

January 7, 2023

Dear members of the search committee:

I write to introduce myself as a candidate for Director of the Honors Program at the University of Florida. I joined the University of South Alabama as Founding Dean of their Honors College in 2017. While I was successful in that role, in March, 2022, I stepped back to the faculty in my position as tenured Professor of History so that I could focus on family health matters. Previously, I served at Quinnipiac University in a number of capacities, including Founding Director of the University Honors Program and Chair of the Department of History. My PhD is in History (University of Chicago, 1994).

This brief pause in my administrative career allowed me to care for family, but also gave me the opportunity to re-engage deeply with teaching, service, writing, and research, with a focus on my NEH grant "History, Humanities, Community, and Justice in Alabama." As I am emerging from this break, I am reinvigorated, confident in family health, and refreshed with my research in the humanities and social justice. I am eager to bring that experience back to leadership in honors at the University of Florida.

I am a student-centered leader who, as my twice-founding experience might suggest, thrives in the spaces where I work with a team to enact and build on mission and values. My drive is to innovate to develop a vision that infuses our work with true equity and justice. As a result, I insist on building and sustaining welcoming, diverse environments that are committed to community, access, and belonging. I joined South Alabama ("South") because it included these elements in its culture, and in its ideals for its new Honors College. Under my leadership at South, Honors increased its diversity, initiated several paths in external partnership and community engagement, raised substantial foundation and grant funds, and developed a national profile in honors education. In short, my time at South has been fulfilling and productive. It also has helped me further develop the strengths sought by the University of Florida.

Obviously joining the UF would be wonderful simply because of its outstanding research and student environment. But UF's Honors Program stands out in many ways that make the Directorship especially compelling. I admire the two tiers of the program with the flexible learning opportunities they provide for its students. In addition, the program is clearly well-positioned to grow, developing a position as a national leader in honors education. I also would be eager to engage with alumni, and to combine that work with the outstanding development opportunities that are so important to Honors and the University. I am well-prepared for these leadership and administrative duties, but also bring something special to the table: an appetite for engagement with the University, the community, and the world that is coupled with managerial acumen and an appealing interpersonal style.

I also am particularly eager to lead UF's Honors Program that hones its mission and values regarding diversity, and am prepared to do so at a public University that is contending with the complex politics of higher education. For instance, when I came to South, I drew on community connections, as well as Mobile's status as a minority-majority city, to emphasize our need to create an inclusive community of learning, growth, justice, and action. This need

aligned with the institutional mandate for Honors, which was to increase the size and prominence of the new College. Together my team and I successfully worked with supporters, alumni, and the larger campus to clarify the mission of the new Honors: to sustain an inclusive, welcoming, diverse community committed intellectual curiosity, leadership, and the creation of knowledge and culture. Thanks to my initiative, Honors began working with Alabama's federally recognized indigenous tribe, the Poarch Creek Indians, to acknowledge their language and land on campus.

This ability to build relationships across campus is the key to my success, and, I believe, is particularly well suited to the leadership agenda for the new Director at UF. Through relationships, I create a path to success in other priorities—recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds, for example, through listening and action that demonstrates true commitment to an inclusive commitment, and builds structures that maintain not only paths to success, but also a spirit of community that truly embraces one another.

When I arrived at South, I discovered almost immediately that to succeed I needed to navigate a complex landscape of skeptical constituencies. Other college deans were concerned that Honors would thin out their resources. Faculty expected that they would need to do more with less. Students worried that growth would break down their sense of community. This was my kind of challenge—again, I led my team in the construction of solutions that would benefit these constituencies, and accounted for budget and staffing limitations. We created programming by Honors that supports cross-disciplinary initiatives; directed student leadership to units across campus; created unique and innovative curricula; and supported a culture of research, service, and support. In short, I fostered a new understanding of our mission and values—honors students from a wide range of backgrounds are a resource that boosts the entire University. Concurrently, I increased enrollments, diversity, and high impact practices.

My strengths in building relationships also allowed Honors to develop a plethora of collaborative partnerships with units across campus. These colleagues supplemented my official team of formal reporting lines, and led to enrollment plans, new and renovated spaces, Faculty Fellows, grants in community engagement, and additional research supervisors that extended across campus. This network also ensured that we created an Honors experience that met the needs of the entire University, while creating a coherent educational experience for honors students.

One particular strength of Honors at South is our innovation in curriculum, capstones, and mentoring. When I arrived our sole capstone opportunity was a senior thesis, and thanks to this requirement, we have a large library of outstanding research. However, we recognized that we could offer the students more flexibility through alternatives that matched emerging priorities for new students in the context of ongoing change in higher education, in particular the growth in inter-disciplinary research and the importance of community engagement. New capstones would also allow us to serve more students, and to do so in a way that made our community even more inclusive. With this in mind, I joined a working group started by the honors interest group of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), collected details on the range of options that would serve our student body particularly well. Given this extensive research and experience—I also have two articles co-authored with this team—I have a strong foundation to lead UF's curricular work to foster innovation as well as growth.

I also have great success building external partnerships, and these lead to wonderful experiences for students. Two of these are international. South is now affiliated, through Quinnipiac University, with the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates; we brought students and faculty to their 2019 gathering in the Yucatán. I was scheduled to attend the Summit in South Korea this past December, but sadly a bout of Covid and the prospect of quarantine forced me, to my great disappointment, to cancel the trip. We also are partners with Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, which has regular spring and summer meetings in Oxford, UK, and rotates fall meetings throughout the Global South.

