

BOLD STEPS



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

American University is an institution on the move. We are a community of strivers and dreamers who think deeply, then act boldly. That's simply the AU way.

Before women could vote, they attended AU. For over 50 years, AU has held its doors open to exceptional students from DC Public Schools through the Frederick Douglass Scholarship program. Our Washington College of Law is the first law school founded by women, and today we're an institution committed to achieving excellence through inclusion.

The footsteps of changemakers echo throughout our history and reverberate through our campus today. Presidents came to AU with messages that challenged our thinking and affected the course of history. They charged us to make the world a better place and helped us lay the foundation of who we are as a community and educational institution.

This legacy of bold leadership guides AU today. In January 2019 we unveiled our five-year strategic plan, *Changemakers for a Changing World*. It builds upon our strengths of scholarship, learning, and community, and reflects our character as changemakers. Less than a year in, we've made meaningful progress.

We've opened new centers, like the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics, to explore the most pressing issues of our time. Since its launch, the institute welcomed its inaugural leader, hosted its first class of fellows, and convened discussions on state-level policy innovation and the arts and political voice.

We're ensuring that what we teach aligns with how students learn to lead in a shifting professional landscape. To that end, we've partnered with businesses and universities in the DC area to develop a digital literacy credential that prepares students for the data-driven workforce.

We're improving how we work at AU, because when our staff and faculty thrive, our students thrive too. In response to feedback from across campus, we've adjusted our fiscal year to better align with peer institutions and federal financial aid.

We're putting the spotlight on our role as a changemaking university. Two years after setting the standard for higher education by becoming the first university in the United States to achieve carbon neutrality, we're converting our campus-wide heating system to cut our carbon emissions even further.

And this is only the beginning. In this report, you'll find stories of AU movers, shakers, and changemakers. We couldn't be more honored to lead our distinguished university through this next chapter. It's onward and upward from here, Eagles.

Sincerely,

Sylvia M. Burwell
President

Marc N. Duber
Chair, Board of Trustees

AU AT-A-GLANCE

AU IS THE FIRST
carbon neutral
university in the US
▼
reached 2020 pledge
2 years early

91%
of undergraduates
participated in an
internship*

*results of Graduation Census as of
six months after degree conferral

93%
AU grads are working or
in grad school, or both*
*results of Graduation Census as of
six months after degree conferral

46%
of new tenure-line faculty
and
31%
of new term faculty
identify as people of color

#77
national universities
ranking
U.S. News and World Report

OUR STUDENTS
29%
of color
122
countries
50
states, DC, PR,
and the Territories

A1 Moody's
A+ S&P

TYPICAL STUDENT EXPENSES*
AY2019-2020

\$49,889
tuition and fees

\$14,880
average room and board

*reflects a 2.3% increase over
AY2018-19, the lowest on AU's records

80%

of incoming students
receive need- or merit-
based financial aid

54%
undergraduates who
pursued study abroad*

*results of Graduation Census as of
six months after degree conferral

► **121**
programs
58
countries
6
continents

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION
R2: Doctoral Universities
High Research Activity

\$33.4M
record external research funding FY2019

NATIONAL MERIT AWARDS

128
Fulbright

15
Truman
since 2000

20
Udall

WAMU 88.5
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

reaches
~900K
weekly listeners locally

4M 1A listeners
across US **~70K** members **4M**
readers of DCist

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

\$148M
committed
FYs 2019 and 2020

including a
\$25.4M
increase in need-based
financial aid

GIVING, AND GIVING BACK, AT AU

\$83.6M
gifts and pledges
FY2019

57%
gifts of \$1M or greater

246
student-athletes

average GPA:

3.44

semester

3.41

cumulative

AY2018-2019

8
schools

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)
Kogod School of Business (Kogod)
School of Communication (SOC)
School of Education (SOE)
School of International Service (SIS)
School of Professional and
Extended Studies (SPExS)
School of Public Affairs (SPA)
Washington College of Law (WCL)

BOLD STEPS OF SERVICE

“Presidents came to AU with messages that challenged our thinking and affected the course of history. They charged us to make the world a better place and helped us lay the foundation of who we are as a community and educational institution.”

—Sylvia M. Burwell and Marc N. Duber



“It is a great honor to be back at American University, which has prepared generations of young people for service in public life.”

—Barack Obama
August 5, 2015



“We have to visualize our future as a truly multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious democracy. I’m convinced we can do it, but ... all of you have to lead the way.”

—Bill Clinton
September 9, 1997



“I am confident that the men and women who carry the honor of graduating from this institution will continue to give from their lives, from their talents, a high measure of public service and support.”

—John F. Kennedy
June 10, 1963



“American University is yet young; but you have a great future—a great opportunity for initiative, for constructive thinking, for practical idealism, and for national service.”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt
March 3, 1934



“American University and I agree on this: that the waging of peace demands the best we have, the best young men and women that we can find.”

—Dwight D. Eisenhower
June 9, 1957



SCHOLARSHIP

We believe in knowledge with purpose. We do not just deepen understanding; we apply it to the world’s thorniest challenges. We find innovative ways to approach problems old and new alike. We explore the pages of history to inform our vision of the future.

We are combining all our strengths, because we are not content with being an either-or institution. Our faculty are scholars and teachers. Our students are learners and researchers. We do imperative research and turn it into real-world solutions.

From bridging the partisan divide, to investigating the potential benefits and risks of new technologies, we are using our scholarship to improve the human condition. Because nothing motivates us more than making an impact.

