785.628.5399

Global Leadership Project at glp@fhsu.edu or 785.628.4497

Tigers In Service at service@fhsu.edu or 785.628.5537



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Zhengzhou Sias University Service Weekend



On October 19, 2019, 300 Leadership students in Xinzheng, China participated in a weekend event comprised of service-learning activities. For most leadership students, this event was their first experience participating in community service or engagement. The Leadership Studies faculty in China developed the activity as a model for their students to follow as they implement their own group projects aimed at addressing a social issue in their community. The faculty will use the experience for class discussions. To address challenges, important steps to planning, goals, recruiting, and communicating with student volunteers and partner organizations, so students can see what's involved in putting together an experience. Although the event had over 300 students and their class projects will be significantly smaller, it's the concepts and principles we hope they will begin to understand. The service weekend is also used during reflection to invoke emotional or personal thought process for the students. Students complete several reflection activities -- small group sharing, writing assignments, and whole-class discussions -- to get them thinking about more than the technical, logistical matters of the experience. On another level, this also helps FHSU strengthen its presence in the community. Most of Xinzheng is unaware FHSU is in their community. By partnering with an organization, the faculty are able to connect residents with FHSU, and help people recognize us as a contributing member of their community.



Dane Murzyn, a senior majoring in Organizational Leadership, is studying abroad at the Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. He spends his time taking cultural classes about Leonardo da Vinci, Italian Mafia, and a leadership course offered by the university. In his free time, Dane has planned to visit Switzerland, Greece, and Germany (to experience Oktoberfest) and network to get a job offer lined up overseas. When asking Dane why he decided to pursue this opportunity, he said "I convinced myself that taking this opportunity to step outside my comfort zone and grow myself, as well as develop my world view, would be an experience I would regret missing out on. Though I do not have anything lined up for life after graduation, I know I want to move to a new environment (such as Europe or a different region of the United States) and pursue at least a few years enjoying life in a different setting. I am excited for what this study abroad journey will teach me and how it will open up my life to new people, ideas, and locations." Our department is proud of Dane and looks forward to his future endeavors.

Murzyn Studies Abroad in Italy



Arendsdorf Named Provost



Last May, Fort Hays State University announced Dr. Jill Arendsdorf as the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Jill has worked for the university for 17 years, beginning as a half time faculty member to, most recently, the chair of the Department of Leadership Studies. During her time in the department, Jill has received both the Navigator and Pilot Awards for her outstanding teaching and advising. She also co-coordinated a leadership learning community, as well as researched civic engagement and leadership, leadership behavior, and skill development. Jill is confident she has the skills and experience necessary to succeed in this position. The department wishes her the best of luck!

Staff Spotlight



Ms. Jackie Gottschalk currently serves as the Senior Administrative Assistant for both the Department of Leadership Studies and for the Center for Civic Leadership. She manages all administrative aspects of the department with 18 full-time professors, 27 adjuncts, a SEAC advisor, and a revolving staff of student employee direct-reports. She manages multiple budget/cost center items, over 100 classes in three different modalities every semester, multiple technology systems/tools, and interacts in a variety of ways with every area of the university from Financial Aid, Admissions, Registrar, TILT, Memorial Union, and other academic departments/colleges to custodial staff, print shop, mailroom, HR, food and event services, etc. Uniquely, she mentors new staff in other areas of the university. We are thankful for Jackie and all she does to benefit the department.

New Certificate Opportunity

This fall, the Department of Leadership Studies, in conjunction with the Department of Criminal Justice, launched a new certificate program. This certificate is designed to develop knowledge and leadership skills specific to criminal justice processes. Students in this program will combine practical and theoretical bases of knowledge to add value to their skill set of leadership or criminal justice. After successfully completing the certificate, students receive a certificate of achievement recognizing their completed academic accomplishment. The certificate is open to anyone interested in enhancing their academic or professional career.

Courses in the New Criminal Justice Leadership certificate are:

- 12 Total Hours :
- CRJ 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CRJ 250: Administration of Justice Systems
- LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts
- LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior

Kastle Develops New Military Program

In May, Seth Kastle, assisted by numerous campus offices, developed and launched the Associate of Applied Science in Technology and Leadership with a concentration in Leadership Studies. The program relies heavily on the Kansas Board of Regents Credit for Military Alignment Initiative. Originally, this new program was only articulated for the U.S. Army, but is now available for the U.S. Air Force. The associate degree is a 60-hour degree program comprised of a combination of military training and experience of up to 36 hours; 15 hours of general education, and 9 hours of Leadership Studies classes. All branches of service can participate in this program and earn up to 30 hours of credit for military training and experience. Members of the Army and Air Force can get an additional 6 hours of credit than other branches for military leadership training. Students that have taken general education courses at other accredited universities can complete the degree in as little as 15 hours. In the future, the program will look to expand to the Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard. For more information, contact Dr. Seth Kastle by emailing sdkastle@fhsu.edu or visit - <https://www.fhsu.edu/appliedtechnology/academic-programs/leadership-studies>.



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