My local external partnerships focus on local and regional efforts to uncover and protect cultural heritage around diversity while prioritizing transparency and shared decision-making. For instance, I connected Honors with Historic Blakeley State Park and Finch Conservation to create a range of collaborations with the community, such as archival projects to collect oral traditions of US Colored troops who defeated Confederate troops at Fort Blakeley in the Civil War. I also work with a female Black physician's group to advance literacy in local schools. Finally, our Delta Fellows internship program, supported by the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, brings students into the community to follow community-led best practices in engagement.

My leadership draws on the wide range of academic experience that also defines my career. I am a historian who spent three years conducting research in the Clinical and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at Brown University. My grants, including my most recent award of \$453,000 from the NEH, span a range of disciplines from humanities (National Endowment for the Humanities and Alabama Humanities Foundation); science (National Science Foundation); education (Connecticut Department of Higher Education); culture (German Embassy); to civic engagement (David Mathews Center for Civic Life). As an interdisciplinary scholar and longstanding proponent of the relevance of the liberal arts core and the humanities to a meaningful education and fulfilling life, I articulate the essential role that the liberal arts plays in the Honors mission, but pair it with the value of pre-professional training. These twin priorities lead to the strongest educational opportunities for students, and the opportunity to be the strong leaders in their communities, or graduate programs, upon graduation.

Thanks to this broad-based intellectual foundation as well as my relationship-building skills, my team and I built an honors community that includes faculty from a wide range of backgrounds as it educates—and funds—a diverse student body, including under-served, non-traditional, and international populations. I administered merit aid and spearheaded need-based opportunities that include the Whiddon and Presidential Scholarships as well as summer aid. I aim for equitable distribution of resources as well as access to curricular and co-curricular opportunities that require accommodations. My work on the Council of Academic Deans as well as committees that oversee academic advising, quality instruction, student success, honors housing, and performance review processes has broadened my voice across campus.

Finally, I am connected in national and regional networks that would allow me to support UF's growing standing in the community. In 2021-22 I was President of the Southern Regional Honors Council, after running on platform that emphasized the need for the SRHC—in particular due to its geographical location and the region's history—to take a leadership role in diversity in honors. We expanded the membership of HBCU's and other MSI's during my tenure despite budget cuts and pandemic travel limitations. With regard to national

organizations, I have organized several sessions for the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), as well as a subset of scholars to discuss the philosophical underpinnings of honors education to balance presentations that tend focus on practice. As noted above, I am a member of the new honors affinity group in the APLU. I have been especially active in collaborative grant applications. This group has also begun to reach out to and work with institutions who focus their professional honors network on the alternative to the NCHC, Honors Education at Research Universities, otherwise known as HERU.

Despite these many regional and national activities, my relationship driven leadership means that I am particularly visible in day-to-day life on campus, where I attend campus performances, lectures, and events, and often create groups of faculty and students to join me.

In terms of the nuts and bolts of day-to-day work, I coordinated the full infrastructure of Honors, including faculty, housing, buildings, research, remote learning, and community engagement. I reported to the Provost, and participated in regular meetings with the Council of Academic Deans. I also worked with the President on admissions and athletics projects. As an administrator I follow the core administrative principle: resource expenditures—including time, money, and materials—must stem from a clear, shared vision that is meaningful to each member of the community, including faculty, staff, and students.

While I have a visionary and relationship-oriented mindset, my management style is grounded in structures that maintain equity. I am interactive and data-driven. In my work with students and faculty, I manage diverse agendas and facilitate discussions through the power of lively discussion, good humor, and the sort of exchange of contradictory ideas proven to lead to best outcomes. I am direct, focused, and ethical, with outstanding interpersonal skills. These characteristics, along with my broad-based experience, form the leadership skills that will advance the goals of the University of Florida Honors Program.

Thank you for considering my application. I hope to speak with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy J. Cooke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "C".

Kathy J. Cooke, Professor of History
Founding Dean Honors College, 2017-2022
The University of South Alabama

Kathy J. Cooke, Ph.D.

Founding Dean, Honors College
Professor of History

Education

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. PhD, History/History of Biology, 1994.
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. BA, History, 1986.

Academic Positions and Administrative Leadership

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY (TENURED), 2017-PRESENT.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION OFFICER, HONORS COLLEGE, 2020-2022.

FOUNDING DEAN, HONORS COLLEGE, 2017-March, 2022.

University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

The University of South Alabama, founded in 1963, is an urban, public University in the minority-majority city of Mobile, Alabama. The University enrolls more than 15,000 students in 50 undergraduate degree programs, 35 masters, and 13 doctoral programs on three campuses. The University emphasizes its undergraduate liberal arts education as well as its marine lab, archeology museum, health sciences, fine arts, and medical school.

Administrative Accomplishments and Ongoing Leadership

- Transformed the University Honors Program into the Honors College, a liberal arts college in microcosm; engaged in strategic planning; coordination across colleges and divisions; transparent leadership; and relationships with the Board of Trustees and the USA Foundation
- Acted as the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Honors College, ensuring a strong liberal arts foundation for students in majors from around the larger University
- Oversaw operations, including strategic planning, budgets, admissions, housing, curriculum, and research in all disciplines. Funds of approximately \$3.5 million flow through the College
- Career-to-date grant awards of more than \$635,000, including work on team that successfully applied for and recruited Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence from Benin for 2022-23.
- Managed operations and student engagement during pandemic. Secured CARES and HERFF funds for student support, environmental adjustments, and full-time position to support community and diversity in pandemic conditions
- Increased student body from 200 to 410 students, including traditional first-year admissions and transfer students, in 3 years; aiming for 525 by 2022
- Reported to Provost; served on Dean's Council and Athletics Council; coordinates with Admissions, Student Success, and Housing; regularly works with Board
- Recruited, managed, and reviewed direct or dotted line faculty and staff (currently 15); regularly coordinates with 7 directors, 6 department chairs, 3 vice-presidents

