

Fairfield University

2015-16

College of Arts & Sciences Annual Report

CAS Dean's Office

July 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
CAS Highlights of 2015-16	4
<i>First Significant Reorganization of the College Structure Ever Completed with Broad Faculty Support.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Continued Focus on the Liberal Arts Advantage</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>New Majors and Minors Attract Students and Keep CAS Competitive.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Summer Programs Update.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Advising and Mentoring.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Program Reviews.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Accreditation</i>	<i>7</i>
CAS Faculty & Program Highlights 2015-16	8
<i>Faculty Scholarships</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Rank and Tenure.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Faculty Recruitment & Retention.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>University Faculty Awards.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Grant Activity.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Faculty Professional Development.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Faculty Featured Major National & International Conferences.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Individual Faculty Accomplishments.....</i>	<i>13</i>
CAS Student Highlights 2015-16	16
<i>Enrollment Trends</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Student Achievements.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Graduate Student Highlights.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>MFA Alumni Publications/News since July 1, 2014</i>	<i>22</i>
Goals & Priorities for 2015-16	23
<i>Growth and Diversification of Revenue Streams</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Speed and Innovation.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>A Focus on Excellence</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Collaboration and Community.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Diversity, Mission and Engagement.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Financial Sustainability & Careful Stewardship of Assets.....</i>	<i>25</i>

Introduction

This report highlights the accomplishments of faculty, students, and staff in College of Arts & Sciences for the 2015-2016 academic year. The year featured several key changes including the appointment of an interim Dean in June, and the creation of four new schools within the College of Arts and Sciences in May. In addition to documenting the traditional areas of interest including faculty and student accomplishments, the goals and objectives section in particular emphasizes how these key changes map to the long-term goals and priorities established in Fairfield University's strategic refresh Fairfield 2020. The strategic plan, which was formally adopted in 2015, set an ambitious course for university programs over the next five years. Given the changes in this office, many of the primary goals and priorities of the CAS remain the same but have in some cases been re-ordered, truncated, or expanded to better meet the goals established by the new strategic plan.

CAS Highlights of 2015-16

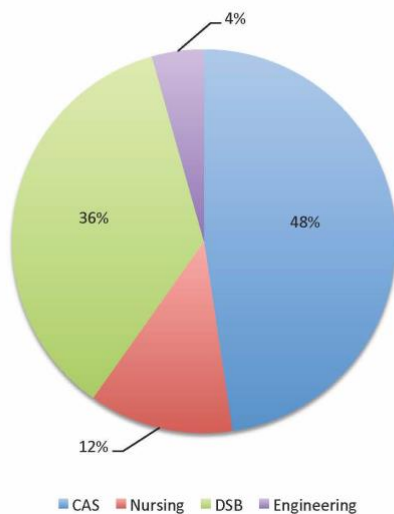
First Significant Reorganization of the College Structure Ever Completed with Broad Faculty Support

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.

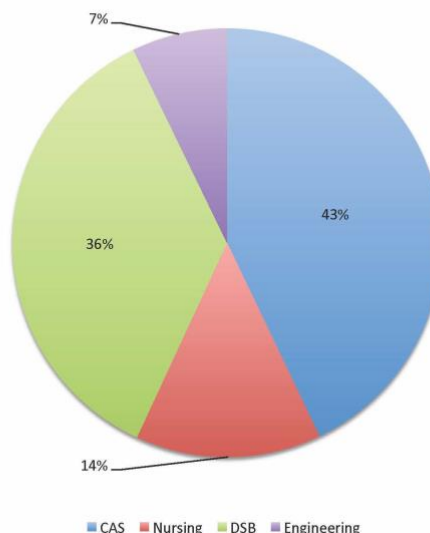
Each of the four schools will be headed by a to-be-named director that will report directly to the CAS Dean. The new structure will allow for increased collaborations and synergies, provide increased opportunities for student and faculty research collaborations, and increased marketing and fundraising possibilities.

In response to the new school structure, one rotational faculty Associate Dean line in the CAS Dean's office will be eliminated in July 2016. Other changes in the CAS Dean's office include the hiring of a new full-time associate Dean, Dr. Lynn Sally, who will be joining the college in July of 2016. She is replacing Dr. Aaron Perkus, who departed Fairfield University in May, 2016.

May 2016 Undergrad Degrees by School



Entering Freshmen, Class of 2020 by School



Continued Focus on the Liberal Arts Advantage

The College continued to promote the "liberal arts advantage" to students 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 organize and promote department-specific alumni/ae panels and career events that showcased the many directions various majors and minors can lead students.
- Inter-departmental panels including a successful “Careers in the Liberal Arts” event that brought together alumni/ae and current students from all of the Humanities Departments. This event was coordinated in close collaboration with Career Planning and the Humanities Institute.
- 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.

New Majors and Minors Attract Students and Keep CAS Competitive

The College continued to add relevant new majors and minors and had a successful year rolling out new programs introduced last year.

The new major in Environmental Studies (ES) – an outgrowth of one of the most popular interdisciplinary minors over the last few years – began enrolling majors. Adding to the existing minor in ES, this major is hoping to attract a strong cohort of students interested in all aspects of environmental studies – science, policy or social issues. Along with the hopeful impending administrative approval Campus Sustainability Plan, these initiatives should allow Fairfield to become an exemplar in both academic and practical issues of environmental sustainability.

