

Fairfield University

2016-17

College of Arts & Sciences Annual Report

CAS Dean's Office
July 2017

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Introduction

This report highlights the accomplishments of faculty, students, and staff in College of Arts & Sciences for the 2016-2017 academic year. The year featured several key changes including the appointment of a new Dean, Dr. Richard Greenwald, to begin July 2017. In addition to documenting the traditional areas of interest including faculty and student accomplishments, we offer an update on majors and minors in the College, as well as new programs in development. The goals and priorities section, highlighted by Dean Greenwald, emphasizes the College plan to continue to meet the goals of the University's strategic refresh Fairfield 2020, leading the College towards successful outcomes and continuous growth within the College.

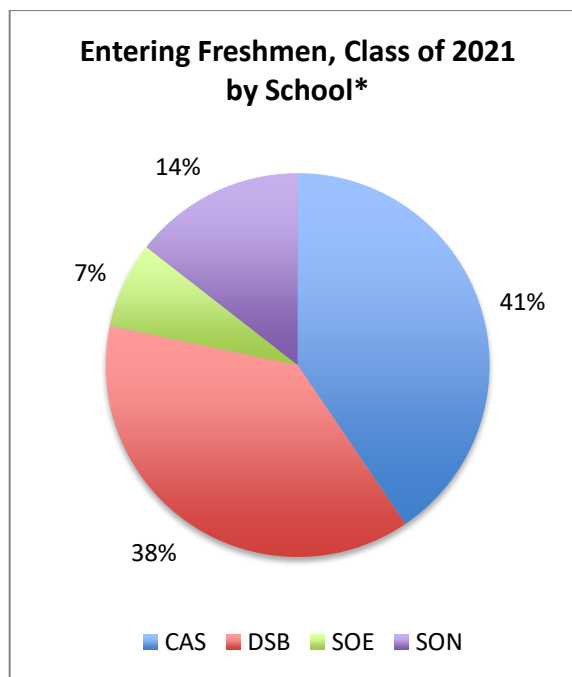
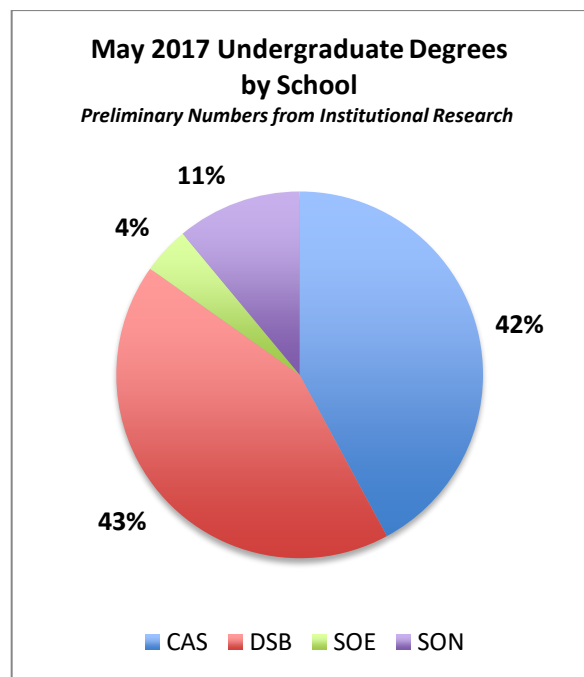
CAS Highlights of 2016-17

Providing Meaning to the Reorganization of the College Structure

The Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences agreed and voted on a significant reorganization of the College that includes four new and distinct schools: The School of Communication, Arts and Media; the School of the Natural and Behavioral Sciences and Mathematics; the School of the Social Sciences; and the School of the Humanities.

Each of the four schools are headed by directors that will report directly to the CAS Dean. It is our hope that the new structure will lead to greater cross-disciplinary activity, a heightened culture of collaboration within like-minded departments and programs, and a stronger sense of identity within the college. The hope is that rather than create silos, the four new schools can be sources of vitality, identity and strength that will enhance the College.

In better support of the new structure and provide support to our new dean, Richard Greenwald, we are moving towards two rotational faculty Associate Deans in the CAS Dean's office.



* Totals reflect students who accepted enrollment at Fairfield University (not necessarily registered for courses yet). Final numbers will be recorded in October 1.

Continued Focus on the Liberal Arts Advantage

In an effort to position the College and the Arts and Sciences in the new economy, the College continued to promote the "liberal arts advantage" to students, who are too often left wondering where a degree in the liberal arts can take them. Through collaborations with the Humanities

Institute, the Career Planning Center and various departments and programs in the College, the value of the liberal arts in the modern economy continued to be a focal point for various initiatives. These efforts included:

- Better alignment with Career Planning to show cased the many directions various majors and minors can lead students.
- Further inter-departmental panels, “Careers in the Liberal Arts,” that showcase the important opportunities and careers a liberal arts degree opens.
- Continued work has begun on developing a Career Readiness program in the College that will encourage students from all majors to take advantage of existing resources and programs to prepare themselves for “life after Fairfield.” By packaging existing resources into an incentive-driven professional development series, the goal is to reduce resource allocation and help drive involvement from CAS students.

Majors and Minors Attract Students and Keep CAS Competitive

The College added relevant new majors and minors over the past several years with continued success as highlighted below.

Environmental Studies (ES) – This was the first year in which the Program graduated students with the B.A. major option. As of spring 2017 semester, the program has five juniors, five sophomores, and three freshmen with a declared major in Environmental Studies, with an additional three freshman majors declared after the spring academic advising period.

The Program is *one* of the most diverse and most interdisciplinary programs (IDPs) on campus. Students pursuing the Environmental Studies *minor* are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences (13 different majors), Dolan School of Business and School of Engineering. The Program offered courses in the Sciences, (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Social Sciences (Anthropology, Economics, Politics), and Humanities (Applied Ethics, English).

This year, the Program and its faculty:

- Developed new internship opportunities for students
- Maintained a significant number of minors in the Program while adding majors in our new B.A. curriculum
- Played key roles in the work of the Faculty Sustainability Committee, as well as the Campus Sustainability Committee
- Continued lead roles in maintaining the University garden
- Continued technical and financial support for the floating wetlands art/phytoremediation projects in the campus watershed.

Digital Journalism – Last year, the English Department launched the new Digital Journalism major and minor, designed to attract students and train them in digital writing and design suitable for a media-centered news industry. Prof. Xie made a presentation to the Executive Planning Group in April, during which he reviewed the strengths and opportunities regarding the Digital Journalism program. The English Department continues to welcome new majors, while also transitioning interested students from the previous journalism concentration. There are continued efforts at assessment, especially in the literature

program, to develop learning objectives for the major. The goal in the upcoming year is to conduct a two-year assessment of the Digital Journalism major and minor and prepare a report to necessary offices and committees.

Public Relations (PR) – With the launch of the new PR major last year, some Communication majors have expectedly switched to the PR major, with the current enrollment highlighted below:

- The class of 2018 has 14 majors and 15 minors
- The class of 2019 has 16 majors and 5 minors
- The class of 2020 has 8 majors and 0 minor

Health Studies – The CAS Health Studies minor has become the largest-enrolled minor on campus with upwards of 150 students registered across the four years. This year’s curricular initiatives were:

- Reassessed all classes that were previously counting towards the minor, eliminating 4 or 5 that did not appear to live up to the 50% health content that was the original goal of our course selection.
- Implemented a service-learning section of the program’s capstone course. As numbers continue to increase, the program envisions having another section devoted to a group project, with a service learning component.
- Approval of a new HS course – HS 200 – Health Communication for Healthcare Professionals – which is a modification of an existing communication course – this is approved only for health studies minors, and not applicable to a communication degree.

