



# FOR N

SUMMER  
2020

COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES



IN THIS ISSUE: CURRENT STUDENTS • RESEARCH • CAREER • TEACHING • COMMUNITY



Greetings!

We are proud to present you with the inaugural issue of *Horizon*, the new zine from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). Our plan for this publication is to keep you, our alumni and friends, connected with the college's current teaching, research, and community engagement activities.

I do not have to tell you that this year has brought challenges and changes that none of us anticipated. From very early in the spring semester, our colleagues at Mason Korea found themselves working to keep our community there safe from the effects of a new, rapidly spreading virus. As February turned into March, COVID-19 began to make its mark on life within the United States, including on university campuses like Mason's.

With little more than a week's notice, Mason's faculty and staff pivoted to 100 percent virtual instruction and telework, while also making all necessary accommodations to ramp down on-campus research in laboratories. We are incredibly proud of how our colleagues sustained the work of the college through all these challenging transitions, even as they found the strength to support their children and family members through school closings, job losses, and stay-at-home restrictions.

This summer, we shared the horror and grief of the nation in the wake of the violent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Recognizing education as a powerful tool in the fight for equity and justice, the college has compiled a list of resources and CHSS courses to help our community explore issues of racial injustice, systemic oppression, and works of radical change ([chss.gmu.edu/racial-justice-resources](http://chss.gmu.edu/racial-justice-resources)). We pledge our continued support for the larger community, particularly Black and brown members of the CHSS community, as well as our international students, all of whom face heightened concerns in this unprecedented time of complexly interrelated pandemics.

The name of the zine, *Horizon*, reflects how the new core campus building is beginning to dominate the horizon on the Fairfax Campus. The new building will house many of the college's departments and interdisciplinary programs, as well as the university makerspace—the MIX—and 27 state-of-the-art technology-enhanced classrooms. We look forward to moving into our new space in 2021 and hope that you will stop by for a visit whenever you are back on campus.

If you have news that you would like to share with our CHSS community about where your Patriot path has taken you, please don't hesitate to share it with us. We would love to include your accomplishments in our Patriot Pride storytelling, and we welcome as well your efforts to help the next generation of CHSS graduates.

With all good wishes,

Ann Ardis

Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## ON THE COVER

Mason's Board of Visitors voted unanimously at their May 20, 2020, meeting to rename the Core Campus Project "Horizon Hall," stating that the name reflected "intellectual exploration and transformational learning." Construction has continued while campus has been closed.

Photo by Evan Cantwell

## HORIZON, SUMMER 2020



The College of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

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PHOTO BY JI KANG

Mason Korea in Songdo, Korea

## KOREAN CONCENTRATION IS A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR STUDENT'S FUTURE

**Fatimah Sultan** loves languages. She is fluent in English and Tigrinya, with experience in Arabic and French. In high school, she undertook learning Korean on her own.

"I've always had an interest in East Asian languages," she explains. "I just thought they were beautiful, how they sound. But I also found that the way they're so grammatically different and how the linguistics of those languages vary vastly from the ones I already know—that intrigue made me want to learn them."

The Mason sophomore hopes to build a career around languages and cultures. From the moment she stepped on Mason's Fairfax Campus, she began working toward a major in foreign languages with a concentration in Korean and a minor in conflict analysis and resolution, laying the groundwork for her future career.

She also plans to work a concentration in Arabic into her degree. "I already have a background in Arabic; it's one of the languages that I've grown up hearing and speaking," Sultan says. "I wanted to

continue to pursue that because I know that both Arabic and Korean are critical languages for the U.S. government."

Sultan spent her second semester as a Mason student at the university's campus in Songdo, Korea, through Mason's Global Gateway Program, and she now has her sights on other opportunities to work internationally after graduation. She has considered positions as a translator or interpreter with the South Korean government, as well as the possibility of teaching through the Teach and Learn in Korea or English Program in Korea programs.