Two new majors and minors approved last year – Public Relations (Department of Communication) and Digital Journalism (Department of English) also signed up the first cohorts of majors and minors. Both are on track with enrollment projections.

Health Studies, also launched as a minor in Fall of 2015, has over 100 students are currently enrolled. This included 12 seniors that graduated in 2016 in the first year of the minor being offered. Not only relevant for students intending to go directly into health care fields, this minor will allow any student, regardless of major, to gain a more firm understanding of the myriad issues related to health care and become better consumers and decision makers in health related issues. Another example of interdisciplinary excellence of the college, this minor attracts students from business, engineering, and to a lesser extent, nursing. New capstone opportunities with external collaborators are being developed (e.g., Bridgeport Council of Churches food pantry program), as a projected capstone cohort of almost 30 senior graduating in 2017 is expected.

A new minor in Humanitarian Action was also unveiled this year. In response to the increasing number, scope and intensity of humanitarian emergencies, the field of humanitarian action has grown dramatically over the last 25 years, along with diverse career opportunities. In

collaboration with Fairfield University's five schools, this minor complements students' other fields of study with the concepts, theories and skills to discern individual and collective responsibilities to respond to humanitarian needs at home and around the world. This unique interdisciplinary minor prepares students to:

- Learn, reflect and respond to humanitarian needs
- Advance moral commitments and ethically grounded action
- Serve as men and women for others
- Alleviate human suffering and protect human dignity

The program includes faculty with expertise in an array of disciplines including ethics, engineering, health, history, economics, management, and international affairs.

A new minor in Graphic Design was also approved in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts as well as a new concentration in Behavioral Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology.

Faculty in the College continue to explore new minors and majors in instances where resources are available and student demand can be verified.

Summer Programs Update

Overall summer enrollment for the June session of 2015 was down over the last two years (2016: 446 students; 2015: 592; 2014: 504). However, online enrollment was 222 students, greater than the previous two years (2015: 217; 2014: 164). Obviously, online courses are very popular and should be a focus of our offerings in future summers. A more concerted 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 5-18, 2015 with 34 students enrolled in seven 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 Belgium, Puerto Rico, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania and other towns in Connecticut. As of this writing, we have 23 confirmed students for the July 2016 program.

Advising and Mentoring

The college continues to emphasize the importance of academic advising and mentoring as a fundamental responsibility of our faculty. Undeclared students are the largest group of incoming freshmen in the CAS, and we have streamlined the assignment of incoming freshmen who are "undeclared," in collaboration with the department of Academic and Career Development. Also in collaboration with ACD, we again ran the majors and Minors fair in October, with all departments and programs in the college participating.

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. The inaugural award was given to Dr. Betsy Bowen, Department of English.

Two Programs Complete Reviews

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies Program and International Studies Program completed program reviews this year. After receiving detailed self-studies from the respective programs, external reviewers visited campus to meet faculty and staff and further evaluate the programs. Following receipt of the external reports, these programs will be working to write responses to the external reviews, and use their reports to write action plans to move forward over the next year.

Completion of these two program reviews, the complete cycle of department and program reviews has been completed (albeit some departments have had only partial reviews – English, MLL, for example). The creation of four schools of the college will necessitate the completion of these reviews in the near future to better access the overall offerings of the CAS.

Accreditation

As with the entire University community, the CAS is actively preparing for the upcoming NEASC visit for reaccreditation, with collection of CVs from all faculty and syllabi for all courses during the 2015-16 academic year. Additionally, the three associate deans participated in the preparatory meetings chaired by Christine Siegel, in preparation for the collection of the remaining suite of artifacts that will be necessary for preparation of the self-report.

CAS Faculty & Program Highlights

2015-2016

Faculty Achievements

- **Scholarship:** The quantitative summary for the current academic year includes:
 - CAS faculty published 218 articles, chapters, and other publications.
 - 8 books published this year were authored or edited by College faculty
 - CAS faculty gave 325 presentations at professional meetings, invited talks, and/or exhibits/performances.
- **Rank & Tenure:** The following summarizes outcomes for 2015-2016:
 - *Three faculty were tenured and promoted to Associate Professor:*
 - Dr. Gwen Alphonso – Politics
 - Dr. Shannon Gerry – Biology
 - Dr. Margaret McClure – Psychology
 - There was one unsuccessful case for tenure
 - *Four faculty were promoted to Professor:*
 - Dr. Peter Bayers – English
 - Dr. David Gudelunas – Communication
 - Dr. Nels Pearson – English
 - Dr. Qin Zhang – Communication
 - There were three unsuccessful cases for promotion to Professor
 - The College conducted comprehensive annual reviews of its 25 pre-tenured faculty
 - Seventeen CAS faculty members have submitted their intent to apply for tenure and/or promotion next year.
- **Faculty Recruitment & Retention:**
 - Three new tenure-track faculty arrived on campus and successfully completed their first year: Dr. Jillian Carpenter-Smith - Chemistry; Dr. Hedieh Shadmani – Economics, and Dr. Sunil Purushothan – History.
 - Five tenure track searches were conducted during the year. We successfully recruited Dr. Gayle Alberda to Politics, Dr. Alfred Babo to Sociology/Anthropology and International studies, Dr. Patrick Brooks to Visual and Performing Arts, Adam Ruggs to Communication, and Dr. Matt Tullis to English.
 - We sought authorization to search for seven TT faculty during FY '17. These were in Communication, English/Core Writing, FTM/Visual & Performing Arts, Mathematics (shared with GSEAP), Modern Languages & Literatures, Physics, and Psychology. Only four positions were approved, so searches will take place in English/Core Writing,

Mathematics, Psychology and Professor Patrick Brooks was approved to change his Visiting Assistant Professor status to full-time tenure track.

