

College of Arts and Sciences
2019 Spring Address

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, to honor faculty in the College, and to recognize important contributions to the College, the University, and the Community.

Illinois State University and the College of Arts and Sciences continues on its path of being strong and stable. We frequently hear this description from President Dietz. And that has been the appropriately prudent path of stewardship for the University, but you might recall in the Fall Dean's Address that I added a bit of an extension on "strong and stable". Our faculty, staff, students and alumni are not prone to the comfort of complacency but rather are restless, eager, and hungry. I said the culture of the CAS is "Strong and Stable, with a forward, leading edge". And this semester has proven that true.

Our great diversity across the College becomes unified in one singular mission of "gladly we learn and gladly we teach" Our enrollment is strong with over 5800 students. The Arts and Sciences deliver 50% of all ISU credit hour production and 85% of all general education content is delivered through CAS. We read on a daily basis in the Chronicle that the liberal arts and sciences are under threat to cuts in many universities. So as we approach commencement season, we can all proudly claim that the Arts and Sciences contributes to the vast majority of all students who walk across the stage at our 6 commencement ceremonies to become Redbird Alumni. Let there be no mistake, the liberal arts and sciences are the foundation for all other disciplines.

In order to meet the learning needs of an increasingly diverse student body, we need to make advances on hiring more faculty who identify from underrepresented groups. We know that it is important for our students' intellectual and professional development that they see role models in the classroom and can develop mentoring relationships with professors that reflect their similar experiences. With this in mind, we started the academic year with a chair's retreat to earnestly look at how we can create more diverse pools of candidates for our faculty searches. We are proud to say that over one third of

our hires this year self-identify as a person from an under-represented group. And we are extremely grateful for the Educational Diversity Enhancement Program from the Provost office that real commitment into recruited more diversity to our faculty ranks.

As we look back at this year, we are proud of the outstanding accomplishments of several faculty members who were honored on Founders Day with University Awards. Faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Sciences excel in all three areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. Gladly we Teach is part of our University motto and so we are proud of our faculty who exemplify this every day in the classroom as they inspire students. Daniel Breyer from the Department of Philosophy and Aimee Miller Ott from the School of Communication were chosen for Outstanding University Teaching Awards and Dan Lannin from the Department of Psychology and Liv Stone from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology received Teaching Initiative awards. Lisa Dooley from the Department of English received the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching award. Susan Hildebrandt from the Department of Languages Literatures and Culture was named as the Dr. John Chizmar and Anthony Ostrosky Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award recipient.

Gladly we learn is also part of our University Motto and our faculty continue as life-long learners with ground-breaking research that produces new discoveries and finds new integration of existing knowledge. We are proud of Jeff Wagman from the Department of Psychology who received a University Research award and Andres Vidal-Gadea from the School of Biological Sciences, Kerri Milita from the Department of Politics and Government, and Amin Bahmanian from the Department of Mathematics who received Research Initiative Awards indicating a very bright future for CAS with research endeavors.

We are proud of our robust model of shared governance at Illinois State University and as we believe in the value of civic engagement for our students, we also expect our faculty and staff to be engaged in their community of Illinois State University. Dimitrios Nikolaou from the Department of Economics was honored for his citizenship with a University Service Initiative award; John Plevka from *The Vidette* received the AP Distinguished Service Award and Crystal Scheiman from the Department of Philosophy received the Civil Service Distinguished Service

award. And our own Rocio Rivadeneyra, Director of the Honors Program and faculty from the Department of Psychology won the impressive David Strand award for diversity accomplishments.

It is my pleasure to highlight some of the acknowledged accomplishments of University award winners, and we will honor several more faculty members today for College awards. These awards shine a light on particularly productive people, but so many of our faculty are productive with the research and creative production endeavor. Just as an example, one year ago at this time our total from external funding was \$4.5M. This year it is \$7.1M. This stunning productivity in research is shared with the professional and scientific community through dissemination of our good work through publication. Our faculty average 4.45 publication per person and remarkably 35% include student co-authors. This truly is living out our values in our strategic plan for individualized attention for our students.

Our students in the College of Arts and Sciences flourish with this individualized attention. This year we are proud to claim that seven of the 14 Bone scholars came from Arts and Sciences. The Sorenson Distinguished Dissertation award was just given to Douglas Schuweiler from the School of Biological Sciences and the over-all University James L. Fisher Thesis award went to Erin Barr from the Department of History. The University runner-up for the Fisher Thesis Award, Dylan Poorboy, was also from the School of Biological Sciences and the College Fisher award winner was Benjamin Lynn from the School of Communication.