Sultan stresses the broad potential that exists with a Korean language concentration, particularly with the availability of Mason Korea. "You can go through a path toward education or business or really anything within this program," she says. "But especially at Mason with their campus in Korea, you really get that global feel and a global education."



## NAVIGATING A 'DISTANCED' DEFENSE

The traditional dissertation or thesis defense takes place in person, in front of one's committee, select colleagues and faculty members, and close family and friends. Social distancing changed that landscape in early 2020, forcing all dissertation and thesis defenses for the spring semester to go virtual.

**Carrie Klein** was one of the first in CHSS to successfully defend her dissertation virtually, receiving a PhD in education with a specialization in higher education. After defending, she used her firsthand experience to help CHSS create a resource for all future candidates on how to have a successful virtual defense.

"It required a bit of organization beyond a typical defense," she says of the process. Virtual meeting spaces need to be organized, technology needs to be tested and learned, and slides need to be edited and adjusted to suit a small laptop instead of a large projector screen. Defendants need to practice both their presentation and using the technology—such as sharing a screen, managing the chat, and how to spot a raised hand.

And committees need a Plan B and Plan C, just in case the internet connection or the technology fails.

This change is also an emotional one. "It was a bummer!" Klein notes. "I had anticipated defending in person, had invited a number of family, friends, and colleagues, and had wanted to do something celebratory after such a long time [in school]."

But, Klein says, the defense became celebratory in a different way. Going virtual meant more people could attend, and she shares that there was a sense of camaraderie throughout.

"Everyone logged on in the beginning, and they were sending me 'Good luck' [messages] and 'Congratulations' before it all began," she says. "I was able to chat with people while the committee was deliberating in a separate Webex room, instead of going through it by myself. And then, when **Jaime Lester** [CHSS associate dean of faculty affairs and strategic initiatives and a professor in the Higher Education Program] came back in and announced, 'For the first time, Dr. Carrie Klein!' everybody was cheering and typing lots of notes."

While her plans for celebration are postponed due to stay-at-home orders and social distancing, Klein says she's planning a big backyard barbeque and is hopeful for an in-person graduation in the future.

"Even though it was different from what I had planned, it ended up being a lovely day," she says. "I'm excited to see where this hard work will take me."



Carrie Klein, PhD Higher Education '20, is relieved to hear she successfully defended her dissertation. She was one of the first CHSS doctoral candidates to defend in a virtual setting.

### Marketing in Miami

Benjamin Sale, BS Health, Fitness, and Recreation Resources (CEHD) '20, credits Suzanne Mims's PR and Social Media course for feeding the PR interest that landed him at Super Bowl LIV on February 2, 2020, as a media intern.





# CHSS Speaks to COVID-19 and Its Worldwide Spread



## PUBLIC SHAMING

“When people feel shamed, they tend to get very defensive, they tend to blame other people, they’re disinclined to take responsibility, and they’re not any more likely to change their behavior.”

— **June Tangney**, University Professor, Department of Psychology, in a *Guardian* article about the phenomenon of publicly shaming individuals who do not appear to be observing pandemic-driven social distancing requirements

## ALLOCATING CARE

“Hospitals have to figure out how to distribute available rooms or beds, staff, and equipment to ensure all patients get care. The way they allocate resources in a global pandemic must necessarily change.”

— *The Verge*, quoting faculty member **Lisa Eckenwiler**, Department of Philosophy, in an article about how hospitals are addressing emergency care during the pandemic



## FUTURE PROSPECTS

“The largest cities in the country, and New York City in particular, will remain vital, but their futures will be clouded by serious health and economic issues.”

— **Tyler Cowen**, professor, Department of Economics, in one of several columns he wrote for *Bloomberg Opinion* regarding the effects of COVID-19



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

## SELF-ISOLATION

“In regards to managing yourself in isolation, what I found to be helpful is to spend a couple of days creating a schedule that includes all the things you’d like to accomplish.”