Shared Governance and Faculty Relationships

- Worked with 15 faculty on grants and community engagement, and 55 faculty on student research, teaching, mentoring, and advising in honors
- Supported, with Dean's Council, extended tenure and promotion clocks due to innovation required during pandemic

- Assisted with alternative teaching methods and spaces, including classes outside and the use of Perusall, Minecraft Education, Canvas, and Zoom
- Created Faculty Fellows program to establish unique dotted line relationships to Honors
- Works as PI or co-PI with faculty in world languages, libraries, history, community engagement, and African-American Studies
- Networks to establish relationships and funding support for faculty and undergraduate researchers in all disciplines on campus, including marine sciences, meteorology, medicine, nursing, management, and economics, as well as humanities and arts disciplines
- Procured new budget line of \$54,000 during tight budget year to support faculty and student research, enrichment, and conference travel
- Developed outdoor spaces for teaching, learning, and community as well as flexible space reservation system to manage density in indoor spaces

Initiatives in Diversity and Inclusion

- Spearheaded University engagement (still in process) with local federally recognized tribe to create a public statement that acknowledges the University's relationship to the land and history of indigenous peoples of Alabama
- Increased diversity of student body, in particular Black and Hispanic students, gender non-conforming, differently able, and neuro-atypical, by twenty percent through a revised admissions process that is holistic, ACT-blind, and embraces an evidence-based structured and group interview process, while tripling the size of the first-year class (from 40 to 120 students)
- Built relationships with the McCall Library and the Office of Community Engagement to create community-based scholarship and student internships that advance civic life
- Member of USA Advisory Council for Social Justice, proactively responding to the principles of social justice, equity, access, and human rights through social justice scholarships, and by raising funds to increase awareness
- Assigned gender neutral facilities in Honors buildings
- Increased accessibility in historic buildings that house the Honors College, adding power operated doors in current space and elevator access in future building renovations.
- Communications regularly highlight religious observances as well as cultural and historical commemorations, Pride, SafeZone training, and pronoun awareness
- Created Social Movements Workshop, in cooperation with a range of campus offices, to support community education about the Movement for Black Lives
- Raised funds for economically challenged students to engage in College co-curricular opportunities, such as the Oxford Consortium Workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2019
- Offered course for students to mentor and tutor students with intellectual disabilities
- Proactively responded to support students when racist incidents became known on campus, and to support students and staff particularly vulnerable to pandemic conditions

Administrative and Curricular Initiatives

- Developed graphic image and awareness campaign that received ADDY Gold Award & Judge's Choice Award (with Diana Nichols and Michael Haskins) Honors College Brand & Marketing, American Advertising Federation, Mobile Bay, AL, February, 2018

- Led renovation and expansion of Honors College space—a historic building known as the Seaman’s Bethel—and grounds to triple study, community meeting, and office space. Currently planning renovation of a second building (to be completed in 2021)
- Worked with group considering Carnegie Community Engagement Classification application
- Restructured internal programs and processes for efficiency and transparency ranging from salary to research projects, preparation for graduate work, and committee responsibilities
- Hired development officer, advisor, liaisons with Admissions, and HERFF funded coordinator
- Initiated first ever development and grant applications from either the University Honors Program or the Honors College. Awarded more than \$470,000, created an honors alumni association, and organized development efforts to cultivate prospects
- Maintained Foundation scholarship contributions of \$750,000 annually
- Increased staff compensation by approximately 8 percent in a time of stagnant budgets
- Reconfigured scholarship budget to include retention, recruitment, and financial aid

Community, Regional, National, and Global Relationships

- Built relationships that led the University to establish a conservation partnership, easement holding, and research relationship with civil war battle sites, archeological opportunities, and ecological study in Blakeley Bluff along “America’s Amazon,” otherwise known as the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta
- Coordinates with Student Affairs and the Office of Student Academic Success on common read, as well as evidence-based support for students through events and advising
- Created international partnerships with the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights (Oxford, UK); the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates; and the Albert Schweitzer Institute, Quinnipiac University (Hamden, CT)
- Created campus-wide community partnerships with Historic Blakeley State Park (Spanish Fort, AL); Finch Conservation and E.O Wilson Biodiversity Foundation (Mobile, AL); Chastang-Fournier Elementary School (Mobile, AL); the Boys and Girls Club (Mobile, AL); Mobile Museum of Art (with the Office of Community Engagement) that has led to widespread community engagement and curricular innovation
- Organizes campus-wide interdisciplinary conversations around, for example, the themes in *Chasing Phil* and the FBI’s first undercover mission; the global significance of local environment in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta; the movement for Black lives; and work toward peace by Liberian Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee
- Elected to Vice-President of the Board of Southern Regional Honors Council
- Selected as “Top Prof” by 3 students, Fall, 2019, Mortar Board National Senior Honors Society

Pandemic Response and Emergency Management

- Maintained continuity of operations and strong sense of community and support, teaching, and high-quality academic work, from the onset of the 2020 pandemic, including CARES and HERFF funded positions and environmental mitigation
- Spearheaded virtual, 3 dimensional experiences; thesis defenses; and online graduation ceremony with distinctive honors flair. Built community for first-year students and larger honors community through virtual platforms and outdoor engagement opportunities
- Coordinated emergency return from New York for students, staff, and faculty who had traveled to New York in March, 2020.

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM, 2005-17.

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, 2003-17 (TENURED); ASSOCIATE, 1999-03 (TENURED); ASSISTANT, 1995-99.
Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut.

