State of the College Address

Dean Kent Sandstrom      College of Arts & Letters      August 22, 2018
A&L: Past, Present, and Future

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.” —John Wooden

- What did we accomplish last year?
- How were these accomplishments recognized?
- What goals will we pursue this year?
- What challenges will we face?
- How can we address these challenges?
Key College Priorities: AY 17-18

- Improve Our Website & Strategic Communications
- Enhance Our Sponsored Research Activities
- Increase Student Recruitment Efforts to Mitigate Declining Enrollments
- Bolster Alumni Tracking and Engagement
- Increase Faculty Mentoring and Recognition
What Did We Accomplish?

Strategic Communications

- Renovated and Upgraded A&L Website
  - More dynamic and visually appealing homepage
  - Enhanced usability
  - Increased student- and alumni-centered content
  - Added a news and accomplishments page

- Increased Strategic Communication Efforts
  - Met monthly with Public Affairs Specialist
  - Hired a PR student & faculty member to assist with college promotions
What Did We Accomplish?

Sponsored Research

*Increased by 60% in FY18:*

- **77** Grants, Contracts, Fellowships, and Research Awards for a total of ~$1,572,000.
- **40** external grants and contracts for $1,242,230
  - (393% increase over FY 16)
- **32** internal grants for ~$100,000
- **5** fellowships for $230,000
What Did We Accomplish?

Student Recruitment: "Explore Your Passion"

- Developed and implemented departmental recruitment plans and strategies
- Grew enrollments significantly in four IDS programs* – Leadership, Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, and Professional Writing
- Notably reduced declining enrollments in the college (up 57 students compared to same time period in F17)
What Did We Accomplish?

Alumni Relations and Engagement

- Developed department alumni tracking plans
- Stepped up our alumni outreach efforts
- Hosted several well-attended alumni events
  - Trip to African American Museum of History & Culture
  - GPIS – 25th anniversary celebration
  - History – Never Call Me a Hero event
  - Music – 60th anniversary
  - Women’s Studies – 40th anniversary
What Did We Accomplish?

Mentoring, Support, and Recognition

- Increased the number of summer research grants
- Sponsored a college workshop on faculty mentoring (designed and facilitated by the Diversity Task Force)
- Revised and improved the new faculty orientation process
- Some departments implemented more formal mentoring
- Met with and bolstered support for the adjunct faculty
- Successfully nominated 11 A&L members for distinguished university, regional, and national awards
What Did We Accomplish?

Research and Creative Activities

- **302** peer-reviewed publications, including works accepted for publication
  - ✔ **25** monographs, books, and edited volumes
  - ✔ **221** peer-reviewed articles and chapters
  - ✔ **66** essays, proceedings, poems, and other pubs
- ✔ **230+** Scholarly presentations  
  (**187** national or international)
What Did We Accomplish?

Research and Creative Activities

- **196** concerts, exhibitions, presentations, and productions
- **82** juried presentations and performances
- **49** concerts, clinics, and adjudications
- **65** invited or other productions
What Did We Accomplish?

Teaching Activities AY ‘17-18

- Student Credit Hours = 164,968
  (72,290 for students in other colleges)
- Student-Level FTE = 10,359
- A&L Majors = 5,179
- Graduate students = 341
- Degrees Conferred* = 1,245

*1,150 baccalaureate degrees and 95 graduate degrees
Other Notable A&L Accomplishments

- Developed and implemented a strategic hiring plan for the college; also secured two new faculty hires
- Actively supported the activities of the A&L Diversity Task Force and appointed a new FDL (Elliott Jones)
- Increased gender diversity in our leadership team
- Established a student advisory council
- Increased fundraising and development efforts
- Successfully granted tenure and/or promotion in rank to 19 faculty
Notable Faculty Accomplishments

Distinguished Award Recipients

- Beth Esinhart, *Pickering Administrator of the Year Award*
- Jennifer Fish, *Provost’s Award for Leadership in International Education*
- Dana Heller, *Faculty Research Achievement Award*
- Yvette Pearson, *Woman of the Year Award from the ODU Women’s Caucus*
Notable Accomplishments

Distinguished Award Recipients

- Tom Allen,* Special Achievements in GIS Award from ESRI
- Kate Jackson, University Distinguished Teacher
- Brendan O'Hallarn, University Advisor of the Year
- Aaron Nachtigal, Adjunct Faculty Award
Notable Accomplishments

Distinguished Award Recipients

- **David Mallin**, *Best of Festival Award from the Broadcast Education Association for his film, “Carmelita”* (Faculty Narrative Film Category)
- **Kleopatra Moditsi**, *Kaufman Award*
- **Tim Seibles**, *History Makers Award from the Black Alumni Association of Southern Methodist University*
Notable Faculty Accomplishments

Finalists for Book Awards

- Remica Bingham-Risher, *Library of VA Literary Award, Poetry*
- Jennifer Fish, *Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award, Race, Class, & Gender Section, American Sociological Association*
- Janet Peery, *Library of VA Literary Award, Fiction*
- Burt St. John, *Tankard Award, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Comm.*
College Award Recipients

