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Situated at the intersection of humanity and technology, our shared passion for improving the human condition is woven throughout our education and research.

The Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences embodies one of the most varied groups of students, faculty, staff and alumni in the Carnegie Mellon University community, all united by a common goal: confronting and solving society’s most complex problems. We learn through experience, and we work without silos or walls. Our students and faculty work across traditional boundaries, collaborating with other disciplines to pursue the thrill of discovery.

Dietrich College is a place to explore different points of view. And a place to do work that matters.
Dietrich College Launches Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan

The Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences joined Carnegie Mellon University and CMU’s six other schools and colleges in sharing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategic plans in fall 2020.

Dean Richard Scheines charged Ayana Ledford, director of diversity, equity and inclusion, and a committee of students, faculty and staff to develop a plan that articulates actionable steps that the college can take to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. The report represents input from the entire Dietrich College community, and a Diversity Advisory Committee of faculty and staff has continued to advise the dean on ongoing DEI issues and initiatives.

The Dietrich College DEI Strategic Plan addresses immediate needs within the college, from cluster hires that expand our institution’s scholarship by engaging and supporting faculty to address critical race studies, social justice and the psychology of discrimination. The college will support existing centers to leverage our strengths in interdisciplinary research. It also explores ways to engage the Pittsburgh community through high school programs such as Arts Greenhouse and a new Humanities and Arts pipeline program. Finally, the plan will assess and hold the college accountable by conducting periodic surveys to evaluate college climate and exit interviews to evaluate the reasons faculty and staff leave the college.

While this work is ongoing, Dietrich College will be a better place, in every way, for doing it.

“In the Dietrich College, students, faculty and staff have opportunities to learn from one another, as well as the myriad of cultural and academic resources. We challenge ourselves to consider the experiences and perspectives of others, engage and promote social justice and create meaningful connections to communities beyond our campus.”

Ayana Ledford, director of diversity, equity and inclusion | executive director of PROGRESS
Dietrich College Tackles COVID-19

Dietrich College faculty and students shared their expertise on topics that touch many aspects of the pandemic through prominent stories in local, national and international media. Here is a sample of their contributions.

CLICK ON THE HEADLINE TO READ THE FULL STORY

- **On college campuses, strength, kindness despite upheaval from a pandemic**
  Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | March 23, 2020
  Alex Helberg, Ph.D. student, Department of English
  Liam O’Connell, sophomore, Bachelor of Humanities and Arts
  Catherine Taipe, sophomore, Institute for Politics and Strategy and History

- **Coronavirus anxiety is a thing: Here’s how to handle it**
  The Jakarta Times | April 1, 2020
  Baruch Fischhoff, Howard Heinz University Professor, Institute for Politics and Strategy and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy

- **How large a gathering is too large during the coronavirus pandemic?**
  Science News | April 2, 2020
  Simon DeDeo, assistant professor, Social and Decision Sciences

- **Our government runs on a 60-year-old coding language, and now it’s falling apart**
  OneZero | April 8, 2020
  J. Ray Scott, instructor, Information Systems

- **Why we don’t have enough backup ventilators**
  Route Fifty | April 10, 2020
  Daniel Oppenheimer, professor, Social and Decision Sciences

- **Beware the “Shock Market”: How to think and act during the pandemic**
  Forbes | April 10, 2020
  Sheldon Cohen, Robert E. Doherty University Professor of Psychology

- **Dating at a distance: Dr. Sanjay Gupta’s coronavirus podcast for April 16**
  CNN | April 16, 2020
  Brooke Feeney, professor, Psychology

- **Research focus should remain on high quality studies during COVID-19 pandemic, say scientists**
  European Pharmaceutical Review | April 24, 2020
  Alex John London, Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy

- **A new approach to getting real-time coronavirus stats**
  Slate | April 27, 2020
  Ryan Tibshirani, associate professor, Statistics & Data Science and Machine Learning departments

- **What will the covid-19 memorial look like?**
  Washington Post | April 28, 2020
  Jay Aronson, professor of science, technology and society; History
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘Maker &amp; Muse’ jewelry inspires poets in virtual reading</td>
<td>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</td>
<td>April 28, 2020</td>
<td>Jim Daniels, Thomas Stockham Baker University Professor of English</td>
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<td>As colleges go remote, students revolt against the state of higher ed</td>
<td>Salon</td>
<td>May 9, 2020</td>
<td>Jeffrey Williams, professor, English</td>
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<td>What soldiers, doctors, and professors can teach us about artificial</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
<td>May 19, 2020</td>
<td>David Danks, Philosophy Department head &amp; L.L. Thurstone Professor of Philosophy and Psychology</td>
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<td>intelligence during COVID-19</td>
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<td>How to stay sane when the world’s going mad</td>
<td>MIT Technology Review</td>
<td>May 20, 2020</td>
<td>David Creswell, associate professor, Psychology</td>
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<td>Where should covid-19 vaccines be tested? It’s a moving target</td>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>July 1, 2020</td>
<td>Alex John London, Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy</td>
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<td>As the pandemic continues, advocates say an extended ban on evictions</td>
<td>WESA - Pittsburgh’s NPR news station</td>
<td>July 9, 2020</td>
<td>Emaneula Grama, associate professor, History</td>
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<td>America’s global standing is at a low point. The pandemic made it</td>
<td>The Washington Post</td>
<td>July 26, 2020</td>
<td>Kiron Skinner, director and Taube Professor, Institute for Politics and Strategy</td>
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<td>worse</td>
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<td>Some people listen to health experts, others ignore them: What it</td>
<td>USA Today</td>
<td>August 15, 2020</td>
<td>Stephen Broomell, associate professor, Social and Decision Sciences</td>
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<td>means for America’s future with COVID-19</td>
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<td>Op-Ed: How to get through to your risk-taking friends in the COVID-19</td>
<td>Los Angeles Times</td>
<td>September 13, 2020</td>
<td>George Loewenstein, Herbert A. Simon University Professor of Economics and Psychology</td>
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<td>pandemic</td>
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<td>A coronavirus vaccine will save more lives if we share it widely</td>
<td>Popular Science</td>
<td>September 17, 2020</td>
<td>Danielle Wenner, associate professor, Philosophy</td>
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<td>How to help save 130,000 lives</td>
<td>Axios</td>
<td>October 23, 2020</td>
<td>Alex Reinhart, assistant teaching professor, Statistics &amp; Data Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 little ways to feel a sense of normalcy right now</td>
<td>Huffington Post</td>
<td>November 6, 2020</td>
<td>Janine Dutcher, research scientist, Psychology</td>
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<td>What can the pandemic teach us about human nature?</td>
<td>Discover</td>
<td>December 6, 2020</td>
<td>Gretchen Chapman, professor, Social and Decision Sciences</td>
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EDUCATION, Research Continue Despite the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected and required many changes to our lives. The faculty, staff and students of Dietrich College have risen to meet those challenges, rapidly transitioning to a hybrid education model and creatively developing opportunities to continue undergraduate research and internships.

