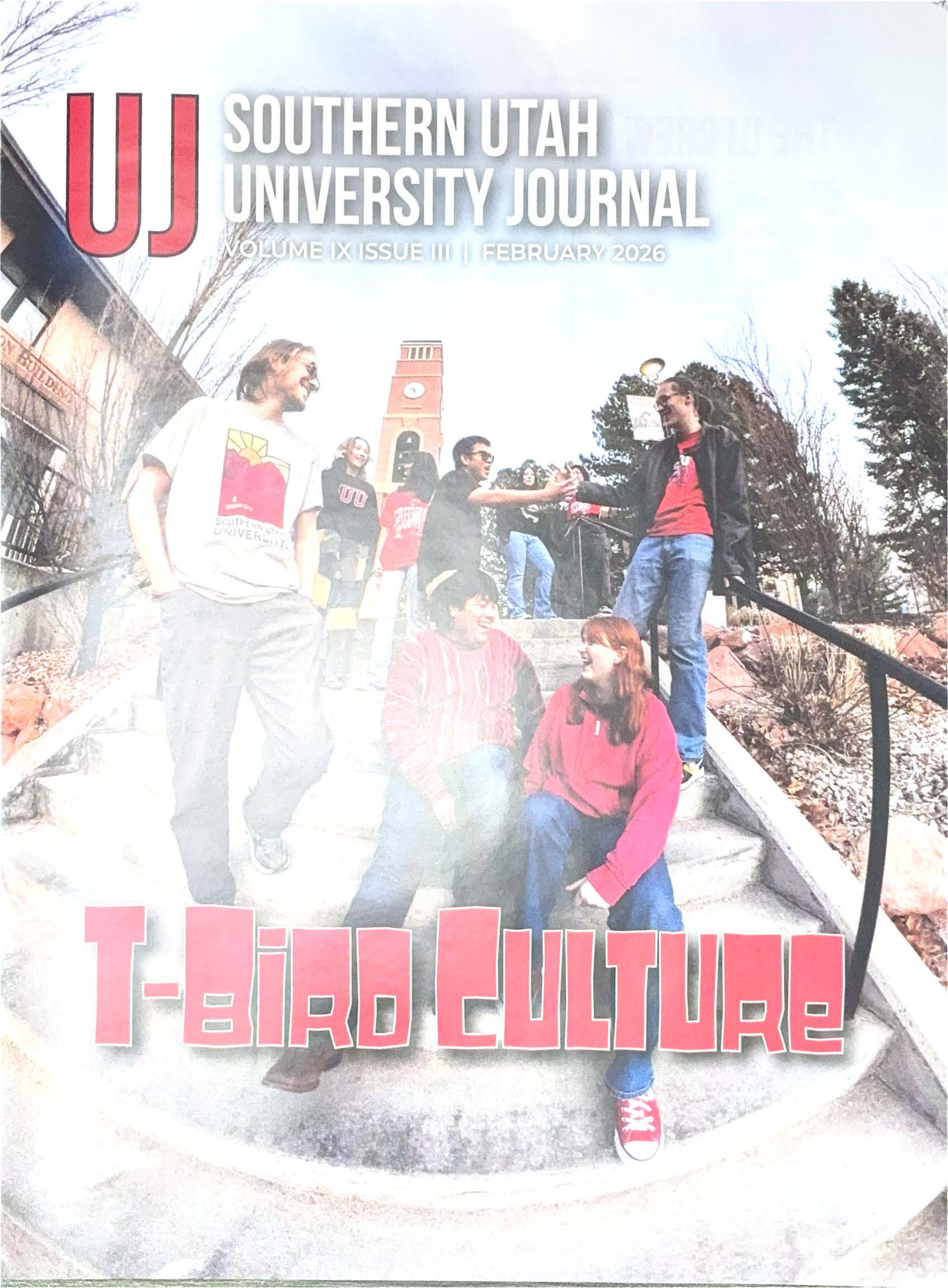


UJ SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

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A group of students are gathered on a wide stone staircase. In the foreground, a man in a white t-shirt with a Southern Utah University logo and grey pants stands on the left, looking towards the right. Two women are sitting on the steps in front of him; one is wearing a red and white striped sweater, and the other is wearing a red hoodie and blue jeans. To the right, a man in a black jacket and blue jeans is standing on the steps, looking towards the group. In the background, several other students are visible, some standing and some sitting. A brick building with a clock tower is visible in the background. The scene is outdoors with some trees and a clear sky.

T-BIRD CULTURE

THE UJ CREW

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Dear beloved T-birds,

Did you like my introduction? I think a little love is always a nice touch.