- Retirement: Dr. Hugh Humphrey, Professor of Religious Studies retired in December 2015 after 50 years of service and Dr. Cinthia Gannett, Associate Professor of English with 8 years of service to the University as Director of Core Writing.
- Departure: Dr. Edrik Lopez, Assistant Professor of English completed his terminal year.

- **University Awards to Faculty:**

- The Award for Distinguished Teaching in the College of Arts & Sciences was bestowed upon Dr. Johanna Garvey, Associate Professor of English.
- The first annual Award for Distinguished Advising and Mentoring was awarded to Dr. Betsy Bowen, Professor of English.
- Dr. Gisela Gil-Egui was awarded the Graduate Teacher of the Year Award posthumously by the Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society. This award was accepted by Dr. Qin Zhang in honor of Dr. Gil-Egui.
- Dr. Paul Lakeland, Professor of Religious Studies, held the 2015-2016 Robert E. Wall Award for 2015-2016, while Dr. Mark Demers, Associate Professor of Mathematics, was the awardee for 2016-2017.
- Dr. Paul Baginski, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was awarded the ninth annual Professor George E. Lang Award. This award is given to a faculty member, who has been at Fairfield University less than 10 years and who has shown exceptional interest in and support of faculty governance at Fairfield University.
- Dr. Marion professor and current Co-Director of the Irish Studies Program won the Adjunct Professor of the Year award for 2015/2016.
- Dr. Eileen Wilkinson, Assistant Professor of the Practice in Modern Languages, received the 8th Annual Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award from Office of Student Diversity Programs.
- Dr. Jocelyn Boryczka was awarded a \$1000 internal research grant from the Research Committee for travel to Tanzania where she will carry out research for her upcoming invited manuscript *Globalization and Sex* (Rowman and Littlefield series on Globalization).
- Dr. Scott Lacy, Professor of Sociology/Anthropology, received a Humanities Institute grant for an oral traditions project that will bring West Africa into his classrooms.

- **Grant Activity:** *The College continued intensive engagement in efforts to procure external funding as specified below.*
 - CAS faculty submitted \$10,817,846 in federal funding applications this year; \$99,500 was funded to date (\$ 9,235,861 is still pending; \$1,482,485 unfunded). Foundation funding requests involving CAS faculty totaled \$1,210,143 this year; so far \$100,200 was funded to date (10,000 still pending; \$1,099,943 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:
 - The Biology department worked closely with Development and Advancement to identify and connect with Biology alumni. Three alumni donated \$9,500 to advance training and education in Biology. The donations will be used to sponsor individual lectures in the Biology Lecture Series in memory of Dr. Donald J. Ross, Sr. and fund on-campus summer research for Biology majors.
 - CT Space Grant Consortium Program (primary funder is NASA) granted Dr. Amanda Harper-Leatherman, Associate Professor of Chemistry, a \$10,000 grant, along with \$5,000 to Nina Kosciuszek’17. Dr. Harper-Leatherman is the faculty mentor on their project entitled “Incorporating Aerogels into Electrochemical Glucose Biosensors.”
 - Dr. William Vasquez is working on a project with Dr. Jessie Planas in the School of Nursing, titled, "Investigating the Water-Health Nexus in Nicaragua: The Role of Household Behavior". This project is funded by a health studies grant–2015- 2017 (\$65,130)
 - Dr. Kathy Nantz received a \$45,000 award funded by the American Councils for International Education and the US Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine to travel to Ukraine with AIE staff and to provide presentations and materials on academic integrity at Ukrainian public universities. Dr. Nantz is working on this project with Dr. David Schmidt in the DSB; this four-year initiative addresses issues of academic integrity.
 - Dr. Jennifer Adair, Assistant Professor of History, was recently awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Grant in the amount of \$6,000. The funds will go toward research for her book, which is tentatively titled, *In Search of the Lost Decade: The Everyday Politics of Human Rights in Post-Dictatorship Argentina*. This will be the first in-depth history of Argentina transition to democracy following years of brutal military rule and fiscal crisis and will draw on unpublished sources and oral histories. Grant funds will support Professor Adair’s travel to Buenos Aires and its surrounding areas in Argentina this summer for archival research focused on food riots that took place in that area in 1989.

