

End-Of-Year Newsletter

- *Spring 2021 Edition* -

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Webster
UNIVERSITY

2020-21



The Year We
VIRTUAL
All Went

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Letter from the Dean

Hello Everyone! I am Dr. Michael Hulsizer, the new Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I have been an Experimental Psychologist at Webster University in the Psychology Department since 1997. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students within the College of Arts and Sciences, I want to welcome you to view our new College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter.



This has been a year unlike any other in recent memory. Students, faculty, and staff have been challenged in ways we could not have imagined prior to the pandemic. I am so impressed with the determination, resilience, and grit those in the College have evidenced during this year.

This end of the year newsletter is a testament to the hard work evidenced by students, faculty, and staff throughout the year. For example, despite the pandemic, student clubs were active – albeit in a safe manner. Creative projects continued during the pandemic. For example, students and faculty attended and/or organized virtual conferences and interacted with intellectual giants in their respective fields. Research was still conducted – although some of it shifted online.

Departments within the College of Arts and Sciences also provided much needed help during the pandemic. For example, faculty in the Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia Departments helped at mass vaccination events throughout Illinois and Missouri. Over 1,000 people benefited from their efforts. Students helped distribute household cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, and baby care products. Students in the counseling program completed a rigorous 12 -hour telemental health counseling training.

I was also very impressed with the faculty achievements detailed in the newsletter. The fact faculty continued to produce scholarly activity while delivering course content in a new format (e.g., hybrid and online) is a testament to the fact we have some truly exceptional faculty. This is the first time in recent memory that the College has recognized employees who went above and beyond this year. The awardees ranged from staff who provided help to those within and outside their own department, faculty who helped institute change in our institution, to those who stepped up when the College, University, and most importantly the community needed our help.

Sadly, we have a few faculty members who will be leaving us. Dean Tony Wallner announced his retirement this past fall. As Dean, he shaped the College into a center of excellence during his tenure. The Nursing Department is wishing all the best to two of their finest – Drs. Mary Ann Drake and Jenny Broeder. Combined, they have over 50 years of experience here at Webster and have changed the lives of so many students in the Nursing Department and throughout the University. Lastly, we are sad to see Dr. Amanda Kracen leaving the University for Ireland. All of which leave big shoes to fill.

Lastly, I speak for all faculty, staff, and students in the College of Arts and Sciences when I say congratulations to our graduates! It has been quite a year and we are so proud of your accomplishments. You will forever be part of the Webster University family. Do not hesitate to reach out if you need us. Stop by and say hello from time to time. We want to hear about your many future successes!

New Faculty in CAS

In 2020, The College of Arts & Sciences welcomed many new faculty members:

Shannon Kispert earned her B.S. in Biological Science from The University of Tulsa and her Ph.D. in Pathology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Her research interests include the investigation of cigarette smoking and E-cigarettes on breast and bladder cancer development and progression. Her true passion is education, and she has experience teaching anatomy and physiology at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical school level. She looks forward to working with students to better understand the phospholipase-A2 pathways and their dysregulation in response to smoke exposure. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the outdoors with her husband and toddler, trying new foods, all things coffee, and dance fitness.



After earning a BS in Microbiology at Clemson University, **Andrew Elvington** earned a PhD in Biomedical Science-Immunology from the Medical University of South Carolina, with his doctoral research investigating aspects of the immune system in injury and recovery in experimental stroke. Andrew was also a post-doctoral research scholar at Washington University, with research pursuits exploring how the immune system influences progression of cardiovascular disease. Prior to joining Webster, Andrew was Assistant Professor of Biology at Missouri Baptist University, teaching undergraduate courses in the biomedical sciences. At Webster, Andrew teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the Biological Sciences and Nurse Anesthesia programs. Principal teaching interests include immunology, cell biology, and human anatomy. Additionally, Andrew is developing an active research program, investigating the modulation of effector functions of immune cells in response to environmental stressors and infection.

New Faculty in CAS



Dr. Salim Ayoub is a Moroccan professor who joined Webster University in August 2020. Prior to that, he had studied and taught three languages in three countries (in three continents). Dr. Ayoub speaks a total of 5 languages and is highly interested in learning a couple more. Some of his hobbies and interests are history and geography, long distance walking, watching and studying films, supporting his favorite soccer team, Real Madrid, and traveling... all in no particular order. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that he can no longer enjoy some of his favorite pastimes, Dr. Ayoub was finally able to spare time to start his first “auto-fiction” travelogue. The work is in progress, and he is highly enthusiastic about this project!

Dr. Stacey Olden is our newest faculty in the South Carolina counseling program at Myrtle Beach. She recently completed her doctoral studies with a dissertation titled, *The Social Justice Development of Black Counselors: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis*. She also holds a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling. She recently joined the full-time counseling faculty and is Clinical Coordinator of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Webster University, Myrtle Beach, where she previously served as an adjunct instructor for 10 years.

Dr. Olden has been a licensed professional counselor in both South Carolina and North Carolina for 18 years, and a licensed supervisor for 11 years. She is the founder and Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, New Visions Wellness Center (NVWC) whose mission is to educate, encourage, and empower individuals and improve the educational, mental, and economic status of marginalized communities. NVWC operates an online counseling and training clinic. The clinic seeks to raise awareness, decrease stigma, and increase utilization of mental health services in marginalized communities and train the next generation of counselors to be social justice advocates. She has been a helping professional providing social services to marginalized populations for over 25 years.



New Faculty in CAS

Allison Gorga received her B.A. in Sociology and Studio Art from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Iowa in 2018, where her dissertation examined how correctional workers understood, accepted, or rejected evidence-based correctional practices at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. Her research interests include gender, punishment, and correctional health care. Her prior research has involved interviewing sorority women about homophobia in the Greek rush process, and interviewing prisoners about the gender expectations and hierarchy in a women's prison. She is currently working on project involving prison health care providers and the challenges they have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. She joined the Webster University faculty in fall of 2020, where she teaches criminology, gender, and sociology courses. In her free time, Allison likes to jog, play trivia, and draw and paint.



Joe Zlatic attended Saint Louis University where he earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. He is a lifelong resident of the St. Louis area where he currently resides with his three children. Joe has worked in higher education since 2013 and previously served the U.S. District Court for Eastern Missouri for seven years as a community supervision officer. He has engaged in policy advising and implementation at federal, state, local, and non-profit levels. His research interests include criminal justice policy development and evaluation, implementation of evidence-based practices, community corrections, and alternatives to traditional criminal case processing. Joe seeks to conduct field-based action research dedicated to the identification and exploitation of points of leverage within criminal justice organizations in order to contribute to enhanced public service.

ONE HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY *MAY 8TH, 2021*



Chancellor Beth Stroble
President Julian Schuster
Interim Dean Michael Hulsizer
2021 Commencement Speaker Jackie Joyner-Kersey

Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degrees

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Doctor of Humane Letters

Joyner-Kersey is a six-time Olympic medalist, including three Olympic gold medals. Throughout her career and over four Olympic Games, she dominated the Olympic heptathlon and long jump events. The World Heptathlon Record she set at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, still stands today, over 30 years later. Sports Illustrated named Joyner-Kersey the greatest female athlete of the 20th century.

Her post-athletic career has been marked by major contributions and leadership as a philanthropist and a tireless advocate for children's education, health issue, racial equality, social reform and women's rights. In 1988, she established the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation as the vehicle through which she provides youth, adults and families with the resources to improve their quality of life.

In 2000, the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation raised over \$12 million to build The Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center, a 41,000-square-foot facility with 1,200-seat gymnasium on a 37-acre site. The center fulfills the largely unmet need for youth recreation and sports venues in East St. Louis. In 2007, Joyner-Kersey, along with a number of well-known pro athletes, founded Athletes for Hope, a charitable organization, which helps professional athletes get involved in charitable causes and inspires millions of non-athletes to volunteer in community support.

A dynamic public speaker, Joyner-Kersey continues to be a sought-after motivational speaker and voice for the issues affecting 21st century global society. Webster University presented her with the Champion For All award at its 2019 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference. In January she was a featured speaker at the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network's (ARDN) Second Women of the Diaspora Summit: Economic Equity, and ARDN has now asked to serve as a Good Will Ambassador.

Virginia (Jinny) Jackson Browning, Doctor of Laws

Virginia (Jinny) Jackson Browning is a longtime friend of Webster University who is known for her support of education, science and the performing arts throughout the St. Louis region. She and her family, including her late husband, former Webster University trustee Larry Browning, and their daughters, have provided essential support to landmark institutions including the St. Louis Science Center, the Sheldon Concert Hall, the St. Louis Symphony, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the latter for which she also served on the board of directors.

At Webster University, Jinny Browning and her family have supported scholarships and professorships, the Community Music School and the Emerson Library, and other major initiatives that will have a lasting impact on Webster students for generations. The main stage of the Webster University Loretto-Hilton Center was named the Virginia Jackson Browning Theatre in 2002. The newest building on Webster's main campus, Browning Hall, the Interdisciplinary Science Building, is named in the family's honor and in recognition of their support for the building's construction. The family previously established Webster's first endowed science faculty position, the Laurance L. Browning, Jr. Endowed Professor in Biological Sciences.



Departmental Honors

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Biological Sciences

Jessica Denise Battle
Emily Claire Buehrle
Kylie Elizabeth Burke
Joseph Conroy
Lindzie Belle Cunningham
Roderick Quennel Jordan, Jr.
Jennifer Ashton Kish
Anna Milena Muecke
Alexander Kenneth Nicholas
Andrew Padilla
Stephen J. Pearson, Jr.
Lindsay Ann Poitras
Briana Fe Robles
Carlos Luis Santana
Sarah Joy Schryver
Nickol Wahby
Amber Michelle White

Department of English

Emily Michaela Brooks
Emma Ann Larson
Anna Danielle Rickard
Lauren Nichole Vollenweider

Department of Global Languages, Cultures and Societies

Lauren Darling
Victoria Jean Hoffmann
Hanna Marie Holthaus
Peter Prohaszka
Emma Dianne Schulte
Matthew Benton Woods

Department of History, Politics, International Relations and Religious Studies

Anoushka Anand
Kalissa A. Caesar
Joseph Lee Caouette
Jadzia Michele Clements
Hannah Grace Emerson
Kaleigh Nicole Finney
Lea Marie Nicole Hillebrand
Patricia Paulina Karrer
Zin Mar Khing
Sindi Kuci
Michael Joseph Langston
Belinda Tezura Mziray
Holly Elizabeth Nielsen
Nana Adwoa Obenewah Ofori
Mariia Ovcharenko

Oluwakemi Kafilat Oyedeji
Cara Catherine Palombo
Neha Purswaney
Timothy Radomile
Haley Elizabeth Sante
John-Vilhelm Schnell
Liane Shakhsheer
Christina Shi
Tala Suleiman
Christine Marie Tannous
John Mark Wallis
Samuel William Wobbe
Jigme Zangmo

Department of Law, Crime and Social Justice

Amber Hawkins
James William Mason
Brendan Michael May
Grace Elizabeth Moody
Joseph Morici
Hannah Jo Mullen
Rebecca K. Now
Ashley E. Sawdy
Michael Arthur Thomas, Jr.

