

Humanities

Talented faculty further humanities mission

The units within the humanities division at ASU provide students with everything they'll need to build a rewarding career, a satisfying life and a better world. A key part in this effort is supporting our renowned faculty and programs as they create opportunities to further impact on our students and broader community. Last year, \$440,000 in grants were awarded to humanities faculty from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional prominent grants include:

- The Center for Imagination in the Borderlands, led by Natalie Diaz, received a \$4.2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop a collective model of mentorship centered on Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing was awarded a prestigious Big Read Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, leading to a variety of events centered around "The Round House" by author Louise Erdrich.

Faculty recognitions

American Academy of Arts and Sciences elected Cheshire Calhoun, faculty head and professor of philosophy in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, to join the organization.

Pulitzer Prizes awarded to Associate Professor Natalie Diaz for her collection, "Postcolonial Love Poem," and to John O. Whiteman Dean's Distinguished Professor Mitchell S. Jackson for feature writing.

Regents Professor designation awarded to Devoney Looser, Foundation Professor in the Department of English and Ayanna Thompson, director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and a professor in the Department of English.

Fulbright Scholarships awarded to Danko Šipka, professor in the School of International Letters and Cultures, to conduct language research in Serbia and Calvin J. Schermerhorn, professor in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies to teach and conduct research in England.

Virtual events help extend reach of distinguished speakers

The humanities adapted quickly to a virtual environment and continued to host distinguished speakers in events accessible to folks across the country. The Department of English launched TomorrowTalks, featuring authors Michael Eric Dyson, Melinda Gates and ASU's own Ayanna Thompson, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead joined poet Solmaz Sharif at The College's annual Jonathan and Maxine Marshall Distinguished Lecture.

Events by the numbers

500+

people virtually attended the Jonathan and Maxine Marshall Distinguished Lecture.

25+

virtual events celebrating Indigenous literary arts and culture held as part of the Big Read Grant.

59 competitors from 14 countries

virtually attended Project Humanities' seventh annual Hacks for Humanity event.

As a first-year student I wasn't sure about the coursework ASU required, or what steps I needed to take to be a successful student. Luckily, here at ASU, we have such a great support system with our professors that I was able to find my footing and find what I truly wanted to do. It's been such a wonderful experience just to be able to nurture my love for literature and education."

— **Alexandra Rios**,
English (BA)
Italian (minor)
Spanish (minor)



Support our students

There are a number of ways to help support students in The College during their academic journey, including internships, mentorship, financial assistance and more.

Mentor: Connect with current students to share what you wish you would have known and help advise them along their path.
thecollege.asu.edu/story-submission

Fund scholarships: Help students pursue research and academic opportunities they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Call **480-727-2767** or email linda.raish@asu.edu to learn more.

Get involved

Dean's Council: The Dean's Council members help shape the future of The College by promoting its mission, being the voice of the community to the dean and serving as philanthropic role models who contribute annually to the Dean's Council Fund.

thecollege.asu.edu/deans-council

Share your story: Have a story about where your degree has taken you or how you have made a difference in The College? Share it with us!

thecollege.support@asu.edu

Stay informed: Sign up to receive The College newsletter, event updates and more.

thecollege.asu.edu/subscribe



@ASUTheCollege

ASU The College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University

September 2021



The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2020–2021 highlights

For those of you who have received this annual report in years' past, a thank you card for a prior donation, or attended one of our many events, you have likely read or heard me express my gratitude for friends of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, saying that without your support, our achievements would not be possible. Last year showed us just how true that sentiment is.

The COVID-19 pandemic created situations that many of us had not planned for and our students and faculty were in need of extra support to continue their studies and research. In a moment where much of the world was facing unknown circumstances, you stepped in and reinforced your commitment to building and supporting our community. The number of donors who made generous gifts during this difficult year increased by 40%. More than 2,800 individuals — including faculty members, staff, alumni and community members — donated to The College, helping our students, staff and faculty continue research efforts and continue to support the broader community.