- Dr. Michelle Farrell, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, recently received a Franklin Research Grant by the American Philosophical Society in the amount of \$5,200. The grant will assist with her proposed research “The Space in Between: Cuban Digital Independent Filmmakers at the Crossroads.” Dr. Farrell was also the NECTFL Scholarship Winner Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Language 2016 (\$175).
 - Dr. David Winn, Professor of Physics received funding from Fermilab for a total of \$33,000. This grant is for R&D on upgrading the CERN experiment CMS that discovered the Higgs boson in 2012. The 27 km circumference proton-proton collider accelerator crosses between Switzerland and France, and has been upgraded to higher energy and power. Because of this upgrade, the experiment receives a higher radiation dose, which degrades our equipment. This summer three Fairfield students are working on a project with Professor Winn to develop special highly radiation-resistant optical fibers which absorb blue light and re-emit green light then captured on the optical fiber, an optical signal which we use to measure the energy of particles produced by the collisions of protons in the collider.
 - Dr. Jocelyn Boryczka was awarded a \$30,000 grant from Benina Family Foundation to develop Faculty Learning Communities with faculty at Fairfield University and Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which will be administered in concert with the Office of Service Learning.
 - Dr. Janie Leatherman, Professor of Politics, continued in her third year as Project Director/Curricular Consultant for the Teagle Grant of \$260,000 for “Fairfield University Collaborative Project in Student Learning: The Examination of Enduring Questions Through Humanitarian Education.” This is a three-year development of the Jesuit Humanitarian Action Network with Georgetown University and Universidad Central de America, Nicaragua. Prof. Leatherman also was awarded and completed a grant from the Office of Service Learning for course and profession development, totaling \$3500.
 - Dr. Judy Primavera, Professor of Psychology, received a \$15,000 grant renewal from the F.M. Kirby Foundation for the Literacy Project.
 - Dr. Shannon Harding, Associate Professor of Psychology, has a grant from the Brinkman Foundation for student involvement in her research entitled, Autism treatment studies in a Behavioral Neuroscience Lab
- **CAS Support for Faculty Professional Development in FY '16**
 - 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 \$30,400 towards additional faculty research travel. Total support for faculty travel was \$200,000.

- The Dean supported 25 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 21 projects proposed by 25 faculty members for a total of \$36,787 in FY '16. Six of the proposals related to faculty development, ten curricular review/revisions, while nine of the proposals were for public programming, student engagement, and other co-curricular enhancements. The Seminar Faculty Fellows program was initiated, with four faculty receiving this award (Carolan - MLL; Kelley - English; Orlando - English; 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 **Science Institute** funded eight proposals involving twelve different faculty members for approximately \$10,000 in support for research and travel to meetings.
- The CAS Dean's budget funded more than \$28,560 in **summer student housing** costs (summer 2015) related to faculty research and student internships across the College. Estimates for summer 2016 costs are approximately \$34,940.
- ***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. Shannon Gerry, Associate Professor of Biology, was invited and served on an NSF Grant panel.
 - Dr. Jackie Vernarelli, Assistant Professor of Biology, was an honoree for the American Society for Nutrition Translational Research Award.
 - Prof. Shannon Kelley was awarded the RSA-Huntington Residential Fellowship by the *Renaissance Society of America*, 2016. She also received the Monroe Kirk Spears Award for "Amber, the Heliades, and the Poetics of Trauma in Marvell's 'The Nymph Complaining,'" published in *Studies in English Literature*, 2015.
 - Dr. Nels Pearson, Professor of English, was awarded the Donald Murphy Prize for his book, *Irish Cosmopolitanism: Location and Dislocation in James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen and Samuel Beckett*. The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), a multidisciplinary scholarly organization with members all over the world, awards multiple book and dissertation prizes each year, including best first book, for which Dr. Pearson's work was chosen.
 - Dr. Jennifer Adair, Assistant Professor of History, won a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend by Assistant Professor Jennifer Adair. Professor Adair will

spend the summer of 2016 in Argentina working on her book manuscript, "In Search of the Lost Decade: the Everyday Politics of Human rights in Post-Dictatorship Argentina."

- Dr. Scott Lacy, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Chair of the Department received a Fulbright Grant. Professor Lacy travelled to Cameroon in October to teach undergraduate and graduate students at the Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC) in Bamenda and work with students on collaborative research projects. During his first Fulbright experience in Mali (from 2001 to 2002), Dr. Lacy conducted ethnographic research in rural parts of the country. His connection to Mali continues today, with Dr. Lacy serving as the founder and executive director of African Sky, a non-governmental organization that grew from the projects he started as a Fulbrighter.
- Dr. David Downie, Associate Professor of Politics, was nominated and awarded inclusion in the United Nations Environment Programme's OzonAction unit's: *Montreal Protocol Who's Who*. This collection is "intended to honor the visionaries, innovators and implementers who are making the Montreal Protocol a global environmental success story."
- **Individual Faculty Accomplishments**
 - Dr. Pagano's co-authored article, "Validating the health communication assessment tool" was awarded the research article of the year 2015 in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing Journal*.
 - Dr. Kathryn Nantz was President of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society for economists. In that capacity, she presided over the Commons Award lecture and a presentation by acclaimed growth economist Dr. Paul Romer.
 - Dr. Danke Li, Professor of History, won an award winning book, which was published in the People's Republic of China.
 - Michael White, Professor of English was the recipient of the Tuscany Prize for Catholic fiction for *Resting Places*, along with a \$5,000 prize.
 - Dr. Gwendoline Alphonso, Assistant Professor of Politics, was the co-recipient of the Ellis Hawley Prize for the best article by a junior scholar published in the *Journal of Policy History* in 2014-2016 for her article, "From Need to Hope."
 - Dr. Jocelyn M. Boryczka, Professor of Politics, was awarded the Christian Bay Best Paper Award from the New Political Science Section of the American Political Science Association in 2016 for her paper "An Anatomy of Sexism: The Colonized Vagina."
 - Professor Brian Torff and his performing group "New Duke" were named Artist in Residence for the Quick Center 2016-2017 Season. "New Duke" developed out of his

work with Dr. Laura Nash on her National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks grant "Duke Ellington and the Development of American Popular Culture."