Department of Nursing

Linda Darlene Adams
Renee Lynne Bearden
Valerie B. Berry
Martha Pohlmann Brinker
Kristina Marie Brown
Kara Marie Campbell
Lisa Ann Carroll
Kimberly Marie Carter
Lisa Marie Cross
Stephanie Dressel
Patricia Helen Frazier
Rachel Gallatin
Briana Michelle Gibbs
Erin Michelle Goodson
Robin Lin Heifner
Nicole Christine Hemmann
Michael Kersting
Susan Marie Luster
Deidre Ann Mercer
Fiona Mindel
Stephanie Mofield
Dawn Marie Murray
Jennifer Danielle Parke
Kelley A. Phillips
Kaitlin Nicole Queen
Svetlana Radinskaya
Georgan S. Schuetz
Summer Suzanne Standish

Brenda Stone
Lesa Jean Tegeler

Department of Philosophy

Caroline Alexis Beirne

Department of Psychology

Savita Anand
Milan Antonovic
Kayla Terese Brown
Veronica Lucille Brown
Cassidy Kathleen Canady
Margaret Lynn Delgado
Amelia J. Dorsey
Alyson Lynn Egizio
Rhiannon Eilers
Emily Joy Etter
Roda Farley
Samuel Scott Fenton
Ielyzaveta Golovina
Alyssa Taylor Haydon
Mary Jean LaFlamme
Amber Lampe
Ann Lange
Amethyst Lehman
Ashley Catherine Shannon Maley
Katy Marshall
Libby Mattson
Vanessa Sharee Miller
Naomi Eliana Raznick
Loren Irene Sandoval Arteaga
Adrienne Schaffer
Matthew Armondez Scott
Stephanie Cecilia Sekarski
Laron Calvin Smith
Anna Lisa Soine
Abigail Sue Webb
Jillian Wilson
Deki Choden Yezer

Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies

Kiley Nicole Nivens
Parichat Sinlee Seagrave

College of Arts & Sciences

In Memoriam

If a Webster University “family tree” were drawn to reflect all of the people who ever left a mark on the institution and its over 200,000 graduates, it’s a good bet that Consuelo Gallagher would appear most often, from its very roots to the buds on branches yet to form.



Consuelo, as she was known across campus, passed away on Feb. 24 after a storied life that included more than 60 years teaching at Webster. Her Webster connections trace from its internationally inclusive beginnings, to its co-educational and global expansion, all the way to opportunities for new students who will join next fall.

Consuelo was related by marriage to Sister Louise Wise, one of Webster’s founding faculty members and dean when Webster first achieved North Central accreditation in 1925, the year Consuelo was born. Today her former colleagues remain numerous – and indebted to her guidance – on Webster’s current faculty. And the scholarships she endowed supported students who are 20 years into their own careers, as well as students yet to enroll.

At her core, Gallagher loved teaching, making a difference for students. That love, and her approach to collaboration, to problem-solving, and to simply figuring out whatever needs to be done, very much reflected Webster’s DNA. Her legacy is felt today in the success of the TESL program and federal grant-funded program for teachers of ELL (English Language Learner) students, as well as in the scholarships she endowed for students in international languages.

True to her values, Consuelo’s gifts to Webster also honored her family: The James R. & Consuelo E. Gallagher Memorial Endowed Scholarship was named in honor of her late husband and her own lifelong commitment to Webster, and the Rosita Endowed International Languages Scholarship memorialized her mother. Gallagher also funded the Rosita International Awareness and Language Studies Awards, which recognize students who are eager to explore different culture through languages studies.

Recognizing this dedication, in 2011 Webster presented Consuelo with its Visionary Award, bestowed upon individuals or organizations who display a long-standing and transformative commitment to Webster and its students. After her retirement in 2004, she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Webster’s 2005 Commencement. She previously received the 2000 Spirit of Philanthropy Award from the St. Louis regional chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Consuelo Gallagher taught her students a love of all languages, an appreciation for other cultures and tools for teaching others. Generations of former students still speak of their respect and love for Consuelo and appreciate the impact she had on their lives and careers. That impact will only continue.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



Hasmik Chakaryan

Hasmik's efforts in this past year have been outstanding. She has done an enormous amount of work, supporting not only the department, but working individually with students who have struggled through the pandemic. Most notably, at the onset of COVID last year, Hasmik provided critical leadership in transitioning the clinical experience portion of the counseling program to a virtual format. She drafted new policies and compiled resources for students who were moving to tele-counseling. She supported students and instructors who were learning how to do things in new ways. She worked round the clock to answer questions, help site supervisors get the information they needed, help students work through new processes. She had to help troubleshoot many issues that arose as the department looked and found ways to keep students at their sites where possible. Many of our students in Practicum and Internship were able to continue with their courses due to Hasmik's tireless efforts.



Murray Farish

As chairperson of the English Department Murray has led a wonderful group of involved faculty members who despite the pandemic have maintained a strong connection to their students. In addition, strong growth at our Tashkent campus has added further complexity to his position. Yet, despite all this work, Murray has found the time to champion the drive to restructure the College of Arts and Sciences – something the College has been discussing for over a decade. Murray worked with the departments in the newly named College of Humanities and Social Sciences to develop a proposal which resonated with all impacted faculty. Murray and Mary Preuss presented the proposal at numerous faculty meetings and reached out to faculty throughout the University when the proposal was up for a vote. The efforts of Murray and Mary were the key reasons why this proposal passed with overwhelming support. On top of that, Murray made time to be an excellent teacher as evidenced by his Kemper award!

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



Nicholas Frank

According to the Department, Nick has gone above and beyond in so many ways. In addition to the usual responsibilities associated with a departmental representative, Nick has dealt with the physical part of the Interdisciplinary Science Building – despite this not being part of his official responsibilities. For example, the DI water system needed maintenance, and Nick helped coordinate with the vendor and facilities. Things did not go as planned, and the maintenance had to be continued into the evening and early morning. Nick stayed until 3am to finish up the maintenance. In addition, he has worked several years to help coordinate the RAD (Research Across the Disciplines) conference which showcases students in several departments. When other departments (Nurse Anesthesia, Nursing, Counseling) were lacking a representative, Nick volunteered to help. Even through the pandemic, he has been a constant smiling presence in the office for the students, staff, and faculty, working to help us keep our programs running efficiently and serve our students.



Morgan Grotewiel

Although this year has been challenging, Dr. Grotewiel has not only fulfilled her requirements as a faculty member (i.e., teaching, advising, service, and professional development), she has gone above and beyond in supporting our students and the department. For example, she has become our social media coordinator and reaches out to our students on such platforms as Facebook to highlight opportunities, informational items, etc. She also developed the department's Canvas page for our students. It is full of information related to careers, graduate school, advising, degree planning, APA formatting, and a host of other materials. In addition to the above, Dr. Grotewiel serves not on one but three university committees: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Committee, Global Citizen Program Committee, and Wellness Committee. She is also actively engaged in service to the psychology profession as well servicing as a leader within the Section for the Advancement of Women (SAW) of Division 17 and is a Consulting Editor for the Psychology of Women Quarterly journal.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



William Hall

As an adjunct, Bill has been a sought-after instructor in political science and in management and business at Webster University since 1997. He has an impressive resume which includes work as a political analyst, public administrator, policy advisor, and business-government relations and management consultant with four decades of experience in federal, state, local and international politics, public administration, and business-government relations. Professor Hall has been a frequent commentator and political analyst focusing on politics and race and local, state and national government and international affairs for various media sources and programs throughout the United States. This year, due to the prominence of politics in our national discourse, Bill has been a fixture in news throughout the country discussing topics such as the retirement of Senator Roy Blunt, the Derek Chauvin trial, impact of the new Census numbers for Missouri, and the insurrection to name a few. His work has elevated the stature of the University throughout the country.



Robin Jefferson Higgins

Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, program accreditation still went forward including a “virtual visit” from the American Bar Association for the Legal Studies Program in the Department of Law, Crime, and Social Justice. While the rest of the University was relaxing during winter break, Robin was mining Canvas for syllabi, collecting data on graduates, and preparing statistics on current enrollments. Due to the fact this was a virtual visit, those on the site visit team wanted to see the resources available for students – which meant Robin was off taking photos of the library etc. The accreditation team was very impressed with the program, faculty, and Robin’s leadership. In late April, the University received notice that the Approval Commission of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Paralegals will recommend reapproval of the Program.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



Sarah Navarrete

Sarah has done a tremendous job in her position as a departmental representative with the Department of Global Languages, Cultures and Societies. She has completed the traditional set of responsibilities for a departmental representative despite just learning the position. In addition, she has helped the Teaching Assistants and a new faculty member navigate coming to Saint Louis during COVID-19 when many barriers existed due to political and pandemic related restrictions. All the while, she did so with enthusiasm and unflinching persistence despite the challenges.



Robbie O'Toole

Robbie has brilliantly and energetically assisted with all of her departmental responsibilities. She is a highly organized and skillful communicator who is always responsive, diligent, friendly, and upbeat. She keeps people on task without ever ruffling feathers. Students respect and admire her. She is the key component of a successful team. In addition, Robbie has regularly made herself available to assist other departments in the College such as Professional Counseling. Indeed, the Professional Counseling Department remarked that Robbie assisted them with a level of commitment and dedication that is truly remarkable. Her response to everything is always an unassuming 'I am happy to help'. She has done an outstanding job and through her efforts, we brought on our largest spring counseling class in Spring 2021 and are on track to bring on another sizable group for Fall. This would be impossible to accomplish without the work that Robbie has put in.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



Mary Preuss

As chairperson of the Department of Biological Sciences, Mary had her hands full of the usual responsibilities associated with the position. She has also been an important voice in the move to redefine faculty load and serves as a key member of the University Program Assessment Taskforce – all while teaching a full load. Yet, Mary was able to find the time to spearhead the drive to restructure the College of Arts and Sciences – something the College has been discussing for over a decade. Mary worked with the departments in the newly named College of Science and Health to develop a proposal which resonated with all impacted faculty. She and Murray Farish presented the proposal at numerous faculty meetings and reached out to faculty throughout the University when the proposal was up for a vote. The efforts of Murray and Mary were the key reasons why this proposal passed with overwhelming support.



