Annual Report, 2020-2021

University of Arkansas Fayetteville. J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

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PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

Fulbright College Annual Report 2020 – 2021
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Executive Summary

During the 2020-21 fiscal year, the college received a $300,000 increase to its hard budget, bringing it to more than $75.8 million. The college’s tuition revenue decreased slightly to $97.3 million compared to $103 million the previous year. We also received more than $3.27 million in private gift support, which includes gifts of cash, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts and new pledges. The college additionally received numerous grants, which are detailed by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and Digital Measures.

The number of undergraduate and graduate students pursuing Fulbright College degrees decreased slightly in 2020 to 7,753 compared to 7,847 the previous year. Additionally, the total number of degrees and certificates awarded in 2020 rose slightly to 1,901 compared to 1,816 in 2019.

This year, 20 faculty members received tenure, with eight promoted to professor and two promoted to University or Distinguished Professor. We also welcomed 24 new tenure-track faculty, six new tenured faculty and 25 non-tenure track faculty for the 2020-21 academic year. Five more tenure-track faculty will also join us during the upcoming 2021-22 academic year.

Our faculty members produced thousands of pieces of scholarly research and creative work in the 2020 calendar year, including books, chapters, articles in refereed journals, proceedings or articles in non-refereed journals, invited lectures, other presentations and papers, and other types of creative activity such as art exhibitions, music recordings, plays and films. A full bibliographic listing may be found in Digital Measures, and some areas have included bibliographic listings in their reports in Appendix E and Appendix F.

Some other college changes in 2020-21 included two new chairs: Matt McIntosh in chemistry and biochemistry, and Laurence Hare in history. Additionally, for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year, David McNabb was reappointed in biological sciences, William “Lin” Oliver was reappointed in physics, and Michael Riha was reappointed in theatre. Associate dean Steven Beaupre was also reappointed in his leadership role, and in early 2021, Jim Gigantino left his role as chair of history to become associate dean in the Graduate School and International Education.

Additionally, due to the COVID pandemic and the resulting shift to online and remote instruction, many of the college’s departments, faculty members, staff and students faced a very challenging 2020-21 academic year. Likewise, racial tensions on campus spiked in conjunction with COVID and the college’s continued commitment to and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion became even more crucial.

More significant accomplishments, changes and challenges for the college and its departments, programs, centers, students, staff and faculty are included in the following pages, and additional details and achievements can be found in the appendices. A full list of the college’s departments, majors and minors may also be found in Appendix A.

Significant achievements and changes in Fulbright College include:

- In the spring of 2021, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards produced a digital booklet to recognize students and alumni who received awards at the state, national, and international levels, as well as students who competed as part of a team during the 2020-2021 academic year. Of the nearly 340 awards recognized, 138 were received by Fulbright College students. (1, 2, 6, 8)
  These awards include:
  - 24 Student Undergraduate Research Fellowships (of 46 university-wide)
  - 1 Harry S. Truman Scholarship (of 1 university-wide)
  - 1 Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship (of 1 university-wide)
  - 2 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Alternates (of 3 university-wide)
  - 9 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships (of 13 university-wide)
  - 4 Critical Language Scholarships (of 4 university-wide)
  - 3 Marshall Scholarship Finalists (of 3 university-wide)
  - 4 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships (of 7 university-wide)
  - 2 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mentions (of 3 university-wide)
  - 2 National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (of 6 university-wide)
  - 1 Payne International Development Fellowship Finalist (of 1 university-wide)
  - 1 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist (of 1 university-wide)
  - 1 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Finalist (of 1 university-wide)
  - 1 Columbia University Summer Public Health Scholars Program participant (of 1 university-wide)

- Department of Anthropology (ANTH) assistant professor Amelia Villaseñor was awarded the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Scientific Achievement Award, and assistant professor Kathleen Paul was named a Connor Faculty Fellow. (5, 6)

- The School of Art (ARTS) strengthened its leadership team by naming graphic design's Marty Maxwell Lane as director of the school and art education’s Christopher Schulte as assistant director. Additionally, the National Association of School of Art and Design (NASAD) approved the school’s Master of Arts in Art Education program, with applications being accepted in fall 2021. (1, 5, 8)

- The Department of Biological Sciences (BISC) completed its South School Street Warehouse research space renovation, brought the endowment for its Biological Sciences Endowed Graduate Travel Fund up to $150,000, and implemented a new campus-wide lab coat dispensing and return system with Cintas Lab Coats. (2, 3, 8)

- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (CHEM) assistant professor Chenguang Fan is part of a research team that received a $10.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to establish a new U of A Metabolic Research Center. (3, 5, 7)

- The Department of Communication (COMM) made a successful transition of leadership as Robert Brady, the longest serving chair in the department’s 100-plus year history, stepped down and Stephanie Schulte became chair. The department’s majors also grew by about 10 percent last year, serving more than 900 majors. (1, 2, 5)

- Department of English (ENGL) associate professor Eric Pritchard was named the new Brown Chair in English Literacy, and in its latest ranking of M.F.A. programs, Poets & Writers placed the U of A M.F.A. Program 8th in the nation, out of 150 programs, for job placement and 18th for post-graduate fellowships. SuccessfulStudent.org also ranked the program number one on their list of 13 best translation and interpretation colleges. (1, 4, 5, 8)

- The Department of Geosciences (GEOS) received more than $2 million in grant funding this year, established the Outdoor Geo Lab project in support of Physical Geology, and is developing a Student Success Lab. (1, 3, 7)
• In the Department of History (HIST), former chair James Gigantino accepted a new campus position as Associate Dean in the Graduate School, so Elliott West acted as interim chair and J. Laurence Hare became the new chair. Additionally, the new 4+1 B.A./M.A. program launched, and so did the new online history minor offered through Global Campus. (1, 5, 6)

• The School of Journalism and Strategic Media (SJSM) significantly revised its curriculum, approving a new Multimedia Storytelling and Production Concentration and updating the Journalism Concentration (formerly the News-Editorial Concentration). Additionally, alumnus Bill Keenan (B.A. 1949) created two endowments to support journalism scholarship and research, and KXUA moved to the second floor of Kimpel Hall into the new John and Candace Horne Multimedia Radio Center. (1, 2, 6)

• The Department of Mathematical Sciences (MASC) successfully updated the prerequisites for College Algebra to appropriately allow students to progress by reducing unnecessary remediation, improving retention and student success. (1, 6)

• Department of Music (MUSC) associate professor Jeffrey Murdock was awarded the Grammy for the National Music Educator of the Year, and Fayetteville Mayor Lionel Jordan proclaimed July 6, 2021 as Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock Day. Additionally, the National Association of Schools of Music approved substantive changes so that our music education degree program can lead directly to teacher licensure, and a graduate certificate in music for special needs was also approved. (1, 5, 6, 7)

• Department of Philosophy (PHIL) instructor David Barrett will teach a newly developed course on Data Ethics for the interdisciplinary Data Analytics Program, and Barrett will be working with professor Eric Funkhouser and associate professor Barry Ward on a new research project, "Reasoning in the Digital Age: Challenges and Implications of an Epistemic Crisis.” Both efforts have been partly supported by a grant from the Chancellor’s Fund for the Humanities. (1, 2, 3, 5, 7)

• In spring 2021, the NSF notified Department of Physics (PHYS) professors Hugh Churchill and Salvador Barraza-Lopez that they would receive funding for their $22 million Quantum Foundry joint research effort with Montana State University. Each university will receive roughly half the award and the Nano Building will house the Quantum Foundry at the U of A. (2, 3, 7, 8)

• To improve undergraduate learning and comply with general education requirements, the Department of Political Science (PLSC) developed two capstone courses, Scope and Methods of Political Science, and students will now be required to take one prior to graduation. (1, 6)

• The Department of Psychological Science (PSYC) continued its leadership in a campus-wide neuroscience initiative, one of the five innovation clusters represented in the new 13R Initiative, and has been involved deeply in the planning and design of the new neuroscience facilities. PSYC also offered two new undergraduate courses for the first time, PSYC 3173: Biopsychology and 3063: The Psychology of Diversity. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7)

• The School of Social Work (SCSW) received a $600,000 endowment from the Blue and You Foundation to provide ongoing paid stipend internships at primary care medical field placements for two students. $100,000 of this money will go to set up the placement.

• In light of the award of the Chancellor’s Fund for the Humanities, its faculty and research centers generated over $1.843 million in new funding and managed over $2.415 million in federally funded research projects, and assistant professor Brittany Hearne was awarded a prestigious $35,000 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty from the Center for Citizens and Scholars funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. (1, 3, 5, 6, 7)

• Department of Theatre (THTR) associate professor Weston Willkered led a task force for The United States Institute of Theatre Technology to create a series of re-opening guides tailored to theatre and event venue operations based upon current COVID mitigation guidelines. Additionally, THTR created 10 online productions and reached over 2,600 viewing patrons despite the COVID pandemic. (1, 3, 7)

• The Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (WLLC) is launching a pilot program in Cherokeet for fall 2021, with instructor Lawrence Panther with funding support from the U of A’s Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Additionally, Linda Jones published The Shattered Cross, French Catholic Missionaries on the Mississippi, 1698-1725, and Kathleen Condray published Das Arkansas Echo: A Year in the Life of Germans in the Nineteenth Century South. (1, 3, 5)

• African and African American Studies (AAST) graduated 12 majors, 16 minors, and one graduate certificate student in May 2021. The program also created a COVID-19 Emergency Scholarship and awarded six student scholarships of $1,000 each and developed new courses including “Afroecology: An Environmental Analysis of the African American Experience,” “The Black Student-Athlete,” “Black Utopias,” “COVID-19 and the History of Pandemics,” and “Distant Relatives.” (1, 4, 6)

• In light of the rising anti-Asian hate crime at both national and local levels, Asian Studies (AIST) worked closely with the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, CAPS, and the American Pacific Islanders (API) Employee Impact Group to host a virtual community forum in April for API community allies and allies to come together and raise awareness. Director Ka Zeng also participated in a virtual talk hosted by the API Employee Impact Group to discuss “the bamboo ceiling” as part of Women’s History Month. (2, 4, 7)

• The Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society (Blair Center) completed its 2020 Blair Center Poll and co-sponsored several programs including a virtual book talk by Myra McClarey on her novel, Becoming Rabbie Lee, and a virtual talk by Meredith Martin-Moats titled, "No One Cares About Your Theories but Everyone likes Baked Goods: Gender, Race, Mutual Aid and Rural Organizing.” (2, 3)

• The Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies (CARS) worked on two major projects with the University of Arkansas Press, Remote Access: Small Public Libraries in Arkansas which will appear in November 2021 and Arkansas: The Documentary Films of Jack Hill. (3, 7)

• With a $20 million grant from the NSF, the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST) is working in partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission’s Division of Science and Technology and eight other colleges and universities to build a high-performance computing network for data analytics and bring together scientists and engineers from across the state to focus on data analytics. (3, 7)

• The Center for Communication Research completed its Kimpel Hall lab renovations, adding equipment to gauge moment-to-moment audience responses to prerecorded and live media content, a video server to simultaneously record multiple channels of television programming, eye trackers to measure point of gaze and eye movement, and more. Additionally, the center added 14 new affiliate members from across campus. (2, 3, 6)

• The Community and Family Institute (CFI) has been working with local non-profit Serve Northwest Arkansas to develop a micro-shelter/tiny homes community called New Beginnings and the facilities should be ready for occupancy by July 1, 2021. (2, 4, 7)

• The Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (CLCS) program co-sponsored the virtual seminar Language and Belonging, a two-day lecture and workshop for Spanish heritage speakers developed as part of the “Arkansas Participation in a 500 Million Person Community: Building Capacity for Innovation in Spanish Teaching Statewide,” project funded by the U of A Chancellor’s Grant for the Humanities. (2, 4, 7)

• Center for Social Research (CSR) co-director Casey T. Harris stepped down for another administrative role, and former co-director Shaun A. Thomas became the center's sole director. The CSR now has 20 interdisciplinary affiliates representing three different colleges and has generated $4,631,048 in research dollars since 2016. (2, 3, 5)
The college’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) coordinated and hosted 13 workshops, including the implementation of “Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts” for 776 faculty and staff members, as well as weekly DEI Hour events. Additionally, DEI led the first year of its College DEI Council, and launched a new website, newsletter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. (2, 4, 7)

The Fulbright College Honors Program (FCHP) had a record-breaking year of successful honors thesis defenses with five summer graduates, 15 winter graduates, and 180 spring graduates – meaning 200 students completed their coursework, maintained a competitive GPA, defended their theses, and graduated with Latin honors. (1, 3)

Since the Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center (FPAC) was mostly shut down due to the COVID pandemic, it concentrated on upgrading its systems to be able to operate in a 100% remote environment and started a new FPAC Live series on Facebook. (2, 7)

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDST) grew significantly online. Of the 122 students enrolled in the spring 2021 semester, 103 (84%) enrolled as fully online through Global Campus. In addition, 106 (87%) of the majors chose the option of completing the degree by selecting three thematically linked minors. (1, 6)

J. Laurence Hare, who has directed the International and Global Studies Program (INST) since 2015, stepped down to become chair of HIST and INST associate director Thomas Adam assumed responsibility for the program for the remainder of the academic year. A new permanent director is expected to be named in July 2021. (5)

The Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) program is working on creating an online minor and a new graduate certificate to both launch in fall 2022. (1, 2, 8)

The Medical Humanities Program (MEDH) had 97 total students graduate with a minor this year. Currently there are 233 declared MEDH minors, and MEDH is the third-largest minor on campus. Many students have goals such as admittance to medical school, nursing school, or occupational therapy and other allied health programs, or plan to work in various capacities in public health. (1, 2, 3, 7)

The Middle East Studies Program (MEST) co-sponsored readings by 2020 Etel Adnan Prize Winner Jessica Abughattas and fellow Arab American poet Leila Chatti at the annual poetry festival organized by the Open Mouth Literary Center Reading Series. (3, 4, 7)

The University of Arkansas Museums (MUSE) hosted participants in the Veterans Curation Program in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The program provides employment, vocational training, and technology skills to veterans. At MUSE, these lab technicians catalogued and photographed artifacts, as well as cleaned, scanned and re-housed photographs and documents. (2, 7)

NIH NIGMS IDEA COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function (COBRE) professor Paul Adams continued to work with and mentor low-income students from rural areas as part of the NSF grant “Closing the STEM Labor Gap through a Path to Graduation for Low Income, Rural Students.” (1, 3, 4)

The Predental Studies Program had 244 students in 2020-2021, including those who sought advising and have not yet graduated, non-degree seeking students, pre-transfer students, and alumni applying to dental school and requesting a committee letter. (1, 8)

The Premedical Program evaluated 216 medical school aspirants, of which 191 applied to M.D. granting schools nationwide, 46 applied to Texas medical schools, and 133 applied to D.O.-granting schools. (1, 8)

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History (Pryor Center) completed its Arkansas Memories Project, a series of interviews with over 150 Arkansans of distinction who have shaped the cultural, economic, political, and social life of our state, and hosted the third season of its signature lecture series, Pryor Center Presents, themed this year on racism, social justice, and policing. (2, 3, 7)

Fulbright College Student Success (FCSS) adopted and implemented a new mentoring platform, RazorLink, redesigned its website to include more useful financial and scholarship information, organized strategic outreach campaigns using the Signalvine texting platform to reach 3,797 students with indicators of struggle or need, and received a Walton Family Foundation (WFF) grant award to hire a new Associate Director of Employer Relations. (1, 2, 6)

The Terrorism Research Center (TRC) completed a three-year National Institute of Justice funded project titled “Innovative Methodologies for Assessing Radicalization Risk: Risk Terrain Modeling and Conjunctive Analysis,” and was awarded $1.6 million from the Research Council of Norway for a multi-year project titled “Investigating Contested Territories on Extreme-Right Terrorism.” (3, 7)

The TRC’s Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab (CASDAL) and its research partner the Chattanooga Police Department were awarded $700,000 from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for a multi-year project titled “Chattanooga Police Department: Scenic City CGIC.” (3, 7)

The University of Arkansas Humanities Center (UAHC) co-sponsored the unveiling of the Nelson Hackett Project, which was added to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program in a ceremony at the Whitehouse. UAHC also provided support to the Arkansas COVID Project in SJSM to translate information for area communities and host related events. (2, 3, 7)

Achievements in teaching, research and public service, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance:

- ANTH faculty members presented at 34 conferences, submitted 58 publications, and applied for 26 grants or awards. Faculty members Claire Terhune, Peter Ungar, Marvin Kay, Mike Plavcan and Ben Vining were also awarded grants amounting to more than $1.42 million. (3, 5)
- ARTS faculty members Angela LaPorte, Dónal O'Donoghue and Injeong Yoon-Ramirez led an arts-led integration pilot program in collaboration with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (CBMAA), Walton Arts Center, the Kennedy Center, and three Springdale public high schools, supported by a grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. (2, 3, 6, 7)
- BISC research assistant professor Adnan Alrubaye received both the Arkansas Alumni Association’s Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award and the Hoyt H. Purvis Award for Service in International Education presented by the Graduate School and International Education, and research assistant professor Tameka Bailey developed a virtual version of her Biomedical Research Summer Camp. (1, 4, 5)
- CHEM instructor Lorraine Brewer received the 2021 Fulbright College Master Teacher Award for her teaching achievements and professor Jingyi Chen received the Nolan Faculty Award for her nanostructures research. (1, 3, 5)
- COMM students collaborated with Margaret Butcher and Frank Scheide on programming and exhibits at the Bentonville Film Festival. Russell Sharman was also a featured playwright for TheaterSquared’s 2020 Arkansas New Play Festival, his film ANIM-AL premiered in the Oxford Film Festival, and he helped curate an online film festival with the Walton Arts Center for the Fayetteville Film Festival. (1, 2, 3, 4, 6)
ENGL assistant professor Toni Jensen won a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, and associate professor Geoffrey Davis won The Porter Fund Literary Prize in 2020. (3, 5)

GEOS associate professor Fiona Davidson was selected as editor of the prestigious ATLAS of the 2020 Presidential Election published by Rowman & Littlefield, and the Chancellor’s Commission on Women recognized associate professor Celina Suarez for outstanding service. (3, 5, 6)

HIST associate professor Michael Pierce unveiled The Nelson Hackett Project, a digital humanities initiative highlighting the experiences and impact of Nelson Hackett, an enslaved man. Additionally, professor Jeannie Whayne was part of a team that won silver in the Higher Ed category of the 2021 International Serious Play Awards, for her work with the Tesseract Center on a civil rights history video game. (3, 4, 5, 6)

SJMS chair Larry Foley’s documentary Indians, Outlaws, Marshalls and the Hangin’ Judge was selected for screening and honored at more than a dozen refereed/juried film festivals along with his short film from the documentary, Bass Reeves: Invincible Black Marshall. Additionally, associate professor Bret Schulte won first place in the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference manuscript competition for his book proposal, Flamengos: The Untold Tale of the World’s Greatest Orphanage and America’s Last Celebrity Priest. (5, 7)

MASC teaching assistant professor Samantha Robinson was inducted into the Teaching Academy and awarded the inaugural Mu Sigma Rho Early Career Undergraduate Impact Award, a national award given in recognition of a faculty member who has made significant contributions to the success of undergraduate students in statistics. (1, 3, 5)

MUSC’s Ronda Mains was re-elected to the Commission on Accreditation for the National Association of Schools of Music. Jake Hertzog served as Vice-Chair of the Fayetteville Arts Council, and through the Reflexions Music Series, Mains, Lía Uribe, Eric Troiano and Catalina Ortega, along with KUAF 91.3 and other departments, hosted two virtual guest artist residencies with Monica Yunus and Camille Zamora, co-founders of Sing for Hope, and with Imani Winds, the leading woodwind quintet in the country. (2, 3, 6)

PHIL assistant professor Warren Herold served on the Medical Humanities Steering Committee, charged with developing a medical humanities minor, and he continues to play a central role in the Sustainability Curriculum Advisory Committee developing PHIL’s offerings in applied ethics fields, including legal ethics, medical ethics, environmental ethics, and bioethics. (1, 2, 6)

PHYS assistant professor Yong Wang was awarded an Instructional Enhancement Grant to develop an AI-based chatbot for courses with several hundred students. Additionally, associate professor Hugh Churchill was awarded a $1 million research grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and won a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) award. Distinguished Professor Lauren Bellaiche received a $3 million research grant from the Office of Naval Research and won a Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship, and Distinguished Professor Min Xiao published his 50th peer-reviewed journal article in the spring of 2021. (1, 3, 5, 7)

PLSC associate professor A. Burcu Bayram gave a presentation on race and foreign aid in Georgetown University’s Global Political Economy Project Race Series focusing on race in international political economy and was also elected to serve as a member on the Women’s Caucus for International Studies. Additionally, Thomas Adam published The History of College Affordability in the United States from Colonial Times to the Cold War, Ka Zeng published Fragmenting Globalization: Global Value Chains and the Politics of Preferential Trade Liberalization in China and the United States, and Janine A. Parry was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Award by the Arkansas Political Science Association. (3, 4, 5)

PSYC grew to 974 majors and awarded 201 degrees in 2020, substantial increases over 2019 and approximately double its 2015 numbers. Additionally, Darya Zabelina received a $750,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research to study creativity and decision making, Anastasia Makahnova received a $175,000 grant from NSF to study the relation between inflammation and social prejudice, and Ellen Leen-Feldner received over $120,000 to study effects of CBD on anxiety. (1, 3, 5)

SCSW held two Hackathons over Zoom, which included faculty working with groups of students to develop creative solutions for difficult social problems—suicide prevention and LGBTQ+ support. Additionally, the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program continued through 2021 providing scholarships for social work students who complete internships in behavioral health. (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)

SOCI University Professor Kevin Fitzpatrick received both the college’s Master Researcher Award and the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from Susquehanna University, as well as continuing the Community Family Institute’s work with Serve Northwest Arkansas to develop a tiny homes community to combat poverty and homelessness. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

THTR worked in conjunction with TheatreSquared and The Fayetteville Public Library to produce Matilda: The Musical at the new Fayetteville Public Library Event Center. Five THTR faculty members were involved with the creation or leadership of the production, and three current students and six alumni were also members of the cast. (1, 6, 7)

WLLC assistant professor of Italian, Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, was elected President of the American Association of Teachers of Italian for 2021-2023 and received a Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant from the Italian Government for $14,300 in support of Italian section activities. Additionally, the new Arabic B.A. program, in its second year, graduated five students in spring 2021 with B.A.s in Arabic. (1, 5, 6)

AAST director Caree Banton was the keynote speaker for “Transforming University of Arkansas,” a series of campus-wide digital strategy sessions to help achieve transformative change in the areas of diversity and inclusion on its campus. Additionally, professor Lisa M. Corrigan was named to the board of directors of the Rhetoric Society of America. (4, 5)

AIST continued its annual speakers’ series with five public digital lectures on “The U.S.-China Trade War as a Tech War: Causes and Consequences,” “Red Mask and White Mask: Mixed Signaling in China’s Regional Diplomacy,” “The Belt Road and Beyond: Covid, China, and Connectivity in Asia,” “Space, Thirdspace, and In-between: Concepts of Connectedness in the East and West,” and “Visible and Invisible Hands: The Office of Science and Technology Policy and US-China Relations.” (1, 3, 4)

Blair Center’s Najja Baptist served on the American Political Science National Task Force, Xavier Medina-Vidal was named the Associate Director of the Center of Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas, Arlington, and Angie Maxwell was interviewed on her southern politics research in numerous media outlets. (3, 5)

CAST is working with two companies in New Mexico and Utah to process 40-year-old imagery of the U.S. into high quality maps so experts in agriculture, economics, and environmental science can better assess the impact of conservation practices on America’s farmlands. In collaboration with researchers at the University of Tennessee, CAST is also working on a project to improve crop residue burning in the Arkansas Delta. (2, 3, 7)

CLCS professor Mohja Kahf co-edited with CLCS alumna Nadine Sinno the collection Constructions of Masculinity in the Middle East and North Africa Literature, Film, And National Discourse. Contributors included candidate Kaveh Bassiri, and alumni Sarah Hudson and Nicole Fares. (3, 8)

FCHP’s Peer Mentoring Program continues to grow and make a substantive, profoundly positive impact on first-year honors students. In 2020-21, 14 of these mentors met 1:1 with honors mentees. The other 36 served as class mentors in the UNIV 101H1 class for all 150 students. (1, 8)

The FPAC provided remote programming to Holt Middle School, Root Elementary and Vandergriff Elementary by contracting a Chicago-based dance troop that taught the students West African Dance and how to use this artistic physical motion in the classroom. (1, 2, 7)
Student and alumni achievements, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance:

- **ANTH** awarded one Ph.D., five M.A.s, and had four students advancing to candidacy, eight students present at conferences, two students have their publications accepted, and seven students receive notable grants or awards. (1, 8)
- Studio **ARTS** M.F.A. students Kalyn Barnoski, Leah Grant and Minah Kim received grants from the Mid-America Arts Alliance’s Artists 360 program; Taylor Loftin was the 2020 winner of Young Painters Competition; Alumna Raven Halfmoon’s work was acquired by the Norman Museum of Contemporary Art; and 11 current graphic design B.F.A. students accepted internship positions at Blue Cross Blue Shield, CJRW Advertising, Inuvo Digital Publishing, Onyx Coffee, PAIR Design, Prisma Design Firm, Sam’s Club and Razorback football. (1, 6, 8)
- **CHEM** students won numerous awards this year, including Best Chemistry, Fast easy, Chemistry, including BISC Advertising, Inuvo Digital Publishing, Onyx Coffee, PAIR Design, Prisma Design Firm, Sam’s Club and Razorback football.
- **COMM** employed Chat Moderators, using CARES ACT money to support faculty teaching online and hybrid classes, and launched a new Student Success Liaison (SSL) program with grant support to employ peer mentors to support incoming freshmen and other undergraduates showing indicators of need. (1)

Please note: extensive additional listings are included in the department and center reports, in the attached appendices.
Conference at the University of Notre Dame. Additionally, alumnus Mervin Jebaraj (M.P.A., 2012) was named to the Walton Arts Center board of directors, and alumna Maya Ungar (B.A., 2020) was named a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship and was a policy and advocacy assistant at the Alliance for Peacebuilding. (1, 3, 8)

- PSYC graduate student Linda Guzman received a prestigious American Psychological Association Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship, which was recently renewed for a second year. Additionally, numerous graduate students held Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Fellowships this year, including Alita Mobley, Roselee Ledesma, Anna Marie Nguyen, Arooj Abid, and Harlee Onovbiona. (1, 8)

- Three undergraduate SCSW students received Honors College Research Awards, including K. Painter, M. Browning, and Hannah Baker. Additionally, Emma Wiederhoeft was named the 2020 B.S.W. Student of the Year and Morgan Browning was named the 2021 B.S.W. Student of the Year by the National Association of Social Work Arkansas Chapter. (1, 3)

- SOCI M.A. student Paulina Sobczak was awarded a 2021 Southern Exposure Film Fellowship from the Alabama Rivers Alliance and took second place in the Arkansas Department of Health’s video competition with her submission, Cancel COVID. (1, 3, 7, 8)

- THTR M.F.A. alumna Rachel Lynett received the prestigious 2021 Yale Drama Series Prize for her play, Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too August Wilson), and M.F.A. alumna Lauren Ferebee’s play, GOODBY, was selected as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s 2021 recipient of the Planet Earth Arts Playwriting Award and nominated for the National Partners in American Theatre Award. (1, 8)

- WLLC Chinese teaching assistant Ai-Ling Lu was the U of A-wide winner of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, additionally Lucas Ros and Spencer Hazeslip both received the Critical Language Scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to study Russian and Rome Hernandez Morgan was awarded one for Portuguese, and graduate Yumi Ha received a Fulbright Teaching Award to Rome. (1, 8)

- AAST awarded $8,800 in graduate fellowships and $25,000 in undergraduate student scholarships to 15 students, along with implementing an inaugural green cord memento gift for AAST major and minor graduating senior recognition. (1, 8)

- AIST student Isaac Hampton was accepted into the Princeton in Beijing Program in summer 2020, Ai-Ling Lu was admitted to the Ph.D. program with a Teaching Assistantship at Ohio State University, and Magdalena Kellogg received a Fellowship for API Summer Full Curriculum at the London School of Economics. (1, 4, 8)

- CLCS student Vanessa Guerrero was awarded the Hudson Prize for the Humanities, student William Loder received the Graduate Congress Research Award, and student Guillermo Pupo Pernet was awarded a Grant for Humanities Research on Systemic Racism. Additionally, Ph.D. candidate Angela Monts was named U of A’s Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and graduate Hamed Al Alam was offered a teaching position at Hail University, Saudi Arabia. (1, 8)

- The 2021 recipients of FCHP’s Harold D. and Margaret Kirby Hantz Awards for the top college scholar, top departmental scholar, and top service awards are Andrew Palmer, Sara Swank, and W. Allen Lambert. (1, 7)

- INST student Julia Nall served as President of the Associated Student Government, was named a Presidential Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society. (1, 3)

- MEST and public policy student Kathleen Doody, Ph.D. was awarded the J. Hillman Yowell Award for Excellence in Teaching. (8)

Please note: extensive additional listings are included in the department and center reports, in the attached appendices.
### Departments & Schools

- Anthropology – ANTH
- School of Art – ARTS
- Biological Sciences – BISC
- Chemistry & Biochemistry – CHBC
- Communication – COMM
- English – ENGL
- Geosciences – GEOS
- History – HIST
- School of Journalism and Strategic Media – SJSM
- Mathematical Sciences – MASC
- Music – MUSC
- Philosophy – PHIL
- Physics – PHYS
- Political Science – PLSC
- Psychological Science – PSYC
- School of Social Work – SCSW
- Sociology & Criminology – SOCI
- Theatre – THTR
- World Languages, Literatures & Cultures – WLLC

### Majors

- Advertising & Public Relations
- African & African American Studies
- Anthropology
- Arabic
- Art Education
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Communication
- Criminology
- Earth Science
- Economics
- English
- French
- Geography
- Geology
- German

- Graphic Design
- History
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- International & Global Studies
- Journalism
- Mathematics
- Middle East Studies
- Music
- Music Education
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Studio Art
- Theatre

### Minors

- African & African American Studies
- Anthropology
- Arabic
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Child Advocacy Studies Training
- Chinese with a Business Orientation
- Classical Studies
- Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- English
- French
- French with a Business Orientation
- Gender Studies
- Geography
- Geology
- German
- Global Studies
- Historic Preservation
- History
- Indigenous Studies
- Italian
- Japanese with a Business Orientation
- Jewish Studies
- Journalism
- Latin American and Latino Studies
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics
- Medical Humanities
- Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Rhetoric and Writing Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Southern Studies
- Spanish
- Spanish for the Professions
- Spanish with a Business Orientation
- Statistics
- Substance Abuse Disorders
- Theatre
Guiding Priorities for the University of Arkansas

A list of the Guiding Priorities for the University of Arkansas and their corresponding number codes is provided for reference. These codes are used throughout the report.

1. **Advancing Student Success** (1)
Maximizing the success of University of Arkansas students is our highest priority starting with their recruitment and ending with their transition to careers or further education. We will work to maximize the success of our students, with special attention to first-generation college-going Arkansans, by increasing financial assistance for those who need it, easing the transition into the university, improving retention and graduation rates, and providing career planning and career transition assistance.

2. **Building a Collaborative and Innovative Campus** (2)
The University of Arkansas is a comprehensive university with many individual units and disciplines that contribute to teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement. The world of higher education, however, is becoming increasingly more interdisciplinary and collaborative in these mission areas, which reflect the world around us. To be a leader, we will work to foster a university environment that embraces collaboration and interdisciplinary pursuits while also stimulating innovation in our approaches to creating and disseminating knowledge.

3. **Enhancing our Research and Discovery Mission** (3)
The creation of new knowledge and creative activities is a defining feature of a research university. We will work to increase and enhance our research activity across the broad spectrum of areas that make up this comprehensive university and in the process define signature areas where we can excel as an institution.

4. **Enriching Campus Diversity and Inclusion** (4)
We believe that diversity should permeate the very fabric of the University of Arkansas. We will therefore work to diversify along many dimensions our faculty, staff and students and at the same time create an environment and atmosphere that is welcoming and inclusive for all.

5. **Investing in Faculty Excellence** (5)
A great university recruits, hires and retains a great faculty. To ensure that we can hire and retain an outstanding faculty, we will work to increase the salaries of existing faculty, provide competitive salaries for new faculty and for staff that provide support to faculty and students, enhance support for teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement, and provide a supportive environment for academic pursuits.

6. **Promoting Innovation in Teaching and Learning** (6)
High quality faculty teaching and student learning experiences have been defining features of the University of Arkansas for many years. We will work to maintain this high level of teaching and learning and at the same time promote the creation of timely and innovative academic programs and learning experiences, domestically and internationally.

7. **Reaffirming our Land-grant and Flagship Responsibilities** (7)
The University of Arkansas is unique in that it is both the state’s flagship university and a land-grant institution. With this unique status comes a responsibility to engage, collaborate, and provide outreach to the citizens, businesses, governmental and civic entities of the state to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. We will define what it means to be a land-grant and flagship university in the 21st century and augment our outreach and engagement efforts, broadly defined, across Arkansas.

8. **Strengthening Graduate Education** (8)
Graduate education is an important part of a research university and graduate students make significant contributions to the research and teaching missions of the university; and key to the university’s impact on economic development. We will work to enhance and improve graduate education at the University of Arkansas by intensifying the recruitment and boosting support of graduate students as well as making sure that our programs are preparing graduate students for a variety of productive careers.
Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

2020-2021 Annual Report

Appendix C

Prestigious Faculty Appointments

A listing of prestigious faculty holding endowed and named chairs, professorships, distinguished professorships and lectureships is provided for reference.

The full name of departments and programs corresponding to the four-letter codes may be found in Appendix A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurent Bellaiche</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>PHYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Brock</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>ENGL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Henry</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>BISC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Herzberg</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>THTR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Jacobs</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Koepppe II</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>CHBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Lampinen</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>PSYC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Millett</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>CHBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Quinn</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>ENGL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ryan</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>MASC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Salamo</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>PHYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerry Snyder</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Stahle</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>GEOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Ungar</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>ANTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott West</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>HIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Wilkins</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>CHBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randall Woods</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>HIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min Xiao</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>PHYS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
<td>SOCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Levine</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
<td>WLLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Limp, Jr.</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
<td>GEOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Paradise</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
<td>GEOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chal Ragsdale</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
<td>MUSC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prestigious Faculty Appointments

Luis Restrepo  
Douglas Rhoads  
Bill Schwab  
Surendra Singh  
Jeannie Whayne  

University Professor  
WLLC

PROFESSORSHIPS

Twenty-First Century Professorship in Optics / Nanoscience / Science Education
Laurent Bellaiche  
Distinguished Professor  
PHYS

Bruker Analytical Science Professorship
Frank Millett  
Distinguished Professor  
CHBC

Bruker Life Science Professorship
Marlis Douglas  
Professor  
BISC

Charles Scharlau Professorship in Chemistry
Feng Wang  
Professor  
CHBC

Cleveland C. Burton Professorship in International Programs
Laurence Hare  
Associate Professor  
HIST

Diane Divers Blair Professorship in Latino Studies
Xavier Medina Vidal  
Associate Professor  
PLSC

Diane Divers Blair Professorship in Southern Studies
Angie Maxwell  
Associate Professor  
PLSC

Emily McAllister Professorship in Piano
Tomoko Kashiwagi  
Assistant Professor  
MUSC

Endowed Professorship of Art Education
Chris Schulte  
Associate Professor  
ART

Endowed Professorship of Art Education
Donal O'Donoghue  
Associate Professor  
ART

Endowed Professorship of Art Education
Injeong Yoon-Ramirez  
Assistant Professor  
ART
Endowed Professorship of Art History
John Blakinger  Associate Professor  ART

Endowed Professorship of Art History
Jennifer Greenhill  Associate Professor  ART

Endowed Professorship of Art History
Ana Pulido Rull  Associate Professor  ART

School of Art Endowed Director
Gerry Snyder  Distinguished Professor  ART

James and Ellen Roper Professorship in Creative Writing
Geoffrey Brock  Distinguished Professor  ENGL

James and Ellen Roper Professorship in English
Mohja Kahf  Professor  ENGL

Joe Basore Professorship in Nanotechnology and Innovation
Greg Salamo  Distinguished Professor  PHYS

Julie A. Hicks Endowed Professorship in Mathematics
Samantha Robinson  Assistant Professor  PHYS

W.M. Keck Professorship
Michelle Evans White  Professor  BISC

ENDOWED CHAIRS

Twenty-First Century Chair in Bioinformatics
Andrew Alverson  Associate Professor  BISC

Twenty-First Century Chair in Global Change
Michael Douglas  Professor  BISC

Twenty-First Century Chair in Nanochemistry / Nanophysics
Min Xiao  Distinguished Professor  PHYS
**Twenty-First Century Chair in Proteomics**
Julie Stenken  Professor  CHBC

**Alumni Chair in Arts and Sciences**
Elliott West  Distinguished Professor  HIST

**Bernice Jones Chair in Community**
Kevin Fitzpatrick  University Professor  SOCI

**Brown Chair in English Literacy**
Eric Pritchard  Associate Professor  ENGL

**Dr. Frederick Lee Liebolt Chair of Premedical Science**
Mack Ivey  Associate Professor  BISC

**John A. Cooper Chair in American History**
Randall Woods  Distinguished Professor  HIST

**Lawrence Jesser Toll, Jr. Endowed Chair in Mathematical Sciences**
Tulin Kaman  Assistant Professor  MASC

**Leica Geosystems Chair in Geospatial Imaging**
Jack Cothren  Professor  GEOS

**Maurice Storm Chair in Petroleum Geology**
Chris Liner  Professor  GEOS

**Mildred Cooper Chair in Bioinformatics Research**
Suresh Thallapuranam  Professor  CHBC
College or School Awards to Faculty

A listing of college or school awards to faculty for teaching, advising, research and creative activity, and public service is provided for reference.

The full name of departments and programs corresponding to the four-letter codes may be found in Appendix A. More detailed information about faculty awards can be found in each corresponding department or center report.

CAMBRIDGE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Wolfson College
Geoffrey Brock  Distinguished Professor  ENGL
Lucy Cavendish College
Padma Viswanathan  Associate Professor  ENGL

MASTER TEACHER AWARDS

Douglas Adams  Associate Professor  SOCI
Lorraine Brewer  Instructor  CHEM
Rhodora Vennarucci  Assistant Professor  WLLC

MASTER RESEARCHER AWARDS

Kevin Fitzpatrick  University Professor  SOCI
Douglas Rhoads  University Professor  BISC
Sean Teuton  Professor  ENGL

OUTSTANDING ADVISOR AWARD

Ron Warren  Associate Professor  COMM

JOHN E. KING AWARD for OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Lindsey Aloia  Associate Professor  COMM

YOWELL AWARD for EXCELLENCE in TEACHING by a GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Dené Wamsley  Graduate Assistant  PSYC
2021 DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARDS
Ashly Romero Graduate Assistant ANTH
Amanda McGee Graduate Assistant HIST

NOLAN FACULTY AWARD
Jingyi Chen Professor CHEM

OMNI KEELING/HANSEN CLIMATE SCIENCE AWARD
Kusum Naithani Assistant Professor BISC

OMNI CENTER for WORLD PEACE and JUSTICE FACULTY AWARD
Lisa Corrigan Professor COMM

ROBERT C. and SANDRA CONNOR ENDEDW FACULTY FELLOWS for 2021
Kathleen Paul Assistant Professor ANTH
Nagayasu Nakanishi Assistant Professor BISC
Maggie He Assistant Professor CHEM
Yaguang Zhu Assistant Professor COMM
Sean Dempsey Assistant Professor ENGL
Linyin Cheng Assistant Professor GEOS
Ren Pepitone Assistant Professor HIST
Brandon Bouchillon Assistant Professor JOUR
Paolo Mantero Assistant Professor MASC
Joon Park Assistant Professor MUSC
Amanda McMullen Assistant Professor PHIL
Jin Hu Assistant Professor PHYS
Karen Sebold Assistant Professor PLSC
Stacey Makhanova Assistant Professor PSYC
Jacob Goffnett Assistant Professor SCSW
Michael Nino Assistant Professor SOCI
John Walch Assistant Professor THTR
Ryan Calabretta-Sajder Assistant Professor WLLC

SUMMER 2021 RESEARCH STIPENDS
Mengfei Guan Assistant Professor COMM
Fernando Riva Assistant Professor WLLC
Bret Schulte Associate Professor JOUR
Valandra Associate Professor SCSW
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Anthropology
JoAnn D’Alisera

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- Marvin Kay retired effective December 31, 2020 after a long distinguished career at the University of Arkansas
- Amelia Villaseñor was awarded the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Scientific Achievement Award.
- Kathleen Paul received the Connor Teaching Award
- The Diversity and Inclusion Committee successfully continued to follow the department plan and held remote events throughout the year. This year the committee, led by Ram Natarajan, focused on connecting issues of diversity and inclusion to anthropology and anthropological research, addressing equity issues of food insecurity, and building relationships with DEI committees across the college to work on broader projects.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Conference Presentations: 34
Publications: 58
- Published: 25
- Accepted: 17
- Under Review: 11

Grants/Awards: 26
- Awarded: 12
- Under Review: 14

Grants/Fellowships Awarded: For a complete list of grants and fellowships, awarded and under review please see attached Digital Measures report.