- Dr. Philip Eliasoph, Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, presented in collaboration with the University of California's Grateful Dead Archive at UC Santa Cruz and the San Jose State College, the four day conference Nov-5-9 gathered over 120 academics, film and media artists, original band members, journalists and surviving members of the Sixties cultural revolution in SF Bay area. Professor Eliasoph presented "The Art History of the Grateful Dead: Principles, Methods and Zeitgeist Contexts" and chaired a panel with other artists and art historians.

CAS Student Highlights

2015-16

Enrollment Trends

- **The class of 2016** included 938 undergrad students who received their B.A. (344) and B.S. (103) from academic programs in the College of Arts & Sciences. Noteworthy enrollment trends include:
 - **For the class of 2016, the largest majors were: Communication (81), Psychology (73), VPA (41) and Bio and English (37).** These totals include both first and second majors in each of these disciplines.
 - **Two students in the class of '16 completed Individually Designed Majors (IDMJ);** these were in Asian Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. There is one IDMJ to be completed this summer (Four-Field Anthropology) and 6 other IDMJ's across the classes of 2017 (3) AND 2018 (3).
 - **123 CAS majors in the class of '16 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.
 - **152 CAS students completed internships this year.** Students in Communication (40), English (23), 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:

- 186 CAS students presented research at scholarly meetings or were authors on published manuscripts, with the largest showing in Biology (76), Psychology (40) and Chemistry (37).
- 353 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 Communication (90), Biology (57), Psychology (39) and International Studies (36).
- 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. FY17 will be the 25th anniversary of our university-community partnership.

- 71 CAS students were honored at our annual CAS student awards event in April with various departmental and program awards.
- The CAS Awards Committees felt the competition was particularly fierce this year; for the five College-wide awards there were 26 separate entries involving 25 different students. The award winners were:
 - Kristin Feige and Brigid Callahan – Lieutenant William Koscher Award in Arts
 - Angela Sammarone – Distinguished Work in the Humanities
 - Philip Mayer – Distinguished Work in the Natural Sciences & Math
 - Margaret Trosin – Distinguished Work in the Social & Behavioral Sciences
 - Amanda Ocasio – Distinguished Work in Visual and Performing Arts
- 307 CAS students were inducted into the various disciplinary honor societies, and 41 CAS students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa (these numbers are fairly consistent from year to year)
- 110 CAS graduates were accepted into graduate programs. While not all programs report these data, Health Professions (22) and Biology (16) departments lead the way with graduate program-heading students. Economics (22), Psychology (20) and Mathematics (16) reported the largest number of post-graduate employment. These are very preliminary numbers, however.
- 23 students are engaged in research with faculty members during the summer of 2016. 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 \$35,000

CAS students who received distinguished University Awards this year:

- **The St. Ignatius Loyola Medal**, given to one senior who has demonstrated commitment to the Jesuit ideals of high academic standards, community engagement, and participation in co-curricular activities, went to Jacqueline Aquino, who majored in Mathematics.
- **The Undergraduate Bellarmine Medal** was a three-way tie with two of the students from the College – Kristen Feige (Communication Major) and Brigid Callahan (Psychology Major), along with Rachel Steriti from the SON.
- **The William J. Kramer '60 Humanitarian Award** went to **Claretta Mills '16** (Politics Major) for her “commitment to volunteerism and service to an external community activity that best exemplifies the Ignatian tradition of being men and women for and with others.” As a student at Fairfield, Mills participated in and led volunteer trips in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Jamaica. Mills is also heavily involved in the Racial Justice is Social Justice movement and has been a Cura Personalis Mentor for the past three years. “The world needs kindness and people who are concerned with the welfare of others. Humanitarian work is simple, just maybe even caring about your neighbor, asking about someone’s day, and seeing how you can simply help someone if they need help,” she said.

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—Daniel Horstmann '16 (Communication Major) for his commitment to Music Ministry and the Praise Project and Allison Scheetz '16 (International Studies/Politics Majors) for her commitment to welcoming and on-boarding new students.

Student stories that animate these statistics and other highlights include:

Cathryn Duemmler was admitted as a Magis Scholar who graduated *summa cum laude* with BS in Biology with a concentration in Marine Science and a minor in Environmental Studies. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and was awarded a Lawrence Scholarship to conduct marine biology research with Dr. Braun and Dr. Brousseau. Her project focused on the antimicrobial properties of the natural bacterial fauna of oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and their surrounding water column. Cathryn's ultimate goal is to pursue a Master's degree in secondary education and teach Biology at the high school level.

Adam Doerr '16 is truly exceptional in his academic, scholarly, and service work. Adam was in the Honors program, Phi Beta Kappa and graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Biology. His analytical, yet creative approach to scientific inquiry not only shines through in classroom discussions and written assignments, but helps shape his independent research. While working with faculty research mentor Catherine Andersen, Adam investigated cholesterol metabolism in leukemia cells and significantly contributed to a published book chapter on the topic entitled, "The relationship between cholesterol metabolism and inflammation in chronic disease." In addition to being an excellent mentor to fellow research students, Adam is actively engaged in service to the University and local community, where he serves as the Organic Chemistry Peer Tutor and participates in community outreach.