Jody Spiess

The nursing department faculty and staff wish to salute Dr. Jody Spiess. 2020-2021 has been her year. She has practically done it all. She completed and defended her dissertation. Plus, she served on the Webster University COVID 19 Task Force representing the public health perspective. This Task Force met weekly much of the year, then every other week and continues monthly. She has 3 chapters in press. She was the faculty speaker at the Chancellor and President's dinner. She participated in the College's World AIDs Day planning and hosting events. She coordinated participation of students and faculty with COVID contract tracing and in vaccination clinics. Also, she participated in several media responses related to COVID 19. She has accomplished much and is deserving of special recognition.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards



Melissa Spriggs

We call her Wonder Woman! She does it all. She is the one and only Human Services program full-time faculty member. She advises all 50+ Human Services students and works with them each term to register. She makes all the curriculum revision decisions and submits the required documents. She engages with all five Human Services extended campus directors and unites them in offering Webnet+ courses. She works with enrollment to recruit all the students. She coordinates with all the Human Service adjuncts in offering field experiences. Finally, Melissa completes all program review and assessment documents.



2021 Faculty Advising Excellence Winner

Victoria Brown-Kennerly was selected as the 2020-21 Faculty Advising Excellence Award winner due to the impact she had on individual students and department wide with administrative initiatives. The selection committee noted how responsive Victoria is to schedule changes and also the fact she makes her office a sanctuary that students can retreat to even when she isn't there. In addition, Victoria's role on Starfish implementation, Summer Advising, the Biological Sciences Department's Spark pages, and the Global Advising Council are examples of advising leadership which have benefitted everyone at the University.

College of Arts & Sciences

Employee Recognition Awards

College of Arts and Sciences 2021 William T. Kemper Award Winners

The 2021 William T. Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching, generously funded by the William T. Kemper Foundation, recognizes faculty members who demonstrate teaching at its finest. This year, both full-time faculty winners were from the College of Arts and Sciences. **Mary Ann Drake** (Nursing) and **Murray Farish** (English) are the 2021 winners. We cannot think of more deserving faculty for this prestigious award. Each are routinely cited by students, faculty, and staff as excellent teachers – each caring for their students and making a difference in their lives.





CAS CLUBS & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

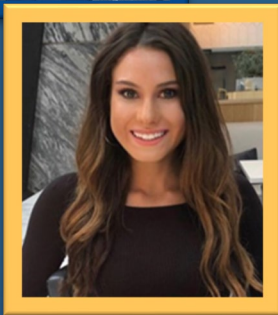


CAS Clubs & Professional Organizations



Webster University Premedical Society

Seeing a need for premedical student support and guidance, Webster biology students **Lauren Coleman** and **Nicolas Andrade** founded the Webster University Premedical Society (WUPMS). This club is not only dedicated to supporting students considering careers as physicians but also those as physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians, and other health-related careers. In Spring 2021, 27 members joined, and the society hosted 3 Q&A events via Zoom with local physicians and PAs where they explored the realities of working in healthcare and the road to get there. This group plans to provide guidance, support, and resources for one another which may include hosting mock interviews, volunteer outings, and easing access to test prep material. **Dr. Kispert** serves as the club adviser



Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society's Omicron Zeta Chapter Webster Groves campus

Webster Campus organized townhalls with students during 2020 to address social justice and antiracist action. These events were very well attended by counseling students who are working on confronting their own biases, stigmas, and roles in the social/racial justice movement.

The Omicron Zeta Chapter also organized several special Guest Speaker series during which active discussion took place regarding working with marginalized populations and addressing sexual health and identity in counseling settings.

South Carolina

The Columbia Metropolitan Campus recently charted a new chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for counselors. The new chapter is named Sigma Chi Omega. The inaugural class will be inducted in a ceremony to be held on April 30, 2021. This class consists of the following students: **Erica Whitaker, Rickia Jessup, Sharon Laney, Ronald Brown, Amyeishia Fuller, Asia Felder, Nakya McDaniels, Brianna Mozee and Terika Curney.** The President of the South Carolina Counseling Association, Dr. Charlotte Redden Hamilton, will be the keynote speaker for the induction ceremony.

CAS Clubs & Professional Organizations

Honor Society for International Studies

Webster University's chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, Eta Alpha, virtually inducted ten new members on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Sigma Iota Rho promotes and rewards students and practitioners of international studies in order to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs. The induction caps an academic year where the Eta Alpha chapter created public service podcasts, hosted a variety of speakers, and held networking and career workshops. The induction keynote speakers, Jennifer Naouri, Counsel before the International Criminal Court, and Dr. Elizabeth Stroble, Chancellor of Webster University, spoke to the importance of taking action, listening to alternative viewpoints, and mustering the courage to tackle new challenges. They also highlighted the leadership of Eta Alpha for their stewardship of chapter during the Covid-19 pandemic. The leadership team then inducted the new members who are currently studying throughout Webster University's global network of campuses. The meeting concluded with awarding honorary memberships to both keynote speakers. The University congratulates the Eta Alpha leadership and the inductees.

Leadership Team:

Anna Gorbatyuk (President)

Mark Gruensteidl (Vice President)

Zia Clements (Treasurer)

Sonja Benczik (Head Public Relations Committee)

Magdalena Kopal (Head of the Career Committee)

New Members:

Cynthia Chimsindindu Atuchukwu

Hannah Jirousek

Lucia Kristova

Olivia Nelson

Tristan Partain

Alexandra Schieferer

John-Vilhelm Schnell

Parichat (Mimiw) Seagrave

Kyanne Ruth Williams



CAS Clubs & Professional Organizations



Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, was founded in 1929 with a mission to encourage excellence in scholarship and advance the science of psychology. Lifetime Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students, transfer students, full-time faculty members, and alumni. More than three-quarters of a million lifetime members have been inducted through 1,150+ Psi Chi chapters. **Dr. Morgan Grotewiel** serves as the faculty advisor for Webster University's Psi Chi chapter. During the 2020-2021 academic year, we inducted 9 students into Psi Chi: **Alyssia Keys, Rhiannon Eilers, Alexandra Stookey, Olivia Lopez, Matthew Scott, Laron Smith, Amaryha Williams, Jillian Wilson, and Lauren Davis**

Biology Honor Society

Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society inducted 16 new members to its local chapter here on March 25th. The department congratulates these students on their academic achievements! In addition, the society hosted an Alumni Career Panel on March 17th via Zoom which featured former Webster biology students now working in a variety of fields including medicine, nursing, plant biotechnology, ecology, and veterinary science. **Dr. Victoria Brown-Kennerly** finished her 3-year term as the adviser establishing the campus chapter, and **Dr. Shannon Kispert** is serving as the new adviser.



CAS Clubs & Professional Organizations



About eight years ago, Anne Geraghty-Rathert, lawyer and professor in the Legal Studies program, took on the post-conviction legal representation of a woman incarcerated with two life sentences. This 19-year-old mentally disabled young woman was charged along with two men who had long abused her and held her as a sex trafficking victim, and who were the actual and only perpetrators of the deaths of two elderly women. From the ongoing representation of that client and others, and with the assistance of current and former students, she formed and incorporated The WILLOW Project; WILLOW is an acronym for “Women Initiate Legal Lifelines to Other Women”.

Student interns explore and investigate the stories of multiple young women all of whom are sentenced to life in prison due to issues that arose from horrific violence perpetrated against them. So far, successes have included 1.) gaining parole for a woman after proving she was entitled to a hearing, despite paperwork that suggested she had no possibility of parole; 2.) finding DNA results in another case thought long lost; 3.) finding case law that provided another avenue to potential appeal; among other such successes. Students enjoy working on actual cases where something is really at stake; they have invested many hours of work and many more hours of thought to the clients and to brainstorming strategies for clemency.

The mission statement of the project is as follows: The WILLOW Project is a nonprofit organization which provides legal assistance to society’s forgotten women. WILLOW stands for “Women Initiate Legal Lifelines to Other Women.” The project is dedicated to improving the lives of women who cannot fully access the justice system, because of poverty, oppression, exploitation, violence and other injustices.

The women of the WILLOW Project are dedicated to advocacy toward justice; they strive to empower women by providing a legal voice and by encouraging lasting change.

The ultimate goal of the project is to extend its umbrella far beyond these current cases; to offer free legal representation to more wrongfully convicted women, and to free those women from a legal system that initially allowed them to slip through the cracks.

The Webster University Border Project

Faculty members Mary Ann Drake (Nursing), Silvia Navia (International Languages and Cultures), and Anne Geraghty-Rathert (Legal Studies) have an ongoing relationship and project with ARISE, an organization that operates at the Texas/Mexico border in Donna, Texas. Together with student interns and volunteers, these faculty members have traveled to Texas to assist in ongoing community efforts to help immigrants with issues such as healthcare and immigration. In addition, during the pandemic, faculty members and students have continued to remain active by conducting public conversations via Facebook on issues facing the community.



**DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH
AND
CREATIVE
PROJECTS**

Department Research and Creative Projects

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



Authentic Science in Action

Despite the chaotic year and amidst a global pandemic, 45 students successfully defending their senior theses! The senior thesis is part of a year-long capstone experience for our biology, exercise science, and chemistry majors. They conduct a research study of their own design and present the results of their work to their peers and the public. This year, topics included the evolution of color vision in ants, the effects of UV radiation on plants, isolation of fungi to reduce global carbon emissions, techniques for improving throwing velocity in college athletes, and so much more. While the pandemic changed the venue of the oral defense, the silver-lining has been the (virtual) return of our alumni and high public engagement (up to 100 audience members in one talk!). Many students also collaborated with community scientists (3), presented their work at regional and national meetings (4), and/or contributed to peer-reviewed publications (4). During a recent alumni panel for our current students, our graduates emphasized the power of these real-world experiences for setting them apart on the job market and in applications for graduate programs. In the Zoom screenshot above, the Department of Biological Sciences faculty gathered to celebrate the graduating students as our newest alumni.

Department Research and Creative Projects

ENGLISH

English Department Students Attend AWP Conference

Twelve current English Department students attended this spring's virtual conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP), the country's premier event for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers of contemporary creative writing.

This year's conference was to have been held in Kansas City, but the pandemic forced it online. Webster's Director of Creative Writing, Murray Farish, saw an opportunity.

"It's expensive to bring even a few students to a conference," Farish said. "We hope we can do that someday soon, but this year's virtual AWP was much less expensive, so we were able to bring a lot of them."

The conference was held on Zoom March 3-7 and featured panels, readings, craft talks, and author meet-and-greets. A dozen students applied for spots in the conference, and thanks to funding from the English Department and the College of Arts and Sciences, all twelve were able to attend at no cost to themselves.

The students got a lot out of the conference.

"I am beyond grateful for the experience to learn from and meet so many writers," said senior Cheyenne Davis, a double-major in English and Biology. "Being a writer makes you a part of a larger community that I think most of us want to connect with, to share ideas and passions."