Humanitarian Action – This minor was started in January 2016. Over the course of its first three semesters, there is enrollment of 22 students in the minor, including students from our four undergraduate schools at Fairfield University: five in the Dolan School of Business, 1 in the School of Nursing, and 14 in Arts and Sciences. This includes a cross section of freshmen, sophomores and juniors. This distribution of minors fully represents our original anticipation to recruit students from different disciplinary backgrounds and prepare students for a wide range of career opportunities relevant to humanitarian action. The first cohort of Humanitarian Action minors completed their capstones in spring 2017 (four students) through independent studies and group meetings supervised by Drs. Leatherman and McFadden.

Graphic Design and Arts Management/Entrepreneurship – Visual and Performing Arts is devoting time and energy to intentionally developing interdisciplinary programs, such as the recently approved Graphic Design and Arts Management/Entrepreneurship, to more deeply connect programs of study on campus to future areas of potential employment.

Behavioral Neuroscience concentration for psychology majors and the Behavioral Neuroscience minor for non-psychology majors continues to attract a significant number of students.

New Programs in Development

The College of Arts and Science continues to explore new opportunities in the planning, which are highlighted below.

- **Certificate Program in MFA** – The MFA Certificate program, a 12-credit all-online set of graduate courses, uses existing course listings in the MFA program in Creative Writing to offer mentoring and guidance from our MFA faculty for writers. As the first credit certificate program to be passed by faculty governance bodies, MFA was the test case for faculty to figure out the method for reviewing such programs. As of summer 2017, the program had been approved by the English Department, the MFA Steering Committee, the CAS Dean, the Academic Steering Committee of CAS, and the Education Planning Committee. Faculty leaders have determined that the last step is for the Academic Council to approve the program in the fall.
- **Certificate Program in MPA** – The MPA Steering Committee’s proposal for the MPA Certificate Program was approved at the committee level. Dr. Mark LeClair, Director of the MPA Program, submitted the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and the Education Planning Committee (EPC) and was successful in receiving approval at both levels. The final step is to seek approval from the Academic Council, which is adjourned until Fall 2017 semester. The hope is that this will be on the agenda for the first meeting of the semester.
- **Bellarmino Scholars in Florence** – The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to announce the creation of a new Bellarmino Scholars in Florence Program. Thirty-eight first-year students were nominated by a CAS faculty member who has just had them in class. The students were chosen as the faculty member felt they showed excellent promise for success and a particular interest in the Liberal Arts. These students are invited to spend the fall of their Sophomore year in Florence, Italy, undertaking courses at the Florence University of the Arts, focused on the Humanities and Social Sciences. Fifteen students accepted this prestigious honor and will be in Florence in the Fall of 2017. Each student will participate in the following:
 - ***One week of on-site field learning in different locations at the start of the semester:*** The program will begin with a one-week intensive **Cultural Introduction to Italy**, which begins in Rome, travels the Tuscan coast, explores Cinque Terra and ends in Florence - where the students will continue their studies at FUA.
 - ***One integrated field learning course that will continue the cohort travel over the remainder of the semester:*** Students will be enrolled in The Survey of Italian Art course for the semester which is a comprehensive survey of Italian art and architecture through five major movements in Italian history, starting from the art of the Roman Empire. This course includes field learning (academic excursions) and will take the students to:
 - Cortona, Lake Trasimeno (Etruscan and Roman art)
 - Siena (Gothic art)
 - Pienza and Montepulciano (Renaissance and the concept of Ideal City)
 - Sicily (Baroque)

- **Community Engagement activities:** students will have the opportunity for direct interaction with the Italian society through a combination of cultural involvement and academic instruction. Students will be linked to a Connecting Cultures activity as either a community volunteer, an Italian family club member, or a language exchange participant according to their area of interest, expertise and/or command of Italian language.
- **Shared Living Community:** Students live in comfortable, furnished apartments in the historic city center of Florence, located within a 20-minute walk to school. A Fairfield University staff member will live with the students and provide program and cultural adjustment support as well as outings and activities for the group.
- **BLS** – A Florence University of the Arts (FUA) Certificate to BA program is under development. The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) Program responded to an initiative for a FUA-BLS collaboration with the potential to increase BLS enrollments and university revenue while raising the prominence of the BLS program. The proposal is for collaboration where Florence University of the Arts certificate program students could earn their bachelor’s degree at Fairfield through the BLS major. Associate Deans Lynn Sally and Brian Walker mapped out curriculum guides combining the requirements for the BLS degree with six unique areas of study currently offered at FUA. The BLS Steering Committee drafted *suggested* guidelines for the administration of the program and continues to engage in ongoing conversations regarding the FUA-BLS program collaboration logistics. The Director of Bachelor of Liberal Studies is tasked with moving the proposal through the A&SCC, UCC, and EPC in the coming year. Though on sabbatical in the fall, Dr. Walker expressed his ongoing commitment to the initiative and offered to help guide the program approval process to the extent that he is available to do so.
- **Professional Development Series** – The College is currently developing a Professional Development series that will focus on career readiness and 21st Century skills that will be available to all CAS students. CAS will be rolling out a 4-tiered program intended to provide our students with opportunities for personal development outside of the normal academic content of the college. This series was patterned after the DSB Professional Development Series (DSBPDS). Specifically, the CASPDS will consist of workshops and activities focusing on preparing our students more appropriately for successful interviewing and interacting with future employers, mentors, or future academic leaders. The DSBPDS includes alumni-sponsored events including a wine tasting and etiquette dinner. We would like to see similar offerings in the CASPDS.

Summer Programs Update

Overall College of Arts & Sciences undergraduate summer enrollment for the May and June sessions of 2017 was 477, which was higher than our May and June 2016 enrollment of 433. Online enrollment for June 2017 courses was 227 students, the same as our June 2016 enrollment of 227. Total enrollment for summer 2016 courses was 801. Since the Department of Economics moved to the Dolan School of Business effective with the 2017 fiscal year, Economics courses are not included in our summer 2017 enrollment numbers.

Online courses are very popular and should be a focus of our offerings in future summers. A continued effort in marketing our summer offerings, plus an emphasis on on-line offerings is recommended for the upcoming year.

The Fairfield University Summer Scholars program is geared towards rising high school juniors and seniors who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better. The two-week residential program includes enrollment in a 3-credit college course, dorm accommodations, meals, co-curricular workshops/presentations and social events. The program ran from July 10-23, 2016 with 24 students enrolled in six different courses. Students participated from as close as Fairfield, CT and as far as YAP, FM (an island in the south Pacific). Students also participated from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and other towns in Connecticut. As of this writing, we have 24 confirmed students for the July 2017 program.

Advising and Mentoring

In order to continue supporting the undeclared student population (roughly 180 students), the College offered the second annual Undeclared Student “Mix and Mingle” event in fall of 2016. The event was held in the BCC Oak room and all majors were represented. Students got an opportunity to informally get to know the CAS faculty and members of the Dean’s office and learn more about the different opportunities offered through the College. A total of 34 students attended and 5 lucky students won small prizes from the raffle giveaway. The Dean’s office looks forward to continuing this event as it provides a great opportunity for undeclared students to connect with faculty and with each other.

