



**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND FINE ARTS**

2024-25

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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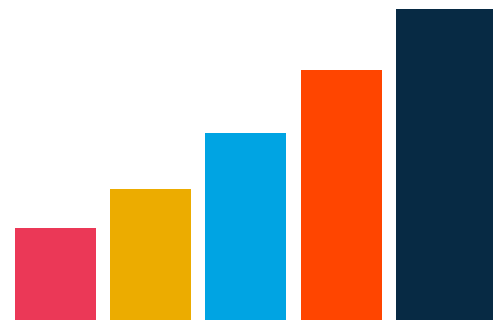
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Message from the Dean



The 2024-25 academic year was an outstanding one for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. With a continued commitment to our programs, the college excelled, growing and advancing to create a positive educational experience for our students.

This annual report showcases the success of the college, faculty, and students. It showcases how CHFA students flourish academically during their time on campus, through their presentations of research and creative activities at national conferences, placements in competitive internships, and awards and recognitions. The report also shows that after graduation, our CHFA alumni are competitive on the job market, having attained transferable skills that employers value. They are also successful in their pursuit of advanced graduate degrees. They can be found in nearly every sector of the workforce. Overall, CHFA students are successful and excellent representatives of Murray State University.

The students' success would not be possible without the dedicated faculty in the college. While excelling in the classroom, our faculty also excel in research and creative activity. The college faculty reported 168 deliverables external to Murray State University. These faculty members are publishing books and articles, presenting and exhibiting at national and international conferences and venues, and winning awards and grants. Their success is outstanding and inspires students in their classrooms.

In addition to continued academic excellence, the college invested in recruitment and retention efforts in 2024-25. CHFA faculty and staff developed new programming to recruit students to their programs and retain existing students. These efforts were rewarded with growing or sustained enrollments and an increase in the number of first-year and transfer students for Fall 2025.

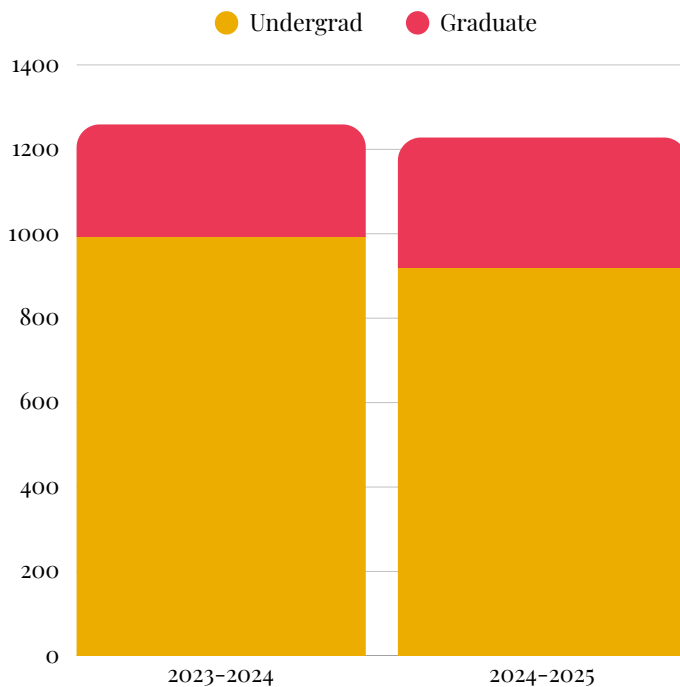
The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is also a positive force in our community, hosting nearly 200 free and open-to-the-public events. The college also boasts a thriving partnership with local nonprofits and an impressive Town & Gown series.

In a world that is constantly changing, the mission of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts has never been more important. Thank you for taking the time to review this report. We hope you celebrate the success of our students, faculty, and staff as we do, and recognize our ongoing commitment to education, advancement, and community.

Respectfully,
Nicole Hand, Interim Dean

| Enrollment

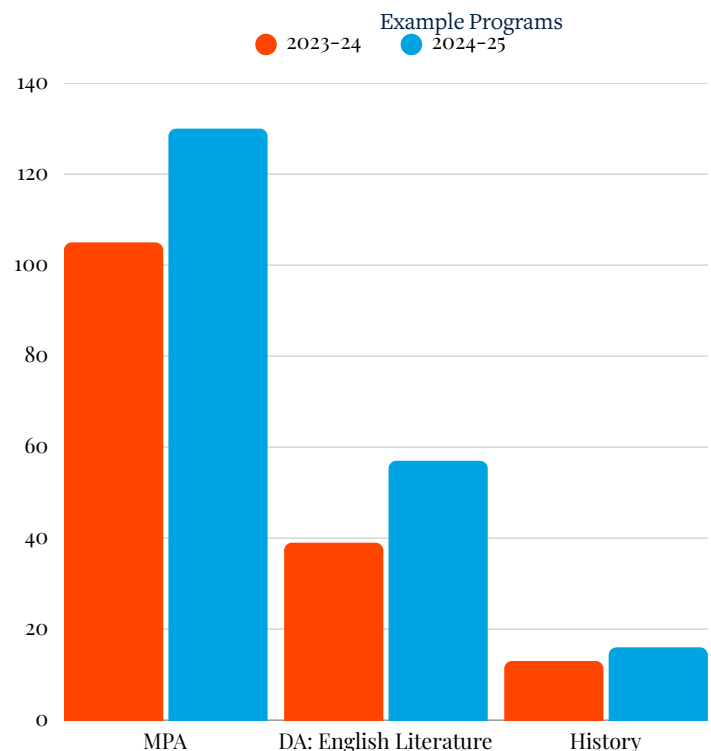
Overall, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts sustained enrollments from fall 2023 to fall 2024. However, at the graduate level, we had notable growth. As a college, we experienced an increase from 265 grad students in the fall of 2023 to 307 in the fall of 2024.



Above: CHFA graduate students celebrate the completion of their degree at the May 2025 Robing Ceremony in Lovett Auditorium.



Above: Dr. Eunjoo Choi (back row, 4th from left) with her POL 671: Policy Analysis class.

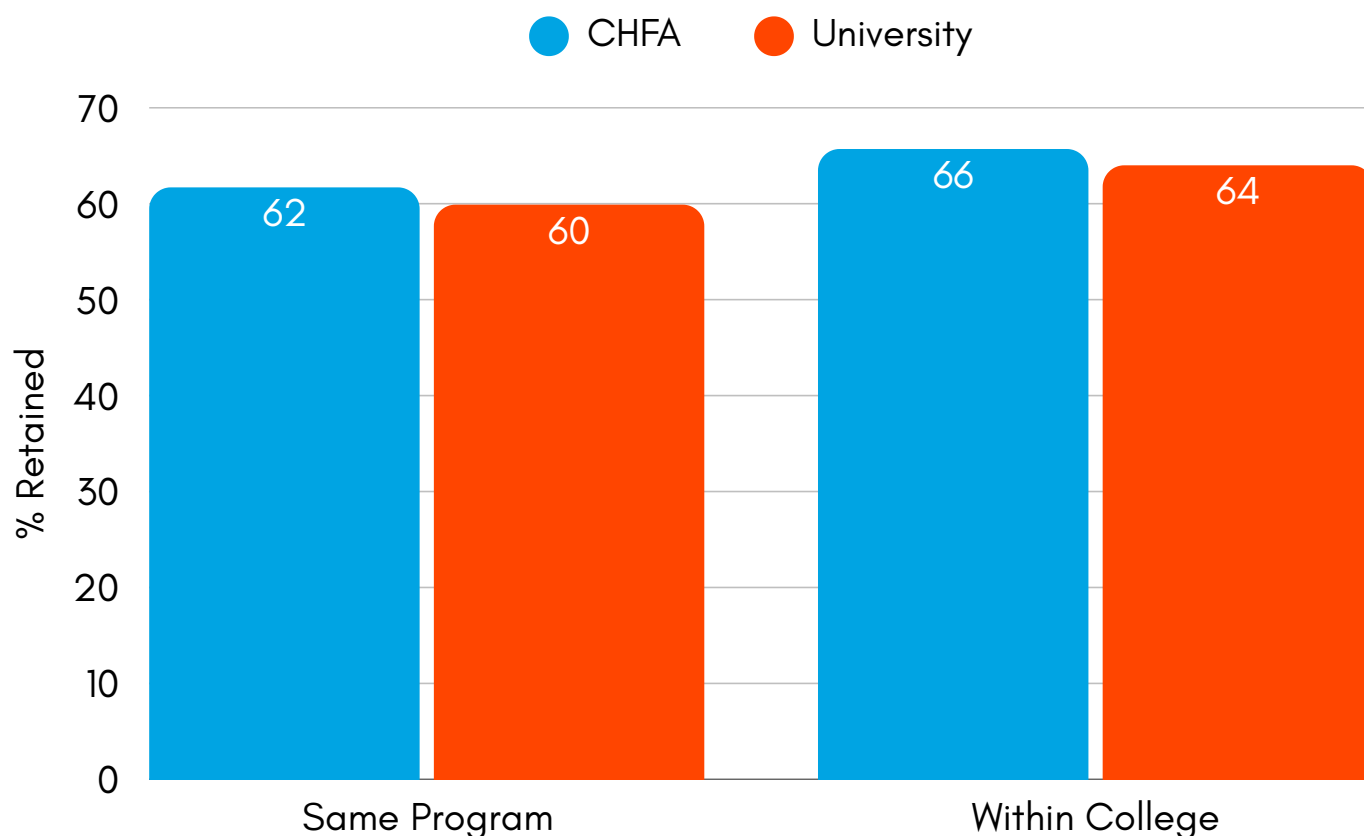


Recruitment and Retention

CHFA programs and faculty host and participate in many recruitment and retention events throughout the year. In addition to teaching, research, and service, our faculty remain committed to the recruitment and retention of students and see it as an essential element of what we do. We bring thousands of middle and high students to our campus each semester through a wide variety of events, activities, and opportunities. This continued during Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Faculty also recruited for their programs through their travel to conferences and visits to high schools.

In addition, our retention efforts show in the data. Programs in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts retain students in their department or the college at a higher rate than the University average.

Student Retention within Program and College



Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment

Below are some of the recruitment events hosted by CHFA, as well as recruitment events attended by CHFA faculty, with the number of middle or high school students attending students in parenthesis.

- Apollo Festival (96)
- Athena Music Festival (140)
- Constitution Day (50)
- Double Reed Day (5)
- Educator Rising (399)
- Engage (89)
- Festival of Champions (too many to count)
- Gateway Academy Tour (47)
- Jamey Aebersold Jazz Festival (300)
- Quad State High School Band Festival (398 registered; canceled due to weather)
- Quad State High School Honor Choir (232)
- Quad State Junior High School Choir Festival (282)
- Quad State Middle School Band Festival (406)
- Quad State Strings (200)
- GLTA Showcase (207)
- Governor's School for the Arts Recruitment Day (400)
- History Day (150)
- KYAEA Student Exhibition & Opening Reception (57)
- Model UN High School Conference (45)
- Leadership Tomorrow (50)
- Racer Institute Music Arts (89)
- Shakespeare Festival (1356)
- SPARK (500)
- Trio Tour (36)
- Summer Art Workshop (47)
- Political Science and Sociology Trivia with area schools (canceled due to weather)



Above: The Department of Music hosted over 200 high school singers from four states for its Athena and Apollo Festivals with guest clinicians Katie Barton (Northern Kentucky University) and Tucker Biddlecombe (Vanderbilt University).



Above: High school students from Calloway County and Murray High School participated in a movement for actors workshop, led by theatre professor Daryl Phillipy, in the Robert E. Johnson Theatre as part of Leadership Tomorrow's Arts & Humanities Day.

Recruitment and Retention



Retention

Below are some of the retention events hosted by CHFA programs and faculty, with the number of attending students in parenthesis.

- Department of Art & Design Cookout (100)
- Art Foundations Showcase (53)
- Department of English and Philosophy Advising Blitz (30+ each semester)
- Department of English and Philosophy *Notations* Release Reading and Awards Night (75)
- Department of English and Philosophy's English Student Organization Holiday Happy Hour (40)
- Department of History End of the Year Award Reception and Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony (30)
- Department of Political Science and Sociology End of Year Banquet (15)
- Psyctoberfest, a Psychology major advising event in the Quad (75)
- Chill and Fill, a Psychology major advising event in the Waterfield Library (75)
- Psychology Club/PSI CHI provided tutoring for undergrad psychology courses (24)



Left: Students and faculty and their families and friends gathered at the Big Apple for the Department of English and Philosophy's launch of Notations, Murray State's student literary magazine, and the department's end of the year award ceremony and reception.



Left: The Department of Psychology hosted a "Chill and Fill" event at Waterfield Library Gallery to assist with student advising and build community among its majors.