Thank you for picking up your copy of the University Journal! My name is Fanny Felixine, and I'm the Life Section Editor for SUU News. This is my second and final semester in this position, since I'm graduating this April. I'm not going to lie; I'm a bit sad. Being able to share stories and entertaining content has truly been a joy. But life goes on, I guess.

For those who don't know me, I'm an international student from Martinique, a French island in the Caribbean. When I chose to study at Southern Utah University, I wanted to live the American dream. Although it's not perfect, SUU has managed to make me feel at home, and that wouldn't be possible without its energy, traditions, events, institutions, landscape and so much more. I've been completely drawn in by its culture.

Speaking of culture, this edition of the University Journal covers everything, from sports and outdoor activities to the various cultural clubs on campus, the Thunderbirds legend and the many professional opportunities the university offers. If you ever want to learn more about what makes SUU such a unique place, the journal is where to look.

This newspaper is made for you and thanks to you, which is exactly why it's part of Southern Utah University's culture and why this new edition is titled "T-Bird Culture."

The University Journal has allowed someone like me, an international student from a small island speaking a completely different language, to put my words on paper, have my voice heard and truly see what this university I love so much is made of.

I hope you'll read these stories and that they inspire you to keep building and celebrating the culture of SUU, because this is how we soar all year long.

Thank you,
Fanny Felixine





Dedicated space in the center with Grace A. Tanner portrait

LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Written by Fanny Felixine

Southern Utah University is known for many things, including its distinctive red color, strong school spirit, surrounding parks and successful sports teams. Another thing that sets the university apart from others is its many opportunities to learn and discover more about the world. This is notably the goal of the Grace A. Tanner Center for Human Values.

Founded in 1980, The Tanner Center is a leading cultural and intellectual institution on campus, emphasizing the importance of human values, cultural understanding and interdisciplinary engagement in the university community and beyond.

Grace A. Tanner Center Director Danielle Dubrasky emphasizes the facility's importance for students.

"Part of what the university's education is, is to give a broader experience to students to be aware of other scholars' experiences, ideas and concepts," said Dubrasky. "And that is where these speakers bring their experiences and their perspective with the Grace A. Tanner Center."

The center was established in 1980 through the generosity of the Tanner Trust for Utah Universities. It was named

in honor of Grace Adams Tanner, who attended SUU and was a longtime supporter of education and philanthropy. In 1985, she received the Person of Vision Award from the Utah chapter of the National Society to Prevent Blindness and she contributed generously to the fields of biology and anthropology.

Fun fact: in Utah, only three centers bear the Tanner name: the University of Utah, where Obert Tanner was employed as a professor of philosophy; Utah State University, where Joseph Tanner, Obert's father, served as the second president; and SUU, where Grace was a student. This is the only university in the south with this distinction, which makes it even more special and integral to SUU. In 2020, the center celebrated its 40th anniversary.

An important part of the Tanner Center's contributions to campus life is the annual Grace Adams Tanner Lecture on Human Values. Open to the community, these lectures bring together renowned scholars, thinkers and leaders from all over the world.

"We have a faculty advisory

"It's important to listen to a lot of various stories from various experiences in order to get a stronger sense, a broader sense of the human condition."

board where we discuss a speaker that might address a topic that is most pertinent for the students,” explained Dubrasky. “We have had speakers that address the concept of what we call the danger of a single story, which is that it’s important to listen to a lot of various stories from various experiences in order to get a stronger sense, a broader sense of the human condition.”

The center has also had guests speak on topics like the sense of place, the sense of purpose and other human values.

In fall 2025, photographer LaToya Ruby Frazier presented “Art as Transformation: Using Photography for Social Change” to the campus and public. She addressed several topics including industrialism, environmental justice, family, communal history and more.

Beyond this major conference, the center hosts a variety of programs throughout the academic year. For instance, the Tanner Center Talks offer a series of discussions and events often co-hosted with the SUU School of Business and the Southern Utah Museum of Art.

On Feb. 25, at 4.30 p.m., a panel discussion open to the public will be discussing empathy in the Sharwan Smith Student Center Theater.

