Message from the Dean

It is such a pleasure to welcome all of you – students, faculty, alumni, and friends – to our first newsletter! As many of you know, the School has seen a lot of change over the past months. In May, we recognized and thanked both Dr. Lawrence Poos for his twelve years of service as our Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Hanna Marks for her many years as our most capable Associate Dean of Graduate Programs. Both have now returned to the faculty where they will continue to be outstanding members of our school. This June, I was appointed Acting Dean and I am very thankful for the dedicated support from my Associate Dean, Dr. Laura Mayhall; my Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Dr. Kerstin Gaddy; and our most wonderful staff in the office. Without them, it would be impossible to administer our large school. As you can see, at the moment we are hard at work increasing our communications and outreach. We are in the process of forming both a Dean’s Undergraduate and Graduate Council and, a few weeks ago, we published our first graduate student newsletter and launched our Twitter account @CUArtSci. We promise to continue to reach out to all of you on a regular basis by means of our new School newsletter because we want to share the accomplishments of our remarkable faculty, students, and alumni. Please help us in collecting all that you do by getting in touch with Charlotte Baer (baer@cua.edu), our talented Newsletter writer, to let her know about your recent ventures, publications, and achievements.

With warm wishes for a blessed holiday season,
School of Arts and Sciences Welcomes the Department of Library and Information Science

This fall marks one year since the reintegration of Library and Information Science into CUA’s School of Arts and Sciences. The transition included a cross-campus move: after more than 30 years in Marist Hall, LIS has moved to the Columbus School of Law building, where you can find them in Suite 314 overlooking the atrium.

LIS offers a top-ranked Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS), with a wide range of courses of study, including Digital Libraries and Cultural Heritage Information Management.

The department also offers a Master of Science in Information Technology with a concentration in Health Information Technology (MSIT-HIT), an Online & Weekend Learning Program (OWL), and an Advanced Certificate in Management.

Elizabeth Lieutenant, current MSLIS student, believed LIS’s move to Arts and Sciences was fantastic, noting “more opportunities for collaborative relationships.”

MsLIS student
Elizabeth Lieutenant

Lieutenant is a contributing author to the “What I’m Learning in Library School” blog series, where she further expressed her enthusiasm for the program: “I can say with confidence that I will be prepared for the job market upon graduation. CUA’s LIS curriculum equips their students with the core competencies they need to succeed as library and information professionals in a wide variety of roles. In past semesters, our student groups have held resume review and interviewing assistance workshops.”

LIS is particularly committed to offering their students a wealth of academic and professional support. The staff and faculty are continuously creating networking and extra-curricular learning opportunities through guest speakers, course fieldwork requirements, colloquia, and an annual symposium.

Graduates of CUA LIS programs have gone on to an array of successful careers at renowned institutions, including the Library of Congress, D.C. Public Library, and NPR.

Alumna Maria Koshute, M.S.L.I.S. ’09, is now the Information Services Librarian at Aquinas College, where she has received the 2014 Faculty of the Year Award.

The department is offering a new course next semester for undergraduate students: LSC 322 Digital Content Creation and Management. The class, taught by Professor Hsieh-Yee, covers how individuals and organizations create, communicate, use, and manage digital information content for learning, work, and play.

For more information about the Library and Information Science programs, including job postings and student, alumni, and faculty news, you can visit the department’s news and events blog at cuaslis.org.
New Certificate Programs

New Certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS)

This new university-wide certificate provides students with a multidisciplinary perspective on Latin American and Latino Studies and requires proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or another language indigenous to Latin America.

“One in four children in the United States are of Latino descent,” says program director Sandra Barrueco. “This is important in terms of future business practices, marketing practices, economic development, and policy. It’s important for our future to understand broader perspectives and cultural variations.”

For more information on the LALS certificate, visit lals.cua.edu/certificate.cfm.

AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Newly designed Certificate in Irish Studies.

Learning Irish Gaelic is an indispensable part of our program of study. Students who complete the certificate emerge knowledgeable in the complex cultural and linguistic history of Irish society. They acquire beginners' proficiency in the Irish language, and they are immersed first-hand in Irish culture, often through study abroad or through an appropriate internship with an Irish focus.