The Assistant Deans provided supplemental advising support to the faculty with a total of 346/321 in- person appointments in the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters respectively. Not included in this count are phone appointments, walk-ins, or support provided via email. Registration issues made up about 41% of the appointments, followed by Academic advising covering 27%. The Assistant Deans worked collaboratively with the Academic and Career Development Center to ensure a holistic advising approach encouraging students to make use of the academic workshops and peer-tutoring services offered. Academically at risk students continued to be formally tracked using the Starfish alert system and informally by reports submitted by faculty directly to the Assistant Deans.

As academic policies and procedures change and as the College hires new faculty, the Assistant Deans remain committed to provide necessary training. This academic year the updates were provided via the Dean’s council meetings, but it was evident that in-person training might be a more effective way to disseminate important information. In-person trainings were done in previous years and the next academic year will provide opportunities for new and creative approaches to how we train our faculty making use of available technology such as Zoom or Blackboard.

As a further recognition of the importance of advising and mentoring, the CAS established an annual award to recognize the faculty member who has exhibited continual excellence in these important roles. This award was given to Dr. Aaron Van Dyke, Assistant Prof. of Chemistry.

Accreditation

The College of Arts and Sciences has undergone assessment training and an implementation program across the College, and great strides have been made to begin an assessment process. As of Fall 2016, all but two of the 34 majors and minors of the College submitted their Student Learning Objectives and Assessment Plan for the department. Departments are at various levels of compliance with accreditation procedures.

A comprehensive review of the materials submitted was conducted by the Dean's. Of these, 15 have been deemed satisfactory to exemplary, eleven have been categorized as emerging, and eight need substantial work in articulating their learning outcomes and assessment procedures. All but five departments published their learning outcomes for student access; 18 out of 34 published their learning outcomes online; and six out of 34 have plans to publish in the Fall of 2017, bringing online posting of learning outcomes to 24 out of 34. Fourteen out of 34 have published their learning outcomes in the catalogue; and seven out of 34 have published their learning outcomes on Syllabi. Of those seven, four published their outcomes only on Syllabi.

As we continue with our assessment process, we will work closely with individual departments as well as the College as a whole to ensure compliance with assessment procedures. Workshop training, as well as individual or small-group meetings with chairs and faculty are ongoing. As part of the assessment process, departments will be asked to revise their learning outcomes; publish them online, in the catalogue, and in syllabi; collect data to assess whether those outcomes have been met.

Appraisal

Efforts have been made by almost all departments to design assessment procedures particular to the departmental and disciplinary needs. It is evident from the figures that the College still needs to provide training and resources to chairs and faculty about the assessment process, including writing effective Learning Objectives, creating learning opportunities for students, designing assessment tools of that learning, and then using that data to revise assignments, curriculum, and departmental goals. The Dean's office, in conjunction with the Provost's office, will continue to offer training to faculty and chairs on assessment procedures and standard protocol.

Projection

The CAS will continue to work with chairs and faculty directly and in group workshops. After revisions have been made to Student Learning outcomes, we project to double the figures of online (at least 28 departments) and catalogue (at least 14 departments) posting of Learning Outcomes. We further will ask departments to invite faculty to publish those learning outcomes on their syllabi, highlighting which outcomes are met in that particular course. We will continue to work with the chairs and faculty on designing assessment tools, including using a variety of direct and indirect evidence, as well as rubrics to evaluate the data collected.

CAS Faculty & Program Highlights 2016-17

Faculty Achievements

Scholarship: The quantitative summary for the current academic year includes:

- CAS faculty published 235 articles, chapters, and other publications.
- 19 books published this year were authored or edited by College faculty
- CAS faculty gave 399 presentations at professional meetings, invited talks, and/or exhibits/performances.

Rank & Tenure: The following summarizes outcomes for 2015-2016:

- *Five faculty were tenured and promoted to Associate Professor:*
 - Dr. Paul Baginski – Math
 - Dr. Shannon Kelley – English
 - Dr. Thomas Murray – Economics
 - Dr. John Slotemaker – Religious Studies
 - Dr. Toby Svoboda - Philosophy
 - There were two unsuccessful case for tenure
- *Seven faculty were promoted to Professor:*
 - Dr. Angela Biselli – Physics
 - Dr. Mark Demers – Math
 - Dr. Robert Epstein – English
 - Dr. Jen Klug – Biology
 - Dr. Elizabeth Petrino – English
 - Dr. Giovanni Ruffini – History & Classical Studies
 - Dr. Brian Walker - Biology
 - There were three unsuccessful cases for promotion to Professor
- The College conducted comprehensive annual reviews of its 22 pre-tenured faculty
- Eleven CAS faculty members have submitted their intent to apply for tenure and/or promotion next year.

Faculty Recruitment & Retention:

- Four new tenure-track positions were filled this year. They are: Dr. Gayle Alberda – Politics; Dr. Alfred Babo – Sociology & Anthropology and International Studies; Dr. Adam Rugg – Communication; and Mr. Matt Tullis – English. In addition, one visiting professor position, held by Mr. Patrick Brooks in Film, Television & Media, was converted to a tenure-track line.

- Four tenure track searches were conducted during the year. We successfully recruited Dr. Christopher Goodrich – Mathematics; Dr. Kim Gunter – Director of of Core Writing in English; Dr. David Hollingsworth – Psychology; and Dr. Annemarie Iddins – Communication.
- We sought authorization to search for eight TT faculty during FY '18. These were in Film Television and New Media; Modern Languages – Spanish; Psychology; Communication; English; Physics; Philosophy; and Religious Studies. As of this writing, approvals were not yet given so actual projected searches remain unknown.
- Retirement: After 41 years of service, Dr. Joe Dennin, Professor of Mathematics, retired this year. Additionally, Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Rick DeWitt, also retired after 28 years at Fairfield.
- Departure: Dr. Douglas Peduti, S.J., Assistant Professor of Philosophy completed his terminal year.

University Awards to Faculty:

- The Award for Distinguished Teaching in the College of Arts & Sciences was bestowed upon Dr. Laura Nash, Associate Professor of Visual and Performing Arts.
- The second annual Award for Distinguished Advising and Mentoring was awarded to Dr. Aaron Van Dyke, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.
- Dr. Michelle Farrell, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, won the Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award from Alpha Sigma Nu as well as the Partnership for Social Change Grant Award.
- Dr. Mark Demers, Associate Professor of Mathematics, held the Robert E. Wall Award for 2016-2017. Dr. Terry Ann Jones Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology is the 2017-2018 recipient.
- Dr. Katherine Schwab, Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, was awarded the Fairfield University's 2017 Distinguished Faculty/Administrator Award. the honor was conferred at the Annual Fairfield Awards Dinner in NYC on March 30th, 2017.

Grant Activity: The College continued intensive engagement in efforts to procure external funding as specified below.

