Seven New Majors
Announced for Fall 2015

The School of Arts and Sciences will continue to expand with the development of seven new majors, as well as a new division, anticipated for fall 2015.

Dr. Britt Cooper will chair the new Division of Fine and Performing Arts, which will be comprised of art, museum studies and music programs, formerly part of the Division of Humanities. In addition to his new role, Dr. Cooper will continue to oversee Walsh's choral ensembles as well as the band.

Undergraduate programs include:

Division of Fine and Performing Arts

Art History – This interdisciplinary major brings together aspects of philosophy, theology, anthropology, economics, foreign languages, geography, studio arts, history and archaeology to interpret works of art from a variety of points of view.

Music – Previously available as a minor, Walsh now offers a bachelor's degree in music, which prepares students for possible careers in arts administration, private music instruction, music publishing, and more.

Division of Humanities

Digital Media – Designed to give students the critical thinking and technical skills needed for producing digital media content and distributing that content across multiple platforms.

Division of Mathematics & Sciences

Computer Science Digital Applications – Focuses on the use of computer software and hardware to provide end-users with integrated access to digital media, information, websites, and mobile computing applications in various settings.

Computer Science Networking – Designed to give students the critical thinking and technical skills needed for designing, building, managing, and securing computer networks across all industries that will keep people connected and information flowing.

Computer Science Programming – Students gain hands-on experience writing code, troubleshooting program code and writing software for specific applications. Students will become familiar with programming languages such as Java, C++, LINUX/UNIX, .NET and more.

Division of Languages & Letters

Professional Writing – Focuses not only on writing for digital communications but also the ability to research and evaluate the legitimacy of online information, preparing students to communicate successfully in the digital culture.

All new majors are part of Walsh's continued efforts to offer an education that is both relevant and responsive to current workforce demands. Each program includes substantial experiential learning and internship opportunities to optimize students for success after graduation.

This newsletter showcases many new initiatives designed to provide experiential learning opportunities that foster personal and professional development for students by combining classroom experiences with real-world applications. During the spring semester, our faculty finalized proposals for seven new majors that will be offered as part of the undergraduate program in fall 2015. In addition, we've created internships for all existing undergraduate majors and revised curricula with global learning experiences in mind.

Our faculty continue to provide many dynamic and diverse learning experiences. Students had the opportunity to hone their presentation skills and network with scholars and professionals from other institutions at conferences and symposia hosted at Walsh. New honors societies celebrated academic achievements while students showcased their work in local art exhibits and in global settings in Rome. Faculty attended workshops designed to promote innovative instructional methods, and we celebrated academic innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration with the dedication of the new Saint John Paul II Center for Science Innovation building.

Our faculty work diligently to provide students with exciting learning opportunities that reach beyond the classrooms. I am grateful to the leadership team and the School of Arts & Sciences faculty for all their enthusiasm and hard work in creating curricula and programs that lead to student engagement and student success. I hope that you will enjoy reading about the many accomplishments of our students and faculty in this second edition of our newsletter.

Sincerely,
Ute S. Lahaie, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
This May, the Walsh Chamber Singers will showcase their talents in Rome, Italy, for a concert tour that will culminate with a special performance during a papal audience with Pope Francis. To help finance the upcoming tour, the Chamber Singers hosted an Italian Dinner Cabaret fundraiser on Tuesday, March 31.

Organized by Assistant Professor of Music and Voice Mathew Crawford, Ph.D., the more than 60 attendees enjoyed an Italian inspired evening with a three-course dinner and musical entertainment performed by members of the Walsh Chamber Singers.

“...I am really proud of all the students that helped make this night a success. They worked hard, and each performance was a testament of their individual dedication.”