— **Mounir Alafrangy**, BA History '10, an analog astronaut with NASA’s Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA) Mission XX, in a conversation with the *News at Mason* about advice for people self-isolating or working remotely

# HORIZON

## Mason's New Academic Building Has a Name: HALL



The area around Horizon Hall will include green space as well as a redesigned Wilkins Plaza, which will be the home of the George Mason statue and the Enslaved People of George Mason memorial.

When **Debra Lattanzi Shutika** talks to current and prospective students, she emphasizes how a humanities degree will broaden their horizons.

That is why the chair of Mason's English Department believes Horizon Hall is the perfect name for the new academic building that will open on the Fairfax Campus in 2021.

"Horizon Hall absolutely gets at the expansive possibilities of a humanities degree," she says.

The new building will replace Robinson Hall A and B and is part of the Core Campus Project. The six-story, 218,000-square-foot structure will include classrooms, conference rooms, community spaces, and the Mason Innovation Exchange (MIX), as well as many of the College of Humanities and Social Science's departments and interdisciplinary programs.

Classrooms will accommodate anywhere from 27 to 118 students and will be outfitted with an instructor computer and display capabilities, fostering discussion and active learning. Large windows will maximize natural light in internal spaces, like the six-story atrium, as well as internal offices.

"It's such a fantastic building," CHSS dean **Ann Ardis** says. "It's right at the center of the Fairfax Campus, and with these fabulous state-of-the-art, high-tech classrooms, it will be possible to do active learning for a larger number of students."

"The forward-looking vision of the university is so much about facilitating multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary work," Ardis says.

"Populating the building with disciplines in the humanities and social sciences that haven't always lived in easy proximity to one another on the Fairfax Campus can enable cross-disciplinary interactions and collaborations. And the atrium as well as the garden area adjacent to Wilkins Plaza will be stunning new spaces for special events and receptions."





But back to that name: Horizon Hall.

It fits so well, Ardis says, because so many humanities and social science majors are “discovery” majors.

For example, she says, high school curricula don’t typically include exposure to disciplines like anthropology, art history, linguistics, or sociology. Many high schools also don’t offer opportunities to study critical languages like Korean, Arabic, or Chinese.

“Students often discover their interests and aptitudes in CHSS majors and minors because they are introduced to these disciplines for the first time through Mason Core requirements,” Ardis says. “A lot of our majors grow over time. A college education opens a student’s horizons by introducing them to a far broader complement of disciplinary practices, methodologies, and career opportunities.”

“That’s the beauty of getting a degree in English,” agrees Lattanzi Shutika. “It broadens your horizons.”



**Horizon Hall, at the center of Mason’s Fairfax Campus, will offer an amphitheater and a redesigned Wilkins Plaza.**

“A college education opens a student’s horizons by introducing them to a far broader complement of disciplinary practices, methodologies, and career opportunities.

— Ann Ardis, Dean



David Weisburd

## BESTSELLING AUTHOR MALCOLM GLADWELL HIGHLIGHTS MASON CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH

The work of **David Weisburd**, distinguished professor and executive director of the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, is well known across the world. He is the author or editor of more than 30 books and more than 200 scientific articles that cover a wide range of criminal justice research topics. He has received many prestigious awards related to his contributions to criminology and crime policy, including the Stockholm Prize in Criminology in 2010 and the Israel Prize, generally regarded as the State of Israel's highest civilian honor, in 2015.

In a keynote speech at the University of Miami's Real Estate Impact Conference last year, journalist, author, and speaker Malcolm Gladwell referred to Weisburd as "probably one of the most important criminologists of the 20th century." Moreover, Gladwell included a discussion of Weisburd's contributions in his bestselling 2019 book *Talking to Strangers*.

In *Strangers*, Gladwell describes Weisburd's discovery that within urban areas, 50 percent of crime takes place on about 5 percent of a city's street segments. He also found that these "hot spots" remain remarkably stable over time, and that in city after city, the same phenomenon occurs. These observations led Weisburd and his colleague Lawrence Sherman to develop hot spots policing—an approach used to reduce crime across the United States and around the world.

