



A History of High-Impact Learning at UMW

ElderStudy Presentation
October 2020

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College of Arts and Sciences

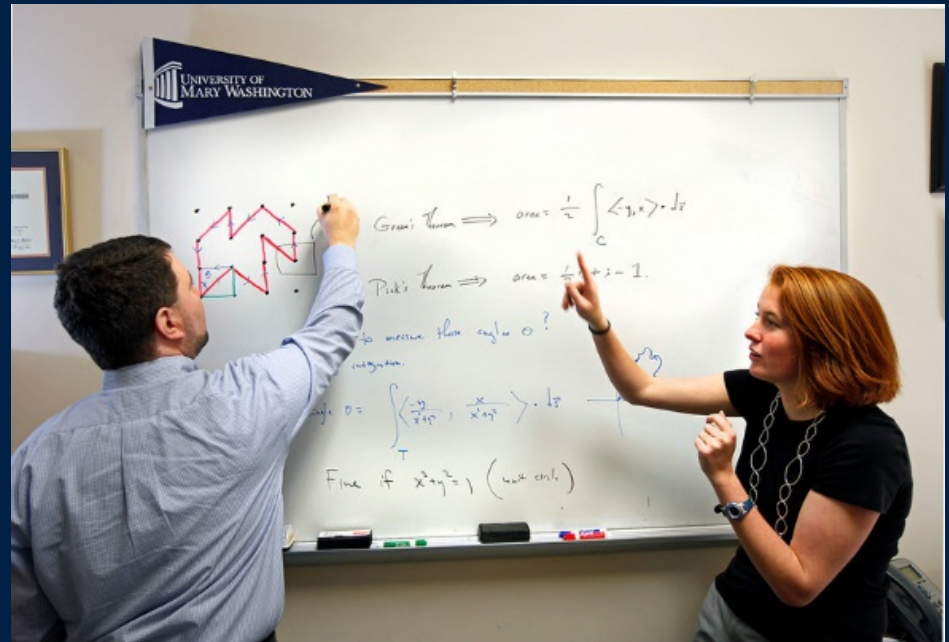
What is High-Impact learning?

High-impact learning refers to the teaching and learning practices that the **Association of American Colleges and Universities** considers most beneficial because they best engage and challenge students, increase retention, and contribute to cumulative learning.

What is High-Impact learning?

1. Contextualized

It's important that any learning experience be put into its proper context. You might call this “**seeing the bigger picture.**”



What is High-Impact learning?

2. Relevant

Students are most interested in learning subjects that have **immediate relevance** to their work and/or personal lives.



What is High-Impact learning?

3. Problem-Based

Whenever possible, it's best to structure learning around a **real scenario** that the students might encounter.



What is High-Impact learning?

4. Learn By Doing

As with the previous principle, we find that students taking an **active role** rather than passive role makes for a higher quality learning experience.



What is High-Impact learning?

5. Social

Develop a **learning community** – a group of enthusiastic people coming together to add to their skillsets, network with like-minded professionals, and socialize.



What is High-Impact learning?

6. Self-Directed

This last principle is arguably the most important aspect of a high impact learning experience:
empowering students to feel like they're setting their own direction.



High Impact Learning

1. Contextualized
2. Relevant
3. Problem-based
4. Learn by doing
5. Social
6. Self-directed

Examples – what UMW is doing

First-Year Seminars

- Small classes
- Highly interactive learning
- Use primary text, not simply textbooks
- Instructor serves as academic advisor
- Classmates live in a common residence halls

Examples – what UMW is doing

Writing and Speaking Intensive requirements

- Student must collaborate
- Develop communication skills
- Learn to use appropriate technology
- Support centers

Examples – what UMW is doing

Capstone experiences

- Research
- Honors
- Community Engagement
- Service Learning

Three big areas of growth

Independent
Research

Study Abroad
and Study Away

Internship

The internal drivers

2006: some faculty attend a national workshop and return with plans to start URES 197 and *Research and Creativity Day*

2008: faculty adopt a new general education curriculum that includes an *Experiential Learning* requirement

2019: faculty adopt a new general education curriculum that includes *Beyond the Classroom* and *After Mary Wash* requirements