Recruitment and Retention



The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is committed to the recruitment and retention of students at Murray State University. To that end, for the 2024–2025 academic year, CHFA awarded a number of “mini grants” to departments for their recruitment and retention activities.

CHFA Recruitment and Retention Mini Grants

- The Department of Art and Design received a mini grant to host a freshman art exhibition, which included a reception and award.
- The Department of History received a mini grant to host an alumni panel and reception, and to conduct a student focus group to learn more about their program from a student perspective.
- The Department of English and Philosophy received a mini grant to host a publishing workshop with their majors.
- The Department of Political Science and Sociology received a mini grant to host a Jeopardy-style gameshow with local schools. (cancelled due to weather)
- The Department of Music received a mini grant to recruit reed-based instruments at Reed Day.
- The Department of Psychology hosted a BBQ in the Quad to encourage students to meet with an academic advisor and schedule classes.



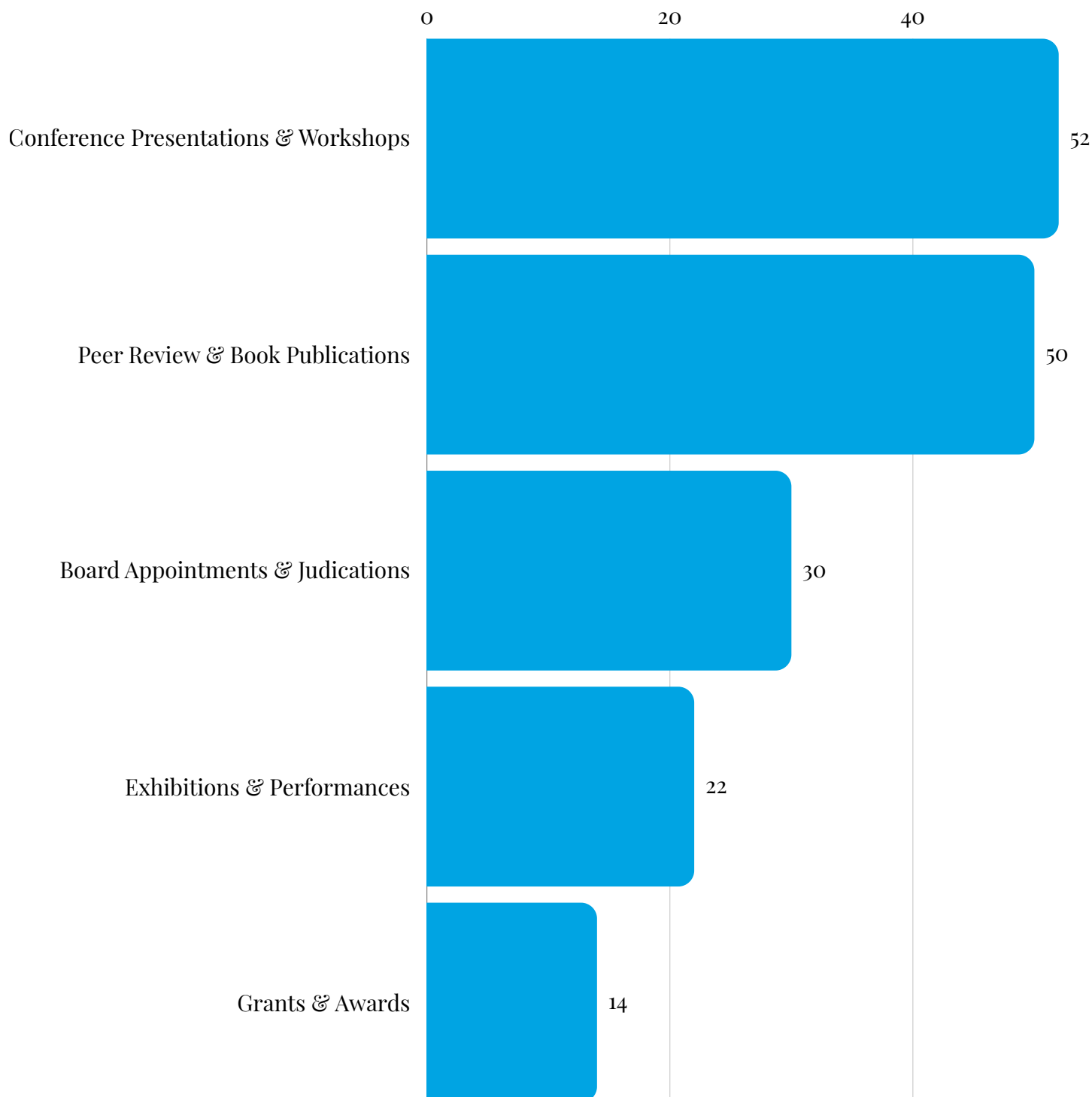
Above: Students in the Department of Art & Design enjoy the annual fall cookout.



Above: Middle and high school students on campus for History Day spend time exploring a collection of ancient artifacts in Wrather Auditorium.

Faculty Excellence

Faculty in CHFA had a prolific year of research and creative activity, with over 168 presentations, performances, awards and appointments external to Murray State University.



Faculty Excellence

Art & Design

Professor Cintia Segovia Figueroa's work was in a juried regional art exhibition at *CommonWealth* at Eastern Kentucky University. She also had two photos included in the 36th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Texarkana Regional Arts Center and Humanities Council in Texas, and was part of a two-person art exhibition at Bolivar Art Gallery in University of Kentucky Bolivar Art Gallery at the University of Kentucky. She received a grant from the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Historical Society to present a new photography exhibition celebrating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, served as a juror for two local art competitions and one at the University of Southern Indiana's 55th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition at the Pace/McCutchen Galleries, served as co-organizer for the Society of Photographic Education Midwest Conference, took six students to the Society of Photographic Education Midwest conference (two presented their research), and gave a virtual invited talk/lecture to graduate level journalism students at California State University.

Professor Jim Bryant had work included in the exhibit *Future/Past/Presence* at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. He also juried the Paducah School of Art and Design student exhibit and gave a poster design workshop at the Paducah School of Art and Design (with three Murray State University student assistants).

Professor Scott Cook juried into the 6th *imPressed: Don't Look Up!* national juried printmaking exhibition at Art Gym Gallery in Denver, Colorado. His work was among only 27 selected from 599 submissions. He also juried into the 39th Positive/Negative National Juried Art Exhibition at ETSU's Slocumb Galleries in Johnson City, TN, one of only 39 works from 152 entries. He also served as a design consultant for Wits' End Records in Murray, KY.

Jessica Fife exhibited work in *Big Fish, Little Sea* Advanced Painting exhibition and in *Middle Of Nowhere* at the Adler Smith Gallery in Santa Monica, CA.



Above: Professor Jim Bryant from the Department of Art & Design gave a poster making demonstration and workshop at the Paducah School of Art & Design.

Dr. Antje Gamble became the President of the Italian Art Society, an international organization representing scholars of Italian art from the ancient period through today, for which she also serves as the Executive Vice President. She was one of three juror panelists for the 62nd annual Juried Art Exhibition at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, Owensboro, KY. She also served as an peer reviewer for an article for *Museum Materials Discussions, Journal of Museum Studies*, and served as a mentor for a Wiki Education class project with a professor in New York City. In addition, her book, *Cold War American Exhibitions of Italian Art and Design: "Italy at Work: Her Renaissance in Design Today,"* was released in paperback by Routledge.

Professor and Interim Dean Nicole Hand exhibited work at *From the Ashes* at MAPC Members Portfolio Exchange Exhibition at Kansas State University, *MAPC Open Portfolio* at Kansas State University, the Delta National Small Print Exhibition at the Bradbury Art Museum at Arkansas State University, the 2025 New Harmony Contemporary Print Invitational at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art at the University of Southern Indiana, United Marks at the King Family Exhibition Case in the Visual Art Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and at the CVAD Collection in the Print Press Exhibition at the University of Texas at Denton.

Professor Mike Martin had work featured in *PRHBTN13*, a juried group show at The Lexington Art League in Lexington, KY and in *Multiverse*, a group show at Hampden Gallery at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (curated by D. Dominick Lombardi). His curated exhibit, *Illumination*, was on view at The Yeh Art Gallery at St. John's University, Queens, NY. He also serves as the President of the Murray Art Guild Board.

Dr. ZB Smetana led a study abroad program to Ireland and taught in the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) Summer Abroad program in Prague, Czech Republic.

Professor John Utgaard had three pieces of his work featured at the Yellowstone Art Auction 56, a national juried exhibition and benefit auction at the Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT. In addition, he was invited to participate in week-long Spring Pentaculum Residency at Arrowmont School of Craft.

Dr. Rebecca Williams published "A National Survey of Visual Journaling in Secondary Art Classrooms" in *International Journal of Art & Design Education* (with Scorr Shields). She also served as the content expert reviewer for materials in the the Data Visualization Project funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Assistance in Arts Education grant program. She was also awarded a Side By Side Grant through Arts for All Kentucky (with Debi Danielson). Dr. Williams was named Kentucky Art Educator of the Year by the Kentucky Art Education Association.

Faculty Excellence



English and Philosophy

Dr. Josh Adair had "Real Estate Agency: Hundreds' Sentience in Lenny Abrahamson's *The Little Stranger* (2018)" accepted to the *Journal Supernatural Studies*.

Dr. Andrew Black published "Spies in the Dark: Siskel and Ebert and the Slasher Film" in *The Routledge Companion to Horror* (chapter in a book). He also presented "Teaching Frances Burney and Sally Rooney" at the The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference.

Dr. Alicia Carthell's article, "An Analysis of Bias in Language Content in Books Used in Technical and Professional Writing Courses: A Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Matter," published in *IEEE Transactions of Professional Communication* in March 2024, was selected at the winner of the Rudolph J. Joenk, Jr. Award for Best Paper in the IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication for 2024.

Dr. Sara Cooper presented "How Do We Define Justice and What Does This Mean for Our Teaching?" at the *National Council of Teachers of English*.

Dr. Julie Cyzewski published "Media Archives and Postcolonial/Decolonial Voice" in *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Modernist Archives* (chapter in a book). She also presented at three conferences: "Poetry and Decolonization on the BBC's 'West African Voices' " at the African Literature Association, " 'Teaching You to Dance': European Dance in Radio Talks and Fiction on the BBC's Calling West Africa (1948-1956)" at the Radio and Decolonization around the Globe: 1920-Present Conference, and "Borders, Archives, Access: Problems and Opportunities in Transnational Radio Research," at the Modernist Studies Association Conference (round table participant).

Dr. Zachary Garrett published "A Gateway Drug for Science Literacy and Moral Action: Climate Change in the Composition Classroom" as a chapter in *Teaching Ecocomposition in the Age of Climate Change* and had a chapter titled "The Meaning of Monuments: The Shifting Message of Public Confederate Monuments in the South" accepted for inclusion in *Rhetorics of Southern Place: Contemporary Memoirs and Analyses*. He also presented "Understanding a Community's Story: An Ecolinguistic Analysis" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Dr. Rory Goggins presented “Seneca on Posthumous Renown” at a meeting of the Kentucky Philosophical Association.

Dr. Ray Horton received a 2025 Quarry Farm Fellowship through the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, NY.

Dr. TJ Martinson published his second novel, *Her New Eyes*, with Clash Books. He also co-authored an academic article, “Narrative Scarring in The Underground Railroad,” published in *Modern Fiction Studies*.

Dr. Danielle Nielsen was interviewed by *Les Surligneurs* on Keanu Reeves, social media, and participatory fan culture. She also published “Fostering Critical Thinking Skills: Comparative Creative Projects in General Education Humanities and Social Science Classrooms” in *College Teaching*.

Dr. Michelle Panchuk published a book titled, *Religious Trauma* in Cambridge University Press’s *Elements in the Problems of God* series. She also continued her grant work from the Center for Theological Inquiry (Princeton, NJ) perusing her large study, “Flourishing in the Aftermath: A Theology of Thriving After Religious Trauma.”

Dr. Gwen Paradise’s novel, *Divining Season*, was accepted for publication by Aunt Lute Books. Dr. Paradise had two conference readings: A Cupboard of Rose Metal Blackbirds: Readings from Cupboard, Rose Metal, and Blackbird, an Association of Writers and Writing Program’s offsite reading; and Black Lawrence Press’s Haunted Happy Hour Reading. They also published an essay, “The Lost Cherokee” in the *Journal of American Folklore* (Folkloristics’ flagship scholarly journal).



Photo: Dr. Trevor Martinson presents Murray State University President Robert Jackson with a copy of his new novel, Her New Eyes.

