

Fairfield University

2014-15

**College of Arts & Sciences  
Annual Report**

CAS Dean's Office  
July 2015

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# Introduction

This report details the accomplishments of faculty, students, and staff in College of Arts & Sciences for the 2014-2015 academic year. As a transitional year, and with a new dean incoming in the summer of 2015, the report lacks in-depth future priorities and strategic plans for the college.

By way of background, The College of Arts & Sciences is comprised of 167 full-time faculty members (151 TT, 9 Professors of the Practice, and 7 visiting faculty members). The College is comprised of 15 academic departments and 18 interdisciplinary programs accounting for 32 B.A. or B.S. degrees and 42 minors. We deliver more than three quarters of the undergraduate curriculum, most notably the University Core Curriculum. Five graduate programs offer the M.A., M.S., and M.F.A. degrees.

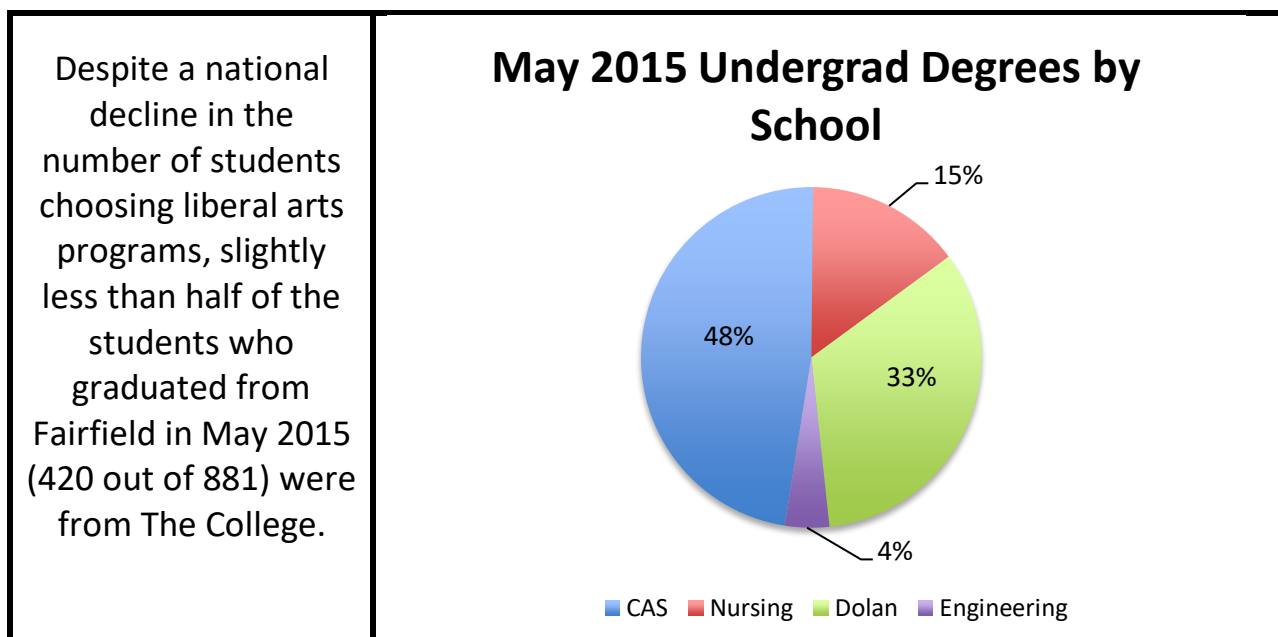
The College's total operating budget – including travel and non-capital equipment was \$1,525,767.48 for FY'15. As of this writing, our balance was under-budget approximately \$55,000. The budget for Adjunct teaching was \$3,174,650. Due to the larger than expected freshman class as well as the unexpected salary increase for adjunct instructors, our budget was \$193,684.00 over budget. Capital equipment for the College was budgeted at \$200,900 for the year.

# CAS Highlights of 2014-15

Appearing in this section are annual highlights from the College and its departments and programs, along with individual faculty and student achievements.

The wide range of activities and accomplishments that follow reflects our breadth and diversity. They illustrate the high quality of College outcomes in the areas of research, teaching and learning, along with service to scholarly associations, the university, and the wider community. Details of accomplishments in each area are appended.

## ***CAS Remains the Largest Academic Component of University***



## ***Innovative New Majors and Minors Respond to Student Demand***

The College introduced a record number of new majors and minors this year. The Department of English introduced a new major and minor in Digital Journalism that leverages existing courses in Journalism, Literature and Professional writing to prepare students for a variety of career paths in traditional and emerging forms of journalism. The existing concentration in Journalism will be phased out as students migrate to the new major and existing English majors with a Journalism concentration graduate.

The Department of Communication introduced a new major and minor in Public Relations that the Office of Admissions expects will be a driver for College enrollments. The new Public Relations major, like the Digital Journalism major, includes required writing and applied ethics courses in keeping with the Jesuit mission of the University. The Public Relations major was launched in response to student demand and exists as a curated sequence of Communication

courses that were already being offered as opposed to requiring new courses or extensive new resources.