- **Funded:** Claire Terhune, Peter Ungar, Marvin Kay, Mike Plavcan, and Ben Vining have been awarded grants amounting to **1,425,770** awarded.
- **Under Review:** Ted Swedenburg, Ram Natarajan, Wes Stoner, Claire Terhune, Amelia Villaseñor, and Peter Ungar currently have funding applications amounting to **756,139** under review.

Publications: For a complete list of publications please see attached Digital Measures report.

- **Articles/Chapters:** Lucas Delezene, Ken Kvamme, Jonathan Marion, Ram Natarajan, Kathleen Paul, Wes Stoner, Ted Swedenburg, Claire Terhune, Peter Ungar, Amelia Villaseñor, and Ben Vining have articles published, in press, or under review.
- **Book:** JoAnn D’Alisera, Kirstin Erickson, Jonathan Marion, Ram Natarajan, have books published, under review and in progress.

Conference Presentations: For a complete list of conference presentations please see attached Digital Measures report.

All members of the Department of Anthropology presented at national and international conferences in Archeology, Biological Anthropology, and Cultural Anthropology.

Service:

In addition to Department, College, and University Service (see Digital Measures for complete list), faculty in the Department of Anthropology successfully engaged in national service to the discipline. Please See attached Digital measures report.
III. Student and Alumni Achievements

PhDs Awarded: 1
MAAs Awarded: 5
Students advancing to candidacy: 4
Conference Presentations: 8
Publications: 2
Grants/Awards: 7

- **PhDs Awarded:**
  Christopher Bolfing (Spring 2021)

- **MA Awarded:**
  Jessica Claire (Spring 2021)
  Jessica Claeys (Spring 2021)
  Kayden Dennis (Spring 2021)
  Brian Sparr (Fall 2020)
  Bethany Swartz (Fall 2020)

- **Students who entered candidacy:**
  Liam Zachary
  Ashly Romero
  Lucinda Bowland
  Christa Kelly

Publications:
1. Bowland et al. "Homo naledi pollical metacarpal shaft morphology is distinctive and intermediate between that of australopiths and other members of the genus Homo," Journal of Human Evolution

Grants/Fellowships Awarded:
1. Yoakum, Caitlin American Association of Biological Anthropologists Pollitzer Student Travel Award, $500
2. Bowland, Lucinda Graduate professional student congress research grant-$1500
3. Kelly, Christa Anthropology Graduate Scholarship- $3500
4. Kelly, Christa GPSC Research Grant- $1500
5. Romero, Ashly GPSC Research Grant (1,500)
6. Romero, Ashly ARSC Doctoral Dissertation Grant (5,000)
7. Romero, Ashly PEO Scholar Award (20,000)

Conference Presentations:
1. Yoakum CB, Terhune CE: Investigating the relationship between the mental and mandibular foramina, tooth root surface areas, and diet. Submitted for presentation at the 2021 annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.
2. Zachary, Liam AAPA Presentation: Assessing asymmetry in the platyrrhine postcranium.
3. Zachary, Liam AAPA Presentation: Evaluating landmark error and estimates of asymmetry in the hominin proximal femur.
4. Bowland, Lucinda The Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck: Old Ship, New Methods-Institute of Nautical Archaeology, invited talk
5. Bowland, Lucinda Three-Dimensional Geometric Morphometric Analysis of Iron Oxhide Ingots from the Cape Gelidonya Shipwreck-Society for American Archaeology Presentation
6. Kelly, Christa Canine integration and modularity in a sample of pedigreed Papio hamadrayas- AAPA Podium Presentation
7. Romero, Ashly Invited presentation on my research topic to Indian graduate students via Zoom
8. Romero, Ashly Poster at AAPAs with undergrad mentees
ANNUAL REPORT

School of Art
Gerry Snyder, Executive Director
Marty Maxwell Lane, Director
Christopher Schulte, Assistant Director

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- Strengthened leadership team with the promotion of Marty Maxwell Lane to director and appointed endowed professor of art education Christopher Schulte as the assistant director of the School of Art
- Welcomed three endowed professors and assistant professor in studio art to the School of Art faculty:
  - John R. Blakinger, endowed associate professor of contemporary art
  - Donal O'Donoghue, endowed professor of art education and director of graduate studies
  - Jennifer Greenhill, endowed professor of American art and director of graduate studies and museum partnerships with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art;
  - Nicole Wilson, assistant professor, studio art, sculpture
- Art education assistant professor Injeong Yoon-Ramirez and art history associate professor Ana Pulido Rull were promoted to endowed positions
- The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) approved the Art Education Master of Arts in Art Education degree program and will accept applications in fall 2021 for the 2022-23 academic year
- Restructured the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee to the Justice, Equity, Access, Diversity, and Inclusivity committee (JEADI). The committee launched a mentoring program for students, revised and updated the mission and goals, and established a partnership with the IDEALS institute with a plan for school wide faculty and staff trainings.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- Art History
  - Lynn F. Jacobs, distinguished professor, organized January intercession course taught by art historian and visiting professor Jenni Sorkin in collaboration with Atlanta University Center Art History and Crystal Bridges American Museum of Art
  - Endowed professor Jennifer A. Greenhill co-organized an indigenous art symposium with McLlory Family Visiting Professors and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
  - Endowed associate professor Ana Pulido Rull published her book *Mapping Indigenous Land. Native Land Grants in Colonial New Spain* and was a guest lecturer at Stanford and Harvard University
- Art Education
  - Angela LaPorte, Dónal O'Donoghue, and Injeong Yoon-Ramirez led an arts-led integration pilot program in collaboration with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Walton Arts Center, the Kennedy Center, and three Springdale public high schools, supported by a grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation
  - Program director and professor of art education Angela LaPorte received the National Ziegfeld Award from the United States Society of Education through Art, affiliated with the International Association of Education through Art and the National Art Education Association.
Injeong Yoon-Ramirez acquired a book contract from Routledge to publish *Transnational Feminist Art Pedagogies at the Intersections of (De)Coloniality.*

An Art Education Student Award was established in honor of School of Art, art education colleague, Alphonso Walter Grant, who passed away during the fall 2020 semester

- **Graphic Design**
  - Hosted prestigious and accomplished designer Silas Munro as Mcllroy Family Visiting Professorship in the Performing and Visual Arts
  - Ryan Slone, senior instructor, was promoted to tenure-track assistant professor of graphic design
  - Professor David Charles Chioffi was awarded a prestigious research fellowship at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Winterthur, Delaware
  - Assistant professor Ali Place acquired a book contract with MIT Press, with a support grant from the UA Humanities Center
  - Marty Maxwell Lane, with Aricka Lewis, lead a guest lecture, *Gaining Empathy Through Human-Centered Design*, for Honors College Forum on the subject of The Creative Process led by Crystal Bridges director of curatorial affairs and strategic art initiatives, Margi Conrads and senior director, Sandy Edwards

- **Studio Art**
  - Assistant professor Adam Hogan contributed to essential technical support for installation works by Mariam Ghanii, which were acquired by the Smithsonian Institute permanent collection
  - Jeannie Hulen, associate dean in Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences and professor of ceramics, served as a Fulbright U. S. Scholar Peer Reviewer for Fall 2020 for Visual Arts, for Fulbright Scholar Programs
  - Lina Lopez, assistant professor in ceramics, was awarded the Sally A. Williams Artist Fund, sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Council and was included in the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art exhibition, *Crafting America*
  - Associate professor Marc Mitchell awarded fellowship at the American Academy in Rome
  - Zora Murff, assistant professor in photography, was included in *Companion Pieces: New Photography 2020*, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
  - Anthony Sonnenberg, visiting assistant professor of ceramics, was included in *State of the Art 2020* exhibition at Crystal Bridges Museum and The Momentary
  - Aaron Turner, post-MFA fellow and director of the Center for Photographers of Color, awarded a grant from Artists 36, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance

I. **Student and Alumni Achievements**

- **Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art**
  - Kalyn Barnoski, Leah Grant, and Minah Kim all received grants from Artists 360, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance
  - Tay Butler, Master of Fine Arts second year grad, presented *Slowed and Throwed: Records of the City through Mutated Lenses* exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, Texas
  - Taylor Loftin was the 2020 winner of Young Painters Competition
  - Alumna, Hannah McBroom was included in *State of the Art 2020*, Crystal Bridges Museum and The Momentary

- **Art Education**
  - Alumna Anjeliqua Franks acquired an art teacher position at Fayetteville High School
  - Alumna Alexandra Lemp acquired a high school art teaching position at Ozark Public Schools and is pursuing a Master in Educational Leadership at the University of Arkansas
  - Terry McNeill current art education student received a University of Arkansas Summer Research Grant from the University of Arkansas for a community art education program

- **Art History**
  - Alumna Kristine Massengale was accepted into Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of British Columbia, Simmons University, University of Maryland, and University College London. She will be attending the University College London in the fall 2021.
  - Current student Sydney Nichols was awarded an internship with the Virginia Museum of Art in Richmond, Virginia.
  - Alumna Jazlyn Sanderson accepted a full-time position at the Museum of Native American History in Bentonville
Alumnus Jackson Williams accepted a position as full-time gallery assistant at David Zwirner Gallery in New York

**Graphic Design**
- Alumna Kalli Lum recently completed her Master of Fine Arts degree at Savannah College of Art & Design
- Alumna Salma Alonso accepted a graphic designer position at Urban Outfitters
- Eleven current students accepted internship positions across the state and nation: Blue Cross Blue Shield, CJRW Advertising, Inuvo Digital Publishing, Onyx Coffee, PAIR Design, Prisma Design Firm, Sam’s Club, and U of A Razorback football

**Studio Art**
- Alumna Raven Halfmoon’s work was acquired by Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; two solo exhibitions in 2020; currently artist in residence at the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts
ANNUAL REPORT

Name of Department, Program, or Center: Department of Biological Sciences
Name of Chair/Director: David S. McNabb

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- **Tenure and Promotion:** The Department of Biological Sciences had three tenure and promotion cases for consideration. All three cases had positive outcomes with the promotion of Drs. Kusum Naithani, Jeremy Beaulieu, and Sarah DuRant to Associate Professor with tenure.

- **Faculty Hiring:** Dr. Xuan Zhuang was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. She began her appointment in January 2021. Dr. Caleb Roberts was hired in Fall 2000 as a new Assistant Unit Leader of the Arkansas COOP/USGS and joined the faculty in February 2021. Dr. Roberts joins Drs. Brett DeGregorio and Dan Magoullick in the COOP Unit. With the addition of Dr. Roberts, this is the first time since 2003 that the Department of Biological Sciences has three COOP unit members.

- **Completion of the South School Street Warehouse (SSWH).** The former Chilly Billy's storage facility at 1819 S. School Ave. was used primarily for the storage of field equipment for faculty in Biological Sciences was demolished and replaced with SSWH. Due to disrepair of the facility, the demolition and construction of a new facility was planned at an estimated cost of $565K. BISC received funding from FAMA ($440K), Utility System CRDM ($75K) and Fulbright College ($50K) for a new shared 4000 sq. ft. facility that will be used by BISC and FAMA. Demolition and construction started in Feb. 2020 and completed on Sept. 29, 2020. The move-in was completed on Oct. 2, 2020.

- **The Biological Sciences Endowed Graduate Travel Fund (addition $25K by Margot Martin).** In December 2020, Margot Martin, the widow of Professor Duncan Martin established the “The Biological Sciences Endowed Graduate Travel Fund” with a $100,000 donation. In December 2019, she contributed an additional $25,000. In December 2020, Ms. Martin generously donated another $25,000 to bring the total endowment to $150K.

- **Renovation of SCEN612:** The former biology teaching lab located in SCEN612 was approved for conversion to a research lab. Working with FAMA personnel the planning and design of a research lab was done to house Dr. Kristian Forbes’ research program. Construction began in April 2021 and is scheduled for completion by the end of August 2021.

- **Workday Implementation:** Since July 1, 2020, faculty, staff, and graduate students in Biological Sciences has worked diligently, cooperatively, and patiently in learning and using Workday. While the use of Workday remains arduous and challenging, the personnel in Biological Sciences continue to implement the fiscal software to the best of their ability.

- **COVID-19 Departmental Planning and Implementation:** Faculty, staff and graduate students has worked tirelessly together to follow the Covid-19 pandemic guidelines of the University and continue to deliver quality classes to students and to continue to productive research programs despite the restrictions. Importantly, since August 2020, the Biological Sciences main office has remained open with a rotating staff to ensure a presence on campus during the pandemic.

- **Implementation of Cintas Lab Coats.** Working with Cintas and appropriate UA personnel for the past 1.5 years, we developed a plan for the installation of lab coat dispensing and return units that would accommodate the Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry/Biochemistry. This involved multiple steps: 1) determining usage by quantifying the number of students that would use coats each semester based on historical enrollment data for each class; 2) determining the location and renovations needed to install the units in Champions Hall and Discovery Hall; 3) working with Cintas during the installation process; 4) working with Cintas, UA IT and UA EH&S to get student data imported into the units for ID Card access to the coats; and 5) continued maintenance of the units by working with Cintas, UA IT and UA EH&S personnel. The Cintas Lab Coat dispensing system was implemented in August 2020.
II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- **Teaching Mission**: The Department of Biological Sciences continues to have a large cadre of majors with 1,230 undergraduate students seeking a B.A. (334 students) or B.S. (796 students) degree in Biology. The Department had 68 BIOL graduate students with 53 doctoral students and 15 Master's students. In addition, the BISC faculty mentored 50 graduate students seeking M.S. (13 students) or Ph.D. (37 degrees from Interdisciplinary Programs including CEMB (41), SPAC (2), ENDY (1) and STAN (6). The Biological Sciences faculty continue to teach many Student Semester Credit Hours (SSCHs) with 30,245 SSCHs in 2020-2021 as per the data from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. The Department of Biological Sciences awarded 263 degrees in 2020 with 108 BIOLBA, 144 BIOLBS, 5 BIOLMS and 5 BIOLPH. These are independent of the graduate students in interdisciplinary programs that completed.

- Dr. Adnan Alrubaye was selected by the Arkansas Alumni Association for the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award.

- Dr. Adnan Alrubaye received the Hoyt H. Purvis Award for Service in International Education presented by the UA Graduate School and International Education.

- In the summer of 2020, Department of Biological Sciences provided financial support for the Biomedical Research Summer Camp to support the education of high school students in Biomedical Sciences. The summer camp is organized and supervised by Dr. Tameka Bailey, a Research Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences. Due to Covid-19, Dr. Bailey developed a virtual summer camp for students in 2020.

- **Faculty Research Funding**: The faculty in Biological Sciences continue to garner federal funding for their research programs. In FY20 the faculty were awarded $6.4M (97.4% federal dollars) in funding and according to the “Research Analytics” data from the Office of Sponsored Programs, in the first 2 quarters of FY21, the faculty received $3.53M in funding; however, that has continued to increase during the latter two quarters. Some examples of federal, industry and state funding include:
  - DuRant, S. E. (Primary Investigator), "CAREER: The role of maternal behavior in driving bidirectional interactions between infectious diseases and offspring immune phenotype," Sponsored by National Science Foundation, Awarding Organization, Federal, $750,000.00. (August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2025).
  - Catanzaro, D. G. (Primary Investigator), "COVID-19 Seroprevalence Survey of University of Arkansas Students, Staff and Faculty," Sponsored by Now Diagnostics, Awarding Organization, State, $137,552.00. (Date Submitted: 2020-12-22). (December 1, 2020 - July 30, 2021).
  - Evans White, M. A. (Primary Investigator), Naithani, K. (Co-Investigator), Matlock, M. D. (Co-Investigator), "REU SITE: Assessment and sustainable management of ecosystem at the nexus of food, energy, and water systems," Sponsored by National Science Foundation, Awarding Organization, Federal NSF-DBI (2051120), $387,283. (Start Date: 2021-03-01).
  - Naithani, K. (Primary Investigator), "EAGER: Linking microbial community structure and function for improved understanding of ecosystem processes," Sponsored by National Science Foundation, Awarding Organization, Federal, NSF-EAGER, $150,000.00. (Start Date: 2020/08/01).
  - Nakanishi, N. (Primary Investigator), "CAREER: Neuropeptidergic control of life cycle transition in Cnidaria," Sponsored by National Science Foundation, Awarding Organization, Federal, $1,592,262.00. (Date Submitted: 2020-08-11); Received notice of funding start summer 2021.
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- Pare, A. C. (Primary Investigator), "AREA/R15: Defining the molecular and cellular bases of tissue compartmentalization," Sponsored by National Institutes of Health, Awarding Organization, Federal, $445,716.00. (Date Submitted: 2020-10-25); Received notice of funding to start 2021.

- Faculty in Biological Sciences have continued to be productive in peer-reviewed publications, non-refereed reports and presentations in seminars and scientific conferences as evidenced by the Bibliography. In addition, many faculty members serve as grant reviewers on state and federal grant panels as well as manuscript reviewers and journal editors for scientific journals in their areas of expertise.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
- Undergraduate and Graduate student achievements in the Department of Biological Sciences have continued to excel and many have received awards for their outstanding performance. A few examples include:
  - Kathryn Judy, doctoral student with Andrew Alverson received Honorable Mention for NSF Graduate Research Fellowship in 2021.
  - Simon Tye, doctoral student with Adam Siepielski, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship in 2020.
  - William Kirkpatrick, doctoral student with Sarah DuRant, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship in 2021.
  - James Boyko, doctoral student with Jeremy Beaulieu received David Causey Prize for Graduate Study for the Department of Biological Sciences in December 2020.
  - Tyler Chafin, doctoral student with Marlis Douglas received Editor’s Choice Award for his manuscript published in Journal of Heredity.
  - Zachery Zbinden, doctoral student with Marlis Douglas received Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award from the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Mr. Zbinden also received the Leggett Fellowship awarded by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
  - Nathaniel Mull, doctoral student with Kristian Forbes was awarded the Delbert Swartz Endowed Graduate Fellowship by the Department of Biological Sciences at the UA.
  - Reilly Jackson, doctoral student with Kristian Forbes was awarded a Sturgis International Fellowship.
  - Hannah Zang, an AR INBRE summer student with Nagayasu Nakanishi, was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in 2020.
  - Chelsea Kross, a doctoral student with J.D. Wilson, was awarded Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Conservation Scholarship in 2020.
  - Sushant Potdar, a doctoral student with Erica Westerman, was awarded a Grants-in-Aid of Research Award from The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in 2020.
  - Grace Hirzel, a doctoral student with Erica Westerman, was awarded an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Scholarship in 2020.
  - The J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences had 31 selected “Seniors of Significant” and 8 were biology majors, including: Kamden Boyd, Jered Canonigo, Dresden Dilts, Walker Lambert, Aaron Norris, Madeline Richards, Jack West, and Margaret Woodruff.
  - The Department of Biological Sciences had numerous undergraduate students receive UA Honors College Research Grants during FY20-21.
  - The Department of Biological Sciences had several undergraduate students receive SURF grants from the Arkansas Department of Education, including Ethan Chen (Ines Pinto), Regan Massey (Daniel Lessner), Danica McGrevey (Jeannine Durdik), and Jarrod Varnell (Erica Westerman).

- Undergraduate Honors graduates Spring 2021. At the May 2021 Honors Commencement, the Department of Biological Sciences had 46 students graduate with Honors Biology degrees as indicated below.
• 4-year College Scholars: 24 graduated with 16 Summa Cum Laude; 3 Magna Cum Laude; and 5 Cum Laude.
  o Departmental Scholars: 22 graduated with 8 Summa Cum Laude; 5 Magna Cum Laude; and 9 Cum Laude.

- **Biological Sciences graduate student alumni accomplishments.** Below are some representative examples of the career accomplishments of graduate students that completed their degrees in the Department of Biological Sciences.
  o Anant Deshwal, BIOLPH 2019, has accepted an appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Bradley University, Peoria IL starting Fall 2021.
  o Halvor Halvorson, BIOLPH 2016, completed a postdoctoral position at University of Southern Mississippi in 2019 and is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR.
  o Christopher Middaugh, BIOLPH 2017, is a wildlife biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
  o Max Bangs, BIOLPH 2016, is a postdoctoral researcher at Florida State University.
  o Marla Steele, BIOLPH 2017, is the Executive Director at Aeris Odysseys and Supervisory Biologist at Colorado State University.
  o Allyn Dodd, BIOLPH 2918, is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Lyons College, Batesville, AR.
Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- Professor Martin Edwards was hired last year
- Professor Bin Dong was hired this year
- Five CHBC faculty members were promoted and/or tenured this fiscal year

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- **Instructor Lorraine Brewer Receives 2021 Fulbright College Master Teacher Award** (Lorraine Brewer is an instructor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, whom her colleague and nominator Francis Millet describes as unmatched in innovation and dedication to her students. For the past 44 years, Brewer has taught University Chemistry and multiple other courses. However, as Millet said, "University Chemistry is the most demanding and important course in our department since it provides the critical foundation of chemistry required for all our other courses. [It] is also the most difficult course to teach in our department because it has the largest number of students and the greatest variation in student backgrounds. [Brewer] usually teaches over 1,000 students a semester in different sections of over 200 each and has often taught in difficult environments including Barnhill Arena." Despite the challenges this might present in connecting with individual students, Brewer is known for doing exactly that, forming "a close relationship with each of her students" and excelling as an "outstanding mentor" to students and younger faculty alike.

- **Dr. Jingyi Chen Receives the Nolan Award** (Recipient Jingyi Chen's research centers on the development of novel multi-metal nanostructures and new methods for functionalizing their surface with soft and hard materials, with an ultimate goal to establish the structure-property relationship and further explore their applications in energy conversion, tribology and nanomedicine. Her lab is currently working on projects that have implications for nanostructures in fuel cell applications, nanoparticles for bio-related applications and nanoplatforms for controlled release drug delivery to fight against antibiotic-resistant infectious diseases and cancer.)
$10.8 Million NIH Grant to Establish Metabolic Research Center (The five-year award, funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, establishes the Arkansas Integrative Metabolic Research Center as an NIH-designated Center of Biomedical Research Excellence. The award recognizes the university’s unique combination of expertise in advanced imaging techniques, bioenergetics and data science. In addition to primary research cores, the center will have four research projects led by junior faculty members concentrating on different aspects of cell and tissue metabolism during tissue development and disease. Dr. Chenguang Fan, assistant professor of biochemistry, will study the phosphorylation of enzymes involved in cancer metabolism.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

- Three Biochemistry Majors Join List of 2020 Sturgis Fellows (Sebastian Boysen, Brenton Perry, and Josie Zakrzewski all received the Sturgis Fellowship. Sturgis Fellows must pursue a major within Fulbright College, complete an intensive academic program, and graduate with honors. They are also encouraged to study abroad. The fellowships are made possible by the continued support of the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust.)

- Department of Chemistry Awards Majors $93,000 in Scholarships in 2020-2021 (Forty chemistry majors were selected to receive scholarships during the 2020-21 academic year.)

- Biomedical Engineering Company Works to Develop COVID-19 Test (Ventnostics, a biomedical engineering company founded by Fulbright alumnus Randy Espinal is developing a cheap, fast, easy-to-use COVID-19 saliva test. The goal is to develop a test that would provide results within ten minutes. The test could be used to identify asymptomatic and previously exposed individuals. The team is participating in XPRIZE Rapid Covid Testing, a $5 million, 6-month competition to increase COVID-19 testing capabilities. They are also asking for immediate feedback to support product development.) [October 2020]
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Communication
Dr. Stephanie Ricker Schulte, Chair

I. Significant Department Achievements

The department made a successful transition of leadership as Robert Brady, the longest serving chair in COMM’s 100+ year history, stepped down and Stephanie Schulte assumed the chair. Several new initiatives were implemented to support the missions of the department, including: an online warehouse of teaching resources for remote learning, decolonization of course syllabi, and DEI content in COMM courses; the ARSC mentoring program for new faculty members; and appointment of new administrative/service positions for the undergraduate honors program, the Lambda Pi Eta honor society, and alumni relations.

The Center for Communication Research continued its speaker series with a talk by Sharde M Davis Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Connecticut. She presented, "From the Margins to the Center: A Critical Examination of Black Women's Communicative Resistance".

The department continued to report annual growth in the number of majors (8-10%), with a total of 900+ majors during the academic year. We also reported positive student learning gains in its undergraduate courses (including those in the university core) and in the MA program in Communication. A record number of 30+ COMM majors were named Athens Scholars, having achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher during the BA studies. The Basic Course Director, Lauren Lambert, also designed a course shell for remote instruction of COMM 1313. This shell greatly facilitated the addition of a large number of new graduate teaching assistants for the Fall 2020 semester.

Several faculty members were promoted this year, including Stephanie Schulte (to Full Professor), Ryan Neville-Shepard (to Associate Professor with tenure), and Jeff Hood (to Assistant Dean in the Walton College). In addition, the department hired two new Teaching Assistant Professors: Fred Jennings and Terrell Jake Dionne.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Research

Department faculty were recognized again for their overall research records with national and regional awards. Lindsey Aloia was named a Master Researcher by Fulbright College. Ryan Neville-Shepard was awarded the Judith S. Trent Award for Early Career Excellence in Political Communication by the Central States Communication Association. Emeritus Professor Stephen Smith won the Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award from the Southern States Communication Association. Lisa Corrigan was officially named to the Rhetoric Society of America's board of directors. Finally, Matt Spialek was named a member of the CONVERGE COVID-19 Communication Ecologies Working Group through the Natural Hazards Center.

In additional, several faculty members have won competitive research grants during the past year. Jake Dionne and Joe Hatfield were selected by the UA Humanities Center to receive a $1000 Confronting Our Past/Interrogating Our Present Research Grant for their research about students, faculty, staff, and alumni using #BlackatUARK to communicate their experience with anti-Black racism on campus. Joe Hatfield also received a grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society to conduct research on the rhetorical history of transgender suicide in the U.S. Campus grants were also awarded to Lindsey Aloia (Provost Collaborative Research Grant) and Mengfei Guan (Fulbright College Summer Research...
Annual Report for Department of Communication  
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Grant). in addition, the UA Center for Communication Research awarded summer research fellowships to seven faculty members in COMM.

Six COMM faculty received awards for publications and conference presentations during the year. Joe Hatfield won this year's Charles Kneupper Award for "the most significant contribution to scholarship in rhetoric", judged by an esteemed selection committee of the Rhetoric Society of America. Matt Spialek’s article on disaster communication was curated in a special edition collection by the journal Communication Research, and he won a Top Paper award at the National Communication Association convention. Yaguang Zhu received a top paper award from the NCA Group Comm Division. Prof. Ringo Jones received two awards at the Broadcast Education Association convention: the Best in Show Documentary award and a Top Paper Award from the Radio & Audio Media division. Stephen Smith won a top paper award from the Southern States Comm Association's Freedom of Speech division. Finally, Lisa Corrigan’s book Black Feelings: Race and Affect in the Long Sixties made this spring's roundup of new books of interest for the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Film faculty in the department also maintained a high level of creative productivity. Again this year, a group of students collaborating with Drs. Margaret Butcher and Frank Scheide presented programming and exhibits on barrier-breaking filmmakers at the Bentonville Film Festival. Russell Sharman was a featured playwright for Theatersquared's 2020 Arkansas New Play Festival. His film, ANIMAL, premiered in the Oxford Film Festival. He also helped curate an online film festival with the Walton Arts Center for the Fayetteville Film Festival. Lecturer Ben Meade directed and produced a feature film, The Cate Brothers: Arkansas Rock & Soul Royalty, which was shown at the Fayetteville, Hot Springs, Madrid (Spain), Lisbon, New Orleans, Tall Grass, and Kansas International Film Festivals. Finally, Frank Scheide has made part of the Dave and Jimmie Lou Whitekiller Indigenous American Video Collection available to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians and continues to curate that collection of the UA Pryor Center.

Teaching

A dozen COMM faculty were recognized for the work in teaching and advising. Stephanie Schulte won the J. Donald Ragsdale Mentor Award from the Southern States Communication Association and was named the September Wally Cordes Chairperson at UA. Matt Spialek won the Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award from the Southern States Communication Association. Seven faculty (Meredith Neville-Shepard, Lindsey Aloia, Matthew Spialek, Kasey Walker, Mengfei Guan, Margaret Butcher and Carrie Jackson) were awarded commendations by the UA Teaching & Faculty Support Center. Veronica Mobley won the Outstanding International Education Award from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural Food and Life Sciences, Yaguang Zhu won the Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Fellowship, Ron Warren was named the Fulbright College’s Outstanding Advisor.

Service

Eight faculty and one staff member were recognized for their service work during the year. Lisa Corrigan was elected to the Board of Directors for the Rhetoric Society of America, received the SSCA Outreach Award, and was given the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology Faculty Award by Fulbright College. The college also awarded Lindsay Aloia with the John King Service Award. Ryan Neville-Shepard was added to the Editorial Board for Argumentation and Advocacy and the Southern Communication Journal and for Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies and Rhetoric & Public Affairs. Russell Sharman served as the Executive Director of the 12th Annual Fayetteville Film Festival. Paula Ihms was chosen to serve as an executive coach for the Provost's UARK Leaders Executive Development program. Mike Russell completed a year-long tenure as Featured Guest Writer for The Church Network. Matt Spialek and Ryan Glizinski received Golden Tusk Awards from UA Student Affairs. Finally, Hershel Hartford was named Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2021.
III. Student and Alumni Achievements

Several COMM students received awards for their academic work during the year. Alexis Hubbard (MA, 2020) received the NCA Top Quantitative Thesis Award for her work on images of Black women on television. Breeanne Cambron was awarded the Conference of Southern Graduate School's Outstanding Thesis Non-traditional Thesis prize. Nine MA students were competitively selected to present research papers at the 2020 National Communication Association conference. One of those students, Kaleb Turner, received a Top Student Paper award in the Religious Communication Division. Charlotte Castro, a second year MA student working with Lisa Corrigan, was named an “Honorable Mention Awardee” in the Graduate School’s annual Three Minute Thesis competition for their project, “Ancestral Pursuits: A Multicultural Celebration of Identity and Race.”

Graduate and undergraduate students working with Russell Sharman, Margaret Butcher and Frank Scheide produced a video installation “Barrier-Breaking Women in Indian Cinema” exhibited at the 21c Hotel and Museum in conjunction with the Bentonville Film Festival. Ben Meade's students produced 13 short films, some of which will be screened at the Fayetteville Film Festival.

Two COMM alumni received regional and national recognition this year. The SSCA Sisco Award for Teaching Excellence, was given to Todd Lee Goen (MA alum) of Christopher Newport University. BA graduate Ryann Alonso was named a Truman-Albright Fellow and will begin a year of intensive public service programming in Washington, DC. MA graduate and current City of Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission CEO Molly Rawn delivered "Growing Pains," the first Lecture in the Distinguished Lectures Series. MA graduate and current professional athlete, Taliyah Brooks, created the "Fayetteville in Living Color" mural Fayetteville, in conjunction with Northwest Arkansas African American Heritage Association. Sara Feather, an undergraduate major, was selected as a Student Leader of the Month.
Annual Report for the Department of English
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William A. Quinn, Chair

Significant Achievements and Changes

- Initiated a substantial alteration of the senior assessment process.
- Launched the on-line ENGL major (the only one in the SEC) through Global Campus.
- Completed Seven-Year Review.
- Revised Departmental Personnel Document.
- Composed and approved first departmental by-laws.

Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Associate Professor Eric Pritchard joined the faculty as the new Brown Chair.

During the spring of 2020, 18 applicants were admitted to the M.A. program (and will begin this fall), and 8 applicants (plus 1 transfer student) were admitted to the Ph.D. program (and will begin this fall). Two of the incoming doctoral students received Distinguished Doctoral Fellowships and the other 6 received Doctoral Academy Fellowships. We also have 12 new MFAs starting in the Fall.

Lissette Lopez Szwydky-Davis and Sean Connors led for the second time the NEH Summer Institute “Remaking Monsters and Heroines: Adapting Classic Literature for Contemporary Audiences” in June 2021.

The *Arkansas International* and *The Diamond Line* continue to thrive.

Padma Viswanathan was granted funding from the newly established Chancellor’s Fund for Humanities and Performing Arts to make Fayetteville an International City of Refuge: a safe haven for a writer at risk in his or her home country.

Geoff Brock was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Toni Jensen and Lissette Lopez Szwydky-Davis received tenure and were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.

Sean Dempsey was chosen as one of the twelve 2020 Outstanding Faculty Members at the U of A by the Associated Student Government, the Graduate-Professional Student Congress, and Vice Provost Sloan's office.

Sean Dempsey was awarded the Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellowship.

Toni Jensen won the OMNI Center for World Peace and Justice Faculty Award.

Mohja Kahf 2020 University of Arkansas Outstanding Faculty Award by Sponsoring Organization, Associated Student Government and the Graduate Council.

Yajaira Padilla was named a Minority Access National Role Model by Minority Access Inc.

Graduate English Faculty Achievements:
Collectively, the English Department’s faculty published 9 books, 19 articles/essays/short stories, and 21 poems.

In its latest ranking of M.F.A. programs, *Poets & Writers* placed the University of Arkansas M.F.A. program 8th in the nation (out of 150 programs) for job placement and 18th for post-graduate fellowships. *Successful student.org* gave the program a number #1 ranking on their list of the 13 best translation and interpretation colleges.

Toni Jensen won a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. Geffrey Davis won The Porter Fund Literary Prize, The Porter Fund. (2020). Sean Teuton received a Blair Center Summer Faculty Fellowship ($3,000).

The 2019 A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship was awarded to Lora Walsh for her paper entitled, “Lost in Revision: Gender Symbolism in Vision 3 and Similitude 9 of The Shepherd of Hermas.”

Lora Walsh also received a Junior Scholar Grant from the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies as well as the Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellowship, Fulbright College.

Mohja Kahf won the 2020 Press 53 Award for Poetry for her manuscript *My Lover Feeds Me Grapefruit*.

Joshua Byron Smith gave invited [virtual] lectures at Yale and Oxford Universities.

Geoffrey Brock’s translation of *Allegria* by Giuseppe Ungaretti received high acclaim.

Sean Dempsey’s *Words Made Flesh: Formations of the Postsecular in British Romanticism* was accepted for publication by the University of Virginia Press.

Padma Viswanathan published her translation of *São Bernardo* by Graciliano Ramos.

Sean Teuton was awarded the Fulbright College Master Researcher Award.

Casey Kayser’s *Understanding the Short Fiction of Carson McCullers* has been recognized as a finalist in the 23rd annual Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards in the category of Women's Studies.

**Student and Alumni Achievements**

Graduating poets Joshua Luckenbach and Romie Hernández Morgan will pursue PhDs in Creative Writing at the University of North Texas and the University of Cincinnati, respectively, this Fall.

Rising fourth year MFA Mackenzie McGee has won a PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers for her story, "Re:Frankie," which will appear in the Best Debut Short Story 2021 anthology. The story, originally published in Porter House Review, was nominated by that journal for the Pushcart Prize.

Rising fourth year MFA Alys Dutton has been awarded significant funding for research and writing from the Elizabeth George Foundation.

First-year fiction writer Samantha Campbell launched Black Moon Magazine, an online literary arts journal featuring fiction and poetry.

Recent graduate Baily Hutchinson was promoted to associate editor at Milkweed Books, a leading publisher of contemporary poetry.
Poetry alum Brody Parrish Craig’s *BOYISH*, winner of the Omidawn Poetry Chapbook Prize, was released this Spring. Their first full length book, *The Patient*, is an Unreliable Historian, will be published with Omidawn in 2024.

Fiction alum John Englehardt’s novel, *BLOOMLAND*, won the 2020 VCU Cabell First Novel Award.

Kathleen Heil’s translation of Patricio Pron’s "Fish & Mountains" has been selected to appear in *Michigan Quarterly Review*’s 60th anniversary issue.

Kathleen’s story, "Bitte" was named the winner of *StoryQuarterly*’s Seventh Annual Fiction Prize.

Tobias Wray’s "No Doubt I Will Return a Different Man" has been chosen as the winner of the CSU Poetry Center’s 2020 Lighthouse Poetry Series contest.

For the third year in a row, *Artists 360*, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance with the support of the Walton Family Foundation has recognized the excellent creative work of our current students with grant funding. Poetry students Emma VanDyke and Hiba Tahir were awarded student grants, and alumni Joy Clark and Vicente Yépez received individual project grants.

Hundreds of poems, stories, novels, essays, and translations by graduates were published by well-known presses and in journals such as *Beloit, Booth, The Citron Review, The Southern Review, Catapult, Portland Review, Rattle, Muzzle, Michigan Quarterly Review, and Story Quarterly.*

*Mary and the Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story*, written by English Ph.D. student Andrea Rogers, has been included on NPR's list of best books for 2020.

Michael Pitts published *Alternative Masculinities in Feminist Speculative Fiction: A New Man* with Lexington Press.

Christopher Borntrager, doctoral candidate in English, has received one of the 2021-2022 James J. Hudson Doctoral Awards in the Humanities from the Graduate School and International Education.

Kristin Figgins co-edited *Boom or Bust: Narrative, Life, and Culture from the West Texas Oil Patch*. including her own chapter “Crude: The Unrefined Communities and Landscapes of Petrofiction,” ‘and she won the Graduate Student-Professional Congress’s Award for Excellence in Research Award.

Liza Vammen was named New Assistant Director of Business Communication Lab.

Four M.A. students interned with the following organizations or campus offices in the 2020-2021 school year: Magdalene Serenity House; Ozark Natural Science Center; Student Success Center’s Writing Studio; and the Writer’s Colony at Dairy Hollow.

M.A. students/alumni recently started Fall 2020 or will be starting Fall 2021 English doctoral programs at Brandeis University; Indiana University; and Purdue University.


M.A. student Dylan Henderson collaborated with Art B.A. student Anna Stroud to publish an illustrated Fall 2020 issue of Hypnos, a literary magazine that

Two M.A. students who graduated Spring 2021 have secured English teacher positions at high schools in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Other M.A. alumni have been hired by the following employers in the past year: Office of the Provost (U of A); Helstern Middle School (Springdale, AR); Office of Community Health and Research, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Northwest (Fayetteville); Hirsh Precision Products (Boulder, CO); Legal Aid of Arkansas; J.B. Hunt; Planstin (UT); U of A Press.

One M.A. alum has also, this past year, been promoted to permanent registrar at Southern Arkansas University. Ph.D. alum Aya Akkawi was promoted to Associate Professor of English Language and Literature at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. Ph.D. student Dana Blair has been hired as the new U of A Writing Studio Coordinator. Ph.D. alum Jake Edwards was promoted to Honors Program Director at Georgia Gwinnett College. Ph.D. alum Luis Paganelli Marin started a job as COVID Coordinator with the Arkansas Immigrant Defense office, a nonprofit law firm, in Springdale, AR. Ph.D. alum MaryKate Messimer started a job as Academic Counselor for the Honors College at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Ph.D. alum Rachael Price received tenure with the Department of English and Communication at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. Ph.D. student Katie Powell participated in the Graduate Student Speaker Series on the U of A campus, hosted by the University Libraries and Graduate School and International Education offices, presenting on "The Fight for Home and Fatherland: a look inside the women of the James H. Berry chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy."


The Graduate Students in English organization hosted another successful graduate student conference (virtually) in April 2021.
of many of these extraordinary achievements during a most challenging year. View it here: https://www.arkansasalumni.org/controls/email_marketing/view_in_browser.aspx?sid=1429&gid=1&sendId=2569143&ecatid=48&puid=50ebce60-73e5-4ea4-83e8-04b27402e53f
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Geosciences
Christopher L. Liner, Chair

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes
   A. GEOS research funding for current fiscal year is $2M (4th in Fulbright College)
   B. Outdoor GeoLab project in support of Physical Geology and other classes now moving forward with Honors and Graduate college endorsement.
   C. Student Success Lab under development in GEAR 006.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service
   A. Assistant Professor Kevin Befus has paper published in *Nature Climate Change*
   B. Associate Professor Fiona Davidson selected as editor of the prestigious *ATLAS of the 2020 Presidential Election* published by Rowman & Littlefield.
   C. Assistant Professor Edward Holland was awarded a teaching improvement grant for *Geology Field Camp Accessibility for Students with Disabilities after COVID-19*.
   D. Assistant Professor Jill Marshall was first author on a climate study published in *Geophysical Research Letters*.
   E. Research grants over $100K were awarded to Celina Suarez, David Stahle, Adriana Potra, Phillip Hays, Glenn Sharman and John Shaw (not including Geosciences faculty conducting research through Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies or CAST).
   F. Chancellor Commission on Women recognized Associate Professor Celina Suarez for outstanding faculty service.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
    A. Geology BS student Kaylie Shimer earned a Peace Corps Prep program certificate.
    B. Graduate student Emma Menio was selected for the 2019 NCALM Seed Proposal.
    C. Recent PhD graduate Daigo Yamamura contributed to a study that made national news showing Tyrannosaurs were social animals.
    D. Geology Summer Field Camp was held in May-Jun 2021 with 16 students. For the first time, the camp was held in the state of Arkansas. We anticipate future Field Camp to be a blend of Arkansas and Rocky Mountain locations.
Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- **Change of Department Leadership:** James Gigantino accepted a new campus position as Associate Dean in the Graduate School on 11 January 2021. Elliott West acted as Interim Chair and supervised a swift election process, and on 25 January 2021, J. Laurence Hare became the new Dept. Chair.