Three big areas of growth

Independent
Research

Study Abroad
and Study Away

Internship

Internships

**Often cultivated within
departments or major
programs**

**Managed through the
Center for Career and
Professional Development
(CCPD)**



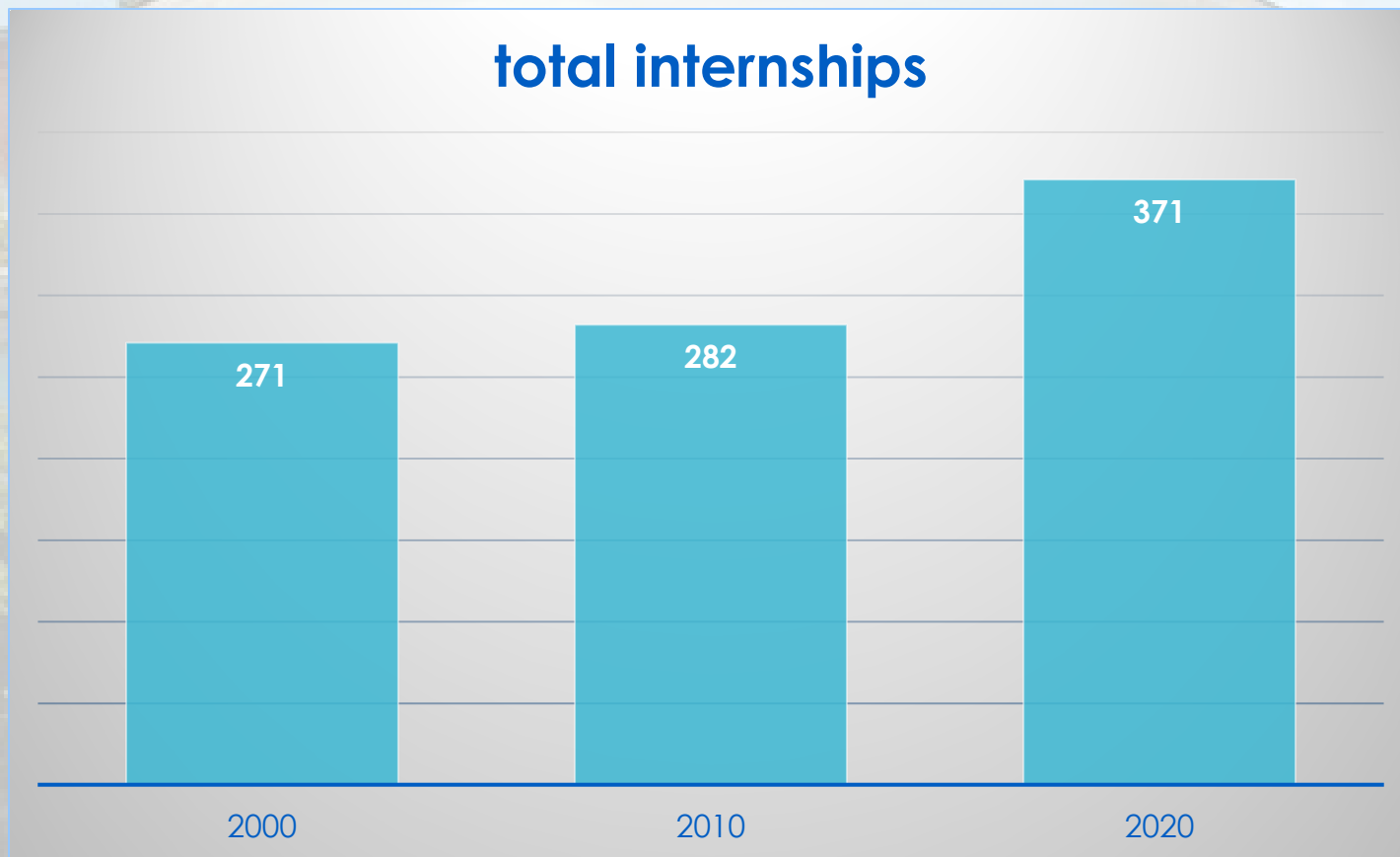
Internships

2000 – Career Services office (director and about 3 staff)

2013 – merge with Academic Services to provide more holistic approach to advising

2017 – creation of the Office of Career and Professional Development

Internships



Internships

Our new communication program alone sponsored 33 internships last year.