Our students' success in their disciplinary accomplishments also shine a very positive light on ISU and our faculty investments in their development. Our students from WZND received the top Signature Station Award from the Broadcast Educators Association and the students from the Vidette won the General Excellence award for a daily collegiate newspaper. Our students from the Doctorate of Audiology and Masters of Speech Language Pathology have a 100% pass rate on the Praxis exam. Students from the Department of Politics and Government are currently in New York City participating in the Model UN Program under the leadership of Professor Noha Shawki. I was delighted to receive an email from T.Y. this morning that the ISU team was recognized the Distinguished Delegation this year, which is the third such honor in the past 5

years. One social work student completed an internship in DC with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute where she was able to provide consultation on the foster care and adoption system. Our students contribute to our world even before they graduate and become alumni.

The College of Arts and Sciences lives out the University value of community engagement through continued efforts to strengthen our outreach efforts. It is important for our good works from the College of Arts and Science to contribute to the community. One way that we do this is by sharing our research through the Main Street College lectures. This spring Dr. Val Farmer-Dougan from the Department of Psychology and her partner Shadow, a very gentlemanly golden retriever shared their research in "Going to the Dogs: How our furry friends help us to understand human behavior.

An outstanding example of community engagement is the progress the Illinois Art Station has made. The Illinois Art Station is made possible from the generous gifts from Distinguished Emeritus Professor Dr. Laura Berk from the Department of Psychology. Last year at this time the program was just coming together with the hiring of the Director Isra El Bashir and Curator of Education, Peggy Finnegan Boyes. This year we have proudly watched a year's worth of programming that has benefited children in our community, many who would not typically have access to developmental enhancement through creative expression. This project is also a rich learning lab for ISU students from many different majors. It was a celebratory day this spring when the Town of Normal held a press release that they were partnering with the Illinois Art Station for a home in Uptown Normal in the College Avenue deck.

Another Community Engagement project back now for the third year in a row is the First Star Academy from the School of Social Work. This project which provides Illinois Foster Youth with an academic enrichment and college exposure also provides valuable learning experiences for students across multiple majors.

I am pleased to share the breaking news from this morning that our public radio station, WGLT has signed an agreement to assume operations of the Bradley public radio station WCBU beginning June 1. Bradley University planned on discontinuing their support for public radio, and our team at WGLT, led by R.C. McBride felt strongly that the lack of public radio in a neighboring major

metropolitan community was a disservice to an informed public. Thank you to the team at the School of Communication and WGLT for your hard work on this agreement.

And lastly, but so importantly regarding accomplishments from the College of Arts and Sciences, I am delighted to announce that we met the goal for the Capital Campaign, Redbirds Rising over a year early. We also met our annual goal at the 50% mark of the year. Our Director of Development, Stephanie Sellers is an outstanding leader directing our fundraising charge, but this is only possible due to the outstanding story we have to tell. The accomplishments that I have the pleasure to highlight today are just some examples of so many extraordinary accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

You can see why I say that the College of Arts and Sciences is strong and stable, with a forwarding leading edge. It is from our strength and stability that we are able to change the world. We change the world by educating the next generation of leaders; we change the world through ground-breaking research that produces new discoveries and finds new integration of existing knowledge; and we change the world through our engagements in and service to communities beyond the walls of the campus. As I think of this, I am very hopeful for our future.

It is time now in our program for what I personally and professionally experience as a bittersweet recognition. Dr. Ann Beck, chair of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department is retiring after 27 years at Illinois State University. That is quite difficult for many of us to believe and accept. After working for 17 years in a clinical role as a speech pathologist, Ann joined Illinois State University as an Assistant professor in 1992. Ann was the complete tenure tracking faculty member, excelling in teaching, research, and service and was tenured and promoted to Associate and then to Professor. Ann's clinical expertise combined with her academic accomplishments were a perfect fit for her role as the Eckelmann-Taylor Speech and Hearing Clinic director position for 4 years. Ann was quickly identified as a person who had the ability for leadership and moved into the CAS Dean's office first as Assistant Dean, then Associate Dean, and finally Senior Associate Dean. Ann served the College well as the steward for research, technologies, and facilities. But Ann is at her heart a clinician and I would say her greatest contribution to ISU has been her last 9 years as she has led the CSD department as chair.

I started by saying this is a bittersweet recognition. We are all so happy for Ann as she moves into this next phase of life that includes grandchildren, travel, and most likely continuing her passion for yoga. But I know I join many who aren't sure what ISU will be like without Ann. I looked up to Ann for guidance and wisdom when I was a new interim chair and she was an Associate Dean in the College Office. I served side by side with Ann as chairs in departments that prepare students for professional, clinical disciplines. We conducted research together, supported each other as women administrators, and shared many long talks in our hallways of Rachel Cooper and a few glasses of wine together. Those of us who have built a career here at ISU and those just starting out, all share in the intangible, yet palpable experience that there just is something different, something special about ISU. That "special" is truly the people who work here and I can't think of anyone who exemplifies that "special" more than Ann Beck. Like so many of you, I have learned much from Ann, and much of what I have learned is about how to be a truly good and kind person.