

# @UMWCAS



The Newsletter of  
the College of Arts  
and Sciences at the  
University of Mary  
Washington



Volume 1  
Issue 1  
Fall 2020

Welcome to our first issue of @UMWCAS

**In This Issue:** Coping with COVID-19,  
CAS Beyond the Classroom, Faculty  
news, Alumni News



## From the Dean's Office

by Dr. Keith Mellinger, Dean CAS

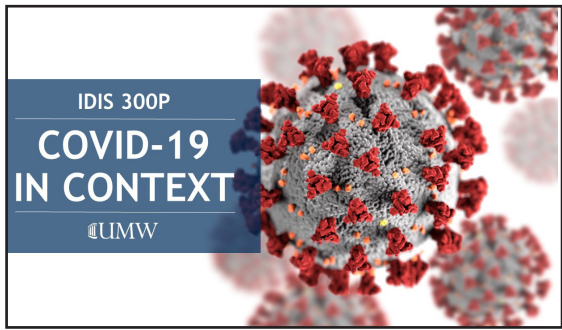
Welcome to our first issue of what we plan to be a regular newsletter to update all of our friends on important

activities and developments happening in the College of Arts and Sciences at UMW. The college is both broad and deep, with disciplines ranging from the fine arts and humanities, to the social and behavioral sciences, to the natural sciences and technical disciplines. Here you will find updates on major faculty and student accomplishments and transitions as well as college-wide initiatives. With the adoption of our new general education curriculum last year, all of our students complete some experience that takes them beyond the classroom. These experiences include culturally enriching study abroad experiences, focused internships, and rigorous original research projects.

You will see updates on our activities in these areas and read about our college-wide initiative to raise money to build sustainable support, so that every student will have the funding they need to participate fully. We have a goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of the calendar year. Read more about this and so much more in the following pages. And please stay in touch! Alumni looking to become more involved with the university should reach out to me. I look forward to connecting with you. We have slots open on our alumni advisory board and are always eager to fill them with engaged alumni who are looking to give something back to the institution that has influenced us all in so many meaningful ways.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith E. Mellinger".



## UMW Teaches Record-Breaking Summer Course on COVID-19

You’ve heard the saying “When life gives you lemons...” Well when life gave us the COVID-19 pandemic, we didn’t just make lemonade, we put the best of a liberal

arts education at Mary Washington into action by offering *IDIS 300P: COVID-19 in Context*, a series of biweekly lectures that turned the virus holding the world captive inside out, examining everything from its economic impact to its influence on art. Offered free to community members and students, and facilitated by Dean Mellinger and Professor Anand Rao, Chair of the Department of Communication and Digital Studies, it quickly became UMW’s largest course ever. The more than 1,900 registered participants were from 39 states, plus Washington, D.C., and several countries including Canada, England, France, Switzerland, Japan and Ghana. More than 600 of them were current students who registered to take the course for credit, including more than 200 incoming first-year students. The course was taught by 46 volunteer faculty members with guest appearances from important community experts.

After each webinar-style presentation, students joined Zoom breakout rooms to discuss further with faculty volunteers.

The lectures were recorded and are still available to view on the course [website](#).



## A Summer of Preparations for a Fall semester of “Compelling Courses”



Mary Washington professors spent the summer preparing their courses for whatever COVID-19 might bring—fully online, fully in person but masked and socially distanced, or a hybrid of the two. More than 200 faculty participated in “Refocus Online,” a series of workshops produced by The UMW Center for Teaching and Digital Learning Support to assist them as they learned new tools. A smaller group of faculty led by Professor Steve Greenlaw, met in a Center for Teaching sponsored learning community, “Compelling Courses.” Representatives from nearly every academic department have been teaching each other how to deliver dynamic online lessons and incorporate the best of the UMW experience into distance learning. From first-year seminars to advanced major courses, faculty tried out new tools and new ideas to foster the collaboration and engagement that Mary Washington is known for – in an online format.

Read more about summer prep in this [article](#) by Jill Laiconi.