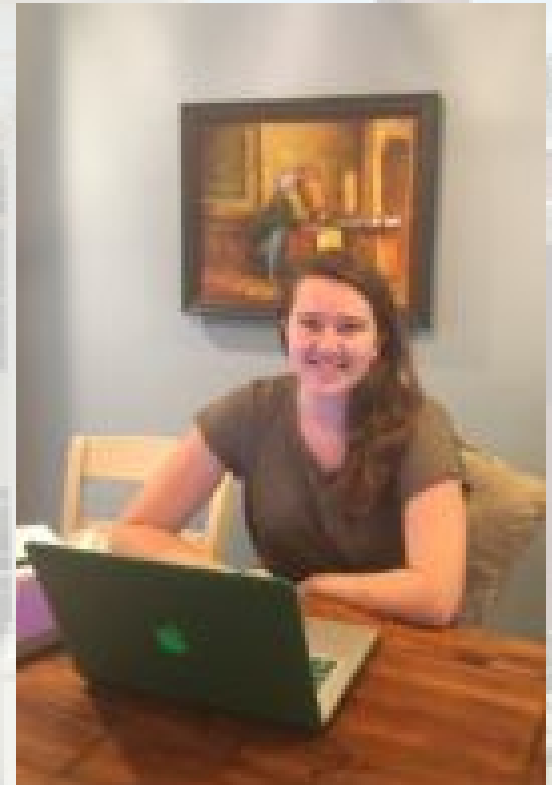
Psychology now has a 'course' that student interns sign up for, just to manage all of the activity.

Internships

Senior Cathryn Kinde (History and American Studies) spent Summer 2020 as a Film Archive intern for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

“This internship was incredibly rewarding. One of the reasons I became a history major at UMW, was because I believe that we have a duty to honor those that came before us, in whatever way we can”

- Cathryn Kinde



Study Abroad



Study Abroad

1995 – International Academic Services

- Led by one part-time person with assistant

2004 – new director takes over

- Starts to become more of a professional enterprise
- Full-time position with two part-time staff
- Increased number of faculty-led programs



Study Abroad

2010 – Center for International Education

- **Director Jose Sainz**
(faculty member in Spanish)
- **Three full-time professional staff**
- **Education Abroad**
- **International Students and Scholars**



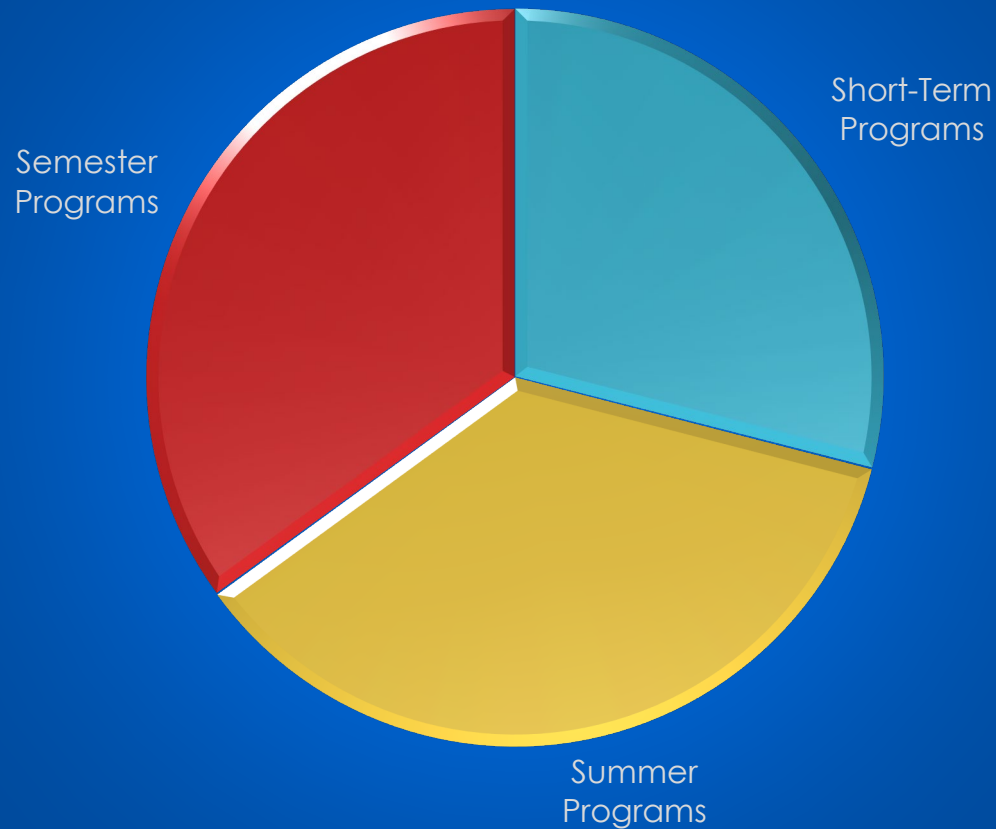
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Study Abroad