Dr. Ho Ryong Park presented a paper titled, "Online language learning and core instructional features" at the Kentucky Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (KYTESOL) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Rebecca Rosen was awarded a Research Fellowship with the Kentucky Historical Society. She published "Innocent Specimens: Depicting Enslaved Childhood through the *Lusus Naturae*" in a book titled *The Biopolitics of Childhood in the Long American 19th Century*. She also published two articles in journals: "'Enquire it Away': Conjuring the Matron's Jury in 'The Welkin'" in *Synopsis: An Online Health Humanities Journal*, and "Framing Mark: Reading the Africanist Presence in Early American Broadsides" in *Forum on Milestones in Black Studies, Early American Literature*.

Dr. Juyoung Song had seven co-authored publications: "Consumerist Discourses on Social Media and Language Teacher Educator Identity Tensions" in *TESOL Journal*; "'It's normal. That's just my life': Tatar-Russian Bilinguals' Translanguaging and Transcribing Between Multiple Languages" in *Translation and Translanguaging in Multilingual Contexts*; "Who Has the Right to Express Frustration?: Uneven Emotion Labor Among Students in an EMI Classroom" in *International Review of Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching*; "Self-Branding and Language Teachers' Emotional Vulnerability" in *TESOL Quarterly*; "Intergenerational Autoethnography of Heritage Language Maintenance: Focusing on Emotion, Identity, and Power" in *The Modern Language Journal*; "Exploring Language Teacher Emotions and Organizational Support Through Autoethnographic Narratives" in *K-12 Practitioner Research Methods in TESOL* (chapter in a book); and "Feeling Power in Collaborative Discourse" in *Language Teacher Identity Tensions: Nexus of Agency, Emotion, and Investment* (chapter in a book). She also presented research at three conferences: "Exploring Language Teachers' Emotional Vulnerability in the Era of Self-Branding on Social Media" at the American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference (with co-authors); "Emotion Labor of Being Supportive and Being Self-Effacing in Collaboration with Content Teachers" at the the American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference (with co-authors); and "Talking Emotions: Emotion Labor in Raising a Bilingual" at the Modern Language Association Conference in Philadelphia.

Dr. Megan Von Bergen had two publications. She published "Hostile & Hospitable Architectures: WPA Work & Ungrading" in *Pedagogy*, and "Who Is This Space Designed to Exclude? Teaching Accessibility and Multimodality to General Education Professional Writing Students" was published as part of the *Writing Spaces Assignment & Activity Archive*.

Dr. Paul Walker presented "A Generous Rhetoric" at the Rhetoric Society of America in Denver, CO.

Faculty Excellence



Global Languages and Theatre Arts

Dr. Elena Picech-Reisinger presented “Global Connections: the Power of Street Art” at the 52nd Annual Conference on Literature and Culture in Louisville, and “Contemporary Visual Representation of the Female Body” at the Conference of Hispanic Works in Literature and Culture.

Dr. Robert Fitz presented a paper titled “Englishing Empire: Jacobean Translations of Pedro Mexia’s *Historia Imperia y cesárea* (1545)” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. He also worked with Rubén Ricardo Month to promote ESL and develop a proposed agreement to offer a double degree program with the University of Medellin, which includes upper level Spanish Literature studies.

Professor Lissa Graham was diplomaed (certified) in Theatre Intimacy Choreography and Coordination.

Professor Daryl Phillipy recruited, adjudicated, and conducted a workshop at the Kentucky Thespian Festival in Owensboro, KY and led an *Introduction to Meisner Technique Workshop* at the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville, KY. He also recruited and adjudicated auditions at TASTE Tennessee All-State Theatre Auditions in Murfreesboro, TN and led a Stage Dialect workshop at Playhouse in the Park for the Production of *Mary Poppins*.

Dr. Tanya Romero González presented "Intercultural Dialogues: Lessons Learned from the Higher Education Workplace" at the 2024 Reframe52 Conference.

Professor Justin Walsh presented “Getting Started with Vectorworks” at the United States Institute for Theater Technology Conference. He was also featured at an USITT Special Exhibit with *The Heretic's Chair* from *The Addams Family*, a new musical comedy.

Faculty Excellence



History

Dr. Brian Clardy was presented the Key to the City of Hopkinsville, KY. He presented at the Modernette Club, Inc. African American Heritage breakfast in Hopkinsville, KY and “The Legacy of Cherokee Park” with McCracken County Public Library’s Evenings Upstairs. Dr. Clardy served as the monthly co-host for “Colonels of Truth,” a podcast with Progress Kentucky; served as liaison and coordinator for the Calloway County Public Library Speaker Series; and was a civics bee judge for area schools. He also served on the State Oral History Commission, the board of the Kentucky Humanities Council, and the editorial board for the The Jackson Purchase Historical Society.

Dr. Kathy Callahan served as a reviewer and focus group member for new support materials for Oxford University Press’s world history textbooks.

Dr. Selina Gao published an article, “In the Shadow of War: Nationalism and Folk Studies in Wartime Beijing and Shanghai” in the *Journal of Nationalism, Memory and Language Politics* and a book review of Robert Culp’s *The Power of Print in Modern China* in *The East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*. She also served as a peer reviewer for *Global Journal of Cultural Studies* and *International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, and she was an invited reviewer for the new AI coverage in Mary Lynn Rampolla’s, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, published by Bedford/St. Martin’s. In addition, she is a member of the Editorial Board of *Global Journal of Cultural Studies*.

Dr. Marjorie Hilton published “Civilizing Russia’s ‘Barbarous Kingdom’: Gender and Violence in Hulu’s *The Great*,” in *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* and served as an article reviewer for *Historical Retailing and Consumption*.

Dr. James Humphreys worked as editor of a manuscript tentatively titled, *Kentucky’s Civil War Historians* for University Press of Kentucky, for which he has also submitted a chapter. He also proofed and reviewed a book for Oxford University Press. He presented “Traces of Africa in America: The Gullah Geechee People of South Carolina and Georgia” at the Calloway County Public Library. Dr. Humphries also served as the co-editor for the *Interpreting American History* series with Kent State University Press and as a judge for the Regional National History Day Competition sponsored by the American Historical Association.

Dr. Aaron Irvin worked as a consultant and on-air commentator for the series *Jesus Crown of Thorns*, which has been airing on Fox Nation. He also worked on the Lionsgate/Starz series *House of Ashur* and continues to do so. He presented “Manufacturing Memory: Past Mnemotopoi and Present Map-Making in the Quest of Collective Memories” at the 30th European Association of Archaeologists Meeting in Rome, Italy; and “Between Subjects and Masters: Gallic Aristocracy in a Gallo-Roman Dominion” at the 2024 Melammu Workshop: *Big and Small, High and Low, Proud and Humble: Constructing Significance in Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Cultures* at the University of Tartu in Estonia. He was also accepted to present at a conference in Denmark.

Dr. Olga Koullisis published two articles: “Organizing Minds and Managing People: J.P. Morgan Bankers on Transatlantic Consolidation of Communication and Capital, 1917-1920” in *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* and “Ties that Bind: Greek American Leaders, the Greek Junta, and the Development of Late Twentieth-Century U.S. ‘Culture Wars’” in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. She also presented a paper at the Ohio Valley History Conference titled, “‘A House Divided’: One Family’s Varied Solutions to Twentieth-Century Problems” and chaired a panel on Public History at the Ohio Valley History Conference. Dr. Koullisis was an Innovation Fellowship recipient from Kentucky Commercialization Ventures, a competitive grant aimed at Kentucky’s public universities. She also served as a judge for the Regional National History Day Competition sponsored by the Kentucky Historical Society and American Historical Association.

Dr. Christine Linder served as a peer reviewer for *History: Journal of Historical Association* and the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*.

Right: Drs. Kathy Callahan (Department of History), Olga Koullisis (Department of History), and Tana Field (Department of Music) in front of the Tower of London. These three faculty taught abroad with the Spring Break London 2025 program.



Dr. David Pizzo had a paper accepted to the German Studies Association's meeting, chaired and presented in a panel at the Calloway County Public Library History series on the St. James oral history project, and served on the KIIS Board.

Dr. Eleanor Rivera presented a paper titled, " 'Futile Resistance': Parents, Textbooks and Primary Education in the Early Third Republic" at the Global Consortium for French Historical Studies conference in Paris, France. She also was a panelist for the round table "Legislative Attacks on Higher Ed: Perspectives and Resources" at the Western Society for French History Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA. Dr. Rivera also served on the governing council of the Western Society for French History and chairs their Membership Committee.

Dr. Matthew Robertson presented "Keeping the Gods in Mind: Faulty Awareness and Epidemics in Early Ayurveda" at a Workshop on Calamities and Countermeasures in Pre-modern South Asia at a conference in Vienna, Austria.



Above: Faculty members from the Department of History pose with graduating History majors at Commencement.

Faculty Excellence



Music

Dr. Bradley Almquist was a Guest Clinician and Conductor for the Kentucky Music Education Association (KMEA) District 1 High School Honor Choir and for the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District 6 High School Treble Honor Choir.

Dr. Stephanie Carlson and **Dr. Amy McCann** performed with the Larkspur Reed Trio at the International Clarinet Association (ICA) ClarinetFest Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Dr. Maribeth Crawford was elected as governor of the Mid-South Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

Dr. Ashley Cumming presented “A Music HERstory Class: Challenges and Successes in Broadening Representation” at the Music by Women Conference at the Mississippi University for Women.



Above: Dr. Bradley Almquist presenting on choral warm-up strategies to a standing room only crowd.

Dr. Ashley Cumming, Dr. Tana Field, and **Dr. MariBeth Crawford** performed Phyllis Tate's "A Victorian Garland" at the Music by Women Conference at the Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Tana Field performed performed "3 Pushkin Settings" by Pauline Viardot at the Music by Women Conference at the Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Matthew Gianforte and **Dr. Meeyoun Park** served as faculty members at the Indiana University Summer Piano Academy.

Lucas Hopkins (saxophone) and Er-Hsuan Li (piano) released a new album ("Nostos") on Soundset Recordings and on all digital platforms.

Dr. Brent Johnson was name named Kentucky Music Education Association (KMEA) First District College/University Music Teacher of the Year for 24-25. He also led the commission of a project for a new composition, *A Field of Wildflowers*, by Leslie Gilreath, in honor of Kelsey Dunn, a 2019 alumnus of the Department of Music who was killed in a car accident in 2024. The piece was premiered at the Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference.

Dr. Chris Mitchell served a faculty member for the ACDA Summer Choral Conservatory at Western Kentucky University.



Above: Dr. Stephanie Carlson hosted Double Reed Day with featured artist, Nib McKinney, and accompanied by Christina D'Ambrosio.

Faculty Excellence



Political Science and Sociology

Dr. Ihsan Alkhatib presented “Gender in Immigration Court: Orientalism on Trial” at the New England Political Science Association conference in Bretton Woods, NH.

Dr. Martin Armstrong presented “Looking at the Centipede: The GI Movement’s Lessons for Disalienation” at the International Conference on Practical, Political, and Institutional Progress in Montreal, Quebec.

Dr. Eunjoo Choi published “Impact of Stringent Budget Stabilization Fund Rules on U.S. State Savings: Generalized Synthetic Control Method and Panel Data Analysis” in *Public Budgeting & Finance*. She also presented “A Scenario-Based Analysis of Budget Stabilization Fund Optimization in U.S. States” at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago. Dr. Choi was also accepted to present a paper titled, “Profit or Purpose: How Ownership Structure Shape Resource Allocation Differently When Financially Better Off?” at the Public Management Research Conference in South Korea (with Jaeyoung Jang and Keon-Hyung Lee).

Dr. Paul Foote, Dr. Ihsan Alkhatib, and Dr. Jim Clinger (Professor Emeritus) published “State Whistleblower Protection Laws: Diffusion of Information and Public Corruption?” in the *MidSouth Political Science Review*.



Left: Drs. Paul Foote and Ihsan Alkhatib at the Kentucky Political Science Association Annual Conference. The March 2025 conference was hosted at Murray State University. Dr. Paul Foote served as president of the organization for 2024-2025 and organizer of the conference.

*Right: Dr. Diane Nititham
gave invited talks at
University College Dublin
and at Maynooth
University in Ireland.*



Dr. Paul Foote and **Dr. James Clinger (Professor Emeritus)** presented a paper at the New England Political Science Association conference in Bretton Woods, NH titled "Government Censorship of Social Media: The Problem of Standing and the Strategy of Delay."

Dr. Alexandra Hendley had a paper titled, "There's No Place Like It: Making Space for Home in the Sociology Classroom" accepted in Teaching Sociology, and presented "Gender and Skepticism in Science: Reflections from Nobel Laureates" at the Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association.

Dr. Ann Johnson was accepted to present "Public Art, Place, and Conflict: Rhetorical and Visual Analysis of 'Zombie' and Derry Girls in the Popular Culture Classroom" at the Midwest Sociological Society.

Dr. Jiwoong Jung presented "Demanding or Contributing: The Effects of Private Sector Firms on Local Governments' Financial Performance" at the Southeaster Conference for Public Administration and was accepted to present "The Role of Ideology in Women City Managers' Path to The Top" at the Southern Political Science Association.