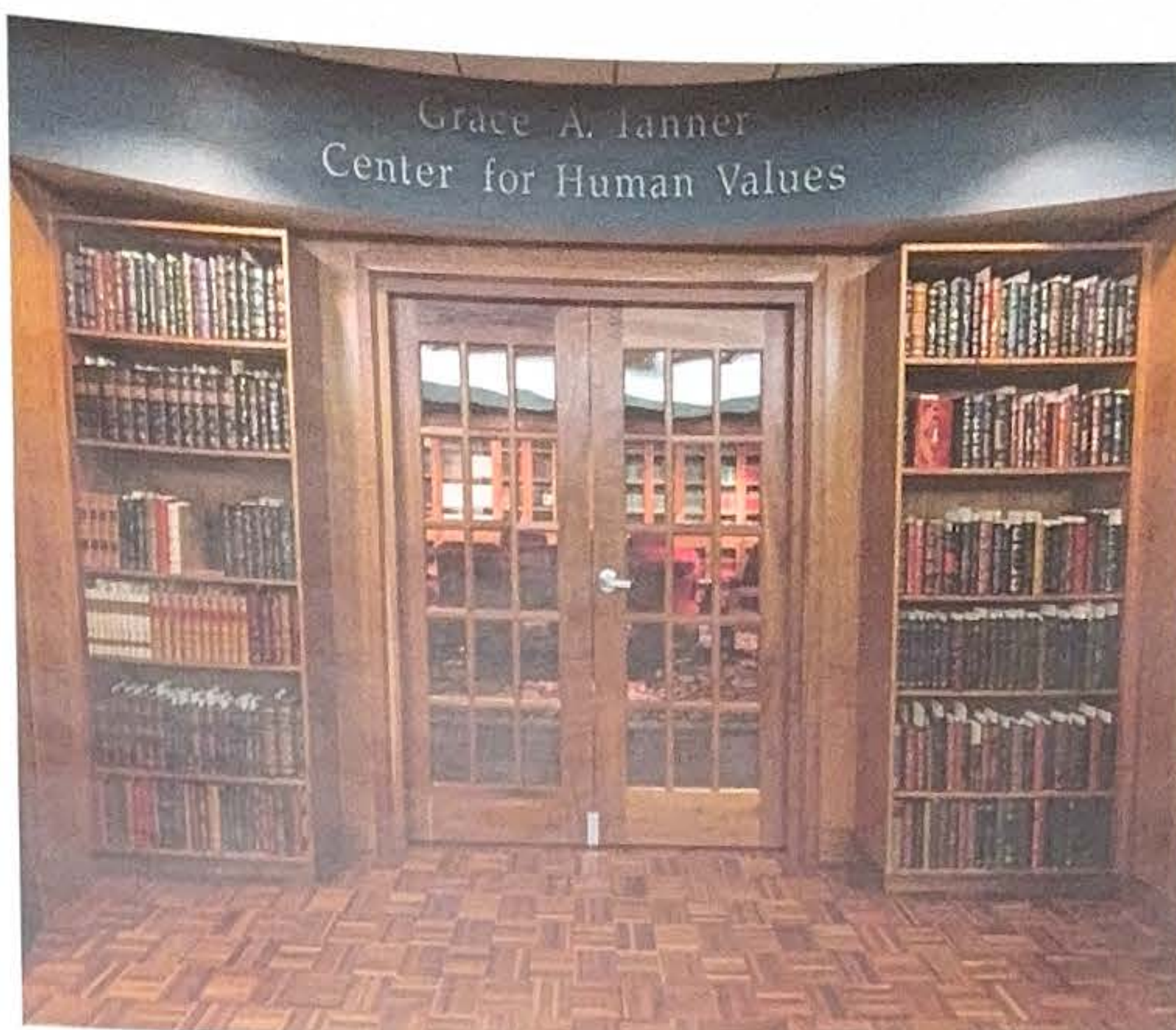
In addition, there are the Dinner and Dialogue events. These are free meetings for students during which speakers and participants discuss important topics in depth over a shared meal. This format breaks down the barrier between scholars and students, allowing participants to learn more and even connect with their desired profession.

“For example, photography students could meet with LaToya Fraser. If we’re going back to when we had Camille Dungy come out, we had students who were interested in writing. Then we had medical students, premed students meet with Laurel Bratman,” mentioned Dubrasky. “Students, whose discipline that they’re studying, had a chance to meet in a really private conversation. It’s building a network and giving them some mentoring ideas.”