Mathew Crawford, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Music and Voice

Soliors included students A.J. Hoy, Cynthia Scheetz, Erica Schrook, Sarah Mills, Kayla Trautman, Michael Smarak, and Abigale Wright. Their songs were selected from the Early Italian, Opera, Italian Art, and Neapolitan traditions. The Chamber Singers members also performed, surrounding the audience and singing traditional Italian songs. Their repertoire included “Va, Pensiero,” from Giuseppe Verdi’s famous opera, Nabucco, and “Funiculì, Funiculà.”

The Chamber Singers are comprised of 30 auditioned singers who make up a traveling choir. The chorus has performed locally at Walsh University, the Canton Symphony Orchestra, and the Canton Playhouse and, in recent years, has participated in performance tours in Canada, Chicago, and New York City. During their May trip to Italy, the choir will spend two weeks performing at different sites in Rome, including Walsh’s campus in Castel Gandolfo and the Sicily–Rome American Cemetery and Memorial.

Walsh Celebrates Dedication of New Science Center

Walsh University held a formal Mass of Thanksgiving and Dedication Ceremony for its newest building, the Saint John Paul II Center for Science Innovation, on Friday, March 13, in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel. The new Science Center opened for classes on January 12 and has been named in honor of Pope John Paul II who was canonized as Saint John Paul the Great on April 27, 2014.

The science center serves as the home for Walsh’s expanded science and healthcare programs. Annexed to Walsh’s Timken Natural Sciences Center, the two-story building was designed for students to easily navigate between the two facilities.

“The new Saint John Paul II Center for Science Innovation provides Walsh science faculty and students with the needed resources to accommodate the ongoing growth of our science programs,” said Division Chair of Mathematics and Sciences Dr. Michael Dunphy. “The new building will allow us to make room for our constantly increasing undergraduate research programs, integrated laboratory projects and advanced curricular programming which enriches the educational experience of all Walsh science students.”

The new-state-of-the-art facilities include teaching laboratories, classrooms, research labs and two Anatomy virtual dissection tables that display 3D images of human anatomy in stunning detail. Walsh is one of only 110 schools and businesses in the country to own an Anatomy table and one of only two in Ohio.

“The new classrooms and research labs in the Science Center have definitely had a positive impact on students here at Walsh,” said junior Matthew Thomas, pre-medicine major. “I am very grateful for the addition to our campus and feel it will be very beneficial for years to come.”
New Honor Societies

Recognize Academic Achievement in Philosophy and Communications

The School of Arts and Sciences launched two new honor societies with induction ceremonies recognizing academic achievement in philosophy and communications this semester.

Through the efforts of Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Bradley Beach, Walsh's new chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the International Philosophy Honor Society, will join the already established 250 chapters in the United States. During Walsh's application process, all Phi Sigma Tau national chapters voted on and unanimously approved Walsh's petition for membership. Walsh faculty members Dr. John Trapani, Dr. Leslie Wheaterstine, Dr. Joe Vincenzo, Dr. Laurence Bove, and Dr. Bradley Beach were inducted to lead the new society.

In order to be eligible for membership, students must be majoring orminoring in philosophy; have a GPA of 3.4 or higher and a mean grade above a B in all philosophy courses. Eight students—Jennifer Harig, Melissa Shepka, Nancy Shumar, Matthew Spurrier, Isabelle Lahaie, and Andrew Hoy—were invited to present their papers at the new chapter of Phi Sigma Tau.

The newly formed Communication Honor Society of Lambda Pi Eta is one of 344 active collegiate chapters in the United States. In order to receive a Lambda Pi Eta... Please refer to the original text for the full article.

Government and Foreign Affairs Initiatives Focus on Professional Development

Experiential learning initiatives such as the annual Washington, DC, trip and the All Politics is Local Conference promote professional skill development and networking opportunities for students across all disciplines. Both events are offered and organized through the Government and Foreign Affairs Department.

The annual Washington, DC, trip this semester served as a reminder to the 28 students involved that as members of the Walsh community they are now connected to a talented and welcoming network of professional alumni throughout the world.

