Our Vision

The oldest and largest college at the University of Notre Dame, the College of Arts and Letters plays an integral role in Notre Dame’s effort to build the world’s great Catholic research university.

Our Vision

The oldest and largest college at the University of Notre Dame, the College of Arts and Letters plays an integral role in Notre Dame’s effort to build the world’s great Catholic research university.

One question motivates us. What kind of alumni do we want in 10, 20, and 30 years? Our answer is that we want an Arts and Letters education to enable our students to grapple with the enduring questions and difficult challenges confronting our society. We want our students to write crisply, speak persuasively, and analyze data effectively. We want our students to become leaders in their professions, religious and political communities, and families.

This answer requires us both to challenge and support our students and faculty. It requires strategies for additional investment in already strong programs, and it demands that we reorient programs not meeting student needs.

To fulfill these aspirations over the next decade, we have established four overarching goals:

Goal 1: Advance Research Excellence
Goal 2: Develop a More Sophisticated and Intense Undergraduate Education
Goal 3: Become a More International College
Goal 4: Become a More Collaborative College

With this booklet, I share a few of our successes to date in these four areas and outline our ambitions as we move forward.

Please feel free to contact me or any of my colleagues in the College if you would like more information. Your interest and support is truly appreciated.

John T. McGreevy
I.A. O’Shaughnessy Dean
College of Arts and Letters
A Passion for Inquiry

College of Arts and Letters faculty are at the forefront of fields as wide-ranging as Shakespeare, development economics, philosophy, and Latin American politics. They bring to the classroom and to conversations with students the latest knowledge in their disciplines and the passion of active researchers. They push our students to develop the intellectual and linguistic skills to advance knowledge—even as undergraduates—with their own essays, experiments, and performances.

A Catholic Intellectual Tradition

Our distinctive intellectual mission is to be at once excellent—on par with the very best private research universities in the country—and authentically Catholic. Our Catholicism drives much of our research, from the psychology of family dynamics to the science of generosity to the role of religion in literature. Our Catholicism encourages us to study cultures different in time and space from our own and to understand the roots and practices of all the world’s great religious and ethical traditions. Our Catholicism opens to our students a distinctive heritage, from Augustine to Dante to Flannery O’Connor. And it compels us to ask the enduring existential and moral questions: “What is a good life?” “How do we organize a just society?” “Does God exist?”

External Funding Support

The College’s faculty and graduate students have strong records of attracting research funding from private foundations, corporations, and the federal government. Over the past five years, the number of faculty who have received major national fellowships in the arts, humanities, and social sciences places us among the top universities in the nation. Our faculty has also had record success with the National Endowment for the Humanities. (See the charts below.) In 2010, the Mellon Foundation awarded Notre Dame a major grant to develop its already premier program in religion across the disciplines, and the foundation has also awarded the university major grants in religion and politics and in Byzantine studies. Our graduate students continue to distinguish themselves by securing internal awards, including prestigious Fulbright, Newcombe, and Javits fellowships.

Investments in Excellence

We also invest in research excellence through various internal grants. The College’s Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts supports and promotes the research and creative activity of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Each year, for example, more than 100 students are funded by the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to pursue projects such as anthropological fieldwork in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado or an investigation into sustainable development in Cairo as a peace-building technique.

Faculty Fellowships Awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities 1999–2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fellowships Awarded to Liberal Arts Faculty at Top 25 National Research Universities 1995–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYU</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I’m looking at models for the evolution of culture in humans and non-human primates—and trying to apply network theory to certain models of cultural evolution—attacking a problem from different angles to get a more holistic answer to research questions.”

—Colin McCabe, 2010, anthropology and biological science

Source: data for these charts available at al.nd.edu/about/the-faculty/fellowship-record/
The Undergraduate Experience

The College of Arts and Letters is a place where students ask the enduring questions in a demanding and sophisticated intellectual environment. This develops the well-rounded perspective and skills in critical thinking and communication that enable our students to flourish in their personal and professional lives. Many of our graduates are leaders of industry, their communities, and the Church. We know coming generations of Arts and Letters students have the same extraordinary potential; our task is to ensure that they fully exploit their gifts and abilities.

