

ARTS & SCIENCES
YEAR IN REVIEW
2024-25



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SOFRANKO

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FROM THE DEAN



SUZANNE RAITT

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Dear Arts & Sciences Colleagues,

Welcome to the College of Arts & Sciences! Our name change became official on July 15, and I am excited about the opportunities it will open up.

In this newsletter, you will find reflections on the past year in Arts & Sciences. I hope you see your contributions represented here and feel a sense of pride in all we've accomplished together.

In the Looking Ahead section at the end, you'll get a preview of what we'll be working on together in 2025-26.

With gratitude,

Suzanne Raitt
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

ARTS & SCIENCES AT A GLANCE

ENROLLMENT | 7,011

UNDERGRADUATE | 6,628

GRADUATE | 383

FACULTY | 591

CONTINUING | 458

VISITING & ADJUNCT | 133

STAFF | 158

ALL NUMBERS AS OF FALL 2024

PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

TEAM TRANSITIONS

This year, we were joined by colleagues **Audrey Horning** as Vice Dean for Research & Graduate Studies, **Jay Jolles** Ph.D. '25 as Assistant Director of the Writing and Communication Center, **Cathy Forestell**, the new Vice Dean of Natural, Mathematical and Health Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies, and Jill Scharling in a new role as Assistant Director of A&S Graduate Studies. We said goodbye to our valued colleagues who are transitioning to new or different positions: **Rob Hinkle**, who concluded his term as Vice Dean and returned to the Chemistry department, and **Chris Carone** and **Trey Mayo**, who joined our colleagues in the School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics, as well as **Vicki Thompson Dopp**, who we congratulate on her retirement.

TENURE & PROMOTION

The Committee on Retention, Promotion and Tenure supported another robust group of candidates this year: **15 candidates were awarded tenure**. In the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2025, **10 Associate Professors were promoted to full Professor**. Many congratulations to these colleagues.

HIRING

In 2024-25, Arts & Sciences continued to advance the goals of the Access and Success pillar of the university's Inclusive Excellence Framework through our recruitment and retention efforts. This year, A&S authorized recruitment for **52 full-time tenure-eligible and teaching faculty positions: 36 tenure-eligible/tenured, and 16 teaching faculty**. Of TE searches, we are delighted to have 33 signed offers, with a few of those positions starting in Fall 2026. An additional **17 searches were authorized for limited-term visiting teaching faculty or teaching postdocs**. A&S also hired 55 staff members across units over the 2024-25 year. Much of our recruiting success was due to hiring units moving through searches in a timely manner and completing most hiring by mid-spring. A heartfelt thanks to those units as well as our faculty personnel services team.

RECOGNITION

Committee Service

A&S committees worked on numerous initiatives and projects in service to A&S and the university. Below are the standing A&S committees. We are grateful to all 2024-25 committee members and leaders, including faculty, staff and students, for their dedicated service.

- Academic Status
- Awards, Prizes & Professorships
- Degrees
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Educational Policy
- Faculty Affairs
- Graduate Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- International Studies
- Nominations & Elections
- Retention, Promotion & Tenure
- Teaching Faculty

Awards & Professorships

We congratulate the following Arts & Sciences faculty on being recognized for their achievements with awards and named professorships.

Awards

- Thomas Ashley Graves, Jr. Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching: **Aiko Kitamura**
- Shirley Aceto Award: **Shannon White**
- Arts & Sciences Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence: **Jody Lynn Allen, Michael Daise, Chunying Lin**
- Arts & Sciences Awards for Faculty Governance: **Hannah Rosen, Magali Compan**
- Arts & Sciences Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring: **David Armstrong**
- Jennifer and Devin Murphy Award: **Tyler Meldrum**
- Lambert Scholarship: **Jerry (Jay) Watkins III**

Professorships (starting Fall 2025)

- Walter G. Mason Professor of Religion: **Andrew Tobolowsky**
- James Pinckney Harrison Professor of History: **Betsy Konefal**
- William E. Pullen Professor of American History: **Hiroshi Kitamura**
- Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Professor: **Chinua Thelwell**
- Class of 1961 Professor: **Georgia Irby**
- Class of 2026 Professor: **John Riofrio**
- Thomas Arthur Vaughan Jr. Memorial Professor in Economics: **John Parman**
- Ken Kambis Professor in Kinesiology & Health Sciences: **Robin Looft-Wilson**
- Mansfield Associate Professor: **Kelebogile Zvobgo**
- G. Bruce Taggart Professor: **Nathan Kidwell, Bin Ren**
- Gale & Steven Kohlhausen Professor: **Jessica Paga***
- Weingartner Term Professor, **Rani Mullen**