Nicholas Bernier, of Wolcott, CT, graduated *summa cum laude* with B.S. degree in chemistry and minors in philosophy and mathematics in May of 2016. He is a national winner of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship in his junior year. During the Spring term of his freshman year he began a three year research project under the direction of Professor John Miecznikowski where he synthesized a family of water-soluble sulfur and nitrogen containing ligand precursors and subsequently incorporated them into zinc(II) complexes. He then followed up this work by producing copper(II), ruthenium(II), and nickel(II) complexes with these same ligands. This work, supported in part by grants from the Hardiman and Lawrence Scholarship funds, was presented at two national meetings of the American Chemical Society, one held in Boston and the other in San Diego. He has co-authored one manuscript published in *Polyhedron*. He will be attending the University of California-Los Angeles where he will pursue a Ph.D. degree in Inorganic Chemistry.

Nina Kosciuszek'17, of Naugatuck, CT, is a Chemistry major with a minor in Mathematics. Since the Fall of 2015, she has been conducting research in the laboratory of Professor Amanda Harper-Leatherman. Recently she was awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship from

the NASA CT Space Science College Consortium to conduct full-time research on incorporating aerogels into electrochemical glucose biosensors. She intends to continue her research efforts during her senior year. In addition both this summer and last, she serves as a BASE camp counselor. She is seeking a career in medicine and plans to enter medical school after graduation at the end of the next academic year.

Molly Gregory of Rhode Island graduated Summa Cum Laude with a major in American Studies and English. This spring she delivered a scholarly paper at the 4th Annual American Studies Conference. Molly was the recipient of the Leo F. O'Connor Award in American Studies and she was the Valedictorian at commencement. Molly just accepted a job as an editor at Simon in Schuster in New York City. Molly's future goal is to go on for her Ph.D. in American Studies.

Kristen Feige is the recipient of the University-wide Bellarmine Award and the College-wide Lieutenant William Koscher Awards in Arts. With her 4.00 GPA, Kristen is the top ranked senior in Communication. Kristen is a Magis Scholar, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Nu, Alpha Mu Gamma, and Lambda Pi Eta. She is an exemplary student with an intellectual curiosity unmatched by most of her peers, demonstrating exceptional writing skills, extraordinary critical thinking, and remarkable maturity, rigor, and meticulousness in her work. She did three internships at Fairfield and also took service learning courses. She truly manifests the best qualities an undergraduate student has to offer, and is most deserving of this award.

Sarah Almeida is the recipient of the Gisela Gil-Egui Awards for Outstanding Service in Communication. The award is renamed this year in honor of our beloved colleague, Dr. Gil-Egui. Dr. Gil-Egui was a passionate professor who worked tirelessly to support our students and she was also a strong advocate for activism and social justice. Sarah a passionate, community-oriented, humanitarian activist has been at the forefront of various social movements taken up by our students at Fairfield University. When some of our students, primarily African-American, became active in the Black Lives Matter movement and engaged in peaceful protest, Sarah was among the minority of white students who participated in the events. Sarah joined with other students, faculty, and administrators in helping lead the charge for opening the much needed conversations around race on campus.

Allanah Dykes'16 represented Fairfield when Pope Francis made his historic visit to New York City on September 25, "on the street" to cover the event and gather stories. Allanah was one of just 50 college students and recent graduates across the country chosen to be a member of a "Digital Street Team" by @PopelsHope, a special project sponsored by the Magnificat Foundation and Aleteia, a Christian faith network. Participants submitted a variety of digital and social media focused on the theme of #GoodIsWinning, and were chosen from applicants all over the U.S. Allanah, who is majoring in communication and politics in the College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a blog entry about how her relationship with her aunt and grandmother influenced her spirituality.

Claretta Mills was the recipient of The William J. Kramer '60 Humanitarian Award. Mills was honored for her "commitment to volunteerism and service to an external community activity that best exemplifies the Ignatian tradition of being men and women for and with others." As a student at Fairfield, Mills participated in and led volunteer trips in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Jamaica. Mills is also heavily involved in the Racial Justice is Social Justice movement and has been a Cura Personalis Mentor for the past three years. "The world needs kindness and people who are concerned with the welfare of others. Humanitarian work is simple, just maybe even

caring about your neighbor, asking about someone's day, and seeing how you can simply help someone if they need help," she said.

A team of five students – four of whom are Humanitarian Action Minors – **Jaclyn Conte '18, Anmol Tabassum '18; Grace Farrell '18; and Brianna Klenkel '18** was awarded \$12,325 for a research project on the protection of civilians (PoC) funded by the Lawrence Hardiman Scholarship. The group will launch their project by participating in PO 127/IL 197 United Nations Security Council Crisis Simulation on PoC. The students will build on this experience during the remainder of the summer to assess key aspects of PoC in crisis situations, such as programming on global public health, nutrition, food security, sanitation and access to water, gender-equal access to health care, children and school safety and gender based violence.