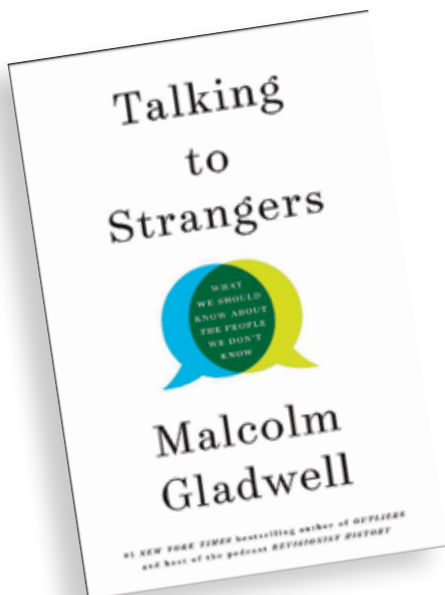
One of Weisburd's most important contributions is finding that hot spots policing that is focused on very small geographic areas does not simply displace crime, it also often leads to a "diffusion of benefits," a term coined by Weisburd and Ronald Clark. Weisburd's theory, which considers criminal activity in terms of *places* coupled with *people*, is a revolutionary—and productive—breakthrough in the study of crime.

In *Talking to Strangers*, Gladwell notes that Weisburd's observations "capture something close to a fundamental truth about human behavior." Gladwell uses Weisburd's theory of "the law of crime concentration" to support his book's thesis that strangers must be understood in the context of their surroundings. "When you confront the stranger, you have to ask yourself where and when you're confronting the stranger," he writes.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences had planned "An Evening with Malcolm Gladwell" for March 2020, when Gladwell and Weisburd were to meet to discuss the theories of place-based crime. When the crisis surrounding COVID-19 has passed, the event may be rescheduled.

“Weisburd's experiences in the 72nd Precinct ... are not idiosyncratic. They capture something close to a fundamental truth about human behavior.

—Malcolm Gladwell, *Talking to Strangers*







PHOTOS BY EVAN CANTWELL

Above: Maya Prestipino meets ginseng growers at the Paris Apothecary in Fauquier County, Virginia.

Below: Wild ginseng at the Paris Apothecary

## INTEGRATIVE STUDIES STUDENT WORKS TO PRESERVE AMERICAN GINSENG WITH HELP OF SMITHSONIAN

American ginseng has been nicknamed “green gold” for good reason. The root that grows wild across the Appalachian Mountains can fetch more than \$500 per pound and has been used medicinally for generations to support everything from brain function to the immune system.

Through the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC), junior **Maya Prestipino** has been researching conservation practices surrounding the harvesting and selling of the protected plant species. Due to loss of habitat and a limited harvesting season, ginseng is listed as threatened under Virginia’s Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act.

“I care about the way people care about things,” says Prestipino, who hails from Star Tannery, Virginia, in southwestern Frederick County, part of the ginseng region. “Within the world of conservation, a big problem is that there’s a lot of science going on, but it’s not getting to the people in a way that is integrating them—conservation can’t be accomplished like that.”

Since November 2019, the integrative studies student has been reaching out to harvesters, sellers, and other people with a connection to ginseng to learn more about the cultural dynamics and conservation practices surrounding the root, as well as problems those individuals face, such as illegal poaching and stealing.

Finding people who harvest the plant in the wild

can be challenging, as protecting one’s “hunting grounds” often means being secretive about it, Prestipino says.

Fortunately, many people are involved in the plant’s conservation and use in Virginia. Through online research and in-person networking with the guidance of Betty Belanus, Prestipino’s project mentor and education specialist and curator for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Prestipino has been able to make connections to gather data.

Key findings from Prestipino’s research may be published in a Smithsonian blog and will be shared as part of the 2020 Smithsonian Folklife Festival’s Conservation Commons program, Belanus says.

“What has impressed me about Maya so far is her interest in and commitment to conservation of the natural world,” Belanus says.