Senior Creative Writing major Ben Mullett attended 15 panels during the conference and described his experience as "nothing short of amazing."

"There is something truly engaging about the opportunity to listen to both seasoned and freshly published writers talk about their craft," Mullett said. "Some of the information and tips I gathered at the AWP will prove to be crucial in my own work."

Farish said that Webster's membership in the AWP was a crucial element of the recent redesign of the Creative Writing Program.

"The Association was really helpful to us in thinking about how to design our new Creative Writing major and minor," Farish said. "And the conference was a great thing for our students."

"It's sometimes hard for undergraduates to see how big and interconnected the literary world is, and an experience like this can help grow their understanding of contemporary writing and their place in it and give them a lot of inspiration."

Department Research and Creative Projects

GLOBAL LANGUAGES, CULTURES, & SOCIETIES



The Centre Francophone Lecture Series: “Ecrire le monde en français” is an event organized by the Centre Francophone, with the participation of Abdellah Taïa, a Maghreb Diaspora author and activist, and Leïla Slimani, a French author, and the official representative of France in the International Francophonie Organization (OIF). Both are advocating for Women and Human Rights and individual freedoms in the Francophone World.

The French Conversation Tables: These meetings occur twice every week. The Centre Francophone offers Webster students and community members from the larger St. Louis area virtual Zoom meetings to connect and speak in French. These Tables are open to people of all backgrounds.

Coordinating Webster students (An Nhat Mai Nguyen, Justin Klos) who are preparing videos to train Asia Pacific youth in soft skills necessary for work in the tourism industry. Collaboration with the PATA foundation. <https://www.patafoundation.org/>

On November 6 and 7, 2020, a group of ten Spanish students at Webster University participated in an intensive weekend conducted entirely in Spanish and led by Dr. Mercedes Stephenson. Everyone enjoyed typical Spanish meals, a yoga class instructed by a Mexican teacher, an award-winning movie, and an interactive visit to the Missouri History Museum to share in the commemoration of Day of the Dead. Students loved the experience!

Department Research and Creative Projects

HISTORY, POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, & RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Webster University's chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, Eta Alpha, virtually inducted ten new members on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Sigma Iota Rho promotes and rewards students and practitioners of international studies in order to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs. The induction caps an academic year where the Eta Alpha chapter created public service podcasts, hosted a variety of speakers, and held networking and career workshops. The induction keynote speakers, Jennifer Naouri, Counsel before the International Criminal Court, and Dr. Elizabeth Stroble, Chancellor of Webster University, spoke to the importance of taking action, listening to alternative viewpoints, and mustering the courage to tackle new challenges. They also highlighted the leadership of Eta Alpha for their stewardship of chapter during the Covid-19 pandemic. The leadership team then inducted the new members who are currently studying throughout Webster University's global network of campuses. The meeting concluded with awarding honorary memberships to both keynote speakers. The University congratulates the Eta Alpha leadership and the inductees.

The department along with Career Services, held a **virtual careers event** on April 6. The event was organized by David Pennington. Among the panelists were two recent Webster graduates: Ryan Quinones is a project manager for Amendment 2 Consultants, which works on the issue of medical marijuana in Missouri; and Katie Lade, who is pursuing a career in public history and works at the National Park Service of the Arch and the St. Louis Mercantile Library.

Department Research and Creative Projects

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



The Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies moved its Annual Human Rights Conference online for the 2020/21 academic year. This year's event focuses on the theme of "Global Challenges" and features work from Webster faculty, students, and alumni. Visit <https://vimeo.com/user130700653> to view videos. Lectures include faculty research from Dana Hill ("Human Rights and the Rights of Nature in Ecuador") and Paul Moriarty ("Animal Rights & Human Rights"), as well as alumna Esmá Karakas ("Supporting Resettled Refugees and Asylum Seekers on their College Journey"). Featured student researchers include Jess Carolan, Alexis Maly, and Ariana Mullins ("Yemen Crisis: War, Famine, and Inequality"), and Sharis Atogho with her team from the non-profit organization Empower Cameroon.

Past conference themes include Global migration, the right to education, environmental justice, equality before the law, sustainable development, family rights, disability rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples and stateless persons, refugee and migrant rights, and women's rights.

Department Research and Creative Projects

LAW, CRIME, & SOCIAL JUSTICE

LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMS HOST AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA) SITE-VISIT AND RECEIVE REAPPROVAL FROM THE ABA.

The American Bar Association conducted a virtual site visit for Webster University's Legal Studies Programs from January 19, 2021 through January 24, 2021.

The Legal Studies Programs at Webster University have received a recommendation of reapproval from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Paralegals. This year, the Standing Committee on Paralegals celebrates 45 years of ABA approval of Paralegal Education. Webster University's Legal Studies Programs have been approved by the ABA for over 30 years, first receiving ABA approval in 1987.

What does ABA approval mean? "ABA Approved" means that our programs have met all of the stringent requirements of the American Bar Association and have been approved by that organization. The ABA accredits law schools and it approves paralegal programs. ABA approval is important for many reasons. First, an approved program is rare. Out of the thousands of paralegal programs throughout the nation, there are only about 250 ABA approved programs. Second, approval verifies that our programs have met or exceeded all of the ABA's strict requirements and guidelines regarding faculty, curriculum, library, facilities and many other criteria by which it determines the quality of a legal studies program. Third, many law firms and other paralegal employers require graduation from an ABA approved program for employment, and ABA program approval will generally command a higher starting salary.

On April 21, 2021, Webster University's Legal Studies Program received correspondence from the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals indicating that as a result of our recent site-visit, the Committee recommends reapproval.

WOMEN GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES UPDATES:

On April 7th, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, in collaboration with Faculty Speakers Committee; Dept. of Global Languages, Cultures and Societies; Dept. of Psychology; Institute for Human Rights; Multicultural Center; and International Student Affairs, hosted "Liberation with Maxi Glamour." Maxi Glamour is a well-known non-binary drag artist and activist who addressed issues of power, oppression, identity, racism, art, sexuality, Missouri politics, and more. Maxi debuted new music and performed in drag. The event was about 90 minutes, and we had 105 people registered on Zoom. The audience included Webster students, staff and faculty, as well as community members in Missouri, Colorado, and Arizona. The discussion was facilitated by Professor Andrea Miller and Webster student Leatrice McNeal.

On February 11th, members of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty—Susan McFarlan and Kate Parsons—led a discussion on "Teaching and Caregiving During the Pandemic" in conjunction with the 2021 Webster University Teaching Festival.

Danielle MacCartney and Kate Parsons co-presented: "Addressing Inequality and Power and Increasing Student Learning by Teaching from an Ethics of Care" August 7, 2020, Virtual Preconference at the American Sociological Association (online, via Zoom), and they have another co-presentation coming up next week: "Traveling with Care: Ethics of Care, Study Abroad, and Higher Education," at the Borghesi-Mellon Workshop on Care: "Relations of Care Across and After Worlds," May 13-14, 2021 (virtual). This research stems from their work in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

Two WGST students are graduating with Departmental Honors this year. Michael Thomas completed their senior capstone titled "The Value of Posthuman Imagination" and Rebecca Now completed her senior capstone titled "The Normal Traumatization of Boys." Rebecca Now, who has been reenacting Elizabeth Cady Stanton since 2014, also presented her work "The Vote—The Speech That Launched a Movement" via Zoom in three showings, August 18 (Ratification Day) August 26 (Equality Day) and August 27.

Department Research and Creative Projects

NURSE ANESTHESIA



The Nurse Anesthesia department has undertaken the process of having its Sim Center nationally accredited. Simulation Centers have long been used in medical and healthcare education and allow students to study and practice interventional techniques on mannequins that can simulate patient responses. Having the Sim Center certified would broaden the scope of services that can be provided to Webster students and would also allow those services to be offered to students in allied peer institutions. Nick Curdt, DNAP, and Marti Steed, PhD will be spearheading these efforts. This is an exciting opportunity for both the department and the university.

The Nurse Anesthesia department has worked tirelessly to maintain relations and clear communications with the clinical sites throughout the region at which students do 9-week rotations. These rotations are the backbone of their clinical experiences and education and maintaining these affiliate relations has taken on particular weight in light of the pandemic.

Michael Burns, DNAP, and nurse anesthesia students presented several Moderated Poster Presentations at the virtual annual meeting of the American Society of Regional Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine. Additionally, they presented at the 17th World Congress of Anesthesiologists Virtual Congress.

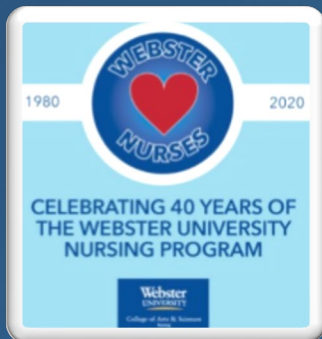


Third year Nurse Anesthesia students were able to present their original research at the AANA Annual Congress, which was a virtual conference held in September.

Despite the complications presented by the ongoing pandemic, the Nurse Anesthesia students admitted for 2020-2021 have performed at exemplary levels and have shown themselves to be skilled at adjusting to the challenges the last year has presented. The department is proud of all NA students for rising to the unique challenges that the novel coronavirus has presented.

Department Research and Creative Projects

NURSING



Forty Years and Counting!

The Webster University Nursing program celebrated its 40th anniversary on March 1, 2021 virtually with 60 attendees. There were special university guests with greetings from the Chancellor, President, and Dean, zoom door prizes, party rooms, and lots of celebratory toasts! Jan Palmer, Chair of the Nursing Department, hosted the evening and shared the department's history that began in 1980 with the offering the RN-BSN degree at Webster-Kansas City. In 1982, the program expanded to the Webster Groves campus. In 1993, the MSN program began in Webster Groves. Since then, Webster has expanded its program to include an online RN-BSN program, corporate partner cohorts, and MSN educator and leader options. Over the 40 years, an impressive 3,214 nurses have graduated, impacting communities all over the U.S.

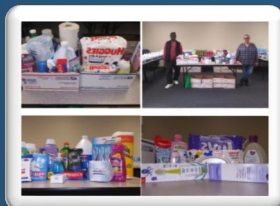
Nursing Faculty Volunteer to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

Volunteers are critical to the success of COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The Nurse Anesthesia faculty and students, along with colleagues in the Nursing Department, have contributed long hours to mass vaccination events throughout the state. Their hard work has helped Missouri and Illinois communities in the ongoing effort to bring the COVID pandemic under control. Over a thousand vaccines were given throughout the day. Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia faculty are committed to keeping communities safe and healthy.