Donations helped students and faculty directly, funded scholarships and created programs that will help foster an inclusive community well into the future. One example of the latter: The College established Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) seed grants. The School of Life Science's Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center is using a JEDI seed grant to launch a summer scholars program for underrepresented students, while the School of Earth and Space Exploration is using four seed grants to set and run yearly workplace climate and bystander intervention trainings for their academic units; document current and former graduate students' perceptions of departmental culture; create educational materials for Title 1 schools; and educate the graduate student community on sexual harassment and micro-aggressions to help erase these behaviors within the STEM community.

In a year with many challenges, our students and faculty continued to achieve great things in pursuit of their goals.

As you review some of our top highlights from last year, please take a moment to recognize the role you play in helping us educate the world's next generation of leaders. I remain incredibly grateful for the community of support you are a part of here at ASU. On behalf of all those who have benefited from your contribution, thank you.

Patrick J. Kenney
Dean, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Foundation Professor, School of Politics and Global Studies
Arizona State University

Highlights from The College

The College's leadership changed and expanded: Pardis Mahdavi and Kenro Kusumi joined The College as deans of social sciences and natural sciences, respectively, and Delia Saenz was named The College's first-ever Chief Diversity Officer.



Pardis Mahdavi
Dean of Social Sciences



Kenro Kusumi
Dean of Natural Sciences



Delia Saenz
Chief Diversity Officer

“Being the largest and most diverse college at Arizona State University, it is vital that our leadership and faculty represent the students who choose to pursue degrees within our units. We are honored to have such talented individuals like Dean Pardis Mahdavi, Dean Kenro Kusumi, Chief Diversity Officer Delia Saenz and a number of new faculty join us over the last year to help further our mission to create and support students' access to a top-ranked education.”

Patrick J. Kenney
Dean, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Celebrating student achievements

During a time of Zoom calls, virtual gatherings and social distancing, The College quickly adapted its graduation celebrations to ensure students felt honored, recognized and celebrated for their achievements. The College hosted a series of special events including virtual graduation ceremonies and small in-person meet and greet style gatherings. These events were well-received, with thousands of people attending and tuning in.

26,336

views on The College's YouTube convocation ceremonies (fall 2020, spring 2021)

5,400

eligible graduates (fall 2020, spring 2021)

5,400

eligible graduates (fall 2020, spring 2021)



Facts and figures

With its size and breadth of topics, The College continues to attract a diverse group of students to our online and on-ground learning offerings.

22
Flinn Scholars

203
National Hispanic Scholars

159
National Merit Scholars

16,000+
students on campus

13,000+
students online

Philanthropy by the numbers

15,518
unique donors

supported The College through ASU's Campaign 2020 fundraiser

337
endowed funds that support scholarships, faculty and programs

Degree programs by the numbers

12
new undergraduate degrees
launched via ASU Online

15
new degrees
launched for on-ground students

Natural sciences

Faculty, leadership look to promote more inclusive STEM education

Over the past year, the units within The College's natural sciences division have created and implemented new programs and efforts to help build a more inclusive and welcoming science community. Sara Brownell, associate professor in the School of Life Sciences, co-founded the Research for Inclusive STEM Education Center to achieve a number of goals including identifying inequities that are currently in classrooms and implementing solutions, conducting and producing innovative research on ways to make undergraduate STEM classrooms more inclusive. As The College's new dean of natural sciences, Kenro Kusumi is focused on creating a community which represents culturally diverse walks of life that allows every student in it to succeed.

Faculty recognitions

Ariel Anbar, ASU President's Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and School of Molecular Sciences and director of Center for Education Through Exploration, was awarded the Arthur L. Day Medal.