Utilizing Walsh's alumni chapter base in Washington, the students were treated to VIP status tours of several national buildings not accessible to the general public. The students also had an opportunity to meet with United States Senator for Ohio Sherrod Brown (D) at his weekly Constituent Coffee. They finished the same day at the Walsh DC Chapter Alumni Reception with special guest U.S. Representative Jim Renacci (R) from Ohio’s 16th district. More than 50 alumni and their guests joined the students at the reception to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of the James B. Renacci Government Scholars Program.

The semester concluded with the 12th Annual All Politics is Local Conference on April 25 for undergraduate students interested in Political Science and/or International Relations.

During the conference, more than 55 students presented their original research in a paper or poster on any topic in the domestic, international or philosophical areas of the discipline. Participants included students from Walsh as well as St. John Fisher College, University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, Capital University, Malone University, The Ohio State University, Youngstown State University, Ohio Dominican University, Heidelberg University, Roberts Wesleyan College, University of Mount Union, Xavier University, Ohio University, The University of Akron and Denison University.

This year’s event also featured a special presentation “Health Care and the Federal Budget” by Joseph White, Ph.D., Luxembourg Family Professor of Public Policy, Case Western Reserve University. Dr. White is the author of three books including False Alarm: Why the Greatest Threat to Social Security and Medicare is the Campaign to “Save” Them.

“They receive feedback on their work from professors from other schools. They are developing research and writing skills, oral communication skills and learning how to respond to constructive criticism from strangers.”

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Koop Berry, Ph.D. Professor of Government & Foreign Affairs

“This is an opportunity for students to present at a professional conference to other students and faculty from around the state and the region,” said Professor of Government & Foreign Affairs Koop Berry, Ph.D.

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The All Politics is Local Conference was established in 2004 as a conference tailored to undergraduate students interested in political science and international relations.
Walsh welcomed an audience of nearly 100 participants to the inaugural Women’s Empowerment Initiative Conference “Empowering Female Leaders: Women in Work, Culture, Family & Self” on March 20-21. The conference was designed to provide opportunities for students to develop professionally and network with other female students and leaders in the community. The Women’s Empowerment Conference gave our students an opportunity to interact with and learn from area female leaders, to present original research, and to think critically about the unique challenges facing women in today’s society,” said Amanda Gradisek, Ph.D., event organizer and assistant professor of English. “For me, the high points were watching students become inspired when they interacted with the invited speakers in the roundtable discussions and listening to them gain confidence speaking about their own ideas. For many young women, finding mentors or role models who help encourage them to explore any possibilities they desire can create invaluable opportunities for their futures.”

The event included presentations of original Walsh student research that included topics such as:

• Recasting Feminism in Literature and History
• Women at Home and at Work
• Social Constructions of Gender and Sex
• Understanding Women: Independence, Partnership, Selfhood
• Women and Institutions: Art, the Church and Abroad
• Reconsidering Feminism in Literature and History
• Women at Home and at Work
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The conference also included remarks by keynote presenter civic and community leader Maya A. Castillo. As president of her local division of the Service Employees International Union, Castillo represents the union employees of Tucson, Arizona. Castillo works within a culturally diverse environment to ensure just pay and working conditions for all employees. The conference was planned by members of the Walsh WE Initiative Committee. The group’s mission is to facilitate a network of interconnected events on campus, presented from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, which will help students think critically about approaching the unique challenges female students and professionals face in contemporary society.

In addition, Walsh Peacemaker and junior biology and chemistry major Abigail Robertson was honored with the 2015 Emerging Leader Award.

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• Women and Institutions: Art, the Church and Abroad

Inaugural Conference Focuses on Women’s Empowerment

School of Arts and Sciences

WALSH Women of Distinction

School of Arts and Sciences Professor of Government and Foreign Affairs Koop Berty, Ph.D., was awarded the Walsh University Excellence in Educational Leadership Award for 2015. This award recognizes a female faculty member for her unique contributions to the Walsh community.

In addition, Walsh Peacemaker and junior biology and chemistry major Abigail Robertson was honored with the 2015 Emerging Leader Award.