Both Digital Journalism and Public Relations were routed through all appropriate College and University committees in the past year and approved by the state in May to accept students immediately.

The new major in Environmental Studies (ES) – an outgrowth of one of the most popular interdisciplinary minors over the last few years – was also approved by the state. 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.

A new minor in Health Studies was also approved and launched this year. This innovative minor takes classes from the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities to introduce students to a wide spectrum of health-related issues and possibilities. 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.

Faculty in the College continue to explore new minors and majors in instances where resources are available and student demand can be verified. As two such examples, a possible new interdisciplinary major in Sport Marketing and Communication was discussed and studied by our research partners at Hannover Research and a new graphic design minor is currently being explored by VPA. Finally, a new minor in Humanitarian Studies is pending final approval and is expected to be available for students in AY 15-16.

### ***Five New Accelerated BA/MA Programs***

Five new accelerated BA/MA programs launched in the College this year:

- Any CAS major leading to an MFA
- Economics or Politics majors leading to an MPA
- Mathematics major leading to an MA in Mathematics
- Communication major leading to an MA in Communication
- Any CAS major leading to an MA in American Studies

These accelerated programs are available to exceptional undergraduate students with a GPA of 3.2 and above who have the opportunity to take two graduate courses during their senior year (under normal tuition/course loads) and “bank” these credits toward the graduate program they will matriculate into the summer after earning their BA/BS. Students must apply during their junior year (after the completion of 96 undergraduate credits) and be accepted by their

chosen program. These new accelerated options are expected to help buttress graduate enrollments in all of the College's graduate programs and be an enhanced recruiting tool for undergraduate students eyeing the College.

### ***Increased Attention On The Liberal Arts Advantage***

The College undertook a multi-pronged effort to showcase the "liberal arts advantage" to students often left wondering where a degree in the liberal arts can take them. Through increased focus and attention on debunking popular media misperceptions that a degree in the liberal arts is less valuable than a degree from a professional school, faculty and the Associate Deans engaged in a year-long conversation about how to better promote the utility of a liberal arts degree. 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 wildly successful "Media Careers Night" that brought together alumni/ae and current students from Communication, Journalism, and Film, Television and Media Arts for a "speed dating" event that crossed disciplinary and industry boundaries. This event was coordinated in close collaboration with Career Planning.
- The College website unveiled a new feature on the value of the liberal arts that speaks to students and their parents and showcases the many top executives and thought leaders who extol the value of broad-based critical thinking provided by liberal arts training.
- The Classroom to Career web feature that is integrated into all departmental websites continued to provide year-by-year tips and insights for students looking to make connections between their academic work and professional aspirations.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to work with faculty on crafting language and messaging cues for the University web site and related promotional materials that translates the inherent value of a liberal arts education to external audiences.

### ***Renewed Focus on Advising and Mentoring***

Responding to perennial concerns about "uneven" advising in the College where some larger majors (Communication, Psychology, Biology) are inundated with advisees while some faculty in smaller majors (Philosophy, Religious Studies) have few to no advisees, routine advising and mentoring across the undergraduate experience was discussed at length by faculty and the Dean's office through a series of structured conversations.

A series of workshops organized by the Dean's office brought together all first year faculty to discuss best practices in mentoring and advising of undergraduate students. These workshops included role playing, an overview of online tools for advising, details about graduation requirements and reflections about how to handle "difficult" academic and personal advising

situations. An ad hoc committee to discuss initiating an annual mentoring and advisee award to serve as a counterpart to the existing College teaching award was also undertaken by the office.

The advisement of undeclared students in the College (who comprise the largest “major” in the College) was also a priority this year. The office reviewed all undeclared students and their advisor assignments ensuring that the needs of these students were being met and that no student went without regular, quality advising. This initiative further sought to find parity in the advising loads of those faculty in departments with few majors.

In addition to promoting and supporting all faculty-advising activities throughout the College, the Dean’s Office continues to play a vital role as an open and accessible location for any student to receive advising in a timely and professional manner. In total, the Office conducted over 1000 face to face appointments in 2014-15, as well as many times more email and phone sessions. For a complete report on the types and frequency of advising conducted by the Dean’s office, please see Appendix 1 (Annual Report Student Data).

### ***A Move Toward Standardization of Internship Opportunities Across the College***

As the only College or School at Fairfield to not have a centralized internship coordinator or office, the availability of internship opportunity and guidance in the College has historically fluctuated from department to department and from program to program. An ad hoc working group of faculty from across the College (with every department and most programs/minors represented) met in Spring 2014 to discuss best practices for connecting on-site internship work with on-campus academic experience, how faculty assess and supervise internships, legal requirements pertaining to student internships, and a variety of other topics. This year, 197 internships were completed across the College at a wide variety of sites and organizations.