Prestipino aspires to use her degree to help involve people in nature and support conservation, she says. She believes her time at Mason and SMSC will be instrumental to that goal.

*A version of this story, written by CHSS alumna **Mariam Aburdeineh**, BA Communication ’13, originally appeared on Mason’s homepage, [gmu.edu](http://gmu.edu).*





PHOTO BY KACI KENNEDY

## FROM MASON TO THE MET

In winter 2019–20 the collection of New York City’s Metropolitan Museum of Art included “Pen, Lens & Soul: The Story of The Beautiful Project.” The exhibit featured photographs taken by girls ages 8 to 15 as a part of The Beautiful Project, a North Carolina-based collective that uses photography and writing to encourage, support, and promote authentic expression of Black girls and women.

**Erin Stephens**, PhD Sociology ’18, was one of the co-curators of the exhibit. A member of The Beautiful Project since 2010, she appreciated the opportunity to share the collective’s work on a larger stage.

“It’s been incredible, and it was really incredibly received,” she says. “To have an exhibit at this scale was always the dream of Jamaica [Gilmer], our founder, who [said], ‘Let’s take this thing national!’ [She had] big visions of how this work could be shown.”

The exhibit was similar in style to the project’s Beautiful Nights event, where girls who had been in the program could display their work for their family and community. “So you get to see these photographs, and these stories, and this manifestation of the work over the year,” she says.

For the Met exhibit, the curators—Stephens, along with Gilmer, Khayla Deans, and Pamela

Thompson—examined photographs from The Beautiful Project’s history to select the 85 pieces that were a part of the display. It wasn’t an easy task, Stephens says. “From going through the archives—15 years of archives—to selecting the prints, framing, of course, the other thing that was really important to us was figuring out how we bring the girls and the women who created the content into the space, so they could really witness it.”

Over Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, The Beautiful Project brought 11 of the young artists and their families from North Carolina to New York so they could see their work displayed.

Stephens says her favorite moment during the weekend was having the girls stand at the front of the exhibit room before their invited family and friends—more than 60 guests—and hear what they thought of the exhibit.

“It’s incredible to be in the Met; it’s incredible to have my face and name up there and be a part of something like that,” Stephens says. “It’s also incredible to get this moment for the girls. It *is* a life-changing thing. It’s something that they’ll carry with them, that will be part of how they understand their identity. It is a very moving and amazing moment.”



PHOTO BY WINNIE OKWAKOL

**Top:** Young photographers at the *Pen, Lens & Soul* exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **Above:** Erin Stephens, program director, The Beautiful Project



## AUTHOR, ACTIVIST, SPEAKER CHALLENGES WINTER MASON GRADUATES

Mason's Winter Graduation ceremonies in December 2019 featured speaker **Zainab Salbi**, BIS '96. Salbi, who came to Mason as an Iranian immigrant, founded Women for Women International, a global relief organization, while still a student.

At the ceremony, the humanitarian and author encouraged attendees to resist the material measures of success at the expense of finding something that truly matters to them.

"Live life out of your own truth," Salbi said. "Live it today. Now. Not tomorrow, not the day after. For if you deny yourself the most important truth of what your heart longs for, that longing shall always find its way and itch in your mind and your brain."

Salbi served as CEO of Women for Women International from 1993 to 2011 and has written three books: *Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny*; *Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam*, *If You Knew*

*Me You Would Care* (with Rennio Maifredi), and *Freedom Is an Inside Job: Owning Our Darkness and Our Light to Heal Ourselves and the World*.

She has created and hosted such shows as *#MeToo*, *Now What?*, an original PBS series about sexual harassment, and *Through Her Eyes*, a Yahoo News series devoted to female perspectives. *Foreign Policy* magazine named Salbi as one of 2016's "100 Leading Global Thinkers."

During the morning ceremony, Mason Board of Visitors member **Lisa Zuccari**, BIS '89, presented Salbi with an honorary doctor of humane letters.