- CAS faculty submitted \$2,992,520 in federal funding applications this year; \$98,770 was funded to date (\$ 334,298 is still pending; \$2,556,452 unfunded). Additionally, \$508,801 was awarded during this fiscal year, although the applications were from the prior year. Foundation funding requests involving CAS faculty totaled \$1,208,050 this year; so far \$72,500 was funded to date (\$5,000 still pending; \$1,130,550 unfunded).
- Grant activity in the College exemplifies cross-divisional collaboration, seeks to explicitly advance the University's strategic priorities, and funds significant student engagement. Highlights of funded projects include:
 - Dr. Catherine Andersen, Assistant Professor of Biology, received \$2500 from the National Consortium for Building Health Academic Communities for her work entitled "*Fueling student health at Fairfield University: Targeting institutional nutrition and exercise resources.*"

- The department of Biology received \$15,000 from the Guillet family to support another three on-campus biology summer research internships and an off-campus summer research internship at Children’s Hospital in Boston.
- Dr. Anita Fernandez, Associate Professor of Biology, received \$3000 from the Society of Developmental Biology to support her research.
- Dr. Shannon Harding, Associate Professor of Psychology, received an \$8,000 renewal grant from the Brinkman Foundation to fund further student involvement in her research on Autism treatment studies.
- Dr. Terry-Ann Jones, Associate Professor of Sociology, Dr. Dina Franceschi, Professor of Economics, and Dr. William Vasquez, Associate Professor of Economics were awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program to launch the Global Scholars Program for international internships (\$105,000).
- Dr. Shelley Phelan, Professor of Biology, was awarded \$20,000 from the Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation for support of BASE Camp. She was also awarded the National Lipid Association Sanofi Regeneron young Investigator award (\$1000) for her proposal “*Hdl-associated proteins and LDL differentially modulate chronic yelogenous leukemia cell viability.*”
- Dr. Judy Primavera, Professor of Psychology, received a \$12,000 grant renewal from the F.M. Kirby Foundation for the Literacy Project.
- Dr. Jillian Smith-Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry, is the principal investigator on the \$271,407 grant “*Acquisition of a MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometer at Fairfield University*” awarded from the National Science Foundation’s Major Research Instrumentation program. Co PI’s are Dr. Shelley Phelan, Biology, and Drs. Aaron Van Dkye, Matt Kubasik and John Miecznikowski, Chemistry.
- Dr. Ellen Umansky, Professor of Religious Studies, received \$50,000 from the Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation for programmatic support of the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies.
- Dr. Winn was funded by DOE/Fermilab (16k)

CAS Support for Faculty Professional Development in FY ‘17

- Faculty travel budgets were maintained based on \$1,200 for all full-time faculty. The actual distribution of funds is determined at the department level. The Dean funded approximately \$16,552.54 towards additional faculty research travel. Total support for faculty travel was \$196,550

- The Dean supported 26 course releases for *department chairs* (in addition to the \$6000 stipends allocated through the MOU). Chairs with release time from teaching are required to report out annually about their ongoing research productivity.
- The **Humanities Institute** funded 26 projects proposed by 19 faculty members for a total of \$36,103.50 in FY '17. Successful proposals were submitted by these faculty from their respective departments:
 - English:** Sonya Huber, Shannon Kelley, Nels Pearson, Elizabeth Petrino, Gita Rajan, Marion White
 - History:** Elizabeth Hohl, Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Sunil Purushotham
 - Modern Languages & Literatures:** Mary Ann Carolan, Sara Díaz, Michelle Farrell, and Jerelyn Johnson
 - Religious Studies:** Francis Hannafey, S.J.
 - Sociology & Anthropology:** Kurt Schlichting
 - VPA:** Martha LoMonaco, Laura Nash, Katherine A. Schwab, and Kathryn Jo Yarrington

The Seminar Faculty Fellows program completed its first year. The inaugural faculty recipients for 2016-17 were Dr. Mary Ann Carolan - MLL; Dr. Shannon Kelley - English; Dr. Emily Orlando - English; and Dr. Kris Sealey - Philosophy. This is the second year of their two-year term. This program supported six student fellows during 2015-16 and will continue their support to five students during this upcoming academic year.

The faculty chosen for the second cohort are: Dr. Jennifer Adair - History; Dr. Gwendoline Aplhonso, - Politics; Dr. Cecelia Bucki, - History; Dr. Sara Díaz - Modern Languages; Dr. Johanna Garvey - English; Dr. Katherine Schwab - Art History. Eight students will join them.

- The **Science Institute** funded ten proposals involving 13 different faculty members for approximately \$10,000 in support. Successful proposals were written by:
 - Dr. Michael Andreychik, Associate Professor of Psychology
 - Dr. Ashley Byun, Associate Professor of Biology
 - Dr. Benjamin Fine, Professor of Mathematics
 - Dr. Amanda Harper-Leatherman, Associate Professor of Chemistry
 - Dr. Olivia Harriott, Associate Professor of Biology
 - Dr. Clinton Moran, Post-doctoral Research Associate, Department of Biology
 - Dr. Shelley Phelan, Professor of Biology
 - Chemistry Professors Drs. Aaron Van Dyke, Amanda Harper-Leatherman, Matthew Kubasik, John Miecznikowski and Kraig Steffen
 - Dr. Jackie Vernarelli, Assistant Professor of Biology
 - Dr. Min Xu, Associate Professor of Physics

- The CAS Dean's budget funded nearly \$31,000 in **summer student housing** costs (summer 2016) related to faculty research and student internships across the College. Estimates for summer 2017 costs are approximately \$32,500.

CAS Initiatives featured at major national and international conferences; faculty attract national media coverage

Getting the message out about the good work going on at Fairfield that leverages our Jesuit and liberal arts traditions for the benefit of our students and the community is a major goal of the College. These presentations contribute to Fairfield's national profile.

- Dr. Jocelyn Boryczka, Associate Professor of Politics, won the Christian Bay Award, Best Paper Presented, 2015 New Political Science Panel. The award was conferred at the September 2016 American Political Science Association Conference in Philadelphia. She also delivered the keynote, "Sexism and Transnational Organizing," in honor of International Women's Day or the Women and Gender Studies Program at Wheaton College in February 22, 2017.
- Dr. Elizabeth Boquet, Professor of English, was selected to deliver the keynote address at the 2016 Transitioning to College Writing Conference, University of Mississippi, Oxford.
- Dr. Downie, Associate Professor of Politics, was co-editor of *Global Environmental Politics*, 7th Edition (Boulder: Westview Press, 2016). Choice called it "Quite simply the most comprehensive introduction to international environmental politics that currently exists." He also attended negotiations related to implementing and expanding three existing global environmental treaties and assisted with the writing and editing of the official negotiation reports. These official UN documents form the legal results of the meeting and become part of the permanent record of each treaty.
- Dr. Shannon Kelley, Associate Professor of English, was accepted for an NEH Summer Seminar on Teaching *King Lear* this summer at the University of Chicago.
- Dr. Janie Leatherman, Professor of Politics, gave a keynote, "Make _____ Great Again. (*Nostalgic Attempts to Exercise Control*)" for the Arthur V. Mauro Center for Peace and Justice/St. Paul's College Annual Affiliation Lecture Series, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

Individual Faculty Accomplishments

- Dr. Gayle Alberda, Assistant Professor of Politics, successfully pioneered the effort to bring Ready to Run (R2R) to Fairfield University. R2R is a nonpartisan women's political leadership program. This program is designed to empower women to become active participants in the political process.
- Carol Ann Davis, Associate Professor of English, had an essay chosen as "Notable" for the second year in a row for the Best American Essays series.
- Dr. Michelle Farrell, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, received a Values Recognition Award for Service to St. Vincent's Bridgeport and Hope Pharmacy Community.