The certificate program complements a major area of study in the humanities or social sciences. It helps prepare undergraduates for further employment in positions requiring comprehensive understanding of a European culture, history, and politics.

The certificate courses also prepare students for graduate study in a number of related disciplines, such as literature, history, law, politics, sociology, art and international business, both in the US and abroad.

Click here for more information on the Irish Studies certificate.

The 4+1 Bachelor to Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) Program

is designed for undergraduate students to begin working towards a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science while completing their Bachelor’s degree. The program is open to juniors and seniors of all majors.
“Washington 101”: a CUA Collaboration

“Transitioning” is one of the more frequently used modifiers to describe Washington, D.C. and its inhabitants. From one year to the next it’s unlikely you’ll find so much as a street block that hasn’t changed in some way. This constant evolution of the city is one the many themes explored in “Washington 101,” both the undergraduate course and the book it inspired: “Washington 101: An Introduction to the Nation’s Capital.”

The idea for the book, written by PhD candidate Julie Yarwood, Dr. Matthew Green, associate professor of Politics, Dr. Laura Daughtery, assistant professor in the School of Social Service, and Dr. Maria Mazzenga, Education Archivist, came when the course instructors were unable to find a comprehensive textbook off which to base the curriculum readings.

"It is especially satisfying to see the many hours we put into developing the class result not only in a fun course, but in a book," said Dr. Green.

"When we were pulling the course together, Dean Poos had the great idea to contact alumni in the city as possible speakers for selected topics for the course," Dr. Mazzenga said. “We have had several alums come to speak throughout the course and the students have benefited from seeing what CUA alums do when they graduate in a very concrete way. We have seen some wonderful interactions and mutual appreciation between students and alums and this is an important feature of the course."

The development of the course was not only an inter-disciplinary cooperation, but an inter-generational one as well:

The students weren’t the only ones to benefit from the collaborative effort: the four writers each expressed what they had gained from the process: “The experience of collaborating with scholars from other disciplines helps refine my thoughts about my own discipline and its perspectives,” said Dr. Daughtery.

Dr. Green echoed the sentiment, saying “it was very rewarding to be able to continue the collaboration that went into developing and teaching Washington 101. In my experience it's a rare thing to find scholars with whom collaboration is not only possible but also fun.”

For Julie Yarwood (profiled in our Graduate Student Newsletter), too, it was a remarkable learning opportunity. She was able to learn first-hand about the ins-and-outs of the publishing process, while working concurrently on her doctoral dissertation. This is a skill, she said, that will be a valuable tool for possible future projects.
Faculty Publications & Achievements

Dr. Benjamin Hinnant, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, recently published “Family conflict and children’s sleep problems: Vagal regulation as a protective factor” in Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development. Additionally, Dr. Hinnant was interviewed for an article about the impact of parents arguing on sleeping infants in Smithsonian magazine, and most recently he chaired the “Biological Processes and Evolutionary Perspectives” review panel for the 2014 Society for Research in Adolescence biennial meeting.

Dr. Renate Chancellor, Assistant Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science, was presented with the 2014 Award for Teaching Excellence from the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).

Dr. Leonard DeFiore, Research Associate Professor in the Department of Education, published an article in Catholic Schools in the Public Interest: Past, Present, and Future Directions, entitled: "Finances and Catholic Schools: Toward a Viable Future.”

Dr. Duilia de Mello, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, was named the 2013 Professional of the Year for her work in the field of technology, information, and communication.

This prestigious award is given to select Brazilian professionals who live abroad (Diaspora Brazil) by the Brazilian minister of foreign affairs, the minister of industry and foreign commerce, and the Brazilian Association of Industrial Development.

Dr. Claire Adams Spears, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was awarded a K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award through the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM/NIH).

This 5-year grant, entitled “Using Mobile Technology to Understand and Encourage Mindfulness for Smoking Cessation,” will focus on using ecological momentary assessment to elucidate mechanisms underlying effects of mindfulness on smoking cessation, and enhancing current mindfulness-based treatments with the use of mobile technology.
Jonathan Monaghan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art, received a $10,000 artist grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to support his art practice and allow him to make new work this year.

The DCCAH supports District-based artists with grants through the Artist Fellowship Program, which offers awards to individual artists who make a significant contribution to the arts and substantively impact the lives of District of Columbia residents through their artistic excellence.

