



Otter Updates with Student Life

Summer 2021

Congrats Graduates!

Tori LaZelle

To the South Seattle College #Unstoppable Graduating Class of 2021, we at Student Life and the college at large want to congratulate you on your amazing accomplishment. The school year of 2020-2021 was filled with so many hurdles and still you persisted. The future is unknown, but with the class of 2021 leading the way, we know the path going forward is in good hands.

Welcome to the Otter Alumni family!

See more graduation celebration photos:

- [Album 1](#)
- [Album 2](#)



Dean's Corner

Dr. Dan Johnson

"The End is Nearer"

The initiation of South's online instructional model, **and** overall college remote operations seem like a lifetime ago. Students and staff have studied and worked in environments that have not afforded the interactions conducive to providing a "normal" college experience that encompasses all the elements of human engagement and personal camaraderie.

However; these unprecedented times are nearing an end! We anticipate at some time in the near future the remote operations mandate that prompted a comprehensive system of online learning instead of face to face instruction from faculty, eliminated personal interactions with fellow students, and prohibited the opportunity to grow through interactive engagement of co-curricular programming offered through Student Life will be over.

Acknowledge yourselves for mastering a virtual learning environment, enduring the estrangement from personal interactions with students and staff, and persevering through a difficult period. Student Life applauds you and look forward to welcoming you back when this is over.

We believe **"The End is Nearer."**

Meet the New USA Team!

Monica Lundberg

Congratulations to next year's **United Student Association (USA)** officers!

President: Addie Winston
Marketing Officer: Anne Le
Issues & Concerns Officer: Phuong To
Treasurer: Myles Jayme

Four USA officer positions remain open. If you're interested in serving on your student government team and advocating for student interests, look for an application this fall. Email the USA Advisor for more info: monica.lundberg@seattlecolleges.edu

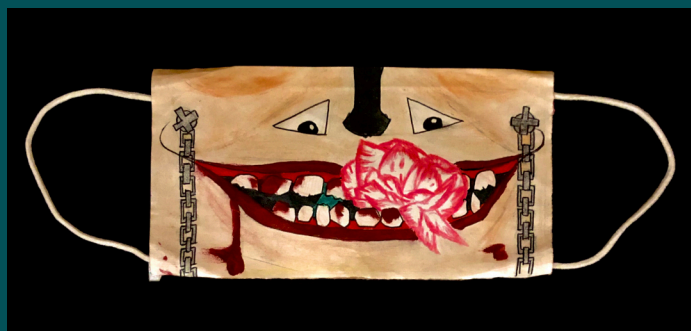
To learn more about USA, visit our [website](#).

Student Artist Spotlight: *Chasing Beauty*

Yanlin Huang

Artist Statement: I have been showing myself with a mask in public for over a year. In my mind, masks are becoming commonly decorated clothing like hats and shoes, which means the design of masks has become a way to express one's internal thinking. The mask I drew is a giant and macabre smirk of a monster who is chasing beauty in a crazy way – biting a pink carnation and nailing artificial steel chains on skin. But the monster looks naturally clumsy with random bloodstains and wrinkled skin. I truly love putting on this cool and beautiful mask, but deep inside I am also concerned about the Social Appearance Anxiety issue. Showing this mask, I am saying that "Beauty isn't defined."

- Artwork created in Deborah Kapoor's class, spring 2021



Staff Highlight: An Interview

Jessica Heide

David Westley

Program Coordinator of Student Life



Jessica: What do you do? How does your role serve students?

David: In general, my role for the department is to assist our program areas with any and all things purchasing, travel, hiring, and campus procedure/policy related. I work with a small team that works at the Student Life front office. We receive students looking for a variety of resources, and we direct, refer, and assist those students online and in-person. During Covid-19 remote operations, my role has shifted from in-person, to assisting our Publications Coordinator, and Student Life staff with communications to students via social media and Canvas.

Jessica: How long have you been an Otter?

David: I came to South Seattle College right after graduating from Southern Oregon University in 2014, and I'm still here. That's almost 7 years now.

Jessica: What do you love about South?

