

COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND LETTERS
2008-2009 Annual Report Summary

Dear colleagues,

It has been a good year for CASL. Here are just five highlights:

1. This year, 95 percent of our faculty searches succeeded, and thus 19 full-time faculty members will join us next Fall. This has been the biggest hiring season since the early years of the college.
2. We continue to catch up on technology: 15 new media-equipped classrooms are on their way for the Fall, and other classroom upgrades are underway. We have also spent \$100,000 for faculty and staff computers.
3. Support for faculty scholarship expanded. We funded record travel support, again offered the CASL Senior faculty course releases, piloted Associate Professor Career Grants and, of course, continued the long tradition of Assistant Professor course releases.
4. For the sixth year in a row, CASL enrollment grew, and we obtained central funding to support part of that growth. Having caught up base budget to last year's level of part-time instruction, this year we obtained one-time money to pay for the additional growth in sections. We also won base budget funding for three new tenure-track lines.
5. Record-breaking attendance at the 2009 Meeting of Minds, held at UM-Dearborn this year and hosted by CASL, reflected strong faculty commitment to student engagement in research. The college also funded a record number of student mentors and academic apprentice Co-ops.

The document below summarizes department and program activities. You will find additional details on enrollment growth ([Student Head Count](#) and [Credit Hour Production](#)), on [CASL Graduates](#), on growth in our [Publications](#), and on the many [CASL Events 2008-09](#) by clicking on the links in this paragraph by looking at the [CASL Annual Report](#) web site.

Next year as this year, I look forward to working with you toward these goals:

- To fully fund instructional costs: summer, growth in Fall-Winter, and new full-time lines.
- To maintain excellence in teaching and scholarship by managing faculty course load and faculty-to-student ratio.
- To expand opportunities for student engagement.

Best wishes for an equally productive 2009-10—

Katie Anderson-Levitt, Dean

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DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The department conducted six searches for faculty positions and was successful in filling five positions: Anthropology, Psychology (2), and Sociology (2). One of the Sociology lines is primarily focused in Criminal Justice. The growth in faculty prompted a review of available office space and a subsequent request for funds to create additional offices from department space. The renovation will be completed this summer.

Enrollment growth continued in all departmental programs with marked increases in Health Policy Studies and Psychology.

The growth in the assistant professor ranks prompted the department to initiate new mentoring activities to support promotion and tenure and to strengthen faculty retention.

Teaching innovations indicate a wide variety of media, internet, and e-learning sources. Faculty are increasingly employing C-tools for their students and continue to incorporate writing-across-the curriculum in their courses.

Faculty outreach activities included the annual On-the-Move program, the Detroit Health Department/Detroit Recovery Project, the Ryan Correctional Facility, the Cranbrook Institute of Science, as well as local law enforcement agencies, schools and churches.

Faculty published three book reviews, six books, sixteen journal articles and five book chapters. Forty-eight works are in press, accepted, under review, under contract, or in process.

Twelve internal and eight external grant proposals were submitted. Fourteen were funded, bringing a total of \$41,200 in support of faculty research projects.

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNICATION

This new department created an innovative team approach for department leadership with the appointment of Rashmi Luthra as chair, aided by Gabriella Eschrich and Troy Murphy during the summer. The department also has a completely new staff with Lori Petrick as the Department Administrator and Karyn Koos filling the Secretary Intermediate position. Bill DeGenaro and Tim Kiska were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Marissa Stepien was promoted to Lecturer IV. The department welcomed three new faculty members to its ranks: two lecturers in foreign languages and one lecturer in Communication. Stana Sukunda retired effective April 30, and Poonam Arora resigned to accept another position elsewhere.

Three years of discussion and planning culminated in the reorganization of the Communication curriculum into two components: Journalism and Screen Studies (JASS) and Public Communication and Culture Studies (PC&CS). Other curriculum changes included a new Public Relations Certificate program, the creation of an Arabic language minor (awaiting CASL Executive Committee approval), and a Writing Certificate program.

New faculty member Jim Gilmore had entries in the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival and at the UFVA Annual Conference. Jamie Lee was nominated for the campus' Distinguished Teaching Award.

The faculty of the Department of Language, Culture, and Communication published ten journal articles, three book chapters, and four book reviews. Thirty-two works are in press, accepted, under review, under contract, or in process. During the year they gave twenty-one lectures, presentations, or papers at professional conferences, university seminars, and public gatherings.