TRANSFORMING SCIENCE RESEARCH INTO RESULTS

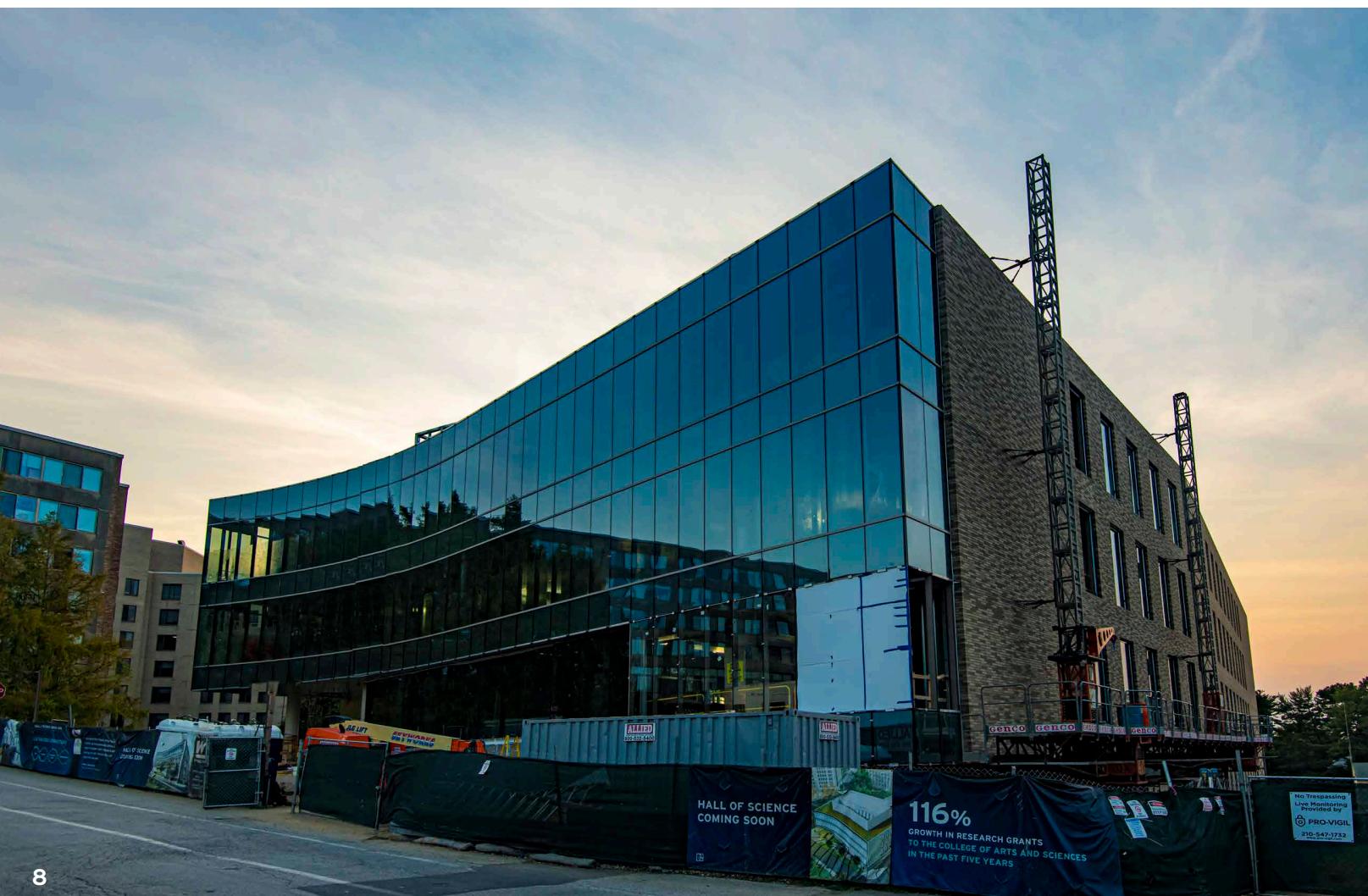
As the new Hall of Science continues to rise over AU's bustling campus, so does the university's reputation for research. The facility, slated to open in June 2020, is a fitting symbol of AU's evolution as a leader in the realms of scientific discovery.

The Hall of Science will bring researchers, policymakers, and communicators together to translate new science knowledge into actions that make an impact on a global scale. A \$5 million gift from Board of Trustees member Gary Abramson, SPA/BA '68, and his wife, Pennie Abramson, kicked off a \$40 million fundraising campaign for the hall.

The building's 95,000-square-foot gross floor

area expands on the university's synergistic science culture by creating functional lab groupings that cluster scholars together, rather than hosting a collection of individual laboratories. With a focus on interdisciplinary solutions, researchers will deploy state-of-the-art spaces and equipment to tackle pressing problems like cancer, dementia, climate change, obesity, and environmental degradation.

The hall will attract an influx of esteemed scientists and give students greater opportunities to work on innovative research with expert faculty—a unique attribute made possible by AU's medium size and deeply collaborative spirit.



CATALYST FOR DISCOVERY

The Hall of Science will soon be home to innovative work at AU, taking our high-caliber research even higher.



Obesity and Memory Function

Curing or slowing the symptoms of cognitive dementia is one of the medical challenges of our time. Terry Davidson, founding director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, is identifying the disease's environmental determinants so new ways to address it can be developed.



First-Rate Research, Faster

Victoria Connaughton, professor of biology, studies the effect hyperglycemia, a complication of diabetes, has on the eye and cognitive decline. With an innovative testing model that uses fish instead of rodents, she can observe changes in the retina at a much faster rate than typical studies.



Cancer at the Cellular Level

Katie DeCicco-Skinner, department chair of biology, is uncovering the link between cancer and obesity by focusing on the cellular level, rather than the common epidemiological approach. She aims to discover how fat cells make cancer cells more drug resistant.



Conserving the Coral Reef

The world is losing its coral reefs, including the Great Barrier Reef. While no one can address the global issue of climate change alone, focusing on local efforts can slow the decline. That is why Kiho Kim, professor of environmental science, is identifying the impact sewage pollution has on coral health and prioritizing local conservation efforts.



Not-So-Wasteful Waste

Shouzhong Zou, department chair of chemistry, is taking "reduce, reuse, recycle" to the next level. By developing sustainable materials, like transforming bio-mass to catalysts that generate hydrogen more easily, he is working on ways to limit humanity's environmental impact, create useful materials from waste, and increase energy conversion efficiency.



FIRST BUSINESS INNOVATION CHAIR

Brett Anitra Gilbert has been installed as the inaugural Kogod Regional Innovation Chair, made possible by the generosity of trustee emeritus Robert P. Kogod, Kogod/BS '62, Hon. LLD '00, and Arlene R. Kogod. The chair is part of the Kogod Regional Innovation Fund that connects AU to the business community and supports research on regional economies. "Donors like the Kogods create an enduring legacy, ensuring AU is home to exceptional thought leaders," says Provost Daniel J. Myers.



FROM THE TRACK TO THE CHEMISTRY LAB

Track athlete and biochemistry major Arianna Lopez, CAS/BS '20, has teamed up with chemistry professor Monika Konaklieva to develop new small molecule modulators of lipid enzymes, intended to increase HDL levels and limit plaque buildup in the body (cardiovascular) and brain (Alzheimer's disease). "It's organic synthesis slash medicinal chemistry," Konaklieva says. Grants from NASA and AU have enabled Lopez to spend consecutive summers in Konaklieva's lab, where her research has resulted in several lead compounds.

1:5

professor/student
research mentorship ratio
for future Hall of Science programs

more than 60% are undergraduates



FINDING POLITICAL COMMON GROUND

The Sine Institute of Policy and Politics aims to change the tone and outcome of political discourse. With a focus on finding common ground, experts and scholars join forces on AU's campus to shape policy through bipartisan solutions.

Established in 2018, the Sine Institute is an incubator for policy innovation and a convener of the best minds in the nation's public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The institute leverages AU's DC location to connect diverse perspectives at this nexus of government and policy and growing international business center.

Executive Director Amy K. Dacey has been a leader in policy, politics, and civics education for over two decades. Sine Institute Fellows work with experts, faculty, and students to uncover new ways to inform cross-sectoral policy solutions. The inaugural class includes governors, political commentators, former CEOs, and a playwright.



LEADING SCHOLARSHIP ON RACE AND COMMERCE

Kogod marketing professor Sonya Grier is blazing a research trail in a growing field of study about issues at the intersection of race and markets.

Grier has pioneered work on how policymakers view target marketing and the implications for interventions to address the health and well-being of minorities.