- **Phi Alpha Theta Centennial:** The Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society was founded on the U of A campus in 1921. To celebrate the centennial anniversary, the Department of History hosted a Virtual Super Regional Student Research Conference that drew over forty students from as far away as Minnesota.

- **4+1 BA/MA Program Launches:** After much planning, the History Department officially launched its new fast-track program that allows undergraduates to complete a BA while making progress towards an MA in History. Following a brief recruitment period in March 2021, the program admitted the first four students in the pilot cohort for 2021-2022. See the UARK Newswire story here.

- **Online History Minor:** The Department finished preparations to launch the History minor through Global Campus. The minor is focused on creating pathways for students to select courses, with options including Diversity, Global Studies, and Leadership. See the program description here.

Achievements in Teaching, Research, and Public Service

- **International Digital History Award:** Professor Jeannie Whayne was part of a UARK team winning silver in the Higher Ed category of the 2021 International Serious Play Awards, which honors outstanding games used for training or education. Dr. Whayne worked with the Tesseract Center at the University of Arkansas on a civil rights history video game called "Mornin' In Your Eyes," which immerses players in the Civil Rights Movement of 1963-64. See the story here.

- **HIST Faculty Awards:** History faculty continue to excel in scholarship and teaching. Our faculty won an impressive array of University and national recognitions, including the Baum, Conner, King, and Omni awards, national book prizes, and the 2021 Faculty Gold Medal. See the appendix below for details.
● **HIST Faculty Leadership:** HIST faculty continue to serve the University in key leadership roles. Prof. Lynda Coon, who is Dean of the Honors College, spent the 2020-2021 academic year wearing two hats, serving as [Interim Dean of the University Libraries](#). And Assoc. Prof. Caree Banton was named the [Director of the African and African-American Studies Program](#).

● **OER Initiative:** Six history instructors and graduate students worked with the University Libraries to compile electronic learning resources for US history survey courses, reducing textbook costs for students, a savings of $50,000. [See the story here](#).

● **8-Week Student Success Initiative:** The Department of History has made strides to help students complete successful semesters by untethering a selection of courses from the traditional semester calendar and instead offering options in the second 8-weeks. Students who experience setbacks in HIST courses or other core courses can opt to withdraw and then complete the second 8-week courses and thereby finish the semester with a stronger GPA and full credit. [See the story here](#).

● **Nelson Hackett Project:** Dr. Michael Pierce led a panel of experts in October 2020 for public unveiling of the Nelson Hackett Project, a digital humanities initiative highlighting the experiences and impact of Nelson Hackett, an enslaved man whose 1841 flight from Fayetteville to Canada set off a chain of events that helped ensure that Canada remained a safe refuge for fugitives from American slavery. [See the story here](#).

● **COVID19 and the History of Pandemics:** Nine researchers from the Department of History teamed up with OLLI to create a one-hour course helping the public understand the COVID19 pandemic through a study of past pandemics. [See the story here](#).

● **International Editorship:** Kelly Hammond, Assistant Professor of History, was named Editor for Modern China for the international Journal of Asian Studies, which is published by the Association for Asian Studies.

● **HIST Graduate Students**
  ○ 24 MA students / 3 MA graduates in 2021
  ○ 25 PhD students / 7 PhD graduates in 2021

● **HIST Undergraduate Students**
  ○ 253 BA History Majors / 70 HISTBA graduates in 2021
  ○ 119 History Minors
  ○ 58 Honors History Majors

● **Honors Theses in HIST:** The Department of History mentored 10 undergraduates producing honors research theses in 2020-2021, including one honors with a Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.
APPENDIX

A. Faculty Awards and Recognitions

- **Shawn Austin** was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- **Caree Banton** received a Faculty Research Grant from the University of Arkansas Humanities Center.
- **Todd Cleveland** was inducted as a [Fellow of the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy](https://example.com).
- **Freddy Dominguez** was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- **Kelly Hammond** was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- **Jim Gigantino** received the 2021 Faculty Gold Medal from the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards at the U of A.
- **Ren Pepitone** was awarded the [Connor Faculty Fellowship](https://example.com).
- **Daniel Sutherland** received the [John E. King Award for Outstanding Service](https://example.com).
- **Jeannie Whayne** was honored with the [Baum Faculty Teaching Award](https://example.com).

B. Staff Awards and Recognitions

- **Brenda Foster** was awarded the Collis R. Geren UA Staff Award for excellence in graduate education.

C. Student Awards and Recognitions

- **Sulaiman Albinhamad** (Advisor: Nikolay Antov) passed the History PhD comprehensive examinations.
- **Michael Anthony** (Advisor: Jeannie Whayne) passed the History PhD comprehensive examinations.
- **Michael Anthony** received a Graduate Student Research Grant from the University of Arkansas Humanities Center.
- **Jacob Condran** was named a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship.
- **Jacob Condran** was named an alternate for the Fulbright Scholarship to Taiwan.
- **James Cooke** presented "A Fascinating Parallel": African American Responses to the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement," which was awarded Best Paper at the Annual History Graduate Association Conference.
- **Jacob Huneycutt** was awarded a SURF grant from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.
- **Jacob Huneycutt** was named an alternate for the Fulbright Scholarship to the UK.
- **Airc Hughes** was awarded a one-year national dissertation fellowship from the Southern Regional Education Board.
- **Mehreen Jamal** was recognized with the [OMNI Endowed International Student Scholarship](https://example.com).
- **Amanda McGee** received a $5,000 dissertation grant from the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.
- **Amanda McGee** was a Mellon Short Term Research Fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia.
- **Marie Totten** was named to a two-year appointment on the [Next Generation Advisory Board](https://example.com) of the Arkansas Humanities Council.

D. Graduate Research

- **Alex Marino**, "The United States and Portuguese Angola: Space, Race, and the Cold War in Africa," PhD Dissertation, Directed by Dr. Randall Woods.
E. Undergraduate Research

- **Lauren Campbell**, “*Instituto Indigenista Interamericano*: Pioneering International Indigenous Rights through Indigenismo and Pan-American Cooperation during the Early Cold War,” Directed by Dr. Shawn Austin (College Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*).
- **Jamie Kim**, “God and Guatemala's Covenant: Counterinsurgent Evangelical Christianity in Ríos Montt's Guatemala,” Directed by Dr. Shawn Austin (College Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*).
- **Nicholas Langham**, “Legal Status, Exploitation, and Racism: The Challenges Facing Southern Latina/o Poultry Processing Workers in the United States,” Directed by Dr. Steven Rosales (Departmental Honors, *Cum Laude*).
- **Samuel Peterson**, “Interservice Rivalry: Examining the Relationships Between the Intelligence Organizations of the Navy, the Army and the OSS in China 1939-1945,” Directed by Dr. Kelly Hammond (Departmental Honors, *Magna Cum Laude*).
- **Catherine Pickell**, “Frenchification on the Mississippi: A Comparison of Illinois and Natchez Reactions to French Colonization, 1673-1729,” Directed by Dr. Linda Jones (College Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*).
- **Henry Schuelke**, “The Revolutionary Imperial Paradigm: The Life and Death of the Communist Party of Germany, 1918-1956,” Directed by Dr. Alessandro Brogi (Departmental Honors, *Cum Laude*).
- **Allison Tucker**, “Who Died and Made You President?: John Tyler and Chester A. Arthur’s Presidential Legitimacy,” Directed by Dr. Patrick Williams, (Departmental Honors, in progress for Summer 2021).
- **Madison Whipple**, “We, too, Have Deeds of Heroism to Tell our Children: The Role of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the Perpetuation of the Confederate Lost Cause in Fayetteville, Arkansas,” Directed by Dr. Louise Hancox (College Honors, *Magna Cum Laude*).

F. Alumni Achievements

- **Kaitlyn Akel** (BA, 2019) completed an MS in Epidemiology as a Gelman Global Scholar at the University of Michigan, and her research on vaccines and public health were featured on their [website here](#).
- **Michael Hammond** (PhD, 2009) was named the ninth President of Gordon College in Wenham, MA. [View the news release](#).
- **Anne Marie Martin** (PhD, 2018) was named Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Catawba College.
- **Sara Riva** (PhD, 2020) was named Assistant Professor of History at Barry College.
- **Fareed al-Salim** (PhD, 2008) was promoted to the rank of Professor at the American University in Dubai.
ANNUAL REPORT

School of Journalism and Strategic Media
Larry Foley, Chair

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

The School of Journalism and Strategic Media significantly revised its curriculum, approving a new Multimedia Storytelling and Production Concentration and significantly revising the Journalism Concentration (formerly the News-Editorial Concentration).

Alumnus Bill Keenan (B.A. 1949) created two endowments, the Walter J. Lemke Freshman Endowed Journalism Scholarship for an incoming first year student majoring in journalism and the Walter J. Lemke Journalism Collections Endowment to support scholarship and research relating to the field of journalism.

KXUA moved to the second floor of Kimpel Hall, thanks to the donation by alumnus Candace Dixon Horne (B.A. 1997) and John Horne of $100,000 to fund construction of the John and Candace Horne Multimedia Radio Center.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Assistant Professor Brandon Bouchillon was first of two authors of an article published in the national journal New Media & Society. Bouchillon also submitted his book draft, Social Presence, Competence, and Hyperpersonal-ness: Dissolving the Boundary Between Digital and Physical Life, to be published by Lexington Books.

Associate Professor Ray McCaffrey published a single-authored article in Journalism History.

Associate Professor Bret Schulte won first place in the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference manuscript competition for his book proposal, Flanagan: The Untold Tale of the World's Greatest Orphanage and America's Last Celebrity Priest. The award is given for the most original, creative and compelling work and comes with a provisional publishing contract from the University of North Texas Press at Denton and a cash prize. Schulte also won a Fulbright College Master Teacher Award and a Gold Medal Award and Outstanding Mentor Award from the UA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards.


Associate Professor Rob Wells published single-authored articles in American Journalism and Journalism History. Wells is also completing his book draft of The Insider: How the Pioneering Kiplinger Newsletter Bridged the Washington and Wall Street Divide, to be published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Professor and Chair Larry Foley’s documentary “Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin’ Judge” was selected for screening and honored at more than a dozen refereed/juried film festivals. Foley’s short film from the documentary, Bass Reeves: Invincible Black Marshall, was also selected for screening and honored at various film festivals.
Brooke Borgognoni (JOUR MA graduate) and Professor and Vice Chair Jan LeBlanc Wicks won the Advertising Division Top Teaching Paper Award at the international AEJMC Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in August 2020. The article, “A Survey of Faculty Advisers at Student-Run Agencies: Can Organizational Theory Help to Guide Future Research?,” was published in the Journal of Advertising Education (Vol. 25, Issue 1) https://doi.org/10.1177/10980482211004495

SJSM Named to PRNEWS 2021 Education A-List, which “recognizes the best institutions of higher education advancing the careers of public relations and communication professionals in the United States.

JOUR MA student Katy Seiter, undergraduate student Mary Hennigan and Associate Professor Rob Wells presented on the Arkansas Covid or arkansascovid.com website at the international Computational and Journalism Symposium in February.

Dr. Kathy Roberts Forde, journalism historian and professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, discussed her book Journalism and Jim Crow: White Supremacy and the Black Struggle for a New America, for the 2021 Roy Reed Lecture during the SJSM’s annual J-Days.

The 2021 Center for Ethics in Journalism Visiting Distinguished Professors are reporter and producer Allison Herrera from KOSU’s Indigenous Affairs desk and ABC News "GMA3" co-anchor (and alumnus) T.J. Holmes (B.A. 1999).

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

Alexis Campbell received the O. Joe Russell Scholarship from the national American Advertising Federation.

Rachel Bernstein placed ninth in the nation and Emily Franks placed 11th in a three-way tie in the 61st annual William Randolph Hearst Foundation’s Journalism Awards Program for Personality/Profile Writing.

Students Michael Adkison, Mary Ellis, Mary Hennigan, Whitney King, Matthew Moore, Abbi Ross, Katy Seiter, Brooke Tomlin and Abby Zimmardi, along with students at six other colleges, were honored by the Investigative Reporters and Editors for their work on a national investigation of homelessness. The series of stories was a finalist in the Student (Large) category.

Mary Hennigan and Sarah Komar received national Dow Jones News Fund reporting internships.

SJSM students won or placed at the Region 12 SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards
- Heidi Kirk, Winner, Breaking News Photography
- Tegan Shockley, Winner, Non-Fiction Magazine Article
- Natalee Demaree, Winner, Best Student Magazine
- Kerri Holt, Winner, Photo Illustration
- Robert Stewart, Winner, Breaking News Reporting
- Katy Seiter, Mary Hennigan & Abigail Zimmardi, Winner, Data Visualization
- Sarah Komar and Hanna Ellington, Finalists, Feature Writing
- Beth Dedman, Finalist, Non-Fiction Magazine Article
- UATV, Finalist, Best All-Around Newscast
- Jack Bilyeu, Finalist, TV Feature Reporting
- Mary Hennigan, Finalist, COVID-19 Coverage
- Kerri Holt, Finalist, Breaking News Photography
- Sarah Komar, Finalist, General News Reporting

UATV won the Mid-America National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences award for Best Student Newscast. UATV adviser is Tiffany King.
Sarah Watson of the Arkansas Traveler won the 2021 Great Plains Student Editor in Chief of the Year Award (faculty adviser Bret Schulte)

Natalie Demaree and Mary Katherine Shapiro won the 2021 Great Plains Outstanding Student Magazine of the Year Award (faculty adviser Bret Schulte)

JOUR MA students Whitney King and Neba Evans received University of Arkansas Humanities Center grants.

JOUR MA graduate Obed Lamy’s documentary “A Promising Voice” won Best Student Film at the Made in Arkansas Film Festival and was selected for screening by the Arkansas Cinema Society, Black Bear Film Festival, and Fayetteville Film Festival. Lamy is a Fulbright Scholar from Haiti.

Alumna Brenda Blagg (B.A. 1969) was inducted into the inaugural class of the Great Plains Journalism Hall of Fame by the Tulsa Press Club Foundation.


Alumnus Tyler Phillips (B.A. 2018) and his teammate won the 2021 NBLSA Nelson Mandela International Negotiation Competition, sponsored by the national Black Law Student Association.
ANNUAL REPORT

Mathematical Sciences
Mark Johnson

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

(Including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning. Can also include notable changes/growth, new faculty/administrators, and significant awards/honors as appropriate.)

- Promotions of faculty
  - Associate Professor Matt Clay promoted to Professor; Assistant Professors Ariel Barton, Paolo Mantero, Wenbo Niu and Qingyang Zhang promoted to Associate Professor
  - Professor Matt Clay appointed Undergraduate Coordinator
- New faculty: Assistant Professor Joshua Padgett, Visiting Assistant Professors Sumeyra Sakalli and Justin Lyle join the department
- Successful transition to remote instruction for most classes due to COVID-19
- Changes to prerequisites for College Algebra to appropriately allow students to progress by reducing unnecessary remediation, improving retention and student success

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- The 46th annual Spring Lecture Series in the Mathematical Sciences, "Scalable Solvers: Universals and Innovations", was given virtually by David Keyes (Professor of Applied Mathematics and Computational Science; Director of the Extreme Computing Research Center; King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and Columbia University). A public lecture, "Harnessing the Power of Mathematics for High Performance Computing", was also given by Ann Almgren (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab) as well as a Women in STEM panel.
- Samantha Robinson inducted into Teaching Academy; and awarded the inaugural Mu Sigma Rho award for Early Career Undergraduate Impact Award, a national award given in recognition of a faculty member who has made significant contributions to the success of undergraduate students in Statistics.
- Shannon Dingman co-PI on Noyce NSF funded grant for MAT program
- Simons Foundation grants awarded to Zach Bradshaw for "Existence problems for the Navier-Stokes Equations" and to Andy Raich for "Problems in Microglobal Analysis"
- Paolo Mantero awarded Connor award
III. Student and Alumni Achievements

- Lucas Bellaiche recognized by the Division of Research and Innovation as a winner of the Undergraduate Research Week Poster Competition
- Doctoral student Michael Shumate successfully completed NASA's SCaN Intern Project
- Alaina Edwards was accepted into a strong graduate program in computational and applied math
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Music
Ronda Mains/Chair

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

The Department of Music submitted a proposal for substantive change in the Music Education degrees to the National Association of Schools of Music commission on accreditation in October. The proposal was approved, and students are now enrolled in a music education degree program that leads directly to teacher licensure. In addition, we submitted a plan approval for our graduate certificate in music for special needs which was also approved. We now have several students pursuing this online certificate.

In April the faculty voted to accept the following guidelines developed and presented by our Futures Committee.

Department of Music Operating Principles
The Department of Music, part of the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas, adopts the following principles as standards for our future actions.
The department acts in the best interest of our students academically, personally, artistically, and professionally.
- Our policies and standards are made with these student interests in mind.
- Policies and standards should be clearly communicated with students.
- The Department respects and is committed to areas of student musical interest.
The department recognizes the importance of data in successfully shaping its future.
- We are committed to keeping strong records and documenting our activities.
- We use internal and external data to help make decisions at the studio, area, ensemble, and department levels.
- We regularly consider applicable data from benchmark institutions and compare it to our data.

Department courses are academically aligned with each other.
- Courses are well-differentiated from each other, offering complementary information and experiences, and avoiding unnecessary overlap.
- Courses have a clear purpose and value to students within their degree plans.
- We periodically review our course inventory, apart from times required by mandatory state/local policy changes.

All faculty and staff commit to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in planning, delivery, and assessment of materials, and in their interactions with students.
- We commit to representing justice and equity in our classes, ensembles, and programs. We will learn to recognize our own biases and to interrupt them.
- We commit to personal accountability if we fail to do so.
- We will ensure that each course in the inventory clearly demonstrates and encourages the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The department pursues and nurtures accomplishments in the creative, research, service, and teaching activities of its faculty and students.
- The department offers professional development support to faculty as possible.
- The department promotes a mentorship program for faculty.

July 1-2020-June 30, 2021

Music Department
DEI Initiatives and other accomplishments

Ongoing: Staff started incorporating DEI training/conversations in their weekly meeting. Besides communicating about continuing
and weekly projects and assignments, needs, and discussing new measures for pivoting as the pandemic unfolded, our team engaged in conversation led by each one of the team members: from how to support underrepresented staff, to #blackatuark, and ways to engage in anti-racism and support our students, the team took on this project fearlessly and created a psychological safe environment to support D&I initiatives.

**October and November:** Justin Hunter and Lia Uribe led the 2 sessions of the series “Flip It and Reverse It,” a zoom space dedicated to fostering learning and communication within the music department. For the first one, we brought guests virtually from other universities to share innovative ideas about dealing with technology and pivoting to virtual teaching in effective ways through the pandemic. The second iteration presented some of our faculty members sharing similar information. These were attended by U of A faculty, students, staff, as well as guest from out of state.

**February:** In a collaboration with the Walton College of Business and Fulbright College D&I, the music department hosted Dr. Kumea Shorten-Goeden presenting the 90-min workshop “Building a More Equitable and Inclusive Faculty Hiring Process.” This workshop addressed best practices for hiring through the lenses of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This was an important step into connecting with attending faculty, especially as preparation for the many searches the music department went through the spring and summer. We had attendees across the University of Arkansas and from other music departments/schools of music in the country.

**March:** The SHE Festival invited pianist, radio personality, and advocate Lara Downes for a conversation centered on her life as a performer and as an advocate for music written by historically marginalized composers, especially women and people of color. This conversation was led by Miroslava Panayotova and Lia Uribe.

**Fall and Spring:** Through RefleXions Music Series, a music department initiative led by music department faculty Lia Uribe, Ronda Mains, Eric Troiano and Catalina Ortega, along with KUAF 91.3 and other departments we had two virtual guest artists residencies.

The first one in the Fall brought Monica Yunus and Camille Zamora, co-founders of Sing for Hope. They held two 90-minute master classes for our voice studio, open to attendees from outside of the university. The master classes highlighted (but weren’t limited to) Spanish and Russian repertoires. Camille and Monica joined Lia Uribe and the KUAF 91.3 team for the first iteration of RefleXions Music Series Podcast, a conversation centered about social and creative justice in our world of classical music. We also held our first panel conversation with the NWA community featuring Camille and Monica, along with Dr. Anne O’Leary-Kelly, associate dean of the Walton College of Business and chair of the Walton Arts Center board of directors, and Jesse Elliot, CACHE (Creative Arkansas Community Hub and Exchange) Music Ecosystems director. This conversation was centered around the social impact of the arts and was open to arts organizations in the area, arts leaders, practicing artists, art advocates, audience members, and of course the U of a community. Lia Uribe and Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, led this conversation.

The Spring residency brought Imani Winds, the leading woodwind quintet in the country, formed by mostly African American musicians. They offered master classes for our flute, oboe, bassoon, French Horn, clarinet, and saxophone studios, all open to the public. In the master classes students had the opportunity to present traditional and diverse repertoire. We partnered with CMS (Community Music School) to offer a conversation for pre-college students and other musicians in the community lead by members of Imani, centered mainly around building a career as a musician and the importance of representation and equity steps to foster learning, belonging and opportunities for all. In a partnership with Chris Knighten, Ben Lorenzo and Jeff Summers, Imani Quintet led a 90-minute panel conversation with music students. We also held our second panel conversation with the community, led by Lia Uribe and Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, in which members of Imani delved into a deep conversation about race and equity in the arts. In this opportunity, RefleXions partnered with panelists Marisa Reyes (Crystal Bridges,) Elicia Smith (IDEALS Institute), Lakisha Harper (Might-T-by-Design), and Lourdes Peredo (Northwest Arkansas Council). Finally, we aired our second iteration of the RefleXions podcast, featuring Imani’s most recent music projects and advocacy for a more balanced classical music world.
II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Dr. Jeffrey Murdock was awarded the Grammy for the National Music Educator of the Year. Mayor Lionel Jordan proclaimed July 6, 2021 as Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock day.

Dr. Ronda Mains was re-elected to the Commission on Accreditation for the National Association of Schools of Music.

Dr. Lia Uribe was selected as one of 60-member cohort to participate in the Global Leaders Program Executive Graduate Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship, Cultural Agency, Community Development, Business Management, Design Thinking & Teaching Artistry, May 2020. The Global Leaders Program empowers a rising generation of changemakers in music to transform lives and communities through an innovative twelve-month Led in partnership with nine top universities and think tanks; a world-class Faculty that includes Nobel Laureates, Grammy Winners, Polar Prize recipients, and TED presenters; and a network of institutional Fieldwork hosts spanning 40+ countries, the Program is offered annually to a select Cohort of 60 rising leaders in the field (academic calendar August 2021-August 2022). Dr. Uribe finished a certificate on Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Dr. Lia Uribe was selected by the U of A Provost as a fellow to the SECU Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP), a professional growth initiative that seeks to identify, prepare, and advance academic leaders for roles within SEC institutions and beyond. It has two components: a university-level development program, designed by each institution for its own participants, and two three-day SEC-wide workshops held on specified campuses for all programs and participants. This coming academic year (2021-22), program fellows will visit the University of Georgia (Oct. 17-20, 2021) and the University of South Carolina (Feb. 16-18, 2022)

Jake Hertzog presented at The Society for Arts Entrepreneurship Education, Popular Music Educators Conference, Crystal Bridges Museum, and the University of Connecticut. He recorded and performed with Barrett Baber (The Voice), and Alexa Tarintino. Jake served as Vice-Chair of the Fayetteville Arts Council.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

Joey Vanderslice (BM ’21), Bryce Holcomb (BA ’21) and Joshua Larson (BA ’22) have all released fantastic albums and EPs. Jordan Strickland (BM, Jazz, ’21) also released new music with his group, The Honey Collective. Joey worked with Grammy Winning Producer Ted Young on his release.

Hill Records collected 43 submissions from across the state to put together a compilation release in the fall.

Gustavo Samudio Ortega (MM ’21) completed the prestigious Global Leaders Program and recently completed a project consulting and advising Latin American music non-profits.

Connor Gott was accepted into Bassoon Performance at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory

Winners of NATS at the Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference (November 2020). All eight of our students reached the semifinals, and three placed in their respective categories:

- Placing in the semifinals of their respective categories were Ashley Ellis, Elizabeth Emberton, Emily Auten, and Sonya Faulkner
  - Gloria Devereaux, 3rd Place - Lower College Advanced Treble
  - Juan Garcia, 1st place - Upper College Advanced TBB
Winners of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) of Southern NATS State Conference and Student Auditions, Arkansas State University in Jonesboro AR (February 2021): held virtually with over 133 students from across Arkansas competed in a variety of categories:

- Emily Auten: 1st Place (tied) Senior Trebles
- Sonya Faulknor: 1st Place Younger Advanced Treble
- Rachael Foster: 2nd Place Junior Treble
- Juan Garcia: 1st Place Older Advanced TBB
- Mickel Gordon: 2nd Place Older Student Adult Men and Women

Annual State and National Awards Recognition 2021, University of Arkansas (April 2021)

https://awards.uark.edu/events/2021-awards-ceremony.php

National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Regional:
- Gloria Deveraux: Winner, Lower Advanced Treble
- Juan Garcia: 1st Place, Upper Advanced TBB
- Ashleigh Ellis: Semi-Finalist, Freshmen Treble
- Elizabeth Emberton: Semi-Finalist, Freshmen Treble
- Sonya Faulknor: Semi-Finalist, Lower Advanced Treble
- Emily Auten: Semi-Finalist, Senior Treble

National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern State Conference:
- Juan Garcia: 1st Place, Old Advanced TBB Lower Advance
- Emily Auten: 1st Place (tied), Senior Trebles
- Sonya Faulknor: 1st Place, Younger Advanced Treble
- Rachael Foster: 2nd Place, Junior Treble

The University of Arkansas Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Combos helped spread hope, joy, and encouragement through music by maintaining live, public performances. With so many "virtual" performances this past year, these students were responsible for some of the few live performances/rehearsals given in the NWA area.

Our students in the World Music Ensembled directed by Nikola Radan were assigned to arrange, produce, and compose music based on a given non-Western music tradition. Each student was equipped with the software and hardware they needed to use for their recordings—mixing and producing the final version of their composition.

The following students produced music tracks of high quality and therefore will be featured and published in a music album in the Fall 2022.

- **Jude Balthazar, Master of Music, 2021.** He was in charge of producing a song from Haiti called *Ayiti Peyi Soley*. Jude Balthazar arranged it for voice, cello, flute, guitar, bass, and percussion. In his arrangement, he showed a deep knowledge of how to apply an independent musical line in polyphonic music and achieve emotional impact in a song. Besides his great vocal performance, his collaborators were Emily James (flute), Kassidy Moore (cello), James Joseph (guitar), Cody Lucas (bass), and Nikola Radan (percussion).

- **James Joseph, Master of Music student.** He was in charge of doing research on the oud and how it is played in different Middle Eastern cultures. James Joseph had to arrange a musical piece “Dialogue” set for three different pluck instruments: acoustic classical guitar, electric guitar, and bass guitar. His collaborators were Joseph Vanderslice (electric guitar) and Cody Lucas (bass guitar). The outcome of this production by James Joseph shows technical excellence in various guitar techniques and in the musical communication/dialogue between these three instruments. James’ guitar embellishments evoke the sound of the oud instrument.
• **Joseph Vanderslice, Bachelor of Music, 2021.** Joseph produced two songs from two different cultures—Desert Blues and Jog Raga. The Desert Blues comes from an old tradition of the Touareg people from Northern Mali; their specific guitar technique has had a direct influence on American Blues. The Jog Raga is one of the Hindustani ragas that was often used in Psychedelic Rock in the 1960s. In his use of these two different guitar techniques, Joey achieved a unique guitar sound that evokes the sounds of the sitar and the guitar of the Touareg tradition.

• **Emily James, Bachelor of Music, 2021.** Emily was in charge of arranging Late Renaissance and Early Baroque Spanish/Portuguese music by Manuel Machado applying instrumental improvisation of period instruments and thus creating a variation of a melody. Emily James' arrangement highlights the beautiful ways in which the Quechua and the Iberian music traditions came together in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Emily also participated in various other recordings and arrangements for flute that evoke the sound of the African and Hindustani flute music tradition. She showed excellent knowledge of the extended flute techniques.

• **Harrison Goertz, Master of Music, 2021.** Harrison’s final music arrangement was the brass music tradition of Romani people from the Balkans. Harrison’s production includes his recording of twelve different brass instruments on the French Horn, starting from the range of the low tuba to the high trumpet. His improvisation gave a mood similar to the music of Erik Satie.

• **Cody Lucas, Bachelor of Music student.** Cody Lucas worked on the music from Turkey and Brazil and used his knowledge of playing the charango guitar and bass.

The remaining students of the World Music Ensemble likewise made strong, valuable contributions to the quality of the performance and the recordings. For example, **Cody Lucas** (charango, guitar, bass), **Kassidy Moore** (piano and cello), **Janna O’Leary** (voice recorded in Italian, Spanish, Turkish, and Macedonian languages).
I. Significant Department Achievements and Changes

The Department of Philosophy is a small department – for 2020-2021, nine tenured and tenure-track faculty, one visiting Assistant Professors, and three full-time Instructors. We have Ph.D. and M.A programs, with a total graduate student body of 20. We currently count 75 undergraduate majors and 50 minors; this represents significant growth over a number of years. Many of our majors are double majors.

The Department has a long-standing tradition of excellence in the core areas of philosophy of mind and philosophy of psychology, epistemology, and philosophy of religion. We are particularly interested in developing our strengths and diversifying our offerings in key areas of applied ethics, including philosophy of race, philosophy of gender, environmental ethics, and bioethics. We are striving to recruit more undergraduate majors, to increase our graduate applications on both the M.A. and Ph.D. level, and to create a more diverse learning environment for all, while maintaining our very high standards of scholarship and teaching.

The Philosophy Department aims to create an environment in which all students feel comfortable fully participating, sharing their perspectives, and engaging with our academic community. The field of philosophy recognizes that cognitive and moral advancement is best served when varied perspectives are put forth by diverse people. The Philosophy Department of the University of Arkansas is committed to furthering social justice and to combating racism in all forms.

In some ways, of course, 2020-2021 was a very unusual academic year. Department faculty did an excellent job transitioning to remote and hybrid teaching and serving student needs, and staff kept up with the Department’s business during the difficult changeover to Workday. In the coming year, we hope to hire for two positions; to redouble our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; and overall, to foster a sense of community and belonging for our faculty, staff, and students at all levels.

Changes

For the Fall Term of 2020, the Department welcomed one new face and two old-new faces (Hereth and McMullen):

Visiting Assistant Professor Blake Hereth, Ph.D. 2019, University of Washington, continued as visiting Assistant Professor. Blake is an expert on the philosophy of race and gender and in applied ethics fields, including medical ethics, and the treatment of the disabled. Ze is co-editor of a recent volume published by Routledge, The Lost Sheep: Perspectives on Race, Gender, Disability, and Animals.
We welcomed two new Assistant Professors, both from applicant pools of almost 400 candidates:

Assistant Professor Amanda McMullen, Ph.D. 2019, University of Miami, had been a visitor in 2019-2020, and was appointed as tenure-track assistant professor starting in the Fall. Amanda works on applied areas of philosophy of language. She is a nationally recognized expert on issues about hate speech and slurring uses of language. She has made valuable contributions to our diversity and inclusion efforts. Amanda received the Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellowship during the year. Her position replaces Professor Jack Lyons, who left the University in 2019 for a prestigious position at the University of Glasgow.

Assistant Professor Bryan Reece, Ph.D. 2016, University of Toronto, joined the Department starting in the Fall. Bryan held post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Chicago and Harvard University. He is an expert on Aristotle, in particular on the relations between Aristotle’s philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and ethics, and has two books forthcoming on the subjects. Professor Reece in effect replaces Professor Oksana Maksymchuk, who left the University. He served an important role in graduate admissions and recruitment.

The Department participated in Fulbright College’s efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion as a “First Wave” Department. We completed, revised, and implemented our Diversity and Inclusion plan and reported on the results, with new initiatives moving forward into the coming year. We are also collaborating with other Fulbright departments in developing a mentoring program for junior faculty.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Teaching

The Philosophy Department strives to excel in teaching, to offer a rich range of courses at all levels, to insure that all courses involve significant writing components and encourage critical thinking, and to present a curriculum and atmosphere that promote the values of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Philosophy Department teaches four University Core Humanities courses (Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, Introduction to Logic, and Ethics and the Professions). These courses continue to be full or nearly full each semester. PHIL3103, Ethics and the Professions, as well as being part of the core, is a required course for a number of professional majors. This course is in very high demand.

In accordance with the new plan for the university’s general education curriculum, we have proposed that a number of our higher-level courses be included as part of the more comprehensive general education requirement. We are developing our eight-semester plan to reflect these changes.

We have enriched the experience of undergraduates in the Department by rejuvenating the undergraduate philosophy club, by having extracurricular educational and social events.
aimed at increasing contact between undergraduate students and faculty, and by enhancing our curriculum to appeal to a wide spectrum of students with different interests.

We continually revise our curriculum, recently having added new courses in applied ethics fields, philosophy of race and gender, existentialism, hate speech and slurring, self-deception, philosophy of music, philosophy of psychology, and animal minds. We seek in the near future to develop a lower level course on social justice.

We were to hire a new faculty member in 2020-2021 to begin in the Fall of 2021; with the hiring freeze, we seek to do so for Fall of 2022. We will seek a candidate who will help to diversify the Department and to enhance our offerings in philosophy of race and gender, social and political philosophy, and applied ethics fields.

We regularly update our website to include information about career opportunities and the value of studying philosophy, to provide course plans for double majors, and to keep students abreast of departmental news and opportunities.

In the past, we have held several professional development workshops for Master’s and Ph.D. students. We have significantly enhanced our mentorship of teaching assistants in order to insure the quality of undergraduate instruction at all levels. Each teaching assistant and each lecturer has a teaching mentor, and we also have a faculty member assigned to be Teaching Assistant Coordinator. This person (Instructor Jeremy Hyman) is charged with holding frequent teaching workshops. Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair play an active role in advising students and in consulting with graduate students about professional development and teaching matters.

Instructor David Barrett will be teaching a newly developed course on Data Ethics for the incipient Data Analytics program. This effort has been partly supported by a grant from the Chancellor’s Fund for the Humanities.

Professor Edward Minar taught an interdisciplinary Honors College Signature Seminar on Animal Minds in the Fall of 2020.

Research Highlights

Professor Eric Funkhouser, Associate Professor Barry Ward, and Instructor David Barrett are co-principle-investigators on a new research project, "Reasoning in the Digital Age: Challenges and Implications of an Epistemic Crisis". This project received a grant from the Chancellor’s Fund for Humanities and Performing Arts for $45,000. The Department has dedicated funds from Global Campus to provide $10,000 in support.

Professor Jack Lyons was editor of the Department’s internationally renowned journal Philosophical Topics, which the Department has been funding and which the University of Arkansas Press publishes. Lyons took over as sole editor in 2018 (prior to this, he was co-editor with Professor Edward Minar). Upon leaving the University, Lyons has been replaced by Edward Minar as acting editor. The journal publishes biannually and features state-of-the-art articles on particular “hot” topics in philosophy. It ranks high on lists of prominent journals in
philosophy.

Professor Thomas Senor is now serving as editor of the prestigious journal in philosophy of religion, *Faith and Philosophy*.

Much research in Philosophy, especially work on books or on connected series of articles, is ongoing. Our faculty is very actively engaged in a diversity of projects, many of which have an interdisciplinary character: Associate Professor Jacob Adler, as an internationally recognized scholar on the philosophy of Baruch Spinoza, continues research on Spinoza’s intellectual context. Professor Eric Funkhouser has a recent book on self-deception and is well under way on his book on the nature of belief. Both of these are heavily informed by current research in psychology. Assistant Professor Warren Herold, who will serve as Instructor in 2021-2022 has a series of papers on self-distancing and empathy in progress, including joint research with a team of psychologists supported by the Templeton Foundation. Associate Professor Richard Lee continues work on an introductory textbook on ethics and on the role of intention in art. Amanda McMullen, newly appointed Assistant Professor, works on timely issues on hate speech and the nature of slurs. Professor Edward Minar is working on books on Wittgenstein’s views in philosophy of mind and their contemporary relevance and on human and animal minds (drawing on much recent ethological literature). Newly appointed Assistant Professor Professor Bryan Reece works on central historical and substantive issues in Aristotle’s philosophy, but also has expertise in philosophy of medicine. Thomas Senor recently published his book on the epistemology of memory and spoken on the topic at an international conference, and has a number of recent publications on epistemology and philosophy of religion. Associate Professor Barry Ward has works in progress on scientific laws, the philosophy of time, and anti-realism, with a book on inference to the best explanation nearing completion. Ward recently co-authored (with Jack Lyons) a well-regarded textbook on critical thinking. Instructor David Barrett has an active research program in philosophy of mind and is collaborating with Funkhouser and Ward on their project on data ethics. Instructor Jeremy Hyman is an internationally renowned Descartes scholar who is currently preparing a new translation of Descartes’s *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Instructor Christopher Stevens works on diverse topics in applied ethics and aesthetics.

**Outreach:**

The Department offers a regular lecture series bringing scholars from around the country to campus; lectures include two named public lectures honoring retired faculty, the Kramer Lecture and the Lynne and James Spellman Lecture in the History of Philosophy. Recent invited lecturers included: Elizabeth Anderson, John Dewey Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, Chair of the American Philosophical Association Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity; and Elizabeth Camp, Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers University and Wolfgang Mann, Professor and Chair of Philosophy, Columbia University. The Spellman Lecturer for 2020 was to be Stephen Nadler, University of Wisconsin, a leading Spinoza scholar; the Kramer lecturer was to be Michael Lynch, University of Connecticut, author of the recent *Know-it-all-society: Truth and arrogance in political culture*, winner of the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. Both lectures were postponed due to travel restrictions. Lynne and James Spellman
are generously funding a third lecture series on Philosophy and the History of Science.

While speakers could not be brought to campus during 2020-2021, we had a number of speakers via remote delivery. As part of our continued efforts to address issues concerning equity and underrepresentation, we were honored to have Assistant Professor Michelle Panchuk of Murray State University, a renowned expert on philosophy of disability, address us on trauma and self-formation.

Visiting Assistant Professor Blake Hereth and Ph.D. student Adam Blehm presented on race and mandatory vaccination to the University’s Diversity Dialogue series in January 2021.

In addition, we had talks in philosophy of mind by Professor Carl Craver (Washington University), Professor Sarah Robbins (University of Kansas), and Professor Kourken Michaelian (University of Grenoble) and in philosophy of religion by Professor Michael Rea (University of Notre Dame).

Members of the Department contribute to various interdisciplinary programs: Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, European Studies, Humanities, Public Policy; we cross-list courses with Mathematical Sciences, Physics, and Psychology.

The research project headed by Funkhouser, Ward and Barrett is interdisciplinary and multi-faceted and involves colleagues from around the University, including psychology and engineering.

Assistant Professor Herold has served on the Medical Humanities Steering Committee, charged with developing a medical humanities minor; he plays a central role in the Sustainability Curriculum Advisory Committee and coordinates the Sustainability program. The Department is determined to develop its offerings in applied ethics fields (including legal ethics, medical ethics, environmental ethics, bioethics, and ethics and the professions).

### III. Student and Alumni Achievements

#### Current Students and Recent Graduates:

Graduate students Adam Blehm, Anthony Holdier, and Robert Ragsdale all presented at prestigious philosophy conferences during the year.

Graduate students Eli Hess and Anthony Holdier published papers in prestigious venues during the year.

Ph.D. student and Doctoral Academy Fellow Anthony Holdier served on the Graduate-Professional Student Congress’ council as Executive Secretary and, in this capacity won the Alex Marino Service Award. He was elected to represent the J. Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences as an At-Large Member to the Graduate-Professional Student Congress for 2021–2022, and also elected to serve as the President Pro Tempore of the GPSC Assembly for the 2021–2022 year.
Ph.D. student Michael Hogan was awarded the James J. Hudson Doctoral Fellowship for 2020-2021. Ph.D. student Eli Hess was awarded the James J. Hudson Doctoral Fellowship for 2021-2022.