- Burgess Research and Creativity Award – Janet Peery
- Stern Teaching Excellence Award – Anne Muraoka
- Adjunct Teaching Award – Chrystral Trapani
- Lewis Award for Student Mentoring – Melvina Sumter
College Award Recipients

- Interdisciplinary Contributions Award – Angelica Huizar
- Outstanding Staff Award – Vinecia Parraway
- Dean’s Award for Service – Sheri Reynolds
Promotion to Senior Lecturer

- Carol Branch, Communication & Theatre Arts
- Michelle Heart, English
- Lee Ellen Knight, Women’s Studies
- James Lyden, Communication & Theatre Arts
Promotion to Senior Lecturer

- Sara Morgan, Communication & Theatre Arts
- Mary Porter-Troupe, English
- Cathleen Rhodes, English & Women’s Studies
- Virginia Tucker Steffen, English & Interdisciplinary Studies
Promotion to Master Lecturer

- Matilda Cox, Arts & Letters
- Charles Gray, Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Carla Harrell, Communication & Theatre Arts
- Daniel O’Leary, Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Princess Perry, English

Old Dominion University
IDEA FUSION
Tenure and Promotion

New Associate Professors

- Brett Bebber, Department of History
- Vittorio Colaizzi, Department of Art
- Kathleen Slauson Blevins, Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Elizabeth Zanoni, Department of History
Promotion to Professor

- Jane Merritt, Department of History
- Yvette Pearson, Philosophy & Religious Studies
- Georg Menz*, Political Science & International Studies
New Chairs and Directors

- Nancy Klein, Chair, Department of Music
- Avi Santo, Chair, Dept of Communication & Theatre Arts
- Tim Anderson, Institute for the Humanities
- Tancy Vandecar-Burdin, Social Science Research Center
Where Are We Heading?

Developing a New Strategic Plan

We need to grapple with questions about our identity, values, mission, and aspirations. These questions include:

- Where are we going?
- How do we get there?
- What challenges do we face in realizing our goals?
- How can we respond to these challenges?
What Is Our Context Globally?

The Anthropocene Epoch

➢ The postmodern moment
➢ The age of fear, anxiety, and terror
➢ The politics of hate and tribalism
➢ An era of *wicked problems*
Key Global Problems in 2018

1) Climate Change and Environmental Degradation
2) War, Ethnic Violence, and Religious Conflicts
3) Poverty and Increased Economic Inequality
4) Cybersecurity, Data Theft, and Cyberterrorism
5) Food and Water Security
Relevant College Programs & Specialities


3) *Poverty & Economic Inequality* – Sociology, Criminal Justice, Philosophy (Ethics), English, Humanities, Ethnic Studies, Political Science, Geography

4) *Cybersecurity & Cyberterrorism* – IDS-Cybersecurity, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Geography, and Int’l Studies

5) *Food and Water Security* – International Studies, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, CJ, Philosophy, Ethics
Local Problems and Challenges

- How to Combat Enrollment Declines and Grow Our Majors
- How to Address the Rhetorics of Vocationalism and Workforce Preparation
- How to Incorporate the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences into Discussions of Coastal Resilience
- How to Prepare Students to address the Challenges of the 21st Century
Where Are We Going?

Key A&L Initiatives

- Continuing our student recruitment efforts
- Developing an M.S. program in GIS/Geography
- Promoting and strengthening our grad programs
- Creating new programs in digital humanities (e.g., Game Studies)
- Extending our ethics curriculum and the activities of IEPA
- Increasing the diversity of our faculty and leadership
Where Are We Going?

Key A&L Initiatives

- Sustaining the strengths of our traditional disciplines and programs, but also:
- Building on emerging strengths in GIS, IDS, Women’s Studies, Cultural Studies, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Digital Humanities, Ethics, and Life Span & Digital Communication
- Preparing students to develop the “RITE Stuff” to live and act well in their workplaces and communities
Important Events and Opportunities

- The Opening of the Barry Arts Museum (Nov. 14)
- The Partnership between the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Department of Music
- NEA’s “Big Read” – English faculty will teach Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen* to approximately 2,000 students in the spring
- Naming and fundraising opportunities for A&L units
- “Art Faculty Exhibition,” Gordon Galleries, opens Aug. 25 (reception Aug. 30)
- Li Chiao Ping Dance presents “Landed,” Sept. 8
- American Brass Quintet, Diehn Concert Series - Sept. 17
- President and Provost College Visit, Burgess Room 9024, Oct. 2, 10:30am
- Waldo Family Lecture Series, Col. Jack Jacobs, Webb Center - Oct. 3
- “Anon(ymous)”, Goode Theatre, begins Oct. 17
- “Improv for the Cause: An Evening of Feminist Stand-up”, Friends of Women’s Studies Fundraiser, 38th & Zen, Downtown Norfolk - Nov. 9
- Senior Scholar Lecture: Tom Socha - TBA