She is coeditor of the 2019 book *Race in the Marketplace: Crossing Critical Boundaries*, a compendium of scholarship from multiple disciplines on the impact of race in various markets such as retail, education, housing, advertising, marketing, health care, and food products on minority consumers' quality of life.

She cofounded the Race in the Marketplace Research Network to encourage global collaboration among scholars from a variety of disciplines on issues related to race and markets. She has organized two forums for the network, the first held at AU in 2017 and another in Paris in 2019.



STUDY LOOKS AT CLIMATE CHANGE FROM THE TOP

In a first-of-its-kind study, environmental science professor Michael Alonzo is using satellite imagery to determine how Washington, DC, tree species, like maples, oaks, and cherries, are responding to climate change.

Alonzo and several student researchers, including Melissa Knapp, CAS/MS '19, and Avery Williams, CAS/MS '21, utilize inexpensive satellites called cubesats to obtain weekly images of individual tree crowns in high-traffic areas of the nation's capital. Over multiple years, these images will allow the researchers to observe heat-related variability in the tree life cycle of leaf growing and shedding.

Information from the study will be critical in helping nonprofits like Casey Trees and DC's Urban Forestry Administration determine optimal planting locations for each tree species.

"It also gives a window—because urban areas are warmer—into what changes we are looking forward to in rural environments that have not yet warmed as much as cities have," Alonzo says.



FIRST MADISON PRIZE HONORS BIPARTISANSHIP

Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) are the inaugural recipients of SPA's Madison Prize for Constitutional Excellence. The award recognizes lawmakers who strive for legislative compromise in the same spirit outlined by James Madison in "Federalist No. 10".

Murray and Alexander were honored for their bipartisan collaboration on the Faster Access to Federal Student Aid Act, which simplifies the student financial aid application and loan repayment processes, and the 21st Century Cures and SUPPORT Acts that advance medical innovation and confront the opioid epidemic.

"We're thankful for the example they both set for the leaders of tomorrow, in our classrooms today, and the nation as a whole," says President Sylvia M. Burwell.

Awarded at the end of each biennial congressional session to a member from each major political party, the prize is made possible through a gift by former congressman David Skaggs (D-CO) and his wife, Laura Skaggs.

HALL OF SCIENCE WILL HOUSE
4 disciplines

biology
environmental sciences
chemistry
neuroscience

93%
of AU faculty
hold the highest degree
in their fields

FEMALE PHYSICS GRADUATES
40%
of bachelor's degrees
awarded to women, 2013-2017

48
university centers
and institutes

Women in Physics and Astronomy 2019,
American Institute of Physics

TOP SCHOLAR ON RACISM WINS GUGGENHEIM

CAS and SIS professor Ibram X. Kendi, founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center, is a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow. During his fellowship, Kendi is writing his next book, tentatively titled *Bones of Inequity: A Narrative History of Racist Policies in America*. He released his latest book, *How To Be an Antiracist*, in August. A leading scholar on racism, Kendi is an award-winning historian, a *New York Times* bestselling author, and a columnist at the *Atlantic*.



EXEMPLIFYING THE SCHOLAR-TEACHER IDEAL

CAS psychology department chair David Haaga is the 2019 Scholar-Teacher of the Year for conducting innovative research and offering crucial guidance in the classroom. The clinical psychology professor has coauthored more than 130 peer-reviewed articles on depression, smoking cessation, trichotillomania, Type A behavior, anxiety, binge eating, and empirical support for therapies. "He is an extraordinarily prolific and rigorous scholar, an inspiring teacher, a generous mentor, a natural leader, a skilled clinician, and just a kind person," say four colleagues in their nomination.

A TOP WOMAN IN HIGHER ED

Washington College of Law dean Camille Nelson is among the top 35 women in higher education, according to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine. She is the only law school dean on the list. "I am honored to be included among these outstanding professionals who are as accomplished as they are inspirational," Nelson says. Nelson joined WCL in 2016—the first woman to lead this college founded by women since 1947 and its first African American dean.



TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES OF BIG DATA

So great are changes wrought by technology that AU has made data science and analytics one of its areas of strategic focus and created two new research centers. SPA's Center for Data Science focuses on the theoretical and practical research aspects of computer technology, software engineering, computer architecture, artificial intelligence, simulation, and modeling. SIS's Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology is among few dedicated to assessing both the harm and good of new technologies.