### ***Dean’s Office Visits to Departments Prove Popular and Productive***

Under a plan devised by Dean Simon, all departments and interdisciplinary majors in the College were scheduled for a visit by one of the Associate Deans. These 90-minute meetings were one-on-one (or in the case of departments where a leadership change was imminent two-on-one) and held at a time and place agreeable to the department chair. The primary focus of the meetings was checking in and updating departments in advance of the 2017 NEASC accreditation and the following topics were on the standardized agenda:

- Review of departmental level IDEA results that showed departmental averages versus College and discipline numbers that provided a snapshot of areas where departments were meeting, exceeding and falling below averages. Conversations followed about how to properly use IDEA data for formative feedback for faculty.
- Discussion of departmental internship norms and how to make high-impact internship opportunities available to all majors.

- Departmental assessment plans and the need to evaluate capstone classes and experiences to gain program level insights. These assessment conversations were linked to wider University goals pertaining to 2017 NEASC accreditation.
- Departmental advising norms and how to more effectively engage with majors on both advising and mentoring fronts. Best practices from other departments were shared.
- The need to maintain current and relevant information on departmental websites and steps to take to designate a faculty member as an official “web liaison” at the departmental level was also addressed.
- The current and projected inventory of online classes and how to overcome faculty resistance to new modes of instruction was also covered.

Feedback from departments about this process, including the shift in mentality from “being called into the Dean’s office to being told to do something” to the “Dean’s office visiting to discuss ways of being more effective and productive within departmental culture” was extremely positive. The meetings served a dual purpose in briefing incoming Dean Yohuru Williams on departmental rhythms and norms and gathering data very relevant to NEASC preparation.

### ***Summer Enrollments Continue to Climb***

In an effort to expand summer enrollments that have decreased since the closure of University College, the office undertook new marketing initiatives to promote online and traditional face-to-face Summer term offerings to incoming and current Fairfield undergraduates. The “Summer Stags” promotional materials included staffed information tables in the campus center and integrated online marketing. The minimal financial investment paid off significantly. May/June enrollments in 2015 were up 15% from the same period a year ago (504 versus 592) and online courses were up 24% in 2015 versus a year ago (217 versus 164). This marks the first time since 2010 that summer enrollments have increased over the previous year. An additional emphasis was placed on increasing science offerings, with the idea that successful attendance in this type of program could lead to the creation of a certificate program for students wishing to complete prerequisite requirements for health professions. Based solely on total gross revenue over last year, these additional enrollments reflect a net increase of \$191,400.

### ***Summer Scholars Program Continues to Grow***

Now in its fourth year, the comprehensive academic and residential pre-college program, Summer Scholars, has successfully recruited 33 participants (up from 29): its largest class to date. Over the previous three years, 17 students who’ve completed Summer Scholars have been accepted into and enrolled at Fairfield University. Moreover, this program has national and international reach. Participants have come from: CA, CT, MA, MD, NH, NY, NJ, OH, PA, RI, WA, and from the countries of Columbia, Belgium, Puerto Rico, and Yap - Micronesia.



## ***Assessment Efforts Kick Into High Gear in Advance of 2017 NEASC Reaccreditation***

Following a call for departments to buckle down and look at program level assessment that extends beyond course-level assessment projects, the Dean's office supported over \$25,000 in summer stipends and related expenses. Nine College departments will be holding assessment workshops this summer to establish plans, collect and analyze data, and discuss how results inform curricular design and pedagogy. This represents some of the most robust assessment activity at one time in the College ever. This dramatic uptick in summer work by faculty signals a shift toward a culture of assessment in the College that has experienced some significant resistance in previous years. All three College Associate Deans additionally joyously participated in a three-day workshop on assessment and accreditation organized by Associate Academic Vice Present Christine Siegel.

## ***Program Reviews Continue to Provide Formative Insights***

Biology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, and Physics completed their self-reports and brought in outside evaluators as part of the ongoing program review cycle in the College. The program review cycle will continue with English, Modern Languages and Literatures, International Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts slated to begin their reviews in Fall 2015. There will be a dark period in the program review cycle from Fall 2016 through Summer 2017 as the College focuses on NEASC reaccreditation.

Significant outcomes from the current cycle of program reviews include:

- Biology initiated a single capstone experience and developed a more robust assessment plan. Previously, capstones could be completed in three very different formats.
- Biology to begin developing additional course offerings in bioinformatics and biostatistics.
- With the addition of two nutritional biologists to their department, an examination of how to move forward with nutrition programs university-wide was examined.
- Chemistry/Biochemistry to outreach to alumni/ae as a resource for current students.
- Chemistry/Biochemistry continues to contemplate a minimum passing grade requirement in order to progress through departmental curriculum, as well as the importance of three math courses as requirement for graduation.
- Chemistry/Biochemistry to develop a Study Group Fellowship program that would provide a stipend to an advanced major to lead study sections connected to specific courses.
- Physics is exploring common lab resources in conjunction with the School of Engineering in order to be more efficient on the use of existing and new laboratory space.
- Physics is also positioned to explore Biophysics degree/concentration in addition to an Applied Physics degree (possibly in conjunction with the School of Engineering).