Stephen Irby was awarded the DAF, Doctoral Academy Fellowship beginning in Fall 2019. Kyle Hallam and Anthony Holdier were awarded DAFs beginning in Fall 2020. Bryce Counts, entering Ph.D. student, was awarded the DAF beginning in Fall 2021.

M.A.s completed in 2020-2021: Braxton Bragg, Kyle Hallam; M.A.s and Ph.D.s nearing completion (possibly Summer 2021): Jake Adams (M.A.); Dax Bennington (Ph.D.); Eli Hess (Ph.D.); Benjamin House (M.A.); Bobby Howard (Ph.D.); Erica Nicolas (M.A.); Robert Ragsdale (M.A.).

Among undergraduate majors completing their B.A. on whom we have records, one is entering our Master’s program with a full teaching assistantship and another is pursuing a Philosophy M.A. at Arkansas while attending the University of Arkansas Law School; two others are attending law school; one is attending an M.A. program in counseling; and one is entering the MA program in Philosophy and Public Policy at George Washington University.

Alumni:

Dr. Justin Clardy (Ph.D. 2017) is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the prestigious “Thinking Matters” program at Stanford University.

M.A. Student E.J. Coffman (Ph.D., Notre Dame) is now full Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee.

M.A. student Blake Hereth (Ph.D., University of Washington) served for two years as visiting Assistant Professor in our department. He is leaving the University to serve as Named Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, where he will work with Drs. Nicholas Evans and Neil Shortland on a project funded by the Department of Defense's Minerva Research Initiative on the topic, "Warfighter Participation in the Development and Testing of Artificial Intelligence."

Recent Ph.D. Dr. Matthew Pianalto is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Eastern Kentucky University. Pianalto is now working on a project in the philosophy of music.

Dr. David Rice III (Ph.D. 2016) was appointed as Assistant Professor of Biology at Simpson University in Redding California. Rice’s research is in environmental ethics.

Austin Synoground (M.A. 2019) is currently teaching English in Japan.

Dr. Kathryn Zawisza (Ph.D. 2018) is Director of Academic Technology and Innovation at the University of Arkansas.

Recent Master’s students continuing at Ph.D. programs in Philosophy other than Arkansas:

Dylan Abney, University of California, Santa Barbara
Zachary Biondi, University of California, Los Angeles

Seth Daves, University of South Florida

Max Gatyas, University of Cincinnati

Ali Jewell, University of British Columbia

Derek McAllister, Baylor University
I. Significant Department Achievements and Changes

- In the spring of 2021, the NSF notified Profs. Hugh Churchill (PI) and Salvador Barraza-Lopez (Co-PI) that they were definitely funding the $22M (MonArk) Quantum Foundry proposal, but an official award letter was still not received by June 30, 2021. This proposal, selected after an intense competition, includes six PHYS and one CSCE faculty at the UA and is joint with Montana State. Each university will receive roughly half the $22M award. A meeting was convened in April of 2021 to begin planning for renovations to the Nano Building, which will house the Quantum Foundry at UA.

- Our Ray Hughes Graduate Program continued to maintain its recent large growth (~34% since AY2017) during AY2021, starting the reporting period with three MS and 56 doctoral students and producing one MS and 6 new PhD degrees in physics in AY21. Two more PhD students will be summer 2021 graduates and 15 new students were recruited for the 2021 class, which means our program will start the fall with 64 graduate students, a new high for the department. Of these 64 graduate students, 18 will be supported on federally funded research GA’s—two being NASA fellowship grants, two more are supported on Government funds and three are on their own funds. This means that 36% of our graduate students will be on non-teaching GA funding, also a new record. Physics faculty also mentored 8 MS and 22 Ph.D. students in interdisciplinary graduate programs during AY2021.

- Promotions in AY2021:
  - Hugh Churchill was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.
  - Associate Professor Daniel Kennefick was promoted to Full Professor.
  - Postdoctoral Fellow Changsong Xu was promoted to Research Assistant Professor for his outstanding contributions to the department’s research.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

Teaching:

- The Physics Department maintained very high numbers of students taught during AY2021 with very similar enrollment numbers as in AY2020, despite the Covid pandemic. A majority of our students are in four-credit-hour, introductory, laboratory-based, core courses, resulting in high numbers of SSCH’s generated by the department, most of which had to be taught using remote and hybrid methods. By the spring semester of 2021, several of our smaller upper-level and graduate courses were taught using face-to-face methods, and many of our labs were taught using hybrid modes that included some face-to-face instruction.
In anticipation of teaching his first large introductory core course in spring 2021, Assistant Professor Yong Wang was awarded an Instructional Enhancement Grant for developing an AI-based chatbot for large courses with several hundred students. This AI-based chatbot instantly answers standard questions from students about course information and even provide hints for many homework problems, thus enhancing students’ learning experience. Prof. Wang tried it out in University Physics I this spring with reasonable success.

Research:

- **Associate Professor Hugh Churchill** was awarded a new $1M research grant entitled: “Optoelectronic Valley-Spin Qubits with Ambipolar Quantum Dots” in August of 2020 from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. This award is associated with a proposal he wrote after winning a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) award in the previous academic year. PECASE winners are chosen from among CAREER awardees and are the highest honor bestowed by the federal government on scientists and engineers early in their careers. Hugh is the only PECASE awardee on the UA campus.
- **Distinguished Professor Laurent Bellaiche** received a new $3M research grant in September 2020 from the Office of Navy Research entitled: “Topology of ferroic matter.” This award is associated with the fact that he won a Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship. This is the highest award given by the DOD to distinguished faculty scientists and engineers and Laurent is the first ever awarded to the UA.
- **Distinguished Professor Min Xiao** published his 500th peer-reviewed journal article in the spring of 2021. His daughters created a surprise document for Min with congratulatory statements from his many students, colleagues, and UA administrators.
- **Extraordinary Scholarship in Calendar Year 2020:**
  - Great start to 2020! On January 2, 2020, Research Assistant Professors Yousra Nahas and Sergei Prokhorenko published a paper in Nature (impact factor 45.819) as the 1st and 2nd authors. This paper included Research Professor Sergey Prosandeev and Distinguished Professor Laurent Bellaiche.
  - Also in January, Assistant Professor Jin Hu was a coauthor on a paper in Nature Materials (impact factor: 43.841).
  - In February 2020, Postdoctoral Fellow Changsong Xu in the Bellaiche group published the cover article in Physical Review Letters, the top journal in physics.
  - The Physics Department published 110 scholarly articles in peer-reviewed scientific research journals in calendar year 2020, nearly 20% of which were in journals with impact factors greater than 9, including:
    - Five in Physical Review Letters, the top journal in physics (impact factor 9.200).
    - One Nature (impact factor 41.577).
    - One in Nature Physics (19.256).
    - Two in Nature Materials (impact factor: 43.841).
    - Two in npj-Computational Materials (9.341).
    - One in Progress in Physics (16.620).
The majority of the rest of the 2020 publications from our department were in the dominant journals of the profession including *Physical Review A* (PRA), *Physical Review B* (20, including 8 published as *Rapid Communications*), *PRE*, *PR Applied*, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, *The Astrophysical Journal*, *Plos Computational Biology*, etc.

**Professor Paul Thibado's** research and commercialization activities produced a paper and video in fall 2020 that generated an altmetric score of 289!

### III. Student and Alumni Achievements

- **Jingwen Li** completed her PhD in AY2021 under **Associate Professor Woody Shew** and accepted a wonderful **postdoctoral fellowship**. Her dissertation focused on the physics/neuroscience of the brain. She will be working as a postdoctoral fellow with two well-known scientists in the field: Dr. Cory Miller at the University of California at San Diego and Dr. Alex Huk at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Li will split her time doing experimental work at UCSD and computational work at UT-Austin.

- Two **Ray Hughes Graduate Fellowships** were offered in AY2021 to Ph.D. candidates **Venkata Rao Krishnamurthi** (working under Prof. Yong Wang) and **Iris Nguyen** (working under Prof. Pradeep Kumar). These research fellowships cover the awardee’s full stipend and tuition for a semester and were made possible by the **Ray Hughes family**. The late Ray Hughes founded the PhD program in physics at the UA and the physics faculty and students are extremely grateful to the Ray Hughes family for their generous support of its programs.

- The department awarded **Fui T. Chan and Kaiyuan Chen Endowed Research Scholarships** to undergraduate researchers **Apoorva Bisht** and **Chloe Benton** in the spring of 2021. This competitive undergraduate research scholarship is made possible by a wonderful recent gift to the department by **Ph.D. Alumnus Kaiyuan Chen (1998)**, with a match from Texas Instruments, Inc. Dr. Chen is a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at TI and gave this gift to the department in recognition of his UA physics Ph.D. mentor **Emeritus Professor Fui T. Chan**.
I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

A. The Department of Political Science (PLSC) continued with its commitment to diversity and inclusion.
   1. The PLSC department revised and implemented its departmental diversity and inclusion plan (Wave 2).
   2. The PLSC chair appointed for the first time one undergraduate and one graduate student to the PLSC DEI committee.
   3. The department wrote and administered a climate survey of PLSC’s undergraduate and graduate students.
   4. The Political Science Department provided funding for three PLSC graduate students to attend virtually the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in the spring of 2020.
   5. Dr. A. Burcu Bayram gave a presentation on race and foreign aid in Georgetown University’s Global Political Economy Project Race series focusing on race in international political economy. The presentation was attended by students and faculty of the U of A, Georgetown University, and the public.
   6. Dr. A. Burcu Bayram was elected to serve as a member on the Women’s Caucus for International Studies.

B. Curriculum and assessment changes
   1. To improve undergraduate learning and to comply with the university’s general education requirements, PLSC developed two capstone courses. Students will now be required to take one of these courses prior to graduation.
   2. Students in the major are also required to take PLSC 3603 Scope and Methods of Political Science.
   3. To better assess learning outcomes, PLSC developed for the first time a survey that was administered to the department’s undergraduate and graduate students.
   4. To better support the Global Campus minor in Political Science and the Global Campus minor in Legal Studies, PLSC developed and began offering three additional online courses in AY 2020-2021. These courses include PLSC 3243 Judicial Process, PLSC 4193 Administrative Law, and PLSC 4143 U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy. An additional course (PLSC 4263 U.S Constitution II) was approved for fall 2021 development and will be offered for the first time in Spring 2022.

C. The Department of Political Science completed and approved the first-ever set of bylaws for the department.
II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

A. Teaching
- Dr. A. Burcu Bayram participated as an instructor in the vaccine forum sponsored by the Honors College and gave a lecture on the domestic and international politics of the COVID-19 vaccine.

B. Research
- Dr. Janine A. Parry was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Award by the Arkansas Political Science Association.

C. Scholarship and Public Service
- Dr. Patrick Stewart gave an invited talk at the workshop, ‘Nonverbal Communication and the C-SPAN Video Library, cosponsored by the Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement & Advanced Methods at Purdue University (AMAP).
- Dr. Sebold was elected chair of the University of Arkansas’ Campus Council.
- Departmental faculty provided commentary in the 2020 state and national elections for numerous media outlets, including *NPR’s Here and Now, Forbes, and the Washington Post*.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

A. Current Students
- Megan Rodgers was named a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, and the Payne International Development Fellowship. She was also selected to speak at the 2021 Student Peace Conference at the University of Notre Dame.
- Warrington Sebree (PLSCMA), Kaylin Oliver (PLSCMA), and Kennedy Hill (PLSCMA) presented research at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.
- Katie Strickland won the statewide Susie Pryor Award, normally given to professional historians, for her semester research paper for undergraduate PLSC 3223 Arkansas Politics and the Nation.

B. Alumni
- Max Kolstad (MPA, 1998) was appointed solution engineer at Ritter Communications in the Little Rock area.
- Jill Kennedy (BA, 2004) started as a team lead for Senior L&D Specialist at Ally.
- Chris Bobbit (BA, 2008) was appointed regional sales manager at Anthology, Inc.
- Carolyn Eiler (MA, 2011) was named the Walton College of Business’s 2019-2020 Employee of the Year.
• Travis Curtice (MA, 2012) was hired as an assistant professor at Drexel University.
• Carolyn Eiler (MPA, 2012) was appointed director of Special Events and Projects, Sam M. Walton College of Business at the U of A.
• Mervin Jebaraj (MPA, 2012) was named to the Walton Arts Center board of directors.
• Abby Stuart (BA, 2013) was promoted to senior merchant - general sports at Walmart.
• Colton Hotary (MA 2013) was named the director of Global Government Affairs for FLIR Systems (a thermal imaging company) this past year.
• Elvira Kizilova (MPA 2013) is now pursuing a Ph.D. at West Virginia University.
• Sarah Peace (MPA, 2014) was appointed the chief of staff for Governance, Risk & Compliance Technology at Walmart Global Technology
• Rachael Moyer (MA, 2015) started as a postdoc in PLSC and will serve as a visiting assistant professor in PLSC in the fall.
• Graham Higgins (BA, 2016) was accepted into the University of Oxford’s Master of Studies in Diplomatic Studies program.
• Creed Tumlison (MA, 2016) started as a visiting assistant professor with PLSC.
• Jaden Atkins (BA, 2017) started as a staff attorney for Legal Aid of Arkansas.
• Beth Carson (MPA, 2017) was appointed deputy prosecutor at Jefferson County, AR.
• Briana Huett (MPA, 2017) was named the grants officer for Arkansas PBS Foundation.
• Jacob DuCote (BA, 2017) started his MPA graduate studies at the University of Arkansas.
• Ian McDonald (BA, 2019) was appointed associate editor of Dickinson Law Review (UPenn Law).
• Hailey Collett (B.A., 2020) enrolled at SMU’s Dedmen School of Law.
• Elizabeth Ann Dowd (BA, 2020) and Julie Gallagher (BA, 2021) will start their PLSC graduate studies at the University of Arkansas.
• Maya Ungar (BA, 2020) was named a finalist for the Marshall Scholarship and was a policy and advocacy assistant at the Alliance for Peacebuilding.
• Luke Fanous (BA, 2020) will start his graduate studies at Columbia University.
• Madison Kienzle (MPA, 2020) was named senior planner for Benton County, AR.
• Autumn Lewis (MPA, 2021) became the director of development for the UA Honors College.
• Sarah Ames (MPA, 2020) was appointed assistant to the city manager in the City of Troy, MI.
• Megan Heckes (MPA, 2021) was named manager of Strategic Investments & Impacts at United Way.
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Psychological Science
Chair: Douglas A. Behrend

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

A. The Department (Behrend, Judah, Lamm, Lampinen, Leong, Shields Zabelina) continued its leadership in a campus-wide neuroscience initiative. Neuroscience is one of the five Innovation Cluster represented in the new I3R initiative, and the group has been involved deeply in the planning and design of the neuroscience facilities in the new I3R building.

B. Department offered two new undergraduate courses for the first time in the past academic year: 1) PSYC 3173: Biopsychology and 2) 3063: The Psychology of Diversity. Not only do these two courses provide our undergraduates with a greater breadth of courses but they are aligned with two of the primary research foci of the Department. These courses were extremely well-received by students. The Department also began planning a thorough revision of its undergraduate curriculum which we hope to have in place for the 2022-23 academic year.

C. The Department continues to be a leader in Diversity and Inclusion in the College and on campus. Dr. Ana Bridges is working as a Fellow in the IDEALS institute in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Graduate student Christina Mujica also served as a GA in the ODI. The Department held a workshop on inclusive psychology curriculum in Fall of 2020 with Drs. Kat Quina and Jasmine Mena.

D. The Department welcomed FIVE new faculty members to the Department this year. Professor Byron Lopez Zamboanga (Professor, Ph.D. Nebraska), Asst. Professor Matt Judah (Ph.D., Oklahoma State), Asst. Professor Josiah Leong (Ph.D Stanford), Asst. Professor Grant Shields (Ph.D., UC-Davis), and Instructor Mitch Brown (Ph.D. Southern Mississippi). All five have contributed already to the teaching, research, and service missions of the Department of Psychological Science.

E. Per Institutional Research reporting, PSYC had 974 major and awarded 201 degrees in 2020, both substantial increases over 2019 and approximately double our 2015 numbers!

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

A. The Department continues to hold a Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) training grant from the HRSA (Pis Bridges, Ham, Cavell, Judah). This grant funds 4 to 6 students annually in clinical placements in the broader community.

B. With support from the Department and the American Psychological Association, the department’s Psychology Honor Society (Psi Chi) conducted its second Psychological
Science Research and Award Night, virtually, in April 2021. 25 undergraduate and graduate students presented research from class, honors, masters, and dissertation projects.

C. Dr. Denise Beike was nominated for and admitted to the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy, the first member of our Department to receive this recognition.

D. Department faculty and students published approximately 110 peer-reviewed journal articles and had over 75 peer-reviewed papers and posters accepted at national and international conferences (held virtually) during the academic year.

E. Dr. Darya Zabelina received a $750,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research to study creativity and decision making under different time scales using both behavioral and EEG methodologies. Dr. Anastasia Makahnova received a $175,000 grant from NSF to study the relation between inflammation and social prejudice. Dr. Ellen Leen-Feldner received over $120,000 to study effects of CBD on anxiety. Dr. Ivan Vargas continued his K Award on Circadian rhythms and insomnia.

F. Dr. Timothy Cavell serves on the American Psychological Association’s Board of Directors and Dr. Douglas Behrend served on the APA Commission on Accreditation through December 2019. Graduate Student Linda Guzman received a prestigious APA Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship, which was recently renewed for a second year.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
Achievements of students and alumni or former students, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.

A. Numerous Psychological Science graduate students held Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Fellowships during the past year: Alita Mobley, Roselee Ledesma, Anna Marie Nguyen, Arooj Abid, and Harlee Onovbiona (starting this coming year).

B. Undergraduate and graduate students received awards for their research from professional organizations and conferences including from the Society for Neuroscience, Sleep Research Society, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race. Graduate student Christin Mujica was Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee of the Graduate-Professional Student Congress, and Christina Barnes was recently elected Vice President of the Black Student Association.

C. Doctoral alumni have taken academic positions this year at institutions including Southern Mississippi University, Pennsylvania State University-Scranton, and the University of Kentucky. Alumni David Tolin, Craig Sawchuck, Suzanne Meuniere and Bunmi Olatunji published a remembrance in The Behavior Therapist of Dr. Jeffrey M. Lohr their mentor and Professor Emeritus who passed away earlier this year.

D. Thirteen PSYC majors received Honors Designation by completing all requirements including a research honors thesis for their degrees awarded during the academic year.
ANNUAL REPORT

School of Social Work
Chair: Dr. Kim Stauss
Director: Dr. Alishia Ferguson

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- Towards the end of the academic year a $600,000 endowment from the Blue and You Foundation was secured. This will provide ongoing paid stipend internships at primary care medical field placements for two students. $100,000 of this money will go to set up the placements, as well as cover supervisor salary and provides tuition support for two students for three years.
- Three new faculty began their employment during the pandemic. (2TT and 1 NTT). Regardless of the difficult nature of their first year, all three responded that they felt supported and connected with the school’s faculty, staff and university culture. Along with the faculty hires, three SCWK Welcoming committees were initiated along with the Bridge Program. These committees participated in the onboarding process and school collaboration which contributed to the success of the new faculty feeling supported.
- Because of the pandemic, the school had to adjust and create new ways to continue community engagement opportunities for our students. As a result, zoom Lunch and Learns continued throughout the year. Additionally, the school held two Hackathons over zoom towards the end of the academic year. These included faculty working with a group of students to develop creative solutions for difficult social problems (suicide prevention, and LGBTQ+ support).
- Faculty continued to be successful at receiving external research funding. These faculty all received funding for research/evaluation projects: Johanna Thomas ($1,500,000 approximate funding), John Gallagher ($1,250,000 approximate funding), Plassmeyer ($160,000 approximate funding), Valandra ($11,500 approximate funding), and Jacob Goffnett ($10,000 approximate funding).
- Dr. Debra Hurd received another IV-E grant for 2021-2022 with a budget of $3,301,580. She was also primary investigator for a IV-E grant that ended in June 2021 ($3,361,001).
- The Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program continued through 2021 providing scholarships for social work students who complete internships in behavioral health. It totaled $1.8 million by Heath Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Another grant was awarded by HRSA and began July 2020. This provides social work scholarships for diverse students. Professors Collie and Rosa are co-investigators for these grants and the grant totaled approximately $2,740,000 in funding.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- Faculty published or have in press 17 articles in peer-reviewed journals as well as 2 book chapters. Contributing faculty include: Goffnett, Stauss, Gallagher, Christy, Fields, Valandra, and Plassmeyer,
Faculty completed 17 international, national, and regional presentations. Contributing faculty include: Ferguson, Goffnett, Collie/Hurd, Fields, Plassmeyer, Stauss, Thomas, and Valandra.

Dr. Thomas continued her term as president and Dr. Alishia Ferguson as vice-president of Arkansas National Association of Social Workers.

Various faculty participated in several community events and provided service. An example of some organizations includes OLLI, NWA Continuum of Care, Arkansas Crisis Center, Ark Dept. of Finance & Admin-STOP Implementation committee, EJI Memorial Remembrance Project, and Let’s Talk NWA.

Dr. Debra Hurd, Clinical Full Professor, began her 2nd reappointment to the State of AR Social Work Licensing Board. She is currently serving as the Chair of this board.

Professor Ananda Rosa developed several skills labs, learning modules, and an internship elective to support students in completing their hours for their Field placements.

Professor Ananda Rosa also received a promotion to Clinical Associate Professor.

Several faculty provided ongoing service to the university and college. Some university and college service includes Faculty Senate, Adopt-a Prof, Honors College Council, committee participation for OTD, First Generation Mentoring program, NTT College Personnel Committee, Mentoring Circle, Chancellor’s Commission on Women, Seniors of Significance, Chancellor’s Innovation Fund, Diversity Leaders, and Fulbright Academic Programs committee.

Dr. Alishia Ferguson continued working on a grant from the Chancellor Innovation and Collaboration to study Mobility and Aging in Collaboration (MAGIC): Impact of Transportation Mobility on Older Arkansans’ Quality of Life.

Professors Whitney Payne and Susan Tyler published the first OER book for the SCSW for their HBSE II course and in Fall 2020 this was available for use nationwide.

The online SUDS minor launched fall 2020.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

Three undergraduate students received an Honors College Research award. These students include K. Painter, M. Browning, and Hannah Baker. Dr.’s Alishia Ferguson and Kim Stauss were the advisors.

Emma Wiederhoeft, 2020 BSW Student of the Year, Arkansas NASW

Emma Wiederhoeft was a Senior of Significance in spring 2021

Morgan Browning, 2021 BSW Student of the Year, Arkansas NASW

Morgan Browning, 2021 BSW Poster Award, Arkansas NASW

Alumni Gonzalo Camp and Rita Cruz-Collins were Branch Representatives, Arkansas NASW
Annual Report for Department of Sociology and Criminology
July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021

Shauna A. Morimoto, Chair

I. A. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes
(top 3-5 highlights, more are optional as desired; can include major grants, awards, national recognition)

1. The Department of Sociology and Criminology was awarded the 2020 Daniel Ferritor Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Arkansas.

2. The faculty and research centers associated with the department generated over $1,843,000 in new funding and managed over $2,415,000 in federally funded research projects, including:
   
   - As members of a multidisciplinary team Dr. Shauna Morimoto (PI) and Dr. Anna Zajicek (Key Personnel) were awarded a $1,000,000 NSF ADVANCE Grant.
   
   - The Community and Family Institute continued to manage $368,700 in on-going funded research and outreach funding.
   
   - The Terrorism Research Center (TRC) managed two federally funded projects, closing out one $716,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice for 2018-2020 and managing another NIJ grant in the amount of $731,783. In conjunction with partners at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Dr. Grant Drawve, associate director of CASDAL received a $700,000 grant as part of a research partnership with the Chattanooga Police Department from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
   
   - The Center for Social Research (CSR) collaborated with an interdisciplinary team to receive $108,600 from the American Bar Foundation to assess Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and climate; co-director Thomas and CSR also received a $17,500 grant from AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence to evaluate the SPAARK pre-law program for the University of Arkansas Law School; CSR also co-managed a $600,000 grant from SAMSHA as part of an interdisciplinary team to perform the evaluation of the Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Project.

3. Dr. Brittany Hearne was awarded a prestigious Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty from the Center for Citizens and Scholars and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The fellowship is valued at $35,000.

4. Dr. Grant Drawve was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Lauren Sabon and Dr. Christopher Shields were both promoted to Teaching Associate Professor. Dr. Brittany Hearne successfully completed her pre-tenure, third year review.
5. The Department welcomed new hires Dr. Michael Niño, who is contributing to our expertise in Health and Wellbeing, Dr. Kayla Allison, with expertise in Criminology and Wellbeing and Dr. David Glisch-Sanchez (January 2021) contributing to expertise in inequalities and social justice.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service
Achievements in teaching, professional performance, research, scholarship and public service, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.

Dr. Douglass Adams – Master Teacher Award, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas

Dr. A. Justin Barnum – Open Education Resources Award, University Libraries, University of Arkansas

Dr. Grant Drawve and Katie Ratcliff – Open Education Resources Award, University Libraries, University of Arkansas

Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick -Master Researcher Award, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences; University of Arkansas

Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick – Distinguished Alumni Service Award, Susquehanna University

Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick and the Community Family Institute continued their work with Serve Northwest Arkansas to develop a tiny homes community to combat poverty and homelessness, Dr. Fitzpatrick helped secure $600,000 private donations to launch a capital campaign and $1 million to help fund completion of the project.

Dr. Jeff Gruenewald and the Terrorism Research Center began a project in collaboration with the Norwegian Police, University College on a project “Investigating Contested Theories on Extreme-Right Terrorism”

Dr. Brittany Hearne - DEI Office Faculty Fellowship, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Arkansas

Dr. Shauna Morimoto – Extraordinary Woman Award (leadership), Chancellor’s Commission on Women, University of Arkansas

Dr. Michael Niño - Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellowship, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas

III. Student and Alumni Achievements (especially those of national, regional, or statewide significance; can include awards, press appearances, etc.)

- Paulina Sobczak, sociology MA student was awarded a 2021 Southern Exposure Film Fellowship from the Alabama Rivers Alliance
• **Paulina Sobczak**, sociology MA student, “Cancel COVID” video competition, second place, Arkansas Department of Health
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T_5JNpPiFg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T_5JNpPiFg&feature=youtu.be)

• **Heather Parks**, sociology MA candidate Graduate Professional Student Congress research award, University of Arkansas

• **Daniel Webster**, sociology undergraduate student, Confronting our Past, Interrogating our Present Research Grant, Arkansas Humanities Center (Brittany Hearne faculty advisor).

• **Department of Sociology and Criminology Department** number of honors students or honors eligible students remains at an all time high, with 169 majors qualifying.

**IV. Other Productivity Measurements**
Productivity measures such as: the numbers of grants, dollars, student growth, new faculty, new administrators, and awards/honors (as appropriate for your area).

• **During the year**, the faculty and research centers associated with the department either managed and/or generated over **$4,258,000**
Department of Theatre
Annual Report July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Department of Theatre
Michael J. Riha, Chair
Top 3-5 highlights in the following three areas: (esp. those of international, national, regional, or statewide significance.

1. Achievements in Teaching, Research/Creative and Public Service

   a. Weston Wilkerson (Associate Professor) was asked to lead a task force by The United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) to create a series of re-opening guides tailored to theatre and event venue operations based upon current COVID mitigation guidelines from organizations such as the CDC, OSHA, EPA, etc. Professor Wilkerson’s group was composed of individuals from other Colleges and Universities as well as heads of operation or similar positions at professional theatres. The group produced eight of the original fifteen guides which were made available at no cost to theatres and performance venues after peer review. The guides were used worldwide as academic, civic, and professional theatres and event venues returned to operations throughout 2021.

   b. The Department of Theatre worked in conjunction with TheatreSquared and The Fayetteville Public Library to produce Matilda: The Musical at the Fayetteville Public Library Event Center. Due to covid-19, the production has been postponed from their 2020/21 season with a new opening to be scheduled for July of 2021. Five THTR faculty members – Associate Professor, Jason Burrow; Distinguished Professor, Amy Herzberg; Instructor, Noah Johnson; Teaching Assistant Professor, Morgan Hicks; and Associate Professor, Weston Wilkerson – were involved with the creation and/or leadership of the production. Three current students and six alumni were also members of the cast. Additionally, no fewer than eight former students are full or part time members of the TheatreSquared staff. The Department of Theatre also extended the use of their state-of-the-art lighting and rigging inventory from the U of A Blackbox Theatre to compliment the inventory owned by the Library.

   c. With the pending remodel of the Fine Arts Center, the recent acquisition of Nadine Baum Studio Theatre has been a welcomed addition to our unit. The additional 6000+ square feet of classroom/performance/rehearsal space is much needed in our quest to maintain accreditation through the National Association for Schools of Theatre (NAST). The lack of dedicated space for the Department of Theatre continues to be our primary challenge in serving both the MFA candidates as well as our BA majors. It will be critical that even after the renovation of the Fine Arts Center has been completed the Department of Theatre maintain access to this much needed space.
It would be an understatement to say that the covid-19 pandemic was challenging for the Department of Theatre to operate and serve students effectively. Given the inherent risks associated with close physical interactions associated with Theatre and Dance instruction, most of the Department of Theatre classes were shifted to either a hybrid or remote format. Our University Theatre season of productions also shifted to an online delivery method for all but one event that was held in April of 2021. Our average attendance for University Theatre productions during non Covid-19 years saw between 3500 and 4900 patrons. I am quite proud of our department for mounting 10 online productions and reaching over 2600 viewing patrons. Due to restrictions and publisher guidelines, we were unable to charge admission to any of our events, resulting in a loss of approximately 23K. The impact was distributed to other departmental funding sources that had less than typical financial demands due to the cancellation of in-person Lab Productions. As a result, we were able to share student work with over 2600 patrons virtually spread across 10 online productions. The department did mount one face-to-face Musical Theatre Cabaret in mid-April. The event was held in the Mini-Greek Theatre West of the Fine Arts Theatre. Fifty-six socially distanced audience members attended the two-day event. The majority of the in-person audience members were comprised primarily of university students, faculty, and staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Theatre Show</th>
<th>Online Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Store Junkie</td>
<td>412</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Laramie Project</td>
<td>747</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanities</td>
<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Arktypes New Play Festival:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Untitled Tornado Play</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>2084</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>S1ST3RS</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>We're All Soldiers...</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>This Bitch</td>
<td>306</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men on Boats</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical Cabaret Review (+ 56 face to face attendees)</td>
<td>495</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>2632</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
2. Student and Alumni Achievements
   a. Rachel Lynett (MFA 2015) – The prestigious 2021 Yale Drama Series Prize will be awarded to Rachel Lynett for her play *Apologies to Lorraine Hansberry (You Too August Wilson)*. The play was chosen by Pulitzer-winning playwright Paula Vogel. Lynett’s play is set in a fictional world, in which a second Civil War has taken place and Bronx Bay, an all-Black state (and neighborhood), has been established to protect “Blackness.” As Jules’s new partner, Yael, moves into town, community members argue over if Yael, who is Dominican, can stay. Questions of safety and protection surround both Jules and Yael as the utopia of Bronx Bay confronts within itself where the line is when it comes to defining who is Black and who gets left out in the process. This year the Yale Drama Series Prize received over 2,050 submissions from 60 countries. Ms. Lynett was awarded the prize of $10,000 as well as publication of her play by Yale University Press and a staged reading.

   b. NaTasha Devon (MFA 2019) joined efforts of the Fayetteville organization, The Black Action Committee to create a vigil that focused on uplifting black women. The Black Action Committee is an organization in Fayetteville, educating the black community on housing and financial literacy as well as many other issues facing black women.

   c. Lauren Ferebee’s (MFA 2021) most recent play, *GOODS*, was selected as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s 2021 recipient of the Planet Earth Arts Playwriting Award as well as nominated for the festival’s National Partners in American Theatre Award. The Planet Earth Arts Playwriting Award is created in partnership with the Planet Earth Arts Foundation and is given to plays that discuss sustainability and address the most urgent environmental and social justice issues of our time through the lens of arts and human creativity.
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (WLLC) Annual Report
Fulbright College, University of Arkansas
2020-2021

I. Significant Department Achievements and Changes

Three tenure-track replacement appointments successfully launched their careers at the University of Arkansas under the very challenging circumstance of working remotely under COVID: Annie Doucet, Assistant Professor of French; Daniela D’Eugenio, Assistant Professor of Italian; Manuel Olmedo Gobante, Assistant Professor of Spanish.

Two faculty in the department received promotions through the P&T process: Kathy Comfort to Professor of French; Violeta Lorenzo to Associate Professor of Spanish with tenure.

We were able to transition three faculty in the department into upgraded appointments, by different means: Fernando Riva from VAP to tenure-track Assistant Professor of Spanish, and Brenda Magnetti and Raquel Castro from Instructor to Teaching Assistant Professors. All three of these promotions were very well deserved as all three have already made outstanding contributions to our programs.

Rhodora Vennarucci, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies, was awarded the Fulbright Master Teacher Award this year. Vennarucci was also invited to fill a prestigious, one-year Visiting Professor position at the prestigious Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS) in Rome, Italy.

We successfully completed searches to fill two visiting appointments in the department for 2021-2022: Bethany Morgan, Ph.D. from Washington University in Saint Louis, has been hired to cover the teaching duties of Vennarucci while she is on assignment in Rome, and Yannleon Chen, Ph.D. from University of Arizona, has been hired to help cover teaching duties in the German section while Hoyer and Condray have Off-Campus Duty Assignments.

The department has had another outstanding year in research productivity. Highlights include two books that appeared in print during the last year: Linda Jones published *The Shattered Cross, French Catholic Missionaries on the Mississippi, 1698-1725*, with the Louisiana State University Press. Kathleen Condray published *Das Arkansas Echo: A Year in the Life of Germans in the Nineteenth Century South*, with the University of Arkansas Press.

Changes in language offerings: the department for now will, unfortunately, put Swahili on pause, due to the loss for visa reasons of our instructor David Irungu and low enrollment numbers. Thanks to Walton College for their financial support of this initiative. On a positive note, with funding support from our UA Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we will launch a pilot program in Cherokee in fall 2021, with instructor Lawrence Panther.

Following the resignation of Administrative Support Supervisor Kathy Lake in early 2021, the department has had to manage a difficult transition, still in process, to a new person in that
position. Many thanks to the outstanding staff in the Dean’s office for their support during these difficult weeks and months.

Spanish has had an important transition in leadership, with Violeta Lorenzo assuming the duties of Spanish section head.

We celebrate and applaud the entire department and all our personnel for sustaining admirably and with integrity throughout the year our programs, initiatives, and mission under the very challenging and unprecedented circumstances of remote class delivery and work under pandemic conditions. COVID, however, did disrupt several of our activities and initiatives: for example, our outstanding, faculty-led study abroad programs in China, Japan, Greece, Rome, Mexico, and Spain all had to be cancelled; execution of Steven Bell’s 100k Strong Across the Americas grant initiative was once again granted an extension; and Daniel Levine’s Chancellor’s Grant initiative (“Black Prometheus”) was not able to be implemented.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, Assistant Professor of Italian, was elected President of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI) for 2021-2023. Calabretta-Sajder also received a Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant from the Italian Government for $14,300 in support of Italian section activities.

JF Nihongo Network Membership: On behalf of the Japanese program at the University of Arkansas, Fukushima received a certificate to renew its membership of the JF Nihongo Network (a.k.a. “Sakura Network”) from President Hiroyasu Ando of The Japan Foundation. This renewed membership is valid through 2024.

Violeta Lorenzo (SPAN) won the Best Essay Award from the Canadian Association of Hispanists in fall 2020 for her peer-reviewed article on one of Manuel Martínez Maldonado’s novels. The essay was published in the 2019 spring issue of the Cincinnati Romance Review.

Dr. Kathleen Condray (GERM) along with Dr. Linda Jones (WLLC) and Dr. Ryan Calabretta-Sajder (ITAL), were recipients of a University of Arkansas Humanities Consultant grant for continued work on their collaborative digital humanities project “Mapping Unheard Migrant Voices in Arkansas.”

Edvan Brito completed his national certification as an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Tester of Portuguese. Brito also participated in the task force that is preparing the 4th edition of the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages, an initiative of the National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project.

Fredrick and Vennarucci (CLST), under the auspices of the Tesseract Center, launched and continued several projects of national and international significance, including the Virtual
Pompei Project and the Virtual Roman Retail project, with participation from graduate student Will Loder, and VILLAE: Vennarucci (co-PI) and Fredrick (co-PI) with Tanasi (co-PI, Univ. of South Florida) launched VILLAE (Virtual Interaction and Live Learning Augmented Experience) in fall 2020. VILLAE transforms digital data sets captured from Roman villa sites in Sicily into interactive 3D models to enhance the visibility and accessibility of these important cultural heritage sites.

Daniel Levine was named the March 2021 Wally Cordes Chairperson by the Teaching and Faculty Support Center.

The new Arabic BA program, in its second year, proudly graduated 5 students in Spring 2021 with BAs in Arabic. In Fall 2019, two social media accounts “Arabic at the U of A - @uarkarabic” were launched on Facebook and Instagram. Followers have increased over the past year to 200 and we have published 100 posts. Departmental webpage has been updated regularly.

In fall 2020, the Portuguese Program continued its participation in the Tele-tandem Project and partnered with the English Program at the State University of Londrina (UEL), State of Parana in Brazil to provide the participating students the opportunity to practice the target language they were learning with native speakers in a more informal setting. Each participating class had four interactions per semester.

Several faculty members received research awards from the University of Arkansas Humanities Center, including Rachel TenHaaf and Manuel Olmedo Gobante from Spanish. Fernando Riva received a very competitive Summer Stipend award from Fulbright College.

Arabic faculty members Adnan and Paula Haydar had extensive publications of national and international significance in Arabic literary translation.

Danjie Su (CHIN) did invited article reviews for numerous national and international journals, including the Journal of Pragmatics and Linguistics.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

The department has had an outstanding year in placing our BA and MA graduates in important MA and Ph.D. programs across the country, including the following: Jonathan Rancudo from the French MA to the Ph.D. program in linguistics at the University of Kansas; Jordi Vargas and Laura Fontalvo from the Spanish MA to the Ph.D. program at Arizona State University; Nathan Parker from the Spanish BA to the Master of Public Policy program at the American University in Washington, D.C.; Ai-Ling Lu from the Comp Lit MA to the Ph.D. program at the Ohio State University; Michael McLaughlin from the German MA to the Ph.D. program at Penn State University; Magdalena Viktora-Jones to the Ph.D. program in international business at Florida International University; and Ian Goddard from the German BA to the European-American Studies graduate program at the University of Regensburg in Germany.
Two students received the Critical Language Scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to study intensive Russian this summer. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the program will be online. The host university is American University of Central Asia, in Kyrgyzstan: 1) Lucas Ros (B.A.’21, honors in Spanish, International and Global Studies), completed RUSS 1003; 2) Spencer Hazeslip (B.A. ’22, honors in biochemistry), completed RUSS 1003, 1013, 2003, and 2013.

Rome Hernandez Morgan was also awarded a 2021 Critical Language Scholarship for Portuguese.

Three French BA and MA students were selected for the nationally competitive TAPIF (Teaching Assistant Program in France) program: Grace Abbick, Priscilla Etheredge, and Emily Crawford.

Ai-Ling Lu (Comp Lit Graduate, Chinese TA), University-wide Winner of Three Minute Thesis (3MT), University of Arkansas. This is the second time a wllc MA student won the university-wide 3MT at the UofA.

Spanish MA graduate Mayra Flores won the Outstanding TA Award and a Summer Support Fellowship at Michigan State University.

BA graduate Yumi Ha received a Fulbright Teaching Award to Rome.