- Dr. Scott Lacy, Associate Professor of Anthropology, received a distinguished Fulbright Fellowship to study and teach in Cameroon, West Africa, for the 2016-17 academic year.
- Dr. Janie Leatherman, Professor of Politics, directed the final year of her Teagle grant, *Collaborative Project in Student Learning: The Examination of Enduring Questions through Humanitarian Education*.
- Dr. Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Assistant Professor of History, won a National Endowment for the Humanities major grant and will spend the 2017-2018 academic year in Tunisia working on her book manuscript, "The Revolt of 1864 in Tunisia: History, Power, and Memory."
- Prof. Mulvey continues to serve on Council (the governing body) of the American Association of University Professors, and as a member of Council's Executive Committee. She is also an elected member of the AAUP Assembly of State Conferences Executive Committee and an elected member of the CT State Conference of the AAUP Executive Committee.
- Dr. Emily Orlando, Associate Professor of English, served as an expert on Edith Wharton as part of the Curating Team for the American Writers Museum, which opens in Chicago in May 2017.
- Dr. Shelley Phelan, Professor of Biology, was honored with the 2017 Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Academic Leadership Award, by the American Council on Education Women.
- Dr. Judy Primavera, Professor of Psychology, received a Distinguished Service Award from Action for Bridgeport Community Development for her 25 years of service to ABCD's Early Learning-Head Start Program both as an individual and as Director of the Adrienne Kirby Family Literacy Project.
- Dr. Gita Rajan, Professor of English, was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Status for consulting with faculty abroad regarding her work on entrepreneurial programs for women and girls.
- Matthew Tullis, Assistant Professor of English and Digital Journalism, had his essay, *The Ghosts I Run With*, listed as a notable essay in Best American Essays 2016 and as a notable piece of sports writing in Best American Sports Writing 2016.
- Dr. William Vasquez, Associate Professor of Economics, received a Flex Fulbright Award to investigate the factors that have impeded the extension and improvement of solid waste services in Guatemala.

CAS Student Highlights

2016-2017

Enrollment Trends

- **The class of 2017** included **929** undergrad students. There were **297** students who received their BA and **87** who received their BS from academic programs in the College of Arts & Sciences. Noteworthy enrollment trends include:
 - **For the class of 2017, the largest majors were: Communication (90), Psychology (63), English (56), Modern Languages and Literatures (46) and Bio (43).**
 - **Three students in the class of '17 completed Individually Designed Majors (IDMJ);** these were Nadia Santoro – Biological Anthropology; Sarah Talmage – Chinese Studies; and Jasmine Raghunandan – Asian Studies; Concentration Japan.
 - **135 CAS students in the class of '17 studied abroad under 15 different programs** during their junior year. This number of students is steady, though we are pleased that the diversity of locations is increasing, including more emphasis on studying in developing countries. This number does not include those who did short-term summer immersion or service trips during their four years at Fairfield.
 - **206 CAS students completed internships this year.** Students in Communication (44), English (28), and Psychology (33) – all large majors –make up the majority. Detailed information regarding internship content, locations, etc. are available in the Dean's office.

Student Achievements

Students in the College of Arts & Sciences reflect similar commitments to excellence and achievement as do our faculty.

Undergraduate Student Highlights:

- 413 CAS students presented research at scholarly meetings or were authors on published manuscripts, with the largest showing in Biology (126), VPA (132) and Chemistry (60).
- 350 students conducted independent or supervised research or creative projects. More departments and programs are supporting students in this work and reporting this data each year. The majors with the most activity are Biology (71), Communication (40), International Studies (38) Psychology (34), and Chemistry and Health Studies each at (32).
- The Adrienne Kirby Family Literacy Project led by Judy Primavera continues to serve as a major link to the Bridgeport community. In FY17 approximately 150 Fairfield University students were trained as literacy coaches and volunteered (or fulfilled service learning or work study tasks) in Action for Bridgeport Community Development's Head Start preschool classrooms for a total of over 5500 volunteer hours. In May 2017 the Kirby

Literacy Project celebrated its 25th anniversary of being a vibrant and successful university-community partnership.

- 44 CAS students were honored at our annual CAS student awards event in April with various departmental and program awards.
- The two top College-wide awards were presented by Interim President Lynn Babington. The award winners were:
 - Madison R Volpe '17 was the recipient of the Lieutenant William Koscher Award in the Arts. This award recognizes the student majoring in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or Arts who has earned the highest grade point average in four years of work at Fairfield University.
 - Tyler J. Ostrowski '17 was the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Award in Sciences. This award recognizes the student majoring in the natural sciences or mathematics who has earned the highest overall grade point average in four years of work at Fairfield.
- The CAS Awards Committees felt the competition was particularly fierce this year; for the five College-wide awards there were 38 separate entries involving 40 different students. The award winners were:
 - Abigayel Phillips '17 was the recipient of the Award for Distinguished Work in the Humanities. This College award in the humanities is granted to a project of substantial scope, well-conceived and written, with an original perspective. If the submission involves research, then the research should be substantive, carefully selected, and well applied.
 - Coleman Macuch '17 was the recipient of the Distinguished Work in the Natural Sciences & Math. This College-wide competition recognizes a student majoring in the natural sciences or mathematics who has completed an exceptional research project. The faculty selection committee judges submissions according to the following criteria: a carefully developed and clearly presented project in the natural sciences or mathematics.
 - Jennifer Mezzapelle '17 received the award for Distinguished Work in the Social & Behavioral Sciences. The winning submission was judged to be a substantial research project in the social sciences of superior quality in terms of argumentation, presentation, and originality.
 - Victoria A. Vesce '17– received the award for Distinguished Work in Visual and Performing Arts. The selection criteria for this award calls for a project of substantial scope, with an original concept. The project should be well executed, demonstrating artistic and technical skill.
- **196** CAS students were inducted into the various disciplinary honor societies, and 35 CAS students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa (these numbers are fairly consistent from year to year)

- **116** CAS graduates were accepted into graduate programs. While not all programs report these data, Psychology (22) and Biology (15) departments lead the way with graduate program-heading students. Economics (15) reported the largest number of post-graduate employment. These are very preliminary numbers, however.
- **22** students are engaged in research with faculty members during the summer of 2017. The Dean's Office pays for summer housing for all students who are supported by faculty grants or departmental research stipends. Total cost of summer 2016 housing for research students will be approximately \$32,000.

CAS students who received distinguished University Awards this year:

- **The Undergraduate Bellarmine Medal** was a three-way tie with one of the students from the College – Madison Volpe (Economics & International Studies Major, along with Shauna M. Dresel from the SON and Matthew J. Finelli from the DSB.
- **The Student Achievement Awards** recognize seniors who have shown exceptional dedication to, and enhancement of, a specific Fairfield University program, activity, organization, or project. The senior's commitment to this activity must have resulted in the activity attaining a new level of achievement not possible without the student's participation. There were four seniors receiving these awards with two from the College—Marc Lee (English Literature & Cultural Studies & English/Creative Writing) and Kasey McNamara (Politics and International Studies).