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Study Abroad: by type (2018-2019)

- **Faculty-led programs:** 145 (52% of total)
- **Exchange programs:** 8
- **Approved programs (Direct Enrollment or Provider):** 52

Study Abroad: by type (2018-2019)

- **Internship programs:** 10 (internships that take place in a foreign country)
- **Eagles Abroad:** 48 (e.g., Athletes or philharmonic. They travel to play or perform.)
- **Volunteer Abroad:** 4 (Global Brigades – students raise money to go to a destination abroad to serve.)
- **Undergraduate Research Abroad:** 2

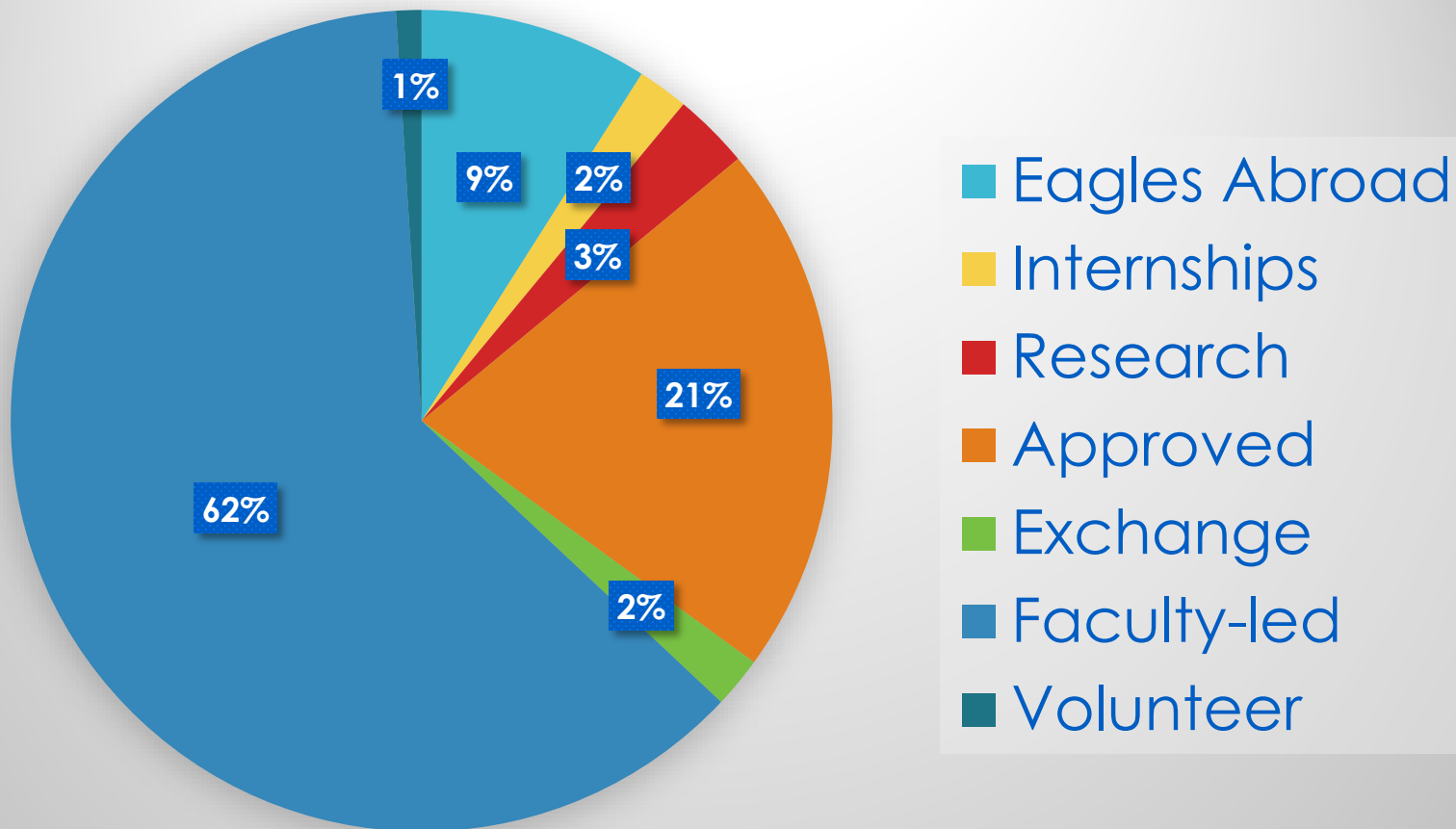




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Study Abroad: *total participation, 2014-2019*