Quinnipiac is a private university with three campuses located in Hamden and North Haven, Connecticut. The University offers more than 100 programs to approximately 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students through seven colleges and divisions including a medical school and a law school. During my twenty-five years at Quinnipiac I witnessed and participated in the widespread expansion—including the addition of two campuses and the medical school—of the University.

Faculty Review, Recruitment and Collaborative Leadership

- Oversaw tenure, promotion, and reappointment reviews of approximately 50 faculty members for reappointment, tenure, and promotion as Chair of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Review Committee
- Elected to the Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Finance Committee, and the Board of Trustees
- Served on hiring committees for Provost, Vice President for Academic Technology, and at least ten faculty recruitment and hiring committees
- Facilitated clear communication through multiple means, including email, in person reports, and a blog that kept colleagues up to date during a difficult negotiation process when the faculty were part of a collective bargaining unit affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers

Administrative Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Developed and built consensus to create University Honors Program from committee planning to Faculty Senate approval to implementation, including the creation of budget, admissions standards and procedures, creation of curriculum, housing, and strategic planning to create a robust, diverse, interdisciplinary program of 320 students
- Received a wide range of grant funding totaling more than \$200,000
- Created innovative curricular “Signature Experiences” for experiential learning in University Honors Program
- Coordinated with Schweitzer Center to bring students to United Nations in New York
- Developed the Capstone Program in the University Honors Program to require, promote, and disseminate research by, for, and with honors students
- Secured and oversaw renovation of building space for the University Honors Program
- Elected to the Board of the Northeast Regional Honors Council
- Initiated relationship with development office and secured multiple “starter” gifts while cultivating prospects
- Revised the Academic Integrity Policy as Co-Chair of the Academic Integrity Program
- Chaired committee that created sophomore level interdisciplinary general education course
- Brought the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology to campus for its biennial conference
- Established Quinnipiac Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society

ACTING DIRECTOR, WOMEN’S STUDIES, 1999-2000.

Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut.

- Provided leadership for the office when regular director was on sabbatical.
- Implemented regular meetings with students and faculty
- Created general education proposals for introductory Women’s Studies courses
- Raised funds for student activities, in particular a trip to Baltimore for Feminist Expo.

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1996-97.

Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut.

- Elected to this unusual one-year term after the sudden resignation of the current chair.
- Guided the department through a difficult time of dissension
- Ran regular department meetings
- Attended chairs meetings with Dean of School of Liberal Arts
- Oversaw promotion review of a long-term department member
- Ran search for new faculty member
- Mentored a colleague in a one-year, temporary position.

Leadership in Professional Organizations

PRESIDENT, 2021-22 (VICE-PRESIDENT, 2020-21)

Southern Regional Honors Council, United States.

The Southern Regional Honors Council is a regional member of the National Collegiate Honors Council that advances Honors Programs and Honors Colleges of over 100 member institutions in the Southeastern United States. The Council organizes an annual conference; supports student scholarships for unique cultural, academic, and inclusive engagement; and includes a literary magazine.

- Conference planning co-chair for 2021 annual meeting. Spearheaded interregional virtual conference with Northeast Regional Honors Council for 2021 titled “Crossing Divides”
- Serves on Executive Board
- My platform:
 - emphasizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in response to current events as well as deep history of inequity, enslavement, and harm to non-dominant groups
 - focuses on budget, in particular clarifying the mission of the Council so that it can astutely management its funds
- Leadership cycle flows from Vice-President, President, to Past President

COMMITTEE MEMBER, ALABAMA RIVER DIVERSITY NETWORK, 2021-PRESENT.

Alabama River Diversity Network, Livingston, AL.

The Alabama River Diversity Network is dedicated to seeing and supporting diversity through the eyes of diversity in one of North America’s most biodiverse and historic river basins.

- My contributions include creating collaborative partnerships with HBCUs, other educational institutions, grants, and student researchers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2021-PRESENT.

Jazz Choreography Enterprises, New York, NY.

Jazz Choreography Enterprises supports performance and education about jazz dance.

- My contributions include attention to diversity initiatives, grants, board membership, and creating partnerships with colleges, universities, and educational institutions
- Work emphasizes serving students in underserved communities

UNIVERSITY MEMBER, 2021-PRESENT.

Black Belt Heritage Area, AL.

The Black Belt Heritage Area is dedicated to state, regional, and national recognition for the historic and environmental resources of Alabama's Black Belt.

- I coordinate with University of South Alabama and community resources to advance health related initiatives, grant-related activities, and research.

ADVISORY BOARD, 2020.

Boys and Girls Club of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

The Boys and Girls Clubs offer programs on site in local schools that are designed to help Club members ages six through 18 learn new skills.

- In process of establishing direct relationship for tutoring opportunities for the Honors College in Club programs under disrupted conditions of pandemic
- Work emphasizes serving students in underserved communities

GENERAL MEMBER, 2020-PRESENT.

APLU CoHE Affiliate Group; CoHE Grant Writing Collaboration.

The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Council on Honors Education Affiliate group networks and creates collaborations among APLU institutions.

- Collaboratively developed and submitted two grants with grant working group
- Active in discussions regarding new approaches to access in honors

ELECTED, FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE, 2011-13.

Northeast Regional Honors Council, United States.

The NRHC includes students, faculty, and administrators who are dedicated to the encouragement and support of undergraduate learning. The NRHC encompasses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

- Conference planning
- Contributed unique small discussion format that has become integrated into NCHC conferences

UNIVERSITY MEMBER, 2009-PRESENT.

National Collegiate Honors Council, United States.