Student stories that animate these statistics and other highlights include:

Ally Martin '17 graduated with a BS in Biology, with minors in Psychology and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Ally conducted a novel research project with Dr. Byun for nearly two years, investigating anteater growth and behavior at the Beardsley Zoo, where she presented her research. Ally also presented her work at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) conference in San Diego 2016, and she is presently writing a research manuscript for publication. Ally was a recipient of a Guillet summer research internship, and also received the Biology award for academic excellence. She will be doing research for a year and then will pursue a PhD in ecology, evolution and animal behavior.

Elizabeth Szabo '17 graduated with a BS in Biology and a minor in Health Studies. Liz first came to Fairfield as a high school student through BASE camp, and she went on to be a BASE camp counselor with Dr. Phelan. Liz was one of our top biology majors, was selected for a prestigious research internship at St. Jude's hospital in summer 2016, and received the Health Studies award. She worked with Dr. Phelan on a leukemia project throughout her senior year. Liz will continue her research with Dr. Phelan over the next year, and is planning to pursue an MD/PhD beginning in fall 2018.

Kayla Urbanowski '17 graduated with a BS in Biology, a BA in Environmental Studies, and a minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In her junior year, Kayla spent a semester studying abroad at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC), in Brazil. In addition to her

studies at PUC she also completed an internship at the Botanical Gardens of Rio. Kayla will be returning to Brazil in January of 2018, the recipient of a prestigious *Fulbright Fellowship for research*. Before leaving for Brazil, she will spend the interim as an AmeriCorp volunteer in Vermont. Eventually, her goal is to return to graduate studies in ecology or animal conservation.

Gina Dolisi '17 graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS degree in Biology and a minor in Anthropology. Gina was extremely successful as an applicant earning four acceptance offers, including her top choice of Stony Brook University (a top 5 program she will attend this summer). She had numerous service commitments throughout her time at Fairfield University. Gina traveled to Florence, Italy for a spring semester abroad in her junior year.

Tyler Ostrowski '17 was the recipient of this year's College of Arts and Sciences Award in Sciences. Professor John Miecznikowski mentored Tyler in laboratory research since January 2016. His research involved synthesizing and characterizing a series of cobalt(II), copper(II) and zinc(II) pincer complexes. His work was presented at the American Chemical Society National Meetings in San Francisco in April 2017 and in Philadelphia in August 2016. At least one manuscript will be published based on his research with Professor Miecznikowski. Tyler was awarded the Chemical Rubber Company General Chemistry Book Award in 2014 and the Division of Analytical Chemistry Outstanding Achievement Award in 2016.

Samantha Schrecke graduated cum laude with a major in Biochemistry. She has been conducting faculty mentored research under the supervision of Dr. Jillian Smith-Carpenter in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry since Fall 2015. Her research focuses on the synthesis of novel nucleopeptides and characterization of the resulting self-assembled supramolecular structures. Samantha also conducted an REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduate students) at Indiana University in Professor Tait's laboratory. Samantha has presented both of her research projects at National Meetings of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia, PA (August 2016) and San Francisco, CA (April 2017). She was also the Vice-President of the Chemistry Club. Samantha will attend Texas A&M University, where she will work towards earning a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Catharine 'Katie' Brady a biochemistry major was one of eight students selected from across the country to take part in Notre Dame's Chemical Analysis for the Developing World National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in summer 2016 and was accepted to take part in the program again during the summer of 2017. She began research under the mentorship of Dr. Amanda Harper-Leatherman at Fairfield University in Spring 2017 on incorporating aerogels into electrochemical glucose biosensors and plans to continue this research in her senior year. She has excelled in the biochemistry major earning Fairfield University's American Chemical Society Analytical Chemistry Achievement Award in 2016. She will be an officer in Fairfield's newly formed Chemistry Honor Society and in the department's Chemistry Club in her senior year.

Chase Foster-Spense—The Fairfield University mission statement asserts that the “promotion of justice is an absolute requirement.” This imperative is supported by Corrigan Scholarships, offered to select first generation and minority undergraduate students. Corrigan Scholar Chase Foster-Spense graduated among the Class of '17 with a BS degree in Chemistry. In partial fulfillment of

his Corrigan Scholarship, Chase worked with Professor Matt Kubasik and presented results of his work at National Meetings of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia and San Francisco. Professor Kubasik is preparing the results of this work for publication.

Maura Morgan '17 graduated magna cum laude with a BS degree in Biochemistry. She is likely to attend the Commonwealth University of Scranton, PA in August to begin her MD degree. However, she is still on the “high alternate” list at Thomas Jefferson University as well as Temple. Maura was engaged in service work for nearly all of her time at Fairfield University, leading the Bryant School Book club working with children and assisting in reading development. Maura was a researcher working with Dr. Meicznikowski for junior and senior year.

Nicole Funaro '17 (Communication Major) is the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Communication. She is the top ranked senior in communication, who holds two minors in journalism and public relations. Nicole is a Magis Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Nu, Alpha Mu Gamma, and Lambda Pi Eta. She is also the recipient of the 2016 Arthur R. Riel Journalism Prize, which she received for a multimedia story she produced on Dakota, Fairfield University’s emotional support dog. Nicole also won the Fairfield University \$1,000 Library Research Prize for a paper she wrote for her capstone project with Dr. Arendt. Working with Dr. Ryan to promote media literacy in an era of fake news, Nicole produced a series of articles, including interviews with Dr. Xie and Dr. Rugg, about how best to stay informed when confronted with so many “alternative facts” from political sources. She posted the weekly articles on the department’s blog, a media platform that was dormant for a bit until she revitalized it this spring semester. One of Nicole’s blog posts was featured in the university’s ThinkSpace on May 3, 2017.

Zoë Ferranti '17 (Communication Major) is the recipient of the Gisela Gil-Egui Award for Outstanding Service in Communication. Zoë is the President of Fairfield University Student Association, a Magis Scholar, a business liaison of WVOF 88.5 FM, and a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and Lambda Pi Eta. She volunteered at the Prospect House in Bridgeport through the Redefining Leadership seminar during her freshman year, and took a domestic service spring break trip to the Mexico/Arizona border through our campus ministry during her sophomore year. She participated in campus’ silent protests and walks for peace, and sponsored speakers to come to speak to students to inspire change and giving-back. As FUSA president, she introduced a community service requirement for all members and have since organized “FUSA wide” (all 82 title holding members of FUSA) to partake in days of service. In addition, she was on the Presidential Search Committee to find Fairfield University’s new University President. Congratulations, Zoe.

Sydney Arestivo is the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Public Relation, the top ranked senior in public relations. Sydney is actually the first double major in communication and public relations, and has completed more communication course work than any other student in the history of our department. Sydney is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Lambda Pi Eta, and has been on the Dean’s List every semester. She was a four-year starter for the Fairfield Women’s Soccer Team, as well as on the MAAC All-Academic Team and the MAAC

Academic Honor Roll for four years consecutively. In addition to her academic and athletic achievements, Sydney did two PR internships, one with the Tuscan Wedding and another for former Long Island Congressman Steve Israel. Sydney currently works as a service learning associate for Dr. Maggie Wills' two sections of service learning course, Alcohol, Addiction, and Culture.

Madison Volpe '17 completed a double major in Economics and International Studies, with minors in Mathematics and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She currently has a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and was invited into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. She completed the Evestnet Institute campus program while at Fairfield, and was a summer intern at UBS in Stamford in 2016. Madison has been active with campus organizations, including the Black Students Union and the Spanish Club, and she participated in Intergroup Dialogue programs provided through Fairfield's Diversity Office. She stumbled into an emphasis on the Latin American region which has shaped much of her senior year research in her capstone classes. Madison found a love of quantitative analysis, and will pursue graduate school this fall to study statistics and data analytics.