TWO DIETRICH COLLEGE COURSES WERE SELECTED FOR CMU’S SIGNATURE COURSES INITIATIVE. Faculty members made enhancements to overall courses for fall 2020 and incorporated a technology-enhanced learning component that was used in fall and will be iteratively improved in future semesters. Associate Professor Ricky Law’s redesigned first-year course, “Global Histories,” has been part of the initiative and helps students across campus to learn about democracies spanning a period of more than 2,000 years. It teaches students to think and write critically as they learn about the fundamentals of democratic systems. Christina Bjorndahl, a special faculty member in the Department of Philosophy, adapted “Nature of Language,” a course that introduces students to the tools to study phonetics, patterns and components of words, syntax and even how languages change over time.
THE DIETRICH COLLEGE PIVOTED ITS PITTSBURGH SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (PSIP) TO REMOTE INTERNSHIPS FOR 56 STUDENTS with 36 regional nonprofits, small businesses and startups. Program Manager Kimberly Piatt coordinated weekly professional development sessions for the students over the summer. The college also offered undergraduate students a host of remote undergraduate research opportunities for students throughout the summer and fall.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY ALSO OFFERED MORE THAN 30 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT COURSES to help students obtain the skills they would typically develop during research experiences or internships. Two such courses, “Creating New Economic Data for Decision Making in a Post-COVID-19 World” that was co-taught by Chris Telmer, Rebecca Lessem, Ariel Zetlin-Jones and Laurence Ales, Economics faculty at the Tepper School of Business — and “Heads of Government and Coronavirus Response,” taught by Ignacio Arana, assistant teaching professor in the Institute for Politics and Strategy, were options for students who had difficulty pursuing opportunities during the summer months.
Stephan Caspar, assistant teaching professor of Media Creation and Multi-cultural Studies, brought a new approach to his class during the pandemic. While teaching “Multicultural Pittsburgh: Exploring Language and Culture Through Digital Storytelling,” the entire class met in virtual reality (VR) using headsets from CMU’s Askwith Kenner Global Languages and Cultures Room. The VR course immersed students in a virtual environment where they could gather without fear of passing along the virus.

“I appreciated the difference from teleconferencing,” said Nancy Zuo, a sophomore studying cognitive science with a minor in human-computer interaction, who took the course. “We could see people’s gestures and move around. I hope that more classes that are discussion-based could find a way to integrate VR.”

Caspar’s class drew students from every discipline across the university. While heavily based on the technology available in the room, transitioning online in spring 2020 was made possible with smartphone apps for augmented and virtual reality.

“There are lots of courses across CMU doing deep dives into the technology,” said Caspar. “What we’re interested in doing is using technology in a way that allows students to tell stories about who they are, and what is their cultural heritage.”
SOLIDARITY During the Coronavirus Crisis

During the early days of the pandemic, businesses shuttered nationwide trying to slow the spread of coronavirus. While the initial efforts were successful, many service workers found themselves without their main source of income — tips.

Danielle Wenner, an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and the associate director for the Center for Ethics and Policy, created the Pittsburgh Virtual Tip Jar to help local workers who suddenly found themselves unemployed.

The idea caught on nationwide. Shortly after Wenner put the project online, a team of individuals from Madison, Wisconsin, quickly replicated the tip jar and made it easy for other cities, like Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Cincinnati, Ohio, to copy and implement.

While the virus and its implications affect the community, Wenner believes that the Virtual Tip Jar showcases Pittsburgh’s strengths.

“It’s important to emphasize we’re all in this together,” said Wenner. “My health depends on all of us staying home in the same way people who work in these industries depend on us to help them.”
Members of Prestigious Professional Academies and Associations

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<td>American Association for the Advancement of Sciences</td>
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<td>National Academy of Sciences</td>
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<td>National Academy of Medicine</td>
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Facts and Figures

Career Success Class of 2020

Data as of Dec. 31, 2020

- 1,414 Undergraduate Students
- 296 Graduate Students
- 38 Science & Humanities Scholars with Dietrich College Majors
- 215 Full-time Faculty
- 42 Part-time Faculty
- 12 Full-time Other Instructional Staff
- 1 Part-time Other Instructional Staff
- 154 Full-time Non-Instructional Staff
- 26 Part-time Non-Instructional Staff

CAREER SUCCESS Class of 2020

- 300 Undergraduates
  - 62% Employed
  - 20% Continuing Education
  - 10% No Info
  - 6% Seeking Other
  - 2% Other
Recent Dietrich College graduates spoke during CMU’s 2020 virtual conferral of degrees. Shannon Gallagher (left), a three-time CMU alumna, earned her Ph.D. in statistics and data science. Ana Torubara (right) earned her bachelor’s degree in social and decision sciences with a minor in cognitive neuroscience.

Undergraduate degrees conferred 369

15 Science and Humanities Scholars with Dietrich College Majors

63 Master’s degrees conferred

32 Doctoral degrees conferred

Class of 2020 First-Destination Outcomes

Our undergraduates are eager to put their education to work. Among the 90% of the Dietrich College class of 2020 reporting, 93% found employment, entered graduate school or pursued other interests, like volunteering or military service.

More than 150 organizations employed our graduates, including:

- Apple
- Amazon
- The Baltimore Orioles
- Capital One
- Children’s Law Center
- Google
- LinkedIn
- Microsoft
- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- National Institutes of Health
- Palau Ministry of Education
- Pennsylvania Prison Society
- PNC
- Teach for America
- Wayfair
- Verve Talent and Literary Agency
As the United States celebrated the centennial of the 19th Amendment, Lisa Tetrault, associate professor in the Department of History and a leading scholar of women’s suffrage, has been at the forefront of projects nationwide to inform the public about the continued fight for voting access. This long, multi-generational movement, which was driven by diverse, complex women, remains unfinished and ongoing.