Jerika Martinez embodies Fairfield University's ideal of a liberal arts education and its Jesuit value of men and women for others. She is a psychology major with minors in health studies, Spanish, and Latin American studies. Jerika also found time to obtain a certificate as a Medical Clinical Assistant, work as an RA, and complete an internship as a Spanish interpreter for nursing students who work with Latino patients in senior residences in Norwalk in a program on fall prevention (part of the "A Matter of Balance" grant co-authored by professor Michelle Farrell). She participated in a research trip to Nicaragua organized by LACS in spring 2015, to collect data for a study on government-supported programs that fight malnutrition among children, the results of which were presented at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Symposium. Jerika was recently awarded a grant from the Bailey Family Fund to complete an internship for Haven/Leon Sister Cities Project in Nicaragua during the summer, where she will work in environmental, education, and health projects serving low-income communities in Leon. Her hope is to combine her experiences with Latino populations in the U.S., with school children in Nicaragua into a career where she can apply her academic training and her Hispanic background to promote universal access to public health.

John Hummel Major in Physics, minor in mathematics and philosophy has a full research scholarship to Illinois Institute of Technology for a PhD. in Physics. John has collaborated with Prof. Winn for three years developing fibers for the Compact Muon Detector at CERN, where they are currently upgrading their detector for future experiments.

Riley Barret's (Major in Politics) engaged in research with Prof. Boryczka examining religious discourse and immigration on Long Island, under the Hagedorn "Strangers as Neighbors" project. She was personally tasked with designing the Hagedorn toolkit framework—an instructional pamphlet intended for distribution in parishes across the US and including exercises on how to engage in difficult dialogues with respect to hot button issues. The now published report includes leadership tips, solidarity prayers, and community activities that can powerfully unite across boundaries. Her work has been sent to Bishops ranging from Bridgeport to DC. She also provided research reports on the most recent political news relevant to their study.

Graduate Student Highlights

- **53 graduate students completed their master's degrees** in American Studies (7), Communication (6), Mathematics (7), MFA in Creative Writing (24), and MPA (9) programs.
- **The third annual Award for Graduate Student Service Graduate Service Award:** College of Arts and Sciences: Alan Manning (MA in Public Administration) was the recipient of this award. Mr. Manning “exemplifies the notion of service in both his professional life and in his volunteer work...in his spare time, what would be considered a full-time position advocating for children facing critical medical challenges.” Manning serves as chief operating officer of Planetree, a non-profit organization that personalizes the healthcare experience for patients and their families. He is also the founder and vice president of Kisses from Katie, INC, a non-profit organization in honor of his daughter that provides necessary resources to critically-ill children and their families.

Graduate Student Stories

Matthew Duckett received the Robert E. Bolger Award in Mathematics. As an undergrad he double majored in Psychology and Film & Television and used his degree to get a position in Los Angeles. Eventually, Matt worked his way back to New York, where he became a secondary Mathematics teacher and became interested enough in the subject that he wanted to learn much more. Matt thrived in Fairfield’s graduate program, proving himself to be one of our very strongest students, particularly in the most difficult, heavily theoretical courses.

Alina Clark received the Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Graduate Communication. Alina co-authored a paper with a fellow classmate entitled Self-Disclosure and Emotional Closeness in Intracultural Friendships: A Cross-Cultural Comparison among U.S. Americans and Romanians, which was presented at the National Communication Association conference and later published in peer-reviewed Journal of Intercultural Communication Research. Inspired by her own young children, Alina dedicated her thesis to the study of parents' expectations of their bilingual and binational children and hopes that her research will help more families see the value of raising bicultural and bilingual children in increasingly globalized society.

LaRue Cook (Summer 2015) nominated for MFA Award for general excellence

Lynn Heinzmann received the Fairfield Alumni Book Prize award for her novel, *Frozen Voices*, judged by Richard Hoffmann. The prize includes \$1000 and publication by New Rivers Press.

Chris Belden of Ridgefield, CT, graduated in Summer 2011 with an MFA degree and a concentration in fiction. He has taught writing at Fairfield U., the Westport Writers Workshop, the Ridgefield Writers Workshop, & Garner Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison. He is also co-founder of the Ridgefield Writers Conference. Chris is the author of the novels *Shriver* and *Carry-on*, & the story collection *The Floating Lady of Lake Tawaba*, which won the Fairfield/New Rivers Book Prize. In 2013, Judge Susan Orlean chose Chris's essay "Inside Words: How to Teach Writing in Prison" for the Bechtel Prize, from Teachers & Writers Collaborative. In 2014, Chris & Melissa started their own manuscript editing business, [First](#)

[Person Editing Services](#). In 2015, Touchstone Books (a division of Simon & Schuster) re-issued *Shriver*.

Nicole Heller of Park Ridge, NJ, graduated in summer 2015 with an MFA degree and a concentration in nonfiction. She earned a BA in Psychology from Fairfield in 2013 while taking a number of creative writing classes. Since 2014 she has worked as the Assistant Director in the Office of Student Engagement at Fairfield. She is a certified Social Justice mediator and has presented on Power & Privilege, Collaborative Leadership Training & Redefining Leadership Seminars, Spring 2014, Fairfield University; First Year Transition, Cura Personalis Mentor Program Training, Fall 2014, Fairfield University. She has submitted a nonfiction book proposal for a young-adult nonfiction book on the subject of losing a parent, which she addressed in her undergraduate writing and in her MFA thesis.

MFA Alumni Publications/News since July 1, 2015 [Sent a message to Elizabeth for more details.

