This is a big fall on campus in many different measures. We welcomed an impressive group of new faculty to the College of Arts and Sciences, in fields ranging from theoretical physics to developmental writing. We also welcomed our largest freshman class ever – 600 students – and I am proud to note that this year's class has grown not only in quantity but also in quality, as gauged by their high school achievement metrics.

These students enter college at a moment of intense cultural discussion about the value of a college degree and, in particular, the value of a degree in the liberal arts and sciences. In the College of Arts and Sciences, we don't shy away from taking a position in the debate. National statistics make clear that a college degree has tangible value: a recent Pew Foundation study showed that young college graduates (ages 25-32) earn $17,500 more per year than their peers without a college degree and are employed at much higher levels (only 3.8% of college graduates in this age group are unemployed, compared to 12.2% of their peers without a degree). There also are powerful qualitative indicators of the particular value of a liberal arts degree. Former CEO and Chairman of Saks, Inc. Steve Sadov described employees with such degrees as being able to "look at issues from various perspectives and find new ways of doing things . . . they think critically... they communicate their thinking clearly and persuasively. They understand intuitively that the idea is important, but so is the ability to explain it, whether in writing or in front of a group." The Council of Independent Colleges reaffirms Sadov's real-world sense of things when it notes, "By studying the liberal arts, students develop strong critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. Liberal arts students learn to approach questions flexibly and to think across multiple disciplines. These are skills employers say they value most, even more than a specific major."

So, the tangible value of a liberal arts degree should not be underestimated, but neither should its intangible impact on what we might call quality of life. Our own Political Science department chair David Faris introduced some of our first-year students to both ways of valuing the liberal arts in his address at this fall's Honors Convocation. A specialist in the politics of the Middle East, Professor Faris introduces a wide range of courses and, in his research and his teaching, embodies much of what's best about our College's commitment to the liberal arts. His words are both simple and profound, straightforward and wise, and I can't improve upon them, so I'll share an excerpt from his talk here because what Professor Faris says is good advice for all of us:

The scholar Andrew Delbanco wrote a book recently called *College: What it Was, Is and Should Be*. In it he asks what the purpose of a college education really is. Is it to get vocational training for employment? Of course, yes. But is there a larger purpose in this endeavor that you're embarking on? Delbanco insists on what he calls, "a skeptical discontent with the present, informed by a sense of the past." What does he mean by discontent with the present? It's not about being unhappy, or treating all existing institutions, laws, and ideas with cynicism. It means you'll never know what you might be skeptical of if you don't sit down in classes that you know nothing about, in fields you find daunting and foreign, with professors whose expertise lies in subjects that intimidate you just a little bit. Learn broadly. Open your hearts to new thinking, challenging perspectives, other cultures, strange ideas and contentious arguments. Always ask why. Collect knowledge but also experience. I hope that your skepticism is transformed into broad, interdisciplinary expertise, made available for the benefit of yourselves, your families, your societies, and humankind. That is the mission of the university, of our university, and I hope that it will become yours as well.

In the pages that follow, you can read about the ways our students, faculty, and alumni are learning broadly, collecting knowledge and experience, and asking why. These activities are leading them to discoveries and achievements that are transforming both their lives and our society, and it is a pleasure to share some of our College's transformational work with you.

With regards,

Bonnie Gunzenhauser, PhD
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
The College of Arts and Sciences continued its partnership with Roosevelt's Project Prime Program by offering the Summer Bridge Enrichment Program for incoming Roosevelt students. The program serves Project Prime-eligible students (first generation, low income or disabled) and provides needed developmental course work in math and English. In addition, the Department of Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences launched the inaugural Science Summer Bridge Program to prepare new first year students for the academic rigor of the science program and to create a supportive community of science learners. Both summer bridge programs afford new Roosevelt students an opportunity to earn general education credits, hone necessary college skills, and enjoy co-curricular activities.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Students from Professor Norbert Cordeiro’s conservation biology course traveled to Tanzania in the spring as part of the Biology Program's community engagement curriculum. Students did group research projects at the Amani Nature Reserve and planted trees for reforestation and sustainable harvesting of high-value products to improve the local economy and to fund the education of local children.

Samuel Barbour (master’s program in economics) published “Fashions of Economics: Haiku” in the International Journal of Pluralism and Economics Education (2014, vol. 5, no. 3). IJPPE is the leading journal for alternative methods of economics education. Samuel is a graduate assistant for the economics department and earned his BA in economics from Roosevelt in 2013.