At the National Museum of American History, Tetrault was joined by Priya Agarwal (DC 2021), Chloe Thompson (DC 2016) and Jennifer Schneider (A 2014) for the opening of the “Creating Icons: How We Remember Woman Suffrage” exhibit. Tetrault has focused her work on dispelling several widespread misunderstandings about the women’s suffrage amendment. The 19th Amendment did not, Tetrault explains, grant women the right to vote — as is commonly claimed. Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. Constitution affirms no citizen’s voting right, and the 19th Amendment did nothing to change that. Tetrault repositions the 19th Amendment not as an end, but as the middle of an unfinished story. Other social movements subsequently picked up that fight, showing us again and again — particularly in this most recent election — how important they are to protecting voting access.

“Voting alone has never been sufficient, we absolutely must have social movements and voting together,” said Tetrault.
CMU JOINS EFFORTS to Track COVID-19

At the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Delphi Research Group extended its national and regional forecasts of influenza-like illness to include the spread of COVID-19.

This forecasting center of excellence is housed in the School of Computer Science and draws on expertise from the Department of Statistics & Data Science and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, as well as the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Through their efforts, the group unveiled the COVIDcast website, which consists of interactive maps displaying real-time information on such factors as symptoms, doctor visits, medical tests and browser searches related to COVID-19 across the United States. The group used this enhanced information to forecast disease activity throughout the pandemic.

The COVIDcast website includes data developed with the help of partners including Google, Facebook, Quidel Corp. and Change Healthcare. The data, which is updated daily, provides the general public and decision-makers with a new and unique means of monitoring the ebb and flow of the disease across the country.

“Tracking and forecasting the spread of a novel disease such as COVID-19 is a challenging task that requires new types and sources of data,” said Ryan Tibshirani, associate professor in the Statistics & Data Science and Machine Learning departments. “We are always evaluating our data streams and looking at ways of filling gaps in our knowledge.”
Why Can’t People Agree About CLIMATE CHANGE?

“Any large problem that requires consensus can be undermined by random differences between local perspectives,” said Broomell. “In the presence of random noise, you need global evidence to understand a global issue.”

New research examined how a local vantage point can muddle how people understand important global issues. Stephen Broomell, associate professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences, leveraged measurement theory to explore why people cannot agree about climate change.

From the study, Broomell found that it is difficult to perceive climate change from weather extremes. If people are being asked to use these extreme examples to appreciate the impact from climate change, then there will always be a large portion of the population that does not currently feel the immediacy of the repercussions from the warming. This approach can lead to skepticism concerning climate change and the repercussions, whether it be sea level rise, increased storm severity or drought.

By focusing more on the abstract target of judgement, Broomell hopes to identify ways to unlink these concepts from incompatible local perspectives. This model also offers a way to measure the difference in the perceived reliability and actual reliability of information available.
“The point of research is to reduce uncertainty — to sort out dead ends from fruitful treatment strategies, but if you don’t do rigorous science, you can wind up increasing uncertainty, which can actually make things worse,” said London.

ETHICS of the COVID-19 Vaccine

Alex John London, the Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy and director of the Center for Ethics and Policy, was at the forefront of conversations this year on the ethics of vaccine development.

London’s research focuses on ethical and policy issues surrounding the development and deployment of novel technologies in medicine. He was part of the National Academy of Medicine committee tasked with reviewing the science and the ethics of the clinical trials that were launched in response to the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

London emphasizes that emergencies are fraught with uncertainty and that sound medical research is a cornerstone of medical progress. As a result, it is a mistake to weaken requirements for sound science in a pandemic. Instead, we must realize that therapeutic intent without evidence of safety and efficacy can lead to practices that harm patients, squander resources and threaten social trust. Ethically designed research that can quickly and effectively eliminate uncertainty must be the leading element in pandemic response.
Reading is the gateway for learning. Most books for beginning readers include engaging and colorful illustrations to help define the characters, set the story and offer context for the text. Anna Fisher, associate professor of psychology, and Cassondra Eng, a doctoral candidate in CMU’s Department of Psychology, hypothesized that extraneous images may draw the reader’s eyes away from the text and disrupt the focus necessary to understand the story.

The researchers sought to support children as they become more fluent readers. The study had children from the Pittsburgh area read a commercially available book. Half of the book consisted of the published design and the other half was streamlined to remove extraneous images. Each child read from the same book. The team used a portable eye-tracker to monitor the number of times the child’s gaze shifted away from the text to images on the page.

The researchers found that nearly all children reading the streamlined version had lower gaze shifts away from text and higher reading comprehension scores compared to the text in the commercially designed version of the book.

“This is not a silver bullet, but if we can take steps to make practicing reading a little bit easier and reduce some of the barriers, we [can help children] engage with the printed material and derive enjoyment from this activity,” said Fisher.
The research is pretty clear. While both sexes interrupt, men talk and interrupt more often than women, and when a woman complains or stands up for herself, she’s more likely to be negatively viewed than her male peers,” said Wolfe.

Gender plays an important role in communication. Joanna Wolfe, a teaching professor of English, investigates how men and women speak, specifically how interruptions are perceived, even when a person is standing up for themselves. Everyone sees interruptions as impolite. While men are often unaware of their interrupting behavior, women face a “social penalty” when they are assertive. Research has shown that forceful women are perceived as less likeable than men exerting identical levels of forcefulness.

Wolfe identified an effective formula that women and men can use when being interrupted or ignored. She labels it “positive future focus.” It was developed through surveys and observation of hundreds of engineering students and professionals, then compared to traditional conflict-resolution tactics. Rather than heeding the typical strategies, which encourage a person to publicly acknowledge their negative feelings and why they feel that way, Wolfe said people — and especially women — are more effective when they’re positively assertive. This tactic minimized the social penalty women experience for asserting themselves in a conflict.
New Study Examines Recursive Thinking

Recursion — the computational capacity to embed elements within elements of the same kind — has been lauded as the intellectual cornerstone of language, tool use and mathematics. A multi-institutional team of researchers decided to trace the origins of our complex and rich intellectual activities to something in our evolutionary past to understand what makes our thinking similar to and distinct from other species. They found this ability is shared across age, cultural groups and species.