Isaac Hampton, student in the Chinese minor, was accepted into the Princeton in Beijing Program in summer 2020.
Annual Report for African and African American Studies
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT
African and African American Studies
Dr. Valandra, Director
Dr. Brandon Jackson, Assistant Director

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- AAST graduated 12 majors, 16 minors, and 1 graduate certificate student in May 2020
- Hosted Annual Fall Lecture – Kiese Laymon – Author of award-winning memoir *Heavy* – Co-sponsored by Fulbright College of Art & Sciences, Walton College, Honors College, University Libraries, Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Political Science, School of Social Work, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Program in Creative Writing and Translation

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

Teaching – New Course Approvals
- AAST 4973 Black and White Sexualities
- AAST 5903 Special Topics – African American
- AAST 5913 Independent Study – African American
- AAST 6963: Visualizing Critical Race Theory
- AAST 6023 Destabilizing Queer Theory
- AAST 3103: Diversity, Pedagogy, & Visual Culture
- AAST 2053 The Athlete As Hero
- AAST 4623 African American Art History
- AAR 4823 Black Freedom in the Age of Emancipation

Scholarships
- AAST admitted 7 students into its graduate certificate program and awarded graduate fellowships totaling $8,800
- AAST awarded undergraduate scholarships to 15 students totaling $25,000

Public Service
- Co-sponsored the “Leading with Excellence Awards” Dinner hosted by The Compassion Fayetteville Black Cultural Action Committee
- Co-sponsored the Voter Town Hall Meeting hosted by
- Co-sponsored talk by Dr. Khalid Medani – “Sudan: Revolution and Future Prospects hosted by MEST
- Co-sponsored “Just Mercy” movie hosted by One Book One Community

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

• Symposium on Making Sense of the U.S.-China Trade War

The Asian Studies program held a symposium on Making Sense of the U.S.-China Trade War on Thursday, September 19, 2019. This symposium was made possible by the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) grant we received from the U.S. Department of Education and generous support from the Dean’s Office of the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Recent tensions in the trade and investment relations between the United States (U.S.) and China offer many exciting opportunities to reexamine established theories about how trade and investment flows affect domestic political alignments as well as how domestic politics in both countries shape international bargaining. This workshop brought together a group of scholars to examine various aspects of U.S.-China trade and investment relations, including the domestic politics of China’s trade and investment policy, the impact of trade and investment with China on U.S. domestic politics, and the role of multinational firms in the U.S.-China relationship.

• Asian Studies Speakers’ Series

The Asian Studies program has continued its annual speakers’ series as a way of promoting student awareness of Asian culture and societies in 2019. Below is a list of the talks and events sponsored by the Asian Studies Program in the past year.

- “The China Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections” took place on November 18th, 2019. The China Town Hall is a national day of programming designed to provide Americans across the United States and beyond the opportunity to discuss issues in the relationship with leading experts. This year’s event starts with a national webcast featuring moderator George Stephanopoulos, Chief Anchor of ABC News and panel discussions with Steve Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, Melanie Hart, Senior Fellow and Director for China Policy at the Center for American Progress, and Dr. Yasheng Huang, Epoch Foundation professor of international management and faculty director of action learning at Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The national website was followed by discussions among the local audience, facilitated by Dr. Kelly Hammond from the History Department.
- Dr. Yanjie Bian, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota, “The Increasing Significance of Guanxi in Reform-era China.” October 17th, 2019.
New Minor in East Asian History and Politics.

The Asian Studies program introduced a new minor in East Asian History and Politics in Fall 2019. This minor is designed to enhance the interdisciplinary aspect of our program and deepen students’ understanding of the historical and political developments of East Asia, in particular China and Japan. Students must complete 15 hours in courses related to East Asian history and political science in order to earn the minor. The interdisciplinary nature of this degree will allow students to use a variety of courses on East Asia to develop their own B.A. degree and thus prepare for a career related to the region. By providing students of disciplinary majors with an opportunity to obtain some credentials for the East Asian history and politics courses they have taken, this new minor is expected to increase these students’ competitiveness in their post-graduation academic or professional careers in addition to helping to increase program enrollment.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

1. Teaching

• Dr. Kelly Hammond developed a new survey course Modern Japan (HIST 3633) and offered it for the first time in Fall 2019. She also advised two honors theses about East Asia.
• Dr. Song Yang started to offer a cross-listed course "SOCI/AIST: 3273 Sociology of China" in Fall 2019.
• Dr. Danjie Su and Jenny Xu added two new sessions to CHIN 1003 (004) and CHIN 3103 in Fall 2019 and two more sessions of CHIN 1013 (004) and CHIN 4313 (002) in Spring 2020.
• The Chinese Program organized several major events in fall 2019 and spring 2020, including the Chinese Moon Festival Party/Information Session for Faculty-led Study Abroad in Nanjing, China; Chinese program gatherings; Chinese New Year Celebration; and the Chinese Lantern Festival. It also participated in the study abroad fairs organized by the Office of Study Abroad and by Walton College as well as the Springdale High School Foreign Language Fair.
• Dr. Oh Mee Lee, visiting professor in the Department of Art, offered four new courses on Asian Art in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, including (a) ARHS 4983/5993 Special Topics in Art History: Asian Art; (b) ARHS 4993/5993 Special Topics in Art History: Contemporary Asian Art; (c) ARHS 4983/4983H/5983 Special Topics in Art History: Paper, Silk, Porcelain, and Bronze: Materials Across Asia; and (d) ARHS 4983/4983H/5983 Special Topics in Art History: Calligraphy and Writing: Literary Arts of China.
• Dr. Danjie Su developed new pedagogical approaches for her courses on Chinese language and culture: CHIN 4313 Culture and Society in China: Description of Activity, Data Analysis research series:
  Presentation I: First-hand Data
  Presentation II: Initial Data Analysis
  Presentation III: Final Data Analysis
CHIN 3103 Chinese Culture and Films: Description of Activity, Scholarly Peer-Review of research manuscripts (using Blackboard); and Peer Evaluation of Presentations (using Google Form)
CHIN 4313 Culture and Society in China, Description of Activity, Data Presentation
CHIN 1013 Elementary Chinese II, Description of Activity, Real-World Writing
• Dr. Ren Tan, a visiting instructor, taught PLSC 390V: Understanding China and Japan in Fall 2019. This course offers an introduction to the relations between China and Japan and helps to prepare students for more advanced courses on these two courses.

2. Research

Books
• Kelly Hammond, "China’s Muslims and Japan’s Empire: Centering Islam in World War II" (University of North Carolina Press, Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks Series, forthcoming).

Articles

Book Chapters
• Kelly Hammond, “Muslim interactions between China, Central Asia, and Japan,” in Handbook of Islam in Asia, edited by Chiara Formichi (Routledge, Spring 2021)

Opinion and Analysis for a General Audience
3.  *Service*

- Dr. Kelly Hammond is a participant in the 2019-2021 Public Intellectual Program, Cohort VI, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.
- Dr. Kelly Hammond conducted six media interviews on issues related to Islam, the Uyghurs, and the Chinese party-state and published six opinion pieces on these topics. She gave three invited talks on Islam in China. She has four scheduled talks on these topics that ended up being postponed due to Covid-19.
- Dr. Danjie Su served as an external referee for seven journals. She is also a board member of the Journal of Asian Pacific Communication.
- Dr. Ka Zeng served on the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Comparative Government and Politics Development Committee.
- Dr. Ka Zeng served on the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Committee.
- Dr. Ka Zeng has served as an external referee for five journals. She has also published two opinion pieces on issues related to China’s Belt and Road initiative and the U.S.-China trade war.

III. *Student and Alumni Achievements*

- Isaac Hampton, a student in the Asian Studies program, was accepted into the Princeton in Beijing Program in summer 2020.
- Magdalena Kellogg received a fellowship for study abroad in China ($4,200) from the University in 2019.
- More than 10 students received scholarships and grants to study abroad in 2019 and 2020. Unfortunately, our faculty-led 2020 summer study abroad program in China did not make due to COVID-19.
Annual Report for Fulbright Student Success
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT
Name of Department, Program, or Center: Fulbright Student Success
Name of Chair/Director: Deborah Korth, Clinical Professor and Director
Team Members: Erica Estes, Carrie Jackson, Jackson Jennings, Zach Meyers, and Toby Phebus

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

1. Strategic outreaches were used to support students in the College of Arts and Sciences with increased support during the pandemic.
2. The work of the team was broadened to support students in recruitment to employment after graduation.
3. The team collaborated with ARSC advisors, faculty, and other colleges/university student success teams to support and augment their High Impact Practices (HIPs), student success initiatives, and support for students during the pandemic.
4. Continued redevelopment of the university wide, Destination Arkansas Blackboard Activities remains a focus to support incoming students and to communicate with all students enrolled in DABA F18, Sp19, F19 and Sp20. We are currently collaborating with others to develop an anti-racism curriculum to be included in all sections of DABA.
5. Trained in and exploring coaching: academic coaching, life coaching, and career coaching.

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

1. Strategic Outreach
   - Fall 2019: Emails and texts (using Signal Vine) were sent to students who showed indicators for academic distress including low early progress GPA, UA Success Flag Indicators (poor attendance, poor participation, or poor academic performance), or low overall GPA. This resulted in contact with several hundred students via email, phone, and text as well as many face-to-face meetings in our office.
   - Spring 2020: In January, outreach was extended to students who were placed on academic probation or who had low GPA scores via email and texts. Outreach campaigns changed due to Covid-19. We still contacted students with the indicators mentioned above, but we also broadened our outreach to check in on as many ARSC students as possible to offer support and/or guidance. Most of this support was offered via email, text message (using Signal Vine) and via phone.
   - Since early March, student concerns are broad and varied, but include Covid-19 safety on campus, difficulty of online course loads, Spring grade policy questions, advising, wellness issues, living situation, financial strain, anxiety and depression, SAP Appeals, how to navigate applying to graduate or professional school, refunds from the Spring semester, and a number of other issues. The team worked with students through many specific issues or directed them to the resources they needed in order to have their questions answered (e.g., Treasurer’s Office, CAPS, CEA, Student Services, Financial Aid, Advising, etc.). These outreaches are ongoing, and the team continues to reconnect with the students throughout the summer.
   - Throughout this academic year, the texting platform SignalVine has become an increasingly important tool. Over 5123 students were contacted via text. Records indicate a 28.6% level of engagement. The latest outreach suggests that even though students may not respond to the text, they take action. After texting all ARSC students who had not yet preregistered for classes in late June, 50 had pre-enrolled within that week.

2. Supporting Students from Recruitment to Employment
   - Zach Meyers, Coordinator of New Student Recruitment and Erica Estes, Director of Employer Relations, became part of the team bringing their expertise to support the full development of the student from recruitment to employment. Not only were they able to help the team better support the students, their work increased collaboration with the team with the Office of Admissions, University Career Development Center, and other campus stakeholders. This allows the team to create a more unified message for students and student success across the university community.

3. Collaborations
   - We are not sure who said it first but, “It takes a village to graduate a student.” The Student Success Team continues to collaborate with a variety of people both within the college and outside of the college including advisors, parents, faculty, student affairs professionals, other college student success leaders. Some of the most notable collaboration activities from the academic year are listed below.
     - Collaborated with many campus stakeholders to sponsor higher education author and Tia Brown McNair, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive Director for the TRHT Campus Centers, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, AAC&U, to discuss Becoming a Student Ready University: Achieving Equity in Student Learning and Success
The team met with many faculty from a cross section of ARSC departments in Town Hall style meetings around February 2020 to offer assistance in matters pertaining to tracking item data collection, improved communication, at-risk student flags, etc. These meetings were not designed to tell faculty and instructors what they should be doing to improve student success. Rather, they were designed to listen and find common sense areas for collaboration and mutual improvement.

Dr. Korth is the adopted professor for Yocum. Dr. Jennings is the adopted professor for commuters.

In addition, the team has provided departmental and individual training related to UASuccess/Starfish. These trainings offer an enhanced sense of camaraderie and purpose between areas, as well as offering valuable opportunities for encouraging continued collaboration.

Participated and presented at several Teaching Faculty Support Center events.

Collaboration with others to organize the HIP and Well Conference

Collaboration with other student success and support staff to adopt software to support university-wide student success initiatives (Signal Vine, CampusESP, People Grove, Chatbot)

School of Art - Graphic Design & Industry Lunch (Feb. 2020)

CIA Campus Tour & Information Sessions (Fall and Spring): collaborated with International Studies, CAST, Terrorism Research Center, WCOB faculty, College of Engineering faculty, campus-wide Directors of Employer Relations

Honors College career initiatives

Student Services, Student Success & Advising Retreat with Innovate 2 Lead & also Book club on Gen Z

The team has provided departmental and individual training related to UASuccess/Starfish. These trainings offer an enhanced sense of camaraderie and purpose between areas, as well as offering valuable opportunities for encouraging continued collaboration.

Regarding tracking items in UASuccess specifically, our team has collaborated with advising and faculty to initiate and design protocol for several shared tracking items in the system. Prepare COVID-19 Awareness & Prevention training to all UA students.

Continue to develop and explore partnerships and programming for future Student Success Center.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

1. Career Education

Recruitment and Career Education were added to the Student Success team, effectively expanding student services from pre-admission to post-graduation. Career-focused achievements included filling the Career Connections (Life Design) class to capacity (increasing the number of ARSC students participating in career networking events), collaboration with History, Math, and Sociology departments to include career assignments in capstone and research methods classes, co-facilitated workshop for faculty with the Humanities Center, collaboration with Center for Community Engagement to offer a Nonprofit Career Fair, and a weekly Career Insider email blast with a typical reader base of 200-250 students. Remaining connected to Stanford University’s Life Design Studio and further developing the DYL curriculum remains a focus of the team. We had representation at the quarterly national office hours and the Life Design Studio Meet-up this summer. Due to our ambassadorship of Designing Your Life, this curriculum has been adopted around campus- UA Career Center, WCOB, Wellness Center, and most recently with Sociology’s Senior Seminar and Honors College.

2. Biology Education

Dr. Jennings continues to collaborate on research in evolutionary biology with Bill Etges with a manuscript in preparation. He also taught the newly developed Biology Bridges in Spring 2020 to 25 students.

3. University Perspectives with Peer Mentors and HIPs

Drs. Korth and Jennings also taught University Perspectives in the Fall of 2019, utilizing student peer mentors as SI leaders and focusing on HIPs as a standard practice. Continue to support the ongoing development of online materials for future UNIV courses.

4. Destination Arkansas Blackboard Activities (DABA)

Continued redevelopment of the university-wide DABA remains a focus to support incoming students and to communicate with all students enrolled in the past for iterations of DABA. Currently, there are four active sections of DABA for the incoming students in Fall 18, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020. The fifth version of DABA is under development for the Fall 2020 incoming class.
As the problems of the pandemic and racial tensions increased, DABA became an important communication tool for the students actively enrolled in one of the four existing sections of DABA. Announcements offering support, encouragement, and learning resources were made available to students throughout the tumultuous spring and summer semesters. Currently, curriculum on anti-racism is being developed to implement in all five sections of DABA to support all current and new students enrolled.

The newest iteration of DABA Fall 2020 has been streamlined to make it more accessible to students as well as the freshmen seminar instructors. Instead of having reflective questions sprinkled throughout the activities, they are all concentrated in a cumulative capstone individual success plan highlighted at the end of the assignment. That way, the student has access to the feedback generated from the multiple choice and true/false activities before constructing their reflective, individualized success plan.

5. **Presentations: National, State & Local**
   d. Korth, D. (2019, April 2). Incentivizing and Training Faculty and Staff (Round Table Discussion). INSPIRE Conference. Austin, TX.
   h. E. Estes & Career Dev. Center (2019, Aug) Faculty Career Champions Breakfast. Fayetteville, AR.
   i. L. Szwydky-Davis & E. Estes (2019, Nov. 6) Infusing Career Education into Humanities Courses. Humanities Center workshop, Fayetteville, AR.

6. **Grant Proposals Awarded**
   a. Funding to Support 10 Students to be Peer Mentors/Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders for a 150-Seat University Perspectives Class in Fall 2019; Teaching Faculty and Support Center Student Success Grant; Awarded $5000; Co Authors: Deborah Korth, Jackson Jennings and Kelly Westeen
   b. Funding to support 10 diverse students to be Student Success Liaisons and Peer Mentors for the Fall 2020 semester. Students will be active in welcoming freshmen and helping students across campus, as well as fostering discussions on diversity, anti-racism, and social justice. Student Success Grant: Awarded $5000; Author: Jackson Jennings

II. **Student and Alumni Achievements**

- Joshua Green, May 2020 Communication Grad and Spring 2020 Career Connections class alum, reported accepting a position as an Area Manager Role with Amazon in Memphis, TN.
- Azat Sadyrov (ECON BA major and Spring 2020 Career Connections class alum) is working with math faculty Samantha Robinson on a COVID-19 related research project featured in the May 7 Arkansas newsletter.
- Placement Data: Of the 662 ARSC May grads who have already submitted a First Destination Survey (the survey closes in December 2020): 339 indicate they are working full-time, 150 are continuing their education and 181 are still seeking their next opportunity.
Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. **Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes**
   Significant achievements and changes, including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of assessment of student learning.
   
   - Blair Center team member, Dr. Xavier Medina Vidal, the Diane D. Blair Professor of Latino Politics, received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Political Science.
   - The Blair Center sponsored the 8th Blair Legacy Series Conference on the Elaine Race Massacre held in Little Rock in September 2019, co-organized by Professors Calvin White and Mike Pierce.
   - Members of the Blair Center team successfully conducted a search for a tenure-track position in African American Political Behavior to replace, Pearl Ford Dowe, who to a position at Emory. Hired Dr. Najja K. Baptist (Ph.D. Howard University). Search committee was chaired by Angie Maxwell, Director of the Blair Center.
   - Members of the Blair Center team completed another round of evaluation and selection of the Blair Center Summer Faculty Research Fellowships, awarding two $3000 summer stipends for Fulbright College Faculty.

II. **Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service**
   Achievements in teaching, professional performance, research, scholarship and public service, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.
   
   - Xavier Medina Vidal was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the Latina/o Caucus for the Midwest Political Science Association, 2019-202.
   - A survey research proposal by the Blair Center team of Angie Maxwell, Xavier Medina Vidal, Todd Shields, and Najja Baptist was selected by Qualtrics for a pilot program testing their national database, securing the center a national data set at no cost to the Center.

III. **Student and Alumni Achievements**
   Achievements of students and alumni or former students, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.
   
   - The Blair Center graduated additional SOST minors.
• The Blair Center sponsored the Blair Graduate Fellowships in the departments of English and history.
• Angie Maxwell nominated Diane Blair to Arkansas Women Hall of Fame. The induction was held in August 2019.

IV. Other Productivity Measurements
Productivity measures such as: the numbers of grants, dollars, student growth, new faculty, new administrators, and awards/honors (as appropriate for your area).
• The Facebook page and Twitter account for the Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society. Membership has grown to over 650 members and followers.
ANNUAL REPORT

CENTER FOR ARKANSAS AND REGIONAL STUDIES
Robert Cochran, Director

I Significant Center Achievements

--Served on committee designing and sponsoring “Captivity and Resistance” programs exploring the history of WW II-era POW and internment camps in Arkansas, November 15-16, 2019. Arranged for and introduced a presentation by emeritus art professor John Newman and his wife Joanna Leapheart Newman that highlighted the many bitter ironies of the time for local African American communities. (Interned Japanese and imprisoned Germans and Italians lived with government support in conspicuously better circumstances than their ostensibly free neighbors.)

--Worked with artists Don House and Sabine Schmidt on Remote Access, their photographic portrait of rural and small-town Arkansas libraries, currently scheduled for publication by the University of Arkansas Press in 2021, in the “Arkansas Character” series sponsored by CARS and the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. Accompanied House and Schmidt to eight libraries—Charleston Cotton Plant, Eureka Springs, Horatio, Morrilton, St. Paul, West Fork, Wrightsville. Will write the introduction for their book.

--Worked as co-author with retired journalism professor Dale Carpenter on Reporting for Arkansas, a book-length with ten hours of video celenration of newsman-turned documentarian Jack Hill’s twenty-year career as a pioneering Arkansas independent filmmaker. This book, now completed, is also scheduled for 2021 publication by the University of Arkansas Press.
II  Achievements in Public Service

--Provided financial support to the Special Collections Division of the University of Arkansas Library for digitization of films in the Jack Hill Collection.

--Continued to provide financial support to KUAF for their “Pickin’ Post” show.

--Continued to provide financial support to the Division of Enrollment Services for their annual “Arkansas Reads” program.
Annual Report for Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies
Jackson Cothren, Professor, Department of Geosciences

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

(Including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning.)

○ Strategic hires in data science: CAST added three new Research Faculty to its staff, all with strong backgrounds in one or more disciplines within data science.
  ○ Christopher Angel, PhD, University of Arkansas, will lead center’s research computing and software development group. He has both academic and industry experience using geospatial data science to inform logistics and supply chain management, image processing and analysis, and other disciplines.
  ○ Carla Klehm, PhD, University of Texas, will lead the center’s spatial archaeometry and digital humanities research and has already won two awards – one from NSF and one from NEH. She will take over as PI of the ongoing, NSF-funded, Spatial Archaeometry Research Collaborations (SPARC) project (entering its 8th year) and build on that effort. The SAROI-award from NEH will bring young scholars – students, post-docs, and early career faculty to Arkansas to learn how to apply spatial data science to questions in archaeometry and the humanities.
  ○ Henry (Hank) Theiss, PhD, Purdue University, left a 30-year career in industry to join the center as a senior research photogrammetrist. Hank is a highly regarded photogrammetrist through the federal government and in industry and specializes in complex sensor stochastic models. He will lead the center’s research contract with Sandia National Lab.
  ○ Two professors in the center, Cothren and Limp, are actively involved with the new undergraduate Data Science (DASC) Program; developing two new classes in geospatial data science and forming a concentration for DASC students in that field.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

○ CAST is leading the 5-year, $24M, NSF-EPSCoR state-wide Track 1 grant. The project includes of 58 faculty and up to 200 students from 17 institutions. Data Analytics that are Robust and Trusted (DART) will explore solutions to ethical and technical problems facing the data science community – data curation and life cycle analysis, privacy and ethics in social media and model training, and interpretability of complex machine learning and artificial intelligence.

○ CAST negotiated a 7-year agreement, allowing spending up to $8M, with Sandia National Lab to conduct a variety of research in geospatial data science and geomatics, optimization and operations research, electric grid resilience, and cybersecurity.

○ The center ended a highly successful, four year, NSF-funded collaboration with 5 community colleges, providing training and materials to integrate geospatial data science into existing programs of study in computer science, environmental science, and business. CAST will seek additional funding to continue and expand the program in FY21.

○ Deeper engagement with the College of Engineering (CVEG, CSCE, INEG) led to grants from USDOT, a private industry partnership, and ARDOT to develop a variety of new methods to track maritime freight movement and monitor the health of bridges and roadways.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)
Panagiotis Giannakis, PhD, 2018 joined Pennsylvania State University as a Teaching Assistant Professor in their online GIScience programs, the largest collection of programs of this nature in the country.
I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- **Redefined** the Center for Communication Research’s mission statement (see Appendix A).
- **Continued renovations on the associated lab space** in Kimpel #405 and #405A (1,347 square feet), and maintained the following hardware and software:
  - Perception analyzer equipment from DialSmith to gauge moment-to-moment audience responses to both prerecorded and live media content
  - SnapStream video server to simultaneously record multiple channels of television programming
  - Tobii Pro Spectrum eye tracker to measure both point of gaze and eye movement (1200 Hz)
  - Tobii Pro Nano portable eye trackers to measure both point of gaze and eye movement outside of the lab (60Hz)
  - Portable audio and video recording equipment
  - Dell laptop computers
  - Mangold Interact software to transcribe, annotate, interpret, and code texts
  - SONA Systems cloud-based participant management software
- **Recruited** and formally invited **6 affiliate members** from 12 departments across the University of Arkansas (see Appendix B).
- Created a **speaker series** sponsored by the Center for Communication Research.
  - **Presenter:** Mengfei Guan, Department of Communication
    **Presentation Title:** Enhancing the Relationship between Health Risk Perception and Behavioral Intention (see Appendix C)
  - **Presenter:** Lauren Quetsch, Department of Psychological Science
    **Presentation Title:** Building Treatments for Underserved Children and Families (see Appendix D)

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

- Maintained an approximately 200 person **participant pool** through COMM1313: Public Speaking during the Fall 2019 semester. During the Spring 2020 semester, approximately 300 participants were pooled.
- Solicited proposals for an **internal funding pool** sponsored by the Center for Communication Research. Proposals were reviewed by the Director of the Center for Communication Research and the Steering Committee. The following projects were supported and deliverables are expected within a two-year period.
  - **PI:** Lisa Corrigan, Department of Communication
    **Project Title:** The Civil Rights Sex Tapes: Racial Ghostlistening and Antiblack Fantasy
    **Amount Received:** $2,380
  - **PI:** Mengfei Guan, Department of Communication
    **Co-PI:** Matthew Spialek, Department of Communication
    **Project Title:** Designing Effective Messages to Enhance Heat Wave Risk Perception and Protection Motivation
    **Amount Received:** $8,800
  - **PI:** Ryan Neville-Shepard, Department of Communication
    **Project Title:** Remembering the Presidency: Spaces and Places of Memory and American Leadership
    **Amount Received:** $1,000
  - **PI:** Ron Warren, Department of Communication
Co-PI: Lindsey Aloia, Department of Communication
Project Title: Broadband Internet Access, Cyberbullying & the Homework Gap
Amount Received: $5,322

- Solicited proposals for an internal summer funding sponsored by the Center for Communication Research. Proposals were reviewed by the Director of the Center for Communication Research and the Steering Committee. The following individuals were supported and deliverables are expected within a two-year period.
  - Lindsey Aloia- Individual and Relational Outcomes Associated with Dispositional Forgiveness
  - Lisa Corrigan- Shock and Awe: The Violence of John Brown’s Body
  - Mengfei Guan- Exploring the Effects of Discrete Emotions Before and After Health Information Seeking
  - Fred Jennings- Political Identity and Polarization
  - Ryan Neville- Shepard- Agitation and Containment of Third Party Outsiders in Presidential Debates
  - Matthew Spialek- Coping During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Yaguang Zhu- Designing for the Dynamic Needs of Young Adult Cancer Survivors

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

- COMM5323: Seminar in Persuasion taught by Robert Brady and Fred Jennings enrolled 4 graduate students who met weekly in the Center for Communication Research’s associated lab to utilize the perception analyzer equipment to gauge moment-to-moment audience responses to prerecorded propaganda regarding the meat industry.
- COMM5123: Quantitative Research Methods in Communication taught by Lindsey Aloia enrolled 7 graduate students who met weekly in the Center for Communication Research’s associated lab to utilize laptop computers equipped with data analytics software (i.e., SPSS).
APPENDIX A

The Center for Communication Research (CCR) facilitates collaborative, interdisciplinary social research within the University of Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas region, and broader intellectual community. Toward this end, the CCR seeks to stimulate and support interdisciplinary collaborations; provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate participation; engage regional, state, and national funding agencies; and acquire and maintain the equipment necessary to support research endeavors. The CCR manages a research lab space that includes state-of-the-art technology for studying all facets of communication.
APPENDIX B

College of Education and Health Professions
- Stephen Dittmore
- Brian Primack

Clinton School of Public Service
- Robert Richards

Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
- Marty Matlock

Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Dennis Beck

Department of Food Science
- Jamie Baum

Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation
- Michelle Gray

Department of Political Science
- Barcu Bayram
- Patrick Conge
- Andrew Dowdle
- Pearl Dowe
- Valerie Hunt
- Angie Maxwell
- Patrick Stewart

Department of Psychological Sciences
- Doug Behrend
- Ana Bridges
- Connie Lamm
- Lauren Quetsch
- Jennifer Veilleux

Department of Sociology and Criminology
- Justin Barnum
- Kevin Fitzpatrick
- Casey Harris
- Shauna Morimoto
- Shaun Thomas
- Anna Zajicek

Department of World Languages
- Linda Jones

Mullins Library
- Michelle Gibeault

School of Art
- Stefani Byrd
- Adam Hogan

School of Journalism and Strategic Media
- Brandon Bouchillon
- Ignatius Fosu
- Rob Wells
- Jan Wicks
School of Social Work

- Carly Franklin
- Johanna Thomas
- Valandra
APPENDIX C

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION RESEARCH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION PRESENT:

ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH RISK PERCEPTION AND BEHAVIORAL INTENTION:
The Role of Tailoring Temporal Message Frame to Individuals’ Time Orientation

MENGFEI GUAN, PH.D. DEPT. OF COMMUNICATION

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019
TIME: 4:00PM LOCATION: 105 KIMPEL

Risk perception is a robust predictor of protective behaviors in health communication. However, even when people are aware of a health risk, they do not always adopt a risk-reducing behavior due to the temporal distance between the behavior and its expected positive outcomes. Findings from an online experiment showed that when we tailored a health message’s temporal frame to be more congruent with people’s time orientation, the relationship between risk perception and behavioral intention was stronger.
APPENDIX D

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION RESEARCH,
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION PRESENT:

BUILDING TREATMENTS
FOR UNDERSERVED
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LAUREN B. QUETSCH, PH.D.  DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019
TIME: 4:00PM  LOCATION: 105 KIMPEL

It is estimated that 16% of American children have significant concerns with disruptive behaviors. Although evidence-based treatments (EBTs) for this population are available, several limiting factors exist which prevent families from receiving these programs. Dr. Quetsch will discuss the three goals in her research, including (1) reducing barriers to treatment, (2) promoting access to EBTs for all families, and (3) improving training and sustainability of EBTs within community settings. Her current and future work with adapting EBTs for children on the autism spectrum will be highlighted.
ANNUAL REPORT

Community and Family Institute
Kevin M. Fitzpatrick, Director

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

See Below

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

- Nolan Award for Graduate Education, Organization/Sponsor, Fulbright Arts and Sciences; University of Arkansas, Advising/Mentoring

- Susquehanna University- Distinguished Alumni Service Award

- Grants for 2019

National Institute of Health – COBRE Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention Research (COPR): **$9,400,000** 2019-2021. (Co-PI/Faculty Mentor). (Part of an Interdisciplinary Team w/ Agricultural Economics and Department of Pediatrics, UAMS). **Renewal** Funded.


Working with local non-profit Serve Northwest Arkansas to secure funding to develop Micro-Shelter/Tiny Homes community (New Beginnings).

Beginning in 2007, CFI has been working with local NWA communities to address issues related to poverty and homelessness. In 2015, CFI partnered with Serve Northwest Arkansas to develop a tiny homes community in South Fayetteville. In October 2017, we received a conditional use permit to begin work on a community that would house up to 20 homeless persons in micro-shelters to provide emergency/transitional shelter along with case management and host of other services that would help individuals move along a pathway to more permanent supportive housing. We have already secured $600,000 in private money and will launch a public campaign to fund the project in the next year. We believe this work is directly related to the work that the Jones Endowed Chair in Community and the Directorship of the Community and Family Institute should be working on.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

Published five refereed articles and book chapters with graduate students (Alumni)

BIBLIOGRAPHY APPENDIX

Bibliography of Published Scholarly & Creative Work for **ONLY calendar year 2019**
A. Refereed Articles (includes scholarly and creative articles, papers, essays, poems, stories, translations, reports, etc. that have appeared in refereed journals)


B. Unrefereed Publications and Proceedings (includes articles, reports, papers, essays, etc. that have appeared in non-refereed publications as well as reprinted materials, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews)


C. Invited Lectures


Annual Report for Community and Family Institute 2019-20


Other Lectures, Papers and Oral Presentations (includes traditional lectures, press appearances, readings/signings, presentations at professional meetings, abstracts, roundtable and panel presentations, and any other scholarly or creative works that do not fit under the other sections)

Media/Outreach

Internet

Psychology Today, COVID-19 Fear, Food Insecurity, Place, and Mental Health, Interview, July 13, 2020

New 'Short Talks' Explores Fear and Food Insecurity During a Pandemic, University of Arkansas Newswire, May 8, 2020.


Survey Shows Regions of Elevated Food Insecurity Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, University of Arkansas Newswire, April 23, 2020.

Survey Shows Regions of Elevated Food Insecurity Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, University of Arkansas Newswire, April 23, 2020.


Newspaper

Challenges Delay Shelter Projects, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, November 28, 2019.

Renovations, Construction on Resources for Homeless Fail to Beat Cold Weather, University of Arkansas Traveler, November 4, 2019.

Podcast

Fear and Food Insecurity During a Pandemic, Short Talks on the Hill Podcast University of Arkansas Media, May 2, 2020.

Radio

Fear and COVID-19, KUAF; Ozarks at Large, April 28, 2020.

Television


Hundreds on hand to remember homeless veterans, KNWA (NBC Affiliate), December 11, 2019.

Homelessness Bridge Housing and New Beginnings Project Faces Delays, KNWA (NBC Affiliate), December 7, 2019.
ANNUAL REPORT

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM
Luis Fernando Restrepo-- Director

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Program Achievements and Changes

In the fall 2019 CLCS underwent the seven year ADHE Program Review, which included a self-study and the assessment of two key national scholars in comparative literature, Prof. Thomas Beebee, Penn State University and President of the Association of Departments and Programs in Comparative Literature, and Prof. Elizabeth Richmond Garza from the Comparative Literature Program at the University of Texas, Austin. In their report, they praised the program:

We wish to emphasize the “multiplier effect” that CLCS exerts in the Fulbright humanities ecology. It provides access to doctoral degrees for units that do not have these, thus allowing those units to retain their own best graduate students past the M. A. In other cases, it attracts excellent new graduate students who would not otherwise be learning and teaching at the University of Arkansas. (External Reviewers Report).

Since the last ADHE evaluation in 2013, 22 doctoral students and 10 MA have completed the program, and many have secured academic positions nationally and abroad, as described below.

Prof. Restrepo has committed to continue directing the Program for another four year term (2020-2024). Regarding the Advisory Committee, due to the retiring of Prof. Thomas Rosteck and the departure of Prof. Gilles Viennot, the program will seek new Advisory Committee members. The program plans to revise the affiliated faculty roster and establish policies for enhancing their participation in the program.

With 38 current students (6 MA and 32 Ph.D), CLCS is a vibrant Program with an international cohort of students gaining recognition with awards, papers and publications. In 2019-2020 three doctoral students and one MA student graduated from the program. The program hosted one Fulbright exchange student from Germany and a visiting scholar from Brazil.

The program had 33 applicants for fall 2020, including two Fulbright sponsored students. The program expects to enroll about 5-7 new students in the fall provided COVID international travel restrictions allow students from abroad come to Fayetteville. We successfully nominated one of the domestic candidates for a Doctoral Academy Fellowship.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service
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TEACHING

In the Summer of 2019, the Program hosted a Fulbright Junior Faculty Mentoring Program for seven Iraqi scholars. ARSC Dean Todd Shields and Restrepo served as Co-Pi in this Amideast award in collaboration with Dr. Leyah Bergman Lanier of Spring International. The award was for $102,000. The Grant was renewed for 2020 but postponed to July 2021 due to COVID-19.

Prof. Restrepo was visiting professor at the Universidad Eafit, Medellin Colombia, where he taught a three week doctoral seminar on the imperial Renaissance epic (July-August, 2019). In June 2020, Prof. Restrepo also co taught with Prof. Sergio Villalobos (U Michigan) a graduate seminar for the online MA in Cultural Heritage for the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

We sponsored and co sponsored a series of activities supporting CLCS students, including workshops and presentations by national speakers on Anzaldua and gender theory (Analouis Keating, Texas Women’s Univ.), Latin American Literature (Garreth Williams, U Michigan), Latino Poets (Peter Hulme, Essex), Graphic novel, (Christian Bachmann, Ruhr Univ. Germany)

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK


Prof. Adnan Haydar conducted research on Lebanese oral poetry, meeting with poet Antoine Saadeh to discuss recent developments in Lebanese zajal oral poetry and attended his troupe’s zajal performance in the mountains of Batroun, Lebanon. He also met in Lebanon with poets/writers Henri Zoghaib, Rachid al-Daif, Joseph Abi Daher to discuss translation of their works into English and to discuss recent developments in the Lebanese literary scene in fiction and poetry. Prof. Haydar presented at the American Literary Translators Association Conference, "Poems by Khalil Hawi and Adonis," Alexis Levitin Bilingual Reading Series, Hyatt Regency, Rochester, NY, United States. (November 2019). Prof. Hoyer co edited with Jenny Watson (Marquette U) a special issue of Scandinavian Studies, the topic was German-Scandinavian Literary exchange. Prof. Hoyer also published a book review in the Association for Jewish Studies journal and presented a paper at NeMLA in early March on mathematics and lyric poetry. Prof. Mohja Kahf was the winner of Press 53's Tom Lombardo Poetry Series 2020, for poetry manuscript My Lover Feeds Me Grapefruit, published Feb 2020 by Press 53. She published the chapter "Understanding Two Nonviolence Campaigns Initiated by Women in Syria." In R. Stephan & M. Charrad (Eds.), Women Rising: Resistance, Revolution, and Reform in the Arab Spring and Beyond. NYU Press. 2020. She also has an edition, currently in press, M. Kahf & N. Sinn (Eds.), Constructions of Masculinity in Southwest Asia and North Africa. American University of Cairo Press. Kahf's co-editor is a CLCS grad Ph.D. 2007. Prof. Kahf has two poems in the literary anthology, J.
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SERVICE

Prof. Haydar served in the selection of the Arkansas Prize for Arabic Translation. (1993 - Present). He was manuscript reviewer for "Translating Whitman into Arabic", Walt Whitman Quarterly, . Invited Manuscript Reviewer. (2019) and Middle Eastern Literature in Translation series, Syracuse University Press, Co-Editor. (1999 - Present). Prof. Restrepo served in two national professional organizations board, the MLA Executive Committee CLCS Forum Renaissance Early Modern, for which he organized a panel on the Renaissance epic for the Seattle Convention, January 24, 020. He also serves in the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature. In addition, Restrepo also served as co organizer of the Araucana Symposium at the Univ. of Toronto Oct 4-5, 2019. He served as external reviewer for Promotion to Full Professor, P. Garcia of West Virginia Univ. Restrepo evaluated 3 manuscripts for Transmodernity journal, Confluencia (U Northern Colorado), and Perifrasis ( U de los Andes, Bogota). He also was a reviewer for the Arkansas Seal of Biliteracy Committee (15 applications). At the University, Restrepo chaired the Scholars at Risk UA Chapter which organized a series of activities during International Educational week, including a presentation by Indonesian scholar Shuchi Karim, an interview at Ozarks at Large, a graduate student workshop. Prof Restrepo participated in a Literacy Panel for MAT students, College of Education, Oct 7, 2019, the Graduate School student orientation Mentoring workshop in August. He coordinated the visit of Prof. Peter Hulme (U Essex) presented Tropical Town A latino Poet in NY, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Restrepo serves as the Vice President, NWA Hispanic Leadership Council. Coordinated launching Latinx on the Rise mentoring program, bringing together 10 college students with professionals in Coca Cola, Univision, Tyson, Walmart and the University. This year Restrepo completed his second and final three year term in the Walton Arts Center Board of Directors, Representing the University.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

CURRENT STUDENTS

CLCSPH student Kaveh Bassiri won the Translation Fellowship from National Endowment for Art 2019. Bassiri has also published two award winning Chapbooks: Chapbook: 99 Names of God (winner of Anzaldúa
Poetry Prize), Chapbook: Elementary English won Rick Campbell Prize from Anhinga Press, will be published in fall 2020. He published the essay, “Privatization and the Changing Landscape of Iranian Theater” International Journal of Middle East Studies 52 (2020), “Transgender Identity in Iranian Cinema” and “Masculinity in Iranian Cinema” In Global Encyclopedia of LGBTQ History (winner of Dartmouth Medal) 2019 and several poems in Copper Nickel, Verse Daily (twice), TYPO, Sou’wester, Shenandoah. Forthcoming in Best American Poetry 2020. Bassiri also translated poems in The Commons (with Translator’s note), Denver Quarterly (with translator’s note), Chicago Review, Los Angeles Review Bassiri was nominated for Pushcart Prize by Copper Nickel and Shenandoah. He was interviewed by KUAF Radio about being selected for Best American Poetry, Fayetteville, AR. He offered an offside reading at Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), San Antonio, TX, worked on subtitles of Iranian film director Kiarostami’s Koker trilogy (Criterion Collection). Bassiri is now the translation editor for Pamenar Press (https://www.pamenarpress.com)

Two CLCS students received the Sturgis International Fellowship ($15,000). In the fall 2019 Ketaki Desphande (CLCSPH) was given the award to study Bollywood musicals in India and CLCSMA student William Loder received the award to conduct research at the UA Rome Center to complete his thesis in Classics. CLCSPH student Samual McMillan was awarded the Hudson Prize in the Humanities. He also had an article accepted by the Journal of Popular Culture. CLCSPH student Huong Nguyen was awarded a research grant from the UA Graduate Student Congress. She presented the paper The Cult of Triệu Việt Vương Worship in Nam Định Province, Vietnam. Conference "Understanding Asia, Asian Understanding: Perspective Past and Present". Atlanta, Georgia 5-7 March 2020. CLCSPH student Anthony Sargenti presented the paper "The Politics of Italian Identity: Alessandro Mahmood and Sanremo 2019" at PAMLA in San Diego in November 2019.

