Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The College of Sciences and Humanities (CSH) at Ball State University is dedicated to providing students with the highest quality educational experience. As Ball State University celebrated its centennial year we continued to provide students with extraordinary opportunities to engage in outstanding research and immersive learning experiences. We provided students with the skills they need to communicate effectively and engage in quantitative reasoning. We challenged students to think critically and to use their knowledge to solve global problems. In this annual report we want to highlight just a few of the accomplishments of our faculty and students from the 2018-2019 academic year.

We are proud of our faculty who continue to engage in extraordinary teaching and research. Almost 100 different faculty members and almost 2,000 students participated in community engagement educational experiences this year alone. Faculty in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences were also highly successful in their research. Faculty produced more than 400 scholarly products (including 270 journal articles; 15 conference proceedings; 17 books and/or edited books; 34 book chapters; 14 book reviews; 14 encyclopedias articles; and 81 others in non-traditional scholarship channels (e.g., creative essays, poetry, film festivals, technical reports). In the pages that follow we highlight just a few of the exceptional achievements of students and faculty from this academic year.

I am delighted to work alongside our colleagues in service to our university, and I look forward to the continued success as we serve the citizens of Indiana and the world. Please get in touch with me with your ideas about how to continue our tradition of providing quality experiences for our students.

Maureen A. McCarthy, PhD
Dean, College of Sciences and Humanities

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Building a New Foundation!

In 2019, the College of Sciences and Humanities will break ground on $87.5 million Foundational Sciences Building to meet the growing demand for STEM professionals. This state-of-the-art building will be the new home for the Departments of Biology and Chemistry.

Designed by the architecture firm RATIO, the 206,500 square-foot building will feature six classrooms, 28 teaching and 44 research laboratories, a research library, conference rooms, computer labs, collaborative space, and faculty offices. Shared space, such as Active Learning Classrooms and Suites for both Imaging and Microscopy will allow students to experience research collaboration much like they will experience as a professional.

"We believe the building will become an important asset in our University’s ability to provide a premier on-campus undergraduate experience to our students who will benefit from its use," said Ball State President Geoffrey Mearns.

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Proud Past, Bright Future

This year, the College of Sciences and Humanities celebrated Ball State's Centennial by hosting a series of events highlighting the college's programs and community engagement. The celebration included a community discussion examining obstacles citizens face when navigating legal services, a panel discussion on voting practices in Indiana, weather demonstrations and hands-on activities at the East Central Indiana Regional Science Fair, and a historical lecture about Ball State's married student housing trailer court of the 1960's.

The College also hosted Dr. Katharine Hayhoe for the Alice Procter Killey Lecture. Dr. Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist, professor at Texas Tech, and one of TIME magazine’s 100 Most Influential People. A leading expert, and co-author of the U.S. Global Change Research Program’s Fourth National Climate Assessment, Dr. Hayhoe encouraged us to engage in conversation about climate change and talk about the effects it has on our daily lives. She believes this is the number one thing we can all do to help move toward improving life for millions of people.
Whether experimenting, taking risks, trying something new, or developing ideas and seeing them come to life, students immersed themselves in projects in the classroom, the community, the region, and the world, tackling problems with bold solutions and ideas. Anthropology students shared the story of the Battle of the Wabash at Fort Recovery, Ohio where their work will be part of a new exhibit. History students also worked on documenting stories from the past creating videos of reenactments of the American Revolution.

Criminal Justice and Criminology students worked to improve communications between the community and local law enforcement. Sociology students partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to assess outcomes of food pantries in schools. Psychological Science students invited the community to their panel discussion on sexual health issues.

Computer Science students collaborated with Ball State’s transportation department to improve rider satisfaction and developed software applications for New York companies. Mathematical Sciences students worked with the Indiana-based company, Cummins Inc., developing mathematical formulas to improve engine efficiency. The Cardinal Weather Service provided meteorology students with an outlet for practicing their forecasting skills while providing a community service.

EXCELLENCE INNOVATION LIFELONG LEARNING

Undergraduate and graduate research opportunities, immersive learning courses, and internships give CSH students the chance to use applications and theories they learn in the classroom to solve real-world problems.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

Intentional partnerships that revitalize and sustain our city and region.