Dr. Diane Nititham was a Visiting Scholar at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland: with the School of Social Policy and Social Work where she gave an invited lecture, "Photovoice and Visual Storytelling: Ethnographic Moments with Filipinas in Dublin." She also presented "'I'm in Between, Okay...?' Rethinking Transnational Mobility, Intergenerational Care, and Filipino Irishness" at Maynooth University in Ireland.

Dr. Ayorinde Ogunyiola published a paper titled "Precision Agriculture and the Future of Agrarian Labor in the US Food System" in *Agriculture and Human Values* (with R. Stock & M. Gardezi). He also presented a paper, "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Powered GIS for Proactive Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate," at the 4S conference in Amsterdam (with Justin Diehr & Oluwabunmi Dada).

Dr. Jeremy Phillips published two articles: "Gender and Workload in Public Administration Faculty in the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* (with Olejarski, A. M., Neal, S. M., & Neale-McFall, C) and "Factors Affecting State Budget Stabilization Fund Access" in the *Commonwealth Review of Political Science* with (LaShonda Stewart).

Dr. Drew Seib and **Dr. Jeremy Phillips** presented "Assessing Knowledge of Government and Politics in Kentucky's Colleges: A first look" at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Political Science Association.

Dr. Drew Seib presented "Can Fairness Supersede Partisan Self-Interest: Testing Support for the Electoral College" at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago. He also served on the editorial board of the *Commonwealth Review of Political Science*.

Dr. Brittany Wood published "Assessing the Influence of Traditional In-Seat, Online, and Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) Modalities on Sustainability Learning in Human Geography" in the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* (with co-authors).

| Faculty Excellence



Psychology

Dr. Mike Bordieri published an article titled “Exploring the stability of the gender gap in faculty perceptions of gender climate at a Rural Regional University” with Paula J. Waddill, Qiaofeng Zhang, Maeve L. McCarthy, Claire Fuller, and David Balthrop in *PloS one*.

Dr. Jana Hackathorn published “The Name’s Bond, Parasocial Bond: Imagined Interactions and State-Level Empathy” in the *Journal of Social Psychology* (with two former students).

Dr. Esther Malm received a \$373,358 R-15 NIH Grant via NICHD for the study “A Multilevel, Multi-Domain Approach to Evaluating Prematurity’s Impact on Child Growth and Development.”

Dr. Sean Rife published “Registered Replication Report: Study 3 From Trafimow and Hughes (2012)” in *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* (with co-authors) and presented at four conferences: (1) “New Avenues of Research in Moral Psychology” [paper presentation] at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago, IL; (2) “Using AI to Produce Content-Aware Rankings” [paper presentation] at the 2025 Research Analytics Summit in Albuquerque, NM; (3) “Riding the Wave of Retractions: Can we trust scholarship in 2025?” [Panel discussion; by invitation] at the Electronic Resources and Libraries in Austin, TX, USA; (4) “Raising the Curtain on Retractions: what do librarians need to know about the research integrity landscape” [Panel discussion; by invitation] at the Charleston Conference. Charleston, SC.

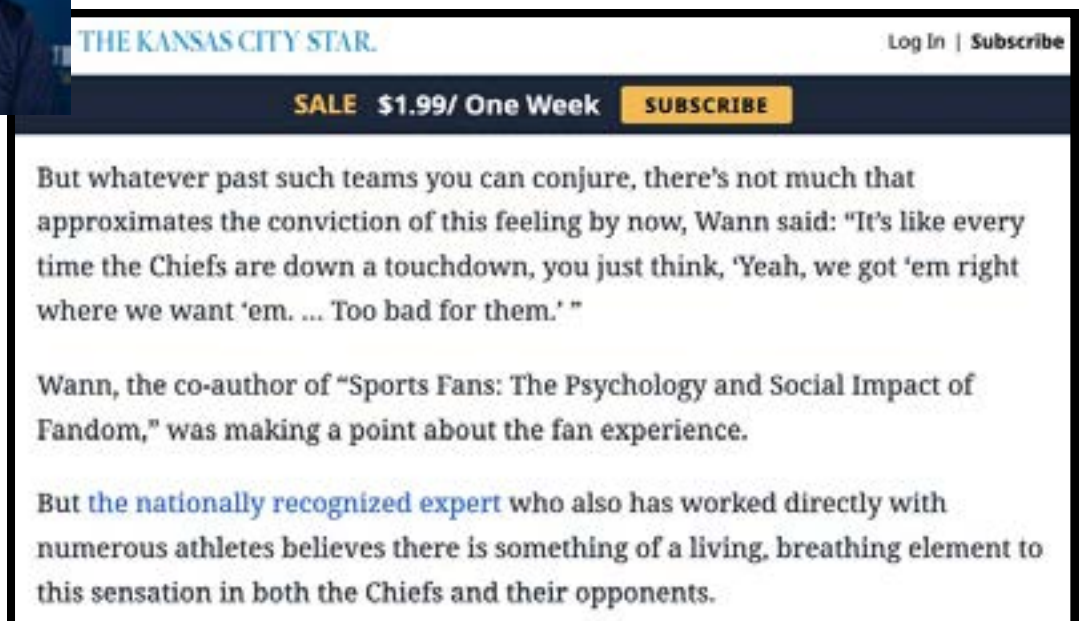
Dr. Megan St. Peters received a \$1942.00 PSI-CHI Faculty Research Grant, published in *Addiction Neuroscience* and received two grants: a DANA Foundation Brain Awareness Week Grant, and a Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grant for “Impact of Meta-stereotypes on Anxiety following Interracial Social Interactions.”

Dr. Dan Wann published three manuscripts and had two additional manuscript accepted for publication. He also served as the keynote speaker for the 2025 Four Rivers SHRM Annual Conference and was interviewed by the *Kansas City Star* and *MSN.com*

Drs. Dan Wann and **Sean Rife** published (with co-authors) "Doing My Part: Understanding Attempts by Sport Fans to Influence the Outcome of Sporting Events Involving a Favorite Team" in *Journal of Sport Behavior*.



Below: Dr. Dan Wann was interviewed by the Kansas City Star about sports fandom.



Faculty Excellence

Murray State University & College of Arts and Humanities Awards

University Awards

Dr. Juyoung Song (English and Philosophy) was named the CHFA Collegiate Researcher.

Dr. Ayorinde Ogunyiola (Political Science and Sociology) received the Emerging Scholar Award in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

Dr. Laura Liljequist (Psychology) and **Dr. Alexandra Hendley** (Political Science and Sociology) received Board of Regents Teaching Awards.

Kari Shemwell (English and Philosophy) received the Faculty Innovation Initiative Grant.

Dr. Heidi Ortega (Global Languages and Theatre Arts) and **Dr. Alexandra Hendley** (Political Science and Sociology) received **MSU Matter** Grants.

College of Humanities and Fine Arts Awards

CHFA Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Tanya Romero-Gonzalez, Global Languages & Theatre Arts

CHFA Excellence in Research & Creative Activity

Dr. Ayorinde Ogunyiola, Political Science and Sociology

CHFA Excellence in Service & Leadership

Dr. Carrie Jerrell, English and Philosophy

CHFA Excellence in Mentoring

Dr. Esther Malm, Psychology

CHFA Staff Excellence

Kristen Swisher, Dean's Office



Above: Dr. Alexandra Hendley, Associate Professor of Sociology, was the recipient of the Board of Regents Teaching Award.

CHFA Research & Creative Activity Grants

Dr. Ben Post (Global Languages & Theatre Arts): "Archival Work with the Newberry Library Camino del Cielo."

Professor Katie Knoering (Art & Design): "Cerulean Exhibition."

Dr. Ashley Cumming with **Dr. Tana Field** and **Dr. Maribeth Crawford** (Music): "A Recording and Performance of Phyllis Tate's "A Victorian Garland."

Dr. Juyoung Song (English & Philosophy): "Consumerist Discourse and Platform-based Language Learning: Learners' Perspective."



Above: Dr. Ayorinde Ogunyiola of the Department of Political Science and Sociology received the Emerging Scholar Award in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts.



Above: Professor Kari Shemwell of the Department of English and Philosophy (middle) received the Faculty Innovation Initiative Grant.

| Student & Alumni Success



MSU Outstanding Senior

Murray State University named CHFA graduating senior **Erin Fairweather** as a recipient of the fall 2024 Outstanding Senior recognition. Students recognized with this honor are known for their academic excellence and professionalism. Fairweather earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Translation and Interpretation with a minor in Nonprofit Leadership Studies.

In addition, one of the spring 2025 Outstanding Seniors, **Anna McGreevy**, has roots in CHFA. McGreevy earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders with a minor in Theatre Performance.

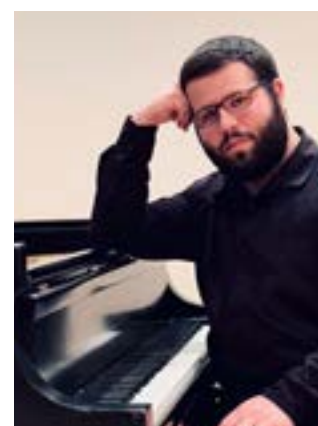


*Above: Erin Fairweather (L)
and Anna McGreevy (R)*

CHFA Outstanding Scholar

Each semester, CHFA departments nominate graduating seniors for the CHFA Outstanding Scholar Award, selected by the CHFA Chairs Council. These students have demonstrated excellence in scholarly and creative activity, while representing their major and profession with distinction. The fall 2024 recipient of the CHFA Outstanding Scholar Award was **Shelby Fortner**, a Bachelor of Music in Music Education (vocal).

The spring 2025 recipient of the award was **Grayson Pate**, also a Bachelor of Music degree student in Music Performance (piano) with a minor in Mathematics.



*Above: Shelby Fortner (L)
and Grayson Pate (R)*

| Student & Alumni Success



Art & Design

- **Katie Hart** received a grant to travel to the Society for Photographic Education Midwest conference and was named Student Employee of the Month by Murray State Career Services.
- **Isabel Bolanos** published two photographs in the book, *Utopia on the Wabash. Visions of New Harmony*.
- **Randi Miget** published two photographs in the book, *Utopia on the Wabash. Visions of New Harmony*.
- **Mariah Perdue** published two photographs in the book, *Utopia on the Wabash. Visions of New Harmony*.
- **Lee Bezehertny, Raini Evergarden, & Daisy Grimes** received an ORCA grant that allowed them to travel to Mid America Print Council at Kansas State University in Kansas City, MO. The students published *From The Ashes: Research & Revival* as part of their grant.
- **Abigale Cothran** was name the Outstanding Student Teacher Award for Spring 2025.
- **Abigale Cothran, Ella Cate Downing, Julia Hendricks, Rose Craig, and Eve Sexton** were MSU *Student Life Improvement Project Fund* grant recipients. The funds were used to attend the National Art Education Association Convention.
- **Piper Von Almen** received an honorable mention for "Bug Box" in the 2025 Juried Biodiversity Art Exhibition, "Our Power, Our Planet."
- **Tripp Gibson** ('03, Studio Art: Printmaking) received a Murray State University Distinguished Alumni Award.
- **Fred DiGiovanni** ('71, Art Education) had a solo exhibition of black and white photographs in the Mary Ed McCoy Hall Gallery on the MSU campus.
- **Chloe Cheng** ('21, Student Art: Ceramics) graduated with an MFA from the University of Louisville.
- **Tia Whitaker** ('20, Studio Art: Printmaking) Graduated from University of Memphis with Masters of Education, Art Teacher Education.
- **Alma Garcia Sandoval** ('23, Graphic Design) earned a MA in Interactive Design and Interactive Art at California State East Bay.
- **Kimberly (Bell) Kinsland** ('18, Art Education: Graphic Design) presented on stop motion animation at the National Art Education Association Conference. Kinsland teaches middle school art at Rose Park Magnet Middle School. Her students' artwork was featured in a Nashville Predator's ad and their mascot and opponent logo drawings won an art contest hosted by the Predators.

Art & Design, cont'd.

- **Shanice (Ross) Frazier** ('18, Art Education: Ceramics) was named one of the Vue's 40 Under Forty.
- **Laurie Snellen** ('22, Studio Art: Printmaking) was accepted to PNCA Willamette University for a MFA in Printmaking.
- **Emily (Harris) Dippee** (16' Art Education: Sculpture) was named "One to Watch" by Southeastern Museums Conference. Dippee has been accepted to present at the Southeastern Museums Conference. Dippee was chosen to be part of the Southeastern Museums Conference Program Committee where she will help select proposals for the conference. She also gave a presentation the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance conference. Her work with CTE education partnerships with 2 local high schools was also highlighted by Academies of Louisville Alliance.
- **Carrie Stover** ('05) received the Outstanding Alumni in Fine Arts at the Taste of the Arts.