*Started Fall 2024



STUDENT EXPERIENCE & SUCCESS

ADVISING & STUDENT SUCCESS

- The Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs changed its name to **the Advising Center** (effective summer 2025) to more clearly convey the purpose and function of this office for both students and campus partners.
- William & Mary was again named a **top-producing institution of Fulbright U.S. Students for 2024–25**. This achievement reflects the strength of our advising community. Under the guidance of Michael Clay, former Assistant Director of Fellowships, the Advising Center (formerly OUAA) introduced new support initiatives in 2024, including tools to better anticipate student interest, three summer writing camps to strengthen applications, and one-on-one advising sessions for every applicant before campus interviews. **Faculty continued to play a vital role**, offering research and regional expertise, thoughtful feedback, and interview preparation to ensure students felt confident and ready. As we navigate the changing landscape of fellowships and welcome a new fellowships leader to the Advising Center in 2025, we will build on this strong foundation and continue supporting our students' global ambitions.
- The academic affairs/advising and communications teams launched a **first-semester web resource** to help students better prepare for their first semester of classes.
- The **number of pre-med advisors increased substantially** to provide stronger advising and support for students on pre-health tracks.
- The **first annual Declaration Week launched** as a celebration of students at every stage of declaring a major, with opportunities for education and engagement.



APPLIED LEARNING & INTERNSHIPS

As the A&S hub for undergraduate research experiences beyond the classroom and across disciplines, the Charles Center continues to expand student access to transformative mentorship, internship, and applied learning initiatives. Director Elizabeth Harbron is co-leading the university's multiyear Applied Learning for All initiative to facilitate cross-campus collaboration, data collection, and innovation.

Highlights include:

- Two new **masterclass series**—in journalism and in the arts—**provided more than 350 students with hands-on learning opportunities** with master practitioners.
- The Center's Research in Motion program supported the **research or conference travel of 61 undergraduates**.

In addition to awarding **287 research grants** for summer 2025, the Charles Center is supporting **34 internships**, including experiences for:

- 10 Woody interns in Museum Studies
- 10 Monroe Scholar internships
- 9 City Research interns (3 interns with the City of Williamsburg and 6 interns with area nonprofits)
- 3 Sharpe Community Scholars Action Research internships
- 2 Journalism & Democracy fellows with regional news organizations



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

- We launched **new degrees in health sciences**, a B.A./B.S. in Public Health, and a B.S. in Human Health & Physiology. These new degree programs better convey the depth and breadth of study offered by our colleagues in the newly renamed Department of Health Sciences (formerly Kinesiology).
- The **Writing and Communication Center returned to full staffing** as assistant director Jay Jolles Ph.D. '25 joined the team. Building on last year's renaming, the Center continues to support student writing and communication through one-on-one consultations, workshops, faculty partnerships (including with STLI), and targeted support for COLL 100/150 courses.
- This year saw **full implementation of the university's new scheduling and registration software**, which has enhanced the student experience through a less stressful registration process, and allowed us to build better schedules based on student demand.

GRADUATE

The past academic year has seen Graduate Studies in Arts & Sciences continue to thrive, with the strength of A&S graduate programs helping W&M to **attain status as an R-1** (research intensive) university in early 2025.

The launch of the School of Computing, Data Science, & Physics (CDSP) brought changes to the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS), including staffing changes referenced under Team Transitions on page 2.

Additionally, Sarah Glosson, Director of the Graduate Center, shifted to the Office of the Provost, a move allowing the Graduate Center to expand its mission from A&S to supporting graduate students from across the university.

The OGS bids a fond farewell and extends immense gratitude to departing colleagues while looking forward to the next chapter and the opportunities that lie ahead.

The Graduate Advisory Board (GSAB) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA) continue to serve students in both Arts & Sciences and CDSP.



RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & DISCOVERY

Faculty and students alike advanced knowledge this year through research, creative work and interdisciplinary engagement.

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP

Faculty continued doing the high-quality research for which W&M is known, winning external grants, and building new collaborations globally, locally and within the university. We allocated approximately \$245,000 internally this year to support faculty research and events via the Faculty Grants Fund. In addition to internal funding awarded, faculty secured significant external funding. Below are the external funding totals for A&S FY25 to date (7/1/2024-5/31/25). Please note, these totals are incomplete and unaudited; final totals will be available later in the year.