Jessica Cantlon, the Ronald J. and Mary Ann Zdrojkowski Professor of Developmental Neuroscience, and her team found that the human participants from all age and cultural groups spontaneously ordered content from a recursive approach by building nested structures. The non-human primate subjects in the study more commonly used a simpler listing strategy. With additional exposure, the primates also began using the recursive strategy, eventually ending up in the range of performance of human children.

The team found that working memory was an important factor affecting the sequencing abilities of participants. A strong correlation exists between working memory and the use of the hierarchical strategy.

“There is something universal of being a human that lets our brains think this way spontaneously, but primates have the ability to learn it to some degree,” said Cantlon. “[This research] really gives us a chance to sort out the evolutionary and developmental contributions to complex thought.”
Dean Dijour and Bennett Huffman, two students in Information Systems, assisted Po-Shen Loh, a professor of mathematical sciences, in developing NOVID, the first anonymous tracing app for COVID-19. The app uses ultrasound technology to detect distance between two people who both have the app on their phones. The app allows users to self-report if they have tested positive for the coronavirus without requiring or recording any personal information. NOVID uses the chains of contact to alert someone of an encounter with a self-reported positive case. All identities in the app remain anonymous.

Dijour and Huffman helped to develop the app’s user-centered interface. With this unique approach, Loh was able to bring a polished product to the forefront of the technological response to the pandemic by combining the force of the CMU community and his social enterprise Expii to support the app’s development. NOVID is currently in public beta testing, pending approval in the Google Play Store and the Apple App store. The team is now focused on developing long-term solutions for deployments at institutions and municipalities around the world.

“We’ve all benefited in some way from CMU’s strong support of research, innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration,” said Dijour. “The opportunity to use my skills to fight COVID-19 and return to normalcy is something I couldn’t pass up.”
The Pittsburgh Summer Internship Program provides financial support and resources to connect Dietrich College undergraduate students to their first internship experience at a nonprofit, startup or small business in the city.

In 2020, Dietrich College paired 56 students with 36 internship organizations across the city. Here are a few of our students’ stories.

Tanvi Siddharthan, a junior pursuing a degree from the Institute of Politics and Strategy, Jonathan Roman, a junior pursuing a degree from the Department of Statistics & Data Science, and Rebecca Kim, a student pursuing a degree in Ethics, History and Public Policy, spent the summer at the consulting firm Paramount Pursuits. The interns focused on helping clients manage their businesses’ media and online presences. Elizabeth Rodriguez, who is pursuing a double major in the Department of English, obtained an internship with the nonprofit Casa San Jose where she helped make information about the various youth emergency response, community advocacy and immigrant connections programs more accessible to this community across the city.
Numerous Dietrich College students successfully applied for Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) from CMU's Office of Undergraduate Research. Zhenzhen Liu, a senior majoring in statistics and machine learning, has always been interested in data-driven analysis of social issues. Through the SURF program, Liu pursued a project to understand the different causes of death in Pennsylvania's prisons. Dominique Powell, a senior in biological sciences and biopsychology, used a SURF award to broaden our understanding of what a person looks for in a mate. The project specifically focused on gender and sexual minorities. Anirudh Narayanan, a senior studying behavioral economics, policy and organizations, also earned a SURF award to explore how to develop more persuasive political arguments by crafting counter arguments using the opposition’s talking points.
EIGHT DIETRICHE COLLEGE SENIORS HAVE JOINED THE ANDREW CARNEGIE SOCIETY (ACS) SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2021. ACS Scholars are Carnegie Mellon University undergraduate students who combine high academic standards with extracurricular activities.

TOP ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):
- **Maria Pullen** (MAJORS: professional writing and international relations & politics)
- **Julia Scherb** (PRIMARY MAJOR: global studies, MINOR: anthropology, ethics)
- **Parvathi Meyyappan** (PRIMARY MAJOR: economics and statistics)
- **Matthew Kern** (PRIMARY MAJOR: information systems)

BOTTOM ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):
- **Eileen Chen** (PRIMARY MAJOR: information systems, MINORS: business administration and human-computer interaction)
- **Fiona Dubrosa** (PRIMARY MAJORS: decision science and psychology, MINOR: drama)
- **Anirban Chowdhury** (PRIMARY MAJOR: statistics & machine learning)
- **Heitho Shipp** (MAJORS: behavioral economics, policy and organizations & business administration).
DIETRICH SENIORS
Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa

TWENTY-FIVE SENIORS WERE INDUCTED INTO CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY’S CHAPTER OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY (PBK) IN THE SPRING AND AN ADDITIONAL 13 SENIORS WERE INDUCTED IN THE FALL. PBK is the nation’s oldest honor society and celebrates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. During a virtual ceremony, William Alba, PBK chapter president, assistant dean for diversity in the Mellon College of Science and director of CMU’s Science and Humanities Scholars Program, welcomed the seniors into a society “where friendships and interactions between its members are paramount.”

FRIEDMAN FELLOWS
Embrace Virtual ‘DC’ Experience

CYNTHIA FRIEDMAN CREATED THE FRIEDMAN FELLOWSHIP IN HONOR OF HER LATE HUSBAND, MILTON FRIEDMAN, WHO EARNED BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S DEGREES FROM CARNEGIE MELLON’S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING IN 1947 AND 1949. In 2020, four CMU students — including one from Dietrich College — received Friedman Fellowships, which support the participation of undergraduate and graduate students in policy-related internships in Washington, D.C. Jacob Feldgoise, a policy and management and science, technology and public policy major, interned for the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.
IN 2020, INFORMATION SYSTEMS WELCOMED THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF 32 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS INTO THE WOMEN IN IS PEER MENTORING PROGRAM. The program is designed to empower women to realize their full potential at the university and beyond by facilitating mentorship relationships. The 29 upper-class mentors helped the participants navigate through the department and the university system and develop successful strategies to complete their academic program. The program also provides networking opportunities with peer mentors, outside speakers and alumni. Mentees also attain leadership skills that contribute to lifelong personal and professional growth.
HACKING & WINNING: COVID-19 Policy Restrictions on Immigration

For 36 hours over the course of a summer weekend, four undergraduate economics students and one alumnus applied analytical research skills to an immediate and real-world economics challenge: the impact of COVID-19 on immigration policy. Rising sophomores Daniel Kornbluth, Zachary Leventhal and Sean Swayze teamed up with rising junior Lucas Jia and recent alumnus Martin Aquije (TPR 2019) to participate in the hackathon. The team’s winning proposal called for immediate changes to immigration policy that will ease travel restrictions and disruptions to immigration while still reducing the spread of COVID-19.
DIETRICH GRADUATES
Pursue Fulbright Opportunities

Victoria (V) Reiter (DC 2020), Jonathan Fritz (DC 2020), Vaidehi Srinivas (DC 2020), Stefan Romero (DC 2019) have received Fulbright student grants. Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides an unparalleled opportunity to teach, study and conduct research in more than 130 countries worldwide.