Study Abroad

2018-2019 Interesting Stats:

- **69% Female**
- **14% First in Family**
- **Top Destinations: Panama, Costa Rica, France, Italy, Spain**
- **Top Majors: BIO, BUAD, INAF, Undeclared, PSYC**
- **78% White**
- **54% Seniors (primarily on Faculty-led short-term programs)**
- **GPA Avg. = 3.18**

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Study Abroad: *faculty led trips*



UMW in Italy

Exploring Ancient & Early Modern Empires

Led by [Dr. Liane Houghtalin](#) and [Dr. Marjorie Och](#), the program examines the expansion and decline of ancient Rome, Renaissance Florence, and early modern Venice. Students will have the opportunity to explore the art, archaeology, history, culture, and contemporary society of these Italian cities.



UMW in England

Advanced Studies in England

Along with [Dr. Chris Foss](#) of the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication, spend your summer in the beautiful World Heritage city of Bath! Participate in the summer program offered by [Advanced Studies in England \(ASE\)](#). The program, which may be of special interest to students of English, Cinema, Creative Writing, History, Education, Pre-Law, or Studio Art, also includes a weekend study trip to London and other travel in England.



UMW in France

Summer at IAU Aix-en-Provence

Spend your summer in France with [Dr. Brooke Di Lauro](#) at [IAU College](#) in beautiful Aix-en-Provence. Discover the colorful countryside of the south of France while earning credits towards your degree.

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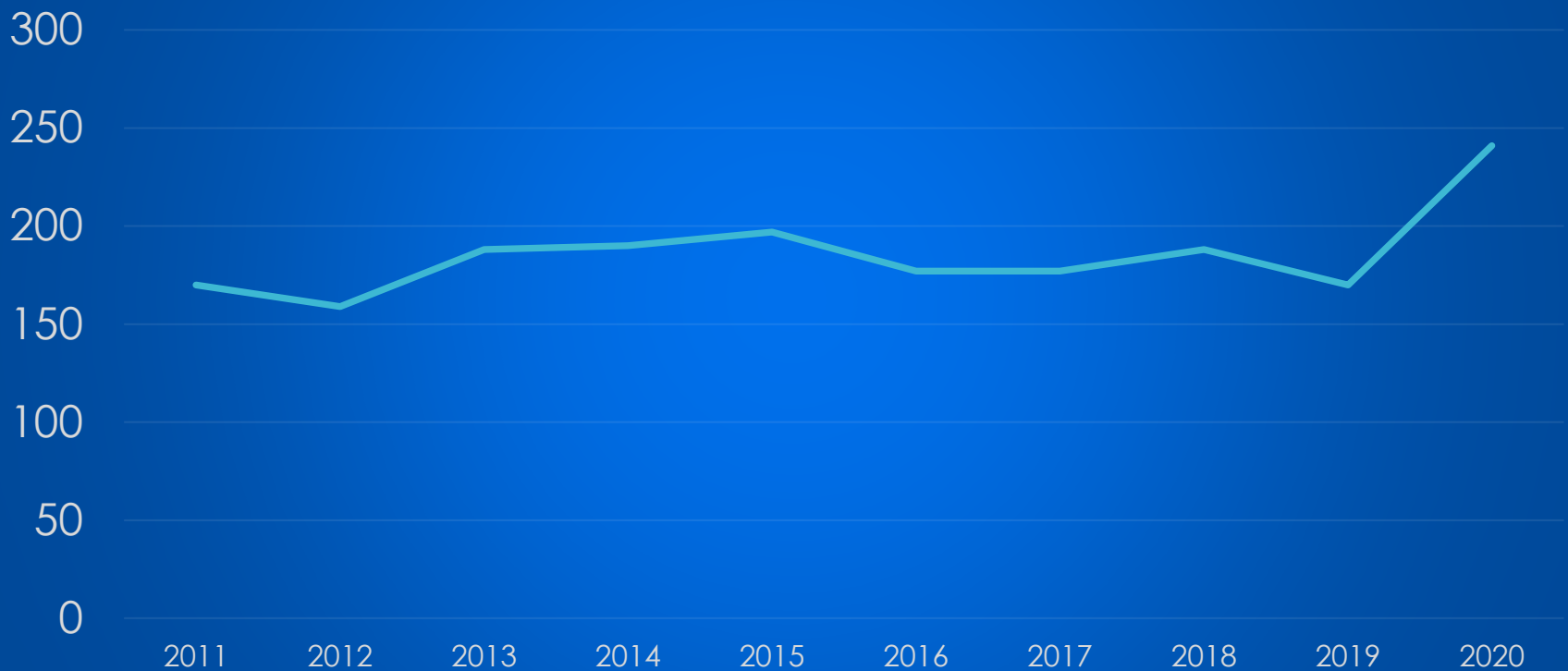
Undergraduate Research