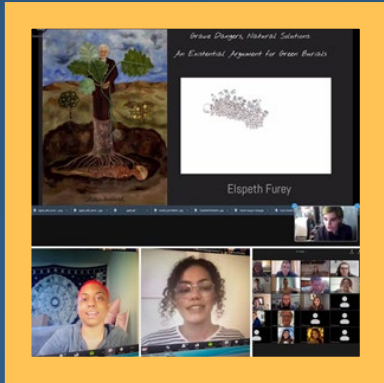
Human Services Students Start Essentials Pantry

Aaron Jackson and Harmony Camden are graduate students in the MA in Human Services program. For their Field Experience this Fall semester, they started The Essentials Pantry at Columbia College to give back to their community and distribute necessary household cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, and baby care items. During the toughest moments of the COVID-19 pandemic, they observed that there were many food distribution drives to help with food insecurities, but not much help was available for non-food items. They started The Essentials Pantry to help fulfill that need and help keep homes and people healthy, especially since most people were staying home more. All items were collected through donations, and they quickly outgrew the closet and moved into a classroom to store the items



Department Research and Creative Projects

PHILOSOPHY



The annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference took place virtually April 14-16, with presenters from coast to coast across the United States. In addition to Webster students Shae Parsons, Maria Walls, Sky Krakos, Jillian Wilson, Leatrice McNeal, Kole Phelps, Elspeth Furey, and Julia Haralson, participants came from University of Pennsylvania, UCLA, Penn State, The New School, University of Colorado, Kansas State, Delaware, University of Maine at Farmington, Fordham, University of Pittsburgh, Kansas State, San Diego State, and St. Louis Community College – Meramec. The Philosophy Coalition hosted a virtual reception for all the students who attended.



Professor Kate Parsons (Philosophy) and Professor Danielle MacCartney (Law, Crime, and Social Justice) led a study abroad trip to Costa Rica with the theme, “Inequality and the Environment: Coffee!” in 2019. For the 10-day, one-credit course (coordinated through Tomás Dozier of CARES21), students visited Alajuela, San Jose, Heredia, and Playa Manta over fall recess. They toured a range of coffee farms, from multinational corporations such as Starbucks to small organic coffee farms such as Café Rualdo. Students visited with representatives of the International Organization for Migration, the University of Peace, and the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in Costa Rica. Students also met with graduate agronomy students at UNA (The National University of Costa Rica), and conducted daily group reflections designed to help them see first-hand the ways in which social, political, and ethical issues intersect with environmental ones. The experience was on hold this academic year, but it returns in Fall 2021. (Contact Study Abroad for more information.)

Department Research and Creative Projects

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Webster Trauma Conference

The psychology and counseling department of the Webster Geneva campus are proud to present their annual trauma conference called Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma: Impacts on and Treatment for Individuals, Families, and Communities. This event will be held online from April 24-25.

Building on two previous Trauma Conferences in the series, the Psychology and Counseling Department of Webster University hopes to broaden the conversation past working not only with individuals, but with families and in communities. As part of the Conference and in collaboration with Global Health Equity Foundation and its founder Dr. Tayeb al Hafez, participants will be invited to view an online short silent drama performed by a theatre group in Germany on the topic of Refugees' Trauma. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and discuss the themes of the play in a Q&A with Dr. al Hafez and the actors.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr. Clara Mucci, Full Professor of Dynamic Psychology at the University of Bergamo and author of *Borderline Bodies: Affect Regulation Therapy for Personality Disorders* (Norton, 2018).
- Dr. Caroline Williamson Sinalo, Lecturer in World Languages at University College Cork, Ireland, and author of *Rwanda after Genocide: Gender, Identity and Posttraumatic Growth* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

More information and a registration link can be found at

https://events.webster.edu/event/trauma_conference_2021

COVID adjustments

Due to the pandemic, the department was forced to quickly adjust all counseling curriculum and offer all on-ground classes in a synchronous online format. Many of these classes had never been taught in a virtual setting at Webster. Counseling students were excellent in their response to all the changes made as they too adjusted to new ways of learning.

All students completed a rigorous 12-hour telemental health counseling training and are now qualified to offer telecounseling as counselors in training, and upon graduation and licensure. Completing this rigorous training helped ensure that whenever possible, students were able to continue providing counseling services as counseling agencies across the country shifted their operations to telecounseling.

Despite having to work remotely, our students managed to complete their clinical field placement hours. In fact, between March 2020 and the close of the 20-21 academic year, Webster counseling students will have delivered approximately 40,000 hours of direct clinical counseling sessions or school counseling interventions. In this time when countless people across the country have been suffering emotionally and struggling academically, Webster's clinical mental health counseling and school counseling students have significantly eased the burden through their compassionate application of culturally responsive and trauma-informed counseling expertise.

We also admitted 60 new students during the spring admissions cycle, which is among our largest cohorts beginning the program in the spring.

Department Research and Creative Projects

PSYCHOLOGY

Despite the pandemic, the Psychology Department has thrived and expanded over this past academic year.

Psychology and Professional Counseling 3+2 Program: Many individuals may not know that we offer not one but three different psychology majors and have more programs under development. In addition to our Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Science degrees, we offer a specialized program: BA with an Emphasis in Mental Health—a program ideal for students wanting to pursue a career in social work or counseling. Beginning this summer, we now have new competitive program 3+2 program with Webster's graduate program in Licensed Professional Counseling. Essentially, this program combines the Psychology BA with an Emphasis in Mental Health and the Counseling MA. In this 3+2 proposal, students who complete all of their undergraduate requirements for the Psychology BA with an Emphasis in Mental Health (degree, GCP, and CAS language requirements) within the first three years and then the next two years will consist of completely their graduate education in counseling. Students will earn their BA along the way but then only have one year left to complete the graduate degree. This program will be competitive, as students will not only need to successfully complete their undergraduate coursework in three years but also gain admission into the graduate program. However, for highly motivated, focused, and mature students, this program is a fast track to a career in the counseling field.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Achievements



In the Biological Sciences Department, some of this year's graduates have already landed their post-graduate jobs and graduate program positions, including those in the allied health fields. For instance, **Roderick Jordan** has dreamed of going to dental school since he was a kid and will be starting at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville School of Dental Medicine this Fall! While we are overjoyed for Roderick, he will be missed on campus. Rod is an indefatigable student leader and served as president of the TriBeta national honor society on campus and represented WebsterU as a recruiter for the Biological Sciences at the annual STEM Extravaganza at Hazelwood Central high school. In addition to earning a student research grant and subsequently landing an off-campus internship at Pluton Biosciences, he currently is pursuing plant biology research at Benson Hill, Inc. In addition to his scholarship, he also devotes much time giving back to the community through his continuing work with DreamBuilderz 4 Equity, where he helped write a book and a play, and he mentors at-risk youth through the R.I.S.E. program (Resilience Inspires Student Excellence). In these images, we see Roderick at the BBB officer initiation ceremony, and during his recruiting outreach at the STEM Extravaganza.

In the Global Languages, Cultures, and Societies Department, German major **Lisa Johnson** conducted research on the fate of Jewish families trying to escape from Germany by translating letters in the Holocaust Museum and Archive. She concentrated on one family, the businessman Walter Berger, and his wife and daughter. Mr. Berger had kept a collection of letters he had sent and received in his search for a way out of Germany; his letters are archived in the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum. The family traveled to Shanghai, the only place in the world that immigrants could enter without a visa and without paying an exorbitant amount of money. Most of the refugees lived in the Hongku neighborhood and created their own version of German culture. In late 1943 the Japanese government succumbed to German pressure and created a ghetto for the city's 14,000 Jews.

Lisa presented her translations, a map of the Bergers' travels, and what she had learned by translating these historical documents at the Webster University RAD conference, Research Across the Disciplines in Fall 2020. She also presented at the University of Missouri's Undergraduate Research conference in Spring 2021.

Student Achievements



In February, the 2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference featured a session on “Forging Young Leaders Through Intercultural Place-Based Learning.” The session centered on the work of BridgeBuildersSTL, founded by philosophy major **Sky Krakos**, in particular the innovative Dupree-St. Louis cultural exchange. Grounded in place-based learning theory, this is a two-week exchange program with young adults from St. Louis, MO and Dupree, SD on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation. With the help of Webster faculty and academic partners, the program focuses on human rights, community organizing, and anti-bias work to help young leaders avoid both ethnocentrism and paternalism. Kate Parsons, Professor of Philosophy, and Kim Kleinman, Director of Undergraduate Advising, also participated in the panel, which was facilitated by Bruce Umbaugh, Philosophy Department Chair

Student Achievements



(LaPrince Conyers)

In the Professional Counseling Department:

- **LaPrince Conyers** presented at the South Carolina Counseling Association's 57th Conference. The presentation was entitled **Graduate School Reimagined: Surviving and Thriving During COVID-19**
- **Stephanie Mikulec** presented at the South Carolina Counseling Association's 57th Conference. The presentation was entitled "**Last Responders: How Counselors can Help the Funeral Industry Destigmatize Receiving Mental Health Care During COVID-19.**"
- Charleston Metro **Students-Anna Ruggiero, Zoryana Korkvets, Jessica Griffith, Angela Kearns, LeAnna , Conner McElveen** presented at the South Carolina Counseling Association's 57th Conference. The presentation entitled, "**Crash Course in TeleEducation: Successfully Managing the Ups and Downs of Graduate School During a Pandemic**"
- **Leslie Livingston** presented at the SC Counseling Association's 57th Conference. The presentation was entitled, "**Reflections of my 1st graduate course in mental health counseling: Discussing my truths, trials & triumphs.**"
- Geneva student **Meltem Kusku**, Counseling MA student at Webster University in Geneva, published her book "**Screen Children**" in January 2021. In this book, Meltem blends her counseling knowledge, her research skills from her 24-year research career at Procter & Gamble, and her own personal experience as a mother of two. In the age of screens, children start interacting with digital technologies such as mobile phones, tablets and computers at a very young age. This book examines the physical, psychological and social effects of using digital screens, and offers practical solutions. The book presents a wealth of information in a concise, engaging and easy-to-understand way.