- **250 external proposals** totaling \$79,534,454
- External grant funding: **\$11,262,915**
- Of the above award totals, \$1,788,598 represents 41 external student and faculty fellowships

THE ARTS

This past year marked a transformative chapter for the arts at William & Mary with the launch of the Office of the Arts. For the first time in many years, William & Mary presented a **fully curated performing arts season** under the banner of **William & Mary Presents!**, showcasing a remarkable array of talent across musical genres and disciplines. The season featured multiple Grammy Award-winning artists (including **Take 6**, pictured), with performers in jazz, bluegrass, classical, and global traditions. These world-class acts were complemented by vibrant theatre and dance productions and immersive workshops, all celebrating the range of W&M's artistic expression. The support of the Year of the Arts Committee, Sumner G. Rand Foundation, The Charles Center Masterclass Series, and the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund and Dean's Innovation Fund helped make this ambitious programming possible.

Highlights of the year included:

- **160+** ticketed events
- **20,000 attendees** across campus art spaces
- **Partnerships** with Virginia Arts Festival, Tidewater Classical Guitar Society, Ampersand International Arts Festival, and more



SCHOLARLY PERSPECTIVES SERIES

Following the success of the Spring 2024 Scholarly Perspectives series on the Middle East, Arts & Sciences partnered with the Reves Center for International Studies to coordinate a Spring 2025 series focused on Arts & Democracy. Practitioners were invited to deliver a public lecture or performance, meet with students, visit classes, and conduct workshops during their visits.

The series ran through the spring semester with guests:

- Songspeller, multidisciplinary storyteller and ritualist **Kamara Thomas '96**.
- **ArtLords**, an internationally recognized art for social change organization founded in Afghanistan;
- **Iman Zaki**, co-founder of Reflection for Arts, a training and development organization in Alexandria, Egypt, that promotes the role of the arts in community development.

The series culminated in April with the visit and the 2025 **George Tayloe Ross lecture by Guatemalan photographer Daniel Hernández-Salazar** focused on Art and Social Change in Post-War Landscapes. A collectively created mural designed by ArtLords and executed during their visit remains on display in Phi Beta Kappa Hall, as do reproductions of Hernández-Salazar's "angels" installed at various sites of significance around campus to prompt memory and reflection.



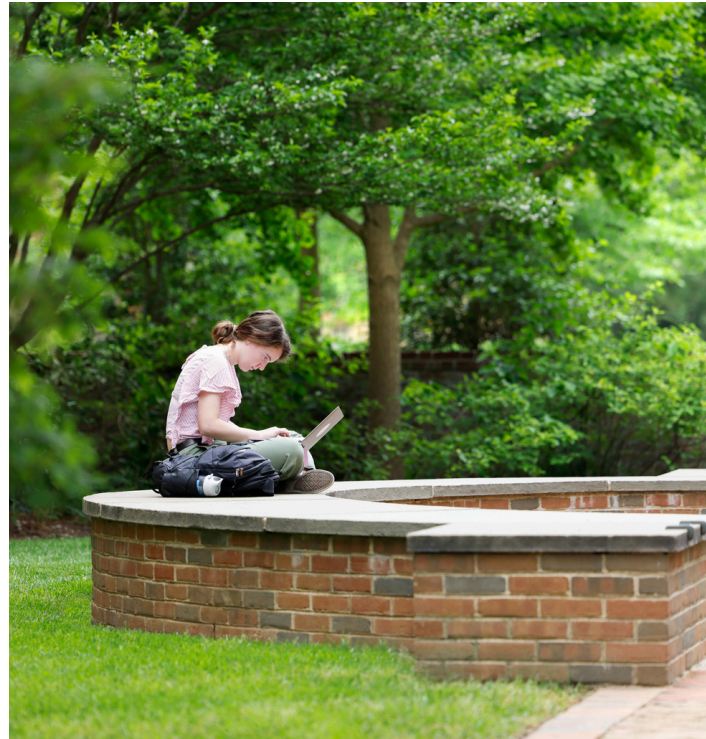
OPERATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Our fiscal & administrative and communications teams continued to modernize systems, strengthen communication and expand A&S-wide professional development opportunities to support long-term success.

FISCAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Highlights and achievements from the fiscal & administrative team this year include:

- Introduced **quarterly admin staff meetings**
- Established **Finance Team office hours**, and Senior Associate Dean Tarikul Islam began weekly open office hours
- Transitioned I-9 verifications to University HR
- Hired **field-based Admin & Fiscal Coordinator** for training & interim support
- Began recruitment for Faculty Personnel Services Specialist
- Began planning new 'Lead' Admin roles to support growth
- Created Advisory Committee for Admin Staff to launch in AY 2025–26



COMMUNICATIONS

The communications team works both to support internal communication needs and spearhead strategic external communications initiatives. This year, highlights include:

- Strengthened collaboration with partners including University Marketing, University Communications, and Government & External Affairs
- Launched **pilot Inside A&S newsletter** for faculty and staff
- Initiated planning for the **launch of the A&S name change to the College of Arts & Sciences**
- Launched a project to **redesign and modernize every Arts & Science academic department, program and office website homepage**
- Engaged in university-wide initiative to ensure federal digital accessibility compliance by April 2026
- Began recruitment of a Communications & Marketing Manager to expand capacity for marketing content and social media management

INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES & PLANNING

This year we strengthened our foundation for the future: advancing inclusive impact, celebrating philanthropic partnerships, and aligning strategic priorities with W&M's Vision 2026.