Seven internal and one external grant proposals were submitted; six were funded for a total of \$25,800.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, AND THE ARTS

The Department chose Susan Erickson to serve as its first chair, supported by Elisa Madrigal-Gilezan as Department Administrator and Brennan Cain as Secretary Intermediate. Two new faculty began their appointments in September: Michelle Jarenski in English and Richard Rischar in Music. Erik Bond was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Maureen Linker was honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award in the tenured faculty category. Deborah Smith Pollard received the 2009 Michigan Notable Book Award for her work, *When the Church Becomes Your Party*. The department completed a successful search for an Assistant Professor of Art History with the appointment of Nadja Rottner effective September 2009.

A minor in Applied Art was sent to the CASL Curriculum Committee for review and approval. Seven new courses in Art, English, Women's and Gender Studies, and Philosophy were created, and changes were made to four courses in English and Music.

Department faculty published six book reviews, three book chapters, three journal articles, one review essay and co-authored one book. Forty projects are in press, accepted, under review, under contract, or in process. Faculty gave twenty-seven lectures, seminars, or other public presentations. Their creative activities included poetry performances, musical performances, and curating art exhibitions.

Six internal grants were submitted, and three were awarded providing \$8,600 in support of faculty activities.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Mathematics and Statistics faculty published four books, two book reviews, two research papers, and four articles. They made twenty professional presentations. Thirty-one projects are in press, accepted, under review, under contract, or in process.

Seven new grant proposals were funded, two are continuing, and three proposals are still pending.

The department conducted six successful searches for new faculty, hiring four assistant professors and two lecturers. Robert Fakler completed his retirement furlough in April. Jennifer Zhao will begin her appointment as Associate Dean on July 1.

A major revision of the courses for elementary education students (Math 385/6/7) was completed with support from an NSF grant. A modified offering system for Math 090 will begin in Fall 2009. The Center for Mathematics Education continued to provide on-site courses for primary, middle, and secondary schools teachers. The number of mathematics concentrators again increased in Fall and Winter terms.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Natural Sciences faculty published three books, twenty-eight articles, twenty-eight book chapters, and five book reviews. Thirty projects are in press, accepted pending revisions, or under review. Faculty gave more than eighty lectures, seminars, or other public presentations and attended thirty-nine meetings, conferences, and workshops as part of their professional development.

Fourteen internal and sixteen external grants were submitted. Twenty proposals were funded providing \$640,316 in support of faculty research and five are pending.

David Susko and Sheila Smith were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Krisanu Bandyopadhyay was honored with University of Michigan-Dearborn Distinguished Teaching Award, and Marilee Parsons was appointed Associate Dean effective July 1. Bette Kreuz retired at the end of December and Paul Zitzewitz at the end of the academic year. The department successfully completed four searches for new faculty, hiring two assistant professors and two lecturers. With the retirement of Roxanne Wilshire, Karen Cristian was promoted to Administrative Specialist and Tamara Hawkins was appointed to the Accounting Clerk Senior position. Debalina Bandyopadhyay replaced Ruth Dusenbery who retired from the Science Learning Center.

The department acquired an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) through an NSF grant and a new nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer (NMR) with funds donated by an alumnus.

Curriculum changes included a new Astronomy minor program and an undergraduate certificate in Medical Sciences.

The department sponsored the “Year of Astronomy” and co-sponsored the “Darwin Anniversary” lecturer series. It also hosted the Wayne County Regional Science Olympiad and Bring Your Child to Work Day events.

The number of concentrators and FYES=s grew for the seventh consecutive year with increases in biological sciences, chemistry, and physics.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social Sciences faculty published two books, six scholarly articles, seven book chapters and nine book reviews. Four books, ten articles, twelve book chapters, and four book reviews are in press. Faculty have thirty-four projects under review or in process.

Ten internal and eleven external grant proposals were submitted. Fourteen were funded for a total of \$501,000 and two, totaling \$1.1 million are pending.

The transfer of the MPA program to the department brought Seth Hirshorn and Dale Thomson to the faculty ranks. The department also conducted two successful searches, hiring assistant professors in Economics and Political Science.