ALUMNI


CLCS alumnus Asaad Alsaleh works as an Associate Professor of Arabic Literature, Comparative and Cultural Studies at Indiana University’s Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department. He is the author of Voices of the Arab Spring (Columbia 2015) and many other articles on modern Arabic literature and culture. CLCSPH alumna Sarah Hudson is an English Instructor at Connors State College. Dr. Hudson recently presented “Annemarie Jacir: An Accented Cinema of Exile and Return,” South Central Modern Language Association, Tulsa, OK: 2020. Hudson recently published the chapter “Constructions of Masculinity in Palestinian Film.” Constructing Masculinity in the Middle East. Ed. Edited by Prof. Mohja Kahf and CLCSPH alumnah Nadine Sinno (American University of Cairo Press, 2020).

For the ADHE review we prepared profiles of some of our graduates:
Isra Daraiseh (CLCS PhD, 2015) is assistant professor of English Language and Literature at the Arab Open University, Kuwait. She teaches courses in writing, English literature (especially nineteenth-century), and world literature. Her research focuses on these areas, as well as on Arab and American popular culture. She is the co-author of the book TONY SOPRANO'S AMERICA: GANGSTERS, GUNS, AND MONEY (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017).

Her current book project, nearing completion, is entitled MONGREL PLANET: CONSUMERIST ORIENTALISM AND THE CONVERGENCE OF ARAB AND AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM. She has a forthcoming essay in a collection on the television series BLACK MIRROR; she has essays in review on Tayeb Salih's SEASON OF MIGRATION TO THE NORTH and on points of contact between the Jordanian film THEEB and the American film BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD.

Judith Martínez (CLCS PhD, 2017) teaches courses in Latin American Literature, Language and Culture, and a Spanish Course for Heritage Speakers in the Modern Language Department at Missouri State University. This year she received the Missouri State Diversity Scholar Stipend Award and the Online Digital Professor Award and was honored as an Exemplary Student Mentor in the Maroon and White Honors Banquet at Missouri State University. She has recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the same university that will start in August 2018. She will also be teaching in the Honors College. Her research interests involve the representation of neoliberal violence in Latin American cultural texts.

Wawan Yulianto, completed the CLCS program in 2018. Wawan Eko Yulianto is on the faculty of the Department of English at Ma Chung University in Malang, East Java, Indonesia. He teaches courses on Literary Criticism, Research Techniques, Creative Writing, Popular Literature, and more.

Since earning his Ph.D. from our CLCS Program here at UA in 2013, Dr. Mirosh Thomas has been an assistant professor in the English Department at Christ University in Bangalore, India, where he taught British lit, postcolonial lit, the epic, world lit, and theory. Excitingly, he has decided to resign that position to join his wife in Dubai and seek out new horizons. His latest writing is a forthcoming article, “Cultural Transference in Translation: Translating a Postcolonial Vernacular Novel into English,” in the Journal of Communication & Culture. He has also presented on “Nation and Narration,” at the National Seminar on Democracy, Education and Nationalist Discourses – Towards a Critical Engagement, held at St. Joseph’s College of Commerce, Bangalore, India, and lots of other conferences.

Rosario Nolasco-Schultheiss, Ph.D. CLCS 2013 is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith. As an example, Rosario has been able to teach courses for the university’s English Department (Latin American Literature in Translation, Latinx, and Arab American Literature,) while also growing the curriculum in her own department by creating new courses.

Sarah Frances Hudson earned her Ph.D. in CLCS in 2017 She's a full-time instructor at Connors State College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, teaching writing and humanities courses. Sarah is spearheading a reading and writing intervention program for the pre-nursing program in order to help improve admissions and success rates in nursing school. Her dissertation was about Palestinian fictional film as an accented cinema, and she is currently working on a project that approaches Palestinian film using a postcolonial ecocritical and environmental/social justice perspective for analyzing the closing off of space within the Occupied Territories and the films that depict it.
Asaad Alsaleh earned his Ph.D. in CLCS in 2010. He is an associate professor at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, in the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Congratulate him--he just got tenure, woot! His multi-contributor volume, Voices of the Arab Spring, was published by Columbia University Press in 2015. Asaad won a Trustees Teaching Award in 2017. He enjoys teaching courses such as the Arabic Novel, Arabic Autobiography, and Arabic Poetry.

Ghadir Zannon, who earned her Ph.D. in CLCS here at UA in 2011, is Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Kentucky, in the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. In 2018, she received the UK's College of Arts & Sciences Award for Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the Award for A Teacher Who Made A Difference, given by the UK College of Education, and in 2017, Ghadir received the Kentucky World Language Association Award for Outstanding Teacher of Arabic. Three cheers, Ghadir! In addition to Arabic language courses, she teaches courses such as Modern Arabic Literature and Arab Women Writers.

Sobia Mubarak Durrani (PhD CLCS, 2015) is currently teaching at Government College University (GCU), Lahore, Pakistan, as assistant professor. She teaches drama courses, including Elizabethan drama, and theatre and performance studies. She is also an active member of the GCU Dramatics Club. She has published three essays related to her work.

Mohammed Alshammari (PhD CLCS, 2017) is assistant professor and department chair in the Arabic Language Department of Aljouf University, Saudi Arabia, where he teaches comparative literature and literary theory. He is working to establish a Cultural Studies Center at his university and has two journal articles currently in review.


Dr. Manal AlNatour completed a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at University of Arkansas. Her research and teaching interests include modern Arabic literature and language, cultural studies, contemporary women’s writings, feminism, and the Arab Spring. Dr. AlNatour is the Director of Arabic Studies program at the University of West Virginia. She has developed and taught Arabic, FCLT, and FLIT courses at all levels at WVU, including Modern Arabic Literature, Arab Women Writers, and Arabic Cinema. Dr. AlNatour has also been a faculty associate in the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies. She has published numerous refereed works in reputable journals and edited books.
ANNUAL REPORT

Center for Social Research
Drs. Casey T. Harris and Shaun A. Thomas

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

Significant achievements and changes, including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of assessment of student learning.

- The Center for Social Research (CSR) was dormant from the early 1990s until August of 2016. The 2019-2020 year is the fourth in which the co-directors of the center have worked with the faculty of the Department of Sociology and Criminology to revive the center, update its mission, and re-establish interdisciplinary connections to other research sources across campus and around the state.
- The Center and its directors/affiliated faculty have been invited to participate in numerous interdisciplinary endeavors and external state/national contracts within the past several years (2019-2020 activity listed below). Co-director Harris serves as a steering and development committee member for the forthcoming Data Science (DASC) program, while co-director Thomas collaborates with University of Arkansas Medical Sciences centers for interdisciplinary health research (e.g., Medicaid expansion, child maltreatment). Affiliated faculty in the Department of Sociology have similarly established important connections with Colorado’s Department of Health and Vital Statistics, the Arkansas Crime Information Center, and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement. These activities reflect progress toward the central mission of the Center to establish interdisciplinary connections and foster research activity within and beyond the department.
- Co-directors Thomas and Harris have been Co-PI’s on over $800,000 in funded multidisciplinary research projects in the 2019/2020 academic year.
- Center co-directors Thomas and Harris collaborated with directors or affiliates of the Community Family Institute, Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab, the Justice Programs Office at American University, and faculty at San Diego State University to publish four articles related to their COVID19 based research, some of which was funded by the National Science Foundation.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

Achievements in teaching, professional performance, research, scholarship and public service, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.

- The Center submitted proposals for seven solicitations (awarded four, noted by *; awaiting decision on two, noted by **) including:
  - (a) $184,257* through the National Science Foundation RAPID program for a project entitled “The Diffusion of Fear and Coronavirus: Tracking Individual Response Across Time and Space;”
  - (b) $600,000* through SAMHSA as part of an evaluation team for a $4,000,000 award for the Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Project;
  - (c) $19,975* through the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Predict Align Prevent to Align Services with Risk of child maltreatment outcomes; and
  - (d) $3,354* through Potter’s House Kids for a project entitled “Building Data for Better Relationships: A Data Consultation Project with Potter’s House;”
Annual Report for the Center for Social Research (CSR)
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

- (e) $496,534** through the National Institute of Justice for a project entitled “Research and Evaluation: Educating Communities on Safe Gun Practices;”
- (f) $1,700,000** through the Center for Disease Control for a project entitled “A Multisite Evaluation of the Be SMART program to prevent firearm related violence and injuries using an RCT Design
- (g) $355,196 through the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research for a project entitled “Investigating the influence of Legal and Illegal Firearm Availability and Elements of the Physical and Social Environment on Firearm Related Mortality;”

- Center co-director Harris led a National Science Foundation workshop entitled “Developing Data-Oriented Curriculum for 21st Century Emerging Adults” (New York, NY) in which campus leaders and representatives of data science programs discussed opportunities and barriers for curriculum development as a response to growing data-literacy workforce needs.
- Center co-director Harris led a National Science Foundation workshop entitled “Addressing Technology and Skills Gaps in Adulthood Transitions” (New York, NY) in which leading scholars of emerging adulthood and data literacy examined issues surrounding inequality, access/opportunity, and workforce development.
- Center co-director Harris, with colleagues in Fulbright College, published a book entitled “The Science of College: Navigating the First Year and Beyond” with Oxford University Press.
- The Center and the Department of Sociology and Criminology have worked together to create a summer workshop series promoting social science research tools and resources housed within the department. Using a multi-session framework that introduces students to a different methodology, database, or instrument for projects within the department, the workshop connects students to the faculty who are experts in various subjects as a means of fostering future student research engagement. Topic selection, design, structure, and faculty/student recruitment has already begun and the first lecture series will take place in the 2020 / 2021 academic year.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
Achievements of students and alumni or former students, especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.

- Center undergraduate student Alice Mutimer successfully defended her Honors thesis in the Spring 2020 semester exploring the immigration-crime nexus across United States counties with a specific focus on regional origins of the foreign-born population and disparities in violent outcomes at the community-level. Alice received an Honor’s Research Grant for the 2019-2020 academic year (the first for the department in several years) for her project.
- Center-affiliated Master’s student William Berry assisted on gun violence research proposals submitted to the National Institute of Justice, the Center for Disease Control, and the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research. William also assisted with the development of the new CSR website, logos, and promotional materials that are now unified under the UA site.
- Center undergraduate student Priya Thelapurath is gaining valuable experiencing by assisting with the development of reports for the National Science Foundation funded project entitled “The Diffusion of Fear and Coronavirus: Tracking Individual Response Across Time and Space;”
- Center undergraduate student Erin Parrish is assisting on an immigration and crime research project being conducted in the Houston area. Erin is compiling a literature review on aspects of the built environment as it pertains to immigrant neighborhoods.

IV. Other Productivity Measurements
Productivity measures such as: the numbers of grants, dollars, student growth, new faculty, new
administrators, and awards/honors (as appropriate for your area).

- The Center now has 15 interdisciplinary affiliates representing 3 different colleges. These connections have already translated into numerous funded projects (consistent with our mission to secure external funding) and provided research experience for dozens of students, another key component of the Center’s mission.
- The total amount generated by the Center since its redevelopment in 2016 totals approximately $1,035,800 with over $1,000,000 in other funded research with which the Center has been involved.
ANNUAL REPORT

Diversity and Inclusion for Fulbright College
Director: Romona West

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes
   A. Revised and developed new college mission, values, and land acknowledgement statements.
   B. Every college unit developed a diversity and inclusion plan.
   C. Hosted a series of D&I workshops for faculty, staff, and graduate students.
   D. Created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council comprised of college faculty, staff, and students. The council serves to identify, recommend, support, and advise the college and its leaders about diversity, equity and inclusion issues, key strategic programs, and initiatives.
   E. Launched Fulbright College DEI Hour series. The goal for the conversations in our weekly Fulbright College DEI Hour is to provide a platform to share experiences, ensue awareness and education, allow voices to be heard and instill a sense of belonging.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service
   A. Presented “Building Bridges to Attract and Support Underrepresented and First-Generation Students” at the Council of Southern Graduate Schools.
   B. Facilitated Transforming the U of A to Build a More Inclusive Campus conversations.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements
   A. Hosted Voter Town Hall for U of A campus community.
I. Significant Program Achievements and Changes

A. Program Achievements

1. Successful Implementation of Online Thesis Defense System
   This is probably our program’s biggest achievement this year. We responded to the unprecedented and rapid onset of COVID-19 by devising sets of succinct, directive Guidelines targeted to several groups: Honors Students, Thesis Supervisors, Honors Council Members, and Thesis Committees. The Guidelines instituted an entirely new set of protocols and instructions for the movement of a years-proven system of face-to-face defenses to an online setting. In so doing, our program helped students and their committees rapidly move the more than 170 defenses scheduled for spring to virtual or non-virtual platforms. Most students opted to defend virtually – on Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype, etc. The program was extremely successful – in May 2020 alone, we had a record size class of 172 students who were able to complete and defend their theses, graduating as scheduled with honors.

2. Supporting Intentional, Rigorous Thesis Research:
   - Third Annual Honors Research Conference. In October 2019, the Honors College in partnership with all Honors Programs organized the third-annual Honors Research Conference to showcase the research and thesis process for current honors students through a one-day series of events. Our Fulbright Honors Program organized and hosted a Round-Table Presentation to provide students with vital information about the thesis process and how defenses are conducted and evaluated. Two alumni of the Fulbright College Honors Program (Samantha Mason and Mary Margaret Hui) spoke about their experiences with the honors thesis process. Faculty members Dr. Lin Oliver (Chair of the Department of Physics) and Dr. Kirstin Erickson (Director of Fulbright Honors) reviewed best practices, and Associate Director Jill Wheeler discussed pitfalls to avoid and our program’s process. This presentation was well attended and was followed by a lively Q&A with the audience. The conference also included a Fulbright faculty-student Meet-and-Greet and informational sessions on everything from IRB protocols to the UA Libraries, student publishing, and Scholar-works.
   - Sophomore Milestone Implementation: Spring 2020 was the second year of our Sophomore Milestone protocol, which encourages students to think pro-actively about and plan for their thesis projects, from discipline-appropriate research, to connecting with a mentor. Student engagement in this initiative was impressive. We are gratified that this protocol has encouraged intentionality in research planning, helping students to take more ownership and responsibility for their own honors education.

3. Supporting Study and Research Abroad:
   - Sturgis International Fellowship: In 2019-20, eight Sturgis International Fellowships were awarded to students for longer-term international experiences. From summer 2019 through mid-spring 2020, our eight SIF students traveled to Zimbabwe, Chile, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and Ireland to conduct their research projects or to engage in internships. These students hail from a diverse range of disciplines, including Anthropology, History, Geosciences, Art, Communication, and Creative Writing and Translation. The total amount awarded by the Sturgis International Fellowship to support these scholars was $124,000. In spring 2020, we received a record number of applications for the Sturgis International Fellowship, and we made a total of 14 awards. It is our fervent hope that the situation surrounding COVID-19 will resolve, in order to enable travel for these awardees in the upcoming academic year.
   - Sturgis Study Abroad Grants: In addition to managing the Sturgis International Fellowship, the Fulbright College Honors Program also awarded $155,700 to support 48 students in their pursuit of undergraduate study abroad. Awards were granted to honors undergraduate students for summer, intersession, full semester, and year-long study abroad programs. The UA preemptively suspended summer study abroad as of late spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so Sturgis Study Abroad summer funds were not disbursed. We anticipate that some of the summer awardees will re-apply for a future grant once international travel re-opens.
4. **Robust Mentoring programming:**

- **FCHP Peer Mentoring:** Now in its 5th year of operation, the Fulbright College Peer Mentoring Program continues to make a vital impact on first-year honors students. In 2019-20, the FCHP Peer Mentoring Program, conceived and overseen by Jill Wheeler, had a total of 20 mentors representing a broad scope of disciplines (Economics, Political Science, Philosophy, Biochemistry, Psychology, Biology, Journalism, History, International Studies, Social Work, Spanish, and French). Eleven of these mentors met 1:1 with honors mentees. The other nine served as class mentors in her UNIV 1001H class; all 107 students in this class were served by these seasoned teaching mentors. Topics covered by the honors peer mentors include financial aid literacy, resume building, surviving midterms, financial fitness, research 101, connecting with faculty, ethical decision making, scholarships, etc. The peer mentoring experience is an enriching experience for first-year students and a professionalizing opportunity for the mentors.

- **Honors Faculty Mentoring Program:** In 2019-20, Fulbright Honors continued its highly successful program which pairs first-time honors thesis advisors with a senior Honors Council faculty mentor. Our HC faculty mentors this second year included: Suresh Kumar, Chaim Goodman-Strauss, Michael Plavcan, Kim Stauss, Mack Ivey, Fiona Davidson, and Kirstin Erickson. In 2019-20, we had 10 first-time faculty advisors enrolled in the program; mentors and mentees met in person twice during the academic year – once in the fall and once in the spring semester. Topics of conversation included timelines and time management for undergraduate students, college vs. departmental honors, project development, research clearance protocols, available funding, expectations for the defense, expectations of the thesis director, and the development of rubrics.

5. **Sturgis Reading Groups, a vibrant intellectual tradition:** In the 2019-20 academic year, Fulbright Honors once again organized and sponsored faculty-led Sturgis Fellows Reading Groups, designed to cultivate scholarly engagement and mentoring connections between students and faculty. The faculty members selected books for each of four student class cohorts and met with her/his Sturgis cohort for dinner and discussion of the book. Participating faculty members and selections this past year were as follows: Kirstin Erickson (freshmen), Padma Viswanathan (juniors), Zora Neale Hurston; Eric Funkhouser (sophomores), Death Comes for the Archbishop, by Willa Cather; Padma Viswanathan (juniors), Lost Children Archive, by Valeria Luiselli; and Ram Natarajan (seniors), Citizen: An American Lyric, by Claudia Rankine. This program remains successful and very popular with the Sturgis Fellows; our Fellows greatly look forward to their book club with a professor.

**B. Program Composition and Significant Changes**

1. **Significant Changes to FCHP:**

- **Program Composition:** Fulbright Honors Program staffed by four members in 2019-20:
  - Director: Kirstin Erickson
  - Associate Director: Jill Wheeler
  - Administrative Specialist: Mary Ellen Hartford
  - Administrative Specialist: Samantha Mason
  - In August 2019, we hired the newest member of the FCHP team, **Samantha Mason** (English-BA, University of Arkansas; English MA, University of Oklahoma). Sammi is a former Sturgis Fellow and has already made a substantive and enormously positive impact on our program; she re-launched the Fulbright Honors BLOG, penning articles on student achievement, study abroad, tips for student success, faculty features, etc. She also has re-configured our website, engaged in foundational advising for freshmen and in new student orientation, built a Blackboard platform for all honors students, and more. We are excited to have Sammi as a valuable new member of our team.

- **Honors Council:** In the fall of 2019, we welcomed two new Council members, Juan José Bustamante (Department of Sociology), and Susan Marren (Department of English). Marren and Bustamante joined the 2019-2023 cohort and will serve for four years alongside Professors Chapman and Plavcan (continuing in that cohort). Professor Sean Morrissey (School of Art) was nominated and selected to the council during spring college elections and shall begin serving starting in the fall of 2020, through spring 2023.

The Fulbright Honors Council remains integral to the thesis defense process and continued growth and fine-tuning of our program. Throughout the year, the members of the Council participated in and moderated a total
of 194 thesis defenses. This year they voted on challenging cases and determined the final levels of honors distinction. Members of the HC continued to serve on sub-committees, including the Mentoring Committee. The 2019-20 cycle was especially demanding for the Fulbright Honors Council, as members met to consider, debate, and provide detailed feedback on the development of an Honors Certificate as an alternative path to honors completion in addition to moderating all thesis defenses on-line (an emergency measure put into place upon vacating campus due to COVID-19). The service of these dedicated individuals remains absolutely paramount to the health and functioning of our program. As of June 2020, members of the HC include:

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<tr>
<td>Bill Levine, PSYC</td>
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<td>Mack Ivey, BISC</td>
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<td>Cory Mixdorf, MUSC</td>
<td>Juan José Bustamante, SOCI</td>
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<td>Kim Stauss, SCSW</td>
<td>Susan Marren, ENGL</td>
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<td>Chaim Goodman-Strauss, MASC</td>
<td>Michael Plavcan, ANTH</td>
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<td>Josh Sakon, CHBC</td>
<td>Kate Chapman, PSYC</td>
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<td>T.K.S. Kumar, CHBC</td>
<td>Sean Morrissey, ARTS (new)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Dowdle, PLSC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c) **Sturgis Fellows – Support.** In order to remain in step with the Bodenhamer and Honors College Fellowships and to remain competitive with cost of living increases, incoming 2019 Sturgis Fellows, along with second year fellows, were awarded in the amount of $72,000. Third- and fourth-year students’ fellowships remained at $70,000, in keeping with their contract. Over the 2019-20 academic year, we had 17 Sturgis Fellows, their financial trajectories expertly managed by Administrative Specialist Mary Ellen Hartford.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of Funds Spent for the 2019-20 Academic Year</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees and On-Campus Room and Board</td>
<td>$ 242,470.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests other than tuition and fees and on-campus room and board</td>
<td>$ 199,514.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Other Sources of Funding</td>
<td>$ 181,271.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dollars of Sturgis funds spent</td>
<td>$ 260,713.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. **Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service**

A. **Achievements in Teaching and Enhancements to the Program’s Curriculum**

1. The **Honors Humanities Project (H2P)** continues to be well regarded and competitively subscribed by honors students in their first two years of study. Enrollments and teaching teams in 2019-20 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code:</th>
<th>Enrollment in 2019-20:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 1114H</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 1124H</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 2114H</td>
<td>44</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code:</th>
<th>Term:</th>
<th>Faculty team:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 1114H</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Daniel Levine (WLLC), Rhodora Vennarucci (WLLC), Jared Phillips (INST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 1124H</td>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>Joshua Byron Smith (ENGL), Lora Walsh (ENGL), Nikolay Antov (HIST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMN 2114H</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Shawn Austin (HIST), John Treat (HNRC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Three new faculty for H2P-II:
   In Spring 2019, we bid farewell to Dean Lynda Coon, Dr. Kim Sexton, and Chelsea Hodge, who had taught HUMN 1124H for many years and served the program with vigor and imagination. Fulbright Honors is thrilled, however, to have three new, incredibly creative and dynamic professors leading H2P-II. Our new colleagues, Dr. Joshua Byron Smith (Department of English / Director, Medieval and Renaissance Studies), Dr. Lora Walsh (Department of English / Medieval and Renaissance Studies / Religious Studies), and Dr. Nikolay Antov (Department of History / Medieval and Renaissance Studies / Director, Religious Studies) took the helm in spring 2020 with a completely redesigned syllabus. These colleagues have taken the course in new and exciting directions.

3. Honors Colloquia Offered in 2019-20: Fulbright Honors program helped coordinate faculty from multiple departments to offer 36 honors colloquia during this past academic year. These courses serve to fulfill the honors colloquium graduation requirement (a total of 9 credit hours to be taken in the humanities, social science, and natural sciences) for College Honors Scholars.

B. Honors Program Achievements in Research

1. Student-Success Textbook Co-Authored and Published by our Associate Director. We are not a research unit, so I typically don’t have anything to report in this section. This year is different, however. FCHP Associate Director Jill Wheeler was co-author of The Science of College: Navigating the First Year and Beyond, published in spring 2020 by Oxford University Press. Jill’s fellow authors included Patricia Herzog, Casey Harris, Shauna Morimoto, Shane Barker, Terrence Boyd, and Justin Barnum. The Science of College is a one-of-a-kind contribution that marshals social science data, combining it with the expertise of professional academic advisors and instructors to address lived experiences and promote a research-based holistic approach to student success. This open-access text will prove itself to be a meaningful and substantive resource to students enrolled in, and instructors leading, first-year and university perspectives programs across the country. The Fulbright Honors Program is excited and extremely proud that our own Associate Director Wheeler was integral to the research, writing, and publication of this work.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

A. Student Achievements – Graduation with Honors Distinction. From summer 2019 through spring 2020, a record-setting 194 students graduated with honors distinction. Each student completed the requisite number of honors hours, maintained the required GPA, devised and carried out a program of original research, & wrote and defended a thesis.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not safe to host the annual Fulbright Honors Commencement Celebration as in past years. In lieu of this celebration, Administrative Specialist Samantha Mason worked assiduously to gather photographs, bios, and comments from our graduating seniors. She crafted an “Our Honors Graduates” feature on our website, a rolling slideshow that celebrates each student with department and thesis title, and a weekly “Thesis Thursday” feature on our Tower Room Blog, highlighting the students department-by-department, along with their bios, photographs, and comments.

Summer 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>College Scholar</th>
<th>Departmental Honors Student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
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Fall 2019

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<th>Level</th>
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<th>Departmental Honors Student</th>
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</thead>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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### Spring 2020

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<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **Student Achievements – The Harold D. and Margaret Kirby Hantz Awards** - Named after Professor of Philosophy Harold Hantz, who, along with Professor of English Ben Kimpel, co-founded the Fulbright Honors Program in 1955. The Harold D. Hantz awards for the top College Scholar and the top Departmental Scholar, along with the Margaret Kirby Hantz Service Award, are made possible through a generous endowment from the Hantz Family. The Class of 2020 Hantz award recipients were Kathryn Judy, Winson Chee, Jake Price, and Anna Cunningham.

1. **Harold D. Hantz College Scholars Award:**
   - Kathryn Judy, Biology Major, *Summa Cum Laude*. Kathryn’s honors thesis is titled: “Characterizing the Short-Term Transcriptomic Response of Skeletonema marinoi to Saline Stress.” During her career at the University of Arkansas, Kathryn distinguished herself through her intellect, her focus, and her commitment to the breadth of the liberal arts experience. When asked to describe Kathryn, her thesis mentor Dr. Andrew Alverson observed, “Kathryn Judy is, by any measure, among the best and brightest students I’ve had the privilege of working with at the University of Arkansas. I met Kathryn in the fall of 2017 when, as a sophomore, she asked if she could have an override into the graduate class on computer programming [that] I was offering the following spring. I was immediately struck by how bright, thoughtful, and focused she was. All of my initial impressions were borne out during the class, and this led me to do something I rarely do—I reached out invited Kathryn to join my lab. Her potential for carrying out independent research was clear and, equally important, she was a joy to work with. She’s smart and insightful, and she can engage thoughtfully on a wide range of topics. Scientists spend a lot of their time writing, and Kathryn’s an excellent writer. This reflects both her raw intelligence and, to a great extent, the creative thinking skills and cultural insights she developed through her minor in Classical Studies. Some might not fully appreciate how Classical Studies could complement a Major in Biology. Like Kathryn, the best scientists are broadly curious and draw from diverse disciplines to guide their work. Kathryn’s ability to think critically, interpret complex data, and distill big ideas into a clear narrative shows how a strong liberal education that combines science, history, language, and literature can stimulate and nurture a curious and readied mind. Dr. Rhodora Venmarucci agrees, stating that ‘Kathryn embodies the interdisciplinary nature of Classical Studies. She excels at the rigorous analytical skills required in Latin language learning but has also developed a sophisticated intercultural empathy that allows her to process complex information across disciplines and cultures, which she applies to global issues such as climate change in her scientific research.’ Kathryn is poised to continue the work she started for her honors thesis as a graduate student in Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Her ideas are making their way into the scientific literature, and she is proving to be very adept at grant writing. It will be exciting to see how Kathryn’s life and career unfold as she continues on in her field.”

   - Winson Chee, Biology Major, *Magna Cum Laude*. Winson’s Biology honors thesis is titled, “Effect of Coinfection on Damselfly Immune Systems.” Winson’s honors thesis advisor, Dr. Adam Siepielski noted, “Winson Chee is a wonderful student – a sharp thinker with laser focus and a tenacious capacity for learning. This was made even more obvious when I realized that he completed his entire degree in just three years! While I’m so pleased he was able to do this, it would have been wonderful to see what he could have done with a 4th year. He is one of the most hard-working, diligent, and motivated students I have met at this institution or others and an absolute pleasure to supervise throughout his project. Winson joined my lab in 2017 after he took my general ecology course. He wanted to work on an ecological problem related to human health. To be honest, I was not sure my lab was the right place for this, since much of our work is on the side of basic research using aquatic insects to address questions at the interface of ecology and evolutionary biology. However, my lab was starting some projects on host-parasite interactions. So, after a few months of chatting about possible ideas, and having Winson read relevant literature in disease ecology, we settled on him investigating how the effects of coinfection can affect immune responses. From then on, Winson was off and running. He designed a complete experiment using statistical models to derive appropriate sample sizes and quickly learned a variety of techniques from other faculty members in biological sciences to complete his work. His study showed that it is
difficult to predict the effects of single infections from co-infections on immune responses. This is particularly relevant work, because with emerging infectious diseases becoming of growing concern, multiple infections occurring at the same time are increasingly likely. With no reservation, Winson represents the consummate scholar and shows what dedication to your studies can provide – a world of opportunities and confidence to go about moving through challenges. His next challenge will be medical school at UAMS. I’m confident that Winson will become an excellent physician and do remarkably well past that. I also know that the work he did as an honors student will serve him well in this endeavor. I wouldn’t be surprised if he ends up pursuing an MD and PhD. He has an amazing future in the medical field.”

2. **Harold D. Hantz Departmental Scholars Award:**
   - Jake Price, Chemistry/Biochemistry major, *Summa Cum Laude*. Jake’s honors thesis is titled, “Attempted Rescue of Glutamic Acid by Arginine in a Transmembrane Helix.” His mentor Dr. Roger Koepple characterizes Jake with the following tribute: “Jake Price is an exceptional student, and I was so excited when I learned that he was being recognized for his achievements. After learning manual methods for synthesizing peptides during a study-abroad program in Australia in the summer of 2018, Jake joined my lab in the fall of 2018 and learned methods for automated peptide synthesis, self-assembly of lipid membranes and deuterium magnetic resonance. His energy, creativity and dedication enabled him to make tremendous progress very quickly. Jake accomplished remarkable research using model peptides in lipid membranes. Although I had predicted that arginine would dominate a molecular "struggle" with glutamic acid in a transmembrane helix, Jake discovered the converse, using magnetic resonance experiments, namely that the glutamic acid confers multiple populations of different states for the arginine component and indeed the entire helix. The results are important for understanding the dynamics, function and mutational differences among proteins in cell membranes. Jake's results present the most detailed description to date of glutamic acid and arginine interactions in lipid membranes.” Jake is still refining his future plans during these uncertain times, but Dr. Koepple notes, “He has a great future in the biomedical arena.”

3. **Margaret Kirby Hantz Service Award:**
   - Anna Cunningham, Political Science major, *Magna Cum Laude*. Anna’s honors thesis is titled: “Southern Realignment: A Closer Look at Changes in Party Control.” Anna’s mentor, Associate Director of Fulbright Honors Jill Wheeler recognized Anna’s contributions and accomplishments in the following way: “Leaders assume their positions for various reasons. Some seek to help foster a change, others want to give back to those who have given them so much, and still others take on the mantle of leadership because they know that they can. In the past four years that I have known Anna Cunningham, I have witnessed firsthand her desire to give back and take on the mantle of leadership and heard her speak passionately for fostering change. There are few students who exemplify enthusiasm for involvement and service more than Anna. During her time on the University of Arkansas campus, Anna has contributed to many campus organizations, including holding multiple leadership positions in the Student Alumni Board, Associated Student Government, Greek Life, and the Fulbright Honors Peer Mentoring Program. Anna has received multiple honors for her academic and volunteer accomplishments, including being chosen as one of 71 University of Arkansas Seniors of Significance for 2020. In Fall 2020, Anna will be returning to the University of Arkansas campus for her first semester at the School of Law. Reflecting on Anna’s work for the Student Alumni Board, Mercedes Gazaway and Lisa McKinnon of the Arkansas Alumni Association state it best: ‘Since her freshman year, Anna has demonstrated a passion for and dedication to the mission of the Student Alumni Association, and, in particular, for upholding the beloved traditions at the University of Arkansas. Whether she is promoting the class ring program or helping to plan Homecoming, she is comfortable both leading and taking direction.’ This dedication is also apparent in her work for the Peer Mentoring Program. As a three-time Peer Mentor for the Fulbright College Honors Program, Anna gave back to the student body and has guided dozens of mentees through the difficult transition from high school to college. She offered her time and experiences to her mentees and helped to normalize a positive honors freshman experience. This willingness to serve was the reason she was chosen to be one of three Lead Mentors for the 2019-2020 school year, her third year with the program. In addition to her normal mentoring requirements, as a Lead Mentor she has also taken on the role of leader and coordinator for eight other mentors. Anna’s attention to detail and ability to get her work done allows me to relinquish some of the responsibilities for the Peer Mentoring Program without the fear that important tasks will get overlooked. According to Gazaway and McKinnon: ‘In every endeavor, Anna’s first priority is achieving the agreed-upon goal and happily steps into any role that she feels will meet that end. Her attitude is positive, motivating, and infectious and this is why she is an exceptional servant leader.’ When Anna says that she can do something, nothing will stop her!”
ANNUAL REPORT

Faulkner Performing Arts Center
Nicole Leachman

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

(Including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning.)

Enriching Campus Diversity & Inclusion
A. FPAC completed training for safe zone allies
B. 50% of the student hourly staff are now of various minority groups
C. Continue to program global/minority/women artists that not only perform but provide masterclasses for students and faculty/staff (Martha Redbone, Josephine Baker “The Play,” Salma El Assal – cancelled due to COVID)

Building a Collaborative Campus
D. Continuing a three-year agreement with King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies to program a middle eastern artist that not only performs but provides lectures on their culture (Rahim Alhaj)
E. Providing free workshops and/or performance opportunities for Department of Music, Office of Diversity & Inclusion with scheduled professional artists (Martha Redbone, Josephine “The Play”)

Advancing Student Success
F. We provided approximately 50 student hourly paid jobs on our campus.
G. Students gain real-world experience in customer service, hospitality, box office, audio technicians, lighting technicians, operations/stage management, marketing and arts administration through our jobs.
H. Students not only interact with colleagues on campus focused on higher education but also learn to work with professional touring artists to help prepare them with the music industry outside of education.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

Began Teaching an elective course by our Technical Director teaching live audio sound mixing. This came about by the high demand in our area for this position and strong interests by students on campus.

Reaffirming our Land-grant and Flagship Responsibilities
A. More deeply developed relationship with Walton Arts Center Learning & Engagement by providing a Colgate Classroom Series performance on our campus, bussing in approximately 300 high school students and exposing many to our campus for the first time.
B. Continuing our lecture series partnership at Fayetteville Public Library with our contracted artists that is free and open to the public (Martha Redbone & Salma El Assal – cancelled due to COVID)
C. Providing a class topic and free class to Osher Life Long Learning Institute about Josephine Baker (Josephine Baker “The Play”)
D. Curate local musicians to perform July 4th and Valentine’s Day events at Arkansas State Veteran’s Home (Cancelled due to COVID)

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)
One of our alumni was promoted to a full-time box office position at the Kansas City Lyric Opera. She received her initial foot in the door based on her work experience at the Faulkner Center. Once they saw she had a solid foundation for the work she was promoted to full time as soon as a position came open.

We did not have other graduating seniors this year.
ANNUAL REPORT

Name of Department, Program, or Center: GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

Name of Chair/Director: LISA M. CORRIGAN

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following three areas:
(Especially those of international, national, regional or statewide significance)

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

STARTED LAVENDER GRADUATION: https://news.uark.edu/articles/51660/lgbtq-plus-and-queer-identifying-students-invited-to-lavender-graduation-celebration

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

Fall 2019

Cristina Feliciano, "Hook 'em, Book 'em, Leave 'em: The Experience of Trauma and Incarceration, Solitary Confinement, and other Tales." 9/12 at 5:30 in JBHT 144 (SPONSOR)

AnaLouise Keating, multiple events 9/30 - 10/2 including BROWN BAG LUNCHEON (SPONSOR)

Lisa Corrigan, "The Civil Rights Sex Tapes: White Eavesdropping and Anti-Black Fantasy,” 10/29 at 6:00 in JBHT 216

Scholars at Risk, Suchi Karim, Nov 20, 2019 (COSPONSOR)

Jo Hsu, "Narrative Insurgence: Queer Diasporic Storytelling and Subversions of the American Dream." 11/21 at 5:30 in JBHT 144

Spring 2020:

Jessica Pieklo, co-author of The End of Roe: Inside the Right’s Plan to End Legal Abortion, 2/3 at 5:30, JBHT 219 (SPONSOR)


2/12 Publishing Brown Bag with Jo Hsu, Ren Pepitone, Brittany Hearne (SPONSOR)

Gender Studies Job Roundtable 3/15/20 (SPONSOR)

Kate Chopin filmmakers, 4/3-4/4 (Robin Roberts, host) (SPONSOR)
Katrina Yeaw, Department of History, UALR, “Sexuality in Libya from the Late-Ottoman Period to the Collapse of Empire.” MEST sponsor. Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 PM, Gearhart 26. (COSPONSOR)


III. Student and Alumni Achievements (Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

Cora Butcher-Spellman received the "University Graduate Fellowship" at Penn State University. Only two are given by the grad school per year.


Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

○ **INST/PLSC Program Merger:** Over the course of the academic year, the International & Global Studies Program entered into a merger agreement with the Department of Political Science. The purpose of the merger was to institutionalize the program, consolidate administrative services, and create stronger linkages with the international relations faculty in PLSC. The arrangement achieves the following:

1. Preserves the interdisciplinary focus of INST as a global studies program;
2. Allows for budgetary independence;
3. Establishes a steering committee comprising a mix of PLSC and non-PLSC faculty affiliated with the program.
4. Creates a new consolidated introduction course: INST/PLSC 2813 Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies. The new course now meets a Social Science Core requirement and General Education outcomes 3.3, 4.1, and 5.1.

○ **Arkansas Global Changemakers Initiative:** with support from a U.S. State Dept. Study Abroad Capacity Building Grant, the program worked with the Walton College of Business, the Bumpers College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design to develop the Arkansas Global Changemakers Initiative, which focuses on community engagement on global challenges in a comparative framework, bringing together the work of change agencies in Northwest Arkansas and communities around the world. The teaching component of the project at training students in the intercultural and social innovation skills needed to create sustainable and scalable solutions to such pressing issues as food security, job skill development, and sustainable and affordable housing. This includes a team-taught study abroad program aimed at enhancing diversity in study abroad by connecting international engagement with local issues. The crisis with COVID19 forced the program to postpone a pilot program in Barcelona, but the State Dept. granted a one-year grant extension, and the program has since collaborated with the Honors College to create a virtual Changemakers experience in spring 2021.

○ **Fulbright Internationalism Project:** The program completed the second year of the project, “Fulbright Internationalism and the Future of International Exchange,” supported by the Chancellor’s Fund for Collaboration and Innovation. This year’s projects included the following:

1. Co-Sponsorship of the U.S. Fulbright Association Conference in Washington, D.C., October, 2019;
2. Invitation to guest researcher, Dr. Lonnie Johnson, former Executive-Director of the Austrian Fulbright Commission, November 2019;
3. Invitation to guest researcher, Dr. Carol Li, Ph.D. candidate at Taipei University, supported by a Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology Grant, March 2020;
4. A one-year grant extension to continue archival digitization of the Fulbright Papers in the University Libraries, Special Collections.

**Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service**

○ **INST Majors:** As of May 2020, the program had **179 majors** in International & Global Studies and **23 minors** in Global Studies. Of those, 40 undergraduates completed the program and earned a BA in International & Global Studies in May 2020, including 14 students who graduated with Honors.

○ **Sigma Iota Rho:** The program inducted 8 undergraduate INST majors into the Arkansas Eta Epsilon Chapter of the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
○ **Internship Program**: In the 2019/2020 academic year, 24 undergraduates completed 72 hours of internship credit through the program. An increasing number of international internships are being offered to students in other degree programs through the INST internship course (INST 300V).

○ **Burton Awards**: The program director awarded $9,000 in fellowships and travel awards to 6 students in the fall of 2019. No fellowships were awarded in the spring of 2020 due to international travel restrictions related to COVID19.

○ **Sponsored Programs**: The program organized or co-sponsored 9 public lectures and events during the year, and organized a special panel at the 2019 Fulbright Association Conference in Washington, D.C.

○ **Honors Theses in INST**: Of the 14 honors students graduating with a BA in INST in 2020, 10 completed their honors theses and degrees in International & Global Studies. Looking ahead to the 2020-2021 academic year, the program has 12 students with honors theses in progress in INST.

**APPENDIX**

### A. Sponsored Programs

- **16 September, 2019**: Waleed Hazbun, “In America’s Wake; Turbulence and Insecurity in the Middle East,” with the Middle East Studies Program.
- **31 October and 1 November 2019**: Arkansas Global Changemakers Workshops, sponsored with the U.S. State Dept.
- **4 November 2019**: Vivian Ibrahim, “Awlad al-Balad or Minority: Revisiting the ‘Coptic Question,’” with the Middle East Studies Program.
- **21 November 2019**: “American Factory” Screening and Panel Discussion, with the Walton Global Engagement Office.
- **23 January 2020**: Shirin Saedi and Mohammad Tabaar, “Iran Protests: Roots, Prospects, and Historical Contingencies,” with the Middle East Studies Program.
- **9 March 2020**: Jack Seddon, “Power, Information, and Prices in the Global Risk Bazaar,” supported by the U.S. Fulbright Lecturer Outreach Fund.