When students participate in research project, they translate what they learned in the classroom to a real setting where they can actually contribute to a body of knowledge.



Undergraduate Research

of students participating



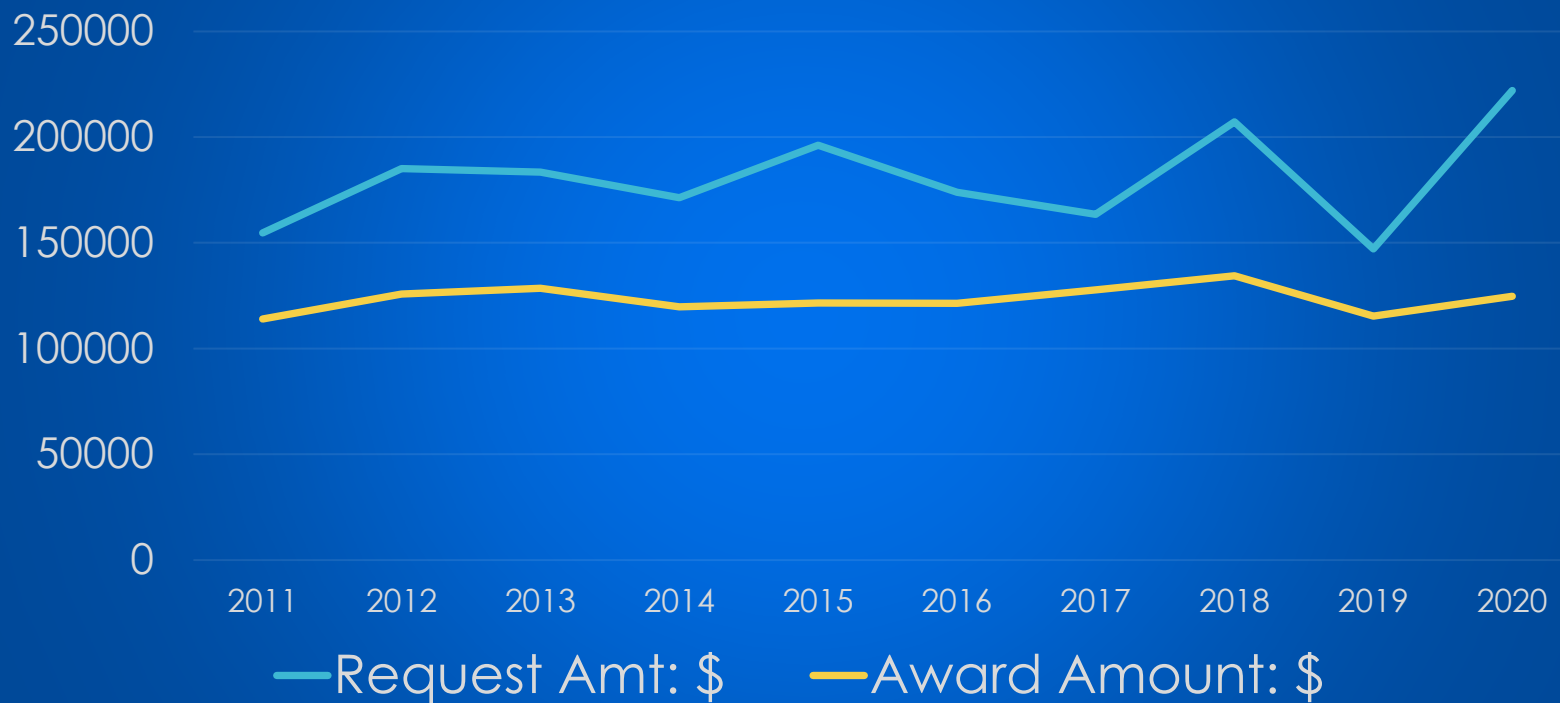
Undergraduate Research

Students can apply for money to support their projects:

- **Lab supplies**
- **Subscriptions**
- **Books or other research materials**
- **Technology**
- **Day travel to visit museums or archives**
- **Travel to professional meetings**

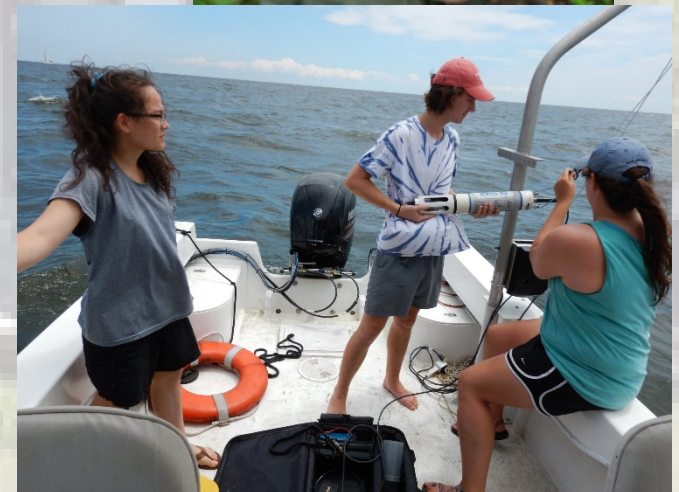
Undergraduate Research

Annual Activity of the UR Account



UR: *the Summer Science Institute*

- 10 week summer research program
- Teams of 3: 1 faculty member + 2 students
- Students receive
 - On-campus housing
 - Meals
 - Stipend
- Faculty receive a stipend



UR: *the Summer Science Institute*

This past summer, students worked with faculty on a variety of projects, including environmental issues related to climate change, mathematical models, faster ways to run computer programs simultaneously, and biological models of diseases. Several of these projects were adapted by faculty in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as all research is being done remotely.



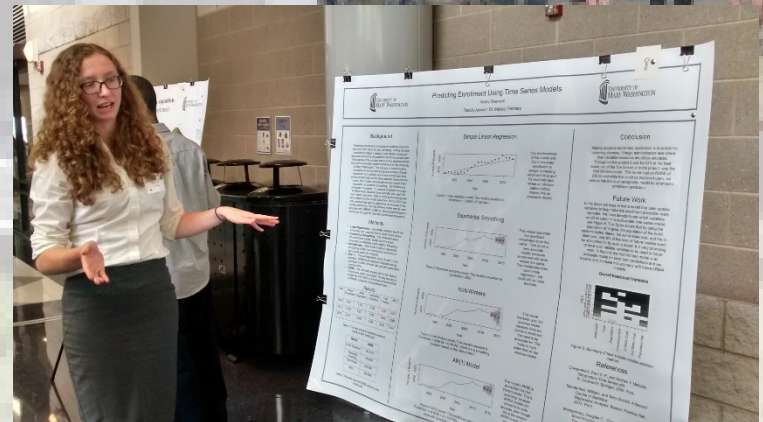
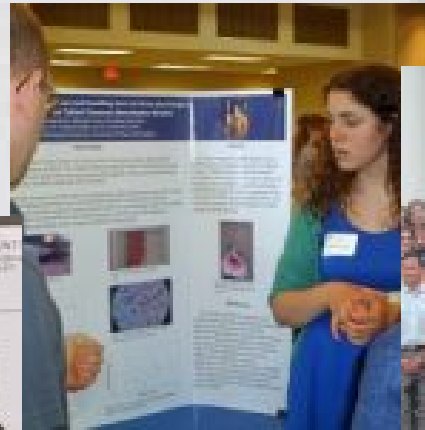
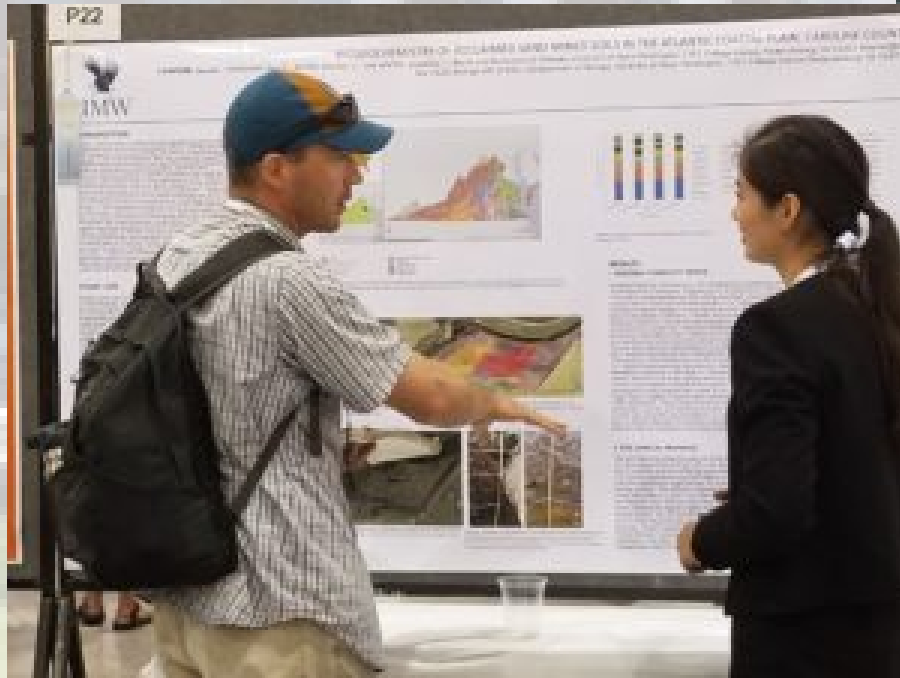
UR: *field work*

