



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Illinois State University

College of Arts and Sciences

Fall Address – 2015

Provost Krejci, faculty, staff, and students, welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences Fall Address and Awards event, and to a new academic year. The electricity of a college campus at the beginning of a new year never dims for me, and I'm sure many of you feel the same way. It is always exciting to welcome new students and faculty, eager to take part in all that ISU has to offer. To the new faculty and staff, I want to say that your success is the most important part of our job, as the success of our students depends on it.

Especially for the benefit of our new colleagues, I like to take a minute in this address to introduce the College office, and some of the new faces in the leadership. For the last five years, I've introduced Dagmar Budikova as an associate dean in the College, but this year I introduce her as the new chair of the Department of Geography-Geology. It's my pleasure to introduce Marla Reese-Weber, of the Department of Psychology to the College office as the newest associate dean. This year, we have searches for chairs or directors in three departments.

I have the privilege of working with an outstanding group of people in the College office, who possess tremendous knowledge of the College of Arts and Sciences, and are committed to its mission. Sally Parry is the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Affairs; Marla Reese-Weber is the new Associate Dean for Personnel, Budget, and Planning; and Joe Blaney is Associate Dean for Research, Facilities, and Technology. Debbie Fox is the Assistant Dean for External Relations, and is responsible for College events. She also publishes CASNews weekly, and mentors student interns in its preparation. Finally, Debbie assists with the organization of several advisory boards in the College. Carrie Wieburg is our Business Manager, managing the budget and serving as the Dean's assistant. I appreciate very much the hard work and selfless dedication of these colleagues to advancing the mission of the College. Tammy Hansen is the Administrative Aid, and Val Ilyukhina serves as our Office Manager. They present a welcoming face to visitors to the College, and are also enthusiastically planning another College office display for Homecoming, hoping to keep the tradition of award-winning displays begun last year. Mike Regilio is the Director of CAS-IT, leading a team that assists faculty and staff with technology needs, in desktop support, web design, and advice on recent technology advances. Our Director of Development is Stephanie Sellers, now beginning her third year of fund raising for the College. I am pleased to work with this dedicated group of individuals whose commitment to the success of our students and faculty will continue to be critical to our growth as a College.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Illinois State University

We began our New Faculty Professional Development Series last week, and our first afternoon of Mid-career workshops will be held tomorrow. This event, which focuses on research collaboration, will include a brief presentation by Professor Eros DeSouza of Psychology and Mark Olson from the School of Social Work. They began a collaboration a year ago following a social gathering organized by Associate Dean Blaney, which sought to bring together scholars from different disciplines to learn about intersecting interests that could fruitfully be turned into research collaborations. They will provide an update on their work asking “Is Coming Out in the Classroom Still an Occupational Hazard?” I encourage any faculty interested in sharing their research interests with potential collaborators across disciplinary boundaries to attend tomorrow’s session, which will be held in Stevenson Hall, Room 401, beginning at 3:30.

Events such as the one tomorrow will continue periodically, and represent one of several activities of the College to try to be hospitable to interdisciplinary activities. For the second year in a row, we welcome a new faculty member to the College with responsibilities in two academic units. Erin Durban-Albrecht comes to us as the result of a joint recruitment effort by Women’s and Gender Studies and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Finally, we are continuing discussions of expanding our interdisciplinary studies by looking at the development or growth in Environmental Studies, European Studies, and LGBTQ Studies.

An activity that we will continue this year is our Main Street College series. On October 26, at 7:00 P.M. at the Alumni Center, Dr. Dawn McBride of the Department of Psychology will present a talk entitled “Did That Really Happen? Understanding False Memory.” If you don’t already know about the Main Street College talks, they are designed for a more general audience than the typical scholarly talk given to an audience from the speaker’s own discipline. I encourage all of you to take in these talks, and learn something about an area outside of your own. I also encourage anyone to invite members of the community who might be interested in learning about the research and creative activity that characterizes our College.

The College has much to be proud of over the last year. Michael Paradiso, an Illinois State University actuarial science student, has been identified by the Actuarial Foundation as one of the top actuarial science students in the world. Paradiso, a member of the class of 2016 and current president of the Actuarial Club, has been awarded a 2015 Curtis E. Huntington Memorial Scholarship by the Foundation. Scholarship recipients are graduating students in actuarial science at any university worldwide, recognized for being among the best students in the world. Approximately ten or twelve students are recognized each year. Michael is the 8th recipient of this scholarship from our Actuarial Science program.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Illinois State University

Illinois State University has been chosen to take part in a national initiative to boost the number of women economics majors across the country. Known as the [Undergraduate Women in Economics Challenge](#), the three-year project will implement strategies for women in introductory economics courses designed to encourage them to stay in the major. Spearheaded by Harvard University and funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the program is administered by the National Bureau of Economic Research. One of 20 schools chosen—alongside Yale, Princeton, and Brown universities—Illinois State will begin “interventions” in several sections of the Principles of Economics course this fall.