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) coordinates honors programs and colleges nationally. The NRHC organizes an annual conference and scholarships.

- Active in informal groups discussing holistic admissions processes and diversity in honors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2007-PRESENT.

Eli Whitney Museum, Hamden, CT.

The Eli Whitney Museum and Workshop is an experimental learning workshop for students, teachers, and families. The Museum collects, interprets, and teaches experiments that are the roots of design and invention.

- Participates in quarterly meetings to oversee budget and operations
- Currently engaged in early transition efforts to hire a new Director
- Supports museum emphasis on broadening community exposure to new ways of thinking, reaching in particular into underserved communities

CO-HOST AND LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CO-CHAIR (WITH DAVID VALONE), 2001.

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology
Biennial Meeting at Quinnipiac University

- Oversaw budget of \$45,000
- Arranged registration, dorm rooms, food, and presentation space for 240 participants

Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities, “History, Humanities, Community, and Justice in Alabama,” Principal, \$453,000, Project Director, with Deborah Gurt, Philip Carr, and Kern Jackson, 2021-2023.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA), *The Justice Challenge: Engaging Students in the Future of Food, Climate, and Energy*, Bott-Knutson, R. C., Appel, H., Andersen, M., **Cooke, K.**, Fine, L., Garbutt, K., Hart, J. L., Kadlecck, C., Kapur, J., Keen, R., Knox, P., Kotinek, J., Nichols, T., Radasanu, A., Roberts, D., & Ziegler, W.; 2022, \$700,000, (pending).

Jean O’Connor-Snyder Internship Program (JOIP) Grants, David Mathews Center for Civic Life

“Immersive Civic Learning through Local and Community History: Emerging University Scholars and the Communities of Southern Alabama,” Co-Principal with Shannon Shelley-Tremblay, Kern Jackson, David Messenger, and Deborah Gurt, \$5000, 2020-21; renewed and funds increased to \$10,000 for 2021-22.

“Immersive Civic Learning in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta,” Co-Principal with Shannon Shelley-Tremblay and Kern Jackson, \$5000, 2019-20.

Alabama Humanities Foundation Grants

"Jewish Mobile Oral History Project," supporting, with Gurt, D. (Principal), Meola, D. A., Messenger, D. A., \$7,500, 2020.

“Sharing Stories: Oral History in Blakeley Bluff and the Greater Mobile Tensaw Delta,” Principal, 0219-2485MJ, \$6,400, 2019-20.

German Embassy, Campus Weeks Grant, “Shaping Germany,” supporting, with Rinne, C. (Principal), PhD., University of South Alabama, \$4,845, Fall, 2018.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Moral Psychology and Education: Putting the Humanities to Work,” Summer, 2016.

Scholar’s Grant, Principal, National Science Foundation, \$120,000, 2008-10.

Yale University Program in Agrarian Studies Visiting Fellow 2008-09; 1997-98.

Cornell University Fellowship in History of Home Economics and Human Nutrition Summer, 2000.

Professional Development and Recognition

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, Muma College of Business, University of South Florida, March to June, 2021.

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Course, Effective Teaching Practices, including “Assessing to Inform Instruction and Promote Learning,” completed November 2019; “Designing Learner-Centered and Inclusive Courses Online,” completed January, 2021.

17th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, September, 2019.

“Global Ethics of Human Movement and Migration,” Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, Oxford University, July, 2019.

ADDY Gold Award & Judge’s Choice Award (with Diana Nichols and Michael Haskins) Honors College Brand & Marketing, American Advertising Federation, Mobile Bay, AL, February, 2018.

Development for Deans and Academic Leaders, CASE, Chicago, November, 2018.

Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, October 2017.

Academic Seminar Partner of the Year, The Washington Center, (earned with Scott McLean and Jennifer Sacco while at Quinnipiac University), October, 2017.

Multicultural Institute: Advancing Equity and Inclusive Practice, NASPA, New Orleans, December, 2017. Brown University: Contemplative Studies ICP Summer Program, Summer, 2014.

Harvard University: Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, Boston, Class of 2013.

ACE: “At Home in the World,” Conference on Globalization and Internationalization, October, 2013.

Excellence in Teaching Award, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students, Quinnipiac University, 2006.

Quinnipiac University Student Government Outstanding Faculty Award, 1996-97.

Yale University Program in Agrarian Studies Ford Foundation Humanities Fellow (1998-99);
Visiting Fellow, 1997.

State of Connecticut Title II Grant for the Development of Assessment Tasks for MAT Students,
Principal, \$35,000, 2002-2004.

Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Summer, 1999.

American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Summer, 1998.

Post-Doctoral Fellow and Research Assistant. Daniel J. Kevles, Koepfli Professor of Humanities,
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, 1992-95.

Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship, 1991-92.

Morris Fishbein Center, History of Science and Medicine Awards, University of Chicago, 1987-91.

Bobrinskoy Award, University of Chicago, Spring, 1987.

American Philosophical Society Andrew W. Mellon Resident Fellow, Summer, 1998.

National Endowment for the Humanities/National Science Foundation Institute, "The Scientific,
Legal, and Social Challenges of Genetics," University of Puget Sound. July, 1996.

Past and Present Community and Educational Partnerships (University of South Alabama)

Oxford Consortium on Human Rights (institutional partner, University of Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law
and Armed Conflict). Regular workshops on human rights in New York, Oxford, and the Global South.

World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel
Peace Laureates. Hosts a worldwide gathering of Nobel Peace Laureates and Youth Summit.

2019 Summit: Merida, Yucatan, Mexico (September), brought a group of 7.

2022 Summit: Seoul, South Korea (December), raised funds for student attendees.

Finch Conservation and E.O Wilson Biodiversity Foundation (Mobile, AL). Writes grants and
engages in research to preserve biodiversity and celebrate human diversity.