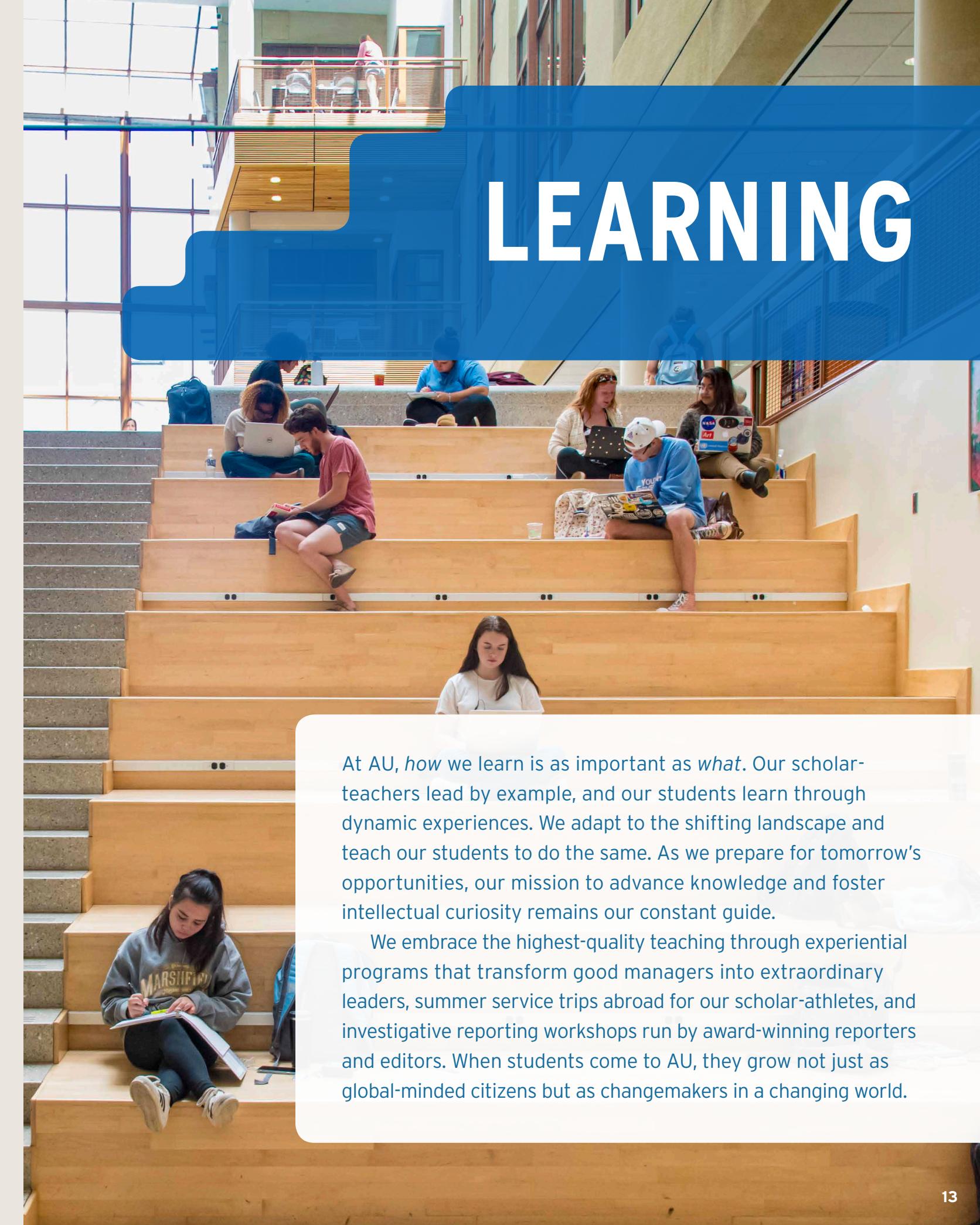
BEARING THE TORCH OF HISTORY

Distinguished Professor of History Alan Kraut led a team of 14 historians tasked with planning and laying out the new Statue of Liberty Museum. Kraut, who has chaired the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation's history advisory committee since 2003, and his team vetted every image, caption, and primary source appearing in the museum, which opened in May 2019. The \$100 million, 26,000-square-foot space is the latest attraction on an island that welcomes 4.5 million annual visitors.

FIGHTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN SYRIA

A new WCL program aims to end the stigma, silence, and suffering around sexual assault in the Middle East. Funded by a \$1.76 million State Department grant, the Syrian Initiative to Combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is the first program of its kind housed at a US university. The center provides victim advocates with psychosocial support and improves documentation practices to hold perpetrators accountable. In June 2019, it hosted a five-day training seminar in Turkey for 36 advocates.

LEARNING



At AU, *how we learn* is as important as *what*. Our scholar-teachers lead by example, and our students learn through dynamic experiences. We adapt to the shifting landscape and teach our students to do the same. As we prepare for tomorrow's opportunities, our mission to advance knowledge and foster intellectual curiosity remains our constant guide.

We embrace the highest-quality teaching through experiential programs that transform good managers into extraordinary leaders, summer service trips abroad for our scholar-athletes, and investigative reporting workshops run by award-winning reporters and editors. When students come to AU, they grow not just as global-minded citizens but as changemakers in a changing world.

CREATING MORE, BETTER CHANCES FOR LEARNING

The game-changing strategy to expand AU's research enterprise, maximize undergraduate success, and serve the broader community through partnerships and lifelong learning opportunities is taking shape under the leadership of new provost Dan Myers, a veteran administrator who helped expand the research mission during his 18-year tenure at Notre Dame.

"We have some really great research going on at this university, and a fantastic undergraduate experience, and we want to make sure we do those two things together in a way that's going to complement each other," says Myers.

The interdisciplinary emphasis of the university's new strategic plan is among factors that drew Myers here.



Steps to increase the number of endowed chairs, secure more research funding, and open new centers that bring together multiple disciplines reflect much of the excitement in higher education right now, Myers says.

SOE's new partnership with DC Public Schools is one example of how AU wants to be a "different kind of partner," he explains.

"We have strong aspirations to become a unique university partner to the public school system in this city and really change the game in terms of how we recruit potential teachers, support them as they become teachers, get them back into the DC public schools, and then support them and the system while they're there."

WHERE PROVOST MYERS WANTS TO TAKE AU NEXT

1

Expanding Research

"Research is integral to producing new knowledge that contributes to the world around us and enhancing AU's reputation. By connecting our research activities with our strong policy arm, our researchers' work can be connected to actions that make an immediate difference."

2

Ensuring Undergrads Thrive

"We need to make sure that students thrive from convocation to graduation. When they encounter problems, we need to ensure they have the support to solve them, and are confident in their ability to seize opportunities for success. This remains a university-wide priority."

3

Grow Our Graduate Programs

"We want to develop cutting-edge graduate credentials that focus on high-level professional development and upskilling, especially in niche career areas. Our DC location is perfect for that kind of specialized training. AU is an inherently interdisciplinary place, so we're able to develop programs that bring together expertise and scholars from different disciplines."

4

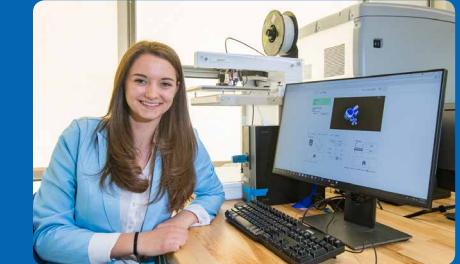
Taking Science Further

"Growing the sciences is a challenging, expensive, and worthwhile endeavor. Our science departments are already excellent, but we need to do more to broadcast our success in this space. AU's smaller size is a benefit to students who are able to get into labs and coauthor published papers, which is something that can't always happen at schools with bigger programs and reputations."

5

Inclusive Excellence

"This has been a big emphasis of mine throughout my career, and I'm happy to be part of the work being done at AU. Most of my job as it relates to inclusive excellence focuses on hiring, training, and helping our faculty better understand how to manage a more diverse classroom."



NEUROSCIENCE STUDENT PUSHES LIMITS

Irena Volkov, CAS/BS '19 excelled as a neuroscience student, designed her minor in bio-entrepreneurship, launched a medical technology company through the AU Incubator, led the neuroscience club, and captained the equestrian team. Next for the Harvard-Amgen Scholar is MIT and Harvard Medical School's prestigious medical engineering and medical physics PhD program. Her advisors, professors, and classmates "continuously encouraged me to push my boundaries and be the best version of myself, no matter how outlandish my goals seemed at the time," she says.



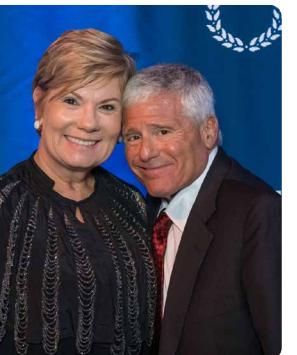
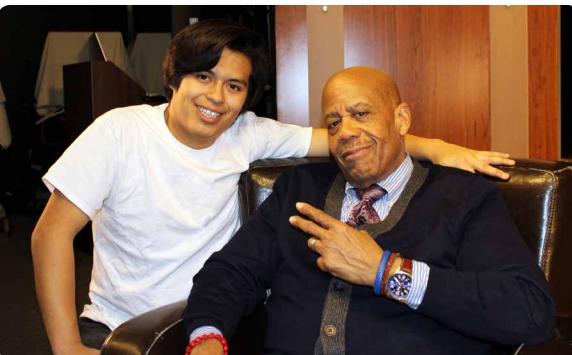
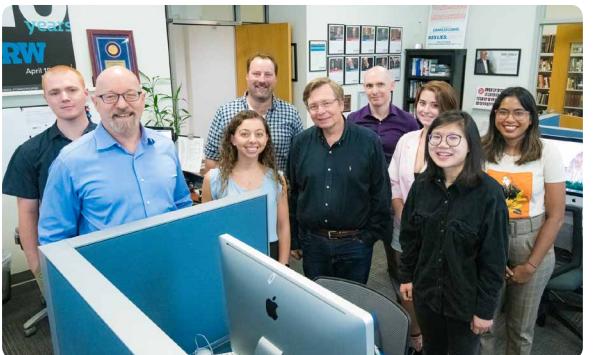
RAISING VOICES THROUGH JOURNALISM