"My professors believed in me, and for that, I cannot tell you the difference they made in my life," Salbi told the graduates. "Mason welcomed me and nurtured me and really supported me to become the woman I am, standing in front of you today."



Zainab Salbi, BIS '96, addresses George Mason University graduates in December 2019.

## ETHICS AND THE MIND

Each year, the college presents Distinguished Alumni Awards as part of its annual Celebration of Achievement. The awards exemplify the many ways our alumni can take an active role toward confronting essential questions and problems in our society.

This year's Distinguished Alumnus from the Department of Philosophy is **Christian Carrozzo**, BA Philosophy '10, MA '12. Carrozzo is the founder of the Program for Neuroethics and Clinical Consciousness at the John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, where he serves as resident faculty and senior editor of the *Journal of Hospital Ethics*.

The program is a special research unit devoted to the intersections of philosophy, neuroscience, empirical psychology, and clinical neurology. Its mission is to contribute to relevant policy and practice, improve evaluations of decision-making capacity in disorders of consciousness, provide specialized analyses of clinical cases involving neurointensive care, and generate relevant interdisciplinary work in the form of peer-reviewed scholarship, conference presentations, and educational program development.

Carrozzo is an advanced PhD student with the department of philosophy at the University at Albany, State University of New York; adjunct faculty with the department of philosophy and religion at American University and with the department of philosophy at George Washington University; adjunct clinical faculty with Case Western Reserve School of Medicine; and co-chair of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities' Neuroethics Affinity Group. His areas of specialty are the philosophy of mind and philosophy of neuroscience, and his present research areas are in the cognitive science and metaphysics of consciousness, as well as the role of values in neuroscientific practice and with the development of assistive communication devices for particular disorders of consciousness (a modified application of technology developed originally by Intel for use by Stephen Hawking).



Christian Carrozzo,  
BA Philosophy '10, MA '12



PHOTOS BY EVAN CANTWELL

Marilyn Mobley, first director of AAAS at Mason, returned to campus to present the 2020 Sojourner Truth Lecture.

## ► MARILYN MOBLEY: CREATING A SYSTEM FOR UNDERSTANDING

In February, professor and activist **Marilyn Mobley** delivered the 20th Annual Sojourner Truth Lecture, “An Intersectional Mixtape: Lessons Learned from a Black Woman Scholar in the Academy.” The lecture series, sponsored jointly by the African and African American Studies Program (AAAS) and Women and Gender Studies Program (WGST), is presented in honor of Black/African Heritage and Women’s History months.

Mobley, an English professor at Case Western Reserve University, served as her institution’s first vice president for inclusion, diversity, and equal opportunity. A Toni Morrison scholar and former president of the Toni Morrison Society, she is currently the vice chair of the Toni Morrison Society Advisory Board. In 1991, as a faculty member at Mason, she helped found AAAS and served as its first director.

Mobley describes her inspiration for the program as threefold: to provide an opportunity for Mason students, to create a community of scholarship, and, in her words, “I felt like the university needed it...the students deserve to learn that there is a field that is already at other universities and colleges, where people are getting an opportunity to learn this new discipline, this interdisciplinary way of thinking and understanding life in this country.”

George Johnson, then Mason’s president, supported her proposal. With WGST as a template, Mobley worked with faculty and visiting scholars to bring the program to life. “How do you build an institution? You try to galvanize people around a vision,” she says. “You try to galvanize people around the need. You also try to galvanize people about the vision and the bigger picture.”

Mobley appreciates the growth of AAAS, as well as the space it continues to offer for addressing issues of diversity. “People are making decisions that I wish had an intersectional perspective,” she says, “because they would make different decisions if they really thought about, okay, how are people of color going to be affected by this? How are women going to be affected if I signed this law into place? I want people in all areas of life, all areas of government, all areas of corporate life, to have had what these disciplines can give them.”



Students from Angela Hattery’s Honors 130 Policing Black Bodies class volunteered to work at the lecture and posed with Mobley and Mark Hopson, the current director of AAAS.