Student Achievements

Students enrolled in PSYC 4825 Senior Thesis work with **Dr. Eric Goedereis** and a faculty mentor to conduct original research on a topic of their choosing. Students are responsible for identifying a topic, conducting a review of the literature, specifying a research question and hypothesis, selecting an appropriate research design, navigating the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting their findings. This year, students faced the additional obstacle of navigating this process during an ongoing pandemic. The following students successfully presented their thesis projects in fall 2020:

- **Jillian Wilson** – “*What Affects Black College Students’ Academic Success?*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Linda Woolf
- **Cassidy Cannady** – “*The Effects of COVID-19 on Student Learning through Metacognitive Awareness*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heather Mitchell
- **Laron Smith** – “*The Effects of Message Framing and Political Factors on Climate Change Perceptions*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Hulsizer
- **Matthew Scott** – “*Effects of stereotype threat and multitasking among minority and nonminority student athletes at Webster University*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Goedereis
- **Adrienne Schaffer** – “*A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Associations Among Perceived Stress, Dispositional Flow, and Processes for Resilience*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Morgan Grotewiel
- **Naomi Raznick** – “*Phenotypes and Health: A Correlational Study on Health Literacy, Health Anxiety and Hair Color*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jill Stulce
- **Emily Etter** – “*Cultural Differences on Health and Social Perceptions About Mask Wearing During The COVID-19 Pandemic*”. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Hulsizer
- **Amelia Dorsey** – Faculty Mentor: Dr. “*Exploration of Gastrointestinal Probiotic Support and Mental Health*”. . Amanda Kracen

Of course, our student success was not limited to our seniors but also to our first-year students. Psychology student **Ctyah Whitehorn** won the 2021 Freshman Writing Award. The purpose of the Freshman Writing Award is to encourage and recognize excellence in student writing and to help foster a culture of writing at Webster University. Ctyah will be recognized for her essay “To Come Lithely: The Gazes From Others,” which was submitted by Professor Kate Parsons for her Contemporary Moral Problems course (PHIL 2320).



Faculty Achievements



Kingston Wins Best Book Award

Lindsey Kingston (Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies), was awarded the International Studies Association’s 2020 Human Rights Best Book Award for the monograph *Fully Human* (Oxford University Press, 2019). She is also co-editor of a book under review at Manchester University Press, *Statelessness, Governance, and the Problem of Citizenship*, and a forthcoming article in *International Journal of Human Rights Education*: “Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers on their College Journeys,” co-authored with Esmā Karakas (Webster University student researcher). Faculty Research Grant recipient 2021-22.

Palmer Recognized as 2020 Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing

Each year the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) recognizes nurse educators who meet award criteria related to teaching, professional development, research, publications, certifications, and service focused on the care of older adults. **Janice Palmer, PhD, RN, NHA, CNE (Nursing)**, was a 2020 recipient of this award. When presented the award, Palmer noted, “I’ve had the pleasure to study and teach with so many wonderful fellow nurse educators in many areas including Alzheimer’s disease and caregiver research; natural disasters; hospital, nursing home, assisted living and community-based care; a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC); and now, sadly, a pandemic”.



Legal Studies Program faculty members, **Christine Hart, Robin Jefferson Higgins and Anne Geraghty-Rathert**, together with Chief Diversity Officer **Vincent Flewellyn**, held a community discussion on the verdict of the Derek Chauvin trial for the murder of George Floyd. Over 80 people attended over Zoom and the conversation went over the designated event time by an hour!

Faculty Achievements

Salim Ayoub (Director of the Centre Francophone; Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies) was included in the publication: “Abdellah Taïa’s Decolonial Trajectory Toward Unbelonging,” in *Poetics and Politics of Engaged Desire Around Abdellah Taïa*. Paris : Editions Passage(s) (September 2020). This article explores Abdellah Taïa’s *Un pays pour mourir* (2015). A novel that powerfully features a series of characters, emblematic of (im)migrant subjectivities entrapped in and negotiating double-displacement, in-between-ness, and exile.

Elsa Fan (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies) co-edited a special section for *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory* on the topic of examining global health categories like “MSM” (men who have sex with men) and how they circulate in global public health spaces. The special section consisted of three different articles and an introduction she co-authored with her colleagues. This issue came out in December 2019. (<http://www.medanthrotheory.org/article/view/4969/6998>)

In February 2021, **Paula Hanssen** (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies), collaborated on German literature course content with a professor at Truman State presenting my research on literature by Bertolt Brecht and his women collaborators. She was also involved in the publishing review of *Ela Gezen: Brecht, Turkish Theater, and Turkish German Literature: Reception, Adaptation, and Innovation after 1960*. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2018 in *Colloquia Germanica*, 58.1., in 2021 .

Jong Bum Kwon (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies), published his research article “Forging Workers of Iron: The Politics of Memory and the Performance of Revolutionary Promise” in the international, peer-reviewed *Korea Journal*. He also co-edited (with Shanti Parikh, Washington University, St. Louis) and contributed to the recent publication of the special forum “@Ferguson: Still Here in the Afterlives of Black Death, Defiance, and Joy” in the *American Ethnologist*, a flagship journal in the field of anthropology; Kwon co-wrote the introduction and the article, “Crime Seen: Racial Terror and the Technologies of Black Life and Death,” with Parikh and contributed the individually authored “Paradoxes of White Moral Experience: Opaque Selves, Racial Suspicion, and the Ethics of Whiteness.”

Carolyn Trachtova (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies), was the Conference proposal reader for the TESOL 2021 International Conference in the Content-integrated Approaches strand . She also managed to get the Bridge level program courses fully online while keeping the ESL program together during the pandemic era.

Faculty Achievements

Emily Thompson (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies), had the publications:

- "Déstructurer et Reformier un genre. *Les Histoires des amans fortunez*" in *Pierre Boaistuau ou le génie des formes*, forthcoming with Classiques Garnier on 5/19/21
- *Storytelling in Sixteenth-Century France: The Negotiation of Shifting Forms*, edited by Emily Thompson, forthcoming with University of Delaware Press in July 2021
- "In Defense of Stories: Henri Estienne Reclaims the Story Collection for a New Readership" IN *Storytelling in Sixteenth-Century France: The Negotiation of Shifting Forms*, forthcoming in July 2021.

Dongling Zhang (Global Languages, Cultures, & Societies), had the publications:

- Zhang, D., & Jurik, N. (forthcoming; July 2021). Mobilizing "she power": Chinese women entrepreneurs negotiating cultural and neo-liberal contexts (Peer-reviewed). In U. Guelich, A. Bullough, T. Manolova, & L. Schjoedt (Eds.), *Women's Entrepreneurship and Culture*.
- "Chinese Women Entrepreneurs Negotiating the Conflict Between China's Traditional Patriarchal Norms and the Contemporary Neoliberal Trend", Paper Presentation (on-line), The 2021 Southeastern Conference/Association of Asian Studies, Chapel Hill, USA, January 2021.



Warren Rosenblum (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), is a Fulbright grantee that will be conducting research and teaching for three months at the Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium. He is exploring the growing segregation of persons with developmental disabilities in the decades before World War I, both in institutions for the "feeble-minded" and in special education programs. He is interested in why such segregation quickly became normal in Germany, while it was much slower to evolve in France, Spain, and Italy. Belgium and the Netherlands represent something of an in-between story, with institutions being slow to develop in the 19th century but then growing rapidly in the years leading up to the great war.

Faculty Achievements

Kristen Anderson (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), is the author of a new textbook, *Immigration in American History* (Routledge), forthcoming in Summer 2021. Her previous book, *Abolitionizing Missouri: German Immigrants and Racial Ideology in Nineteenth Century America* (LSU Press, 2016) has been praised by several prominent historians as an important contribution to the study of race, slavery, and immigration in antebellum US. She was also accepted to the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's seminar *The American Civil War: Origins and Consequences*, August 2021.



John Chappell (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), is revising a co-authored textbook on *The Methods and Skills of History*. He presented several papers on popular music and politics in the 1970s at conferences sponsored by the American Popular Culture Association, including "The Sam Peckinpah of Singer/Songwriters? Warren Zevon in the 1970s."

William Hall (adjunct professor of politics History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), commented on Missouri and national politics and appeared in numerous media outlets, including the Associated Press, Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Business Journal, and St. Louis TV station affiliates of CBS (KMOV) and Fox (KTVI).

Daniel Hellinger (Professor Emeritus of International Relations – History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), has published the third edition of "Comparative Politics of Latin America, Democracy at Last?", with Routledge Press.

Allan MacNeill (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), was involved in interviews and commentaries on economic issues and appeared in several news media, including CNBC, Politifact, and KSDK. He is faculty advisor to new student organization, Webster Scientific Socialist Alliance.

Kelly-Kate Pease (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), has co-authored the 8th edition of her book, *United Nations and Changing World Politics* (Routledge) was released in 2020. She presented "The New Order? Mercantilism, Populism, and Global Governance" at the International Studies Association annual conference in April 2021. She is also faculty advisor to three student organizations on campus and chair of the Salary and Fringe Benefit committee.

Faculty Achievements

David Pennington (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), chaired the program committee for the Midwest Conference on British Studies and was member of the program committee for the virtual conference of the North American Conference on British Studies.

Joseph Stimpfl (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), received a 2021-22 Faculty Research Grant for “The Persistence of Irish Catholic Identity in American Common Irish Values and Ethics in the Face of Political and Social Change.”

Keith Welsh (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), was a collaborator on *Prayer*, a conceptual artwork created by the artist, Diemut Strebe. Premiered at the Pompidou Center, Paris, France.

Gwyneth Williams (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), was involved in a review of the exhibition "Degas, Impressionism, and the Paris Millinery Trade," at the St Louis Art Museum was published in the journal *Fashion, Style, and Popular Culture*. She also made frequent appearances on panels, podcasts, news programs, and gave public lectures on issues related to the 2020 presidential election.



Burcu Pinar Alakoc (History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies), spent her 2020-21 sabbatical as a Faculty Research Fellow at the Chicago Project for Security and Threats at the University of Chicago. She is the PI for an ongoing collaborative research project that examines how political discourse shapes attitudes toward Syrian refugees in the context of Turkey. Her article “Femme Fatale: The Lethality of Female Suicide Bombers,” was published in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* and she also co-authored “Political Discourse and Public Attitudes toward Syrian Refugees in Turkey.” Forthcoming in the journal *Comparative Politics*.

Faculty Achievements

With Gratitude to the Hearst Foundation! Two Nursing Faculty Members Complete Doctorates

The nursing department wishes to announce the completion of doctorates by Drs. Jody Spiess and Stephanie Dribben. In 2016, the Webster University Department of Nursing was awarded a \$100,000 Hearst Foundation grant to promote the hiring of at least two new nursing faculty members who agreed to obtain their doctoral degrees or who were working on doctoral degrees in nursing. Faced with a shortage of doctorally prepared nurse educators in the U.S., this grant supported the hiring of master's prepared content experts who would work towards doctoral preparation.



Jody Spiess, PhD, RN, GCPH, joined Webster University in the Fall of 2016 and brought her expertise in population health to the team. The future of nursing is the care of individuals in their communities and addressing the health needs of vulnerable populations. The visibility of population health nursing has been at the forefront with the COVID pandemic and Jody's work on the Webster University's COVID 19 Taskforce and now with widespread vaccination efforts. Jody's timely dissertation on "Community Health Nurse Educators and Disaster Nursing Education" was completed, December 2020, during a pandemic.