College departments and programs now largely embrace the program review process. Faculty see the self-study as a way of engaging in meaningful reflection about a variety of issues ranging from assessment and curricular design to long-term planning and resource needs.

### ***Better Branding of CAS Core Competencies***

This year the College undertook an initiative to better highlight the distinctive features of the College through the University website as well as through ancillary promotional materials. To that end, a new Twitter handle was established (@FairfieldCAS) and with the help of Kat Phrasavath in the Dean's office, Facebook activity on the College page (/FairfieldUniversityCAS) was accelerated. The effort led to a dramatic uptick in reach and penetration ("Likes" were up on average 39% from a year ago, while post reach was up 483% versus a year ago). Facebook posts and tweets centered on telling the story of the College through faculty, student, and alumni/ae success stories.

The College website was also redesigned so that majors were grouped in a more visually appealing way by naturally occurring divisions (Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Interdisciplinary programs). Call outs to distinctive features of the College, including the Core Curriculum, Communication and Emerging Media programs, and the STEM programs were also promoted online. All of these efforts combined helped better brand the College and highlight its many related academic programs in a way accessible to external audiences, including parents and prospective students.

# CAS Faculty & Program Highlights

## 2014-15

### **Faculty Achievements**

- **Scholarship:** The quantitative summary for the current academic year includes:
  - CAS faculty published 303 articles, chapters, and other publications.
  - 11 books published this year were authored or edited by College faculty
  - CAS faculty gave 338 presentations at professional meetings, invited talks, and/or exhibits/performances.
- **Rank & Tenure:** The following summarizes outcomes for 2014-15:
  - *Three faculty were tenured and promoted to Associate Professor:*
    - Dr. Anna-Maria (Ania) Aksan – Economics
    - Dr. Carol Ann Davis – English & MFA Creative Writing
    - Dr. Lei (Tommy) Xie – English & Digital Journalism
    - There was one unsuccessful case for tenure
  - *Four faculty were promoted to Professor:*
    - Dr. Sara Brill – Philosophy
    - Dr. Sally O’Driscoll – English
    - Dr. Mary Ann Carolan – Modern Languages and Literatures
    - Dr. Lynne Porter – Visual & Performing Arts
    - There were two unsuccessful cases for promotion to Professor
  - The College conducted comprehensive annual reviews of its 25 pre-tenure faculty
  - Twelve CAS faculty members have submitted their intent to apply for tenure and/or promotion next year.
- **Faculty Recruitment & Retention:**
  - Nine new tenure-track faculty arrived on campus and successfully completed their first year: Dr. Catherine Andersen & Dr. Jackie Vernarelli - Biology; Dr. Audra Nuru – Communication; Dr. Jennifer Adair – History; Dr. Rebecca Fang – Math; Dr. Sergio Adrada-Rafael – Modern Languages and Literatures; Dr. Maggie Labinaki – Philosophy; Dr. Lydia Willsky-Ciollo – Religious Studies; Dr. David Lerner – Visual & Performing Arts.
  - Four tenure track searches were conducted during the year. We successfully recruited Dr. Jillian Smith to Chemistry/Biochemistry, Dr. Hedieh Shadmani to Economics and Dr. Sunil Purushotham to History. The TT search in Psychology was not successful.
  - We sought authorization to search for five TT faculty during FY ‘16. These were in Communication, Digital Journalism/English, International Studies, Physics, and

Politics/MPA. Only three searches were approved, leaving out Digital Journalism/English and Physics.

- Retirements: Four esteemed colleagues retired this year: Dr. John McCarthy – Psychology – 48 years; Dr. James Long – Philosophy – 46 years; Dr. Don Greenberg – Politics – 44 years; Dr. Peter Spoerri – Mathematics – 30 years.
- Departures: Two faculty members, Dr. Angela Harkins – Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Dr. Michael Serazio – Assistant Professor of Communication left the university to take jobs at different institutions.

- **University Awards to Faculty:**

- The Award for Distinguished Teaching in the College of Arts & Sciences was bestowed upon Dr. Marci Patton, Professor of Politics.
- Dr. Aaron Van Dyke, Assistant Professor of Chemistry/Biochemistry, was honored Alpha Sigma Nu “Teacher of the Year” (undergraduate) by the Jesuit Honor Society.
- Dr. David Crawford, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, held the Robert E. Wall award for 2014-2015, while Dr. Paul Lakeland, Professor of Religious Studies, was the awardee for 2015-2016.
- Dr. Anna Lawrence, Associate Professor of History, was named the recipient of the George Lang Award for AAUP Chapter Activism. 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. Jocelyn Boryczka, Associate Professor of Politics, received the 2015 Martin Luther King Vision Award.
- Dr. Irene Mulvey, Professor of Mathematics, was named the 2014 FWC/AAUP Colleague of the Year.
- Dr. Dorothea Braginski, Professor of Psychology, received the 2015 honorary Induction into Alpha Sigma Lambda, the part-time students honor society.
- Dr. Michael Serazio, Assistant Professor of Communication, received the 7th Annual Student Leadership Award from Office of Student Diversity Programs.