Matt Parrou completed a double major in Economics and Finance while at Fairfield University. He completed the Evestnet Institute campus program while at Fairfield, and was chosen as one of the top five participants in the national ETF Global Portfolio challenge in the fall 2015 semester. He had internship placements at Lutetium Capital, Barnum Financial, Vokin Investimentos (in Brazil), and at UBS. Matt was a presenter on the department's fall 2016 Fed Challenge team, helping to construct a monetary policy recommendation for the competition. He wrote articles on finance and economics for *The Mirror*, and was a regular contributor to the Economics and Finance Clubs. Matt accepted a job working with J.P. Morgan in their Asset Management Analyst Program.

Michelle Rakowsky, a double theatre and art history major and an Italian minor will travel to Europe in October 2017 for a five-month internship at Italy's foremost modern art museum, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. The extremely competitive international internship is the only one of its kind in Italy, and out of last year's 1,200 applicants, only 28 were accepted from the United States. Michelle worked with Dr. Carolan as a Humanities Institute seminar student fellow.

Nadra Al-Hamwy is a junior with an Environmental Studies minor and a double major in Politics and International Studies. He received a Gilman Scholarship to support study abroad and research in The Gambia, the smallest nation in Africa. This summer Nadra will research how gender and sustainability intertwine to foster ecopreneurship (an expression coined for the application of principles of entrepreneurship to create businesses that solve environmental problems or operate sustainably). She will examine the creative, innovative, and sustainable methods and products Gambian women are using and creating to transform their lives into entrepreneurial business. Nadra will intern with Starfish International, whose mission is to empower Gambian females by providing them with an advanced education. Their target population is rural

adolescent Gambian girls between the ages of 13 and 18, with courses designed to facilitate self-expression and economic empowerment.

Abigayel Phillips graduated this year with an English major in Literature and minors in Irish Studies and Russian Studies. A high performing student and writer, Abigayel won two awards this year for her papers: the Literary Criticism in American Literature for “[T]he snare of her language’: The (Dis) Embodiment of Knowledge in *The Book of Emma* and *Crossing the Mangrove*” and the CAS Award for Distinguished Work in the Humanities for “Otherworldly: The Search for LGBTQ Identity (Politics) in Young Adult Fantasy Fiction.” She completed a Russian & East European Studies capstone that focused on LGBTQ issues in contemporary Russia. On campus, she helped to start the student group Reproductive Rights Talk and Action Group (RRTAG). They sponsored various actions and events on campus this year, including a drive to collect diapers and feminine sanitary products for women in shelters in Bridgeport and Westport, and sponsoring a documentary on GLBTQ life in the South. She also, on her own initiative, organized a post-election gathering at the Stag one Saturday in November. She was part of a student group protesting the pipeline through indigenous lands in the Fall (2016).

Anmol Tabassum ’18 was the recipient of the 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Vision Award for promotion of social justice and her dedication to humanitarian issues. She has been active in JUHAN and was president of both Common Ground and the Muslim Student Association.

Camille Giacovas ’18 an international studies major and double minor in humanitarian action and psychology, was named the 2017 Newman Civic Fellow. She is one of 273 students across the country that will be a part of the 2017 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. In spring 2017, Camille took over the Bridgeport Refugee Mentoring Program in a newly created Mentoring Program Coordinator position, liaising with both community and on-campus partners to provide a successful and high quality mentoring experience. The after-school program allows refugee students between the ages of 13-18 years old to engage in a number of activities with Fairfield students including workshops, tutoring, college essay assistance, recreational activities and conversation. Along with being a Newman Civic Fellow she was provided with a \$1,000 grant from the Center for Faith & Public Life toward refugee programming during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, Camille was awarded a \$1,500 Campus Sustainability grant to expand support for local refugees by collecting used furniture and home goods from Fairfield students.

Adrienne Sgarlato ’17 a Politics and International Studies double major and Humanitarian Action minor was presented with the first Humanitarian Action award for this new program. She exemplifies the spirit and commitment of humanitarianism. Her interests span human rights, protection of civilians, the United Nations Security Council, African politics, refugees, social and political theory and international relations. During study abroad in Florence, she interned with Oxfam, serving as a youth ambassador. She has participated and served in leadership roles in many contexts on and off campus, including immersion trips to Quito, Ecuador, working with international students, serving as a student leader for the First Year Experience class, tutoring in the Writing Center, working with at risk youth, including resettled refugees. Adrienne has carried out field research on human trafficking in both Nicaragua and Tanzania. She focused on trafficking in her Humanitarian Action capstone. It is an aspect of human rights that motivates her career

interests in humanitarian work. She is pursuing a Master Degree in International Affairs, Global Governance, Politics, and Security at American University beginning fall 2017.

Three LACS minors were awarded grants from the Bailey Family Fund to support their summer internships in Central America. **Sophia Bolaños** will work with the New Haven/Leon Sister City Project in Nicaragua, and **Ariana Fernandez and Aura Pineda** will work with CDRO in Guatemala.

Aimee Donohue, class of 2017 graduated summa cum laude with a major in mathematics and a minor in accounting. She was inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, Alpha Mu Gamma, Alpha Sigma Nu, and Phi Beta Kappa. She shared her knowledge and expertise as a Math tutor in the Math Center and gave a Mathematics Colloquium on Computer Assisted Proofs. She also served as a Peer Mediator, Stag Explorer Mentor, and BASE Camp Counselor. This year, Aimee served as Treasurer of the Fairfield Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon. Aimee was awarded the Arthur F. Dershowitz Award in Mathematics, the department of Modern Languages and Literatures award in Chinese, Resident Assistant of the Year award, and was accepted into the Disney Leadership Program. In the summer of 2016, Aimee worked in a summer internship program at EMC in Finance and Supply Chain Management. Following graduation, she will work with Dell in their 3-year finance rotational development program.

Brenna Brown, class of 2017 graduated summa cum laude with a double major in mathematics and finance. She earned a perfect 4.0 GPA in both majors. She was inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, Beta Gamma Sigma, and worked as a math tutor in the Math Center for three years. Brenna was awarded both the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics award and the Excellence in Mathematics Award as well as the Dolan School of Business Finance Award. A student athlete, Brenna played on the women's soccer team all four years (lead scorer in her junior and senior years) and ran cross-country in the spring semester of her senior year. She won the CoSida Academic All-District award *twice*, in 2015 and 2016. Brenna has accepted a full-time position in Cigna's Actuarial Executive Development Program.

Michelle Rakowsky, a double theatre and art history major and an **Italian minor** will travel to Europe in October 2017 for a five-month internship at Italy's foremost modern art museum, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. The extremely competitive international internship is the only one of its kind in Italy, and out of last year's 1,200 applicants, only 28 were accepted from the United States. Michelle worked with Dr. Carolan as a Humanities Institute seminar student fellow.

Lauren Jachimczyk, a business major and an Individually Designed major in **Chinese**, obtained a coveted internship (convertible into a full time job) at the Deutsche Bank in New York. Previously she also worked as an intern at LCR Capital Partners. Her knowledge of Chinese language and her major in Chinese enhanced her competitiveness in winning the internship. Currently she is finishing her study-abroad at The Beijing Center. Lauren took two years of Chinese with Dr. Xiao before going abroad; she is also one of her IDMJ advisees.