### B. Student and Alumni Achievements

#### Faculty Awards

- **J. Laurence Hare** was named Outstanding Faculty Advisor by the Arkansas Academic Advising Network
- **Jared Phillips** was invited to appear at the 2020 Rural Writers Institute in the Lake District, North West England

**Student Awards and Recognitions (Major National/International Awards Highlighted)**

- **Hayley Bell** was recognized as part of the Honorable Mention South Africa Delegation at the National Model United Nations
- **Sophia Bonadeo** was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton Travel Award for study abroad
- **Catherine Caldwell** was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
- **Sarah Caster** was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton Travel Award for study abroad
- **Julienne Chang** was awarded a U.S. Peace Corps Prep Certificate
- **Jacob Condran** completed an internship with the U.S. State Dept. at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus
- **Travis Cumming** was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army
- **Alyssa Davenport** accepted a position as Programs Intern at the Bill of Rights Institute in Arlington, VA
- **Steven DiGiovanna** was recognized as part of the Distinguished Argentina Delegation at the National Model United Nations
- **Jonathan Douglas** was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
- **Jonathan Douglas** was accepted into the MA program in Communication at the University of Arkansas
● Odessa Elie was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
● Odessa Elie was accepted into the Master of Information Systems Program at the University of Arkansas
● Natalie Friend was awarded a U.S. Peace Corps Prep Certificate
● Natalie Friend accepted a Global Education Internship at the International Relations Council in Kansas City, MO
● Sydney Golding was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton Travel Award for study abroad
● Gillian Gulett was named to the class of Razorback Classics by the U of A Alumni Association

● Sophie Hill received an honorable mention for the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Scholarship
● Sophie Hill was awarded a Junior Summer Institute Fellowship by the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Program
● Sharida Holloway was awarded a U.S. Peace Corps Prep Certificate
● Nicholas Langham was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
● Katherine Leitensdorfer was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society

● John Levine was named an alternate for a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. State Dept.

● Sarah Lowe was awarded a U.S. Peace Corps Certificate
● Sarah Lowe was accepted into the School of Law at Washington University St. Louis
● Momina Meer was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton International Studies Fellowship for study abroad
● Momina Meer was awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for study abroad
● Kylie Miller was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton Travel Award for Study Abroad
● Julia Nall was elected President of the Associated Student Government for 2020-2021

● Paeton Outman was named an alternate for a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. State Dept.

● Connor Rainey was accepted into the Teaching Assistant Program (TAPIF) in France for 2020
● Jessica Rivas was named Outstanding Delegate for Egypt at the National Model United Nations
● Emma Robertson was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society
● Megan Rodgers was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society

● Lucas Ros received a David L. Boren Fellowship for study abroad in Mexico City in 2019-2020
● Anna Rumpz received honorable mention in the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest from the American Council of Teachers of Russian.
● Mayu Sato accepted a competitive internship with Ligue Togolaise des Droits de l’Hommes in Togo, Africa
● Yuna Shimomoto was awarded a Cleveland C. Burton Travel Award for study abroad
● Allison Smith was inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society

● Mary Katherine Strickland was awarded a U.S. State Dept. internship with the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See
● Maya Ungar was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Student Award
● Maya Ungar was named to the class of Razorback Classics by the U of A Alumni Association
● Maya Ungar completed an internship with the U.S. State Dept. in Washington, D.C.
● Maya Ungar was awarded the Richard H. Solomon Award for the Most Original Paper on Foreign Policy or Diplomacy at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress in Washington, D.C.
● Maya Ungar founded the Institute for Civic Organizing with peers at Stanford University and the University of Toronto: (https://the-institute-for-civic-organizing.thinkific.com/courses/an-introduction-to-digital-organizing)

● Shannon Wilson was named a 2020 Russian Scholar Laureate from the American Council of Teachers of Russian

● Shannon Wilson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force

Undergraduate Research

● Ashlyn Barnes, “The Camp David Accords and Early Arab-Israeli Conflict: Was the Framework Created to Implement and Encourage Positive Peace?” directed by Dr. Jared Phillips (INST), cum laude
● Carly Byrd, “Global Migratory Processes in the Performance of Cheap Labor as Agents of Social Stratification in the United States and France,” directed by Dr. Alessandro Brogi (HIST) and Dr. Steven Rosales (HIST), summer graduate.
● Layne Coleman, “A Glimpse into African Migration Patterns: The Case of Post-Apartheid South Africa,” directed by Dr. Todd Cleveland (HIST), cum laude
● Travis Cumming, “Responsibility to Protect: International Relations and Humanitarian Duty,” directed by Najib Ghadbian (PLSC), cum laude
● Tenley Getschman, “The Monopoly of Iraq: The Consequences of Foreign-Owned Oil on Iraq’s Development during the 20th Century,” directed by Dr. Fiona Davidson (GEOS), cum laude
● Gillian Gulett, “Seismic Solidarity: How the 1985 Mexico City Earthquake Harnesses Cultural Memory to Deligitimize the PRL,” directed by Dr. Kathryn Sloan (HIST), cum laude
● Katherine Litaker, “Examining ‘Human’: Universal Human Rights through the Lens of Nation-State Membership,’ directed by Dr. Jared Phillips (INST), cum laude
● Maeve Mitchell, “Counting on Catalonia: Using Catalonia to Understand European Nationalism,” directed by Dr. Fiona Davidson (GEOS), cum laude
● Connor Rainey, “Reshaping the Local Food Systems in France and England through the Revitalization of Organic Farms,” directed by Dr. Jared Phillips (INST), magna cum laude
● Maya Ungar, “Working through Trauma: The Role of Female Stakeholder-Led Organizations in Post-Conflict Aid,” directed by Dr. Laurence Hare (INST), summa cum laude

Alumni Achievements

● William Baker (2019) completed an MS in International Migration and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science
● Tyler Bolton (2018) started a position as Financial Analyst with Core & Main in St. Louis, MO
● Rachel Bronson (2015) graduated with an MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi
● Courtney Brooks (2017) graduated with a J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law
● James Brown (2015) accepted a position in Global Talent Intelligence and Analytics, Worldwide Operations, at Amazon
● Christopher Cowan (2017) served as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Uzbekistan
● Lance Cummings (2015) was promoted to Senior Manager of Enterprise Business Continuity with Walmart in Bentonville, AR

● Robert Dalby (2016) accepted a position as Associate Attorney at Halton & Doam, LLP in Texarkana, TX
● Lia D’Emidio (2019) attended the Global Leadership Academy with API Study Abroad
● Andrew Dixon (2016) started a position as Associate Attorney at Quattlebaum, Grooms, and Tull, PLLC in Springdale, AR
● Taylor Dunn (2016) was promoted to Senior Sales Engagement Manager at GenPact in Nashville, TN
● Tia Francis (2018) graduated with an MS in Geography from the University of Arkansas and started a position as Digital Research Support Specialist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
● Lincoln Heffley (2018) graduated with an MS in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science

● Justin Hilton (2015) graduated with a LLM from Washington University St. Louis School of Law and started a position as Associate Attorney at the Massey Law Firm in St. Louis, MO
● Raiya Jensen (2017) started a position as Account Coordinator at Ascent Global Logistics
● Angela Kaaijage (2016) started a position as CRM Contractor at AmeriCold Logistics
● Sarah Kouchebaugh (2015) served as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Azerbaijan
● Hannah Kunasek (2017) accepted a position as Special Assistant to the Attorney General at the U.S. Dept. of Justice
● Stephen Kruse (2018) started a position as Account Executive at KNWA-TV NBC affiliate
● London Lundstrum (2015) started a position as Associate Attorney with Matthews Campbell Rhoads in Rogers, AR
● Natalie Mauchline (2016) was promoted to Head of Reporting at NewsDirect in Edinburgh, United Kingdom
● Sidney Milner (2016) graduated with an MPA at Indiana University and started a position as Public Sector Advisory Associate at Grant Thornton Public Sector Management Consulting
● Maris Moon (2018) served as Americorps VISTA Leader at the Fordham Law School Frederick Center for Social Justice
● Azul Munoz (2016) graduated with an MS in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science
● Alexander Neubecker (2015) was promoted to Knowledge Leader for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, MO
● Jamie Nix (2017) launched BioMar, a new entrepreneurial food security initiative in the U.S. and Morocco
● Alex Oldham (2019) served with Americorps VISTA through the Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah
● Stewart Pence (2015) was promoted to Marketing Team Leader at Combostrike, GmbH marketing firm in Berlin, Germany
● Karsten Powers (2014) started a position as Country Officer at the U.S. Dept. of State Office of Children’s Issues
● Harper Ricks (2019) was accepted into Vanderbilt University School of Law
● Mikaela Rhodes (2016) started a position as a Consultant in Global Investigations and Compliance for Guidehouse Management Consulting
● Erik Cortez Sanchez (2019) started a position as 5th Grade Math and Science Teacher in the Fayetteville Public Schools
● Claudia de Santiago (2016) accepted a position as grant projects manager for White Bison, Inc. in Colorado Springs, CO
● Erin Schaffer (2016) graduated with a J.D. from the Emory University School of Law and started a position as Attorney with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in Atlanta, GA
● Camille Smith (2019) accepted a position as Assistant to the Senior VP for Rescue & Rehabilitation at Operation Underground Railroad in Fort Worth, TX
● Peyton Watts (2017) graduated with a J.D. from the William & Mary Law School
● Maya Williams (2019) served with Americorps VISTA through Family Promise, Inc. in Little Rock, AR

Maya Williams
Peyton Watts
Kaitlyn Smithwick
Railroad in Fort Worth, TX
Camille Smith
the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in Atlanta, GA
Erin Schaffer
Claudia de Santiago
Erik Cortez Sanch
Management Consulting
Mikaela Rhodes
Harper Ricks
Karsten Powers
Stewart Pence
Alex Oldham
Jamie Nix
Alexan
Political Science
Azul Munoz
Maris Moon
at Grant Thornton Public Sector Management Co
Sidney Milner
Natalie Mauchli
London Lundstrum
Stephen Kruse
Sarah Kouchebaugh
Angela Kaijage
Raiya Jensen
Associate Attorney at the Massey Law Firm in St. Louis, MO
Justin Hilton
Robert Dalby
Lincoln Heffley
Lance Cummings
Lincoln Gimnich
Research Support Specialist at the University of Nort
Tia Francis
Taylor Dunn
Andrew Dixon
London Lundstrum
William Baker
Robert Dalby
Lia D’Emidio
Andrew Dixon
Taylor Dunn
Tia Francis
Lincoln Gimnich
Lincoln Heffley
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Maris Moon
Azul Munoz
Alexander Neubecker
Jamie Nix
Alex Oldham
Stewart Pence
Claudia de Santiago
Erin Schaffer
Camille Smith
Kaitlyn Smithwick
Peyton Watts
Maya Williams
I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

A. LALS Annual Research Symposium: In Fall 2019, LALS held its second Research Symposium. The theme of the symposium this year was “Migrations: Encounters, Dignity, and Human Rights.” Unlike our first symposium, which only included LALS faculty and an invited speaker, this year’s event was more inclusive and meant to have a greater array of participants. It featured a traditional panel comprised solely of graduate student presentations, a roundtable with faculty, graduate students, and members of the greater NWA community, and a keynote talk on “Migrations Then and Now: Understanding Anti-Mexican Rhetoric in Times of Economic Crisis” by Dr. Michael Innis-Jiménez, Associate Professor and Director of American Studies at the University of Alabama. All three sessions were well attended, drawing a notable number of undergraduate and graduate students from numerous disciplines, faculty, and some staff.

B. LALS Lecture Series and Co-Sponsored Events: In Fall 2019, LALS co-sponsored four lectures and speaker visits, which also included related events for undergraduate students and were organized by LALS core faculty members. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Luis Restrepo organized a speaker visit for Dr. Peter Hulme (Emeritus Professor of Literature at Essex) who delivered a lecture titled “Tropical Town: A Latino Poet in New York.” Working in close collaboration with Gender Studies, LALS also helped to coordinate a speaker visit for Dr. AnaLouise Keating (Professor at Texas Women’s University) who gave the talk “Towards a Theory-Practice of Queer Conocimiento” in late September. Dr. Keating’s visit included a guided reading and discussion session for undergraduate students who had been selected to participate beforehand by faculty. Dr. Shawn Austin organized the lecture and visit by Dr. Zeb Tortorici (Associate Professor at NYU) in early October. The title of Dr. Tortorici’s lecture was “Archiving the ‘Obscene’: Sexuality, Desire, and Historical Memory in Mexico.” Finally, in November, Dr. Erika Alemanara organized a speaker visit for Dr. Gareth Williams (University of Michigan) who gave a talk on Robert Bolaño’s novel 2666. Dr. Williams’s visit also included a workshop-lunch with graduate students in WLLC, CLCS, and English, among others. All of these events were well received and well-attended. We had especially high turnout of students at Keating’s event. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we were forced to cancel the speaker visits planned for March and April 2020.

C. LALS Under/Graduate Student Scholarships/Grants: In Spring 2019, the LALS program began researching and working to develop a series of student scholarships/grants to help undergraduate students finance study abroad (as part of our program in Puebla, Mexico) and graduate students to finance research and/or conference travel/professionalization. In Fall 2019, a committee comprised of LALS faculty (Steven Rosales, Ana Pulido-Rull, Violeta Lorenzo Feliciano and Shawn Austin) met throughout the semester to develop a set of criteria for 2 undergraduate study abroad scholarships and 3 graduate student research grants. The committee was also responsible for refereeing the graduate student applications. We had a total of 12 viable applications by undergraduate students for the study abroad scholarship. Undergraduate students, Alondra Altamirano and Madison Primm, were awarded these scholarships. We had a total of 6 viable applications for the graduate research grants, which were awarded to Roselee Ledesma (Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology), Adrienne Dawes (MFA Program-Playwriting), and Alejandra Campos (MA in Political Science). Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, student awardees were not able to make use of their scholarships/grants for this summer and early Fall 2020. In the case of 2 graduate student awardees who will be continuing their program of study at the University of Arkansas their funds will be carried over for this incoming AY (2020-2021), per the approval of Dean White.

D. Tenure and Promotion of LALS Core Faculty: Violeta Lorenzo-Feliciano (WLLC) was awarded Tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Lorenzo-Feliciano is a dedicated and integral member of the LALS’ core faculty group.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

A. LALS Achievements in Teaching

1. Juan José Bustamante was inducted as a new fellow in the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy (2019).
Annual Report for Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS)
Yajaira M. Padilla, Director
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

2. Violeta Lorenzo-Feliciano taught two Spanish AP lessons (i.e., Cuban poet Nancy Morejón & Puerto Rican poet Julia de Burgos) at Har-Ber High School (February 2020); promoted the U of Arkansas’ Spanish & LALS programs to high school seniors.
3. Luis Restrepo was visiting professor at the Universidad EAFIT, Medellin Colombia (taught a three-week doctoral seminar on the imperial Renaissance epic from July-Aug. 2019).
4. Luis Restrepo co taught with Prof. Sergio Villalobos (U of Michigan) a graduate seminar for the online MA in Cultural Heritage for the Universidad de Buenos Aires (June 2020).
5. Yajaira M. Padilla served as Mentor (Isis Campos, Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Houston) in the Mellon Fellowship Program at the University of Illinois, Chicago (AY 2019-2020).

B. LALS Achievements in Research

1. Publications, Presentations, and Creative Activity – See Bibliographic Appendix

2. Selected Grants, Awards, and/or Fellowships for Research
   1. Erika Almenara received an Honorable Mention, Sylvia Molloy Award. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Sexualities Studies Section. Sexualities Studies Section.
   2. Erika Almenara received the XIV Lawrence International Book Fair Research Award in recognition of her research work done on Peruvian cultural production.
   3. Erika Almenara (Co-PI with Lia Uribe) received a Chancellor’s Fund for the Humanities and Performing Arts Grant for the project: ReflexXions Music Series.
   4. Luis Restrep (Co-PI with Foote, Castro, Magnetti and Arellano) received a Chancellor’s Fund for the Humanities and Performing Arts Grant for the project: “Arkansas Participation in a 500 Million Person Community: Building Capacity for Innovation in Spanish Teaching Statewide” ($50,000).

C. LALS Achievements in Service

1. Public Events
   1. LALS Annual Research Symposium (See “Significant Program Achievements”)
   2. LALS Speaker Series (See “Significant Program Achievements”)
   3. “Plaza de las Americas”: The LALS program continued its annual practice of providing financial and logistical support for Plaza de las Americas (September 2019), a student-centered event that celebrates and raises awareness about Latin American and Latino cultures through music, dance, verbal arts, and cuisine. The event attracts between 350-400 attendees yearly, which include students, faculty, staff, and community members.

2. Awards/Recognition for Service
   1. Steven Rosales completed 32 years of honorable service in the U.S. Navy in June 2020 and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.
   2. Steven Rosales was nominated for the Portraits of Progress for the 150th year celebration of the U of Arkansas.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

1. Honors Theses by LALS Students (Spring/Summer 2020).

2. Achievements by 2020 LALS Graduates:
   a. Alycia Jameson was selected for the Peace Corps (serving in Guatemala).
b. Lane Justus was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for 2020-2021 (research and teaching in Mexico).

3. Achievements by Graduate Students working in LALS with program faculty:

LALS Core Faculty (for whom bibliographic information should be collected): Ana Pulido Rull, Jeffrey J. Ryan, Juan José Bustamante, Kirstin C. Erickson, Kathryn Ann Sloan, Luis Fernando Restrepo, Steven Rosales, Steven M. Bell, Violeta Lorenzo-Feliciano, Wesley D. Stoner, Yajaira M. Padilla, Shawn M. Austin, Ram Natarajan, Xavier Medina Vidal, Ben Vining, Edvan P. Brito, Erika Almenara, Sarah K. Rodriguez, Anthony Vajda, Rocio Paez.
ANNUAL REPORT

Legal Studies
Karen Sebold, Ph.D.

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

Legal Studies is an interdisciplinary minor housed in Fulbright and the Political Science department. As such, as the Director of Legal Studies I do not supervise any staff or professors however I do advise a large number of students from several colleges. It currently has roughly 140 students in the program. Although academic advising for the students is handled by the Fulbright Advising Center and other colleges’ academic advisors, I have met with individually roughly more than half of all the students in the minor to discuss the courses in the minor, preparing for the LSAT, and applications for law school as well as with as many students interested in pursuing the minor. On the latter topic, I have read, discussed, and edited some of their personal statements and helped inform their choices in law school to which to apply and attend as well as completing dozens of letters of reference for these students.

In the fall of 2018, the process to develop an online version of the Legal Studies Minor was initiated and is now active. In the last year, I have monitored the online program and reached out with several professors about including their classes in the online minor.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

I serve as a primary contact between UA students (including non-ARSC majors) and recruiting law schools.

I serve as the advisor for two RSOs:

1. The UA Prelaw Society (roughly 100 members): My work with the society consists of advising the leadership on topics and speakers for their monthly meetings, contacting speakers, and reserving space for the meetings, and attending the meetings. I have advised them on fundraising and serve as the primary moderator for the society’s listserv. I also serve as the primary point of contact for most of the students interested in joining the organization.

2. The UA Mock Trials Team (25 members): The coaches are three law school students who have largely handled the preparation for tournaments (of which there were four in 2019-20), fundraising, and the logistics of travel to the tournaments. My role is to assist with recruitment, advising the coaches, signing forms, and assisting the groups’ leadership with securing money for travel, including providing funds from my LGST. I also assisted the leadership with the RSO application process.
III. Student and Alumni Achievements

The UA Prelaw Society hosted several Law School admissions counselors at their monthly meetings including from Tulsa, Texas, and Missouri. They also hosted a Law School Fair for students. At least a dozen law schools attended the fair and dozens of students attended the fair.

The UA Mock Trials achieved success in their mock trial competitions, making it to regionals, and they would have likely made it to nationals, but the regionals were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Humanities Minor Program
Casey Kayser, English (Informal Director); Steering Committee: Trish Starks, History; Jonathan Marion, Anthropology; Warren Herold, Philosophy

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

(Including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning.)

The Medical Humanities (MEDH) minor initiative was a collaboration among the faculty on the Steering Committee (Casey Kayser, English; Trish Starks, History; Jonathan Marion, Anthropology; Warren Herold, Philosophy). The Medical Humanities minor first became available to students in Fall 2019, so the program is still in its initial stages. Kayser has been serving as the informal director, and there are currently discussions happening in the Dean’s Office about formalizing this position. Conversations about potential funding and support for programming are also in the works, but put on hold due to COVID-19.

Student interest in the minor has shown to be significant in just one year.

24 students graduated with a Medical Humanities minor in May 2020. Sample majors of these students included Biology, Spanish, Psychology, Kinesiology, Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS), and Public Health, drawing students from multiple colleges: J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences; Bumpers Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; and the College of Education and Health Professions (COEHP). Many of the students in Fulbright and COEHP were on the premedical track or plan to work in various capacities in public health, and students with majors in HDFS have various career goals, such as admittance to nursing school or occupational therapy programs.

Overall, 173 current students have declared the minor as of July 2020. These students are drawn from the same three colleges, and additional sample majors from this group include Marketing, Pre-Nursing, Anthropology, Journalism/Political Science, and Social Work.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

We are making efforts to develop more courses in the MEDH minor and other departments, and will be submitting proposals in CourseLeaf to help facilitate cross-listing of courses with MEDH.

For instance, in the History (HIST) department, eight faculty members are collaborating to offer a 1-credit hour course called "COVID-19 and The History of Pandemics," which will be offered in the first eight-week session of Fall 2020 as HIST 406V-901. This course will count towards the MEDH minor.

The English department (ENGL) will be proposing a course titled “Topics in Literature, Science, and Medicine” to fit courses with these themes, which we will cross-list with MEDH. English faculty have proposed courses such as “Literature of Pandemics”; “Gender, Literature, and Medicine”; “Medical Narratives”; “Frankenstein for STEM”; and “The Human Side of Cancer.”

We also plan to propose general courses at various levels, such as MEDH 3XXX: Studies in Medical Humanities, to help with ease of cross-listing.
Annual Report for Medical Humanities Program  
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

We are very excited about the creation of the new Arkansas Humanities Center, and we have engaged in discussions with director Trish Starks and associate director Lissette Szwydky-Davis about potentials for collaboration.

While funding/support for programming could certainly benefit our students and faculty, we also anticipate productive opportunities in the realm of public service. We hope that the MEDH program could collaborate with other University of Arkansas healthcare-related departments and faculty, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, or local healthcare facilities to focus on programming that would benefit public health in our local communities.

We also foresee collaborations with the Medical Humanities Registered Student Organization (RSO), which hosts several events each year. Sample events the RSO has hosted include an April 2019 panel titled “How the Humanities Shape My Perspective on Medicine,” which brought together healthcare practitioners, medical students, and premed students who majored in the humanities or social sciences to discuss their education and/or careers; and the Medical Book Series, two events each year which bring together students and faculty for a faculty-led discussion on a medically-relevant text (led by faculty members Casey Kayser in English and Hanna Jensen in Biomedical Engineering). In October 2019, the RSO hosted a mentoring event for students called “Planning a Well-Balanced Pre-Health Course Schedule.” Planning/events in 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19. We are excited about the possibilities that could emerge through combining the energies of the RSO and the MEDH program.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

Of the 24 graduated MEDH minors:

- 8 students were accepted to medical school
- 2 students are taking a gap year with intent to apply for medical school acceptance for 2021
- 1 student is taking a gap year with intent to apply for nursing school acceptance for 2021
- 1 student is entering a Master's of Occupational Therapy program
- Post-graduation plans for the rest of the students are unknown
ANNUAL REPORT

King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies
Director: Todd Shields; Faculty Leadership: Ted Swedenburg

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

(Including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning.)

A. Personnel changes

1. **Mahfuza Akhtar** retired in February 2020. She served as staff in the MEST program for over 10 years and had been recently acknowledged for her 20 years of service at the University of Arkansas.

B. Support for the Arts

1. **Etel Adnan Poetry Prize and Arabic Literature in Translation**

   Every year the University of Arkansas Press together with the Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI) solicits submissions for the Etel Adnan Poetry Series and awards the $1,000 Etel Adnan Poetry Prize to a first or second book of poetry, in English, by a writer of Arab heritage. MEST supports the prize and publication of the winning book through promotion, event hosting, and financial contributions.

   Jessica Abughattas has been named the winner of the 2020 Prize for her collection *Strip*, available from the University of Arkansas Press in the Fall of 2020. MEST will co-sponsor a reading by Abughattas with the Open Mouth Reading Series, a local poetry nonprofit, at the 2020 Open Mouth Poetry Festival which will take place virtually.

   A *Theory of Birds*, by 2019 prize winner Zaina Alsous, was published in October 2019 by the University of Arkansas Press.

2. **Collaboration with the Faulkner Performing Arts Center and TheatreSquared**

   MEST continues to provide support to the U of A Faulkner Performing Arts Center (FPAC) for programming related to the academic and cultural interests of the Middle East Studies program. Additionally, MEST was a contributor to the workshop production *10,000 Balconies* conceived, created and directed by U of A alumna **Kholoud Sawaf**. *10,000 Balconies* is loosely inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*, is set in modern Syria. The presentation and three-year development of 10,000 Balconies was made possible through a $250,000 grant from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Building Bridges Program. This mission of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art’s Building Bridges Program is to advance relationships, increase understanding and reduce bias between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

3. **Middle East Film**

   Nadi Cinema, the Middle East Film Club, screens films from across the Middle East. All films are subtitled in English, and screenings are free and open to the public. A MEST tradition since 2006, the series screens monthly films during spring and fall semesters and is hosted by Professor of History **Joel Gordon**.

C. **Addressing Food Insecurity**
In early 2020, MEST opened a mini food pantry within its office to provide additional resources for students, staff and faculty facing food insecurity. MEST will partner with the Full Circle Food Pantry on campus; in order to help publicize available resources and to make our efforts more sustainable in the long-term.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

A. **Mohja Kahf**, Professor of English, was named the winner of the 2020 Press 53 Award for Poetry for her manuscript, *My Lover Feeds Me Grapefruit*. The book features poems that converse with the erotic poetry of Arab women from the 7th, 11th and 12th centuries. Her book was selected from over 350 manuscripts; it joins the Tom Lombardo Poetry Series at Press 53.  

B. Sponsored Programming

MEST sponsors a series of academic lectures and events throughout the academic year, bringing topical experts to the U of A from all over the world to speak. All events are free and open to the public, and speakers are available to meet with interested U of A students and faculty.

1. Lectures and Fora

   a. Sept. 16, 2019. “In America's Wake: Turbulence and Insecurity in the Middle East.” Waleed Hazbun, Richard L. Chambers Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Political Science, University of Alabama. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the International and Global Studies Program.


   c. October 9, 2019, “Esrefoglu Rumi: An Ottoman Sufi between ‘High’ and ‘Popular’ Islam.” Baris Basturk, PhD Student in History at the University of Arkansas. Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Middle East Studies Fall Colloquium Series.

   d. November 4, 2019. “Awlad al-Balad or Minority: Revisiting the ‘Coptic Question.’” Vivian Abraham, Department of History, University of Mississipi. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the Department of History.

   e. November 6, 2019. “Dante and the Arab World.” Valerio Cappozzo, Department of Modern Languages, University of Mississippi. Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Middle East Studies Colloquium Series.

   f. January 23, 2020. “Iran Protests: Roots, Prospects, and Historical Contingencies.” Shirin Saeidi, University of Arkansas, and Mohammad Tabaar, Texas A&M University. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the International and Global Studies Program.

   g. February 12, 2020. “Sexuality in Libya from the Late-Ottoman Period to the Collapse of Empire.” Katrina Yeaw, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Gender Studies Program.
h. February 24, 2020. "Sama Alshaibi: Body as Site." Sama Alshaibi, University of Arizona. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the School of Art and the Gender Studies Program.

i. March 11, 2020. "Layla Murad: Egypt's Jewish-Muslim Star and the Making of Arab-Muslim Popular Culture." Hanan Hammad, Texas Christian University. Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Department of Music, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Religious Studies Program.

2. Readings

a. October 12, 2019. Zaina Alsous, winner of the 2019 Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. At Nomads Trailside, as part of the 2019 Open Mouth Poetry Festival. Co-sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and the Open Mouth Reading Series.

3. Performances

a. August 30 – September 1, 2020. 10,000 Balconies at TheatreSquared, directed by Kholoud Sawaf. Presentation and development made possible through a grant from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Building Bridges Program. Additional sponsorship through the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies to provide student engagement opportunities.


III. Student and Alumni Achievements

(Especially those of national, regional or statewide significance.)

A. **Sophie Hill**, a University of Arkansas honors junior from Bentonville, has received an honorable mention from the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Scholarship Foundation. Hill is majoring in international and global studies, environmental studies and Middle East studies in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. She will become a member of the Udall Alumni Association, connecting her to a host of other scholars and honorable mention designees. ([https://news.uark.edu/articles/52942/u-of-a-student-receives-recognition-from-udall-scholarship-foundation](https://news.uark.edu/articles/52942/u-of-a-student-receives-recognition-from-udall-scholarship-foundation))

B. The poem “Invention of I” by **Kaveh Bassiri**, doctoral candidate in comparative literature and translation, was included in the *Best American Poetry of 2020* collection.
ANNUAL REPORT

Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program
Prof. Joshua Byron Smith, Director

Miscellaneous
As we are an interdisciplinary program and have no faculty per se, only affiliated faculty, I am omitting the bibliography portion of this report. Instead, I will focus on our events and activities.

Prof. Joshua Byron Smith took over as director in Fall 2017.

Ongoing Events
Latin Reading Group, weekly (on hiatus after campus went remote). Average participation 5-12 undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Led by Prof. Smith.

Middle Welsh Reading Group, weekly in Spring semester. 5 student participants, 2 undergraduate and 3 graduate. Led by Prof. Smith

MRST-MEST Colloquium. This interdisciplinary colloquium meets roughly every other week. We have lunch, listen to a presentation, usually on ongoing work, and then a lively discussion ensues. We have had good attendance for this event, usually around 15-20. This academic year, we brought in speakers from Belmont Abbey, University of Mississippi, Arkansas Tech, and Kansas State. (Outside speakers are bolded below.) These meetings have become valuable for faculty and students: the small venue allows for excellent discussion and for great networking. Organized by Mary Beth Long and Joshua Byron Smith

Sept 11: Joshua Byron Smith, University of Arkansas, “Fictional Old Books from The British Isles”


Nov 6: Valerio Cappozza, University of Mississippi, “Dante and the Arab World”

Nov. 20: Shawn Austin, University of Arkansas, “Indios Fronterizos and the Spanish-Guarani Militias in Seventeenth-Century South America.”

Feb. 5: “A Conversation on Race and Representation in Premodern Studies”
Profs. Freddy Dominguez, Mohja Kahf, & Dorothy Stephens


Feb 26: Prof. Wendy Matlock, Kansas State, “Ventriloquizing Mothers: Chaucer’s Poetic Authority”

March 3: Prof. Fernando Riva, “Two Versions of Solomon at the Court of Alfonso X of Castile”

***Meetings Planned but Cancelled because of Covid***

March: 18 Prof. Rhodora Vennarucci, “Virtual Roman Retail”

April 1: Dr. David Callender, Cardiff University, “Bringing Medieval English and Welsh Literature Together.”

April 22: Dist. Prof. Lynn Jacobs, “Framing the Spinola Hours”

Symposium: Networks of Knowledge and Transmission of Ideas in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean. April 9-10

This symposium was supposed to be our signature event for the year, but it was cancelled because of COVID. Nonetheless, Freddy Dominguez, Nikolay Antov, and (to a much lesser extent) I planned for this symposium, which was to bring in several scholars from all over the world. Obviously, we had to postpone this event. We will, I hope, be able to plan for another version soon.
Annual Report, July 8, 2020

NIH NIGMS IDeA COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function
University of Arkansas
Francis Millett, PI, Roger Koepppe, Co-PI

I. Significant COBRE Center Achievements

A. Overview

The University of Arkansas NIH NIGMS IDeA COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function was established in September 2000 with COBRE Phase I NIH NCRR Grant 1 P20 RR15569-01 and continued with NIH Phase II and Phase III grants 1P30RR031154 and 8P30GM103450 for a total of $27.8 million for the period 2000 - 2015. Protein structure and function is a central biomedical research area that has great potential for leading to improvements in human health. The Center supports multidisciplinary research projects involving junior faculty and senior faculty with expertise in a broad range of techniques needed to study protein structure and function. The investigators are in the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Biological Sciences in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UAMS, as well as other UA departments and colleges. The Center has made excellent progress since its establishment in October 2000, bringing in more than $128 million in external grant support, including 47 NIH grants, and 40 NSF, DOE and EPA grants (See Appendix). Sixteen outstanding new faculty members have been hired, and core facilities in NMR spectroscopy, X-ray crystallography, mass spectrometry, large-scale protein production, and chemical synthesis have been established. The COBRE Center is conducting numerous biomedical research projects important to human health, including the development of new methods to treat osteoporosis, hepatitis C, the flu virus, cancer, and heart disease. In 2019, COBRE faculty brought in $6.8 million in external grand support, and published 64 articles in peer-reviewed journals (See Appendix).

The NIH COBRE Center collaborates extensively with the NIH NIGMS INBRE entitled “Partnerships for Biomedical Research in Arkansas” (Arkansas INBRE). Arkansas INBRE has received over $50 million in NIH funding over the past 15 years, and has been renewed for the period 2020 – 2025 for over $18 million. The NIH IDeA Arkansas INBRE program has established a mechanism for the use of the NIH COBRE Center core facilities by faculty and undergraduate STEM students at four-year colleges throughout the state of Arkansas.

B. Career Development of Faculty Members

The impact of the NIH IDeA COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function on career development of faculty has been very far-reaching. The original COBRE Center provided support for seven junior faculty members starting in 2000 that was critical for the development of their biomedical careers (see Appendix). These seven faculty members went on to establish nationally recognized biomedical careers, and receive their own federal grant awards. For example, Professor Kevin Raney has received numerous NIH grants to study the helicase of the Hepatitis C virus with the goal of developing a more effective treatment, and is now Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UAMS. Professor Ralph Henry has received numerous federal grants, and has also co-founded the company InterverXion Therapeutics, which is developing monoclonal antibodies and an active vaccine for treating methamphetamine abuse.

The COBRE Center provided funding and core facilities to hire 16 outstanding new faculty members since 2000 (See Appendix). These new faculty have gone on to establish nationally recognized biomedical careers, and receive their own federal grant awards. For example, COBRE
Professor Julie Stenken was brought in as a 21st Century Chair, has received a number of major NIH grants, and serves on several different NIH review panels. COBRE Associate Professors Colin Heyes and Nan Zheng in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry have each been awarded highly competitive NSF Career Awards and have graduated to Mid-Career Faculty status in the COBRE Center. COBRE Associate Professors Michael Lehmann, Daniel Lessner and Yuchun Du in the Department of Biological Sciences have been awarded NIH and NSF grants, and graduated to Mid-Career status. COBRE Professor Alan J. Tackett joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2005, and has been awarded four NIH grants as PI since 2008, and graduated to Senior Faculty status in our NIH COBRE Center. He was awarded his own NIH COBRE grant, “Center for Translational Pediatric Research”, 1P20GM121293-01, on July, 2017 for $2.295 million per year and $11.475 million for the total five year period.

The NIH COBRE Center also supported Pilot Projects to allow investigators to explore promising new research that could lead to breakthroughs in the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases. For example, a COBRE Pilot Project to Professor Feng Wang provided key research leading to the award of a new $1.15 million grant from NIH, 5R01GM120578, “Efficient and Accurate Force fields for the Computer-Aided Drug Design” for the period 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2021. The goal of this grant is to develop a new “Adaptive Force Matching” computational method for the design of novel nisin-based antibiotics to address the increasingly severe problem of multi-drug resistant bacterial infection.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research, and Public Service

A. Impact of NIH IDeA COBRE Center on STEM Undergraduate Education

The NIH IDeA COBRE Center has had a major impact on undergraduate education in the STEM fields. The University of Arkansas established the Honors College in 2002, and most COBRE faculty direct undergraduate honors students doing biomedical research in their laboratories using COBRE Core Facilities. Approximately 40 undergraduate honors students supported by COBRE core facilities graduated from the University of Arkansas each year during the period 2010 – 2018.

COBRE Professor Paul Adams was awarded a major new NSF grant “Closing the STEM Labor Gap through a Path to Graduation for Low Income, Rural Students” in December 2017 for $999,847. While the STEM-based economy has been an enormous economic boon in some regions, others are falling further behind economically due in part to their inability to meet STEM labor demands. Previous STEM student recruitment and retention efforts have largely ignored the unique challenges faced by low-income students from rural areas. These students often struggle with academic persistence in college due to insufficient funds, poor academic preparation by their small, financially struggling schools, and little social support given the lack of college-going culture in their communities. The new “Path to Graduation” program in the Honors College supported by Professor Adams’ NSF grant is adapting proven student retention and graduation initiatives to better address the financial, academic, and social barriers to success so that these students can thrive and succeed in their STEM studies. Two cohorts of 18 STEM students per year receive annually renewable scholarships of up to $5,500. These students participate in the program’s retention and graduation initiatives, including: an in-residence summer bridge program; a Living-Learning Community (shared housing); Academic Success Advising; faculty and peer mentoring; and on-campus or industry-based research opportunities. Professor Adams has directed the research projects of over 50 honors students over the past 10 years.

COBRE Professor Suresh Kumar received the Charles and Nadine Baum Faculty Teaching Award from the UA Alumni Association for 2018. He is currently directing 43 honors students, has published numerous refereed papers with his honors students, and they have presented over 80
papers at regional and national meetings. His 60 previous honors students have graduated and gone on to achieve success in graduate and professional schools. He has received many other awards for directing undergraduate research, including the Outstanding Mentor Award for 2007-2012 from the Honors College, and the Fulbright College Master Teacher Award and Outstanding Advisor Award.

B. Impact of NIH IDeA COBRE Center on STEM Graduate Education

The NIH IDeA COBRE Center has had a major impact on graduate education in the STEM fields. In addition to the graduate students directly supported by the grants of the COBRE investigators, the COBRE Core Facilities are used extensively by many graduate students. Approximately 15 graduate students supported in part by the COBRE Center complete their degrees each year.

C. Scientific Advances by COBRE Faculty and Students

The following is just one of 64 peer-reviewed articles published by COBRE faculty this year.

Breaking the Backbone: Central Arginine Residues Induce Membrane Exit and Helix Distortions within a Dynamic Membrane Peptide

Matthew J. McKay, Riqiang Fu, Denise V. Greathouse, and Roger E. Koepppe, II

Roger Koepppe and his graduate students and associates worked together to carry out an important study on the role of transmembrane helixes in the structure and function of membrane proteins. Biological membrane proteins are crucial for all living organisms on earth, and also are the target of over 50% of pharmaceutical drugs. They form essential barriers between the inside and outside of cells, and control the movement of molecules into and out of cells. Membrane proteins control the flow of information between cells by sending and receiving chemical or electrical signals. Transmembrane domains of membrane proteins sometimes contain conserved charged or ionizable residues which may be essential for protein function and regulation. This work examines the molecular interactions of single Arg residues within a highly dynamic transmembrane peptide helix. Oriented solid-state NMR experiments reveal that a central arginine residue dominates the properties of a transmembrane helix. Changing the arginine location can drive the helix to the membrane surface and even cause a partial 310-helix. The helix rearrangements may mimic the arginine-rich voltage-sensing domains of channel proteins.

Their research was supported by NSF Grant MCB-1327611, Benchmarks for Membrane Biophysics, and by the COBRE Core facilities in NMR, Mass Spectrometry, and Peptides.
APPENDIX: NIH NIGMS IDeA COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function

A. COBRE Investigators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original COBRE Senior Investigators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis S. Millett</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger E. Koeppe</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Durham</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan D. Elbein</td>
<td>Professor and Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hinton</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pulay</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson O. Lay</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothar Schafer</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles L. Wilkins</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original COBRE Junior Investigators (Now Senior Investigators)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Greathouse</td>
<td>Research Assoc. Prof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Henry</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt McIntosh</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin D. Raney</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Sakon</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Stites</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Mack Ivey</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New COBRE Investigators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Gawley</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Stenken</td>
<td>Professor and 21st Century Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Lehmann</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Grover Miller</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul D. Adams</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Curtin</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yu-Chun Du</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Goforth</td>
<td>Research Assist. Prof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin Heyes</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.K.S. Kumar</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Lessner</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Tackett</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nan Zheng</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jingyi Chen</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wei Shi</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feng Wang</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### COBRE Pilot Project Investigators (2010 – 2015)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Lessner</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
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<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Heyes</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Stenken</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Adams</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>2007</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nan Zheng</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>David McNabb</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suresh Kumar</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pulay</td>
<td>Distinguished Professor</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christa Hestekin</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Beitle</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ines Pinto</td>
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<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sha Jin</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Servoss</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joon Jin Song</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Zaharoff</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jingyi Chen</td>
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<td>Wei Shi</td>
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<td>Feng Wang</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### B. COBRE Core Facilities

1. **NMR Spectroscopy Core Facility**  
   Director: Suresh Kumar

2. **X-ray Crystallography Core Facility**  
   Director: Joshua Sakon

3. **Mass Spectrometry Core Facility**  
   Director: Jackson Lay

4. **Chemical Synthesis Core Facility**  
   Director: Matt McIntosh

5. **Large Scale Protein Production Core Facility**  
   Director: Roger Koepppe

6. **Proteomics Core Facility.**  
   Director: Dr. Alan Tackett   UAMS
C. COBRE Faculty Awards

The support provided by the NIH IDeA COBRE Center has played a key role in developing the careers of COBRE Investigators and allowing them to compete successfully for their own grant support. COBRE Investigators have brought in more than $100 million in external grant support since 2000, not including the COBRE grants (See Table below). These include 47 NIH grants, and 40 NSF, DOE and EPA grants. The total support that the COBRE Center has brought in to the University is $128 million, including direct COBRE grant support, and investigators’ grant support.