- **Grant Activity:**

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

- CAS faculty submitted approximately \$2.8M in federal funding applications this year; \$9,500.00 was funded to date (\$ 1,998,947 is still pending; \$884K unfunded).

Foundation funding requests involving CAS faculty totaled \$111,000 this year; so far \$71,500.

- 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. David Winn, Professor in Physics, was awarded an \$8,000 grant from the government for a software upgrade for research equipment.
  - Dr. Nels Pearson, Associate Professor of English, received \$1000 from the CT Humanities Council for the Irish Filmmaker Festival.
  - Dr. Shannon Harding received \$4000 from the Brinkman Family Foundation for her autism treatment studies in behavioral neuroscience.
  - Dr. Judy Primavera received \$12,500 from the F.M. Kirby Foundation for the Adrienne Kirby Literacy Project.
  - Dr. Ellen Umansky received \$50K from the Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation for continued support for the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies.
- **CAS Support for Faculty Professional Development in FY '14**
  - 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 \$54,000 towards additional faculty research travel. Total support for faculty travel was ~\$234,000.
  - The Dean supported 31 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 24 projects proposed by 31 faculty members for a total of \$40,595 in FY '15. Eight of the proposals related to faculty development, curricular review/revision, and publication or conference travel, while 16 of the proposals were for public programming, student engagement, and other co-curricular enhancements. The Seminar Faculty Fellows program was also initiated, with four faculty (Carolan - MLL; Kelley - English; Orlando - English; Sealey - Philosophy) approved for two-year fellows terms. In addition to support for six student fellows, this new program encompassed a significant new initiative and financial outlay for the Humanities Institute this year.
  - The **Science Institute** funded seven proposals involving upwards of fifteen different faculty members for approximately \$9,700 in support for research and travel to meetings.
  - The CAS Dean's budget funded more than \$37,000 in **summer student housing** costs (summer 2014) related to faculty research and student internships across the College. Estimates for summer 2015 costs are approximately \$30,000.

- **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. Elizabeth Boquet, Professor of English, gave the keynote address at the joint conference of the International Writing Centers Association and the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing.
- Dr. Terry-Ann Jones, Associate Professor of Sociology, presented "Caribbean Studies in the XXI Century," at a conference and pedagogy workshop at the University of Havana. The purpose of the gathering was to increase the recognition and improve the teaching of Caribbean Studies
- Dr. Gisela Gil-Egui, Associate Professor of Communication, was designated keynote speaker during an International Symposium on Challenges and Opportunities in Communication Education organized by Universidad Centroamericana in Nicaragua, July 2014.
- Dr. Irene Mulvey, Professor of Mathematics, received the 2015 AAUP Marilyn Sternberg Award. This award is given annually to the "AAUP member who best demonstrates the concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, and collective bargaining skills."
- Dr. Janie Leatherman, Professor of Politics, continues to direct the Teagle Grant: "Fairfield University Collaborative Project in Student Learning: The Examination of Enduring Questions Through Humanitarian Education" which is a three-year development of the Jesuit Humanitarian Action Network with Georgetown University and Universidad Central de America, Nicaragua.
- Dr. Margaret McClure, Assistant Professor of Psychology, won the Best Poster Presentation Award and the annual meeting of the North American Society for the study of Personality Disorders
- Dr. John Thiel, Professor of Religious Studies, received the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award for theology, for *Icons of Hope: The 'Last Things' in Catholic Imagination*. He was also given first place honors in the Theology category by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.
- Dr. Paul Lakeland, Professor of Religious Studies, was given second place honors in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vatican II category for *A Council That Will Never End: Lumen Gentium and the Church Today*.