Lindy Elkins-Tanton, vice president of the Interplanetary Initiative at ASU and professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration, was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Leah Gerber, professor of life sciences and the founding director of the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes, and **Steven Neuberg**, Foundation Professor, chair of the Department of Psychology and the director of the Evolution, Ecology, and Social Behavior Lab, were named as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

John McCutcheon, professor in the School of Life Sciences and associate director of the Center for Mechanisms of Evolution, was selected as ASU's first Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator as well as being named AAAS Fellow.

Nancy Gonzales, former dean of natural sciences, was named executive vice president and university provost.

It can be intimidating to look at the statistics of women in STEM, and wonder what the future holds for me in this field. I am very thankful to all of the women who helped shape my path. I hope to one day encourage another young scientist along her journey, just as these professors have for me.”

— **Elinor Sauer**
Chemistry (BS)
Biological sciences (BS)
Sustainability (minor)
Philosophy (minor)

Focusing the eyes on Mars

Professor Jim Bell of the School Of Earth and Space Exploration is the principal investigator of the panoramic zoom cameras on NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover. The camera system, called Mastcam-Z, can zoom from wide angle to telephoto, take 3D images and videos and take color photos. The team is using the cameras to scout the local geology, look for signs of past life on Mars and more.



Social sciences

Advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion

In the midst of a global pandemic and a reenergized focus on creating more inclusive, equitable environments — faculty, staff and students in the social sciences division jumped into action to lead meaningful change.

Over the course of five months, Michael McQuarrie, director of ASU's Center for Work and Democracy and an associate professor in the School of Social Transformation, got to know the organizers, leaders and community members who are at the forefront of the movement George Floyd Square, an autonomous zone and memorial site around the location where Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This led him to collaborate with the George Floyd Square community to produce an informational video that gives a look into the day-to-day of George Floyd Square.

Four new directors joined the social sciences division to lead the research being done within ASU's Institute of Human Origins, the School of Politics and Global Studies, the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and the School of Social Transformation.

The School of Transborder Studies welcomed award-winning political cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz as the school's first-ever virtual artist in residence. One of the first projects he tackled was a strategic campaign to dispel misinformation around COVID-19 and the vaccine in Latino communities

Being from Arizona and wanting to be in D.C. means that I took every opportunity I could to try and get over there to the East Coast and level the playing field between me and some of my East Coast peers and colleagues that I'd be competing with for careers and graduate school positions. ... ASU was a big help with that; receiving institutional support from the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership as well as from the School of Politics and Global Studies was critical for me getting my foot in the door.”

— **Cameron Vega**
Civic and economic thought and leadership (BS)
Political sciences (BS)
History (minor)



Faculty recognitions

Sarah Amira de la Garza, associate professor and Southwest Borderlands Scholar in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication was the 2020 recipient of the Victoria Foundation's Dr. Eugene Garcia Outstanding Faculty Research in Higher Education Award.

Christopher Campisano, an associate professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change and research associate with the Institute of Human Origins, was part of the research group that unearthed a 13-million-year-old fossil in northern India. The fossil was from a newly discovered ape, the earliest known ancestor of the modern-day gibbon.

Azmat Khan, an ASU Future of War Fellow with New America, was named a winner of a prestigious Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

J.T. Roane, assistant professor in the School of Social Transformation, was awarded a 2020-21 Schomburg Fellowship from the New York Public Library.

Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez, Regents Professor and founding director emeritus in the School of Transborder Studies, was named the 2020 recipient of the Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology by the American Anthropological Association.

ASU leading coral reef mapping effort

ASU's Greg Asner, director of the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, is now leading the Allen Coral Atlas, a powerful tool to map and monitor coral reefs around the globe. The atlas — which provides the “big picture” scientists and policymakers need to bring coral reefs back to health — was developed through a unique partnership between Arizona State University, University of Queensland, National Geographic Society, Planet and Vulcan. Currently, 90% of the world's tropical coral reefs have been mapped by the Allen Coral Atlas, with the project on track to finish in September 2021.