## FOLKLORE FIELD SCHOOL IN IRELAND

Mason folklore studies students spent winter break documenting stories, music, and dance traditions on Achill Island in Ireland as part of a folklore field school.

Folklore studies professor **Debra Lattanzi Shutika** encouraged students to take a hands-on approach to cultural documentation, even participating in a chilly New Year's Day swim tradition in Dugort on Ireland's western coast. Lattanzi Shutika notes one of the benefits of doing fieldwork in Ireland is that "everyone 'gets' folklore. Achill residents understand why it's important to their past and future."

Over two weeks, students conducted oral history interviews, learned phrases in the Gaelic language, and took Irish dance lessons. Students participated in a harp workshop with renowned harpist Louise Kelly and explored the coastline with locals to learn about the island's 13 villages. The group toured the Achill Heritage Center, founded in 2016 with the mission of documenting, preserving, and promoting Achill folklore and heritage.

Students found that socializing with local communities was key in transforming Ireland from a tourist destination into a living, vibrant classroom. Pubs and music halls became places to not only gather and chat, but also to learn.



PHOTO BY CHRIS MCCARTHY



PHOTO BY DEBRA LATTANZI SHUTIKA



PHOTO BY DEBRA LATTANZI SHUTIKA

MAIS student **Sarah Birns** was impressed by Irish hospitality. "Everyone we met, both formally as informants for our project, and informally, such as at pubs, were truly among the friendliest people I have ever encountered," she says. "People shared their narratives, songs, and craftsmanship with us and embraced us, wanting to ensure we had a rich and full experience."

"It is hard to overstate the importance of experiences like these," says Ann Ardis, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "With international learning scaled back, necessarily at the moment, we look forward to being able to offer our students these opportunities again in the future."

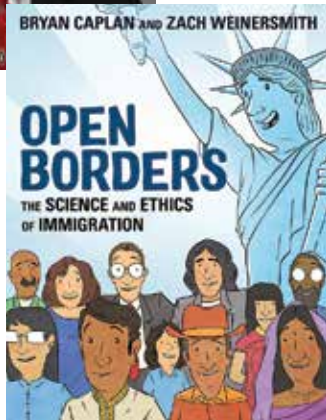
*This article, by MA student **Claire Denny**, originally appeared on the Folklore Studies website, [folklore.gmu.edu](http://folklore.gmu.edu).*

**Top:** Field school students pause for a photo on Achill Island, County Mayo.

**Middle:** Chloe Zatorski, Teo Rogers, and Sarah Birns with Irish folklorist Michael Fortune in County Wexford.

**Bottom:** Teo Rogers takes field notes while touring a heritage site in County Mayo.

## NEW BOOKS FROM THE CHSS COMMUNITY



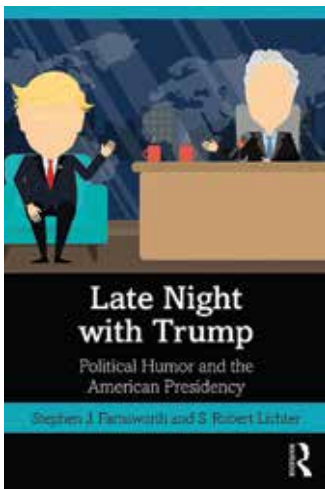
### Open Borders: The Science and Ethics of Immigration

Named as one of *The Economist's* Books of the Year for 2019, **Bryan Caplan's** fact-filled graphic nonfiction *Open Borders* (First Second, 2019) makes a bold case for unrestricted immigration.

American policy makers have long been locked in a heated battle over whether to allow immigrants to live and work in the country, as well as how many and from which countries. Those in favor of welcoming more immigrants often cite humanitarian reasons, while those in favor of more restrictive laws argue the need to protect native citizens.