- Dr. Ellen Umansky, Professor of Religious Studies, became elected President of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and received the Esteemed Jewish Science Historian award from the Society for Jewish Science.
- Dr. Katherine Schwab, Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, was invited to present the Shouky Shaheen Lecture. The Shouky Shaheen Lecture is given by a distinguished nationally or internationally recognized artist or scholar at the University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art each year.
- **Individual Faculty Accomplishments**
  - Dr. Shelley Phelan, Professor of Biology was named one of the Connecticut Technology Council's 2015 Connecticut Women of Innovation.
  - Dr. Audra Nuru's (Assistant Professor of Communication) article entitled "Between layers: Understanding the communicative negotiation of conflicting identities by transgender individuals" received the 2014 Outstanding Manuscript Award in *Communication Studies*, Central States Communication Association.
  - Dr. Qin Zhang, Associate Professor of Communication, received two conference top paper awards, one at the Intercultural Communication Interest Group of the Eastern Communication Association, and the other at the Asian-Pacific American Communication Studies Division of the National Communication Association. She also received the National States Advisory Council's Scholar of the Year Award of the National Communication Association
  - Dr. Michelle Farrell, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, was chosen as a Jury Member for the Havana Film Festival in NYC, and also for the Selection Committee of the *Encontro Mundial do Ensino de Portugues*. Additionally, she was awarded a fellowship to the Faculty Resource Network at NYU.
  - Dr. Phil Lane, Associate Professor of Economics, was awarded the Credit Union Volunteer Recognition Award from The Credit Union League of Connecticut.
  - Dr. Emily Orlando, Associate Professor of English, was promoted to President of the Edith Wharton International Society.
  - Dr. Cinthia Gannet, Associate Professor of English, was awarded a Boston College Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies Senior Research Fellowship.
  - Dr. Danke Li, Professor of History, was named the winner of the 2014 Hong Kong Book Award.
  - Dr. Jennifer Adair, Assistant Professor of History, won the New England Council of Latin American Studies Best Dissertation Prize.

- Dr. Janie Leatherman, Professor of Politics, was involved in numerous activities related to the Women's League for Peace and International Freedom, including organizing a panel session at their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in The Hague.
- Mathematics faculty members Dr. Paul Baginski and Dr. Chris Staecker joined by Dr. Shanon Reckinger (SOE) directed 9 students in the fourth summer of Fairfield's Research Experience for Undergraduates.
- Dr. Ben Fine, Professor of Mathematics and Dr. Paul Baginski, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, were the Fairfield University organizers for *Infinite Group Theory from the Past to the Future Conference* held jointly at Fairfield University and the Graduate Center CUNY.
- Dr. Mark Scalese, Associate Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, received an Honorable Mention for the screening of his short film *Robot Man*, at the UFVA Faculty Jury Screening.



# CAS Student Highlights

## 2014-15

### ***Enrollment Trends***

- **The class of 2014** included 881 undergrad students who received their B.A. (353) and B.S. (87) from academic programs in the College of Arts & Sciences. Graduate data by academic degree program appears in Appendix 2a. Noteworthy enrollment trends include:
  - **For the class of 2015, the largest majors were: Communication (79), English (63), and Psychology (54).** Communication and English are poised to grow even larger with the approval of two new majors: Digital Journalism (in English) and Public Relations (in Communication). See Highlights for more details.
  - **Three students in the class of '15 completed Individually Designed Majors (IDMJ);** these were in Behavioral Neuroscience, Arts Management and Environmental Science. There is one IDMJ to be completed this summer (four field Archeology) and seven other IDMJ's across the classes of '16 (2), '17 (3) and '18 (2).
  - **Three new majors, Environmental Studies, Digital Journalism (housed in the English Department) and Public Relations (housed in the Communication Department) have been state approved and are expected to attract substantial new enrollments.**
  - **134 CAS majors in the class of '15 studied abroad under 13 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.
  - **197 CAS students completed internships this year.** Students in Communication (38), English (23), and Psychology (33) – all large majors – along with Visual and Performing Arts (32) 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:***

- 173 CAS students presented research at scholarly meetings or were authors on published manuscripts, with the largest showing in biology (85) and psychology (30).
- 329 students conducted independent or supervised research or creative projects. This marks a 14% increase over last year. More departments and programs are supporting students in this work and reporting this data each year. The majors with the most

activity are Biology (61), Communication (56), Visual and Performing Arts (34) and International Studies (31).

- More than 150 students were involved with the Adrienne Kirby Family Literacy Project at ABCD's Head Start program during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- 58 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 25 separate entries involving 37 different students. The award winners were:
  - Ashley Paholski – Lieutenant William Koscher Award in Arts
  - Angela Sammarone – Distinguished Work in the Humanities
  - Margaret Siu - Distinguished Work in the Natural Sciences & Math
  - Alan Pelaez-Lopez - Distinguished Work in the Social & Behavioral Sciences
  - Alec Bandzes, Christina Barry, Brendan Freeman, Katie Gillette, Maggie Greene, Alex Kimble, Tori Schuchmann, Cristelle Sens-Castet, Jessie Lizotte, Brendan McNamara, Logan Pratt, Katie Premus, Michelle Rakowsky, Stephanie Sawicki, Elizabeth Sheehan & Kelly Sheridan - 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)
- 79 CAS graduates were accepted into graduate programs. While not all programs report these data, Biology (22) and English (16) departments lead the way with graduate program-heading students. Economics (17) International Studies (12) and Communication (11) reported the largest number of post-graduate employment. These are very preliminary numbers, however.
- 19 students are engaged in research with faculty members during the summer of 2015. 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 2014 housing for research students: ~\$37,000

***CAS students received many of the most 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 Nicole Davidow, who majored in International Studies.
- **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. This year the University honored Lindsey Hanley (Communication major),

Alan Pelaez Lopez (Sociology & English: Professional Writing major), and Danielle Tullo (English/Journalism major).