Clockwise from top: Professor Lu Colby's class celebrates their 'Zine project. Student volunteers prepare goodie bags for the annual Art Auction. Art alumnus and Major League Baseball umpire Tripp Gibson signs baseballs after his talk at the Clara Eagle Gallery.

| Student & Alumni Success

English and Philosophy

- **Alexis Angelini** ('24: English: Literature) will be editing and proofreading, as a freelancer, a fantasy novel by a new, up-and-coming author.
- **Aaron Gordon** (co-authored with Dr. T.J. Martinson) had an essay accepted for publication at *Modern Fiction Studies*.
- **Abigail Storey** had a piece of short fiction published in the literary magazine *God's Cruel Joke*.
- **Gracie Thomas** had a paper accepted at *The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference* this February.
- **Leah-Marie McCoy Haeber** was accepted as a participant and presenter of her DA capstone project at the Refugees and Migrants in Our Common Home: Roles and Responsibilities of Universities in Rome, Italy.
- **Sydney Littrell** is serving as a Literacy Fellow with the Memphis Teacher Residency (MTR) for summer 2025. She also presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week
- **Samantha Sextonson** will be working as part of an editing team with The Writer's Workout, a nonprofit that publishes and holds competitions for emerging and published writers around the world. She also presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.

Right: Dr. Andy Black with three Murray State alumni at the Southeastern American Conference for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Savannah, Georgia. Gracie Thomas (2024), Ava Hurt (2024), and Grace Gibson (2023) each presented at the conference.



English and Philosophy, cont'd.

- **River Murt** and **Mackenzie Rogers** are interning at Fort Knox during the summer of 2025 as part of the Cadet Command Public Affairs Internship Program.
- **Erin Tabler** presented a paper at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference and at Murray State's Fall 2024 Scholars Week.
- **Joshua Z. Lawrence** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Aryn Nicole Dotson** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week. Aryn was also accepted into the MFA Program in Creative Writing-Fiction at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.
- **Liam Cotter** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Ella Olds** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Laura Seeberger** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Sadie Boggs** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Kiersten Holland** (alum) presented her work at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Kiersten is a graduate student in literature at Eastern Illinois University.
- Creative writing students traveled to and participated in workshops at the Zone 3 Literary Festival at Austin Peay University.
- Alum **Morgan Tinin** had poetry published in *Frontier Poetry* and the *Applause Literary Journal*. Morgan is currently a graduate student in creative writing (poetry) at Missouri State University.



Above: The Department of English and Philosophy had a great turnout for its Scholars Week Spring 2025 student presentations.



Above: Alum Kiersten Holland ('24) presented her graduate research at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Kiersten is a graduate student in literature at Eastern Illinois University.

| Student & Alumni Success



Global Languages and Theatre Arts

- **Maia Annalise** received a summer internship with the Barrington Stage Company.
- **Olivia Beach** received an internship with the Cincinnati Playhouse.
- **Erin Fairweather** received an ORCA grant for “Pedro Mexía and the Politics of Translation in the Early Modern World.” The grant funded a visit to the Newberry Library in Chicago.
- **Megan Smith** was accepted into the Spanish Linguistics Masters program at Arizona State University.
- **Rebecca Estes** and **Eve Jacobson** participated as a translator and presenter in the Partner Organization Project with the Department of Agriculture Science.
- **Lilu Anaya, Emma Ward, Lauren Masterson, Abraham León, Rebekah Collins,** and, **Maggie Edwards** each presented at Murray State University’s Spring 2025 Scholar’s Week.
- **Amelia Lutz** (with **Dr. Robert Fritz**) presented at Posters at the Capitol.



*Murray State University Theatre Arts
Fall 2024 production of Steel Magnolias.*

| Student & Alumni Success



History

- **Seth Gillespie** interned at the Smithsonian Museums in Washington, D.C. He also received the J.H. Richmond Residential College Outstanding Service Award, the RCC President Golden Horseshoe Pin, the Dr. Frank Julian Outstanding Residential College Student Leader Award, and the RA Diversity Program of the Year award with Pride Prom. He served as the J.H. Richmond Residential College Shield Bearer at commencement.
- **Ian Brockman** interned at the Holt Home in Breckinridge City, KY. He also earned an honorable mention for the Outstanding Senior award in the Department of History.
- **Taylor Doerhoefer** interned with the MSU Alumni Office.
- **Isabella Dudich** interned at Pogue and Wrather Libraries.
- **Matthew Graves** was named the Outstanding Senior for the Department of History.
- **Jacob Hall** received the Outstanding Research Paper Award for the Department of History and won the Abdul H. Rifai Outstanding Undergrad Research Paper Award at the Kentucky Political Science Association conference.



Left: Meg Smith and Jacob Hall with their Department of History awards.

Right: David Adams, Mckenzie Quertermous, David Adams, and Nathan Holcomb at the Ohio Valley History Conference with Dr. Olga Koullisis.

History, cont'd

- **Quinn Litchfield** earned an honorable mention for the Outstanding Research Paper Award for the Department of History.
- **Meg (Meagan) Smith** was named the Outstanding Volunteer for Phi Alpha Theta and History Club.
- **Sam Miller** represented Murray State at the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) competition. Miller won the national championship in the novice category.
- **Mckenzie Quertermous** and **Briah Cook** each presented papers at Mississippi State's Symposium for Undergraduate History Research.
- **David Adams, Mckenzie Quertermous,** and **Nathan Holcomb** each presented papers at the Ohio Valley History Conference.
- **Jocelyn Stark** was named the Most Valuable Team Member for the MSU Model United Nations Team.
- **Cari (Caroline) Mikez** presented on her work with the St. James AME Church (destroyed by Mayfield tornado) project at the Calloway County Public Library's History series.
- **Seth Gillespie, Mariah Boyer,** and **Isabella Dudich** worked with the Smithsonian Food Exhibition at the Wraether Museum.
- **Jack Worley** completed an internship with Kentucky State Archives in Frankfort, KY.
- **Matthew Smith, Cecilia Broxon, Taylor Doerhoefer,** and **Zoe Knight,** each presented papers at MSU Scholars Week.
- **Meg (Meagan) Smith** and **Bryli Jones** were judges for student projects for Kentucky's National History Day competition.
- **Annie Davis** ('23, History BA and MA) became the collections manager at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.
- **Ashleigh Deno** ('21, History: Social Studies Teaching Certification) won the Warren County Public Schools Golden Globe Award for support of English language learners in the school's district.
- **A.J. Glaser** ('14, History: Social Studies Teaching Certification) earned his Ed.D.
- **Dalton York** ('21, History) taught with the Governor Scholars Program

| Student & Alumni Success



Music

- **Brady Johnson's piece**, "Octet no. 2," was named winner of the 2025 International Trombone Association (ITA) Composition Contest (Octet Division).
- **Natalie Sims** won first place in the Freshman Treble Classical Category at the Kentucky Chapter Student Auditions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).
- **Jessie Leal** won first place in the freshman/sophomore Tenor/Baritone Musical Theatre Category at the Kentucky Chapter Student Auditions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). Leal also won the Gina Scaggs Epifano Award for best overall performance at the competition.
- **Grayson Pate** was the winner of the MTNA/KMTA Bluegrass Competition (Music Teachers Associations) in the Young Artist Category. He was also named the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Outstanding Scholar for spring 2025.
- **MSU Wind Ensemble** performed at the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) Conference in Louisville. Their concert included the commission of a new composition, *A Field of Wildflowers*, by Leslie Gilreath, in honor of Kelsey Dunn, a 2019 alumnus of the Department of Music.
- **EQ Blu** won 3rd place in the Midwest Regional Quarterfinal of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) in St. Louis.
- **Tony Washington** and **Noah Padgett** reached National Semifinals for the National Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions. They will compete and perform in Philadelphia in late June.
- **Alyssa Shrader** received an internship with the Ravinia Festival for their Summer 2025 season.
- **Daniel Cupp** ('17, Music: Trombone) won a spot in the US Navy Fleet Band.
- **Hunter Moffitt** ('18, Music: Trombone) won a spot in US Army 1st Cavalry Division Band in Fort Cavazos, TX.
- **Ben Gerkins** ('21, Music: Trumpet) was the runner-up in the Dallas Opera principal trumpet audition.
- **Abby Ward** ('21, Music: Trumpet), **Ryn Jenkins** ('24, Music: Trumpet), **Ben Gerkins** ('21, Music: Trumpet), and **Blake Lile** ('20, Music: Trumpet) won 1st place in the Large Ensemble Division at the 2025 National Trumpet Competition as part of a trumpet ensemble with the University of North Texas.

Music, cont'd

- **Preston Frensley** ('23, Music: Guitar) was part of a trio who won the 2025 Lowe's Has Talent competition.
- **Micah Crouse** ('24, Music: Tuba) named Visiting Professor of Tuba/Euphonium at Illinois State University for Spring 2025 and won the tuba position with the US Air Force Band of Mid-America.
- **Katie Green** ('11 and '18, Music: Voice) completed her first year as Director of Choral Activities at Pacific University in Oregon.
- **Lee Sanders** ('92, Music Composition) completed their first year as Assistant Professor at Columbia College Chicago teaching film scoring.
- **Grant Knox** ('18, Music: Euphonium) was named the Director of Athletic Bands and Associate Director of Bands at San Jose State University.
- **Luke Weatherly** ('24, Music Trombone) was one of the Oklahoma State University Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition winners.



Above: Natalie Sims, Dr. Maribeth Crawford, and Jessie Leal at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference. Sims and Leal each brought home awards.

Elementary Teacher of the Year

Macy Mitchell, Elementary Music Teacher for Hancock County Schools, has been selected as Kentucky Music Educators Association District 2 Elementary Teacher of the Year!

Macy was selected because of her immediate and profound impact on the students and music program at North Hancock Elementary School during the 2023-2024 school year. Her enthusiasm for music is reciprocated by her students, as she has implemented an authentic general music curriculum and seasonal programs. These curricula and programs provide elementary students with valuable performance opportunities and musical experiences.

Hancock County Schools resides in District 2 for KMEA. Other school districts within District 2 include Owensboro, Daviess County, Ohio County, Hopkins County, Henderson, and Webster County.

Music educators from District 2 meet bi-annually to discuss current

meeting. District 2 music educators nominate and vote on individuals deserving of the Teacher of the Year awards at every grade level.

In addition to this award, Macy and eleven other regional recipients from around the state will be considered for

KMEA's statewide Elementary Teacher of the Year award.



Above: Macy Mitchell ('22) named KMEA District 2 Elementary Music Teacher of the Year

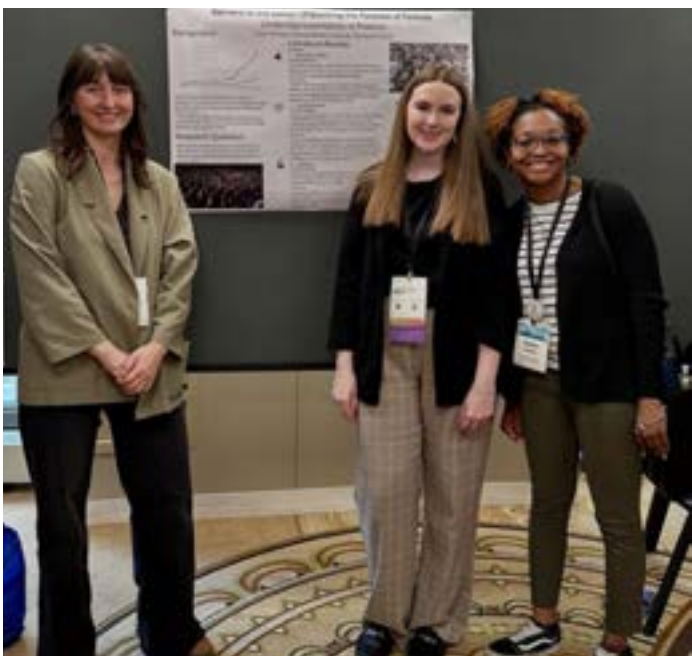
| Student & Alumni Success

Political Science and Sociology

- **Ali Khatib, Oumou Diombele, Maggie Mae Drew, Brant Knasel, Jyotiraditya Kishore Thakkar, Audrey Dixon, Siddhi Kishore Thakkar, Riley Tubbs, and Sam Jackanicz** received the Outstanding Delegation Award for exceptional representation of Yemen in the General Assembly Plenary at the American Model United Nations (AMUN) Conference 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Laney Evans, Mary Huffman, Jyotiraditya Kishore Thakkar, Siddhi Kishore Thakkar, Weslan Banks, Katie Ford, Audrey Dixon, Ali Khatib, Maximilian Braun, Nate Hunt, Riley Tubbs, Sam Jackanicz, Danielle Duncan, Nazim Pacheco, Oumou Diombele, Maggie Mae Drew, Jocelyn Stark, and Brant Knasel** represented Murray State University at the American Model United Nations (AMUN) Conference 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Rory Odom** (Sociology) presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, presented at MSU Scholar's Week, and was the recipient of the Dr. Choong-Nam Kang Best Paper Award for Sociology.
- **Rita Spalding** ('24, Sociology) has been invited by the New York Poet Laureate to do a poetry reading in October 2025. Additionally, Ms. Spalding had her article, "A Story of Family History and Adventure," published in the Spring 2025 issue of *Kentucky Humanities* and her second book, *What is Beauty*, is now published and available for purchase on Amazon. Spalding was also named the Outstanding Senior in Sociology.
- **Mary Huffman** (International Studies) was named the Outstanding Senior in International Studies.
- **Jenna Veatch** (Political Science: Pre-Law) was named the Outstanding Senior in Pre-Law.
- **Lillie Clark** (Political Science) was named the Outstanding Senior in Political Science.
- **Piper McClain** presented a paper at the Kentucky Political Science Association Annual Meeting and the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, IL. She was also the recipient of the 2025 Dr. Choong-Nam Kang Best Paper Award for Political Science.
- **Colson Thomas** was an intern with the Leadership Institute Campaign Leadership College in Tyson's Corner, VA.
- **Marina Tatum** interned at the Merryman House in Paducah, KY
- **Connor Stovall** interned at Hooks Law Firm, PLLC
- **Grady Ward** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Lillie Clark** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Mary Huffman** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Danielle Duncan** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Luke Wyatt** ('24, Political Science: Pre-Law) accepted a position as a summer law clerk with Fried Frank in New York City.