Carmen Carrion (PsyD program) received a $500 diversity scholarship from the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology to attend the AACN meeting in New York City this summer.

Autumn Crump (biology) transferred to Roosevelt because she was drawn to the University’s commitment to social justice and social change. Autumn serves as a Mikva Challenge participant and sits on Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s policymaking Youth Commission. She is in her second year with the Mikva Challenge, a nonprofit organization that teaches leadership and gives young adults a voice in civic engagement and policymaking. Autumn plans to attend either pharmacy or medical school after graduating from Roosevelt.

Zach Fabos (political science) was awarded an internship with the United States Embassy in Vienna, Austria for the spring semester.

David Gomez (biochemistry) was accepted to the Focus on Your Future summer program at the Illinois College of Optometry. Focus on your Future is a program that introduces the profession of optometry to underrepresented minority undergraduates.

Valencia Montgomery (PsyD program) was selected for the Graduate Scholar Award for the 2014 Aging and Society Conference in Manchester, UK in November, where she chaired sessions and introduced speakers. Valencia also traveled to Puerto Rico in November to present her poster “Quality versus quantity of education as a predictor of cognition in elderly African-American and Caucasian patients” at the National Academy of Neuropsychology Annual Conference.

Akshay Patil (graduate student in biotechnology and chemical science) was accepted into the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences optometry program.

Patrick Szafran (PsyD program) won an American Psychological Association’s Division 39 Graduate Scholars Program Award.

Students from Professor Norbert Cordeiro’s conservation biology course traveled to Tanzania in the spring as part of the Biology Program's community engagement curriculum.

New Roosevelt science majors receive lab coats and lab notebooks as part of the inaugural Science Summer Bridge Program.
FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS


Jill Coleman, assistant professor of psychology, co-published “Multiple stereotypes: How gender and disability stereotypes influence judgments of disabled women and men” in Current Psychology. Third author Ingrid Haugen (BS, ’12, psychology, with honors) worked with Professor Coleman on this project while she was an undergraduate research assistant in Professor Coleman’s lab.

Anne-Marie Cusac, associate professor of journalism, was awarded a fellowship with the Social Justice News Nexus project at the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism. She will work on related and collaborative stories focusing on Chicago’s mental health clinics, mental health care in the Cook County Jail and “mental health care deserts” in Chicago. Professor Cusac’s proposal was to report on the community narratives behind sidewalk memorials in neighborhoods that have little access to mental health care.

Michael Ensdorf, professor of photography, director of the Gage Gallery and associate dean, was invited by the U.S. Department of State to give a presentation to a delegation of Jordanian photographers at the Gage Gallery in October. The delegation was there to learn how photography can foster social change. In addition, Ensdorf was a portfolio reviewer for the 2014 Filter Photo Festival in Chicago in September.

Peter Fallon, professor of media studies, was invited to contribute an article to the spring edition of L’Écologiste, the French-language version of the British magazine The Ecologist. The article, titled “Internet est-il un progrès?” (“Is the Internet [an example of] progress?”) originally appeared as a chapter in Fallon’s 2013 book Cultural Defiance, Cultural Deviance under the title “What Neil Postman Thinks About the Internet (My Imaginary Conversation).”

John Fountain, professor of journalism, won the Lisagor Award for Best News Column or Commentary for his piece in the Chicago Sun-Times “One: The most important number—Examining the toll of murder.”


Wanwan Huang, assistant professor of mathematics and actuarial science, presented “Option pricing with CAM stochastic volatility model using Monte Carlo” at the Monte Carlo and Quasi Monte Carlo Conference in Belgium in April.

Steven Kvaal, associate professor of psychology, presented his integrated theoretical model of psychological treatment for chronic pain at the University Medical School/Harry S. Truman Memorial Veteran’s Hospital Consortium in Columbia, Missouri in May.

June Lapidus, associate professor of economics, taught a course “Occupy the Economy” at the Midwest School for Women Workers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this summer.


Joseph Mazzola, assistant professor of industrial/organizational psychology, presented a poster, “Daily fluctuations of barriers and facilitators on daily health behaviors throughout the week” at the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology conference in Hawaii this spring. His lab also recently received a grant in the amount of $15,540 from the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety for the upcoming project entitled “The Role of Stress Mindset on Physiological Stress Levels and Task Performance.”

