Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to the Winter 2016 issue of The Dean's Desk! We are finally experiencing winter-like temperatures on campus. There is much in store this semester, starting with the launch of a new minor in Creative Writing, available to students across the University. We will also welcome to campus Gregory Pardlo, 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner for Poetry, who will open the 18th Annual Villanova Literary Festival. For more on the very latest news and happenings in the College, connect with us on the Web, Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely,

Adele Lindenmeyr, PhD
Dean

FACULTY FOCUS

National Science Foundation Awards $411,380 Grant to Chemistry Professor

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a grant of $411,380 to Daniel A. Kraut, PhD, assistant professor, Chemistry, to support his research project in the College. The project is entitled “RUI: Effect of Substrate Polyubiquitination on Proteasomal Unfolding Ability.” The project will provide research training and experiences for Villanova undergraduate and Master’s level students. More

Graduate Program in Communication Receives National Award

Villanova’s graduate program in Communication was honored by the National Communication Association (NCA) at their 101st Convention on November 19-22, 2015. The Master’s in
Communication program received the 2015 Outstanding Master’s Degree Program Award which is a competitively selected award by the Master’s Education Division of the NCA. [More]

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CLAS Students Gain Valuable Experience in Varied Internships

Every semester, students in CLAS gain work and life experience through participating in internships with companies across sectors. This semester, students held internships at the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, Philadelphia Magazine, Campbell Soup Company, and QVC among others. Adetola Ajayi ‘16 CLAS (Philosophy) put her pre-law ambitions to practice as a Public Relations intern for the First Judicial District, where she developed concepts for informational and promotional programs and assisted the Public Relations Officer. Kara McPeak ‘16 CLAS (English) combined her degree with her love of animals as a Marketing and Management intern at Paws & Affection, an organization that trains and places service dogs with children with disabilities.

Four Students Present at Geological Society of America

CLAS students Cara Mathers ’17 (Comprehensive Science), Kate Henderson ’18 (Environmental Science), and Meghan Walsh ’16 (Geography and the Environment) recently presented posters at the 2015 Geological Society of America’s annual meeting. Kaila Hanley ‘16 (Environmental Science, Geography) gave an oral presentation, on her research “Evaluating controls on triclosan export in a rural to suburban watershed: Insights from the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek.” The students were accompanied by faculty mentors Stephen Levas, PhD and Steven Goldsmith, PhD.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Three Alumni Honored at Alumni Medallion Ceremony

On October 22, CLAS recognized three of its most distinguished alumni at its Alumni Medallion
awards. The evening also honored the Rev. Kail C. Ellis, OSA, PhD, currently assistant to the president, longtime Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and most recently vice president for Academic Affairs. In his honor, the Alumni Medallion has been renamed the Rev. Kail C. Ellis, OSA Alumni Medallion. The 2015 recipient is Brian F. Harrington ’85 CLAS (English), founder of the Each One Counts Foundation, a nonprofit which assists terminally and chronically ill children receiving hospice or palliative care. The Young Alumni Medallion was awarded to Diepiyriye Anga Esq., ’11 (Political Science) and the Graduate Alumni Medallion went to Michael B. Smith, MA ’94, PhD (History). More

Biology Graduate Student Finds Passion, Path and Purpose in Science Writing
Karen Zusi ’11 CLAS (Biology, Honors) was always torn between her two academic loves—ecology and English. As an undergraduate, she spent summers as a research assistant in the ornithology lab of Biology professor Robert Curry, PhD while also taking literature courses. Karen eventually earned her Master’s in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Frostburg State University, studying the habitat preferences of Neotropical river otters in Costa Rica. She then went on for a second graduate degree, this time in Science Journalism at Boston University. Karen currently writes full-time for The Scientist magazine, where she draws on her own experience to tell stories of biologists both in the field and at the lab bench.

OTHER NEWS
- Villanova University Announces New Minor in Creative Writing
- Philosophy Professor Receives Honor from Irish University
- Villanova University’s 18th Annual Literary Festival Welcomes Renowned Authors to Campus

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