Political Science and Sociology, cont'd.

- **Lillie Clark, Josselyn Hernandez, Cora Bell, Samantha Hensley, RhyLee Sprague, Jada Peyton, Gracie Williams, Ryan Holland, Megan Fiestam, and Kaitlyn King** competed at the 7th Annual Derek Moorhead & Irene Downs Memorial Mock Trial Invitation at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.
- **Keely Collins** ('23, Political Science: Pre-Law) was accepted into the University of Kentucky School of Law.
- **Ashlyn Tracy** ('23, Political Science: Pre-Law) won the Best Complaint and Answer Award at the University of Mississippi's Interprofessional Education Board's Annual Medical Malpractice Mock Trial Competition.
- **Gage Moore** ('21, Political Science, '22 Master Public Administration) was promoted to Human Resource Manager at Hutson, Inc.
- **Luke Price** is a summer law clerk with English, Lucas, Priest & Wesley.
- **Cole Manion** ('19, Political Science Pre-Law) became an Associate Attorney with Bradley, Arant, Boulton, and Cummings LLP.
- **Connor Washburn** ('23, Political Science: Pre-Law) published a note, "National Security vs. Constitutional Transparency: Reassessing the Experience and Logic Test" in the *Kentucky Law Journal*.
- **Bianca Hale** ('23, Political Science: Pre-Law) joined the Cornerstone Government Affairs Kentucky office for the spring '25 legislative session.
- **Maria Shockley** ('19, Political Science Pre-Law) was a judicial law clerk with the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.
- **Daniella Tebib** ('22, Political Science Pre-Law) was promoted to Deputy Executive Director of the Alaska Democratic Party.
- **Case Thomason** ('23, Political Science: Pre-Law) transferred to the University of Michigan School of Law and is a research assistant with the John Hopkins University of Medicine.



Left: Dr. Brittany Wood, Piper McClain, and Akayla Henson ('23) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Piper McClain presented a research project she has been working on with Dr. Wood.

| Student & Alumni Success



Psychology

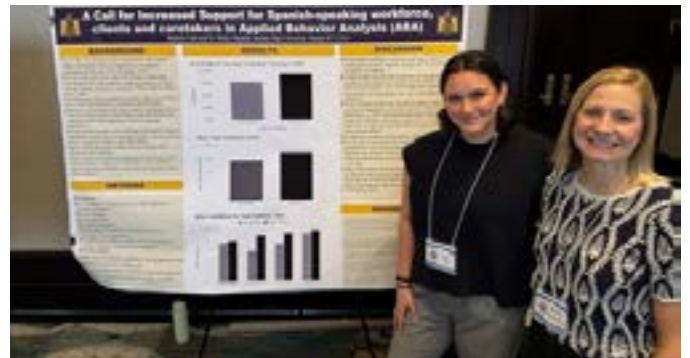
- **Isaiah King** (with **Dr. Sean Rife**) published "Identity Politics as Secular Religion" in *Secular Studies*.
- **Noah Branson** presented "What is happening to professionalism? Social service agencies' concerns with new social workers" at the 42nd Annual Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference in Las Vegas, NV.
- Twenty one members of **Psychology Club** and **PSICHI** became Green Bandana ambassadors.
- **Callie Hart** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Kadence Lewis** and **Mabel Oti-Boadi** (with **Dr. Esther Malm**) presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Destiny Miles** (with **Dr. Dan Wann**) presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Alli Wood, Destiny Miles, Clare Uhlik, Isaac Robertson, Kyle Nelson, and Kate Herrmann** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Tory Cline** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Lillian Blackburn** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week and at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Javier Mora** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Javier Mora** and **Kate Hermann** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Chloe Whitfield** and **Entropy Cramer** (with **Dr. Patric Cushen**) presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week and at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Noah Branson** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Olivia Mitchell** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Nikki Harnage** and **Alexis Vincent** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Clare Uhlik** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Ellison Alexander** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Brendan Hays** and **Melissa Ready** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Lillian Blackburn** and **Izabella Langston** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Makayla Heath** and **Isabella Canestrini** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.



- **Alexa Goff, Makayla Heath, and Emma Bradshaw** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Samantha VanHorn** and **Paige Heil** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Carson Rice** and **Kamski Jones**, (with Dr. Esther Malm) presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Kate Herrmann** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week, Posters at the Capitol (with Dr. Michael Bordieri), and the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Zoe Painter** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Zoe Painter, Matthew Barber, and Anna Minor** presented at at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Shayna Conley** presented at Murray State University's Spring 2025 Scholar's Week.
- **Isabella Lamboy** and **Emilee Overfield** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Alli Wood** and **August Richardson** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week and at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Caleb McCurren** and **Alie Boyd** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Ainsley Smith** and **Joshua Thorn** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Clay Barker** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Madeline Yates** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Elizabeth Schubert, Anley Jones, and Lauren Wills** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Noah Robert Branson** and **Shajuanta Daeshaun Knox** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Anna Minor** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week and at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Hannah Gibson** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week and at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.

Psychology, cont'd.

- **Chase Hendricks** and **Kadence Lewis** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Nikki Harnage** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week.
- **Michele Curd** presented at Murray State University's Fall 2024 Scholar's Week and at the 2025 Posters at the Capitol (with Dr. Becky Nastally).
- **Jordan Pearsall** presented two pieces of research at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Adalyn McMurray** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Daniela Sanchez** and **Kayla Bell** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Morgan Macke** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Entropy Cramer** presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL.
- **Jimmy Horn** ('23, Psychology) was hired as Background Investigator for Paraton.
- **Tyler Robinson** and **Xavier Brown** ('24, Psychology) published "The name's Bond, Parasocial Bond: Imagined Interactions and State-Level Empathy" in the *Journal of Social Psychology*.
- **Quinn Lambert** published Registered Replication Report: Study 3 from Trafimow and Hughes (2012) in *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* (with **Dr. Sean Rife** and other co-authors).



Events & Community Outreach



The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is the cultural hub of the region. This is evident in the extensive list of events hosted by departments, partnerships with the community, and the frequency with which our faculty member's expertise is sought out. Departments in the college regularly partner with community members, such as Town & Gown, the Kentucky Art Education Association, Lotus, Playhouse in the Park, and the Calloway County Public Library. The College of Humanities and Fine Arts hosts nearly **200** events that are free and open to the public. Below is a select list of community partnerships and events hosted by the college.

Art & Design

- Worked with the Kentucky Art Education Association to host the 2025 KyAEA All-State Purchase/Pennyrile Regional High School Art Exhibition. This program received 465 entries from Caldwell County High School, Calloway County High School, Community Christian Academy, Duncan Academy, Graves County High School, Henderson County High School, Livingston Central High School, Madisonville North Hopkins High School, Marshall County High School, McCracken County High School, Murray High School, Owensboro High School, Paducah Tilghman High School, Trigg County High School. Out of the 465 entries, 157 entries were accepted.
- Worked with the Kentucky Art Education Association on the Awards Ceremony & Exhibition Closing for 2025 KyAEA All-State Purchase/Pennyrile Regional High School Art Exhibition.
- Carrie Stover ('05) gave an Artist talk in the Art and Design Department. This event was free and open to the public.
- Along with CHFA and the Humanities Program, Art and Design hosted a Q&A style talk with Tripp Gibson ('03), a BFA graduate who is now a professional umpire in major league baseball and a 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient.
- Hosted *Professional Blend* during the fall and spring semesters. This event features group exhibition of student work as part of the curriculum in ART 399: Professional Practices. Twelve Students participated in the fall and 12 in the spring. This event was free and open to the public.
- Hosted its annual Art Auction scholarship fundraiser. Artwork is donated by faculty, students, community members, visiting artists, and alumni. Works are sold through both a silent and live auction as a way to raise money for Art & Design major scholarships. In Fall 2024 they raised \$7,666 towards scholarships.
- Hosted BFA Practicum Exhibitions & BA/BS Group Practicum Exhibition during the fall and spring semesters. Thirteen students exhibited their work during the fall and 10 during the spring. This event was free and open to the public.



Photos above are from the Murray State Art Auction. This event showcases works of art from talented faculty, students, alumni, and local artists. Proceeds from the auction support Murray State art students, and this event is the primary fundraising event to provide art students with scholarships.

Art & Design, cont'd.

- Hosted the Patricia Summerville Visiting Artist in Printmaking Artist Talk and workshop with Stephani Alaniz. Alaniz conducted a workshop/residency with advanced printmaking students. They also did an artist talk that was free and open to the community.
- Hosted Visiting Artist/Educator Lecture Shand Stamper their talked titled, "Inspiring Success in AP Art Studio." Mrs. Stamper shared about running an AP art class with a focus on creative idea development. Many local teacher attended.
- Hosted Visiting Artist Kacey Slone for the spring Patricia Summerville Visiting Artist in Printmaking. Slone hosted 4 Zine Workshops held in Art & Design classes and hosted a 5th Zine Workshop open to anyone. They also gave an artist talk open to the public.
- Hosted the Pat Summerville Professional Panel. The Q&A panel feature three alumni: Jessica Wolf, owner of Paper Acorn; Abby Murdock, graphic designer and art director at ST8MNT; and Savannah Vincent, owner of Broadway Custom Framing.
- Hosted Monster Mash, where Print, Photo, Drawing, Design and Clay Clubs as well as OMAS and Art Education set up tables to sell handmade goods & homemade treats. All proceeds go to support student travel, student field trips, and visiting artists.
- Professor Cintia Segovia Figueroa coordinated a community art piece and kids activities for West KY NOW's "Get out the Femme Vote" festival in Paducah.

Art & Design, cont'd.

- Mary Ed Mecoy Hall Gallery in the Department of Art and Design hosted a solo exhibition *Concession* featuring recent work by Los Angeles-based artist Marisa J. Futernick. She also gave an artist talk in conjunction with the show.
- The Organization of Murray Art Students (OMAS) hosted The OMAS Juried Student Art Show. This annual juried student exhibition received 160 submissions with around 75 entries juried into the show. OMAS handed out 22 awards during their reception.
- In conjunction with Freight House in Paducah, KY, 8 advanced photography students exhibited their work with an exhibition of 18 photographs.
- Dr. Rebecca Williams' ART 341 students designed and taught four studio classes for students with disabilities from Calloway County and Murray Independent schools. This workshop was funded by the Side By Side Grant through Arts for All Kentucky and hosted in conjunction with the Murray Art Guild.
- Dr. Rebecca Williams and 4 art students assisted Mrs. Hastings with painting faces at the MES Spring Swing.
- Hosted a table at Tent City during Homecoming.



Above: 2025 Summerville Professionals Panel featuring three alumni of the department. Above is Abby Murdock ('16), who is the Art Director at ST8MNT Brand Agency in Nashville, TN.



Above: Visiting Artist Kacey Slone hosts one of her 5 Zine Workshops. Slone also gave an artist talk open to the public.

Art & Design, cont'd.