Svetozar Minkov, associate professor of philosophy, won Outstanding Book in the Humanities and Social Sciences from Aster Editorial Publishing, Portugal for his Francis Bacon’s ‘Inquiry Touching Human Nature’: Virtue, Philosophy and the Relief of Man’s Estate. The book will be translated into Portuguese and published by Aster. Professor Minkov also presented “Fundamental Human Problems and the New Political Science of Francis Bacon” at Catholic University in Lisbon, Portugal and “Bacon and the Wisdom of the Ancients” at École des Hautes Études in Paris, France this spring.


CAS APPOINTS DEAN

On October 8, 2014, Roosevelt University President Charles Middleton announced the appointment of Bonnie Gunzenhauser as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Since joining the Roosevelt community in 2003 as an assistant professor, Dean Gunzenhauser has held several key academic and administrative positions in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her assignments included assistant director of English Composition, Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages, associate dean, and interim dean.

Bonnie has a deep commitment to the liberal arts, combined with her outstanding record as interim dean and obvious love for teaching and learning. Among her many accomplishments as interim dean, Bonnie led a strategic planning effort for CAS, began the initiative to help undeclared students identify a major that’s right for them, created new structures for interdisciplinary teaching and learning in CAS, and enhanced opportunities for international education.

- President Middleton

Dean Gunzenhauser received a bachelor’s degree in English, philosophy and political science from Luther College, and an MA and PhD in English from the University of Chicago. She is an expert on the way literacy shapes political identity in the 18th century and today and is the author of numerous scholarly publications, including the recent monograph Reading in History: New Methodologies from the Anglo-American Tradition.

“I am honored to serve as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences,” Dean Gunzenhauser said. “As interim dean, I’ve been inspired by the talent of the CAS faculty and its commitment to Roosevelt’s students. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the College and across the University as we build on our strengths and identify compelling new ways to translate Roosevelt’s core values into transformational educational experiences.”

LYNN WEINER CO-AUTHORS HISTORY OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Lynn Weiner, university historian and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and university archivist, Laura Mills, co-authored a history of Roosevelt University, appropriately titled Roosevelt University (Arcadia Publishing, 2014). The book contains more than 200 historical photographs of the University and documents its origins to the present day.

Roosevelt University is available for purchase in the University bookstore. During the University’s 70th anniversary year, 2014-15, persons making a gift of $1,000 or more will receive a book personally signed by Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and a life trustee of the University.

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BLACK MALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WINS CHICAGO GAME CHANGER AWARD

Roosevelt University received a Game Changer Award from the city of Chicago’s One Summer Chicago 2014 program for providing meaningful experiences and youth engagement to teens through the University’s new Black Male Leadership Academy. Roosevelt was one of more than 100 agencies serving more than 22,500 Chicago high school students through One Summer Chicago.

Sponsored by the University’s St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies, the Black Male Leadership Academy brought 19 black Chicago teens to Roosevelt’s Chicago Campus this summer where they received a week of leadership training and the opportunity to experience college life. African-American men from Roosevelt’s faculty, administration and student body led many of the sessions and were role models/mentors to the teens. The Black Male Leadership Academy will continue its work with these young men on select Saturdays during the academic year.

The Black Male Leadership Academy was made possible by generous gifts from Robert and Rose Johnson (BA, ’58) and the Efroymson Family Fund. If you would like to support the work of the Black Male Leadership Academy, contact Sara Lee Powell, director of development, at spowell08@roosevelt.edu or (312)341-2309.
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

College of Arts and Sciences alumni continue to secure admission to graduate and professional schools, many with full funding. Others continue to make their mark in their professions. Here are some examples.

Amber Abousamra (BA, ’12, political science) is a second year law student at the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Amber recently won the CALI award (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) for excellence in research and writing.

Morgan Amos (MA, ’12, journalism) is a contributing writer for F.I.N.E. Success magazine. She published the novel From the Killer’s Eyes in April.

Meghan Christopher (MA, ’07, economics) entered Northwestern University’s master’s program in predictive analytics. Meghan served as a research and teaching assistant at Roosevelt and is currently a researcher for Public Consulting Group (PCG) in Chicago.

Cheryl Ganz (MA, ’95, history), chief curator of philately at the National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution, edited a book entitled Every Stamp Tells a Story: The National Philatelic Collection (Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, 2014).

Cara Garvey (BA, ’14, integrated marketing communication) wrote a paper Tweeting in the Tempest: The Use of Twitter During Crises that was accepted for the National Communication Association (NCA) 100th Annual Convention in Chicago in November.