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures’ teacher education program is being recognized nationally for its work at Unity Community Center. It is one of only 11 programs recognized by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages’ Global Engagement Initiative, which seeks to highlight outstanding community-engaged learning experiences within the world languages curriculum at all levels of instruction. The program at ISU involves French, German, and Spanish teacher candidates who benefit from experiences with diverse learners, especially those in early grades of elementary school.

Associate Professor of Sociology Kathryn Sampeck was selected as the 2015-16 Central American Visiting Scholar of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. As a visiting scholar at the David Rockefeller Center and Fellow at the Afro-Latin American Research Institute at the Hutchins Center at Harvard, Sampeck will be working on the project “Black Market: Early Colonial Cacao Wealth, Contraband Economy, and Afro-Central Americans in Colonial Guatemala.” Taking documentary evidence and personal archaeological work, Sampeck will explore how Afro-Central Americans influenced colonial Guatemala.

A final point of pride for the College, of the 14 Bone Scholars named this year, nine of them are students in majors in College of Arts and Sciences departments.

Scholars in the College had a very successful year in securing external funds for research. Even as the funding climate continues to get more challenging, our researchers continue to build on their prior success. Although the total number of awards was down this year from last (74 awards vs. 91 in 2014), the total amount received rose by about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars, up from \$5.8M in 2014 to \$6.5M this year. Not counted in this figure is the \$1.4M grant just received by Rebekka Gougis from the National Science Foundation for the project she is leading with three other faculty members to provide scholarships for STEM teachers of underrepresented groups. Finally, we learned just today that Catherine



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Illinois State University

O'Reilly of Geography-Geology and Bill Perry of the School of Biological Sciences will become the latest members of the Million Dollar Club. Congratulations to all the fine scholars in the College, and thank you for all that you do for the Arts and Sciences at ISU.

The College has also had the best year in its history in charitable giving. Annual giving has risen steadily every year for the last four years. In 2012, we had 2,540 donors give annually, up to 2,808 this year. Annual gifts totaled about \$437K in 2012, and \$681K in 2015. I want to recognize Stephanie Sellers for her work with donors. In my first three years at ISU, total giving to the College came to around \$1M annually. 2014 was our best year to date, at \$1.3M. In 2015, giving to the College totaled over \$6.7M. Thank you for your outstanding work, Stephanie. As she and I visit alumni and friends across the Midwest and on each coast, we are always impressed by the loyalty, affection, and respect that they show for ISU, and their Arts and Sciences degrees. We are pleased and honored that they show their feelings for the College by their generous donations.

Of course, all of this good news – of the success of our students and faculty, of the philanthropy of our alumni – sits against the backdrop of anxiety over the budget in the State of Illinois. Since last spring, all academic units – the Provost's office, the colleges, and the departments and schools – have been playing out various scenarios of likely budget cuts. The University is confident that there will be some cut made to our state allocation, but we have no idea what that cut will be, or when it will be announced. However, as spending in the new fiscal year began in July, it has become necessary for each unit to identify specific cuts that may be absorbed when a reduction comes. In anticipation of a reduction of an unknown size, units were asked to develop plans for a 15% reduction to the University's allocation. The central administration, in order to protect the academic enterprise, plans to absorb much of the reduction. Academic units were asked to prepare for a 2.4% reduction to their permanent funds. Across all units in the College of Arts and Sciences, that amounts to slightly over \$956K. In addition, there are some funds that cannot be touched. The most obvious of these is tenure-track faculty, but also include A/P and Civil Service. Of course, protecting instruction is the paramount goal. An across-the-board 2.4% reduction was not possible, as nearly half of our departments do not have enough remaining funds (NTT faculty, operating, and student help) to survive (and I use "survive" literally) a 2.4% cut. Consequently, we had to develop a formula that would manage the reduction and not completely bankrupt a department. First, the College office absorbed as much of the reduction as were able. We have eliminated our own travel funding and our student workers, and Associate Dean Joe Blaney has returned to the School of Communication half-time, working only half-time in the College office. We then proposed an across-the-board 1% reduction to all



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Illinois State University

departments and schools, and, finally, we based the size of the rest of the reduction on each department's combined NTT and student help budgets. We then identified 21.6% of those combined budgets for possible reduction. Note that the University has made clear that money has been saved over the last two years, at least, in anticipation of a situation such as this, and is prepared to replenish with temporary funds any instruction that is lost because of budget cuts.

This is a painful process, for the College and its departments and schools, but it is necessary that we be prepared for reductions that are likely on the horizon. We hope they will be smaller than the 15% that this exercise was based on, but we also know that they could be larger. There is no reason to panic. The University is prepared to meet any reduction in instruction with reserves that have been built up over the last couple of years, and remember that the goals, and especially the core values of the College remain as they always have been. We will educate our students. We will challenge them in the classroom, and we will engage them in our scholarship. They will learn from us the skills cherished by the Arts and Sciences: Critical thinking, effective communication, ability to work in teams, adaptability to diverse environments, and a lifelong love of learning. We must never allow fear of the future to lead us to forget our vision. I thank you all for being here this afternoon, and please accept my best wishes for a successful semester.