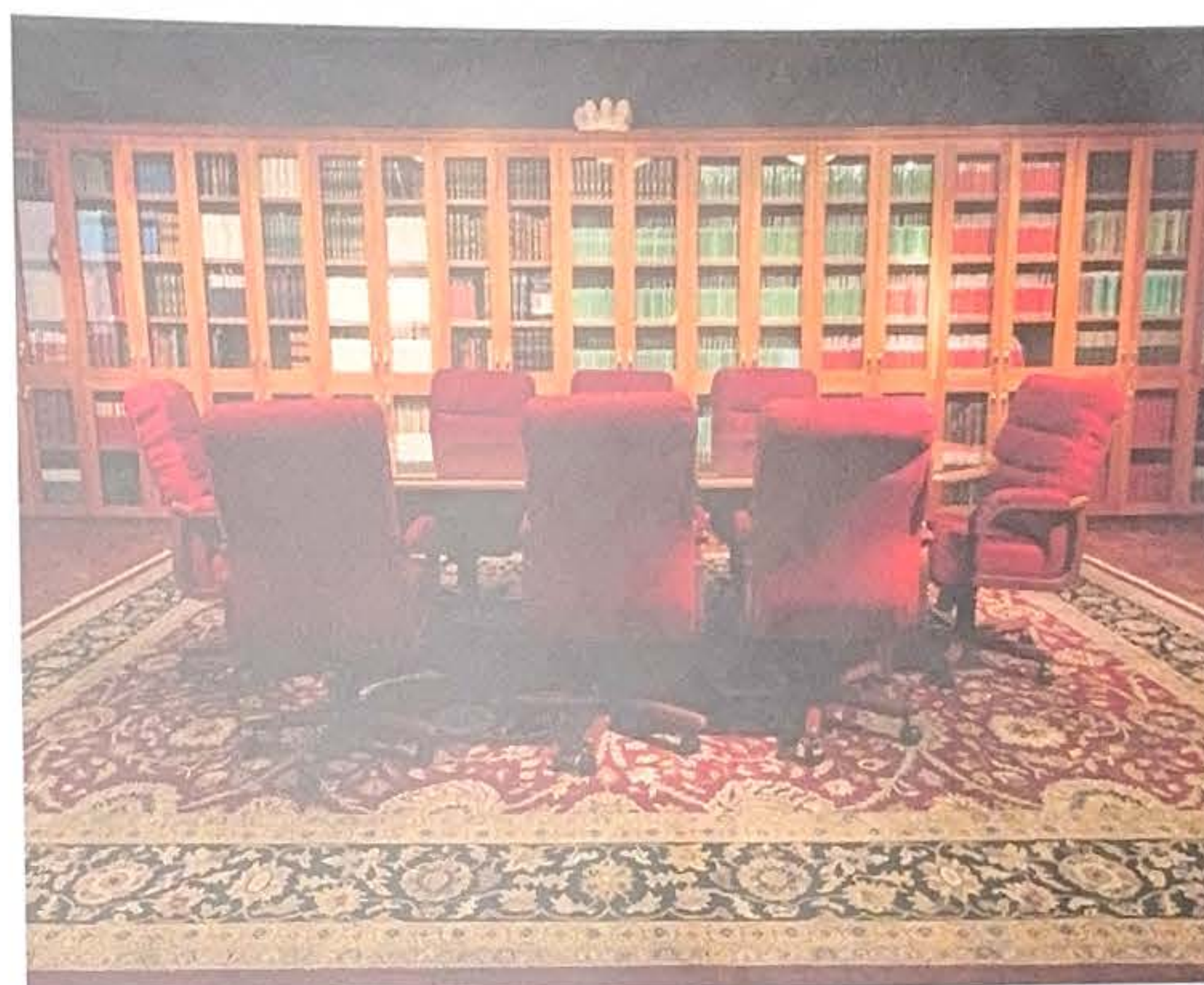
In addition to all this, the Tanner Center has many other assets up its sleeve, notably the Human Values Certificate. With this, undergraduate or master’s students take two courses exploring a theme presented by the annual Tanner Lecturer while studying that concept in various critical and literary texts.

To provide direct support for completing this certificate, the center awards the Grace A. Tanner Scholarship. This covers the full cost of tuition and related fees for one year to a student who is currently enrolled in or has completed the Certificate in Human Values.

Additionally, if one needs a quiet place to find inspiration, the Barbara A. Matheson Special Collections and University Archives collection is an expansive resource located in the Tanner Room.



Grace A Tanner Center's entrance



Inside of the Grace A Tanner Center

Then, SUU is full of resources and has only one desire: to share and educate so that this heritage can live on.

“Come to the lectures and visit the Grace A. Tanner Center. This is your chance to hear some of the finest scholars, thinkers and creatives in the country,” added Dubrasky. “So don’t miss that opportunity to hear them talk and hopefully take away what inspires you to follow your path, your passion, what inspires you. What have they said that’s given you a spark so that you think, ‘Yeah, I can do that. I can follow that spark and see what happens.’”

The Grace A. Tanner Center for Human Values is an integral part of SUU culture, thanks to its mix of intellectual programming, cultural engagement and academic support. Regardless of major, it offers students unique opportunities to engage with diverse perspectives and connect classroom learning to global and community concerns.