As co-president and editor-in-chief of the *Blueprint*, Jenna Caldwell, BA/SIS '19, found her purpose. The international studies major says she decided she wanted to be a journalist "to elevate the voices of people who may not otherwise be heard." She interned for NBC's *Meet the Press* and is attending Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. "I also hope to have the opportunity to write about and document the experiences of the black diaspora," Caldwell says.

RATIO OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS TO ADVISORS

76:1
American University

300:1
national average



SNIFFING OUT FACTS IN TODAY'S MEDIA SCENE

An SOC-housed nonprofit trains the next generation of investigative journalists and builds partnerships with top media outlets. The Investigative Reporting Workshop (IRW), which celebrated its 10th anniversary in April, has employed 160 student interns and fellows, produced 80 in-depth investigations, won 26 journalism awards, and raised \$16 million in funding.

Since 2013, about 40 SOC grad students have worked in the *Washington Post* newsroom as part of IRW senior editor John Sullivan's practicum course. Over the last two years, eight students, most of them IRW interns, contributed to the *Post's* "Murder with Impunity" series, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. AU students have contributed to 20 other Post investigations and produced 100 of their own bylines.

"I am very proud of what we've done for the last decade," says IRW founder and executive editor Chuck Lewis. "We think it's worthwhile for the students, for the public, and for democracy."

COURTS ARE SLAM DUNK FOR EAGLES IN SERVICE

Seventeen student athletes and three staff spent nine days in Tercera Línea, Paraguay, building a multipurpose sports court with members of the rural community.

Funded in part by Board of Trustees member Stephanie Bennett-Smith, Courts for Kids partnered with AU on the inaugural Eagles in Service project.

"Finishing the court was almost as rewarding as watching all of our new friends play basketball on it for the first time," wrote runner Kaitlyn McTernan, CAS/BS '20, and field hockey player Caroline Miller, SPA/BA '20, during the trip. "We will surely miss the friendships we made here but look forward to hearing from them about the court and how they grew up with it."

Eagles in Service is one of four components of the new AU Eagles Leadership Academy. The curriculum also includes workshops on core values in leadership for new student-athletes, in-depth leadership development seminars, and life-skills programming geared toward seniors.

MAKING CONNECTIONS IN THE MOVIE WORLD

A two-time Academy Award-winning professor and a student with bilingual cinema career aspirations have forged a mentoring relationship that extends beyond campus.

Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars (FDDS) faculty supporter, SOC distinguished artist in residence Russell Williams, SOC/BA '74, is sharing his considerable knowledge of the art and business of moviemaking with film and media major and FDDS scholar Fernando Rocha, SOC/BA '21.

Rocha first stopped by Williams's office to seek career guidance. That led to Rocha's taking a University of Southern California directing and producing class, networking in Hollywood, and meeting Williams's cinematographer friend who has film connections in Cuba and Mexico City.

"Professor Williams is a great example of why it's really important for students to get to know faculty. Especially if it's not a faculty member you have class with," Rocha says.

LEADERS WITH DEEP TIES MAKE SIGNIFICANT GIFTS

AU has received \$10 million in leadership gifts from two couples whose ties to the university run deep.

Jack Cassell and his wife, Denise, committed \$3 million towards a new Center for Athletic Performance (CAP), a modern facility to serve AU's varsity programs and open new recreational opportunities for the entire university community. Cassell, SOC/BA '77, who has served AU for decades from student-athlete to trustee, is the son of beloved AU coach, athletic director, and vice president Stafford "Pop" Cassell, CAS/BA '36.

Alan Meltzer and his wife, Amy, pledged \$7 million to AU, joining the Cassells with a \$5 million gift for CAP and \$2 million to create the Alan L. Meltzer and Amy Meltzer Fellowship in the Center for Israel Studies, now celebrating its 20th anniversary. Meltzer, an AU trustee since 2007, was an AU wrestler while a student at SPA, and remains one of the Eagles' most dedicated fans.

**PRE-MED PLACEMENT
85%**
of qualified* applicants accepted to medical school

*GPA \geq 3.3 and MCAT \geq 503

**AU WRESTLING GPA
3.56**
second highest among all NCAA Division I wrestling programs
placed in top 10 nationally 13 out of last 14 seasons

AU'S 84-acre CAMPUS
is an accredited* arboretum
one of two in Washington, DC, along with the US Capitol Grounds

*Morton Register of Arboreta, ArbNet

WITH
3,500+ trees
and
385
species and varieties
of woody plants

PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH DISCOURSE

President Burwell moves forward the national conversation about mental health of college students with an essay in the November/December 2018 *Foreign Affairs*. In "Generation Stress: The Mental Health Crisis in Schools," Burwell covers the rising trend of student mental health challenges and how universities can play a positive role in making change. The piece is the result of Burwell's extensive conversations with students and a thorough analysis of the higher education landscape by Campus Life's Traci Callandrillo and Psychology Professor Kate Gunther. Thrive Global, the health and wellness platform founded by Ariana Huffington, syndicated it in August 2019.



DESTINATION DC FOR FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Experiencing the nation's capital while studying at AU as Fulbright Scholars is "a dream come true" for Argentinian twins Sabina and Candela Blanco Vecchi. They are earning master's degrees in public policy from SPA with Sabina focusing on environmental issues and Candela on international development. "I'm really happy here. I always wanted to study here and be in contact with other people of other cultures," Candela says. "As a city, Washington, DC, is amazing. And, of course, American University is an amazing place."

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE JOINS ELITE

Field hockey alumna Rafaela Rubas, Kogod/BSBA '19, earned a Patriot League nomination for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award, placing her in an elite group of 64 out of more than 85,000 female Division I student-athletes. A four-time first-team all-Patriot League selection and a two-time all-conference academic honoree, Rubas graduated with a 3.70 GPA and significant teaching and mentorship experience through the Grassroots Project, which provides high school students with lessons in health education.



BECOMING BETTER EXECUTIVE COACHES

To meet the growing demand for lifelong learning, SPExS offered the first summer session of its Leadership Coaching for Organizational Performance certificate program. Accredited by the International Coach Federation, the executive coaching program maximizes skills with 12 days of in-person instruction and coaching opportunities. Carole Dickert-Scherr, vice president of human resources at PBS, credits the program with giving her "ways to really engage deeply with other people and to listen."