“We are sending some of our top students out into the world, which raises CMU’s profile internationally,” said Stephanie Wallach, assistant vice provost for undergraduate education.
Roshni Mehta, a 2020 graduate majoring in ethics, history and public policy, has received the Pittsburgh Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs. The nine-month leadership growth program helps fellows cooperate and communicate with local business, government and nonprofit organizations. "It’s super interesting because people are coming to the fellowship from all over the country with a variety of different backgrounds and different expertise," said Mehta. "I’m excited to see how all of these different cultural identities and political beliefs will play out over the year."

Recent Graduate Awarded YENCHING ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP

"I’ve been able to really build relationships with people," Nazir said. "And my professors in the history and philosophy departments, especially, made my classes so enjoyable through intellectual discussions."

Haider Nazir, who graduated in 2020 with majors in global and Chinese studies and a minor in religious studies, will embark on a two-year interdisciplinary master’s program in China studies at Yenching Academy. He plans to study law with a concentration in politics and international relations with the aim of becoming a public diplomacy officer for the U.S. State Department.
Sosis Receives Critical Language Scholarship

Roni Sosis, a rising junior majoring in global studies and creative writing with an Arabic studies minor, has won a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. Due to the pandemic, Sosis will reapply next year to study Arabic for eight to 10 weeks abroad.

“For me it’s more about why I wanted to learn Arabic,” said Sosis, who is Jewish and involved in student groups like Hillel JUC and Chabad. “It’s a show of respect to reach out to people in their own language. Especially in Israel where Hebrew is the de facto language.”

Gelfand Center Honors Student for Educational Outreach

Shannon Werntz, a sophomore majoring in decision sciences, was one of this year’s recipients of the Gelfand Center’s Educational Outreach Awards. Four students across the university were recognized for dedicating their time and expertise to make a difference in the lives of children in the community and around the world. Werntz mentored participants in the Girls of Steel robotics team.
Dietrich Undergrads Named Top Student Athletes

Six Dietrich College undergraduates were named top student athletes and honored at the CMU’s Student-Athlete Academic Achievement Celebration.

**SWIMMING AND DIVING**
Justin Britton, senior, information systems
Megan Christy, senior, statistics and business administration

**SOCCER**
Callan Capitolo, junior, economics and statistics

**TENNIS**
Joshua Pinckney, senior, international relations and politics and Hispanic studies

**TRACK AND FIELD**
Agnes Zhou, junior, psychology

NINE DIETRICH COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE ALSO NAMED ALL-AMERICAN ATHLETES IN 2020.

**SWIMMING AND DIVING**
Justin Britton, junior, information systems
Emma Nicklas-Morris, senior, psychology
Emilia Schwallie, first year, ethics, history, public policy and French and Francophone studies

**SOCCER**
Megan Christy, senior, statistics and business administration

**TENNIS**
Danna Taylor, sophomore, logic and computation

**TRACK AND FIELD**
Graham Eversden, sophomore, statistics & data science and machine learning
Kate Reilly, senior, professional writing

Vinaya Rao prepares to serve against an opponent during a spring break match in Florida.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SANTEK PHOTOGRAPHY.
Three Dietrich College faculty — Lisa Tetrault, Aaditya Ramdas and Teddy Seidenfeld — developed a Grand Challenge seminar for first-year students that brought a multidisciplinary examination of the process of voting in American democracy.

“We take American democracy for granted and forget that we need to be informed to keep it alive,” said Tetrault, an associate professor in the Department of History.

According to Ramdas, an assistant professor in the departments of Statistics & Data Science and Machine Learning, voting is like any other real-world problem. When experts on multiple topics are brought together in the classroom, it’s better for the students, who can get a better sense of how to seek out solutions.

“Politics is a kind of game, and the decentralized nature of our voting system can serve as a feature rather than as a bug for dealing with manipulation and fraud,” said Seidenfeld, the Herbert A. Simon University Professor of Philosophy and Statistics in the Department of Philosophy. “Bringing students to the cutting edge of the topic is what makes this kind of education exciting for me.”
‘HACK YOUR Life’
Helps Students with Health, Academics

Dietrich College offered the course “Hack Your Life: The Science and Practices of Student Health and Well-Being” to help students find new ways to see the world and live a happy, healthy and fulfilling life. Students applied course content to their own lives through a “101 Day Self-Hack Project,” which helps students find ways to practice foundational skills throughout their day, like getting enough sleep, exercising, studying, meditating, etc. Over different weeks, students completed assigned practices like journaling or meditating. The hack allows students to encounter a variety of self-reflection evidence-based methods to improve well-being. The content of the course focuses on understanding the typical modern student experience through the analysis of the Life@CMU Project, as well as contemporary research and articles from psychology and the social sciences. The course is led by three professors from the Department of Psychology: David Creswell, associate professor; Erik Thiessen, director of undergraduate studies and associate professor; and Kody Manke, assistant teaching professor.
Alexis Adams and Patience Stevens were the 2020 recipients of the Dietrich College Humanities and Social Sciences’ graduate awards for teaching. Adams earned her doctorate in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) from the Department of Modern Languages in 2020. She received the Dietrich College Graduate Student Teaching Award and the university-wide Graduate Student Teaching Award for her work with the Modern Languages and English departments.

“Teaching language is not just about learning rules and structure but understanding what you want to say and how you want to say it,” said Adams. “It’s about expression and communication.”

Patience Stevens, a graduate student in the Department of Psychology, received the Dietrich College Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award for teaching workshops with the CMU Psychology Graduate Outreach program as well as assisting with a research methods course in developmental psychology.

“Watching students going through the scientific processes and interacting with fellow students, learning and reworking tests in order to better suit their experiments — that was real science,” said Stevens.
Graduate Students Gain Real-world Experience

Students completing their Master of Statistical Practice (MSP) in the Department of Statistics & Data Science build real-world experience through capstone projects with industry and nonprofit organizations. Sabrina Zhu, Andrew Follmann and Justin Kim worked on a project with SESCO Enterprises, LLC, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-registered power marketer. Through the project, they examined ways to improve energy market predictions.

