Talented faculty further humanities mission

The units within the humanities division at ASU provide students with everything they need to build a rewarding career in a catalyzing 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 society at large. 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 Carol Diés, received a $2.6 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop a collective model of humanities teaching centered on Indigenous knowledge and practice.
• The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, established in 2002, was awarded a prestigious Big Read Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, to join the academic and broader community in reading "House" by author Louise Erdrich.

Events by the numbers

500+ Faculty members virtually attended the Jonathan and Marie Marshall Distincional Lecture.
25+ Virtual events celebrating Indigenous literary arts and culture held as part of the Big Read Grant.
59 competitors from 14 countries placed in the college’s annual student writing contest.

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 Blix, Liberal Arts and Sciences (BA), Italian (minor), Spanish (minor)
The College’s leadership changed and expanded: Pardi Mahdavi and Kenro Kusumi joined The College as dean of social sciences and natural sciences, respectively, and Delia Sacco was named The College’s chief diversity officer.

We are honored to have such talented individuals like Dean Pardi Mahdavi, Dean Kenro Kusumi, Chief Diversity Officer Delia Sacco and a number of new faculty join us over the last year to help further our mission to create and support diverse group of students who choose to pursue degrees within our units.

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 with us.

We have already adapted our small in-person meet and special events including virtual YouTube convocation views on The College’s 26,336 eligible graduates (fall 2020, spring 2021) and 13,000+ students on campus (fall 2020, spring 2021). The College quickly adapted its calls, virtual gatherings and social distancing, 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 Sacco was named executive vice president and university provost.

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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 Flnn 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 2020-21 fundraising campaign
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, we talk within The College’s natural sciences division have implemented and presented new programs and efforts to help build a more inclusive and welcoming community. Sara Brown, assistant professor in the School of Life Sciences, co-founded the Research for Inclusive STEM Education Center to achieve a number of goals including building a more inclusive STEM community. The team is currently in classroom and implementing solutions, conducting and producing innovative research, as well as expanding 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 ways of life that allows every student in to succeed.

Faculty recognitions

Amit Arora: 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 Ehler-Tanton, vice president of the Interdisciplinary Initiative at ASU and professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration, was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences.
Leah Gertler, 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 Evolutionary, Developmental, and Social Behavior Lab, were named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
John McClatchey, 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 have shaped my path. I hope to one day encourage another young scientist along her journey, just as those professors have for me.”

Carmela Vega
Visiting assistant professor, School of Earth and Space Exploration (EEPS)
Visiting assistant professor, School of Molecular Sciences (Biosciences)