A PASSION FOR LEADERSHIP, SERVICE

Othniel Harris, BA/SPA '19, is organizing communities of color to make their voices heard in the 2020 election, and someday he hopes to govern his home state of New Jersey. Harris came to AU because he wanted to "intern on the Hill, work on campaigns, and be challenged by students who were just as passionate about politics as I am." He did just that with two Congressional internships, two political advocacy agency internships, a New Jersey gubernatorial campaign internship, and several campus leadership positions.

\$2M GIFT ENDOWS MORE CHANCES TO LEARN

The \$2 million gift that creates and endows the Karin A. Akerson Memorial Scholarship Fund will reduce financial barriers to higher education and empower more students to pursue academic careers at AU. After Akerson, CAS/BGS '96, passed away in March 2018, her husband, Daniel F. Akerson, honored her memory and high regard for AU by advancing their shared estate plan to endow the transformational scholarship fund. Generations of students will benefit from the family's vision and generosity.

COMMUNITY



Our community is connected by the desire to inspire change and pursue new ways of making the world a better place. We learn together, stand together, debate together, and find new solutions to old problems together. Strivers, dreamers, scholars, and leaders join forces on our campus because to us, no issue is too small, no challenge too great.

Whether we are welcoming 20,000 bees to our arboretum or providing free educational services to furloughed federal employees during the longest government shutdown in US history, we solve problems.

We are constantly finding new ways to collaborate across disciplines. We are nurturing our roots within our home city. We are forging new partnerships and strengthening existing ones. Because at AU, we know working together makes all the difference.

CREATING PATHS TO JOBS IN THE DIGITAL WORKFORCE

In today's digital workforce, employers expect newly minted college graduates to have a working knowledge of data analysis, visualization, and cybersecurity.

AU is leading the DC region in developing a new generalist digital technology credential that helps students gain those skills in partnership with the Capital Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business (CoLAB).

The digital credential's 13-credit curriculum is built from existing Kogod School of Business classes in statistics, information technology, and business professionalism. Launched in fall 2019, it is the first of several digital credential pathways, says Jill

Klein, interim dean of the School of Professional and Extended Studies and executive in residence for information technology and analytics.

"In keeping with our strategic goal of inclusive excellence, it was important that we had a path that any student could follow," Klein says.

CoLAB connects AU and 11 other area universities with the Greater Washington Partnership, a consortium of business leaders from Baltimore to Richmond seeking recent graduates who have honed these vital digital skills. Students who achieve the credential will be given priority for internships and interviews at CoLAB-affiliated firms.



SKILLS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Technology has always transformed the way people work, and professionals are expected to have more skills than ever in the digital age. To prepare graduates for today's data-driven workplace, AU has partnered with leading employers to develop a credential that will equip them with knowledge and skills in six fundamental areas:



The Role of Data and Analytics

Learning the importance of data, what it represents, its potential applications, and how it can be used to make decisions.



Probability and Descriptive and Inferential Statistics

Studying the mathematical processes that help make sense of data and its results or consequences.



Data Manipulation

Organizing data with tools and software that allow extraction, filtration, and transformation of data into decisions.



Data Visualization and Communication

Communicating ideas through data displays, including tables, dashboards, graphs, maps, and trees.



Data Ethics

Considering established ethical, compliance, and legal issues when making data-driven decisions.



Data Security

Protecting data's confidentiality, integrity, availability, and non-repudiation from insider threats and unauthorized users.



COMMUNITY CHIEF HAS DEEP DC ROOTS

An experienced public and private sector community, government affairs, and real estate professional is AU's new assistant vice president of community and government relations. Native Washingtonian Ed Fisher coordinates development and oversight of the new campus plan, helps implement the new strategic plan, and enhances engagement with the region. A DC Council administration veteran, he last led the city's largest land-mass real estate project, and was community relations director for Blue Cross Blue Shield.



DC CELEBRATES WAMU RADIO HOST

Mayor Muriel Bowser declared May 13, 2019, Kojo Nnamdi Day to honor the public radio host's 20 years on air for WAMU 88.5, the local National Public Radio station licensed by AU. "Kojo Nnamdi embodies everything it means to be a Washingtonian," says Mayor Bowser. "His deep connection to our community has made him a master of his craft, promoting a thoughtful and diverse discourse that benefits all of our residents. DC is proud to call him our own."

AU IS THE
fifth largest
nongovernmental employer in DC

33%
of 130,000 alumni
live in the DC metropolitan area



PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS FOR DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AU is cultivating homegrown talent and inspiring DC's next generation of educators through its Dual Enrollment Program, a partnership between SOE and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS).

Eight high school seniors were selected for the first year of the program that introduces teaching as a career option, enables high school students to accrue early college credit for education degrees, and creates a ready-made pipeline of prospective teachers for DCPS.

The students enrolled in Education 205: Schools and Society and Education, a study of contemporary education and its social context, and Education 280: Social Justice in Urban Education, an analysis of the nature and impact of race and class on social justice issues.

"With looming teacher shortages and sharp declines in the number of teachers of color, this program has the potential to supply DC with a pipeline of new, diverse teachers," says SOE dean Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy.



HUMANITIES TRUCK DRIVES COMMUNITY STORYTELLING

The fully loaded DC Humanities Truck brings an all-in-one recording studio, mobile workshop space, and pop-up gallery designed to facilitate collaborative, community-based research projects to neighborhoods around the District.

Funded by \$875,000 in grants from the Andrew W. Mellon and Henry Luce Foundations, spearheaded by AU public history program director Dan Kerr, and designed by Carly Thaw, CAS/BA '18, the truck has rolled everywhere from the Cleveland Park Farmers Market to DC Pride.

Faculty and students interview Washingtonians on their own turf, exploring such issues as homelessness, immigration, and gentrification.

"What makes the truck project [unusual] is that scholars and city residents can work together to interpret and curate these stories—to create web-based projects and a digital repository," Kerr says. "By using the truck to create new conversations that bridge the chasm between the university and communities, both sides can gain from learning from each other."



BEES, HOT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY

Two years after obtaining carbon neutrality ahead of its 2020 goal, AU continues its commitment to sustainability with conversion of the campus-wide heating system and a renovated home for the university's bees.

The \$28 million budgeted installation of the low-temperature hot water system enhances campus energy efficiency and reduces carbon emissions substantially. With reduced energy consumption and maintenance costs, the system, which is expected to last 40 years, will pay for itself in 10.

Facilities Management and the AU Beekeeping Society renovated the Mary Graydon Center's green roof, increasing the stormwater holding capacity with pollinator-friendly plants that draw tens of thousands of bees inhabiting honey-laden hives. With each bee visiting 2,000 flowers per day within a three-mile fly zone, the benefits of biodiversity extend beyond the lush, green campus to surrounding neighborhoods.



FREE CLASSES FOR FEDERAL WORKERS AMID SHUTDOWN

During a 35-day federal government shutdown, 550 furloughed workers from across the DC metropolitan area visited AU with something penciled into their calendars: Classes Without Quizzes.