“It’s not like an assignment in class,” said Zhu. “It was exciting because SESCO gave us [a real-world problem] and the opportunity to explore the unknown with data science.”

Prior to the 1990s, electricity demand was monitored on a daily basis, and the power supply was modified to meet regional demands. In 1992, the Energy Policy Act opened the electricity market by broadening choices for utilities and creating new rate-making standards.

According to Jamie McGovern, special faculty and director of the Master of Statistical Practice Program, students can truly understand what it means to work in data science on actual industry problems, with real data, with a real industry client, while industry partners can tap into the fresh perspectives provided by these highly capable and expertly trained modern data scientists.
Slate Named Head of History Department

Professor Nico Slate was named head of the Department of History on July 1. In this position, Slate hopes to strengthen the many interdisciplinary ties between the Department of History and other units throughout the university. He also hopes to contribute to the diversity and inclusion initiatives underway within the Dietrich College and to support the creativity and initiative of history faculty, graduate students and undergraduates.

In his research and teaching, Slate — who joined the CMU faculty in 2009 — focuses on the history of social movements in the United States and India. He is the author of four books and is the founder and director of the Bajaj Rural Development Lab and SocialChange101.org.

“I’m honored to have been chosen to help lead the Department of History and look forward to building on the outstanding work of my predecessor, Donna Harsch, and to supporting my colleagues and our students as we all navigate this strangely historic and profoundly difficult time,” said Slate.

Dickert Named Assistant Dean for Educational Experience Assessment

Joanna Dickert began her role as assistant dean for educational experience assessment on July 1. In this newly expanded role, she is responsible for the leadership and oversight of program assessment efforts for the general education curriculum in Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences in addition to continuing these responsibilities for the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Vice Provost for Education’s Core Competencies Initiative.
Lambright Named Head of Modern Languages

Anne Lambright joined Carnegie Mellon University to head the Department of Modern Languages on July 1. She was previously the dean of academic affairs and professor of language and culture studies at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Lambright succeeds Susan Polansky, who served as department head since 2007.

At Trinity College, Lambright led holistic efforts to strengthen academic advising and enhance the college’s global educational opportunities. She has written several highly acclaimed books and has received grants from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. Lambright has taught numerous courses and published various articles on gender, ethnicity, human rights and national identity in Andean literature and culture.

“CMU offers unparalleled opportunities for innovative, interdisciplinary research and teaching, especially through connecting modern languages and other humanities disciplines with the cutting-edge work in technology, science, social sciences and the arts across campus,” said Lambright.

“Joanna is a collaborative and energetic leader who has a passion for assessment and evaluation, program design and development and strategic planning,” said Holly Hippensteel, associate vice president for community standards and diversity initiatives. “She embraces innovation and has an outstanding record of progressive, student-centered leadership.”
The Tetrad Automated Causal Discovery Platform was awarded the Super Artificial Intelligence Leader (SAIL) award at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference held in Shanghai in July. The award recognizes fundamental advances in the basic theory, methods, models and platforms of artificial intelligence (AI). Tetrad was developed by Peter Spirtes, Clark Glymour, Richard Scheines and Joe Ramsey of the Department of Philosophy. The project was one of four chosen for a SAIL award from over 800 nominees, including nominations from Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and Google.
The Tetrad project was started about 40 years ago by Glymour, then a professor of history and philosophy of science (HPS) at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) and now Alumni University Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at CMU, and his doctoral students, Richard Scheines, now Bess Family Dean of the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences and a professor of philosophy at CMU, and Kevin Kelly, now professor of philosophy at CMU.

Fundamental to the work was providing a set of general principles, or axioms, for deriving testable predictions from any causal structure. For example, consider the coronavirus. Exposure to the virus causes infection, which in turn causes symptoms (Exposure → Infection → Symptoms). Since not all exposures result in infections, and not all infections result in symptoms, these relations are probabilistic. But if we assume that exposure can only cause symptoms through infection, the testable prediction from the axiom is that Exposure and Symptoms are independent given Infection. That is, although knowing whether someone was exposed is informative about whether they will develop symptoms, once we already know whether someone is infected or not — knowing whether they were exposed adds no extra information — a claim that can be tested statistically with data.

Over the last 15–20 years, the free, open-source software platform has been successfully applied to scientific problems from economics to psychology to educational research to neuroscience by the original team and by researchers around the world. In 2013, the Tetrad team joined Greg Cooper and others at the University of Pittsburgh and received a NIH Big Data to Knowledge Center Grant to form the Center for Causal Discovery, which led to software improvements and a variety of new algorithms for special problems.

“We couldn’t have done this [type of work] at almost any place but CMU,” said Scheines, Bess Family Dean, Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “Most institutions would not have allowed philosophers to be so heavily interdisciplinary, and none would have hired three philosophers who collaborated closely on the same project for most of their careers.”
TROTTER & ROEDER
Named University Professors

Kathryn Roeder, the UPMC Professor of Statistics and Life Sciences, and Joe William Trotter, Jr., the Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice, have been named University Professors.

Roeder, who holds appointments in the Statistics & Data Science and Computational Biology departments, focuses her research on high-dimensional inference problems to analyze, for example, variation in the whole human genome and how it relates to disease. Her work has contributed to a better understanding of schizophrenia, autism and other genetic disorders.

Trotter, a past History Department chair, is a pioneer in the development of U.S. urban, labor and working-class history. His scholarship includes a wide range of books, essays and articles in professional journals and edited collections. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE).

“University Professors are distinguished by international recognition and for their contributions to education, artistic creativity and/or research,” said Provost Jim Garrett. “Each University Professor exemplifies a high level of professional achievement and an exceptional commitment to academic excellence at our university.”
GIFT ENDOWS
Professorship in Jewish Studies

A $5 million gift from the Jack Buncher Foundation and the Jack G. Buncher Charitable Fund will grow Jewish learning and student life at CMU while also deepening ties between the university and the noted global organization. **Michal Rose Friedman** of the Department of History has been named the inaugural recipient of the Jack Buncher Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies. The new professorship is closely connected with Centropa, an archive of photos and oral histories that document Jewish life in Europe throughout the 20th century, as well as with the public history organization Centropa.org.