Thank You!

A special thank you to Timken Steel for hosting School of Arts and Sciences students Katelyn Ryan and Eric Franklin as their guests at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on February 25, 2015. This year’s event included remarks by retired NFL broadcaster Dan Dierdorf and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

English students in the Division of Language and Letters are benefiting from a new collaboration with neighboring universities in Northeast Ohio that is providing enhanced opportunities for professional collaboration, career exploration and a creative outlet for student writers.

Three English students, Emily Byler, Guillemo Mera and Taylor Martin, participated in the first Northeast Ohio English Department Consortium Regional Essay Competition. Nominated by Assistant Professor of English Dr. Amanda Gradisek, Byler earned second place honors against students from Ursuline College, Malone University, Baldwin Wallace University and the University of Mount Union.

In addition, 11 students were among the participants attending the first annual Northeast Ohio English Majors Symposium on February 7. More than 50 students from Northeast Ohio universities attended the inaugural event that provided a valuable networking and career development opportunity with nine professional writers who shared their personal success stories with the students. The Walsh group was led by Carolyn Embree Walsh Associate Professor of English and Dr. Ron Scott Chair of the Division of Languages and Letters. Walsh English students present Professional Writing Skills, Explore Career Options

“Thank you!”

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“We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to present our work nationally at the March 2015 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Professor of English Dr. John Kandl and Assistant Professor of English Dr. Ty Hawkins accompanied three English students, Grant Gustafson, Mary Frankovitch, and White, to the convention that gathers top English students from around the world each year. The students were chosen to present from more than 800 submissions of papers, creative works, and roundtable proposals.

WALSH

English Students Present Professional Writing Skills, Explore Career Options

As an English major, it can be intimidating considering future careers since there really isn’t a specific job path, but that also makes it very exciting because we have options,” White also had the opportunity to present her work nationally at the March 2015 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Professor of English Dr. John Kandl and Assistant Professor of English Dr. Ty Hawkins accompanied three English students, Grant Gustafson, Mary Frankovitch, and White, to the convention that gathers top English students from around the world each year. The students were chosen to present from more than 800 submissions of papers, creative works, and roundtable proposals.
"We were fortunate to work closely with Carole to develop the workshops that would appropriately align the artifacts uploaded into TaskStream with the rubrics used to evaluate them. Due to her strong background and wide range of writing experience, Kathy Buttermore was the ideal facilitator. We were able to design the workshops to not only align with Gen Ed outcomes but also to fulfill faculty course objectives and student learning outcomes."

"The need for these workshops mainly arose from feedback received from the Gen Ed artifact evaluators through surveys conducted by Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment Carole Splendore," said Embree. "We were fortunate to work closely with Carole to develop the workshops that would appropriately align the artifacts uploaded into TaskStream with the rubrics used to evaluate them. Due to her strong background and wide range of writing experience, Kathy Buttermore was the ideal facilitator. We were able to design the workshops to not only align with Gen Ed outcomes but also to fulfill faculty course objectives and student learning outcomes."
Students Showcase their Artistic Talents with Professional Exhibits

The artistic talents of students from the School of Arts and Sciences were on display this spring with two exhibits that provided an opportunity for students to showcase their work in a professional setting.

**Strokes of Creativity.** The annual student art exhibition, opened on Monday, March 23, with a Gallery Talk and Reception at the Birk Center for the Arts Atarius Gallery.

This juried exhibition showcases the talents of Walsh students enrolled in art courses taught by faculty members Diane Bellfiglio and Loni Perry in the Lattavo Art Studio during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Students in drawing, visual order, painting, and watercolor courses submitted more than 50 original works of art for inclusion in the exhibition.

“Every year I am amazed at the quality of artwork submitted and the confidence with which our art students create, especially considering, that for many of them, this is their first art course,” said Dr. Katey Brown, Director of Museum Studies and Assistant Professor of Art History.