Another major issue of the Saint Louis community is violence and related injuries. **Stephanie Dribben DNP, RN, ACNP-BC**, completed a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) project on the impact of training, support and quality feedback on the collection of violent injury-related data by staff, especially physicians and nurses, in emergency departments. Dr. Dribben joined Webster University in the Fall of 2019 and experienced project interruptions due to COVID-19. She persevered and completed her doctorate in December 2020. Congratulations Drs. Spiess and Dribben and thank you to the Hearst Foundation!



Faculty Achievements

Professor Sheila Hwang Stacks Up the Awards

Students and colleagues in Webster's English Department have long known that **Dr. Sheila Hwang** is an extraordinary teacher. Now many others are taking notice.

Professor Hwang pulled off an awards exacta in 2020. Last Spring, she was named a winner of the William T. Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching by Webster University. Then in the fall she won an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award as one of the top professors in the St. Louis area.

The news came as no surprise to English Department Chair Murray Farish. "Sheila is a dedicated and brilliant teacher and mentor, a steadfast colleague, and a Webster University superstar," Farish said. "She deserves every accolade because she never rests on them."

Indeed, Professor Hwang has spent the 20-21 academic year continuing to develop new coursework in response to student needs. She sponsored two successful Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Grants this year. She's developed a new Global Cornerstone course for Fall 21. And this spring, along with the Repertory Theatre's Artist-in-Residence Regina Taylor, Professor Hwang team-taught a course on Art and Activism. Two of her students were awarded Departmental Honors this spring for their work with Professor Hwang on their senior theses.

"Sheila was one of the first professors I had at Webster who just blew my mind," said one of those students, senior Emily Brooks. "She was so smart and intelligent on her subjects."

An innovative spirit, Farish said, is a key to Professor Hwang's success.

"How many British Literature scholars out there can also excel at teaching courses like US Literature of Diversity or Topics in Drama?" Farish said. "How many of them will look at a facility like the new kitchen classroom in the Browning Interdisciplinary Science Building and think, 'We should have a course on Literary Feasts?'"

"Sheila's always listening to her students, and thinking of new ways to reach them," Farish said.

"The St. Louis region has an incredible number of talented and dedicated teachers at all levels of education, including many Webster alums," Hwang said of her Emerson Award. "I am both surprised and honored to be named among such good company."

Faculty Achievements

Bruce Umbaugh (Philosophy), had the publications: Bruce Umbaugh, “Foreward” to Karim Dharamsi and David Ohreen, eds., *Between Truth and Falsity: Liberal Education and the Arts of Discernment*, Vernon Press, 2020 and Bruce Umbaugh, “Extended Mind and the Music of Trans,” in Douglas Berger, ed., Neil Young and Philosophy, Lexington Books, 2019. Bruce presented at “Nudging Student Agency in the Gen Ed Classroom: Three Small Techniques for Deepening Learning, Self-Direction, and Healing,” with Paul Hanstedt and Claire Major, *American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment* (virtual), February 2021; “Gateway to Equity: A Liberating Education,” *Association for General and Liberal Studies Conference* (virtual), September 2020.; “Transfer for Equity: Making the Ideal Practical,” with Christina Gilbert, Samantha Streamer Veneruso, and Meg Mulrooney, *Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment*, Jacksonville, Florida, February 2020; “Developing a Playbook of Good Responses to Gen Ed FAQs,” with Barika Barbosa and Joyce Lucke, *Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment*, Jacksonville, Florida, February 2020; “The Imperative of Care Over Contract,” *Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C., January 2020; “Care for Students to Build Democratic Citizenship,” *Association for General and Liberal Studies*, Orlando, Florida, September 2019; “Enhancing Equity and Student Success Through Institutional Commitment to an Ethic of Caring,” with Barika Barboza and Ashley Finley, *Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference on General Education and Assessment*, San Francisco, California, February 2019.

David Carl Wilson (Philosophy), had the publications: David Carl Wilson, *A Guide to Good Reasoning: Cultivating Intellectual Virtues*, Second edition, revised and updated (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2020). David presented at “Two Types of Organizations.” *International Conference in Philosophy of Management*, July 2020, Oxford, England. (Conference postponed.); “Excellence in Rulers.” *Sixth Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Heritage of Western Greece, with special emphasis on ἀρετή*, June 2020, Siracusa, Italy. (Conference postponed.); “Organizations and Rights.” *10th Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy*, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, June 2019.

Faculty Achievements

Kate Parsons (Philosophy), had the publications: Kate Parsons [Under review], "Emotions, Vulnerability, and Dependency in Study Abroad: An Ethics of Care Toolkit" *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*. Submitted November 2020; and Kate Parsons, "Sustainable Ambivalence" in Tanya Cassidy, Susan Hogan, and Sarah LaChance Adams, eds. *Maternal Tug*. Demeter Press, 2020. Kate presented at "Traveling With Care: Ethics of Care, Study Abroad, and Higher Education," with Danielle MacCartney (Law, Crime, & Social Justice), at the Borghesi-Mellon Workshop on Care, "Relations of Care Across and After Worlds," May 13-14, 2021 (virtual); "Addressing Inequality and Power and Increasing Student Learning by Teaching from an Ethics of Care" with Danielle MacCartney (Law, Crime, & Social Justice), August 7, 2020, Virtual Preconference at the American Sociological Association (virtual); "Teaching Inequality and the Environment from an Ethics of Care," with Danielle MacCartney (Law, Crime, & Social Justice), January 2019, at "Approaches to Integrating Sustainability and Global Engagement in the Curriculum," sponsored by Widener University and Cares21, Alajuela, Costa Rica.

Dr. Rebecca George, Dr. Alexanderia Smith, Dr. Diane O'Brien, and Dr. Muthoni Fernand (Professional Counseling), presented at the South Carolina Counseling Association's 57th Conference. The presentation was entitled "Challenging Racism in the Counseling Profession One Course at a Time."

Dr. Rebecca George (Professional Counseling), received SCCA Human Rights Award for 2020.

Dr. Hasmik Chakaryan (Professional Counseling), was invited to present a webinar organized by Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), the leading professional organization for counselor educators, to present on antiracist pedagogy which was attended by 90 live participants. She was also invited by the Brown School of Washington University (STL) to present an open lecture on "Understanding the Pandemic as a Shared Traumatic Experience" which was attended by 240 live participants from all around the world.

Faculty Achievements



Dr. Linda Woolf was awarded the 2020 Charles L. Brewer Award for Distinguished Teaching of Psychology by the American Psychological Association/American Psychological Foundation (APA). Only one professor of psychology in the United States is selected for the award annually. It is considered one of the highest lifetime achievement awards in the profession of psychology. In addition, Woolf was elected by her peers to serve as President of the APA Division 2: The Society for the Teaching of Psychology. She previously served as President of APA Division 48: Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence. "As honored as I am to receive this award, I recognize that it is only possible because of the unique nature of Webster University, which fosters not only teaching excellence but also teaching innovation, research, and scholarship," Woolf said when she learned of the award. "It is a feather in the cap for the university! I am also extremely grateful to all of my colleagues in the psychology department, who have supported and worked with me through the years." (Citation: https://news.webster.edu/2020/woolf_brewer_award.php).

Dr. Heather Mitchell was interviewed on "St. Louis on the Air" on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 on the topic of cognitive dissonance – how people navigate their risk-taking decisions when confronted with conflicting information. The interview broadcast on St. Louis Public Radio and affiliates focused on people who are taking risks with social interactions during COVID-19, but also touched upon how people can also justify risks simply because they previously were successful at similar behavior. "Human beings, we really want to be consistent, and, in fact, a really important motivation for us is to maintain that consistency with the way we're thinking and feeling and behaving," Mitchell explained. "And so whenever we have the dissonance, or discomfort, that we feel related to those inconsistencies, we really engage in a behavior or a type of thinking to try to lessen that dissonance." (Citation: <https://news.webster.edu/2020/in-news-mitchell-cognitive-dissonance-pandemic-hodson-art-trauma.php>).



Faculty Achievements



Dr. Amanda Kracen and several Webster alumni who were her research assistants co-published a paper on psychologists providing clinical care in psycho-oncology. The research was conducted in collaboration with her colleagues at the University of Denver. The Webster alumni co-authors involved are now in graduate school:

Afton Nelson '18, now studying neuroscience at Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany

Hannah Rowold '18, now earning a doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy at MGH Institute of Health Professions)

Taylor Michl '19, now studying counseling psychology at The University of Missouri - Kansas City

Given the need for psychosocial professionals to provide treatment for the increasing number of cancer survivors in our aging society, it is important to consider what helps and hinders professionals in their work. Therefore, this study sought to understand the work experiences of psychologists working in psycho-oncology, specifically clarifying the rewards and challenges they experience as a result of their occupation. (Citation: <https://news.webster.edu/2020/around-kracen-psycho-oncology-dixon-human-resources-education-pandemic.php>)

Read the **full abstract for the paper here**. Kracen, A.C., Taylor, N., Raque-Bogdan, T., Michl, T. *, Nelson, A. *, & Rowold, H. *, Engblom, H. *, Joseph, E. *, Ross, K. * (2020). Sustaining factors, rewards, and challenges for psychologists providing clinical care in psycho-oncology. *Psycho-Oncology*. 2020;1-7.

Faculty and Staff Years of Service and Retirements

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Anton (Tony) S. Wallner retired in December 2020. He had served as dean of the College since 2017.

During his time as dean, his accomplishments include increasing the number of grants received by the University, restructuring the College, helping create the Master's in Biomedical Sciences programs, founding the Human Performance Lab, guiding the CACREP accreditation process in South Carolina, and increasing the partnerships with the Community Colleges, the Danforth Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Academy of Science St. Louis. "I have been honored to be part of the mission of Webster working with students on their particular academic journeys. This has been part of the overarching arc of my professional career," said Wallner "The COVID pandemic has brought the importance of family to the forefront for me, and as I reflected on my personal and professional situation, it became obvious that retirement was the right decision for me at this time. This will allow me to return home and spend time where it matters; with my husband and family."