BEHRMANN
Honored for Contributions to Science

**Marlene Behrmann**, the Thomas S. Baker University Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, has received the Cognitive Neuroscience Society’s Fred Kavli Distinguished Career Contributions Award as well as the Vision Sciences Society’s 2020 Davida Teller Award. Behrmann’s trailblazing research combines behavioral investigations and brain imaging techniques with both normal and impaired individuals to understand the mechanisms by which the brain interprets the signals from the eyes and yields meaningful visual perception.
Ramdas Honored for Efforts Improving Research Reproducibility

Aaditya Ramdas, assistant professor in the Statistics & Data Science and Machine Learning departments, has received the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development Award for his project to improve reproducibility in large-scale scientific studies to combat the increasing public distrust in science.

“Arguably, one of the major hurdles to reproducing scientific studies is the cherry picking of results among the vast array of tests run or quantities estimated,” said Ramdas. “We need ‘online’ methods to correct for cherry picking, first acknowledging that the problem exists and then designing algorithms that can account and correct for it.”

Gershkovich Awarded Gene Barabtarlo Prize

Tatyana Gershkovich, assistant professor of Russian studies, was awarded the 2020 Gene Barabtarlo Prize for best essay on Nabokov by the International Vladimir Nabokov Society. In this work, Gershkovich explores Tolstoy’s famous late tale “The Kreutzer Sonata” alongside an unpublished and relatively unknown dramatic monologue that Nabokov wrote on the basis of the story, entitled “Pozdnyshev’s Address.” The essay engages with an ongoing debate in literary and cultural studies about how we ought to read after the heyday of critique.
Roeder Honored for Contribution to Statistics

Kathryn Roeder, UPMC University Professor of Statistics and Life, was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies Distinguished Achievement Award and Lectureship. Roeder was selected for her “outstanding contributions to statistical science in the areas of mixture models, semiparametric inference and multiple testing and to the development of statistical methods aimed at finding the genetic basis of human disease, including the development of powerful methods for discovering genes underlying psychiatric disorders such as autism.” In 2020, Roeder was also named as one of the world’s most highly cited in the sciences, according to a list published by Clarivate Analytics. The Highly Cited Researchers list represents scientists and social scientists who have demonstrated significant influence through publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade.

Shinn-Cunningham Receives Bernice Grafstein Award

Barbara Shinn-Cunningham, director of the Neuroscience Institute and the George A. and Helen Dunham Cowan Professor of Auditory Neuroscience, was a 2020 co-recipient of the Bernice Grafstein Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Mentoring from the Society for Neuroscience. Shinn-Cunningham’s research combines behavioral, neuroimaging and computational methods to understand how the brain processes sound.
Raja Sooriamurthi, teaching professor in Information Systems Program, has won the 2019–2020 Elliott Dunlap Smith Award for Distinguished Teaching and Educational Service. Sooriamurthi’s teaching and research areas include artificial intelligence and cognitive science with an emphasis on case-based reasoning and data science, as well as higher-order programming languages, software development, computer science and information systems pedagogy. Along with colleagues, Sooriamurthi has explored a novel approach to teaching creative problem-solving termed “puzzle-based learning,” which is in their book “Guide to Teaching Puzzle-based Learning.” The award is presented annually to a full-time faculty member in the Dietrich College to recognize excellence and distinction in candidates as both teachers and educators.

Ana Maria Ulloa-Shields, associate dean for student success, and Felipe Gómez, teaching professor of Hispanic studies in the Department of Modern Languages, were recognized as part of the university’s Celebration of Education Awards. Ulloa-Shields received the Academic Advising Award and Gómez received the Teaching Innovation Award. The awards were developed to recognize the accomplishments of faculty and staff who exemplify the university’s standards of excellence in education.
The 2019-2020 Sawyer Seminar on “Bread and Water: Access, Belonging and Environmental Justice in the City” explored policies and practices that promote access to urban food and water systems based on equity, inclusion and resiliency. The series was the brainchild of Abigail Owen, assistant teaching professor of history, and John Soluri, associate professor of history. Before the pandemic limited social gatherings, the series brought in Waverly Duck, who presented “A Community Study of a Food Oasis in the East End of Pittsburgh,” and Heather O’Leary, who presented “Roti Paani Kha Lena: Politics of ‘Taking’ Bread and Water in Urban India.” The Mellon Sawyer postdoctoral fellow, Simi Kang, also presented her work at one of the seminar sessions. The grant allowed the team to fund two graduate fellowships.
DIETRICH COLLEGE WELCOMES
New Faculty, Postdoctoral Fellows

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Dietrich College welcomed 17 new faculty and postdoctoral fellows.

DEAN’S OFFICE
Elisabeth Healey, instructor in law

ENGLISH
Jungwan Yoon, lecturer for foundational writing

HISTORY
Michal Friedman, assistant teaching professor
Andrew Meade McGee, visiting assistant professor
Aishah Scott, postdoctoral fellow with the Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Gabriela Gongora-Svartzman, assistant teaching professor
Xiaoying Tu, postdoctoral fellow (joint appointment with Dietrich and Heinz colleges)
Oscar Veliz, postdoctoral fellow (joint appointment with Dietrich and Heinz colleges)

INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND STRATEGY
Jonathan Cervas, postdoctoral fellow in political science
Alma Keshavarz, postdoctoral fellow in international relations
Madison Schramm, postdoctoral fellow in international relations

MODERN LANGUAGES
Anne Lambright, department head and professor of Hispanic studies

NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE
Darcy Griffin, research faculty/special faculty
Douglas Weber, professor, Neuroscience Institute and Mechanical Engineering Department

PHILOSOPHY
Francesca Zaffora Blando, assistant professor of logic and computation
Krzysztof (Chris) Mierzewski, postdoctoral fellow in logic

PSYCHOLOGY
Vladislav Ayzenberg, postdoctoral fellow in cognitive neuroscience
Margaret Bryer, postdoctoral fellow in cognitive neuroscience

STATISTICS & DATA SCIENCE
Arun Kumar Kuchibhotla, assistant professor
Dietrich College Staff Nominated for 2020 ANDY AWARDS

Five Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences staff members and two staff teams were nominated for 2020 Andy Awards.

The Dietrich College nominees for Commitment to Excellence were Mary Grace Joseph, Department of Philosophy; Cynthia Lamb, Carnegie Mellon University Press; and Nancy Monda, Department of Modern Languages.

