



Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters  
2022 Fall Awards Night  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Reception  
Room 202 MSRB  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Program & Entertainment  
Maeser Auditorium  
Brigham Young University

Dr. Erin O'Brien, Academy Fellow

Dr. Erin O'Brien is passionate about informal education having benefitted from a long series of mentors and advocates who helped nurture her love for research and the outdoors both in and out of the classroom. As a plant physiological ecologist, she has spent years engaged in research serving the needs of regional public lands and mentoring teams of undergraduate students in restoration and conservation biology. Creating these opportunities for students to engage in research has also resulted in collaborations across a diversity of fields varying from hyperbaric medicine to the use of nature to support mental health.

Providing accessible opportunities for students to engage in research as well as high impact extra-curricular experiences has been at the core of her career. As a new professor at Utah Tech University, one of her first responsibilities was to serve on the UASAL Board -first as the Chair of Biology. She later served as President-Elect, President, Past-President, and a member-at-large for a total of 14 years in UASAL leadership. In addition, she has spent nearly a decade as the Director of the Southern Utah eSMART summer camp, a STEM camp for middle school girls designed to reduce the gender disparity among STEM majors in Southern Utah. Expanding her work in public lands, she worked with the National Park Service to establish the Outdoor Leadership Academy to provide underrepresented young adults the opportunity to meaningfully connect with nature. More recently, this work in nature resulted in the opportunity to create a curriculum to help train others in how to lead inclusive, responsible recreation trips in nature.

Dr. O'Brien currently continues to teach biological research methods and analysis and provide student mentorship while also serving as the Director of Community Engaged Learning at Utah Tech University.

Originally from Virginia, she lives with her partner of 21 years and her daughter in St. George where she spends her free time hiking and serving the local nonprofit community.

Dr. Dixie Shaheen Rasmussen, Honorary Member

Dixie Rasmussen DNP CNM MSN-Ed

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who introduced Nurse-Midwifery to Central Utah in 1998. As a Doctoral prepared Certified Nurse Midwife, Dixie provides culturally competent care for a wide variety of women and newborns with diverse needs. She exemplified this quality as the State of Utah Sexual Assault Examiner of the Year (2010). She is a high-performing, compassionate clinician and manager with 42 years of healthcare experience in hospital and medical office environments. Dixie has delivered over 2200 newborns. She is an advocate for rural healthcare with strong leadership and was awarded the "Nurse of the Year in Leadership" from the Utah Nurse's Association (1998). Dixie has also been a Nurse-educator in a Licensed Practical Nursing program, Adjunct Professor for the University of Utah, Clinical Instructor for Brigham Young University and currently serves on the Sevier School Board of Education. She continues with her focus in nursing education as she has been a preceptor for scores of Doctoral, Masters' and undergraduate students. Dixie has a strong academic background. She was awarded the American College of Nursing's (AACN) 2017-2018 "Excellence in Advanced Nursing Practice Award". The award was granted for the nation's outstanding student in a Doctor of Nursing Practice program for the research and project, "Can a Rural Hospital Reliably Perform and Emergency Cesarean Section in 30 Minutes or Less?" She is also a contributing author in a Nursing textbook named, *The DNP Professional: Translating Value from Classroom to Practice*. Slack Incorporated (2021). Her contributing chapter is titled "From Mid-Level Midwifery TO High-Husbandry" – A Rural Certified Nurse Midwife's Doctoral Journey.

Dixie was born and raised in Salina, Utah. She married her high school sweetheart, and has 5 children and 7 grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, reading, and horses.

**Awards Program**

President’s Welcome. . . . .Daniel Poole

Recognition of Retiring Officers  
Arts Chair – Dmitri Peskov  
Humanities, Philosophy, and Foreign Language  
Chair – Craig Bergeson  
Physical Sciences Chair – Chris Monson  
Member At Large – Erin O’Brien

Incoming Officers  
Arts Chair – Jim Godfrey

Program Number . . . . .by Noteworthy  
A Medley of Songs

Presentation of Best Paper Awards. . . . . Daniel Poole  
and Division Chairs

Presentation of Honorary Member . . . . .Rachel Keller

**Recipient: Dr. Dixie Shaheen Rasmussen  
Doctor of Nursing Practice-Certified Nurse Midwife**

Presentation of Academy Fellow . . .Ang Banchemo Kelleher

**Recipient: Dr. Erin O’Brien  
Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, & Letters Past  
President**

Keynote Address. . . . .Dr. Erin O’Brien  
“The Value of College is Outside the Classroom”

Closing Remarks . . . . . Daniel Poole

**Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters  
Outstanding Paper Awards 2022**

**Biological Science**

“One-Sample Survey of *Salinivibrio costicola* Strain-  
Specific Phage from the Great Salt Lake”  
Preston D. Capener – Weber State University  
Joshua R. Mott – Weber State University  
Matthew B. Crook – Weber State University  
Matthew J. Domek – Weber State University

**Business**

“Seasonality of Frequency and Intensity in Consumer  
Complaints: A Sentiment Analysis Approach”  
Reagan Siggard – Utah State University  
Yong Seog Kim – Utah State University

**Engineering**

“Thermodynamics Experiment: Adiabatic Compression  
of Air”  
Toby Ian McMurray – Southern Utah University  
Ali Syeed Siahpush – Southern Utah University

**Social Science**

“Smoke Season: Exploring The Geographies of  
Transient Wildfire Smoke on The Wasatch Front”  
Jeremy Bryson – Weber State University  
Jeff Montague – Weber State University