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

Chris Belden

Shriver –Touchstone/Simon and Schuster

<http://www.chrisbelden.com/#!/books/c2405>

Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel

Wabanaki Blues

<http://www.melissatantaquidgeonzobel.com>

Colin Halloran

Icarian Flux

<http://www.colindhalloran.com/#!/books/cee5>

Matthew Hamilton

Lips Open and Divine

<http://matthewahamilton.com/books/>

Dennis Quinn

The Girl Electricity Shunned

<http://www.ctpost.com/living/article/Excerpt-from-The-Girl-Electricity-Shunned-7962262.php>

Wendy Hoffman

Forceps: Poems About the Birth of Self

<http://us.karnacbooks.com/product/forceps-poems-about-the-birth-of-the-self/38047/#tab1>

Joseph Carvalko

Death By Internet

<https://www.amazon.com/Death-Internet-Joseph-Carvalko/dp/1620067056>

Goals & Priorities for 2015-16

The university's strategic refresh, Fairfield 2020 established six essential priorities to serve as guideposts for university policies and programs moving forward. As noted in the introduction, given the turnover in the Dean's office and the creation of the new Schools of the College, many of the goals and priorities set in last year's report remain the same. Some have been slightly altered, expanded, or repositioned to better meet the Six Essential Priorities which included the growth and diversification of revenue streams, speed and innovation in operations, academics and student support and work toward a renewed sense of collaboration and community to name a few. Below are the CAS priorities for 2016-2017 aligned to these strategic goals.

Growth and Diversification of Revenue Streams

Over the 2016-2017 Academic Year the CAS Dean's office will work with the Provost's office to develop and implement Strategic Plans

- for certificate programs in growth areas and markets such as Communication, Language Translation, Professional Writing, and FTM;
- for streamlined graduate programs that capitalize on market interests;
- for increased online education;
- for adult, continuing, and part-time education;
- for community enrichment programming both in conjunction with the Quick Center and other university and community partners;
- for distribution of broader institutional revenues to better the academic division particularly in support of the Core Curriculum and liberal arts mission; and
- for other revenue generating opportunities.

Speed and Innovation in Operations, Academics and Student Support

In order to support greater speed and innovation in operations, academics and student support, the CAS will work with the Provost's office to

- review policies and procedures that delay, hinder, or unnecessarily burden key operations or innovative programming, including the adoption of new programs and certificates;
- work toward the creation of program models that will make the college be more nimble in the market in developing and testing new programs; and
- work closely with Residence Life and Academic Support and Retention to provide speedy and accessible interventions for students with disabilities and other academic related issues.

A Focus on Excellence, Outcomes and Accountability for Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement

In order to create a climate and culture of accountability and quality assurance the CAS will work with the Provost's office to

- facilitate the work of faculty improvement including professional development opportunities through the CAE and other workshops;
- increase the pool of quality faculty by exploring additional faculty labor categories;
- continue to develop and refine department mentoring programs and structures;
- enhance department selection, supervision, and evaluation of part-time faculty;
- align CAS resources to support faculty teaching excellence, research, and engagement with students outside the classroom; and
- continue to find ways to recognize and support accomplishments of faculty with an interdisciplinary focus.

Work toward a Renewed Sense of Collaboration and Community

In order to create a climate of collaboration and community the CAS office will

- continue to support and work with other units under the Provost's office such as Academic Support and Retention and Residence Life to ensure quality, accessibility, and teamwork;
- collaborate with Deans of other schools to develop innovative programs, including cross-division graduate programs;
- foster conversation within the College and especially among the Schools of College on how best to collaborate and work together on grants and other funding opportunities;
- continue work with SON on Integrated Nursing and Health Studies Initiatives and related fundraising; and
- create a stronger collaboration with Marketing on development and promotion of innovative new revenue generating programs (e.g., graduate degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, interdisciplinary professional degrees).

Diversity, Mission and Engagement

In order to help the university to remain focused on diversity, mission and engagement, the CAS will

- work with the AVP for Mission and Identity to promote knowledge and understanding of Fairfield University's mission and identity for new staff and faculty;
- work with the Director of Diversity to provide training and support for faculty in handling diversity related topics;
- encourage the development of new courses and programs to address the issue of diversity on campus;
- clearly message mission and identity as an integral part of CAS instruction. Encourage faculty participation in mission and diversity related initiatives such as "Racial Justice is Social Justice" (RJSJ);
- continue to identify and recruit the best faculty for Fairfield University with an eye toward increasing diversity; and

- continue to identify and recruit the best faculty for Fairfield University with an eye toward increasing diversity.

Financial Sustainability and Careful Stewardship of Assets

In order to assist the university in pursuing sound decisions and policies that privilege fiscal sustainability and stewardship of assets the CAS will

- participate as needed in fundraising and design elements related to the INHSI building expansion;
- collaborate with Facilities and Safety on safety issues, particularly in Bannow Science Center and Visual Arts facilities;
- work with Facilities to identify short- and long-range strategy for increased footprint for CAS operations due to growth in staff, purview of responsibilities, and to optimize functionality;
- work with Marketing and ad agency to develop more creative, more compelling, and more effective marketing of graduate and part-time programs; and
- enhance department and program-based PR capacities (for news media, institutional promotion, faculty and program profile, student recruitment, etc.)