Historic Blakely State Park (Mobile, AL). Undertakes grants and research to preserve the
environment as well as the history of the Battle of Fort Blakeley (US Civil War).

Chastang-Fournier Elementary School (Mobile, AL). Provides tutoring and educational support.

Boys and Girls Club (Mobile, AL). Provides after school programs and tutoring.

Mobile Museum of Art (in coordination with the Office of Community Engagement)
Provides internships and special programming

Community and Educational Partnerships (Quinnipiac University)

Connecticut Forum (Hartford, CT) and its innovative lecture and speaker series.

Hamden (CT) Middle School to advance educational opportunities through tutoring.

SeaTea Improv (Hartford, CT) comedy improv to create skills for networking, difficult conversations, classroom engagement, and presentations.

Eli Whitney Museum (Hamden, CT) to create interdisciplinary thinking in an innovative hands-on workshop/museum setting.

Scholarship

Book Manuscript

“White Nativist Exceptionalism: Reform and ‘Race Betterment’ in the United States, 1877-1939,” book manuscript in development, completion May, 2021. Sample chapters available.

Publications

Mark Andersen, Heidi Appel, Rebecca Bott, **Kathy J. Cooke**, Joy Hart, Cadi Kadlecek, J. Kapur, Ralph Keen, Paul Knox, J. Kotinek, Timothy Nichols, , A. Radasanu, Daniel Roberts, “Teaching and Learning in the Fourth Space: Preparing Scholars to Engage in Solving Community Problems,” for NCHC Monograph on Honors Colleges and Their History, Case Studies, and Issues, ed. Richard Badenhausen, (Lincoln, NE: National Collegiate Honors Council, in press, 2023).

“Cultivating Delight, Crossing Divides, and Solving Impossible Problems: Lessons Learned from a Year of Virtual Conferences,” with Jon Blandford, **Kathy J. Cooke**, Erik Liddell, Kathryn M. MacDonald, and Tara M. Tuttle, accepted for volume *Honors Online: Teaching, Learning, and Building Community Virtually in Honors Education*, Victoria M. Bryan, ed., (Lincoln, NE: National Collegiate Honors Council, full volume in final editing phase)

“Building Archives and Creating Conversation: Under-Represented Voices from North America’s Amazon,” **Kathy J. Cooke** and Deborah Gurt, in *Building Representative Archives: History, Memory, Community*, H. Crummé and E. Carter, eds., (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, in press, 2023).

“Communities of Opportunity and New Opportunities for Community: Intra- and Inter-Institutional Honors Collaboration After COVID-19,” with Jon Blandford, Peter Bradley, **Kathy J. Cooke**, Erik Liddell, Kathryn M. MacDonald, Carrie Pritchett, Christopher J. Syrynk, and Tara M. Tuttle, manuscript drafted for submission to peer-reviewed journal.

"Expertise, Book Farming, and Government Agriculture: The Origins of Agricultural Seed Certification in the United States," first published in *Agricultural History* 76 (2002) no. 3, pp. 524-545, reprinted in *Intellectual Property and Agriculture*, eds. Brad Sherman and Susannah Chapman (UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020).

“Who wants white carrots?: Congressional Seed Distribution, 1862-1923,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 17 (2018), no. 3 475-500.

"Cultivating Awareness in Honors: First-Person Noting and Contemplative Practices," *Honors in Practice*, 11 (2015), 189-201.

"Generation(s) and (Re)generation: Group Identity in Colonial New England," *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 23 (2014), no. 3, 333-357.

"Crop and Livestock Improvement in Connecticut Towns," in *Voices of the New Republic: Connecticut Towns, 1800-1832*, vol. 2, *What We Think*. Howard Lamar, ed. New Haven: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2003.

"Expertise, Book Farming, and Government Agriculture: The Origins of Agricultural Seed Certification in the United States," *Agricultural History* 76 (2002) no. 3, pp. 524-545.

"Duty or Dream? Edwin G. Conklin's Critique of Eugenics and Support for American Individualism," *Journal of the History of Biology* 35 (2002), pp. 365-384.

"The Limits of Heredity: Nature and Nurture in American Eugenics before 1915," *Journal of the History of Biology* 31 (1998), pp. 263-278.

"Human Fertility and Differential Birth Rates in American Eugenics and Genetics: A Brief History," *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine* 65 (1998), pp. 161-166.

"Twisting the Ladder of Science: Pure and Practical Goals in Twentieth Century Studies of Inheritance," *Endeavour* 22 (1998), pp. 12-16.

"From Science to Practice, or Practice to Science? Chickens and Eggs in Raymond Pearl's Agricultural Research, 1906-1916," *Isis. Journal of the History of Science Society* 88 (1997) pp. 62-86.

"An American Gospel of Social Evolution: Religion, Education, and Biology in the Thought of Edwin Grant Conklin," University Microfilms, Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 1994.

"Darwin on Man in the *Origin of Species*: An Addendum to the Bajema-Bowler Debate," *Journal of the History of Biology* 23 (1990) pp. 517-521.

Presentations

October, 2021, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.

"Looking to the Future: Regional Honors Collaborations—NRHC & SRHC as a Case Study," Roundtable Discussion with Jonathan Blandford and Kathryn M. MacDonald

"Autonomy & Innovation: Improving Honors through Student-Led Policy and Publication," Panel Session with Rohan Badve, Noah Baker, Mitchell Chambers, and Ryan Ford.