The College of Sciences and Humanities stands behind Ball State’s commitment to have a positive impact on our community and region. Natural Resource and Environmental Management professor Joshua Gruver developed the Muncie Food Hub Partnership, a multi-faceted operation that combines a central facility with mobile food truck to deliver fresh, local produce. Biology professor Rona Robinson-Hill reached out to the community through “We Can Do Science,” an immersive learning experience in which our science education majors create lesson plans and implement them through hands-on, minds-on activities with K-5 children in local after-school programs.

The Charles W. Brown Planetarium and the Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse continue to host free and engaging public events throughout the year. Philosophy students engaged high-school students at the annual Conference for Pre-College Philosophical Engagement, encouraging attendees to ask big questions, learn to look at problems through multiple lenses, and consider global views. The Political Science department continues to serve the community through the Access to Justice Program, the Hoosier Survey, and the Voting System Technical Oversight Program (VSTOP). The English Department has partnered with the Facing Project and Muncie Community Theater to continue to tell the stories of our community.
Dr. Elizabeth Agnew, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, received a Ball State University Immersive Teaching Award for her class's documentary film, “Muslims in Muncie”.

Eleven undergraduate students from eight different majors worked with Dr. Agnew to create the documentary as part of the Virginia B. Ball Center seminar. This student creation is a first-ever comprehensive exploration of Muncie’s multi-ethnic Muslim community. The documentary includes interviews with 22 members of the Muncie Muslim community from 12 countries who share their stories and personal experiences. Dr. Agnew stresses, “This is not a film that’s trying to tell people about Islam. It’s about individual Muslims; it’s about their lives, their perceptions.”

Among those interviewed, include Mir Masoom Ali, Emeritus Professor of Statistics from Ball State, Bibi Bahrami, current president of the Islamic Center in Muncie, and Richard McKinney, former president of the Islamic Center. The film, and the individual interviews and transcripts, will be housed in BSU’s Digital Media Repository, where they will be available to a world-wide public.

TELLING OUR COMMUNITY STORIES

The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) The Ball State University is partnering with other Indiana colleges and universities to transform STEM education through innovative retention strategies and educational experiences that support historically underrepresented students.

The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program assists universities and colleges in their efforts to significantly increase the numbers of students matriculating into and successfully completing high quality degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines in order to diversify the STEM workforce.

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

Chemistry

Geology

Computer Science

Mathematics

Participating Majors

Actuarial Science

Astronomy

Biology/Biological Sciences

Chemistry

Computer Science

Geology/Earth Science

Mathematics

DEDICATION TO EXPLORING NEW IDEAS

Engaging in discovery and scholarship is a high priority for the College of Sciences and Humanities. Our faculty have engaged in research endeavors that contribute to the social, mental, and physical well-being of humanity. Recognized nationally, Sociology professor Richard Petts continues to add to the conversation about paternity leave. The Department of English is excited to welcome River Teeth to their lineup of literary publications. Geology faculty are driving change in Nepal, helping residents gain access to clean water. Two of our faculty, Chemistry Professor, Rob Sammelson and Biology professor Susan McDowell received patents for their research on the development of new treatments for bacterial infections.

The teacher scholar model emphasizes the importance of opportunities for undergraduate students to develop their ideas in the form of research. A team of Anthropology students are working with local agencies to study the effects of the opioid crisis among pregnant women. English and pre-med major Maggie Sutton is spending the summer in Cape Town, South Africa as a medical care intern. Autum Auxier, a Biology-Zoology student is spending her summer in Port Elizabeth, South Africa doing data collection and analytics on plastic pollution and the impact it has on marine birds and mammals. Drew Shaeffer, a double major in French and Marketing is expanding her study of the French language at the Ecole de Langue Française et de Culture Québécoise (ELFCQ) at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

Read more about our student and faculty projects by visiting blogs.bsu.edu/csh

OVER 400 PUBLICATIONS

MORE THAN $12 MILLION AWARDED GRANTS

7 STUDENT PUBLISHED JOURNALS

This was about Muslims becoming Americans, Americans becoming Muslims, and those who were born both as Americans and Muslims and then together forging a community.”

Elizabeth Agnew, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Sciences and Humanities was excited to participate in Ball State’s first ever One Ball State Day. The goal of this 24-hour event was to bring together Ball State communities to share in the spirit and excitement of being a Cardinal! We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped us raise more than $36,000 in donations combined among our programs, departments and the College. Contributions from One Ball State Day support scholarships, student experiences including conferences and travel, department initiatives, and course and classroom development.