The free, daylong event hosted by SPA featured 15 workshops on topics including workplace mindfulness, how to deal with change, managing across generations, emotional intelligence, and kindness in leadership.

AU professors volunteered to teach the classes. Dean Vicky Wilkins and her team at SPA pulled together the event in less than a week.

"Since our founding 85 years ago, our focus at the School of Public Affairs has been helping public servants advance their careers," Wilkins says. "The people we hosted for this event are so dedicated to their jobs and our country. I was thrilled that we were able to come together as a university to show our appreciation for federal workers."

100%

renewable energy for campus electricity

50%

from the Capital Partners Solar Project, a collaboration with George Washington University and GW Hospital

9

buildings with rooftop solar

6

LEED Certified Buildings

+5 on track

(including new Hall of Science)

39%

increase in international students since 2017

#47

best colleges for veterans national universities

U.S. News and World Report

INCREASING DIVERSITY WITH CAREER PROGRAMS

Four career initiatives are increasing the diversity of practitioners in their respective disciplines. The Library offers a post-graduate residency for librarians from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. SOC and the MWPR firm encourage people of color to choose PR careers through summer fellowships. SOE offers a dual enrollment program for DC high school seniors who want to be teachers. SPA partners with five universities in training and mentoring doctoral candidates for faculty positions.



AUX2 COUNCIL STRENGTHENS CORE COURSE

The new AUx2 Council, established to gather more input and interdisciplinary experience from across campus, refines curriculum for the second AU Experience first-year core education course and trains and mentors AUx2 instructors. "That diversity is key when thinking through how each component of the course affects different members of our community and society," says Juliana Martínez, assistant professor of world languages and cultures. AUx2 focuses on diversity, inclusion, and freedom of expression.

CREATING ACCESSIBILITY CULTURE

AU's first Disability, Access, and Teaching Symposium expanded discussions among the AU community about accessibility and disability theory and educated those less familiar with these conversations. The symposium featured keynote speaker and disability justice advocate Lydia X.Z. Brown, who focused on the importance of creating a culture of accessibility. "We embed access into the culture so that it is not merely a question of 'Can we all participate? Can we all engage?' But, 'Are we welcome? Are we wanted? Are we desired to be present in this space?'"



TEACHING THE ART OF NEGOTIATION

Easing congressional congestion is the goal of a collaboration between WCL and SPA's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. Supported by a \$1 million grant from the Madison Initiative of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and administered by seasoned bipartisan negotiators, the Program on Legislative Negotiation (PLN) provides courses and negotiation training sessions for congressional members, staffers, and students. PLN also offers a \$100,000 grant program to facilitate research on effective legislative negotiation.



FIRST ANTIRACIST BOOK FESTIVAL

Renowned authors—including Campaign Zero cofounder DeRay McKesson, Princeton scholar Imani Perry, and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tyehimba Jess—appeared at the first National Antiracist Book Festival held at AU in April. "The written word has historically paved the way towards racial understanding, healing, and progress in the United States," says Antiracist Research and Policy Center director Ibram X. Kendi. "We aim for this antiracist bookfest to once again show the transformative power of the book to shape a better nation."

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE LAUGH AT A TIME

The nonprofit Center for Media and Social Impact (CMSI) launched the Yes, And ... Laughter Lab in partnership with the Comedy Central network and creative agency Moore + Associates. The lab facilitates collaboration among social justice activists and young comedians to address social issues through comedy. "We developed this initiative because we believe that comedy can help change the world," says Professor Caty Borum Chattoo, director of the SOC-based CMSI.



CHANGEMAKERS



Here's to the changemakers. The innovators who see a problem and do something about it. The trailblazers who know that changing the status quo for the better is worth surmounting any hurdles that arise from doing so. The pioneers who believe a better world is possible and lead us toward it.

Here's to the visionary alumni who achieve firsts, like Lonnie Bunch, unanimously selected as the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Susan Zirinsky, the new president of CBS News. The award-winning alumni and students who chip away at seemingly intractable issues, like climate change, by tapping into the emerging market of sustainable alternatives to environmentally harmful products. The Eagles who make their mark and inspire us all to do the same.

VISIONARIES ENCOURAGE GRADS TO SERVE, DREAM

Six leaders from diverse backgrounds and career fields—trailblazers in law, politics, business, media, and public service—delivered lessons of hope, perseverance, and empathy to 2,300 graduates at the 137th commencement ceremonies in May.

AU welcomed Nigerian-born award-winning author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; Pam Kaufman, SOC/BA '85, president of Viacom/Nickelodeon Consumer Products; Roger Gregory, chief judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; Roger Ferguson, president and CEO of TIAA; James L. Jones, retired general and former national security advisor; and Stacey Abrams, former Georgia House of

Representatives minority leader and the first African American woman to run as a major party nominee for governor of any state.

Abrams' address to SPA graduates landed on *Time's* list of "Best Commencement Speeches of 2019."

"Hear me clearly: do not edit your desires," Abrams says. "Want what you want, regardless of how big the dream—you may have to get there in stages, you may stumble along the way, but the journey is worth the work."

About acts of service, she says, "Let your purpose be your service to each other. Being adaptable makes us able; being service-oriented makes us good."



KEY QUOTES FROM KEYNOTES

Changemakers share their insights at graduation ceremonies.



"Purpose does not have to be grand. I think that the smaller the purpose, the more meaningful. To be kind. To have empathy. To avoid sanctimony. To think of the humanity of other people. To take one step, to try."

—Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
at CAS, SOE, and SPExS



"I am always slightly out of my comfort zone—which is something I've learned to be comfortable with."

—Pam Kaufman, SOC/BA '85
at SOC



"Commitment to a cause greater than yourselves: that, more than anything else, captures the purest nature of service."

—General James L. Jones, USA, Retired
at Kogod



"It's essential to be a lifelong learner. The world is changing rapidly, and those who are most successful both personally and professionally are those who never stop building what we economists call the human capital."

—Roger W. Ferguson Jr.
at SIS



"The world will judge you, but you need to focus on your potential. You have to have faith. The path isn't always going to be clear."

—The Honorable Roger Gregory
at WCL



RESILIENCE IS THE KEY TO CHANGE

Four leaders emphasized the value of resiliency in change during a panel moderated by President Sylvia M. Burwell. "Changemakers in a Changing World: Lessons for the Next Generation" featured Antiracist Research and Policy Center director Ibram Kendi; broadcast journalist Marina Salinas; Citizen University founder Eric Liu; and former UN ambassador Susan Rice. Resilience is "vitally important," says Rice, but cannot be taught: "It comes out of experience. Yet, it's absolutely critical to making a change and having an impact."



KASICH HIGHLIGHTS EVERYDAY HEROES

John Kasich connected with AU students of all political stripes with an energetic and animated 2019 Wonk of the Year speech. He discussed his blue-collar roots, rise through Republican politics, and time as a congressman, two-term governor of Ohio, and 2016 presidential candidate. Despite his national leadership bona fides, he stressed the importance of familial and communal support. "Presidents don't matter that much," he says. "What affects you are the people you live around."