Robert Hansen Major in Physics, minor in mathematics has a full scholarship to UMass Lowell for a Masters of Meteorology. Robert studied infrared telescopes for his capstone project designing and constructing a working prototype of infrared detector.

Anya Cullen '17, double major in Politics and American Studies, received a remarkable total of \$958,642 in fellowship offers for law school. She accepted a full tuition scholarship at Penn State Law School where she will start fall 2017.

Richard Burke '17 (Politics Major) received full five-year PhD fellowship offers from both Johns Hopkins and the University of Virginia, along with nationally competitive funding from the Lilly Foundation.

Matthew Parenti '17 (International Studies and Politics Major) received a full tuition scholarship and a Dean's fellowship from Quinnipiac School of Law.

Adrienne Sgarlato '17 (International Studies and Politics Major) received a Dean's fellowship from American University where she will also begin graduate studies in the fall.

Symone Mazzotta '17 (Communication and Politics Major) was awarded the Dean's Fellowship to study Public Policy at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Isabel Telonis' coursework in Classical Studies has spanned from the Aegean Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire. She has worked to restore and research plaster casts of Greek sculpture in our historic plaster cast collection and has made insightful contributions to the seminar on art in the classical world. In a Byzantine Art seminar, her project was on a sixth century Egyptian healing amulet currently in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She brought together research on Early Christian iconography, pilgrimage, medicine, and belief in magic for a creative, sophisticated, and beautifully-written paper. Isabel was awarded the Classical Studies prize and recognized for Phi Beta Kappa acceptance. She is a double major in Art History & Visual Culture and French, with a minor in Classical Studies. Her academic work has shown both deep analysis and creativity. Her curiosity has led her to pursue and obtain a wide variety of internships, from commercial Manhattan art galleries, to El Museo del Barrio, to the Fairfield University Art Museum. She has been accepted into the Sotheby's Masters' program in Art Business.

Brendan McNamara has been one of the most dedicated and involved members of the theatre program while also holding a Business Management major. He has been involved in theatre productions since his freshman year. He proved himself to be as dedicated to his classwork as he is to his production work, performing in a number of capacities on productions and most noteworthy co-produced the Independent Project, "Doubt". He has also served for two years as a production intern with Theatre Fairfield, by overseeing the finances and by running the PR endeavors. In June 2017, Brendan will begin work as the company and front house manager for Central City Opera in Denver, CO.

Graduate Student Highlights and Stories

- **38 graduate students completed their master's degrees** in American Studies (2), Communication (8), Mathematics (5), MFA in Creative Writing (16), and MPA (7) programs.
- **The recipient of the fourth annual Award for Graduate Student Service Award in the College of Arts and Sciences** was Lauren Palmbach (MFA, Creative Writing) for her Third Semester Project involving service and creative work at an aid agency in Costa Rica.
- **THE ROBERT E. BOLGER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS** is given to the student within the MS degree Program in Mathematics who has nearly completed their degree requirements and has been judged by the faculty to have combined the strongest mathematical talent as exhibited by their performance in their courses with the most interest in mathematics. This year Frank Zimmitti was the recipient of this award. Frank discovered his love of mathematics relatively late in his career. He is graduating as the first student to complete our new five year BS/MS degree in mathematics, and will be going on to start a PhD program in Mathematics at University of Nebraska. Frank is a talented mathematician who combines insight, precision, and a quiet focus to accomplish remarkable things.
- **The AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP IN GRADUATE COMMUNICATION** was presented to **Alora Caraglio and Michael Prescott**. Alora Caraglio's thesis "The Promise of Empowerment: Branding and Identity in All-Girls Schools' Viewbooks," examines how single-sex institutions across the country approach education marketing and how they appeal to prospective students and families. She says of her original research project, "Throughout the MA in Communication program, I have gained new understandings and insights that have and will continue to enrich my day-to-day work in the world of fundraising and development." Michael Prescott's thesis, titled "Building Walls: The Impact of Media on Refugee Resettlement," explores the influence of contemporary media messaging on newly-arrived refugees as they build lives for themselves in the United States. He says, "Both my thesis project and my diverse learning experiences throughout the MA in Communication program provided me countless opportunities to grow personally and professionally."
- Corey Novak '17 (MA Communication) was the recipient of the Professor James Keenan Award.
- The MFA Program highlighted the following student awards and recognitions.
 - Adriana Paramo, "How to Eat Ali's Mother" was the winner of the 2016 William Faulkner – Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society Creative Writing Competition
 - Faculty members Baron Wormser and Carol Ann Davis received "Notable" mentions in the forthcoming Best American Essays 2016
 - Susan Muaddi Darraj won an American Book Award for *A Curious Land*
 - Alum Chris Belden, author of the novel *Shriver*, had his book optioned for film production.
 - Alum Sam Borden has a piece included in Best American Sports Writing 2017.
 - Katy Jacopi's poem "Soap Box" received first place in the Hysteria Writing Competition.
 - Alum Fred Polsgrove won the 42nd New Millennium Writing award in flash fiction.

- Alum Steve Otfinoski's comedy "It's a Tragedy" has been chosen to be produced for Short+Sweet Sydney, biggest short play fest in the world, one of 80 chosen from 750 submissions.
- **Ms. Alison Riith** completed the MPA Program in 2016, and applied for enrollment in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program. This year Ms. Riith completed the year-long program at the Westchester Institute for Human Development this month, and was awarded LEND certification.
- **Mr. Florian Sedy** began his new job in Vienna, Austria at the Federal Ministries of Families and Youth, a position uniquely suited to someone with an MPA.

The MFA celebrated the publication of several alumni books this year:

- Michael Belanger (student), *The History of Jane Doe*
- Lynne Heinzmann, *Frozen Voices*
- Peter Kahn, *Golden Shovel Anthology* (edited)
- Kristie Betts Letter (student), *Underworldly*
- Alix Purcell (student), *Till We Meet Again* (film)
- Matt Winkler, *Mentoring Teenage Heroes*
- Joe Reynolds, *Make Dust Our Paper*

Goals & Priorities for 2017-2018

As the oldest and largest of Fairfield University's Schools, the College of Arts and Science stands at an important moment in time. While there are significant challenges, there are also enormous opportunities.

- Develop a functional model for a College with four Schools that prevents silos, enhances the whole, and provides greater opportunities for both students and faculty;
- As we watch enrollment trends, CAS will explore the expansion of summer and continuing education programming, seek to identify appropriate new programs (graduate, undergraduate, certificate) that may include on-line, low residency and short format models, and develop stronger collaboration with Marketing to better promote CAS offerings;
- A hallmark of CAS is the quality of our educational offerings. Therefore, CAS will continue to seek ways to better support faculty and students, through assessment and program reviews, developing more robust professional development opportunities, seeking further research support (both for independent faculty research as well as faculty-student collaborations, and find ways to showcase the exciting research done by both our faculty and students;
- CAS should be hub for the University, connecting with and between the other schools, to remain the vital core that it has been. Therefore, we will continue to collaborate with the Deans of other schools to develop innovative cross-division programs;
- Continue, as always, to not just follow, but find ways to further support the University's strategic plan