

CAS Update for the UFC – November 2024  
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The College of Arts and Sciences is in the process of searching for a few faculty positions to start in fall 2025. They include tenure-track positions in Biology, Computer Science, and Studio Art, as well as instructor (non-tenure-track) positions in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Nursing. Two of the positions have closed and initial screening is underway. The other searches are still in their early stages.

With a renewed investment in the arts at UMW, we have reorganized the responsibilities of the staff supporting our programs in Studio Art and Music and, as a result, created a new staff position in marketing to help better promote these two programs. With over 90 performances sponsored by our music program and eight gallery openings, some by visiting artists, last year alone, we have much to offer the community. We just need to promote it better. Also, due to a recent investment in music, we are looking to expand our UMW Pep Band to include more performers, including a subgroup that can easily travel to the athletic battlefield complex, and to include a stronger drum section. I expect to see some of these changes as early as January.

We received over \$73,000 in requests to support student research to purchase supplies, and to fund travel for research and to present at regional and national conferences. We made \$63,709 in awards to 64 students representing 12 separate disciplines ranging from Art History to Women's and Gender Studies. The largest group of students both in number and in award amount was in Biology: 32 students were awarded a total of \$33,958. Our total budget this year is \$122,000.

As of the end of October, 50 faculty development grants have been awarded for the current academic year in the College of Arts and Sciences. The awards, which total \$64,500, have been made to members of 17 departments and are primarily used to fund conference attendance where our faculty deliver research papers on a wide range of topics. Examples of some of the sponsoring organizations are listed here.

*South Atlantic Modern Language Association*  
*Society for Neuroscience*  
*Association for Behavior Analysis*  
*Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers*  
*American Anthropological Association*

*Society of Biblical Literature*  
*National Communication Association*  
*American Geophysical Union*  
*Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*

A number of the meetings are international events and CAS faculty traveled to conferences as far afield as Colombia, Chile, Singapore, Netherlands, Scotland and Canada.

The Department of Biological Sciences has proposed a new, interdisciplinary track in **Kinesiology** within the biology major. This addition to our curriculum was informed by the recent market assessment of healthcare professional education needs in the Fredericksburg area by the consulting firm Tripp Umbach, which specifically recommended that UMW develop such a major. The new Kinesiology major is designed for students pursuing careers in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sports Medicine, Athletic Training, or graduate study in Physiology, Exercise Sciences, and Kinesiology.

The two existing Environmental Science major tracks have been updated to better reflect their content and appeal. The **Applied Environmental Science** track traditionally attracts students who want to pursue professional careers involving field and laboratory work in both the public and private sector. The

second track, now renamed **Environmental Sustainability and Policy**, should appeal to a large number of students who are interested in public policy and environmental regulation compliance. Both major tracks are highly interdisciplinary with course contributions from biology, chemistry, geography, sociology, political science, economics, and anthropology as well as environmental science and geology.

Fundraising continues to go very well. We recently witnessed our Beyond the Classroom endowment hit our goal of \$1 Million. For Giving Day after Thanksgiving, the college has a challenge match sponsored by **Julie Seder '71**, an alumna who majored in English and had a successful career in government and industry, retiring from the Department of Defense in 2006.