The new Social Studies major enrolled sixteen students. The new Local Government Management program will begin next year. Departmental faculty created sixteen new courses, including several for the LGM program. History revised its capstone course to emphasize methodology rather than topics.

The department was involved in events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the meeting between John Brown and Frederick Douglass, a Lincoln Town Hall Meeting held at the Wright Museum, panel discussions on the current economic crisis, and co-sponsored Barbara Ransby's talk "Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement."

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

Report in progress.

ADVISING AND RECORDS

The number of advisors increased this year due to the temporary assignment of Traci Ballard from EMSL to CASL. The heavy demand for advising appointments and walk-in advising increased again this year with 3,799 one-on-one advising appointments with professional advisors and faculty advisors being recorded. An additional 1,384 students were served on a walk-in basis. This level of activity reflects the still-growing ranks of CASL students.

The Petitions Committee met regularly to review the 1,233 petitions filed. There were 243 petitions to waive the foreign language requirement based on high school courses. The office processed 1,259 changes of degree requests, performed 696 senior audits and 653 graduation audits. CASL awarded 101 degrees in August, 186 in December, and 247 in April, a total of 534 graduates.

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Kenn Cox, pianist, composer, jazz performer and educator was a KCP Visiting Professor in the fall term, giving three lecture-demonstrations that were very successful. Unfortunately, he passed away in late December. Ms. Marion Hayden agreed to take over the winter term course, *Survey of African American Music History*. The lecture-demonstrations were supplemented by the traveling exhibit, "Rock, Rhythm, and Soul: The Black Roots of African American Music," which, according to Library personnel, was one of its best-attended exhibits.

Faculty and staff contributions created the Elnora Ford/Cheryl Harris Intellectual Excellence Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded based on essays on social justice issues.

An articulation agreement with UM-Flint has opened their Nigeria Study Abroad program to UM-Dearborn students. Four students enrolled and will take classes at Imo State University. Prof. Pollard, who accompanies the students to Nigeria, will teach a course in Summer II that will complete their course of study.

In November, the program offered the second "Soul of Success" retreat for students, faculty and staff at the Ferry Inn. The students participated in academic skills workshops, cultural activities and informal mentoring dialogues to support and encourage their course work.

AMERICAN STUDIES

The American Studies gateway course, Comparative American Identities, will be offered again in fall 2009. The program faculty are working to increase enrollment and, to that end, continue to collaborate with other College-wide programs. The program committee is developing two themes for next year: 'Twitter, Facebook, Texting and the Future of Deep Thought,' and 'Pioneering the Detroit Frontier.'

APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS

Enrollment grew to fourteen students in winter term and the Master of Science degree was awarded to one student. The program hosted a Mathematics in Industry seminar which showed students how mathematics is used outside of academics by different businesses. Two \$1,500 scholarships were awarded for the upcoming year. Two conferences were sponsored: the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics' Conference on Complexity, and the Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, both in October 2008.

ARMENIAN RESEARCH CENTER

Report in progress.

CASL ON-LINE LEARNING

Six new on-line/blended courses were added, and five of the REACH courses were converted to completely on-line courses. The collaboration with UM-Flint's on-line program began, enrolling several UM-Dearborn students.

The new website has been completed, and the CASL On-Line brochure was updated and sent to the Admissions Office for distribution at all orientation sessions. Planning is continuing with COMPASS/Knowledge which aims to increase on-line programs at all three UM campuses.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

A total of sixty-six students were placed in 102 cooperative education assignments with 48 participating employers. The Co-op courses, LIBS 300 and LIBS 395, generated 235 credit hours.

Director Patti Jones returned from a leave of absence in April and resumed her duties as director. The director's activities were on-hold while a search for a temporary replacement was conducted and then again frequently during the year due to the substitute's absences. Fortunately, Secretary Senior Debbie Kozub offered some continuity for the students.