The Dietrich College nominee for Innovative and Creative Contributions was Nick Ryan, Department of English.

The Dietrich College nominees for Teamwork and Collaboration were the Dietrich Computing Services Team (Mark Luczak, Nicole Mitchell, Timothy Ruff, Vincent Sha, George Cann and Jeremy Mayfield) and the Psychology Core Staff Team (Kathy Majors, Nicholas Pegg, Erin Donahoe, Becky Finkel, Ginger Placone, Rochelle Croom, Emilie O’Leary, Tisha Frisoli, Emily Christian-Michaels and Terri Jones-Davis).

Joe Battelline, Dietrich College career consultant with the Career and Professional Development Center, was nominated for Spirit.
Dear alumni, parents, friends and fellow Dietrich College community members,

As the Dietrich College braced for the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, our community came together to ensure that the high quality of education and opportunities for our students continued in the face of unprecedented challenges. It was through your incredible generosity that we were able to help Dietrich students overcome financial and educational barriers, allowing them to participate fully during this difficult academic year.

Here are a few of the many ways that you have helped the college and our students to overcome these challenges and push forward during this period of great uncertainty:

• **The Pittsburgh Summer Internship Program** saw a 250% increase in donors, allowing Dietrich College to provide more than 50 internships for our students with local organizations, many of which were significantly impacted by the pandemic and could not afford to hire interns;

• Your support of the **Dietrich Dean’s Innovation Fund** gave us the opportunity to enhance crucial support for initiatives, including Dietrich’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office and student activities;

• **The Dietrich College Parents Fund** provided our students with necessary support for emergency expenses and unexpected educational costs because of COVID-19.

• More than 500 members of the Dietrich community donated to the **Tartan Emergency Support Fund** to bolster our students, which is the true testament of the heart of our community.

Thank you for your generous commitments this past year! I look forward to seeing you on campus, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

Liz Cooper

*Associate Dean for Advancement*
Noelle (DC 1982) and David Conover (E 1979, 1980) made a $150,000 gift in honor of their son Matt, who passed away at age 12 after a battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. His legacy lives on in Pittsburgh area schools, libraries, hospitals and preschool centers through Matt’s Maker Space.

Josefina (TPR 1969, 1971) and Stuart Card (TPR 1970, DC 1978) started their five-decades-long romance sitting back-to-back in study carrels. Now, they’re showing their shared love of CMU by paying it forward with support for future generations of Tartans.
Alumni Spotlights

**Liberty and Justice for All**

Building on her studies of history and law, **Nicole Austin-Hillery** (DC 1989), the U.S. program executive director for Human Rights Watch, has played a role in the U.S. domestic agenda as well as addressing some of the world’s biggest crises. She strives to change the way that Americans understand the nexus between the values and rights they cherish and trans-global human rights concerns.

**Writing from Experience**

**Javier Grillo-Marxuach** (DC 1991) never saw a person like himself on screen. After completing his degree in the Department of English, he embarked on a career in Hollywood that spans screenwriting, producing and showrunning. In addition to countless awards and honors for his work, including two Emmy Awards, he is also a mentor and an advocate. “I think your real footprint in the world is not necessarily your own work of art,” said Grillo-Marxuach. “It’s not your accomplishment, it’s your coaching tree.”

**Dietrich College Welcomes Newest Board of Advisors Member**

**Eileen Heisman** (DC 1976) is the president and CEO of the National Philanthropic Trust. A nationally recognized expert on charitable and planned giving, Heisman teaches a graduate course in philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Policy and Practice and is a member of the faculty at LEADERSHIP Philadelphia. She was awarded the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award by Carnegie Mellon University. The Board of Advisors is a group of alumni and parents who advise Dietrich College, through the dean, on issues that have the most significant impact to the accomplishment of the college’s mission and strategy.

**Kennedy Receives Outstanding Recent Alumna Award**

**Emily Kennedy** (DC 2012) was one of 11 recipients of the Carnegie Mellon University’s 2020 Alumni Awards. Kennedy received the Outstanding Recent Alumna Award for her work to fight against human trafficking using artificial intelligence technology through her company Marinus Analytics.
Bending History’s Arc

Cassie Miller (DC 2011, 2016) leverages her background in history as a senior research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center. According to Miller, it was painfully clear that all of the things she was studying, all those battles that had happened in the past, were ongoing. “I couldn’t be a student of history without feeling like the right place to be was alongside the people who were oppressed,” she said.

Turning His Lens on the Moment

Tommy Oliver (DC 2006) is a Los Angeles-based producer, director and writer, joining the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2020. Oliver recently made headlines as a photographer when documenting the protests following the death of George Floyd Jr. in Minneapolis. “I filmed the power of the protests,” he said, and saw that “when we work together, there’s no stopping us.”

Innovation with Heart

Jamie Quinterno (DC 2012) never imagined he would help revolutionize pediatric heart surgery, but he and his CMU friends did just that. They founded the biomedical company PECA Labs, which develops devices to help children with congenital heart defects. “PECA Labs started with the kernel of a concept,” said Quinterno. “As we grew, we realized that our underlying technologies have the applicability to go beyond pediatrics, beyond congenital defects and across the body, regardless of age.”

Her Pen is Mighty

Novelist Jewell Parker Rhodes (DC 1975, 1976, 1979) writes books that fuse historical events with current, socio-political struggles. This three-time alumna of the English Department stated, “I write stories that I wish I had as a child. Writing a book that a child adores is such a high honor.”
"I’m giving back literally to an institution that gave me so much," said Freed. “I believe in people, and people make institutions. Carnegie Mellon, and the people who make it great, supported me from the day I arrived until the day I left.”

Professor Emerita Barbara Freed could not have imagined how her decision to accept a position with Carnegie Mellon University in 1989 would impact so many lives for years to come. Beyond educating her students, she was also the head of the new Department of Modern Languages. Her impact continues today with a plan to give.

As part of her lifetime giving plan, Barbara will establish the Barbara F. Freed Faculty Research Fellowship now to provide seed funding for a faculty member’s research projects in Second Language Acquisition (SLA). With a planned gift in her will, she will also establish the Barbara F. Freed Endowed Chair, which will support a professorship in SLA.

Learn how easy it is to achieve your philanthropic vision through a gift in your will by visiting giftplanning.cmu.edu

Or contact

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