

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Spring Address – 2017

Good afternoon, and welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences spring address and awards ceremony. We come together each year at this time for an update on College activities, but especially to honor a number of students, staff, and faculty in the College, and to recognize their many contributions to the College and the University.

Despite the continuing budget impasse, I believe we have much to be pleased about in the College of Arts and Sciences. There is no question that the budget has been a challenge. Across the College, we lost nearly \$1.4M in personnel and operating. Because of strong enrollments and fiscal prudence, the University was able to continue funding instruction at its previous level, so the educational mission has not been hurt. However, knowledge of the state's budget crisis, I believe, has had an effect on the process of faculty recruitment. I was very happy that we were able to recruit for 13 faculty positions this year, five more than last year. However, searches in Biological Sciences and Communication Sciences and Disorders failed. The pools of faculty applicants were smaller for many of the searches, and in those two departments whose searches failed, did not hold acceptable candidates. I'm happy to say that, despite these difficulties, the remaining searches attracted prospective faculty who understand ISU's commitment to the joining of teaching and research, who usually mention this when asked what has attracted them to ISU. I'm confident that our new colleagues again will prove to be a talented a committed group, and we will continue to build an outstanding faculty in very difficult times. I thank all of you for your support of that effort.

Despite budgetary hardships and even more apparent worry about the future, the College has had a very successful year. We have nearly 6,100 students, and we generated half of all the credit hours in the University. We continue to have a very productive faculty, with 17 books and monographs, 11 edited books, and 14 textbooks; 378 articles, 116 chapters, 77 peer-evaluated creative works, and 770 conference presentations (138 of which were outside the U.S.). I believe that the drop in some of these numbers reflects some travel difficulty associated with the budget situation. College scholars received nearly \$4.9M in external funding from 77 grants. We continue to be successful in an increasingly challenging funding environment. Alan Lessoff, of History, was named University Professor, and Rachel Bowden, in the School of Biological Sciences, was named a Distinguished Professor.

Our students were very successful as well. Eight of this year's Bone Scholars are Arts and Sciences students. The Fisher Thesis Award this year was won by Andrew Mallo of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the runner-up was James Brault from the Department of Chemistry. The recipient of the Sorensen Dissertation Award was Psychology Ph.D. Lynda Kasky-Hernández. In addition, in ISU's first year entering the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, both the winner (Emilio Lobato from Psychology) and the runner-up (Erin Barr from History) are from Arts and Sciences.

Emilio represented ISU at the 3MT competition held by the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools.

In the past year, 40% of the journal articles published by College faculty have at least one student co-author. In Physics alone, 65% of the publications have an undergraduate student co-author. The engagement of our students and faculty with each other is represented by these numbers, and is also evident in the many awards that our individual departments bestow on our students.

We continue to try to strengthen our outreach efforts, and to take the excellent work that is done in the College to the larger community. This is the fourth year of Main Street College, a series of lectures given by scholars in the College to present their research to an interested community audience. Last Fall, Kerry Milita, from Politics and Government, presented “When You Say Nothing at All: How Candidates Win Elections by Shunning Issues,” and just a few weeks ago, Kathryn Sampeck, of the department of Sociology and Anthropology, presented “How Chocolate Came to Be: An Ecology of Colonial Knowledge and the Genesis of Taste.” Both events very well attended, including by many from outside of ISU. We will continue this series with two more talks next year.

In addition to Main Street College, our individual departments are involved in the community as well. This year, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders opened a satellite audiology clinic in the Activity and Recreation Center, a senior center operated by the Normal Township. This clinic reaches out to older clients who find parking around Fairchild Hall to be a challenge. Some may also have mobility issues that make the clinic at the ARC especially convenient. The Department is also home to the Eckelmann-Taylor Speech and Hearing Clinic, which provides a variety of services to clients of all ages, including non-native speakers of English who desire accent modification assistance. Our clinic is the only one in the area providing the latter service.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in cooperation with the School of Art in the College of Fine Arts, has opened the Schroeder Gallery, an exhibition space in Schroeder Hall. The space will feature rotating exhibits of art associated with Sociological and Anthropological issues.

We recently inducted three people into our College Hall of Fame. Dr. Tom Eimermann is former chair of the Department of Politics and Government and the founder of the pre-law program. David Crumbaugh is an alumnus and attorney in Chicago. He has given generously to the pre-law program and is a member of the Attorneys Advisory Board. Carl Hulse is the Washington Bureau Chief for the New York Times, and known in Washington as “the Mayor of Capital Hill.”

We had another successful year in fundraising. Stephanie Sellers traveled the country visiting alumni and friends, bringing over \$1.2M in charitable giving to the College. We have seven new endowed funds in the College. As we look toward a comprehensive campaign, Stephanie already has us over half way to our ultimate campaign goal of \$20M. I’m especially pleased to report also that the World Wide Campus Fund, started in

the College in 2012, received a gift of \$20,000 this spring, bringing the total in that fund to a little more than \$60,000, which will allow us to make two \$1,000 awards next year to students studying abroad. We also received a gift of \$10,000 to our unrestricted fund, which will allow us to fund some of the very worthy (and usually modest) requests each year for help with conferences, speakers, etc., requests that we have had to deny for the last year or so because of the lack of a state budget.

There are two goals that are somewhat related that I would like the College to address in the next year. One mirrors the University-wide initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion at both the student and faculty/staff levels. The other is to increase interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. These goals are related in that many of our interdisciplinary minors are associated with underrepresented groups, such as Women's and Gender Studies, African American Studies, Latin American and Latino/Latina Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Queer Studies, among several others. Within our budgetary constraints, we would like to help programs such as these grow, both in size and in visibility.

Related to interdisciplinary work, the College was able this year to make funds available for initiatives crossing disciplinary boundaries. We had \$60,000 to distribute among 11 proposals for activities to be used in the hopes of creating new programs or research activities that will continue to benefit students and faculty for some time. One of the most difficult aspects of the current fiscal climate is the profound feeling of uncertainty about the future. If we could predict what our financial picture would be like in a year, we could plan to continue such a funding program. Unfortunately, we are not able to promise the continuation of such a program, but we will carry it on as we're able.

So we end another year on a note of budgetary uncertainty and frustration, but the University has things in place to continue to thrive, even if we have to do so with less. The College of Arts and Sciences has a very strong set of core values that emphasize attention to our students, the integration of our teaching and research, our commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our remarkable spirit of collegiality. All of these values are reflected in the latest iteration of the College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan, which has just been approved by our College Council. I look forward to continuing work with you to fulfill the promise of that plan. Thank you all for being here this afternoon.