Professional activities of Co-op director Patti Jones included a presentation at the Mi-ACE and MC-ICE conference, President-Elect of the Michigan Council for Internships and Cooperative Education, and memberships on the boards of the Cooperative Education and Internship Association and the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Report in progress.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Report in progress

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Report in progress

HONORS PROGRAM

There were sixty-eight incoming students, all of whom had some level of university scholarship. Faculty offered two tutorials on *The Problem of Socrates* and *The Black Death* along with the other Honors' courses, History 365, Composition, Western Culture, and Math 297. Students and faculty attended three plays at the Stratford festival and the program hosted a luncheon for the Honors' graduates.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

Six student graduated from the program and six were accepted into the program for fall 2009. All students received individual advising from the Director. Curriculum review included the updating of the three-year course offering plan. Events for students included an orientation dinner with writing and research sessions, a faculty panel, lectures by Dr. Caroline Wellbery, and a trip to the DIA. Two student essays were submitted to *Confluence*, the AGLSP journal, and a MALS student was a presenter at the national conference.

MASTERS=5 PROGRAM IN PUBLIC POLICY

Report in progress.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY

The Center for the Study of Religion and Society provides a focus for interdisciplinary scholarly research and teaching on religion and its relationship to American society. It is home to five interrelated programs: the interdisciplinary minor in Religious Studies, the Worldviews Seminar; the Pluralism Project, the Metropolitan Detroit Digital Music Archive of Religious Music, and the Ford Foundation Difficult Dialogues Initiative. The Center sponsors lectures and colloquia on campus and is a link between the university and area religious centers, religious leaders, and inter-religious organizations. During the year the Center sponsored or co-sponsored the Difficult Dialogues Initiative, the Worldviews Seminar, and the Pluralism Project. The CSRS hosted a CIES Fulbright Interfaith Action Scholar, Father Michael Chua from Malaysia.

RETIRED PERSONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the program, and the Senior Officers have endorsed opening all graduate programs on campus to the RPSP participants. In the fall term, sixty participants were enrolled, taking a total of 307 credit hours. Forty-six students were enrolled in the winter term, for a total of 179 credit hours. Two graduate students were registered for a nine credit hours. Typically, Retired Person Scholars elect two undergraduate courses, or one graduate level course per semester, even though they are allowed to elect a total of three each semester. Program participants continue to benefit from a bequest of \$25,000 from a former student with the money being used to support textbook purchases.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Report in progress.

SOAR PROGRAM

A new full-time directorship was created for the program, filled by Ellen Judge-Gonzalez and Chris Hilbush's Student Services Assistant position was made permanent. The program serves non-traditional, disadvantaged students, most of whom are minorities and women. Most of the fifty-four students enrolled in the program receive Pell Grants and half of them maintain GPA's of 3.0 or higher. Eight SOAR students graduated this year, bringing the total number of program graduates to twenty-five. SOAR students are active in campus organizations, particularly Women in Learning and Leadership and Women and Gender Studies. Retention efforts focused on improving academic support and mentoring and strengthening student engagement with the campus community.

The annual event, On the Move, College is an Option, was held in March. This is the primary recruitment vehicle for the program and drew 240 participants, mentors, and university representatives to the one-day event.

WOMEN=S & GENDER STUDIES and WOMEN IN LEARNING & LEADERSHIP (WILL)

The WGST program has ten majors and twenty-eight declared minors. Twenty-six course offerings enrolled 631 students. Faculty published three books, twelve book chapters and articles, and two book reviews. They made seventeen presentations at local, national and international conferences.

WILL students organized 1) a mentoring program at a Southwest Detroit school , culminating in a Photovoice exhibit, 2) a White Ribbon campaign to stop sexual violence, and 3) an informational event on the presidential candidates positions on gender issues.

WGST sponsored or co-sponsored eight lectures, a panel discussion, two workshops, four film screenings, and a speaker series for faculty, students and the community.

WRITING PROGRAM/WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center opened a second satellite site in Fairlane Center North to serve Education and Management students. The three locations (CB, SSB & FCN) combined had a total of 836 appointments during the Fall term and 689 in the Winter. Reviews and assessments that occurred during the year included: curriculum, writing placement process, faculty development, the website, writing awards, and program assessment. The Writing Center consultants received training in second-language student tutoring and writing in English literature and Engineering.

New courses to be offered are Comp 280, Business Writing & Rhetoric and Comp 475, Teaching Writing: Theory & Practice (for WC consultants).

The Program sponsored LEO faculty attendance at the Michigan Writing Centers Association Conference, the Association of Writers & Creative Writing Programs, and the Institute of General Semantics conference.

The Director met with faculty from all four units to foster Writing-across-the-Curriculum and a monthly brown-bag series was initiated in Winter term.