October, 2021, "Underrepresented Activism: Oral History, Folklore, and Self-Advocacy in the Archives," panel presentation with Kern Jackson and Deborah Gurt, Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Online.

September, 2021 (accepted, originally scheduled for 2020, rescheduled due to pandemic; I was unable to participate in rescheduled event), "Envisioning Engagement Past, Present, and Future: Using the Foundations of History for Community Engaged Scholarship," panel presentation with

Lex McKinnell, David Messenger, and Shannon Shelley-Tremblay, Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Online.

December, 2020 (accepted; event cancelled due to pandemic), "Dark Seeds: Darkness, Seed Germination, and Science in the Early Twentieth Century," DARKNESS, Nuuk, Greenland.

April, 2020 (accepted; event cancelled due to pandemic), "Crossroads (and Rivers) of Memory: Environment and Mediators Along the Mobile Tensaw River Delta, 16th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT.

March, 2020, (accepted, but event rescheduled for due to pandemic; I was unable to participate in rescheduled event), "Creating Home and Community in America's Amazon: Eco and Human Diversity in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta," Southwest Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

November, 2019, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

"Bridges and Go-Betweens in Theory and Practice: Honors, Oral History, and Alabama," for Panel Session "Reimagining the Power of the Past: Utilizing Tradition for Transformation,"

"Disruptions to Certainty and Knowing: Intellectual Humility and Critical Thinking," for Panel Session "Theorizing as Disruption"

October, 2019, "What's Your Story: Catalyzing Community Engaged Research in Undergraduate Students," panel presentation with Kern Jackson and Shannon Shelley-Tremblay, Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Denver, CO.

October, 2019, "Community Engagement Through Oral History: Intelligent Readers, Mediators, and Democracy in the Mobile (Alabama)-Tensaw Delta," panel presentation with students Lex McKinnell, Candice Fairchild, and Ruby Staten, Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

July, 2019, "Diversity and Biodiversity: Applying Oral History to Community, Ecology, and Archeology in America's Amazon," History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Utrecht, Netherlands.

April, 2019, "American Protestants and 'Indecent Raptures': Orgasmic Conversion Experiences in the Formation of National Identity," for conference titled "Rethinking Disruptive Sex between the 19th and 21st Century London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine," London, United Kingdom.

January, 2019, "Wrestling with God "Until the Day Dawned": Darkness, Conversion, and Sex in 19th Century American Revivals," DARKNESS Conference, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.

November, 2018, "Honors Gives Back," Presenter, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

October, 2018, "Rejecting 'Superwomen': From Race Betterment to Scientific Eugenics in Post-Great War America," for International Conference: Thinking Sex After the Great War, Brussels, Belgium.

March, 2018, "Representing Conversion: Ecstasy, Agency, and Race Betterment in Nineteenth Century America," Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, Boston, MA.

February, 2018, “Boston Besieged: Race Betterment, Popular Lectures, and Eugenics in America,” Far West Popular and American Culture Associations Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

November, 2017, “Honorvation: 21 Innovative Honors Programming Ideas that Will Energize and Inspire,” Presenter, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

November, 2015, “Subjective Experience and the Engaged Honors Community,” Panel Organizer and Presenter, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

October, 2015, “Focus and Noting: Methods for Creating Student and Faculty Awareness in Teaching and Learning,” IESTL, International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning, Savannah, GA.

March, 2014. “Sexceptionalism and Agency: Conversion and Regeneration Among New England Puritans,” Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, The Problem of Religion: Faith and Agency in History.

October, 2013, “Nature, Lust, and Population: Reproducing Character in Colonial New England,” New England Historical Society, New Haven, CT.

January, 2011, “Sacred Ecstasy: Revivals, Reproduction, and Salvation in America,” panelist and session organizer, American Historical Association, Boston, MA.

November, 2010, “Female and Fowl: Eugenic and Euthenic Conflicts about the Body and Reproduction in Early 20th-Century America,” Annual Meeting, History of Science Society.

July, 2010, “Pure Environment, Pure People: Eugenics, Race Betterment, and the Frontier in Late Nineteenth Century America,” *Environments: 79th Anglo American Conference of Historians*, London, UK.

March, 2010, “Pure Air and Land: The Drive for Purity in Turn of the Century Environmental Movements,” Annual Meeting, American Society for Environmental History, Portland, OR.

October, 2009, with Nicholas Federn and Daniel Osborn, IESTL, International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning, “Cross-Disciplinary Methods in the Humanities and the Sciences: ‘Purity,’ Lead Pipes, and Primary Source Analysis in the Classroom.”

June, 2009, Cheiron, International Society for History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, “Emotional Evolution: Race Betterment Thinking in America’s Great Depression.”

April, 2009. Conference on Science, Technology, and the Humanities, Stevens Institute of Technology. “Purity and ‘Pollution’ in Modern America: How Science Sustained the Pure Body in Late Nineteenth Century America.”

April, 2009. Kick-off lecture for 44th Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology, April 3-4, 2009, Drew University, “‘False Gods and Red-Blooded Women’: Pure Science in Eugenics and Home Economics.”

December, 2008. Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, “The Drive for Purity and the Emergence of an American Icon: Home Economics and Eugenics in the 20th Century.”

January, 2006. National Meeting, Phi Alpha Theta, national history honors society. "How to Host a Successful Regional Conference."

September, 2001. Human Ecology, Cornell University. "Non-Sense and Anti-Sentimentality in the Progressive Era: Eugenic Reactions to the 'Threat' of Euthenics and Home Economics."

April, 2000. Agrarian Studies, Yale University, "Safeguarding Local Knowledge or Protecting Scientific Development? Origins of Agricultural Seed Certification in the United States."