Vildan Gorener (BS, ’13, biology) began a master of science in land management and conservation at Northwestern University.

Anna Gurevich (BA, ’13, psychology and political science) was accepted into the London School of Economics where she plans to study political theory.

Ali Hashimi (MA, ’13, history) delivered his thesis “Revolutionary Posters as Sites of Historical and Religious Memory” at the University of Chicago. His thesis explores the visual images used during the Iranian Revolution and uses a rich collection of propaganda posters.

Justyna Johnson (BA, ’13, psychology) was accepted to the physician assistant master’s program at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Marynia Kolak (MFA, ’11, creative writing) earned a master of science in GIS and cartography from John Hopkins University in 2014 and entered the PhD program in geography at Arizona State University in fall 2014.

Blaine Macius (BA, ’14, biology, with honors) was accepted into Rush University’s master of respiratory therapy program.

Cassandra Moore (BA, ’14, international studies, with honors) was accepted into the international conflict and security master’s program at the University of Kent in Brussels, Belgium.


Christine Shea (BA, ’10, English) is teaching English at the Espirit English Language Academy in Seoul, Korea.

Lisa Sheth (MS, ’12, biotechnology and chemical science) accepted a full-time research associate position at Fresenius Kabi in Lake Zurich, IL.

Elizabeth Vaca (BS, ’14, biology) was accepted into DePaul University’s master’s program in the College of Science and Health with a full tuition scholarship and stipend for the first year of her studies.

CAS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

William Ash
Lecturer in Mathematics  
MS, Northern Illinois University

Brent Barker
Assistant Professor of Physics  
PhD, Michigan State University

Vincent Francone
Lecturer in English Composition  
MA, Northwestern University

Miguel Jimenez
Lecturer in English Composition  
MFA, California State University, Fresno

Laura Kopff  
Lecturer in Chemistry  
PhD, University of Wisconsin

Lorna London
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
PhD, University of South Carolina

Toshio Murase
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
PhD, University of Central Florida

Jeffrey Zheng
Lecturer in Mathematics  
MEd, Harvard University
Susan Weiner, assistant professor of biology, was awarded a $25,000 grant from the Max Goldenberg Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase equipment that gauges energy in insects and other small organisms. “Knowing the energy use of organisms is vital to understanding what they do, how they do it, and what the adaptive reasons are behind their behavior,” Professor Weiner says.

Martha Sklar (BA ’62, mathematics) was made a Fireside Circle member after signing a bequest agreement to name an east-facing study lounge in the Wabash Tower. Martha is a retired math teacher who has already endowed a scholarship for math students.

A $71,500 bequest from the estate of Clifton (BA, ’41 Central YMCA, psychology) and Lois Dummett (BA ’42, Central YMCA, languages) will go to an endowed scholarship for pre-med, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy or allied health majors. Clifton was a prominent dentist and civil rights activist who taught at USC and Lois edited dental journals.

Thomas Dengler (BA, ’62, history) awarded an annual scholarship of $40,000 to benefit Palestinian students.

The Efroymson Family Fund awarded a $10,000 grant to fund the St. Clair Drake Center’s Black Male Leadership Academy.

The Department of Communication was awarded a one-time $1,000 scholarship from the Chicago Bar Association, directed by three WBEZ reporters (Cate Cahan, Ken Davis and Linda Paul) who won the Herman Kogan media award. The reporters were cited for their investigative piece “Arrest at School,” which uncovered the number and type of low-level offense arrests occurring in public schools and argued instead for alternative restorative justice practices.

SAVE THE DATE: The Roosevelt University Gage Gallery presents “Crime Then and Now: Through the Lens of the Chicago Tribune.” The show runs through April 11, 2015 at the Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, IL.

For more information, visit roosevelt.edugagegallery.

Alumni of the actuarial science program formed the actuarial science alumni affinity group this fall. For more information about the group, contact Wanwan Huang, assistant professor of mathematics and actuarial science, at whuang05@roosevelt.edu.

CAS alumni who are interested in reconnecting with the College and the University may contact Yvette Garcia, director of alumni relations, at ygarcia@roosevelt.edu or (312) 341-3626.

To discuss support for the College of Arts and Sciences, contact Sara Lee Powell, director of development, at spowell08@roosevelt.edu or (312) 341-2309.

Support for the college may be in the form of contributions to the Dean’s Fund for Excellence, Departmental Funds for Excellence, scholarships, lectures, workshops, centers, institutes, the Gage Gallery and more.