Speaking, Writing, Analyzing

Arts and Letters students write research papers and essays on topics as diverse as lyric poetry and the definition of poverty. As sophomores, all students explore issues that transcend disciplinary boundaries and hone their presentation skills in our innovative College Seminar. These small, discussion-based classes enable faculty and students to read and think together about topics such as “Faith, Doubt, and Reason,” “Society and Environment,” or “Meaning in Music.” The seminars are particularly focused on developing speaking skills, with 70 percent of the final grade based on class participation and presentations. Students also acquire skills in quantitative analysis in many majors—notably economics, our fastest growing major—in a liberal arts context attuned to larger moral and ethical questions.

From Classroom to Workplace

A key challenge for all students is to demonstrate how the many skills they learn in college transfer to the workplace. In Arts and Letters, this means dozens of internship opportunities organized by academic departments and the University’s Career Center. The College’s new Rogers Summer Internship Program also helps students develop work experience by helping defray expenses. The more than 60 students funded in 2010, the program’s inaugural year, ranged from a psychology and Spanish major working for Goldman Sachs in New York to a studio art major interning for the Association of Craft Producers in Nepal to a theology major working on Capitol Hill.

A Senior Thesis Culture

Each year, the College’s most ambitious students, who are often in the honors track for their chosen majors, do a senior thesis project. Working one-on-one with a faculty mentor over the course of a year, these students conduct original research or creative work on a topic of their own choosing. Recent projects ranged from a study of Rwandan refugee displacement to the first English translation and performance of a Russian play discovered by the student in a St. Petersburg archive. All students in the College’s Glynn Family Honors Program (not only do original research and prepare a senior thesis but also commit to a rigorous course of study blending the humanities and sciences).

“My thesis is about reading Moby Dick in light of Melville’s annotations to Paradise Lost. My argument is based on my archival research on Herman Melville that I did through an [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program] grant. I was able to actually see his copy of Paradise Lost and experience the annotations with my own eyes.”

—Madeline Chiavini, 2010, economics and Program of Liberal Studies
The World as Our Classroom

Picture yourself in a classroom mere steps away from the Colosseum in Rome or London’s bustling Trafalgar Square. Imagine studying the rich history of Jerusalem while living in the modern city. Or touring 8th century Celtic artifacts at Trinity College in Dublin before going out to see experimental theatre with your professor and classmates.

“Our campus is in South Bend, Indiana; our classroom is the world.”
—former Notre Dame President Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.

Centers for Scholarship
Notre Dame has its own academic facilities in several international capitals where our students and faculty engage with their counterparts from around the world. Notre Dame’s study-abroad programs also take our students to more than three dozen other locations, from Cairo and Berlin to Santiago and Hong Kong. Approximately 70 percent of all Arts and Letters majors spend at least a semester or summer abroad, studying, doing original research—and learning to see the world in new ways.

Languages and Cultures
Arts and Letters offers instruction in 14 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, and Irish. Precisely because Catholicism is the world’s most multicultural and multilingual institution, we are committed to developing alumni who are cosmopolitan citizens of the world. The Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures, launched in 2009, combines teaching and technology to promote both language and cultural fluency. Its Summer Language Abroad grants—where benefactors pay the expenses of students doing intensive language study during the summer—have accelerated the progress of our students in mastering second, even third, languages.

Interdisciplinary Programs
To make the most of the study abroad experience, students are challenged to integrate their major course of study with opportunities for in-depth research and exploration into new areas of inquiry. The new Italian Studies at Notre Dame program, for example, will unite students and faculty in history, theology, art, anthropology, politics, classics, and literature as well as law and architecture as they study why all roads still lead to Italy. In the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, economists focused on development in Africa join with political scientists thinking about government transparency and biologists studying clean water to provide a more holistic portrait of the continent’s challenges and opportunities. To foster similar collaborations, the College and University are also making new investments in the Center for Asian Studies.