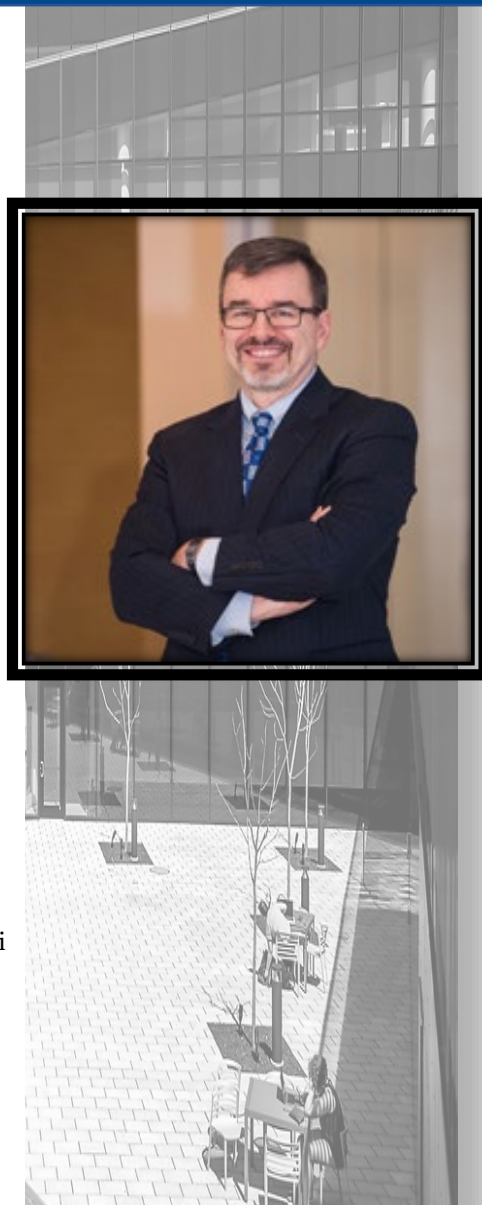
During his time, the biology program grew in enrollment while the nursing programs gained newfound reputations throughout the Midwest. In addition, the counseling programs earned CACREP accreditation at several locations, a long-term goal of the University.

Working with other schools and colleges at Webster, Wallner helped Webster earn several high-profile grants, including a \$124,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to train more K-12 science teachers. The NSF grant was particularly noteworthy as it was a collaboration with the School of Education and the St. Louis Community College – Forest Park campus.

Among his most cherished personal achievements at Webster was elevating the University's recognition of World AIDS Day. Under his guidance, Webster partnered with local health agencies and offered the community free HIV testing on campus every year.

Wallner started his academic career in Missouri as an associate professor of chemistry at Missouri Western State College just outside of Kansas City. Overall, he has spent 28 years in higher education at institutions in Missouri and Florida.

Besides teaching or serving in an administrative role, Wallner has had more than two dozen research articles published in peer-review journals and also co-edited the book "NMR Spectroscopy in the Undergraduate Curriculum: Upper-Level Courses and Across the Curriculum Volume III" with Oxford University Press.



Faculty & Staff Years of Service

5 YEARS

Janice Palmer
Nursing

Nicole Miller-Struttman
Biological Sciences

10 YEARS

David Pennington
*History, Politics, International Relations,
& Religious Studies*

20 YEARS

Don Morse
Philosophy

15 YEARS

Jill Stulce
Nurse Anesthesia

Carolyn Trachtova
*Global Languages, Cultures,
& Societies*

Faculty and Staff Years of Service and Retirements

Two nursing faculty members, Drs. Jenny Broeder and Mary Ann Drake, are retiring after long and distinguished Webster University careers. Both represent the best of Webster in teaching, advising, service, and scholarship.

Dr. Jennifer Broeder, a Webster University faculty member since 1995 has served in many leadership roles including as the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2013-2015), Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2015-2017) and as Director of the Global Leadership Academy (2017-2019). She has repeatedly stepped in and stepped up.

Dr. Mary Ann Drake has a long and distinguished 23-year Webster University career. She is known for her service and scholarship related to vulnerable populations. Since 1998, Mary Ann has co-coordinated a monthly evening for Webster University students, staff, and faculty to provide and serve food to the homeless as part of the St. Peter and Paul People to People project. In addition, she has taken students to Guatemala and co-coordinated service-learning trips to the U.S./ Mexico border to experience healthcare, population health needs, and daily life of those living there



Faculty & Staff Years of Service

25 YEARS

John Chappell

History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies

35 YEARS

Linda Woolf

Psychology

Gwyneth Williams

History, Politics, International Relations, & Religious Studies

Theresa Altmann

Nursing

40 YEARS

Gary Kannenberg

Psychology

Faculty Farewell



Department of Psychology would like to bid a fond farewell to Dr. Amanda Kracen. Dr. Kracen will be leaving Webster University at the end of the spring 2021 semester and relocating with her family to Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Kracen said, "I'm sad about leaving Webster as it has been a wonderful community for me. I value the emphasis placed on excellent teaching, faculty-student projects, and study abroad. I have very much enjoyed teaching and working with students."

Dr. Kracen joined the Department of Psychology in 2015. Over the last six years, she has contributed her knowledge and expertise on several committees, collaborated with faculty and students on research projects, and organized multiple cross-departmental speaker events. Her impact has certainly been felt by students and faculty both in and outside of the classroom. Psychology senior Jillian Wilson said, "Dr. Kracen has been and continues to be a phenomenal professor in and outside of the classroom. I believe she does this by critically analyzing and working through ethical and social justice concepts and applies these ideas to real life. Her care and compassion for learning and spreading knowledge are exuded through her teaching, and for that, I and other students applaud her." Fellow psychology professor Dr. Eric Goedereis said, "Dr. Kracen is a truly amazing colleague and has made such a strong impact on our students, department, and university."

Dr. Kracen will truly be missed by her colleagues, students, and the Webster community. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



Alumni Spotlights



Manuel Leon Hoyos, '17 (BA/MA INTL, BA Economics)—is a Research Associate in the Yale Program on Financial Stability and Pre-Doctoral Fellow at the Tobin Center for Economic Policy at Yale. He is also an international Chess Grandmaster and former member of Webster's championship chess team.

Amelia Shekar, '09 (BA INTL) recently completed two years of basic training at Quantico to be an FBI Counterterrorism Intelligence Analyst. She now works at the FBI office in Manassas.

Olivia Potter, '19 (BA INTL) is a student at Indiana University Law School and is working at the US Dept of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Ryan Alban became Legislative Liaison of the US Army to the Senate.

Sabrina Reveron got her MA in Public Administration in Dec from Baruch College and works for Housing Works, a non-profit in NYC.

Emily Korenak, '11 (BA INTL) was appointed Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Dept of State in March 2020

Katie Lade, '19 (BA POLT, BA HIST) is a Park Guide with the National Park Service at the Arch.

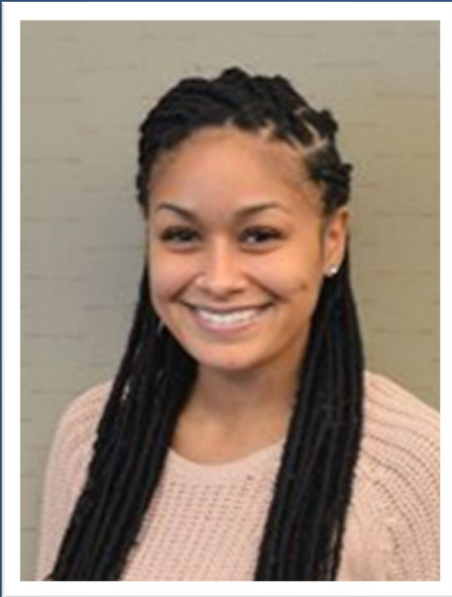
Ryan Quinones, '19 (BA POLT) is a project manager for Amendment 2 Consultants, which works on the issue of medical marijuana in Missouri

Sophia Cordero '13, '16 (BA INTL, MA INTL Geneva)—Consultant at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Geneva, Switzerland.

Rebecca Wolfslau (2017 graduate) has been elected the Associate Regional Director of Alsana: An Eating Recovery Community .

Counseling Alumni from WEBG program organized a panel discussion for all currently enrolled cohorts to discuss successful preparation for the National Counselor Examination, the licensure process, and being an effective and successful professional counselor. This panel also discussed the benefits and challenges of choosing to work in community agencies or private practice upon graduation for maximum impact on the mental health crisis in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Alumni Spotlights



Human Services Alumna Kayla Spikes takes Role as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist

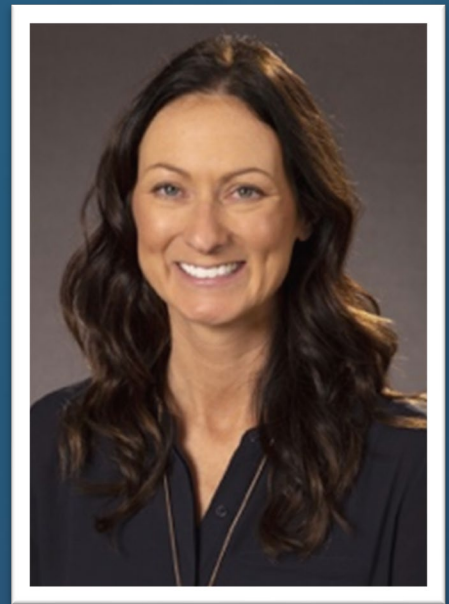
Kayla (Ervin) Spikes is a 2018 graduate of the MA in Human Services program. This summer Kayla was promoted to a dual role at Centerstone in Alton, IL where she continued her work as an Addictions Counselor part-time and took on a newly created part-time role as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist. This January 2021, she was promoted again to a full-time role as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist. Kayla has been critical in helping Centerstone build a framework and initiatives that will build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environment. She will soon be offering a Field Experience opportunity to current MA in Human Services students who are interested in DEI work and is looking forward to giving back to the MA in Human Services program as a field site supervisor.

Nursing Alumna Angela Filipiak Promotes Doll Therapy

Nursing alumna **Angela Filipiak** (December 2019) continues to make positive change at the SSM Health System. During the MSN program, Angie found her passion in doll therapy for dementia patients. She began her journey into Doll Therapy, and culminated her program with a leadership project, implementing doll therapy in her hospital. During her final semester, SSM heard of her work and became interested in implementing the project system-wide. As a result, her project was ongoing at the time of graduation.

Since that time, doll therapy at SSM has shown a remarkable improvement in fall rates among elderly patients with dementia. She notes that dementia patients are predisposed to falls due to agitation, sleeplessness, anxiety, and wandering, among other symptoms. SSM noted a baseline fall rate of 8.8/1000 patient days decreased to 1.2 falls/1000 patient days during the study period. Furthermore, Angie has begun an LLC called Angie's Purpose to provide educational materials and presentations to healthcare and long-term care facilities.

We are proud of all of our alumni, and Angie is an excellent representative of the type of passion and purpose we love to see in our students and graduates.



Alumni Spotlights



In partnership with the Center for Career Planning and Development, the Philosophy Department and student group the Webster Philosophy Coalition hosted an Alumni Panel in April. Philosophy majors, minors, and other interested students met with **Michael MacCullough** (1997), Chief Privacy Officer and Vice President for Enterprise Information Management, Macy's; **Jennifer M. Lawlor** (2002), Associate, Shulman Family Law; **Ben Goldsmith** (2004), Senior Strategist, Farm Forward; and **Cierra Lowe-Price** (2015), Patient Care Technician and BSN student

Congratulations! The Department of Law, Crime, & Social Justice faculty would also like to offer our congratulations to 2018 Legal Studies alum **Marion Ragland** on her graduation from the University of Memphis School of Law!

A U M I N I



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