David: When I was looking for jobs as a new Seattle dweller, and new college graduate, I knew that I wanted to work for a small college/university preferably because that was what I was used to. I thrived with small classes, and small work teams. South has been that for me professionally. But ultimately, it's the people that work at South that make it for me, especially my BIPOC colleagues.

Jessica: What is something that you are enjoying doing right now?

David: With South being in remote operations, I have enjoyed having my own kitchen to cook in for meals. My commute would regularly have me out the door pretty early, and I wouldn't always have the time to make myself food in the mornings. So, meals, and a much shorter commute.

Jessica: Could you share something you learned, that you wish you knew sooner in your academic career?

David: Yes. Your degree itself is important, but what your degree is in doesn't necessarily determine where you will end up. After finishing my degree in cultural anthropology, I knew that the field was not something I was interested in pursuing further. However, I gained many skills in communication, and how to understand community structures, histories, and systems. These, along with the work of getting a degree, were so helpful to me in quickly navigating complex systems like colleges and universities. So, get the degree.

Jessica: Could you share a bit about your academic/career journey?

David: Sure. I grew up in the Bay Area, California. I struggled to get into colleges in California due to my grades, and SAT scores. I had an opportunity to attend a university in Oregon, Southern Oregon University, and took it. Though, I was determined at the time to get back home because I missed my friends and family. The motivation to connect with others helped me to network at the college, and I found my place as a student and student employee.

I experienced a lot of racism and discrimination growing up. And for some reason, I thought it would end when I got to college. However, in working as a student ambassador for my university, I realized that diversity was often just used as a metric to recruit and justify connecting with BIPOC students and communities. And that the institutions of higher education were not well equipped to retain those students or support staff of color that were intermediaries. I didn't have as critical of a lens as I do now, but that experience has helped me in connecting with our BIPOC students at South in navigating our college as they work toward their degrees and help them with the challenges they inevitably face.

Jessica: Anything else you would like to share about yourself?

David: I greatly enjoy connecting with the students at South. When we are able to return to campus and serve students again in person, please feel free to stop by the Student Life front office and say hi.

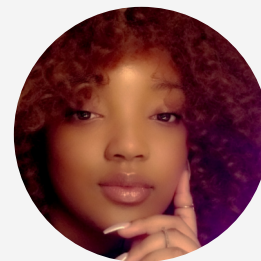
Student Artist Spotlight: *Pandemonium*

Taylor M'Kenzie

When night falls, she gives her heart permission to feel nothing
streams dance their way down her canvas from which she perceives this world,
she say she's poetic magnetic, nobody wants you anywhere black girl, black sister, black
mother, black daughter, black women that target on your back you longed only wished belonged to
your brothers,

ABIKU live to die and die to live FUCK I really hate being this black, seeing this black
believing this revolution back on the backs of old bones decorated with the bodies of our
ancestors..... They ain't my babies but they my black babies, blues commit sins to complex
complexions, take our breaths claim their stake on our necks, binding it to the concrete my heart
beat stands upon, awoken never truly been able to be that kind this kind of spoken, who got my
back who got em in that final test, we refuse to rest not never hoping for not knowing about them
three little just one mores.....

- Poem written during and inspired by the 2020 summer protests and quarantine.



Summer Dates

6/28 - 7/2 - Welcome Week

7/5 - Independence Day Observed
(No Class)

8/20 - Summer Qtr Ends

Connect with Us

Learn about upcoming events
and programs:

- Social Media - FB
[@SouthStudentLife](#)
- Canvas Course - [SSC
Student Life](#)
- Website - [HERE](#)

Have questions?

- Email:
[SouthStudentLife@seattle
colleges.edu](mailto:SouthStudentLife@seattlecolleges.edu)
- Phone: 206-934-5332

[Covid Resource List](#) - Includes
links for support in funding,
food, mental health, and more.

Grab a SLICE of Student Life

S - Student
L - Life
I - Involvement
C - Community
E - Engagement

About Student Life:

Student Life is a department
made up of centers created
to support co-curricular
learning and development.
We believe that student
involvement leads to student
engagement, which leads to
student success. We want to
help you succeed, not just in
your academic goals, but
also in your personal goals.

Reach out today and to find
out how we can support you.



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