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The goal of the project is to demonstrate the impact that style and technique have on artistic content and also to immerse the students in the historical and social context of the photojournalist’s work,” said Professor Lee Horrisberger. “Students have learned that news is visual and that storytelling through images can have an impact on society.

By taking part in this project, these students have a better understanding of how photography, specifically photojournalism, works within the larger social tapestry.”

Sponsors for the opening reception included the Walsh Communication Department, Holmes Laboratory, and Sharer’s Food.

This annual art exhibit also demonstrated the skill of Walsh museum studies students.

The November 2014 ACES Symposium showcased the work of approximately 115 faculty members and students from the divisions of Humanities, Language and Letters, Mathematics and Science, Social and Behavioral Science, Philosophy/Theology and the DeVille School of Business. Topics included “The NFL’s Unwritten Rule” by Division of Humanities students Adam Ferback and Steven R. Smith, “Effect of ZMapp on the Glycoproteins of Ebola Virus” by Division of Mathematics and Sciences students Henna Patal and Kayla Trautman, and “Contrasting Depictions of Terrorism in BBC News and CNN” by Division of Social and Behavioral Science author Tory Vest.

Overall, the Symposium offers students an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills acquired during their individual projects while also enhancing their presentation skills through elevator speeches about their work. Sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, the Symposium is organized by Co-Coordinators Assistant Professor of Sociology Laci Fiala, Ph.D., and Associate Professor of Biology Adams Underwood, Ph.D.

“Over the last four semesters, the attendance and interest has continued to grow. It is great to see almost every division on campus represented,” said Dr. Fiala. “This event gives students a chance to share their work and efforts with a larger audience beyond their classrooms. Creating a poster and being able to talk with interested audience members about a completed project helps to develop valuable professional skills, especially for students moving on to graduate school.”

The April 23 Spring Symposium included nearly 40 poster displays representing the work of approximately 150 students from five different academic divisions.

“This symposium is beneficial to Walsh students in two major ways. First, in preparing for ACES students are encouraged to work closely with faculty on a research project. This helps students develop skills in time management, judgment and analytical reasoning in the discipline of study,” said Dr. Underwood. “The second and possibly more powerful aspect of ACES is the promotion of interdisciplinary engagement. Students learn how to articulate aspects of their research to fellow students and faculty with diverse academic specializations.”

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This past semester, communications students in Walsh’s Advertising and Public Relations class forged a mutually beneficial partnership with the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to broaden the impact of its conservation awareness efforts. Students volunteered their time and efforts to the SWCD that served the dual purpose of fulfilling the service component of their curriculum while also providing a valuable opportunity to develop new skills.

“Walsh Service Learning is a great example of collaboration in education and community. This is an opportunity for SWCD to cost-effectively enhance its marketing and social media efforts,” said SWCD Director Amanda Crawford. “It also provides students a hands-on opportunity to experience research, design, development and implementation of a real-life scenario similar to experiences they will have along their future career path.”

An open house at District headquarters was held on March 31, which officially marked the launch of the SWCD campaign with the unveiling of a new logo.

“It is a neat opportunity for our class to partner with SWCD. We benefit from the hands-on experience of creating and developing a public relations campaign. I expect that our efforts will be helpful for increasing SWCD involvement in the community and raising awareness of its services.”

Amanda Crawford, SWCD Director

Creation of a new institutional slogan was the first of the students’ contributions to revitalize SWCD’s public relations campaign. The slogan, “Conservation: The Roots of Growth,” encapsulates the District’s mission throughout Stark County as it works with rural and urban client sectors. The District’s goal is to increase its presence throughout the community by spreading awareness of the need for conservation, as well as availability of its services. Additional components of the campaign included educational workshops, engaging events, and broader media visibility.

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Established in 1950, the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been dedicated to conserving natural resources through educating, guiding, and assisting residents of Stark County. SWCD works with the local community to increase the awareness and appreciation of the county’s valuable natural resources, in conjunction with promoting conservation management best practices.

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