“Notre Dame has its own academic facilities in several international capitals where our students and faculty engage with their counterparts from around the world.”
—Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C.
Building a More Collaborative College

No single academic discipline, no one set of books or experiments, can define or solve some of the challenging problems confronting the globe, from environmental degradation to human rights violations. By fostering collaboration among Notre Dame’s economists, political scientists, and sociologists—and our desire to ensure that undergraduate and graduate students are able to participate in and benefit from this research—propels our biggest goal: a new building for the social sciences. This building, to be located next to two of Notre Dame’s most important research institutes, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and Kellogg Institute for International Studies, will be the most important new Arts and Letters facility since the construction of O’Shaughnessy Hall in the 1950s. It will amplify Notre Dame’s voice on questions as varied as sustainable development, young people and religion, conflict resolution in war-torn societies, and democratization.

Through the John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, our scholars work with science faculty and students to examine the complex humanistic and ethical questions that arise when science intersects with society. The center offers a unique History and Philosophy of Science graduate program, along with an undergraduate minor in Science, Technology, and Values. Our dual-degree program in Arts and Letters and Engineering allows students to combine humanistic, artistic, and social scientific study with technical skills. Recent graduates have earned degrees in theology and civil engineering, Japanese and computer science, and political science and electrical engineering. The Shakespeare at Notre Dame initiative touches the entire campus community, from law to business to the arts and humanities. Its touring programs also engage the local community as well as more than a dozen other universities and communities across the country, ensuring Notre Dame’s status as a nationally visible—and in the Midwest pre-eminent—venue for Shakespeare studies. Our graphic and industrial design faculty and students collaborate on award-winning projects in a wide range of academic areas, from science, ecology, and engineering to architecture, marketing, and manufacturing.

Our Funding Priorities

New Social Sciences Hall
Our top campaign priority, a new $40 million, multi-use building, will house three of our most dynamic programs—economics, political science, and sociology—and dramatically promote research excellence, enhance the undergraduate experience, and generate important collaborations with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the Law School, and Mendoza College of Business.

Endowed Chairs
Talented professors are the single greatest resource we provide for our students. New endowed faculty chairs help us recruit, reward, and retain our best scholars and teachers.

Naming opportunities from $1,500,000 to $3,000,000.

Undergraduate Excellence
At the heart of all we do, undergraduate excellence includes the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), support for student laboratory work, grants for Summer Language Abroad study, and funding for strategic summer internships.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.

Graduate Student Support
Our quality graduate programs produce superb role models for our undergraduate majors, decisively influence national rankings, and ensure future academic leaders in American higher education. Graduate student support includes stipends, research grants, and travel to conferences.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.

Graduate Student Support
Our top campaign priority, a new $40 million, multi-use building, will house three of our most dynamic programs—economics, political science, and sociology—and dramatically promote research excellence, enhance the undergraduate experience, and generate important collaborations with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the Law School, and Mendoza College of Business.

Endowed Chairs
Talented professors are the single greatest resource we provide for our students. New endowed faculty chairs help us recruit, reward, and retain our best scholars and teachers.

Naming opportunities from $1,500,000 to $3,000,000.

Undergraduate Excellence
At the heart of all we do, undergraduate excellence includes the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), support for student laboratory work, grants for Summer Language Abroad study, and funding for strategic summer internships.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.

Graduate Student Support
Our quality graduate programs produce superb role models for our undergraduate majors, decisively influence national rankings, and ensure future academic leaders in American higher education. Graduate student support includes stipends, research grants, and travel to conferences.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.

Our Funding Priorities

New Social Sciences Hall
Our top campaign priority, a new $40 million, multi-use building, will house three of our most dynamic programs—economics, political science, and sociology—and dramatically promote research excellence, enhance the undergraduate experience, and generate important collaborations with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the Law School, and Mendoza College of Business.

Endowed Chairs
Talented professors are the single greatest resource we provide for our students. New endowed faculty chairs help us recruit, reward, and retain our best scholars and teachers.

Naming opportunities from $1,500,000 to $3,000,000.

Undergraduate Excellence
At the heart of all we do, undergraduate excellence includes the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), support for student laboratory work, grants for Summer Language Abroad study, and funding for strategic summer internships.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.

Graduate Student Support
Our quality graduate programs produce superb role models for our undergraduate majors, decisively influence national rankings, and ensure future academic leaders in American higher education. Graduate student support includes stipends, research grants, and travel to conferences.

Funding opportunities from $5,000 to $500,000.