***Student stories that animate these statistics and other highlights include:***

**Megan Lewis** of Sanborn, NH, graduated with a major in Biology and a minor in Environmental Studies, and completed the University's Water Focus as a student in the inaugural capstone course for this initiative. Her capstone project combined her background in biology and environmental science with the concepts of living sculpture and functional art presented by the artist Mary Mattingly. Megan helped identify and characterize the bioremediation properties of wetlands plants used by Mattingly in the design, construction, and placement of artificial wetlands structures in the Fairfield University watershed. In addition, Megan designed and began implementation of a monitoring regime for the structures to determine their effectiveness in sequestering organic contaminants such as herbicides and insecticides that can enter the watershed through nonpoint sources. This monitoring will be continued as a research project by other Environmental Studies students for at least the next two years. This Fall, Megan will enter the Environmental Resource Policy Masters Program at George Washington University.

**Nicole Davidow** of Southington, CT, graduated magna cum laude with a major in International Studies and minors in Catholic Studies, Peace and Justice Studies, and Philosophy. After studying abroad in the Czech Republic junior year, Nicole conducted independent research under the supervision of Dr. Terry-Ann Jones about conflict in Ukraine and the challenge of overcoming hegemonic powers. She also participated in numerous local, regional, and international service-oriented activities including initiatives organized by Campus Ministry and the Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN). For academic excellence and commitment to service, Nicole received the 2015 St. Ignatius Loyola Medal. Next year, she plans to serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Eastern Massachusetts or Hartford regions.

**Alan Pelaez Lopez** is from Boston, Massachusetts after being born in La Ciudad de Mexico. As an “undocuqueer poet, jewelry designer, and bubble tea addict” Alan made a significant mark at Fairfield University. Drawn to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology because of his passion for activism and service, Alan explored the academic side of a world he knew all too clearly, the world of the dispossessed and marginalized. As an undergraduate sociology major, Alan maintained a professional life as a designer and as a workshop leader who traveled the country assisting and advocating for undocumented queer individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and immigration intricacies. His remarkable work is demonstrated by the fact that prior to his graduation, Alan has already received a book deal with Duke University Press. Before walking at commencement, Alan started his post-graduation professional life working at the Dream Resource Center in Los Angeles (affiliated with the UCLA Labor Center). He is headed to northern California in September 2015 to join the PhD program in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley (with full funding).

**Natasha Angelovich** is the recipient of this year’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Communication. As the top ranked senior in communication, Natasha is a

member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and plans to work in marketing after graduation. She interned for the Special Events at Habitat for Humanity of Westchester and also interned for the Event Marketing Department at Moffly Media. She has volunteered at a Head Start location in Bridgeport for two years. One professor noted that “she’s never failed to be thoughtful, diligent, and insightful in her work. She has a very friendly demeanor and a quiet strength that has helped her achieve all of the success that she’s had here at Fairfield.”

An English major with a 4.0 major GPA, who specializes in Creative Writing, **Charlotte Pecquex** has taught workshops in the Poetry in Communities Project with Prof. Carol Ann Davis, creating chapbooks from the writing of students in Newtown, Bridgeport, and Greenwich. This spring, she shared her work with other educators at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Washington, D.C. A service learning trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota also inspired her to work with the Lakota community. Charlotte is currently writing a memoir that intertwines poetry and nonfiction. She will continue her studies in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions at Fairfield in the hopes of eventually teaching middle school or high school English.

### ***Graduate Student Highlights***

- **44 graduate students completed their master’s degrees** in American Studies (3), Communication (9), Mathematics (11), and the MFA in Creative Writing (21) programs.
- **The third annual Award for Graduate Student Service** went to Ms. Angela Rudas (Comm Grad student) who was also awarded the **James J. Keenan Award** for Outstanding Achievement by a Communication Graduate Student at the A&S Annual Awards Ceremony.

### ***Graduate Student Stories***

**Angela Rudas**, MA in Communication, used her service-learning work at the CT Hospice as part of Dr. Pagano’s End-of-Life Communication course and her extra-course work as a volunteer in the Stamford Hospital’s “No One Dies Alone Program,” to impact both her academic and professional paths. While a graduate student, Angela co-authored a presentation developed in Dr. Zhang’s Research Methods course that was delivered at the annual National Communication Association Conference. These experiences helped guide her research for her thesis, “End-of-life communication: The role of art and music therapy,” directed by Dr. Pagano with Dr. O’Shea in the School of Nursing as Second Reader. She further amortized her education and applied learning experiences at Fairfield to help her find a new professional direction. She changed careers from marketing, at a for-profit company, prior to starting her graduate program; to working at the American Cancer Society and following graduation she accepted the Business Development Director position for the American Heart Association in San Jose, CA.