#2

producer of
Peace Corps volunteers
among medium-sized
colleges and universities



ALUMNA IS FIRST WOMAN LEADER OF CBS NEWS

Susan Zirinsky, SOC/BA '74, made television history when CBS News asked her to lead the 91-year-old news division in 2019 as its first female president.

Zirinsky, who retained the title of senior executive producer, started her CBS News career as a desk assistant in 1972, two weeks after the Watergate break-in.

Her 47-year run has included stints as *CBS Evening News* senior producer (another first), executive producer of several award-winning documentaries, and executive producer of *48 Hours*, a role she held for 23 years.

Deciding it was "time to step up to the plate," Zirinsky is leading CBS News into a two-year stretch that she believes will have the important job of helping to "reveal America to itself."

"It's a calling, a public service, and I feel humbled," Zirinsky says. "Once you've worked at CBS, it's the only thing that occupies your DNA."

She has earned Emmys, a Peabody, and the SOC Dean's Award for 2018.



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF FOOD INSECURITY

While a chef at a Michelin-starred farm-to-table restaurant near New York City, Annelise Straw, SIS/BA '19, began questioning the moral issues around food equity.

The 2019 President's Award winner and Rhodes Scholarship finalist started answering questions about sustainable agriculture and food production with innovative food-access research in rural Dickenson County, Virginia, her grandmother's home.

"Why aren't people in Central Appalachia growing their own food and hosting farmer's markets with locally grown fresh produce? Unfortunately, the food, and the farms, and the work just aren't there. Food procurement, socio-economic circumstances, and historical events all impact our food economies," Straw says.

After finishing her master's in December 2019, Straw will pursue a PhD with research focusing on food inequities. She plans to help future generations find ways to break the cycle of food insecurity.



ENTREPRENEUR SHAPES FUTURE IN BIOPLASTICS

An AU alumnus and his AU Center for Innovation incubator product have transformed an environmentally friendly startup idea into a six-figure biodegradable straws company.

While at Kogod, alumnus Cameron Ross secured four distribution contracts, including agreements with Compass Coffee and Elevation Burger, since launching Celise in early 2018. He won more than \$80,000 in pitch competition prize money and scholarships and will have delivered more than six million straws by the end of 2019. Celise also has been accepted into the prestigious MassChallenge startup accelerator in Houston.

The launch of Ross's business, which utilizes a corn starch-based bioplastic, aligned well with DC's plastic straw ban that went into effect January 1, 2019.

"I had already done the research, and then all of a sudden, boom," Ross says. "I had never believed in it, but it's true—you have to be in the right place at the right time."



ALUMNUS IS APPOINTED CHIEF OF SMITHSONIAN

Lonnie Bunch, CAS/BA '74, CAS/MA '76, became the 14th secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, making him the first African American to lead the 173-year-old organization in 74 years.

Bunch now manages a \$1.5 billion budget, 7,000 employees, and 13 million square feet of space across nine research centers, 19 museums, and the National Zoo.

His promotion comes after more than a decade of building the National Museum of African American History and Culture, starting as its founding director in 2005 and serving beyond its 2016 opening.

"The biggest goal of history at the Smithsonian ought to be to help the American public embrace ambiguity to understand that there are no simple answers to complex questions," Bunch told National Public Radio. "If we can help the public become comfortable with wrestling with the shades of gray, then we've really made a contribution."

24 alumni

elected or reelected to US local, state, or federal office
in 2018 general election

6
alumni are members of Congress

4
are presidents or prime ministers

FOUNDERS DAY GIVING

GIFTS
65%
increase from FY2018

DONORS

39%

#5
most politically active students

#7
most active student government

Princeton Review

FIVE SCHOLAR-ATHLETES CHANGE THE GAME

Five AU scholar-athletes were named Arthur Ashe Jr. sports scholars by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine. Sam Fromkin, CAS/BA '19, founded AU's Athlete Ally group that champions LGBTQ equality in sports. Gabriela Maldonado, CAS/BS '19, and Justin Perez, CAS/BA '19, were both actively involved with Special Olympics. Arianna Lopez, CAS/BS '20, volunteers with the Capital Caring hospice network and conducts research on Alzheimer's disease. And Matthew Rainey, SPA/BA '19, helped form AU's chapter of the Grassroots Project that teaches health education at public high schools.



CANDID CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Spelman College president emerita Beverly Tatum, author of the groundbreaking book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*, spoke with President Sylvia M. Burwell about creating spaces to talk about race on campus and working through difficult conversations. Tatum says leaders' defining community broadly and inclusively encourages their followers to do the same. "If I can identify with you ... I'm more likely ... to take action in solidarity with you, to interrupt unfair systems." The event marked the Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars program's 10th anniversary.



WRITING OSCAR GOES TO 2008 GRADUATE

Charlie Wachtel, SOC/BA '08, earned the 2019 Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for *BlacKkKlansman*. Wachtel wrote the film—based on the memoir of the first African American police officer in the Colorado Springs police department who infiltrated the local Ku Klux Klan—with writing partner David Rabinowitz. Spike Lee and Kevin Willmott also share writing credits. Wachtel lauds AU professors Claudia Myers, Matt McNevin, and Larry Engel for their influence on his writing and storytelling.



ELEVATING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

One in six US voters has a disability, and fewer hold elected office. Sarah Blahovec, SIS/BA '14, disability vote organizer for the National Council on Independent Living and a person with Crohn's disease, created Elevate, a nonpartisan webinar series that helps people with disabilities prepare for a first run for local office. "There's a lot of work that we as a culture need to do to address ableism and our thoughts about people with disabilities," Blahovec says.

YES SHE CAN, BECAUSE THEY DID

Two members of the AU community are among 10 female former Obama White House aides who coauthored a book about their time at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Vivian Graubard, Kogod/BS '10, and Jenna Brayton, SPA adjunct instructor, helped pen *Yes She Can*, their advice for women pursuing careers in government service. "We wanted to inspire young women to pursue careers in public service by hearing our stories and identifying with them," Graubard says.

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VIDEO

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WRITERS

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Andrew Erickson	Madaleine Laird	Greg Sangillo
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CONTRIBUTORS

Natasha Abel	Robin Beads	Patty Housman	A.J. Springer
Kelly Alexander	Jennifer Byerly	Kelly Kimball	Leslie Wong
Rebecca Basu	Maddie Ecker	Emily Priborkin	

OUR AU COMMUNITY IS TAKING BOLD STEPS

ACROSS CAMPUS AND THROUGHOUT DC.

Cover Photo: Just a few steps down from Hurst Hall to the quad and toward a boundless future. *Scholarship:* The gently sloping grounds of the open-air Woods-Brown Amphitheater.

Learning: Reading benches rise in tandem with the steps inside the SIS atrium. *Community:* The Spanish Steps near Embassy Row provide a space for quiet reflection. *Changemakers:* Grand neoclassical columns lend a touch of antiquity to one of the entrances to the McKinley Building.

ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDITS

page 10, *right*, Will Diamond

page 12, *top*, Dylan Singleton

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