- Hosted an exhibition curated by D. Dominick Lombardi titled, "Altered Logistics: Redux," featuring contemporary collage and appropriation art. He gave an artist talk in conjunction with his show and the *Engage* event.
- The Mary Ed Mecoy Gallery hosted work from Murray State Alum, Fred DiGiovanni titled, "Hands of Time Cento Anni." In addition, DiGiovanni gave an artist talk in conjunction with his show.
- The Clara Eagle Art Gallery hosted a solo exhibition, *The Back of the Moon*, by Caroline Burton. Burton gave an artist talk in conjunction with her show.
- The Upper Clara Eagle Gallery hosted a group exhibition curated by The Third Barn. It featured Artist Pat Badt who also gave an artist talk in conjunction with the show.
- Knoxville, TN based artist Thomas Riesing had work on view in the Clara Eagle Gallery titled, "Recent Drawings & Prints."
- The Upper Clara Eagle Gallery hosted a Greenville, Tennessee based artist, Kevin Bradley, for a solo exhibition titled, "Voo Doo Rocket."

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Art & Design
University Galleries

Exhibitions Calendar
The Clara M. Eagle Gallery
Fall 2024
The Clara M. Eagle Gallery Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Contact: 270-809-3392, artanddesign@murraystate.edu
*Galleries are closed during University breaks and on change

Mary Ed Mecoy Hall Gallery **The Clara M. Eagle Gallery** **Eagle Upper Gallery**

Altered Logistics: Redux
August 28 - September 19, 2024
Visiting Artist & Curator Talk with D. Dominick Lombardi on Thursday, Sept. 19

HANDS OF TIME CENTO ANNI
Fred DiGiovanni
August 20 - October 17, 2024
Visiting Artist Talk: Aug. 27 @ 5pm in mt223

The Back of the Moon
Caroline Burton
October 1 - October 29, 2024
Visiting Artist Talk: Oct 3 @ 5pm in mt223

Professional Blend XVII
a group exhibition of student work
October 24 - November 9, 2024

Annual Art Auction
November 8, 2024
Contact: 270-809-3784 for more info

The Line Up
Pat Badt, Emily Berger, Marianne Gagnier, Claire Smith, & Paula Stuart-Hard
October 1 - October 29, 2024
Visiting Artist Talk: Oct 29 @ 5pm in mt223

ART & DESIGN SENIOR EXHIBITIONS
November
BFA Practicum Exhibitions & BA/BS Group Practicum Exhibition

Left: The Department of Art & Design hosts several guest, student, and faculty exhibitions and artist talks throughout the semester. All are free and open to the public.

Events & Community Outreach



English and Philosophy

- Hosted “Double, Double, Toil and Puzzle: An Evening of Fun and Games with Shakespeare” in conjunction with the Calloway County Public library. This event was part of the Department of English and Philosophy’s Shakespeare Festival.
- Hosted “Acting Fundamentals Workshop” with Play house in the Park. This even was part of the Department of English and Philosophy’s Shakespeare Festival.
- Dr. William Jones (Department of English and Philosophy), Dr. Angie Trzepacz (Murray State University Counseling Services, and Dr. Michael Bordieri (Department of Psychology) hosted a panel discussion titled, “Sound and Fury, Signifying Something: Depression and Macbeth.” This event was part of the Department of English and Philosophy’s Shakespeare Festival.
- As part of the Department of English and Philosophy’s Shakespeare Festival, Cassidy Edwards (Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts) put on a stage choreography workshop: “What’s In A Name: Finding Your Signature in Movement.”
- The Department of English and Philosophy’s Medical Health and Humanities program hosted Dr. Alexandre White, Assistant Professor of Sociology and the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, for a book talk on his monograph, *Epidemic Orientalism*.
- The Department of English and Philosophy’s Humanities program hosted Fri(ght)day Films weekly horror film screenings.
- The Department of English and Philosophy’s Humanities program hosted a screening of the documentary, *Anne Braden: Southern Patriot* and *The Working Pool*.
- The Department of English and Philosophy and the Department of Music co-sponsored a variety show (cancelled due to weather).
- The Department of English and Philosophy and the Department of Psychology hosted a workshop event, featuring Latitia Usher (Department of Psychology).
- The Department of English and Philosophy’s Humanities program hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Diane Nititham (Department of Political Science and Sociology) titled, “Using Negative Space: A Tale of Optics, Interruptions, and Critical Illness.”
- The MSU Reading Series hosted Jennifer Haigh for the 2024 Clinton and Mary Opal Moore Appalachian Writer’s Residency.
- The Creative Writing program hosted a Valentines Day poetry writing workshop with Hart College.
- The Creative Writing and Reading Series hosted author Lindsey Drager as a Virtual Visiting Writer.
- The Creative Writing program hosted Editor-in-Chief of *Craft*, Courtney Harler who delivered a mini craft talk on process and product.

English and Philosophy, cont'd.

- The Creative Writing program hosted publishing expert Jane Friedman for a virtual presentation on the Current State of Publishing.
- The MSU Reading Series hosted poet and nonfiction writer Christina Olson on campus for a class visit and public reading.
- The Creative Writing and Reading Series hosted a reading of forthcoming work from Dr. Carrie Jerrell, Dr. TJ Martinson, and Professor Kari Shemwell.
- The Department of English and Philosophy hosted a student showcase for students in ENG 343: Digital Storytelling and ENG 353: Writing for the Web.
- The Department of English and Philosophy's *Notations* Reading Series (student lead journal) hosted a reading of students who published in the journal.



Clockwise from top left: Murray State Hosts its Annual Shakespeare Festival, featuring Macbeth.

English and Philosophy majors who published in Notations: The Undergraduate Literary Journal of Murray State, read from their work at the release party and end of year banquet.

Acclaimed novelist Jennifer Haigh reads from her work for the Murray State University Reading Series's Clinton and Mary Opal Moore Appalachian Writer's Residency.



Events & Community Outreach

Global Languages and Theatre Arts

- The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted the Global Languages showcase. Organized by Roxane Riegler, Jie Wu, Martin Kane, Ben Post, Robert Fritz, Elena Picech, Tanya Romero-Gonzalez, this annual, regional festival brings area students to campus where they participate in fun, creative events representing a variety of languages and cultures. The event included 48 workshops for area high schools.
- Prof. Brent Menchinger, Dr. Elena Picech, and Dr. Roxane Riegler from the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted a workshop for Language teachers titled, "From Silence to Speaking: Unlocking Student Motivation" that was attended by area teachers.
- The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted a Kite Festival along side the Murray Arboretum's Earth Day Celebration.
- In conjunction with the Society of American Fight Directors, the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted an annual stage combat workshop.



Clockwise from top:

The cast and crew of Life Sucks, one of six productions sponsored by the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts in 2024-25.



The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosts Kite Day at the MSU Arboretum alongside Earth Day activities.

Dr. Martin Kane at the Global Languages Showcase, speaks to high school students from around the region about the Spanish language.

Global Languages and Theatre Arts, cont'd.

- The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts and the Hutson School of Agriculture provided training and translation assistance for migrant workers.
- The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts participated in the TRIO Talent Search for students in grades 6-12.
- Following their production of *Nevermore*, the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted a talkback where cast and crew held a discussion with high school students about the making of the show, the work of Edgar Allan Poe, and recruitment.
- In coordination with Playhouse in the Park's production of *Mary Poppins*, the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts hosted a stage dialect workshop.
- Faculty in Global Languages spearheading the organizing for the Cinema International Film Series each semester, which is free and open to public.

CINEMA INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER

			
OCT. 3 OCT. 5	OCT. 17 OCT. 19	OCT. 24 OCT. 26	OCT. 31 NOV. 3

SHOWINGS ON THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS
AT 7:30PM IN FACULTY HALL 208.
FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE.

Events & Community Outreach

History

- The Department of History sponsored the Easley Lecture, featuring Dr. Donald Doyle, who spoke on his book *The Age of Reconstruction*.
- The Department of History sponsored the Venerable Tsering Phuntsok, of the Nyingmapa Tibetan Buddhist tradition, for 5-day campus visit. The event included a public lecture titled, "Finding Peace in Uncertain Times."
- Cosponsored a lecture series with the Calloway County Public Library. The lectures in the 2024-2025 series were well-attended by the community.
- Hosted History Days, where high school students from the area competed on a History exam and had an opportunity to interact with artifacts in Pogue Library.
- Dr. David Pizzo along with some of his students worked with St James AME Church, African American Heritage Cultural Fund, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation on an oral history project for St. Jame AME Church in Mayfield. Dr. Pizzo and his team interviewed several congregants, the Mayor of Mayfield, and the regional AME Bishop. Material gathered will be featured in the Church's 100th birthday celebration and the reopening of the church, which was destroyed in the 2021 tornado.



Left: Dr. Donald Doyle speaking at the Easley Lecture. Doyle spoke on his new book, The Age of Reconstruction.



Dr. David Pizzo and history students work on an oral history project with for St. James AME Church in Mayfield, which was destroyed in the December 2021 tornado. The students, pictured in front of the church (above), interviewed congregants (top left) and other community members, such as Mayfield mayor, Kathy O'Nan (bottom left).

Events & Community Outreach

Music

- In addition to working with Town and Gown, the Department of Music hosted over **100** events that were open to the community. A small sampling of their events are listed below.
- Annual June, July 4th and December Holiday concerts, in collaboration with Murray's Town and Gown Community Band Chorale
- The Department of Music hosted Fall Fanfare.
- The Department of Music hosted the Louisville Symphony Orchestra
- The Department of Music hosted Octubaween, a concert featuring tubas.
- The Department of Music hosted a concert featuring Una Voce and EQ Blue.
- The Department of Music hosted a Jazz Orchestra Concert.



Clockwise from top left:

Town and Gown summer concert in the park.

Godspell, a production of the Music Theatre program, under the direction of Dr. Maribeth Crawford

Quad State High School Choral Festival Concert.



Events & Community Outreach

Political Science and Sociology

- Dr. Alexandra Hendley's Social of Family course worked with Needline, CASA, Lotus, and the Merryman House as part of a service learning project.
- The Department of Political Science and the Murray State Model UN team hosted the annual MSU High School Model UN Conference. Students from Marshall High School and Mayfield High School participated in the Conference. In addition, the team visited high schools to teach them about the United Nations, how to write positions papers and how conferences work.
- Dr. Diane Nititham's Social Inequality class met with the WMKS Station Director, Asia Burnett, and Corporate Support Manager, Dixie Lynn, to discuss programming and community needs.
- Hosted Murray State University's Constitution Day, featuring presentations about the Constitution.



Left: Students in Sociology of Food (SOC 325) hosted an outreach event on April 14, 2025 about college student food insecurity. Students gave away free food while sharing information about the problem of food insecurity and resources to address it.

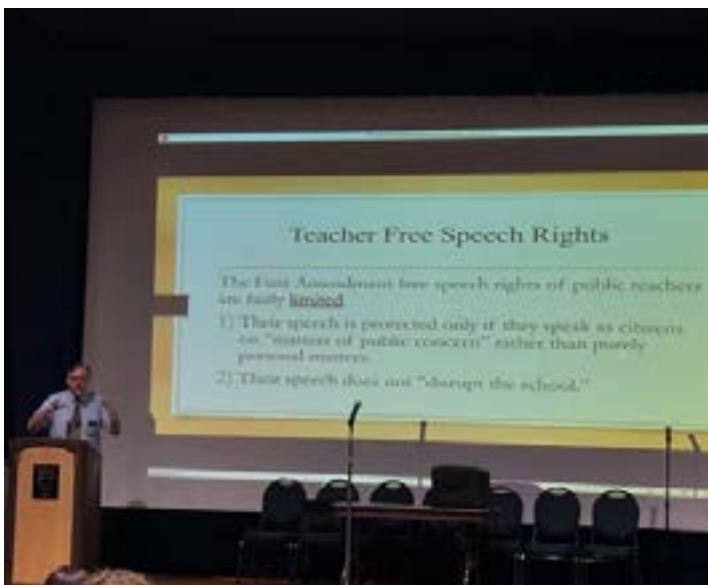
Right: Justice Bill Cunningham hosted "High Noon", a brown bag series for pre-law students.



Political Science and Sociology, cont'd

- Hosted Murray State University's Constitution Day, featuring presentations about the Constitution.
- Hosted Pizza Politics and Society in the fall of 2024, featuring Lindsay Elliot's (adjunct and program alum) titled, "CRS, ESG, & DEI: The Many Acronyms of Social Change." The event was attended by students and community members.
- Hosted Pizza Politics and Society in the spring of 2025, featuring Dr. Martin Armstrong's work titled "You Paid Me To: The Labor and Affective Attachments of Martial Violence."
- Hosted the Harry Lee Waterfield Distinguished Lecture in Public Affairs. Dr. Shirley Graham delivered the lecture titled, "Why Women are Necessary for Peace and Security."

Right: Dr. Shirley Graham's delivers her talk titled "Why Women are Necessary for Peace and Security" for the Harry Lee Waterfield Distinguished Lecture in Public Affairs.



Left: Dr. Paul Foote presents about freedom of speech rights for teachers at Constitution Day.

Events & Community Outreach

Psychology

- Partnered with Sean Slusher for the Life Walk for Veteran Suicide Awareness.
- The Psychology Club worked with Serenity Recovery to raise funds for Step It Up: Serenity Recovery Walk.
- Latisha Usher facilitated a workshop on “Using Storytelling to Build Self-Awareness and Resilience.”
- Sponsored a lecture with Dr. Katherine Cook on “Empowering Career Choices: Addressing Employment Inequities in Underserved Communities.”
- Sponsored a lecture with Dr. Gabriel Ezema “Adapting vocation theories for multicultural contexts: Examining the psychology of working theory among Nigerian college students.”



Above: A packed room for the Department of Psychology Scholar's Week presentations.

Psychology, cont'd.

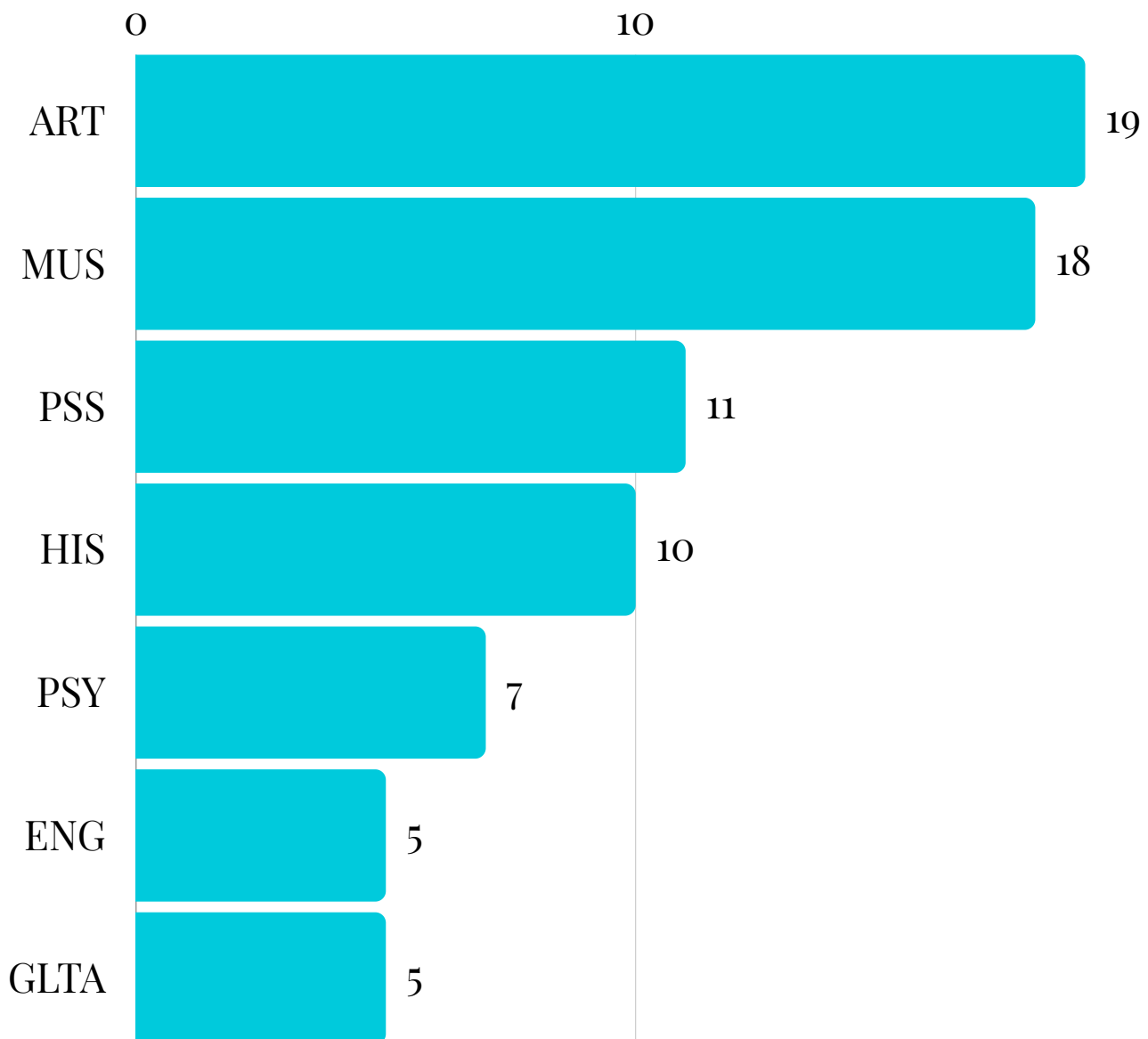
- Sponsored a lecture with Dr. Samuel Murphy “Leveraging Change Processes to Maximize the Effects of Psychosocial Treatment and Expand Access to Care.”
- Hosted Allison Dymnicki for the Dr. and Mrs. Gary Brummer Colloquium Series in Psychology. Her presentation was titled, “Preventing School Violence with Metal Detectors, Armed Teachers, and Exclusionary Policies: What If We Just Had People Who Cared About Each Other?”
- Hosted Dr. Kwame Sakyi for the Dr. and Mrs. Gary Brummer Colloquium Series in Psychology. His presentation was titled, “Examining the Origins, Manifestations, and Management of Stigma Across Three Health Conditions (HIV, Low Birthweight, and Developmental Disabilities) in an African setting.”



The Department of Psychology hosted two Brummer Colloquiums. These events feature top scholars and practitioners. The 2024-2025 speakers included Dr. Allison Dymnicki and Dr. Kwame Safro Sakyi.

CHFA Graduate Employment

Graduates from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are excelling in their careers. Current alumni hold top positions in their field, including Pearson & von Elbe Advertising and BMG Rights Management and they study at the top graduate programs in the county, such as Dartmouth. Our majors go on to make a difference in their community with 23 of our graduates gainfully employed as teachers.



CHFA Graduate Employment



Art & Design

Eleven students secured teaching positions (new or changed positions): Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy Art Teacher (Phoenix, AZ), West Louisville Elementary School, Fayette County Southern Middle School, Jefferson County Public Schools, Rose Park Magnet Middle (Nashville's Premier Middle School Magnet Program), Kentucky Virtual Academy, School District U-46 (Elgin, IL), and Bearden Middle School (Knoxville, TN).

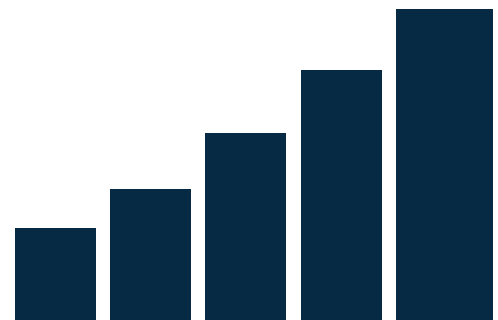
Three students continued to graduate programs at Northern Illinois University (printmaking) and The Art of Education University (art education).

Seven graphic design students started work in their field, including as Multimedia Designer with the Nashville Zoo; Graphic Designer with Four Seasons (Paris, TN); Graphic Designer with Catena Nano Technology (Newburgh, IN); Graphic Designer for HempWood (Murray, KY); Graphic Designer at Pearson & von Elbe Advertising (Duluth, MN); Graphic Designer for ITS Training (Murray KY); UI Designer FOR CSI (Paducah, KY).

A studio art major was hired as a Website Designer for Ingram Water & Air (Hickory, KY).



Left: Graphic Design majors on a career tour in Nashville.



English and Philosophy

One student received an internship at the University of Kentucky Press.

One English Teaching Certification major was hired to teach English at Paducah Tilghman High School.

One English: Creative Writing major accepted a teaching position with Hopkinsville Middle School and is working on their emergency teaching certification.

Several students continued onto graduate programs at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (on fellowship) and Western Kentucky University.

Global Languages & Theatre Arts

One Theatre major was accepted to University of Kentucky Masters of Social Work to pursue Drama Therapy.

One Spanish Major with a German Certificate was accepted to Dartmouth for a graduate program on fellowship.

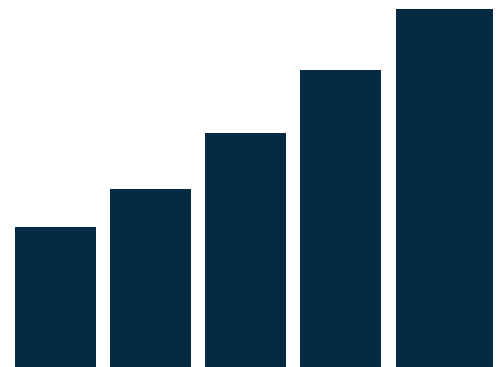
One Theatre major signed with a Broadway touring company with lead roles in Footloose and Waitress. They also are working as a lead singer for Norwegian Cruises for a “Broadway-like” tour.

One Theatre major became company member and lead for Kentucky Shakespeare.

One Theatre major became the Executive Director at Owensboro Theatre.



Left: Murray State Theatre production of Snow White.



History

One History major was hired as the Executive Director of the Breckenridge City Chamber of Commerce.

Three History: Social Studies Teaching Certification majors continued on to graduate school at Murray State University.

One History: Social Studies Teaching Certification major started a position as a teacher.

One History major continued onto law school at Southern Illinois University.

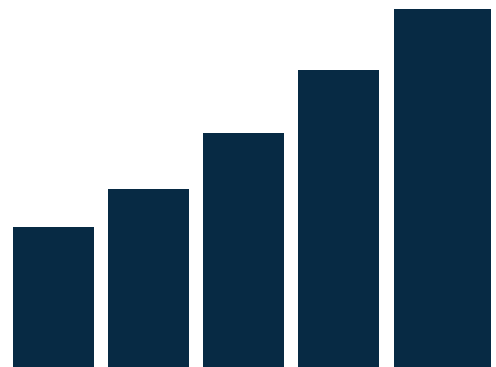
One History major started a position as a teacher and referee.

Two History majors continued on to graduate school at Murray State University and the University of Kentucky.

One History major started a position with federal law enforcement.



Left: History major Seth Gillespie (middle) completed an internship at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2024.



Music

One Music major continued onto graduate school at the University of Louisville with an assistantship.

One Music Business major started their career as an Agent at Wasserman, a booking agency in Nashville, TN.

One Music Business major started a position as the Senior Coordinator of Mechanical Licensing at BMG Rights Management in Nashville, TN.

Two Music Education majors were hired as band directors at Caverna Independent Schools and West Carroll Jr/Sr High School in Tennessee.

One Music Education major is starting a masters program at Oklahoma State University in Conducting with a graduate assistant ship.

Four Music Education majors started careers as teachers: choir at Heath Middle School and Loan Oak Middle School, elementary music at Franklin and Jefferson Elementary Schools (Massac, IL), 1st grade teacher at Stevenson Elementary (Russellville, KY), a music teacher at Millbrooke Elementary School (Hopkinsville, KY).

Seven Music Performance majors continued onto graduate school at schools such as DePaul University, University of North Texas, Oklahoma State University, University of Delaware, and Michigan State University, many with assistantship.

One Music Performance major started a career as a Program Specialist at Oklahoma State University, managing online and correspondence courses.

One Music Business major started position as a Sound Engineer at The Listening Room in Nashville, TN.

Political Science and Sociology

One Sociology major was accepted into George Mason University's Master of Arts in International Security program.

Two majors (Political Science and Political Science:Pre-Law) will continue onto Murray State University's Master of Public Administration program.



Political Science and Sociology, cont'd

Two Political Science and three Political Science: Pre-Law majors were accepted to law schools: attend University of Kentucky, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Southern Illinois University School of Law, Mercer University College of Law.

One International Studies major will continue on to graduate school at Chonnam National University in South Korea.

Two other majors are gainfully employed as legal assistants.

Right: Majors in the Department of Political Science and Sociology's pre-law program tour the University of Kentucky's Law School.

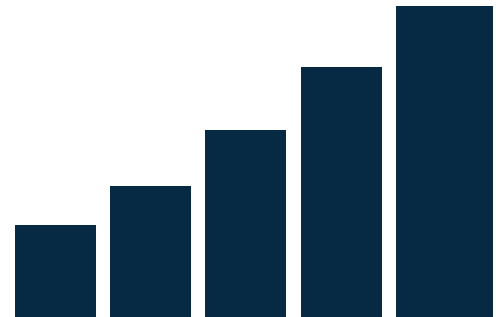


Psychology

One undergraduate Psychology major was accepted into a doctoral program in clinical psychology.

Three undergraduate Psychology majors were accepted into Masters programs: Murray State University and University of Tennessee.

Three graduate Clinical Psychology majors were accepted into doctoral programs: University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and West Kentucky University.



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