A big part of the UR budget is used to send students to do field work.



UR: *conference participation*

We also send a lot of students to professional meetings



Summary

High impact learning experiences are central to a UMW education.

UMW has put forth great effort in the last 20 years to greatly expand these opportunities and the payoff is evident in the accomplishments of our students after they leave Mary Washington.

Shannon Haley and Bailey Stewart attended the 2018 Women and Mathematics summer school at the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University. Shannon and Bailey both graduated with honors in 2018, completing thesis work in non-commutative cryptography under Dr. Helmstutler.



Studio Art majors
Christina Bendo and
Katie Sleyman assist in
the construction and
firing of a wood-fired
kiln for ceramics in an
undergraduate research
program with Prof Jon
McMillan.



History and Political Science
Major Eric Halsey (2011)
spent a year at the American
University in Bulgaria. Today
he lives in Bulgaria where he
serves on the board of
Fulbright Bulgaria, runs his
own business, and lectures
on the country's history in a
podcast and at universities.





Kelly and Ben are University Honors Students who used CAS Undergraduate research funds to complete their projects examining how drought and temperature stress affect seed production and germination rates in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Both students earned University and Biology Department honors after defending their undergraduate theses in 2020.

Our amazing student athletes are able to combine their love of their sport with academics, including rewarding experiences beyond the classroom. Members of UMW Women's Lacrosse Hanna Ashby (top) and Sarah Hampton (lower left) studied abroad in Nepal and Australia, while Jenny Bosserman (lower right) conducted research in her biology major.



When Diana Bloom '21 departed for NYC as part of a ten-day research trip for Ideas in Performance, she wasn't sure what to expect. Sixteen shows, ten interviews and four backstage tours later, she knew she had made the right decision to pursue her passion for costume design.

"I feel as though my dreams of working in New York City are not as far away as I once thought."

DIANA BLOOM '20



Beyond the Classroom: an endowment for student research and learning

To continue and grow support for student learning opportunities like those described here, the College of Arts and Sciences aims to build a \$1 million endowed fund. Reaching our goal will enable the College to provide approximately \$40,000 every year to support high-impact student learning experiences that take our students ***beyond the classroom.***



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CLASSROOM
ENDOWMENT

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EXPERTISE

CALENDAR OF
FACULTY-LED
EVENTS

EAGLE EYE NEWS

Makhija Pens Article in The
Leading European

Welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences



Thank You!

Dr. Keith E. Mellinger, Dean

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