Dr. Sarah Ferrario, Associate Prof. and Chair-Designate of Greek and Latin, has just published Historical Agency and the ‘Great Man’ in Classical Greece with Cambridge University Press. In collaboration with Prof. Judith Hallett of the University of Maryland, College Park, Dr. Ferrario has also recently received a $9900 leadership grant from the Classical Association of the Atlantic States. It will support the re-launch of a Washington, DC-area seminar for professional scholars and advanced students of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Patricia M. Craig, Matthew A. T. Poulos, and Karen Carducci, graduate students in Greek and Latin, joined Dr. William McCarthy and Dr. Sarah Ferrario in a panel on Sophocles and religion at the annual Fall Meeting of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States in Washington, DC (Oct. 9-11, 2014).
The Catholic Community Partnership for Better Early Child Development

Through interdisciplinary efforts between CUA’s Departments of Education and Psychology, and the National Catholic School of Social Service, the Catholic Partnership Project (CPP) conducted a national survey of 24 Dioceses/Archdioceses to identify current early childhood development services in Catholic settings in large metropolitan urban areas under a grant of $525,000 from Better Way Foundation.

Dr. Venigalla Rao, Chair of the Department of Biology, was awarded a $600,000 three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for his project, entitled "Mechanism of Genome Packaging in Bacteriophage T4." His grant proposal received the highest rating by the entire NSF panel of Molecular Biosciences, with each reviewer according him an excellent rating with “high priority.” The panel collectively summarized their strong support of Dr. Rao’s proposal:

“This is a very strong project by a highly productive investigator that addresses an important scientific question using a broad array of tools […] The project will advance our understanding of the mechanics of DNA translocation by the phage T4 DNA packaging motor. The project is supported by strong preliminary data and is expected to have a strong impact on the field.”

Click here to read CUA Magazine’s Spring 2014 feature of Dr. Rao and his Bacteriophage T4 lab.
**Dr. Nancy Adleman**, Assistant Professor in the **Department of Psychology**, has two recent publications: “Increased intrasubject variability in response time in unaffected preschoolers at familial risk for bipolar disorder.” in *Psychiatry Research*, and “Applications of Multivariate Modeling to Neuroimaging Group Analysis: A Comprehensive Alternative to Univariate General Linear Model.” in *NeuroImage*.

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**Biology Professor Honored For Overall Teaching Excellence**

**Ann Corsi**, Associate Professor in the **Department of Biology**, was one of three professors honored with a Teaching Excellence Award October 29 at Catholic University’s Annual Teaching Awards Ceremony and Reception.

Very Rev. Mark Morozowich, interim provost, presented Dr. Corsi with the 2014 Faculty Award for Overall Teaching Excellence, for 10 or more years of excellent teaching.

Corsi earned her B.S. in biology from Cornell University and her Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on the ways in which regulators known as transcription factors contribute to cell specialization by controlling the presence of proteins. By studying the role of the basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) transcription factor CeTwist in a model organism known as *C. elegans*, a nematode (roundworm) that is only 1 mm long and lives in soil, Corsi and her students in the laboratory hope to add to our understanding of craniofacial diseases in humans.

Along with her colleague John Golin, Corsi developed an innovative sophomore-year laboratory curriculum that teaches basic skills by engaging students in cutting-edge biology research. The 300-level sophomore course Investigations in Molecular Cell Biology challenges students to think critically about a question, design an experiment in the laboratory, and develop oral and written communication skills.

“At both the undergraduate and graduate level, Corsi has consistently earned superb evaluations in her courses, not an easy feat in a STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] discipline,” Morozowich said. “In their comments, her students describe her courses as demanding yet rewarding. ‘It was a lot of work,’ writes one student, ‘but I feel that the course was one of the most beneficial at CUA.’”

Corsi said she was very honored to receive the award, which she credited to five factors: CUA’s educational model, which blends a liberal arts tradition with research; her colleagues across campus; her supportive department chair; her colleagues in her own department, particularly Golin; and her family and friends.
Ryan Fecteau, BA Politics ’14, was elected State Representative of Maine on Nov. 4.

Ryan Wilson, doctoral candidate in the Department of English, wrote the poem “The View on Waking,” which appeared in the October issue of First Things.