Kathleen Clem HON '25, and strong supporter of A&S, gives remarks at the May ceremony in which she was named an honorary alumna of W&M.

ADVANCEMENT

Our Advancement team had many opportunities to visit with alumni, parents, and friends of A&S. In addition to local connections in Williamsburg, Dean Raitt and Executive Director of Development, Gerald Bullock, made stops throughout the U.S. and internationally, including:

- Florida
- Georgia
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Washington, DC
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- England

One Tribe One Day again saw a **record amount raised for A&S**, led by a challenge grant from our leadership board, the Council of Arts & Sciences. The outstanding support of A&S departments and programs helps make this work possible.

REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

Our decennial **reaffirmation of accreditation process** with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), (required every 10 years) is underway. Our team is working closely with the university's Office of Institutional Accreditation & Effectiveness to ensure we continue to progress. This effort highlights your remarkable commitment to excellence, with **faculty achievement and innovation** playing a central role in demonstrating the high standards of **teaching, scholarship, and student support** that characterize Arts & Sciences.

INCLUSIVE IMPACT

Inclusive impact strategic initiatives this year included:

- The annual **Insights from Within** community conversation on "Exploring Inclusive Leadership" and a working lunch headlined by student-athletes.
- **Inclusive Inquiry Speaker Series** featuring Lynda Barry, acclaimed teacher, author and artist.
- **AFFURM Faculty Network**, a mentoring, community-building, and faculty success initiative, which provided three workshops on student support, teaching, and strategies for career advancement and success.
- Ten **Open Inquiry Awards** distributed to faculty teaching existing or new non-COLL courses across A&S that promote open inquiry of diverse experiences and perspectives.

LOOKING AHEAD

From the Dean

A&S is poised to transform itself over the next two or three years, building on our strengths to support everyone who joins our community in becoming the person they always dreamed of, doing work that is meaningful for a lifetime. I encourage you to look at the [Arts & Sciences 5-Year Major Operational Goals](#) to remind yourselves of what we want to accomplish.

As the College of Arts & Sciences, we will focus on new initiatives that broaden our students' intellectual range and build their readiness for multiple different careers so that they continue to grow after they graduate. None of these initiatives is set in stone: you are my thought-partners in this work. I am grateful to the faculty, staff and students who served on the Future of Arts & Sciences Working Group, the Working Group on the Use of Teaching Assistants, the Working Group on Effective and Equitable Evaluation of Teaching, and the Tenure in Interdisciplinary Programs Working Group. Their reports will be forthcoming in the early fall and will drive much of the work we will do next year. The future of the College is yours to shape, and I encourage you to get involved.

- Building on the work of the Future of Arts & Sciences committee, we will work together to create a mission statement that will shape our identity for years to come
- We will engage in a series of conversations about potential internal restructuring in Arts & Sciences to make our distinctive excellence in so many fields clear and visible to all
- Pending the report from the Tenure in Interdisciplinary Programs Working Group, we will explore opportunities for cutting-edge interdisciplinary work, perhaps by offering tenure to faculty hired into interdisciplinary programs
- We will create programming that emphasizes our unique location as the birthplace of American democracy in all its aspirational complexity – a living-learning community, internships and research with civic and community organizations both locally and nationally, and more
- We will build a series of skills-based undergraduate certificates so that when our graduates enter the job market, they can point to credentialed experiences that will help them succeed in the workplace
- We will explore new Master's programs, including professional Master's programs, to grow our graduate student community and enhance opportunities for teaching and research
- We will implement recommendations from the Working Group on the Use of Teaching Assistants to ensure that all our teaching assistants and the students they work with are recruited, trained, mentored, compensated and assessed in accordance with best practices in higher education
- We will explore the recommendations from the Working Group on Effective and Equitable Evaluation of Teaching to support everyone in our community in becoming even better teachers and mentors
- We will support large multi-disciplinary research projects involving faculty and students with targeted grants from the Dean's Innovation Fund – stay tuned

We have a journey ahead of us, and I don't yet know where we will go. I invite you to lead the way as we determine our future together. I hope you are having a productive and restful summer, and as we prepare for a new academic year, I look forward to seeing you all on campus very soon.

- Suzanne Raitt
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences