Thank you for a wonderful academic year!

Over the past nine months, you have worked tirelessly - mentoring students, producing amazing creative works, delving deeply into your research, serving the university and community and so much more. I’m thankful for your continued efforts to provide a unique and transformational education for our students.

Due in large part to your endeavors, we continue to attract and retain outstanding students. Our projected growth rate for fall 2018 is 6%, and based on that growth, I am hopeful that we can invest in new facilities over the next few years. Top on the college priority list are a Living-Learning Center and Agrarian Laboratory for the Sustainable Development Teaching and Research Farm, a Sustainable Living Laboratory, the Valor Center and renovations to Wey, Harper, Duncan and Varsity Gym. It is also a high on my list to fund additional tenure-track faculty lines, among other personnel.

We have much to celebrate as the academic year comes to a close -- as a faculty, you have produced 158 conference presentations, 272 creative works, 200 publications and been awarded 71 grants totaling more than $4 million. Projects like the Mending Initiative, AppLab 3.0, Thinkering, IDELab and the Climate Stories Collaborative also saw great success.

Our amazing students won major awards as well. Highlights include a Windgate fellowship, a PAVE honor, a first place finish at the Mountain Man Memorial March and a showcase of student choreography at a statewide dance conference, among many others.

Over the summer, take time to rejuvenate, relax and spend time with your family, friends and loved ones. I appreciate all you do for our students and the college, and I look forward to seeing you in August!

— Phyllis

Andrea Keys Connell (Art) was interviewed by alumnus Benjamin Carter for his podcast “Tales of a Red Clay Rambler.” The interview covered her research and making process, as well as teaching methods and pedagogy, and took place during her residency at Arrowmont School of Art and Craft in Gatlinburg. The podcast can be heard here >>

Emily Daughtridge (Theatre and Dance) was invited to conduct a dance repertory residency with students at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. In April, Daughtridge traveled to the college to set her latest choreographic work, “The Only Way Through is Through” on a group of six student dancers, who performed the work as part of the Norton Center for the Arts’ Spring Dance Concert on May 3. Additionally, Daughtridge was named the National Residence Hall Honorary Faculty of the Year along with Dr. Marco Meucci (Exercise Science) on April 24.

Dr. Derek Davidson (Theatre and Dance) shared the stage with colleagues across the university as he presented “Anti-theatrical Prejudice: Is the Play REALLY the Thing?” at the university’s TEDx talk on April 7. Additionally, he presented his paper “Our Own Invention: A Report on Appalachian State University’s Climate Stories Collaborative & Its Participation in the Climate Change Theatre Action” at the Earth Matters on Stage conference in Anchorage April 20-22. This paper shared a summary of the Climate Stories Collaborative that Davidson and co-facilitator Laura England (Sustainable Development) created last fall.

Kevin Gamble (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment) was named a 2018 Chancellor’s Innovation Scholar. His proposal builds on his existing “Waste Not” project, which aims to promote awareness of the local food loss and waste issue and to develop a regional food recovery and waste management program appropriate for the community. Gamble is working on the project with Hei-Young Kim (Appalachian Energy Center).

Dr. Hessam Ghamari (Applied Design), along with Dr. David Domermuth (Applied Design) and Mitzi Cook (Applied Design) recently published “Understanding Visceral Design” in the Journal of Textile Engineering and Fashion Technology. Additionally, Ghamari served on a panel at the Interior Design Educators (IDEC) national conference in Boston March 7-10 with faculty members from Florida State University and Marymount University. The panel, titled “Friend, not foe! Research, ethics, and the role of the institutional review board (IRB) in today’s interior design education,” covered IRB processes for undergraduate and graduate students.

Rebecca Keeter’s (Theatre and Dance) Pedagogy of Dance class presented a workshop titled “Science Meets Dance” at Appalachian’s seventh annual STEAM expo April 24. Her students performed a choreographed dance and then engaged visiting middle school students in performing scientific concepts.

LTC Chris Kleman (Military Science and Leadership) finished second in the military individual half marathon as part of the annual Mountain Man Memorial March held each April in Gatlinburg.

Hui Chi Lee’s (Art) work, “Untitled, 2011,” was presented by the Kai Gallery in New York City and was purchased by Cornell University’s Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art for its permanent collection.

Keith Martin (Theatre and Dance) was awarded the 2018 W. H. Plemmons Leadership Medallion on April 20, named in honor of Dr. Plemmons, who served as the second president of the university from 1955 to 1969. The award was created to recognize the time, energy, skills and commitment of faculty who exceed their peers in providing leadership that enriches the quality of student life and advances the education of students. Martin was recognized for providing meritorious leadership through his work with student clubs and organizations, and for his work enriching the quality of student life and learning outside the classroom.

Dr. Ray Miller (Theatre and Dance) recently served on a task force to bring two dance organizations, the Congress on Research in Dance and the Society of Dance History Scholars, into one international
Dr. Mimi Perreault (Communication) was honored as the College of Fine and Applied Arts’ Outstanding Professor for 2017-18 by the Student Government Association.

Dr. Kin-Yan Szeto (Theatre and Dance) has received a 2018-19 New York Public Library Research Fellowship to support her project “Aesthetics East and West: A Study of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.” Szeto will receive a stipend of $4,000 and will spend four weeks in New York as part of her award. Additionally, her book chapter for “Martial Arts Media and Culture: Global Perspectives” has been accepted for publication and is forthcoming.

Tricia Treacy (Art) will have a solo show at Colli Independent Art Gallery in Rome, Italy in June. The exhibition will highlight her current project “Pause: dash _ slot.” Her goal for this narrative was to break down the walls between the communities inside and outside of the American Academy of Rome, where Treacy spent six months on a fellowship as a Rome Prize winner in 2017. She also created a series of original screen prints on the same topic while visiting the Penland School of Crafts that will be included in the exhibition.

Cameron Van Dyke’s (Applied Design) solo exhibit, “Creating Public Imagination,” which highlights the Future Cycles and the Turtle Island living experiment, will be featured at the Delaware Contemporary Museum June 18-Oct. 10. The exhibit presents the Future People using preferable sustainable realities and demonstrates that these realities can be adopted and used on a daily basis. The goal of these projects is to show the public how to live in sustainable ways and create a shared knowledge that would empower them to do so. The Future People is the collaborative creative practice of Van Dyke and his wife Rachael.

Dr. Mira Ray Waits (Art) presented the paper “Colonial Carcerality and the Neocolonial Indian Prison” at the Society of Architectural Historians 71st annual international conference in St. Paul on April 20. She is currently revising her paper into a chapter for an edited volume on neocolonialism and architecture.
Kevin Warner (Theatre and Dance) has been invited to conduct two week-long dance residencies in June and July at the Oklahoma Arts Institute in Quartz Mountain and at the Tennessee Arts Academy in Nashville. During the residencies, Warner will conduct folk dance classes for high school students through Oklahoma’s governor’s school program, and he will present dance and literacy integration workshops for Tennessee elementary school teachers.

Chip Williams (Art) and Anne Ward (Communication) co-directed a documentary short film, “A Father’s Dream” that has been chosen as an official selection in three film festivals this spring: Blackbird Film Festival in Cortland, New York held April 20-22, Newport Beach Film Festival in California held April 26-May 3 and the Longleaf Film Festival in Raleigh scheduled for May 11-12. “A Father’s Dream” tells the story of David Finck, a fine wood-worker based in Valle Crucis whose career was transformed by the influences of his father and daughters. View the documentary >>

Dr. Jennifer Westerman (Sustainable Development) has been named one of two new associate editors at the journal Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment beginning July 1.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESS

Sandra Bernard and Laney Branch (Applied Design) were the only undergraduate students to present a poster at the Interior Design Educators (IDEC) national conference in Boston March 7-10. The poster included findings of their study “Role of Physical Environments in Supporting Residents of Care Facilities.”

Peter Clare and Colter Swan (Applied Design) each placed first in the annual Mockett & Co. design competition. This is the second in a row that students from Michael Rall’s (Applied Design) course won the competition. This year, the students, along with Professor Rall, flew to Los Angeles to tour the Mockett facility and meet some of their manufacturing partners and other design interests in April. As part of the competition, the students were awarded a cash prize and a 15 year royalty agreement. Over the last two years, Appalachian students have won five of the seven first place awards. Based on the university’s strong showing, Doug Mockett has expressed his interest in making the connection stronger between Appalachian and Mockett & Co.

Aurora Figueroa-Benetti (Sustainable Development) is planning to plant several pawpaw trees on the Sustainable Development Teaching and Research Farm after participating in an independent study with Susan Owens at Lily Patch Farm. Figueroa-Benetti became interested in the pawpaw tree and its many uses after taking Ian Snider’s (Sustainable Development) agroforestry course.

Elijah Lee Grady (Theatre and Dance) showcased his original choreography during the North Carolina Dance Education Organization’s statewide conference on Feb. 10 at Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte. He collaborated with his dancers to create “Flux,” which is set to Kyle Landry’s rendition of “Dearly Beloved.” Read more >>

Senior Ariel Green (Art) has been awarded the 2018-19 Frances Holland Black scholarship. Funds from this endowment are used to create opportunities for women students to develop feminist perspectives on equality and freedom for all and to create opportunities for their expression. Read more >>

Noah Howells’ (Applied Design) furniture design was selected as one of 10 finalists in the LAMP 2018 competition. He completed the sofa design as part of Lecturer Alyssa Coletti’s (Applied Design) course in fall 2017.