<table>
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<th>Grant Support</th>
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<td>COBRE Faculty Grant Support</td>
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<td>(Not including COBRE Grant Support)</td>
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<td>COBRE Total Grant Support 2000 - 2017</td>
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</table>
D. Core Facilities Progress Reports

1. NMR Spectroscopy Core Facility Progress Report Summary
   Director: Dr. Suresh Kumar

   Suresh Kumar, the director of the NMR Core facility, has extensive experience in both solution and solid-state NMR spectroscopy of proteins and peptides. Investigator Paul Adams is also highly trained in protein NMR spectroscopy, and has established numerous consultations and collaborations with other COBRE investigators to solve their protein structures. The University is providing institutional funds for 100% salaries for two Master Scientific Research Technologists to maintain the NMR core facility. Mr. Kz Shein, the NMR Technologist, has performed in an outstanding manner. Mr. Shein attended the Bruker Training Workshops on spectrometer repair, maintenance and use. He is now able to perform the necessary maintenance, trouble shooting and repair duties required for this position. Under the guidance of Professor Suresh Kumar, the Director of the CORE NMR Facility, Mr. Shein has learned how to perform multinuclear and multidimensional NMR experiments. Technologist Mr. David Parette is also responsible for maintaining the NMR core facility. The combination of high technical skills and the understanding of demanding NMR experiments have provided the CORE NMR Facility with practically uninterrupted service. The cryoprobes are maintained in good shape through an annual service contract. It is important to mention that the service contracts for the two cryoprobes continue to have a major impact on minimizing down-time for repairs of these systems.

   The NIH COBRE supported NMR Core facility includes ultra-shielded Bruker 700 MHz and 500 MHz spectrometers equipped with cryoprobes. These spectrometers are dedicated to obtaining high-resolution multidimensional data on time-sensitive proteins of biomedical importance. The 500 MHz spectrometer, fitted with the 1.7 mm micro cryoprobe, has helped COBRE investigators to collect multidimensional data at low volumes (~ 35 µL) and high salt concentrations. In addition, the NMR core facility has a Bruker 500 MHz spectrometer which is being regularly used to collect high quality two-dimensional DOSY and diffusion data. The NMR core facility also has Bruker wide-bore 300 MHz system and narrow-bore 300 MHz systems. These spectrometers are dedicated to acquire solid state NMR data. COBRE investigators, Dr. Paul Adams, Dr. Roger Koepe, Dr. Matt McIntosh, Dr. Susanna Streigler, Dr. Suresh Kumar Thallapuranam, Dr. Wei Shi, and Dr. Nan Zheng are regular users of the NMR Core facility.

2. Protein X-ray Crystallography Core Facility Progress Report Summary
   Director: Dr. Joshua Sakon

   The Protein X-ray crystallography core facility is directed by Professor Joshua Sakon. X-ray crystallography is the most accurate method for high-resolution structural characterization of proteins, and also is invaluable for studying protein-protein and protein-ligand interactions. It also allows us to study large complexes that are beyond the reach of NMR techniques. Many of the investigators in the center are collaborating with Dr. Sakon to crystallize a greatly expanded number of proteins, and the new combinatorial/robotics facility for high throughput protein crystallization has substantially increased the number of successfully crystallized proteins. While many of the protein crystal structures will be completely solved in house using the new X-ray diffraction instrumentation, the larger, more difficult protein structures require collection of diffraction data at national synchrotron facilities. Joshua Sakon and collaborators therefore make extensive use of national synchrotron beam lines, especially the Advanced Photon Source at the Argonne National Laboratory, IL, where he is a registered user. For the proteins that fail to crystallize, dynamic light scattering, small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) and/or NMR are used to optimize the conditions for crystallization.

   Through COBRE support between 2001 and 2019, seventy-three structures solved in the X-ray Core facility have been validated and made accessible to the public through the Protein Data Bank (PDB). From August, 2007 to March, 2015, the X-ray Core facility provided 78.4% of three-dimensional structures deposited from the state of Arkansas.
3. **State-Wide Mass Spectrometry Core Facility Progress Report**  
   **Director:** Dr. Jackson Lay

We have added major capabilities to the facility in the area of ESI/LC MS, and have developed a user base sufficient to support our current instrumentation. Initially our work was centered primarily on MALDI MS and GC/MS based techniques with our HPLC work supported by a now 20 year old ion trap instrument (Bruker Esquire). Subsequently, we have added three new instruments for ESI based LC/MS (or MS/MS). A Shimadzu 8040 UPLC/MS/MS and a Shimadzu 8050 UPLC/MS/MS system for low resolution experiments and quantitation of targeted compounds and a Shimadzu high resolution IT/TOF for high resolution LC/MS and studies requiring exact mass values and analyte identification. This IT/TOF instrument allows us for the first time to obtain accurate mass data on samples concurrent with HPLC separation and is allowing us to phase out our now 12 year old FTMS instrument, which while it had much higher mass resolution, could not scan a rates sufficiently fast to couple with modern HPLC separation methods. Our growing experience in HPLC/MS and accurate mass measurements is being applied primarily in environmental and agricultural research applications for metabolite identification and targeted compound quantification. We hope to use this as a stepping stone to developing more advanced metabolomics MS methods and capabilities.

4. **Chemical Synthesis Core Facility Progress Report**  
   **Director:** Dr. Mathias McIntosh

The Chemical Synthesis Core Facility directed by Professor Mathias McIntosh provides expertise and instrumentation for other investigators to synthesize molecules needed in their research. The equipment purchased and maintained by the synthesis core facility will continue to serve synthetic needs of the faculty in the department.

5. **Protein and Peptide Production Core Facility Progress Report**  
   **Directors:** Roger Koepepe and Suresh Kumar

The aims of the protein and peptide production core are to provide Center investigators with necessary research samples, including designed mutants and isotope-labeled proteins and peptides. Available equipment includes a solid-phase peptide synthesizer, large-scale fermenters, including several that employ batch-fed technology; and FPLC and HPLC purification systems. Core Facility users investigated the structures, functional properties and mechanism of action of bone growth promoters, other growth factor proteins, ion channels, polypeptide transport proteins, viral proteins, oncogenic RAS proteins, antimicrobial peptides and lipid-modulating peptides, among others. The key findings included a landmark hybrid protein approach to treating osteoporosis by targeting parathyroid hormone to bone, featured in Drug Discovery Today.

6. **UAMS COBRE Proteomics Core Facility**  
   **Director:** Dr. Alan Tackett.

The use of proteomics and systems biology approaches in biomedical research has expanded dramatically in recent years, largely due to improvements in mass spectrometric technology. Biomedical research projects increasingly rely upon rapid and/or large-scale identification, quantification, and characterization of proteins and protein modifications. The UAMS COBRE Proteomics Core Facility provides reliable and timely access to these capabilities for Arkansas investigators. In addition to providing proteomic services to investigators, the facility is pursuing the development of new mass spectrometric tools. The core facility recently installed both Thermo Velos Orbitrap and Thermo Fusion Orbitrap mass spectrometers to enhance our facility capabilities. The Velos provides the facility with label-free quantification, SILAC capabilities, high resolution MS and MS/MS, and ETD fragmentation. Using these new spectrometers, we have developed an approach to analyze formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) human tissue samples for proteomic changes as a function of disease, which has been used in three large studies on FFPE cancer tissues.
E. Bibliography 1/1/2019 – 5/31/2020

NIH COBRE Center for Protein Structure and Function

a. Peer Reviewed Articles


b. **Patents Awarded**

1. Fusion proteins of collagen-binding domain and parathyroid hormone  
   RC Gensure, J Sakon, O Matsushita, T Ponnappakkam  
   US Patent 10,519,213

2. Cleavage resistant photoluminescent proteins and applications thereof  
   RR Beitle, RP Mukherjee, S US Patent 10,442,842

3. Fusion proteins of collagen-binding domain and parathyroid hormone  
   RC Gensure, J Sakon, O Matsushita, T Ponnappakkam  
   US Patent 10,358,471


c. **Patent Applications**

   Collagen-binding agent compositions and methods of using the same  
   J Sakon, J Roeser, R Bauer, K Janowska, K Tanaka, O Matsushita, ...  
   US Patent App. 16/485,290

   Delivery of therapeutic agents by a collagen binding protein  
   T Ponnappakkam, STL Philominathan, J Sakon, R Katikaneni, T Koide, ...  
   US Patent App. 16/283,468
I. Significant Program Achievements and Changes

A. Program Achievements

1. **Transition to New Directorship:**

   In spring of 2019, Jerry Rose retired after four decades of predental advising. Kathleen Paul took over directorship of the program in fall of 2019. In order to gauge first year performance, student evaluations were solicited at the close of each semester (results attached).

2. **Creation of a Virtual Student Record Repository:**

   In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Predental Studies Program was assigned one graduate assistant. This student was tasked with scanning/digitizing paper records and committee letters of recommendation for over 300 current or recent predental students. This was an enormous task, and its completion has ensured the safety and virtual accessibility of advising files while eliminating storage needs for physical records.

3. **Cultivation of Online Program Presence:**

   A primary program goal for the academic year was to establish an online presence. Previously, program information could be accessed only through the Director’s personal website. To recruit prospective students and provide up-to-date information, a broader virtual presence was cultivated for the program.

   **UASuccess, STARFISH Advising Appointments**

   Prior to fall 2019, predental advising appointments were reserved on paper forms. To allow virtual reservations and appointment changes, this process was moved online. Kathleen Paul is now listed as a prehealth advisor in UASuccess. Her appointments are managed through the STARFISH scheduling application. Students can book appointments during any available advising times (six hours/week).

   **Transitioning the Predental Listserv**

   The Predental Listserv was migrated over to the new Director. This Listserv is used to distribute program announcements and reminders. It is managed by Laura Stacy and the Fulbright Advising Center.

   **Predental Studies Program Webpage**

   Working with Olivia Reid Kays (ARSC Communications Project Manager), the program has established a University web presence. This webpage provides information about requirements, Dental Admissions Test, and advising—information previously available only in a paper pamphlet. The webpage is hosted through the Department of Anthropology: https://fulbright.uark.edu/departments/anthropology/predental/index.php. Kathleen Paul has completed OU Campus 101 Website Development Training through the Office of University Relations to assist with maintenance of this webpage.

4. **Participating ARHEG/SREB Contract Dental School Site Visits:**

   The Arkansas Health Education Grant (ARHEG) Program provides assistance to students enrolled at certain out-of-state accredited health professional programs. As part of this program and in fulfillment of contracts negotiated through the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education (SREB), select dental schools hold a number of slots open for Arkansas students, charging resident and/or reduced tuition rates. These schools are: University of Tennessee—Memphis (23 spots, 10 additional spots reserved for Arkansans without tuition reduction), Meharry Medical College (1 spot), Louisiana State University—New Orleans (4 spots), University of Missouri—Kansas City (2 spots), and Texas A&M HSC—Dallas (3 spots). Three schools previous held contract spots and are still interested in accepting Arkansans: University of Oklahoma—Oklahoma City, University of Alabama—Birmingham, and University of Louisville.

   Jerry Rose maintained strong relationships with the above listed universities during his time as Director. To ease the directorship transition and familiarize herself with programs regularly accepting Arkansas students, Kathleen Paul conducted several site visits to contract schools during the academic year. This included 1-2 days visits to UMKC in October, LSU in January, and Texas A&M in February. Site visits were also planned for UT-Memphis and OU during the spring, but these visits were cancelled as a result of
COVID-19. During these visits, the Director met with admissions personnel, toured clinics, and discussed admissions and D1 experiences with Arkansas students now in dental school. The LSU visit also coincided with their Predental Day, a student recruitment event; this day was filled with workshops and meet-and-greets with current/prospective students. These visits have helped to maintain the strong program ties.

5. **Initiation of Student Program Evaluations:**
   To gauge Director performance and health of the program, Qualtrics student evaluations were solicited each semester. These evaluations were positive, and the full results are attached as supplemental material.

6. **Development of a Diversity and Inclusion Plan/Mission Statement:**
   The Director met with Ramona West (ARSC Director of Diversity and Inclusion) to discuss the steps for developing a program mission statement and diversity and inclusion plan. Because the Predental Studies Program is staffed by one faculty member, this plan would be geared toward inclusive student recruitment, retention, and advising practices. Student feedback will be sought in developing these two documents over the 2020-2021 academic year, with a deadline of summer 2021 for their completion.

7. **Airway and Orthodontics Workshop:**
   The Predental Studies Program partnered with a local chapter of the Academy of Interdisciplinary Dentofacial Therapy to host Dr. Mark Cruz’ Airway Workshop in November 2019. The Director and several student volunteers organized logistics, providing access to the venue and ensuring that predental students could attend free of charge. Over 50 people attended this workshop, which counted toward continuing education credits for dentists, orthodontists, and ENTs.

B. **Program Composition and Significant Changes**
   1. **Program Composition:**
      The Predental Studies Program was staffed by one faculty member in 2019-2020.
      - Director: Kathleen Paul
      - In the spring of 2019, Jerry Rose retired after four decades of predental advising. Kathleen Paul took over directorship of the program in the fall of 2019.

   The Predental Studies Program was staffed by one graduate assistant in 2019-2020.
   - GA: Cheyenne Lewis

   - This includes actively enrolled students who: a) declared Predental secondary majors, or b) sought advising at any point in their career (many apply to dental school after minimal advising).
   - This also includes students or alumni applying to dental school and requesting a committee letter.
   - A total of 113 students sought advising; most held more than one appointment over the year.

II. **Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service**
   A. **Program Achievements in Teaching and Enhancements to the Program’s Curriculum** – N/A
   ***The Predental Studies Program has no specific curriculum beyond the dental school prerequisites. There is no minor or major associated with the program, only a secondary major or focus.

   B. **Program Achievements in Research** – N/A

   C. **Program Achievements in Public Service**
      1. **Community Outreach—Farmington High School:**
         The Director spoke to the Farmington High School Dental Group during their spring 2020 career day. This was an opportunity for recruitment and to spark student interest in oral health professions.

      2. **Volunteer Work and Outreach—WelcomeHealth and Arkansas Mission of Mercy:**
         As part of their preparation for dental school, predental students complete a significant number of clinical shadowing and volunteer hours. As such, the Predental Studies Program has a strong, positive impact on the community, as well as communities abroad through programs like Global Brigades, which organizes medical missions to rural areas overseas. However, the Predental Studies Program has particularly strong ties to two local programs: Arkansas Mission of Mercy (ArMOM) and WelcomeHealth.
Approximately 22% of dental school applicants from our program have volunteered with ArMOM at their annual free dental clinic. WelcomeHealth is a clinic serving the un-/underinsured population of Northwest Arkansas. In the last quarter, they provided nearly 1,500 free dental services. Not only have 41% of dental school applicants from our program conducted shadowing and volunteer work at WelcomeHealth, but the Director regularly attends fundraisers/events benefitting the clinic and serving the community, including their 2019 “Evening to Shine” and “Why Can’t I Sleep” outreach events.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

A. Dental School Application Submissions (2021 Entry Year Cycle)

Forty-six students have started the application process for dental school this cycle. This number is similar to last year’s (45 applicants), which indicates continued health of the program. Thirty-two students have already submitted their application packets (~70%). The break-down of applications by state of residency is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>31 (67.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>2 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>3 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>2 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>4 (8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>3 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Dental School Acceptances (2020 Entry Year Cycle)

According to Jerry Rose’s records, 45 students applied to dental school during the 2020 entry year cycle. As schools no longer provide advisors detailed admissions records, acceptance rates must be calculated based on student self-reporting. The break-down of applicants by state of residency is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas/Oklahoma</td>
<td>31 (68.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas/Texas</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana/Texas</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>1 (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>3 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>5 (11.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 45 students who applied to dental school, 18 did not self-report application cycle outcomes. Of the 27 students who reported, 18 were accepted to at least one program. One student was also wait-listed. The acceptance rate for the program based on only reported numbers is 67%, slightly elevated from last year (2018-2019 rate: ~60%). This estimate is likely inflated to some degree, as some individuals who failed to report application cycle results were probably not accepted (lowest possible rate: 40%). These numbers will be adjusted as students continue to self-report cycle results.

Students from the University of Arkansas were accepted to at least fifteen institutions across ten different states. The majority of accepted students received offers from more than one school. Six students were accepted to three schools, and one student was accepted to seven schools. Based on self-reporting, the breakdown of dental schools to be attended by program alumni during their 2020 D1 year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana State U</td>
<td>1 student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Missouri-Kansas City</td>
<td>3 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma U</td>
<td>2 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Louisville</td>
<td>1 student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>4 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Tennessee-Memphis</td>
<td>5 students*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Kentucky</td>
<td>1 student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Texas-Houston</td>
<td>1 student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One student has deferred to 2021 entry year.

C. Graduate/Continuing Education Program Acceptances (2020 Entry Year Cycle)

1. Masters Programs:

One predental student (Kynnedy Willson) was accepted to the Arkansas College of Health Education Master of Science in Biomedicine Program. The goal of this program is to enhance scientific and professional preparation for a career in the medical and health professions.

2. Dental Hygiene Programs:

One predental student (Meredith Worlow) applied to dental hygiene school (cycle results pending).

D. Student Scholarships and Honors

1. Kaplan Course Scholarship:

The Director recently attended the 2020 National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (moved to a virtual format due to COVID-19). The University of Arkansas’ Predental Studies Program was entered into a prize competition and awarded one Kaplan Scholarship to cover a Dental
Admissions Test prep course (total value $2,500). Several students voiced interest in this opportunity and are entered into a drawing for the scholarship (to be performed on 7/12/2020).

2. **Summer Health Professions Education Program:**
   In 2019, one predental student (Peyton Perry) was accepted into and successfully completed the Summer Health Professions Education Program through the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. This enrichment program improves access to information and resources for students interested in the health professions. The program’s goal is to strengthen career development of students underrepresented in the health professions and prepare them for the application/matriculation process.

E. **The Predental Society**
Most predental students belong to the Predental Society, a student-run academic organization and registered University RSO. The Predental Studies Director is the faculty sponsor for this organization. This year the Predental Society held ten meetings and hosted five admissions/program officers (see schedule below). Several spring meetings were rescheduled due to COVID-19; April meetings were held via Zoom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2019</th>
<th>Welcome Back Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| October 2019   | Prof. John Cottrell (U Missouri-Kansas City Admissions Meeting)  
                  Cpt. Tashima McMurray (US Army Health Professions Scholarship Program) |
| November 2019  | DAT Meeting |
| January 2020   | Application Meeting and T-Shirt Handout  
                  Committee Letter Meeting  
                  Committee Letter Meeting |
| April 2020     | Prof. Dayna Myers (U Tennessee-Memphis Admissions Meeting)  
                  Dr. Haney (Oklahoma U Admissions Meeting)  
                  Dr. Miller (Texas A&M Admissions Meeting) |
ANNUAL REPORT

University of Arkansas Premed Program
Mack Ivey, Liebolt Chair of Premedical Sciences

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

A. Program Achievements
   1. The premed program evaluated 146 medical school aspirants, of which 137 applied. Each applicant was interviewed by two members of the premed advisory committee. Interviewers submitted summaries of each interview to the Program Chair. Summaries were added to the application material provided by the applicant, and all of the content was used to evaluate each applicant, in a series of (8) closed committee meetings. An evaluative committee letter was prepared for each applicant and uploaded to one or more of the three national application services.
   2. The two premed advisors, Drs Jensen and Ivey, each held walk-in advising hours weekly during the Fall and first half of the Spring semester, totaling 8 hours per week. Beginning in March 2020, the premed program switched to phone advising during the same weekly periods.
   3. The program held two mock MCAT exam days, one in November and one in February, allowing approximately 100 students to purchase practice MCAT tests at a discount and take the practice tests in a group environment that simulates the actual test. (A third mock exam day had to be canceled.) This is an ongoing part of program efforts to improve the MCAT performance of University students. Evidence suggests that it is starting to have positive effects on average MCAT scores.
   4. The program held several large workshops and panels during the Fall semester and the first half of the Spring semester, covering entrance exams, applications, essays, and interviews. In the spring, we held a workshop devoted to applying to Texas medical schools.
   5. Drs. Jensen and Ivey served as faculty sponsors for three premed Registered Student Organizations: AED, MCAT Masters, and the Non-traditional Premed Student Organization.

B. Program Changes
   1. The premed program executed an institutional partnership with Kaplan, making it possible to offer our students MCAT prep courses and materials at a 50% discount. Enrollment began in January 2020, with 51 students enrolled for our inaugural class.
   2. The program sponsored a first-ever “MCAT Fair” November 3, 2019. Test preparation service vendors from Kaplan, Princeton, NextStep, and UWorld visited campus and spoke directly with students about options for MCAT prep.
   3. In conjunction with the Career Development Center, the premed program offered a mock MMI (multiple mini-interview) session to premed students wanting practice with that type of interview. It was held on November 1, 2019, and had the students rotate through 8 interviewer scenarios. The students and interviewers then convened as a group for critiquing and Q/A.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

1. Along with Monica Moore and Dr. Steve Schexnayder of Little Rock Children’s Hospital, Dr. Ivey created and taught an Honors College Forum class entitled “Med School” to 22 students Spring semester. This discussion-based class was designed to familiarize premed students with topics and dilemmas faced by medical school students, residents, and physicians.
2. Dr. Jensen organized and led a medical reading club, which met during the Fall and Spring semesters to discuss selected books related to medical practice.
3. Both advisors gave presentations about the program to various groups, including student-athletes, exercise science majors, University Perspectives students, Honors College students and family members, and Fulbright peer mentors.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Averages</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All applied</td>
<td>137</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>503.8</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted: Med School</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td>505.4</td>
<td>3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted: Allopathic</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>508.5</td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted: DO only</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td>501.9</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas Residents:</td>
<td></td>
<td>% residents</td>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>MCAT</td>
<td>GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td>503.7</td>
<td>3.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted: Allopathic</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>508.0</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted: All</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>505.9</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Medical acceptance numbers for students applying in 2019.

As of July 2020, 60% of all applicants and 66% of Arkansas resident applicants have been accepted to medical schools for matriculation in 2020. Percentage acceptances by MD-granting schools were up 2.5 percentage points over the last two years’ numbers, and up 8.3 percentage points over 2017 values, for an almost 20 percent increase overall. Average MCAT scores and GPAs for that group were slightly higher than those of their 2019 cohort (507.5 and 3.76, respectively).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yearly Summaries</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted (MD)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(45.7%)</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted (MD &amp; DO)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(67.1%)</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Four-year comparison of acceptance data for Univ of Arkansas premeds.
University of Arkansas students were accepted into a total of 27 MD-granting medical schools, as shown in the table to the right. This is ten more schools than last year, indicating improved national competitiveness of our students, in particular for our out-of-state residents. University of Arkansas students applied to 149 med schools. After UAMS, the largest number of acceptances was by the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Noteworthy acceptances were those from Vanderbilt, UT Southwestern, Emory University, Baylor College, Yale School of Medicine, McGovern Houston, and University of Virginia medical schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Medical School at Houston</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Southwestern</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Virginia School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory University School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma College of Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCU and UNTSHC SOM</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech Univ. Hlth. Sci. Ctr. Sch. of Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis University School of Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas School of Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creighton University School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Uni. System HSC Col. of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformed Services University School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Central Florida College of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Mississippi School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas Medical Branch</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia University School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Michigan University School of Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3. Table of medical schools accepting University of Arkansas students in 2020. Notable acceptances are highlighted in red.*
I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

- The Pryor Center approached the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity. We anticipated the university's closure and developed a work plan, made staff assignments, prepared and inventoried computer equipment for home use, loaded media files on hard drives, set up Microsoft Teams for staff meetings, and created log sheets to track project status. Most of our efforts focused on completing 40 unprocessed Arkansas Memories Project videos. We have been productive.

- The Arkansas Memories Project was our top priority, and we completed it by our June 30 deadline. This accomplishment marks the completion of the Pryor Center's signature project representing 20 years of work, more than 150 interviews, and thousands of video and audio files, photos, and transcripts. We will post these 40 interviews over the next year and coordinate their release with our social media initiatives on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. With the Memories Project's completion, we have shifted our focus to other projects like the Clinton Gubernatorial Interviews, the El Dorado Project, the King Buscuit Blues Festival, the 50th Anniversary of the Ozarks Society, Arkansas Women Legislators Project, as well as additional oral histories.

- KATV – Channel 7 is the local ABC affiliate in Little Rock, and in 2009 the station donated its news archive to the Pryor Center. Spanning more than 50 years, the archive is one of the nation's most extensive collections of local news stories. This year we completed and posted the digitized film portion of the archive on our website. Last fall, we shipped 26,000 videotapes to The Media Preserve in Cranberry County, PA, for digitization. We will receive the digitized files over the next year and begin the arduous task of linking the metadata to the news stories. We have teamed with the college's Center for Advanced Spatial Technology to create an accurate index of the broadcasts.

- As we wrap up our work on the backlog, we begin what we call Chapter 2, a new direction for the Pryor Center. We now have the staff and the resources to pursue large, strategically chosen projects like Blue to Red, for which we will interview the people who shaped the Republican Party's takeover of Arkansas politics in three election cycles.

- The COVID-19 epidemic has made work on our core mission of oral and visual history difficult. Faced with this challenge, the center created remote interviewing kits—technology that allows broadcast-quality interviews to be conducted remotely in the safety of the interviewee's home or office.
II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

- The Pryor Center presented "A Symposium on the Elaine Massacre" on September 19, 2020. Also known as the Elaine Race Riot of 1919, this event, which occurred near the community of Elaine in Phillips County, was one of approximately 25 white-led anti-black riots that occurred throughout the U.S. that year and was one of the largest racial mass killings in our country's history. Dean Calvin White in his welcoming remarks said, "Our hope is that by facing and historically contextualizing this difficult piece of our past, we better understand the event itself, the reasons why such atrocities happened, and how we can prevent such tragic, historic events from repeating themselves in the future." During the all-day symposium, the five presentations attracted hundreds of people to the center with hundreds of additional people watching via live-streamed video. The conference videos are posted on our website.

- The Department of Geosciences and the Pryor Center received a $100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to organize and host a three-day symposium on global sea-level rise as it affects the continental United States. The invitation-only conference, scheduled for June 17-19, would have brought 70 climate scientists to the center to explore the impact of sea-rise on the Mississippi River System. Climate, population dislocation, federal spending, and disruption of agriculture and river commerce were among the topics to be explored. The second day of the conference was to be devoted to the experiences of our region's Marshallese Community, the world's first global sea-rise refugees. Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, we have rescheduled the conference in 2021.

- Although few people outside its borders knew it, Arkansas was among the most Democratic states in the country until 2010. The Democrats held all seven statewide executive offices and almost 75 percent of state legislative seats. Then – in just three election cycles: 2010, 2012 and 2014 – Arkansas’s political world was upended – it is now the reddest of the red states. The Pryor Center has launched a project to interview the major actors involved in Arkansas' political realignment. Our subjects include party chairs and the directors of campaigns, communications, and field operations, as well as interviews with current and past holders of the state and federal political offices.

- On November 21, 2019, the Pryor Center conducted a two-hour interview with Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Clinton School in Little Rock. Angie Maxwell, the Director of the Diane Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society and associate professor of political science, conducted it. Dr. Maxwell explored the Arkansas years, and Secretary Clinton shared stories she had never before revealed on camera.

- The Pryor Center and Arkansas PBS are collaborating on projects that will use our KATV News Archive, the Arkansas Memories Project, and the Clinton interview for state and national distribution. This summer Arkansas PBS will broadcast short profiles of Arkansans of distinction drawn from our Memories Project. The Pryor Center is also creating a documentary, Hillary Rodham Clinton: The Arkansas Years, with our interview and KATV footage that will air on the network this fall.

- We now promote the Pryor Center and KATV archive in a weekly broadcast segment on Ozarks at Large. We are exploring the possibility of expanding to the central Arkansas market on KUAR, the NPR station in Little Rock.
III. Student and Alumni Achievements

- Last summer, the center launched the Arkansas Story Vault, a student-managed oral and visual history project. Supported by grants from AT&T, The McIlroy Family, and the Walton Family Foundation, the first two projects were the *Fayetteville Farmer's Market* and *Opera of the Ozarks*. [https://wordpressua.uark.edu/storyvault/](https://wordpressua.uark.edu/storyvault/) We are using the Story Vault to test light, portable video equipment, new editing techniques, and the posting of our videos on Vimeo instead of the Pryor Center website. This academic year our producers, Josh Colvert and Sarah Moore, were the faculty advisors. The Walton Arts Center celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2022, and Josh’s team is interviewing the founders of the Walton Arts Center. They will create a documentary for the WAC’s 2022 Gala. Sarah and Colleen Thurston, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism, advised a team interviewing members of Springdale's Marshallese Community. We will use the video from the project during our NSF Conference on Global Sea Rise now scheduled for 2021. COVID-19 ended the Marshallese video interviews, but students shifted to phone interviews to create five podcasts. We hope to relaunch the video project in the fall.

- To support our college’s high-quality classroom teaching, the Pryor Center has partnered with the Department of History. We funded four graduate students to integrate the Pryor Center's vast collections into lectures and classroom materials. Students will use our archive for papers and assignments. The graduate students are also using the funds to revamp the department's Arkansas History, Senior Capstone, and Native American courses. Also, two Pryor Center Fellowships were awarded to history graduate students using the center's archive for their dissertation research.

- The Pryor Center and the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media continued our close relationship. Journalism courses meet in the center on the Fayetteville Square, and we are a sponsor of Larry Foley's newest documentary on Judge Isaac Parker, *Indians, Marshals & the Hangin' Judge*, filmed in Fort Smith. In addition to sponsoring the Foley documentary, we supplied him with material from the KATV archive.

- We enjoyed a successful second season of Pryor Center Presents, our signature lecture series organized for the general public. The topics this season ranged from Alex Kingsbury's “Opinion Journalism in the Age of Trump” to Kathleen Duval's “Techumseh in “Arkansas” to Kevin Strait's A People's Journey – Curating African American History and Culture in a National Museum.” Unfortunately, we had to cancel the last three lectures because of the COVID-19 epidemic.
Religious Studies Program (Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences; B.A. minor degree)
Program Director: Nikolay Antov (Associate Professor, Department of History).

Top 3 to 5 highlights in the following areas:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

• The RLST program held its “Religious Studies Annual Guest Lecture.” The 2019-2020 RLST Annual Guest Lecture was delivered by Prof. Justine Howe (Department of Religious Studies, Case Western Reserve University). The topic of this year’s annual guest lecture was “Reviving Islam in Cold War America: Writings of the Muslim Students’ Association Women’s Committee, 1965-1975.” The lecture took place on Sept. 30, 2019. Before the lecture, a “cookies and coffee” meeting was organized as an opportunity for interested undergraduate students to meet with Prof. Howe in a more informal setting (including members of the Al-Islam Muslim students’ association on campus who were especially interested in meeting Dr. Howe).

• The RLST program co-sponsored a guest lecture organized by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies: “Layla Murad: Egypt’s Jewish Muslim Star and the Making of Arab-Muslim Popular Culture,” delivered on March 11, 2020 by Dr. Hanan Hammad (Director, Middle East Studies Program, Texas Christian University).

• A total of 19 courses in Religious Studies were offered during the 2019-2020 academic year in the four fields of emphasis of the program: “introductory,” “history,” “social sciences,” and philosophy/languages/literature. The RLST program has not experienced changes in its faculty roster (18 faculty members across different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences).

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

• Prof. Lora Walsh (English) was awarded the 2020 Robert C. and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellowship.

• Prof. Calvin White (History) was awarded the 2019 Equity Award of the American Historical Association.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

• The academic year ended with 24 declared minors, of whom 6 graduated in May, 2020.

Note on Covid-19 pandemic: The Covid-19 pandemic, which led to the cancellation of all events on campus effective March 16, 2020, prevented the RLST program from successfully carrying out several planned events, most notably a large, two-day international conference, “Intellectual Networks and Exchange of Ideas in the Early Modern Mediterranean,” scheduled for April 9-10, 2020, and co-sponsored by the RLST program.
The current composition of the STAN Steering Committee is Mark Arnold (Mathematical Sciences, STAN director and chair), Paul Cronan (Information Systems, Business Analytics advisor), Art Chaovalitwongse (Information Systems, ex officio), Michael E. Douglas (Biological Sciences, Bioanalytics Advisor), Xintao Wu (Computer Science & Computer Engineering, Computational Analytics advisor), Andy Mauromoustakos (Agricultural Statistics Laboratory, ex officio), Giovanni Petris (Mathematical Sciences, Statistics advisor), Ed Pohl (Industrial Engineering, Operations Analytics advisor), Geoboo Song (Political Science, Quantitative Social Sciences advisor), and Ronna L. Turner (Educational Statistics and Research Methods, Educational Statistics and Psychometrics advisor).

STAN affiliated faculty and staff numbered 72 (from 20 University of Arkansas departments/units) in May, 2020.

Total active enrollment for STANMS at end of spring semester, 2020, was 49 students.

Total active enrollment for STANMGC (graduate certificate) at end of spring semester, 2020, was 1 student.

The STAN Quantitative Social Sciences concentration presented two well-attended and well-received workshops: “Applied Machine Learning for the Social Sciences” (with Public Policy Research Group) and “Big Data, Social Science Research, and R” (with Public Policy Research Group), University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

Degree production:

Bibliography

STAN Student Research Activity:

Following are STAN student conference presentations in 2019/20 (student name in bold):

Nana Amma Asamoah attended the Women in Statistics and Data Science (WSDS) conference in October 2019


STAN Student Peer-reviewed Publications in 2019/20 (student name in bold):


Michael D. Jones, Geoboo Song, Aaron Smith-Walter, Rachael Moyer, Briana Huett, Manjusha Surampalli, Ben Galloway, Creed Tumlison, Markus Hinterleitner, John Lovett, Lisa Frazier, Brenda Bushouse, Derek Epp, Patrick Flavin, Jonathan Pierce, Christopher Weible, Scott Kalafatis, Andrea Lawlor, Elizabeth Shanahan, Elizabeth Albright, Sarah Anderson, Xavier Fernández-i-Marín, Wei Li, Cherie


Other STAN student Publications (student name in bold):


Grants and Awards in 2019/20 (student name in bold):

*Chancellor’s Fund for Innovation and Collaboration* (PI: Geoboo Song, Janine Parry, Stephen Boss, Song Feng, Stephanie Schulte, Rachael Moyer). University of Arkansas (2019); Amount: $104,660

  - **Charles Thompson**  Fall 2019  James and Anita Van Patten Endowed Scholarship  $2,820

Myers, A.J. - Awarded the **Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award** 2020 in Educational Statistics and Research Methods (ESRM); College of Education and Health Professions, University of Arkansas
I. Significant Center Achievements and Changes

- Dr. Jeff Gruenewald assumed the directorship of the TRC August 15th after Dr. Brent Smith stepped down and subsequently retired from the University in December.
- The TRC introduced the Crime and Security Data Analytics Lab (CASDAL) to be led by Associate Director Dr. Grant Drawve. CASDAL will host internships and trainings in crime analysis.
- Beta testing was initiated for the NIJ-funded project “American Terrorism Study Court Record Repository (ATS CoRR)” by researchers, U.S. Attorneys, FBI analysts, and state fusion center analysts.
- The TRC released the first in a series of “TRC Data Snapshots” on failed and foiled terrorism plots, federal hate crime charges, and attacks against military personnel in the United States since 9/11.
- The TRC released the first research brief in a series of “TRC Research Briefs” using data from the Bias Homicide Database project.
- The TRC worked with partners at the University of Maryland’s National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) to upload new data to the Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the United States (TEVUS) portal.
- The TRC expanded its online presence to highlight our research and facilitate collaboration with external partners, including an entirely new website and social media presence.

II. Achievements in Teaching, Research and Public Service

Teaching/Mentorship

- Accompanied a total of 17 students on a day trip to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum in Oklahoma City, OK, to learn about the bombing of the 1995 Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and its after-effects.


Public Service

• The TRC’s web site now makes reports, research briefs, scholarly articles, how-to guides on various analytical methods, and a library of article summaries available to the public.

• Throughout the year, the TRC collaborated with several external collaborators to contribute to congressional testimony, students’ dissertations/theses, and media requests, as well as sharing information with representatives from the local FBI field office.

External Research Funding

Active Grants in 2019-20


Research Proposals Pending


Bibliography of Published Scholarly & Creative Works (Selected, List of presentations, research briefs, and invited lectures available upon request)


ANNUAL REPORT
University of Arkansas Humanities Center
Tricia Starks – Director (appointed January 1, 2020)

Top 3 to 5 achievements highlighted:

I. Significant Department or Center Achievements and Changes

I took over as director of the center in January 2020. The center is newly created and I was tasked with:

- changing up and expanding the steering committee
- creating a long-term plan
- fostering research
- community outreach
- sponsor a “humanities showcase” for fall 2020

These goals were knocked off the list:

- recruited a expanded, diverse steering committee with representation from all six “humanities” departments
- created, after consultation with Angie Maxwell, Ted Swedenburg, and chairs of all six humanities departments a rolling 4 year budget for center expenditures
- launched a research grant competition, workshop competition, and subvention grant competition that could work outside of the COVID crisis
- began planning for humanities showcase
- website training done and revamped website
- resurrected the facebook page and produced daily outreach from the center from February onward
- met with development and created a one-sheet and plan for future revenues
- recruited faculty for development of two NEH grants and helping to write/edit/facilitate grants
  - Kathleen Condray (WLLC) is heading an effort for an NEH-Mellon fellowship for digital publications
  - Laura Gray (ENGL) is heading an effort for an NEH-connection grant for MEDH
- developed a new “graphic identifier” as part of branding efforts for the center
- interviewed with the radio and television for the center and placed articles in newswire
  - Newswire
    - https://news.uark.edu/articles/52251/u-of-a-forms-new-arkansas-humanities-center-names-center-leadership
    - Ozarks at Large Interview February 26, re: humanities center
      - https://www.kuaf.com/post/ozarks-large-wednesday-february-26-2020?fbclid=IwAR2i-FrMbRprY6SP7B6E915KgyyVWi1xcKDa3L2wQBuWuDlpx5b6lz5o67A#stream/0

The following activities were suspended because of COVID-19

- first steering committee meeting and budget approval (March 13)
- two faculty research showcases (March 19 and April)
- the fall humanities showcase (October 22)
- cosponsorship of multiple events (see below)

II. Achievements in Teaching, Professional Performance, Research, Scholarship and Public Service

The following event was sponsored by the UAHC

- February 4: Contextualizing Coronavirus: A Panel of Experts
  - Interview with Ozarks at Large
The following events were cosponsored by the UAHC
- February 12: Publishing in the Humanities (lunch)
- February 16: Cross-curricular discussion (reception) for play "In the Book"
- February 20: Lunch with Tessaract (lunch)
- February 20: Talk on Donbass Vitaly Chernetsky (talk, lodging, student lunch)

The following activities were suspended because of COVID-19
- March 19: Faculty research colloquium
- March: Social Media for Academics (led by co-director Szydky-Davis)
- April 3: Al-Islam Students Association forum
- April 8: Arkansas Stories: Runaway Slave from Fayetteville
- April 9: Symposium – Networks of Knowledge Conference ($7000 already transferred)
- April 23: Faculty research colloquium
- June: NEH K-12 teacher symposium led by Co-Director Szwydky-Davis (postponed to Summer 2021)
- October 22: HUMN showcase

The following conferences and site visits were done to expand the center’s reach:
- Director Trish Starks met with humanities directors from University of Utah and Brigham Young University in March.
- Associate Director Szwydky-Davis attended the National Humanities Alliance Meeting in late March.

III. Student and Alumni Achievements

n/a