June, 1999. Cheiron, History of the Behavioral Sciences, "'Race Betterment' as Social Science: Demography and Eugenic Ideology in the Progressive Era," with D. Valone.

April, 1999. Yale University Program in Agrarian Studies, "Breeding for Character: The Frontier and the Development of Eugenics in Early Twentieth Century America."

April, 1998, Yale University History Department/Program in Agrarian Studies, "Fertility on Farm and Campus: Education, Agriculture and Eugenics in the Progressive Era."

April, 1998, Organization of American Historians, "Eugenics for Environmental Reform Measures: The Influence of Ellen Swallow Richards in American Eugenics, Euthenics, and Progressive Era Reform," for "Scientific Reforms for Social Ills: Exploring the Boundaries of Eugenics, Euthenics, and Sterilization Campaigns in the Early Twentieth Century."

March, 1997. Mr. Sinai Medical Center Lecture, "History of Eugenics and Genetics," for "Issues Medical Ethics--1997. Reproductive Choice: Genetic Counseling and Assisted Reproduction."

July, 1997, with D. Valone, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Biennial, "Nature and Nurture in Eugenics Past and Present."

January, 1997. American Historical Association, "The Digital Classroom."

November, 1996. History of Science Society, "Good Seed? Quality of Seed and Quality of Life in Late Nineteenth Century American Agriculture," session "Science in the Agricultural Context."

Reference Works

--*The Unfit: History of a Bad Idea* by E. A. Carlson, *Quarterly Review of Biology*.

--*Clean Living Movements: American Cycles of Health Reform* by Ruth Clifford Engs, *Isis* (2000).

--*Geopolitics and the Green Revolution* by John H. Perkins, *Endeavour* 22 (1998).

-- *The Rhetoric of Eugenics in Anglo-American Thought* by Marouf Arif Hasian, Jr., *Albion* (1997)

-- *The Temptations of Evolutionary Ethics* by Paul Lawrence Farber, *Journal of the History of Biology* (1997).

"Beverly Thomas Galloway," "Madison Grant," "Arie Haagen-Smit," *American National Biography*, John A. Garraty, Mark C. Carnes, eds., New York : Oxford University Press, 1999.

"Disease" and "Darwinism," *American Heritage Encyclopedia of American History*, John Mack Faragher, ed., New York : H. Holt, 1998.

Projects

Consultant, Beanstalk, Herndon, VA, 2022.

Beanstalk is an early stage start-up focused on technology and indoor agriculture. I provided consulting services regarding business planning, human resources, financial management, and customer service.

Volunteer Researcher, Affective and Neuroscience Laboratory, Brown University, Providence, RI.

I volunteered in this world-renowned laboratory to develop behind-the-scenes understanding of scientific research, to learn how to manage successful laboratory activity, and to learn curricular/programmatic innovations in Contemplative Science and in neuroscience.

Service to the Profession

Reviewer Forum for the History of the Human Sciences Prize Committee, 2009.

Advisory Committee, Division of Education, Quinnipiac University, 2007-09.

Hazen Education Prize Committee, History of Science Society, 2007-2009.

Council Member, Phi Alpha Theta (the national history honors society), 2006- 08.

Membership Committee, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, 2005-07.

Chair, Marjorie Greene Prize Committee, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology,” 2003-05.

Elected Council Member, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology,” 2003-2007.

University of South Alabama Service

Ad-Hoc Committee on General Education, Department of History, 2023-present.

Academic Programs and Planning Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences, 2022-present.

Academic Sub-Committee for Returning to Campus During the Pandemic, 2020-2022.

Retention Subcommittee, 2019-20.

Athletics Council, 2019-present, term through 2022.

Presentation, American Association of University Women Chapter, University of South Alabama, February, 2019, and February 2020.

University Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct Committee, 2019-present.

Community Engagement Advisory Committee, 2018-present.

Improvement of Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness Committee, 2017-2019 (task accomplished).

Common Read Book Selection Committee, 2017-present.

Committee for Fifth Year Review of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, 2017-18.

Advisory Council for First-Year Advising, 2017-present.

Quinnipiac University Service

Advisory Board, IMAgine (Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Globalism in Education), Department of Cultural and Global Affairs, 2017.

Advisory Board, Center for Innovation in Learning and Teaching, Quinnipiac, 2014-2017.

Senator, Faculty Senate, Quinnipiac University, elected for 2013-2015.

Board Member, Faculty Representative, Trustees, Quinnipiac University, elected for 2011-14.

Senate Finance Committee, Quinnipiac University, 2013-14.

College Evaluation Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Quinnipiac University, Member, 2010-11, and Committee Chair, 2012-2014.

Search Committee, Quinnipiac University: University Librarian, 2012-13; Academic Grants Officer, 2010; Senior Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs, 2007-2008; Chief Information Technology Officer, 1997-98.

Faculty Advisory Committee on Strategic Issues, Quinnipiac University, 2007-2017.

Coordinator, QU 201, Quinnipiac University Core Course “Our National Community,” 2006-07.

Advisor, Alpha Lambda Beta (Quinnipiac University chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national History Honors Society), 2003-2006. Best Chapter Award, 2005. Took students to national meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, in Philadelphia, PA, January, 2006.

Chair, Honors Committee, developed University-wide Honors Program, 2002-2003.

Academic Integrity Committee, facilitated the development of a new Academic Integrity Policy that was implemented Fall, 2002, Chair, 1999-2001.

Liberal Arts Research Competition Steering Committee, 1998-2000.

Faculty Advisor to the Student Government Association, 1997-98 and 1996-97.

Languages

English (native)

Spanish (intermediate)

German (basic)

ASL (beginner)