*Open Borders* adds a new, compelling perspective to the immigration debate: Caplan, a professor in the Department of Economics, argues that opening all borders could eliminate absolute poverty worldwide and usher in a booming worldwide economy—greatly benefiting humanity.

With a clear and conversational tone, exhaustive research, and vibrant illustrations by Zach Weinersmith, *Open Borders* makes a case for unrestricted immigration that is easy to follow and hard to deny.



### Late Night with Trump: Political Humor and the American Presidency

**Robert Lichter**, communication professor and director of Mason's Center for Media and Public Affairs, is one of the authors of *Late Night with Trump: Political Humor and the American Presidency* (Routledge, 2019), along with Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science and international affairs and director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington.

Political humor has been a staple of late-night television for decades. The Trump White House, however, has received significantly greater attention than past presidents, such as Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and even Bill Clinton. In response to Trump's politics, late-night comics, including Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel, Trevor Noah, and Jimmy Fallon, have sounded key policy notes, further blurring the boundary between news and satire. Weekly humorists, including John Oliver and Samantha Bee, extend the critique with in-depth

probing of key issues, while *Saturday Night Live* continues to tap the progression from outrage to outrageousness.

Using unique content analysis techniques and qualitative discussions of political humor, Farnsworth and Lichter show how late-night political humor, and these seven programs in particular, have responded to the Trump presidency. Employing a dataset of more than 100,000 late-night jokes going back decades, these noted media scholars discuss how the treatment of Trump differs from previous presidents, and how the Trump era is likely to shape the future of political humor. The authors also employ public opinion survey data to consider the growing role these late-night programs play in framing public opinion and priorities. This book will interest scholars, the curious public, and students of politics, communications and the media, and contemporary American culture.



# The Day the Birds Came

KYRA KONDIS

At first, there was just one: a scarlet macaw. It followed Patricia onto the school bus, nipped at the pink-plastic butterfly clips holding back her bangs, dug its talons into her bag. We asked Patricia, *What's with the bird?* and she shrugged and turned magenta and looked at her knees. When the bus driver tried to shoo it away, it smacked him in the face with its big crimson wings, and we all wondered why cool stuff like that didn't happen to us.

At lunch, four more appeared. Two goldfinches, a pigeon, and a Canada goose. The goose honked after Patricia as she carried her tray to her table. The pigeon pecked the corn out of her succotash. We whispered, *Why Patricia? What does she have that we don't?* and Patricia poked at her food, gingerly shutting bites to her mouth while the birds pricked her hands with their beaks.

In math class, there were even more—birds we didn't know the names of, birds that perched on Patricia's shoulders, birds that fluffed up their wings and squawked her name into the stuffy classroom air. Patricia hunched down in her seat until Mr. Bollinger excused her from class, and we all wondered how, how, *how* anyone could get so lucky.

By three, there were so many, we couldn't keep track of them anymore. While we waited for the bus, some of them hovered around Patricia like a cloud of crayon-box colors, and the rest weighed down the crabapple tree by the playground, the telephone wire, the rungs of the jungle gym. If one more bird landed there, even just a small one, we thought it might be enough to sink the whole world down lower in the sky, and that felt important. We wished we were important like Patricia; we wished we had whatever it was that she did.

And then, there was no more Patricia—there were just birds.

Birds flitting home because they were too big for the bus. Birds, we imagined, waddling around Patricia's living room, nibbling on her textbooks, eating her unwanted vegetables. *She's so lucky*, we whispered to ourselves as we sprinkled birdseed on our windows that night, as we filled our backpacks with Ziploc bags of worms, as we doodled wings on our math homework. *She's so lucky, she's so interesting, she's so cool.*

**Kyra Kondis** is a third-year MFA candidate in fiction at Mason, where she is also the editor-in-chief of the journal *So to Speak*. More of her work can be found in *Wigleaf*, *Necessary Fiction*, and other journals, as well as on her website, [kyrakondis.com](http://kyrakondis.com). This story, "The Day the Birds Came," was selected for *Best Microfiction 2020*, an annually published anthology.



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