Jason Huber (Communication) was a finalist for the Sports Writing award at the Society for Professional Journalists’ regional conference in Richmond, Virginia on April 14.
Brandon Jarrett and Jacob Still (Applied Design) took home second and third place, respectively, in the High Point Design Center’s “Unity for All” student design competition. Both students are sophomores majoring in interior design and worked on their designs as part of Dr. Margot Olson’s (Applied Design) fall 2017 design studio. The competition challenged students to design a one-bedroom apartment for the iconic Flatiron building in New York. Read more >>

Ally Mangini (Applied Design) has won an honorable mention in the 41st Annual Eaton SOURCE Student Lighting Design competition for “Twist,” a Turkish restaurant inspired by the calligraphic writing of the region. She received her award on May 7 during Lightfair’s keynote luncheon in Chicago. Appalachian interior design students have placed in the competition for five consecutive years. Mangini created her restaurant during a course with Professor Jeanne Mercer-Ballard (Applied Design) in fall 2017.

Joey Pitchford ’16 (Communication) won a third place award from the NC Press Association for a pair of stories on redistricting and racial disparities in the Wayne County Public School System at their annual awards banquet on February 22 in Raleigh. Read more >>

Congratulations to Applied Design students whose designs placed in Appalachian’s annual Apparel Design and Merchandising Showcase April 28 in Boone. Katelyn Shumate won first place, Matt Moosa placed second, and Sarah Bischoff was awarded third in the main show. Thomas Norwood, Hannah Eckersley and Sarah Bischoff were also awarded for their work in Apparel Design Studio II, Sustainability in Apparel Design and independent designs, respectively. All winners were chosen by a panel of industry experts, two of whom are alumni of the program (Brandon Aldridge and Kristopher Robin Stevens). Showcase is coordinated by Dr. Anthony Wilson (Applied Design).

Public relations and communication students in Dr. Mimi Perreault’s (Communication) course participated in press conferences and wilderness crisis training scenarios on April 25 at part of an interactive learning week. Students from the College of Education’s College Student Development Program lead short wilderness training exercises with students during class time.

Cadets in the Department of Military Science and Leadership brought home several awards in the recent Mountain Man Memorial March April 13-14. The male military full marathon team, composed of cadets Jack Simpson, Jacob Best, Jeremy Tuggle, Ryan Malmgren and Edgar Dominguez, finished in first place for the fifth consecutive year and set a new course record. The male military half marathon team, composed of cadets Sam Boyles, Garrett Sandy, Matt Hodges, Ben Pritchett and Jesse Durham, finished in second place. Cadets Troy Jones, Chris Ruch and Chandler Case finished the individual military half marathon in fifth, sixth and seventh place, while cadets James Gehret and Connor Dickey finished fourth and sixth in the individual military full marathon. Gus Coffey, who competed in the individual civilian half marathon, finished third. For the second year in a row, App State ROTC was the only program to field an all-female military full marathon team (cadets Heidi Robinson, Taylor Guiles, Lynne Cox, Patricia Parks and Lydia Pearson).

Students enrolled in the Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment’s IDEXLab completed two projects this year. The first was a park design plan for the city of Elizabethton, Tennessee. The second was the construction of the mobiLANDING, a sheltered structure and docking station for the MOBILab, an energy-independent mobile classroom, at the university’s Small Wind Research and Demonstration Site on Beech Mountain.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADS!

More than 500 Fine and Applied Arts seniors will receive their diplomas on May 12. Additionally, the Military Science and Leadership program will commission 13 cadets as Second Lieutenants on May 13.

Jacob Best: Active Duty, Infantry  
Connor Dickey: Active Duty, Infantry  
Daniel Ellis: Active Duty, Infantry  
Griffin Gray: Active Duty, Quartermaster  
Matt Hodges: National Guard, Infantry  
Wilt Latham: National Guard, Signal  
Ethan Marlowe: Active Duty, Field Artillery  
Nathan Reitzel: Active Duty, Field Artillery  
Jack Simpson: Active Duty, Transportation  
Harrison Smith: National Guard, Armor  
Alex Uzzell: Active Duty, Military Intelligence  
Phillip Wagner: Active Duty, Infantry  
William Wilson: Active Duty, Engineer

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FALL 2018 IMPORTANT DATES

College Welcome Meeting  
August 17, 3-5 p.m. | HOW Space

Convocation  
August 20 | Convocation Center

First Day of Classes  
August 21

Fall Break  
October 11-12

Thanksgiving Break  
November 21-23

Last Day of Classes  
December 5

Fall Commencement  
December 15 | Convocation Center