**Benjamin Gott**, MA American Studies, published his paper, “The Curious Case of ‘The Bronze Buck-Aroo’: Race and National Identity in the “Singing Cowboy’ Westerns of Herb Jeffries” in the blind peer-reviewed journal *Southwestern American Literature*.

## ***MFA Alumni Publications/News since July 1, 2014***

### **Chris Belden**

*Shriver* –Touchstone/Simon and Schuster

### **Mark Berry**

*13,760 Feet--My Personal Hole in the Sky* was published as a full-cast audiobook on [Audible.com](http://Audible.com)  
His 23rd article was published in *Airways* magazine.

### **Joe Carvalko**

*We Were Beautiful Once, Chapters from the Cold War*, a Novel  
(Sunbury Press), finalist Best Historical Fiction, Military Writers Society  
of America, 9/2014

*Detras del Acero* (Editorial Trance, 2015, original  
Spanish poetry, eBook, 88 pp.) *Detras del Acero* (Catpawspress & Co., 2015,  
original Spanish poetry, print, 88 pp.) and its English counterpart, *Behind  
the Steel*, poetry (Amphora Lit. Press, 2015)

Poems: *Mobius Strip*,  
*Anomalie Magazine*, RE: *mind*, Goldsmiths University of London, 2015; *County  
Road 80*, *Manifest West* (U. Press of CO, fall 2014); Short stories: *Winter  
Interrupted*, *All Gave Some* (Military Writers Society of America, Anthology,  
2014); *Road to Suwon* (Military Experience and the Arts, 2014).

### **James Chesbro**

Essays have been listed as notable selections in *The Best American Essays 2104*, and *The Best  
American Sports Writing 2014*.

### **Jeanne DeLarm-Neri**

National League Of American Pen Women has published one of her poems in its anthology  
"Poems Of The Super Moon."

### **David Fitzpatrick**

Winter of 2014 - "Shades of Yellow: How to Not Walk Away" was published in *New Haven  
Review*.

### **Lori Gershun**

"How Morgan Horses Have Made the Grade at Land Grant Universities"

*The Morgan Horse Magazine*, September 2014

The story of how a small band of U.S. Cavalry Mounts transitioned to become the foundation  
herds for the Animal Science programs at UVM, UMass, & UConn.

### **Wendy Hoffman**

*The Enslave Queen*, Karnac Books, London

Book of poetry from Karnac Books, London

**Colin Hosten**

A dialogic piece in the Fall 2014 edition of *The Essay Review*

**Christine Koubek**

"Shifting Out of Neutral," published in *Bethesda* magazine and *Huffington Post*. The "Get Away" columnist for *Bethesda* and *Arlington* magazines

**Mary Lide**

"A Wake" in *The Delmarva Review* and "Baltimore Road" in the online edition of the Doctor T.J. Eckleburg Review

**Annabelle Moseley**

Long Island Poet of The Year - 2014

*A Ship to Hold The World & The Marionette's Ascent* – Wiseblood Books

**Sally Nacker**

*Vireo* (Poems), February 12, 2015, Kelsay Books: White Violet Press.

**Don Noel**

"The Handkerchief" – *The Tau*

**Sarah Sleeper**

Short story, "A Few Innocuous Lines," - *Legends* literary journal. (It also won an honorable mention from *Writer's Digest*.)

3 poems, "Not Afraid of You," "Disgrace of Desiderata," and "Penthesilea before Achilles," were published in *Painters & Poets*

Poem "Dogs of Ecuador," was published in *Write to Woof*, a journal that benefits service and shelter dogs. (It was also longlisted for the Fish Poetry Prize.)

**Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel**

*Wabanaki Blues* – Poisoned Pen Press (first book in a planned trilogy)

# Goals & Priorities for 2015-16

## ***Support Faculty Excellence***

- Work with SVPAA to explore additional faculty labor categories
- Continue to identify and recruit the best faculty for Fairfield University with an eye toward increasing diversity
- 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

## ***Continue and Enhance Strategic Collaboration Across Schools***

- Collaborate with Deans of other schools to develop innovative programs, including cross-division graduate programs.
- Continued work with SON on Integrated Nursing and Health Studies Initiatives and related fundraising

## ***Enhance Marketing/PR in Relation to Programs and Faculty***

- 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)
- Work with Marketing and ad agency to develop more creative, more compelling, and more effective marketing of graduate and part-time programs
- Enhance department- and program-based PR capacities (for news media, institutional promotion, faculty and program profile, student recruitment, etc.)

## ***Collaborate with Facilities on Vital Capital Projects***

- 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 Task Forces, SrVPAA, and Executive Vice President to Develop and Implement Strategic Plans***

- For online education
- For adult, continuing, and part-time education
- For community enrichment programming

- For other revenue generating opportunities
- For distribution of broader institutional revenues better to the academic division, particularly in support of the Core Curriculum and liberal arts mission.