Some 2019-2020 Undergraduate Research Projects funded by CAS (Top to Bottom): "Descendent Community Involvement in Presidential Plantation Museums" (Geography); "Laser Harp" (Music and Physics); "Notions of Self, Community and Transformation in Performance" (Theatre)

## Beyond the Classroom

As part of the new UMW General Education program that begins in fall 2020, all UMW students, regardless of major, follow the same liberal arts curriculum in three general areas — Foundations, Methods of Investigation, and Connections. Under the latter, students must fulfill a **"Beyond the Classroom"** experience that goes beyond traditional academic study, including community engagement, internship, study abroad, and undergraduate research. "Beyond the Classroom" experiences have been a hallmark of education at Mary Washington for years, mentored by CAS faculty and supported with CAS grants for research and unpaid internships. The 2019-2020 academic year was on the way to be a record year for student engagement in many areas, especially in the area of undergraduate research. CAS Undergraduate Research Grant proposals were up by 50% over the previous year, for a range of projects from studying DaVinci's "Virgin of the Rocks" to the remediation of diesel spills with fungi. Although COVID-19 cancelled plans for travel abroad and to conferences to present the results of their research, many were able to "pivot" to remote work after March. Summer 2020 marked the 21st year for the [UMW Summer Science Institute](#). Visit our new CAS blog ["Beyond the Classroom"](#) to learn more about Summer Science Institute 2020, and about the many other impressive experiences our students are gaining.

**2019-2020  
by the numbers**

### CAS Research Grants

Total student applications  
**253**

Total grant requests  
**\$226,995**

Total Research Grant Awards  
**\$130,000**

### CAS Internship Grants

Total UMW Student Internships  
**383**

CAS Internship Grants Awards  
**\$21,500**  
**19 students**

## ***Beyond the Classroom:***

An Endowment for Student Research and Learning

Help support these student experiences. Learn more about the [BTC Endowment](#)

# Faculty News

## 2020 Faculty Awards



**Waple Faculty Professional Achievement Award**

**Miriam Liss,**  
Professor of Psychological Science



**Grellet C. Simpson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**  
**Stephen Davies,**  
Professor of Computer Science



**J. Christopher "Topher" Bill Service Award**

**Allyson Poska,**  
Professor of History and American Studies



**Alumni Association Outstanding Young Faculty Member Award**

**April Wynn,**  
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

## Retirements



Jack Bales, Reference and Humanities Librarian Emeritus



Dana Hall, Associate Professor Emerita of Athletics, Health and Physical Education



Jack Kramer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and International Affairs



Rosemary Barra, Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences



Helen Housley, Professor Emerita of Theatre



Warren Rochelle, Professor Emeritus of English



Marie Wellington, Professor Emerita of French

## In Memoriam



**Marshall E. Bowen,**  
Emeritus Professor  
Department of Geography



**Donald E. Glover,**  
Distinguished  
Professor Emeritus of English



# Alumni News

## College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Board

Established in 2013 by Dean Richard Finkelstein, the [CAS Alumni Advisory Board](#) is made up of UMW / MWC alumni who have achieved high levels of personal and professional achievement within industry, government and academia.

These individuals meet quarterly with the goal of looking at existing and envisioned programs within the College of Arts and Sciences, applying real-world perspective and experience, and providing advisory services with regard to how and where the College could improve and effectively articulate the superior value of UMW Arts and Sciences.

If you want to learn more about the Board or have questions about joining, Please contact Dean Keith Mellinger for more information. [kmelling@umw.edu](mailto:kmelling@umw.edu)

## Our newest board members



Kenneth F. Allwine,  
(UMW BS '07, MS '12),  
Fredericksburg, VA.  
Director of Technology, Tech  
Wizards and UMW Adjunct  
Instructor of Computer  
Science.



Dee Dee Becker, (MWC '86),  
Virginia Beach, VA.  
President of Becker  
Communications.



Linda Blakemore (MWC '84),  
Fredericksburg, VA. President  
and CEO of The Gemini 3  
Group, Inc.



Darnell (Horio) DeMasters  
(MWC '84), Fairfax, VA.  
Vice-President of Federal  
Government Affairs for WEC  
Energy Group.



Sharon P Fuller (MWC '89),  
Richmond, VA.  
President/Owner of  
S Fuller Solutions, LLC.



Kathleen O'Neill, (MWC '70),  
Arlington, V. Principal at  
Discerning Ways LLC.



Jay Sinha, (UMW '07),  
Arlington, VA.  
Compliance Counsel  
Information Security at  
Verizon Business Group.



Catherine E. Woteki  
(MWC '69), Washington, DC.  
Professor of Food Science  
and Human Nutrition, Iowa  
State University, previously  
Dean and Director of the  
College of Agriculture, Iowa  
State University.