Anne Mira Guha, a Library and Information Science graduate student, received a grant to go to the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) conference, in addition to two AALL educational scholarships.

Katt Rahill, a Human Factors M.A. student in the Psychology Department, was awarded a Junior Scientist Fellowship Grant from the American Psychology Association of Graduate Students for her research on ways to improve user performance in virtual environments entitled, "Accommodating User Characteristics in a Personally Adaptive Virtual Environment."

Rokas Perskaudas, graduate student in the M.A. program in General Psychology, was awarded a Mamie Phipps Clark Research Grant from the American Psychology Association of Graduate Students for her research on ways to improve user performance in virtual environments entitled, "Accommodating User Characteristics in a Personally Adaptive Virtual Environment."

Charles Giglio, BA, Greek and Latin, ’64, was named 2015 Teacher of the Year by the New York State Board of Regents.

Kelly Knight, CUA/SLA President, received the DC/SLA Leadership Summit Stipend Award. Created for volunteers this award enhances leadership skills and promotes network building by offering members a paid trip to the 2015 SLA Leadership Summit.

Lindsay Myerberg, M.A. in General Psychology (CUA 2014), won the 2014 Psi Chi Society American Psychological Association Convention Research Award for her research submission "Effectiveness of a Group Therapy Program for Children: Benefits of Organized Activity Participation."

Dr. Robert K. Heinssen received the Psychology Department's "Distinguished Alumni Award" at the homecoming reception for his outstanding contributions to the field.

Serene Habayeb, a current student in our Ph.D. clinical psychology program, was awarded a 2014 Graduate Research Grant from the Organization for Autism Research to support her study “Treating Psychosocial and Face Processing Deficits in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Private Clinical Setting.”

Dr. Luigi De Luca, Greek and Latin graduate student (and Johns Hopkins biochemist), has been honored by the Italian Government with the title Grande Ufficiale dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia. This honor was granted in recognition of his life’s work in cancer research, his support of the Italian community in the US, and his commitment to a classical education in Greek and Latin. Further details at Presidenza della Repubblica.

Mariah Kelly “On October 30th I had the immense honor of joining Professor Jim Quirk of the Politics Department to give a presentation at the Library of Congress for Open World Leadership Center. Joining a delegation from four Eastern European countries, in the States to learn about and observe our November elections, we discussed the ideas of American Federalism and the electoral process. Putting my education to use, through helping others understand the American political process, was a humbling experience, and this is just another example of the strength of the professors in the Department of Politics.”

Undergraduate politics student Mariah Kelly (left) was interviewed about the youth vote for Serbian radio.
Two Young Alumni Win Midterm Elections

Two recently graduated Catholic University students, Ryan Fecteau, B.A. 2014, and Andrew Platt, B.A. 2010, won seats in political office in their respective homestates in the November 4 midterm elections.

At just 21, Ryan Fecteau has been elected State Representative of Maine, representing District 11.

Fecteau, a Political Science major and Theology/Religious Studies minor, gained valuable leadership experience while at CUA, serving most notably as Co-Founder of Campus Pride in Faith, Speaker of the Student Association General Assembly, Communications Director of the College Democrats, Municipal Party Chairman of the Biddeford Democratic Committee, and Chief of Staff for the DC Federation of College Democrats.

Shortly after winning, Fecteau recognized CUA, tweeting: “Thanks to friends, family, #CUA & most of all the voters in Biddeford. I am honored, humbled, & blessed to be rep-elect #MEpolitics.”

Andrew Platt, a Gaitherburg, MD native, was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

Platt was the first in his family to graduate from college. He ran his successful campaign on a platform of improving opportunities for working- and middle-class families.

After earning his degree in 2010, Platt worked for Donna Brazile, the Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, a House Democratic Leadership Office on Capitol Hill, and former Maryland State Senate Majority Leader Rob Garagiola.

In an interview with “Irish American Democrats,” Platt discussed one of the first issues he hopes to tackle upon being sworn in in January: “I hope to draft and introduce a bill to bring paid maternity and paternity leave to Maryland. America is the only industrialized democracy to not offer paid maternity and paternity leave. I hope that Maryland can serve as a model for national legislation.”

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