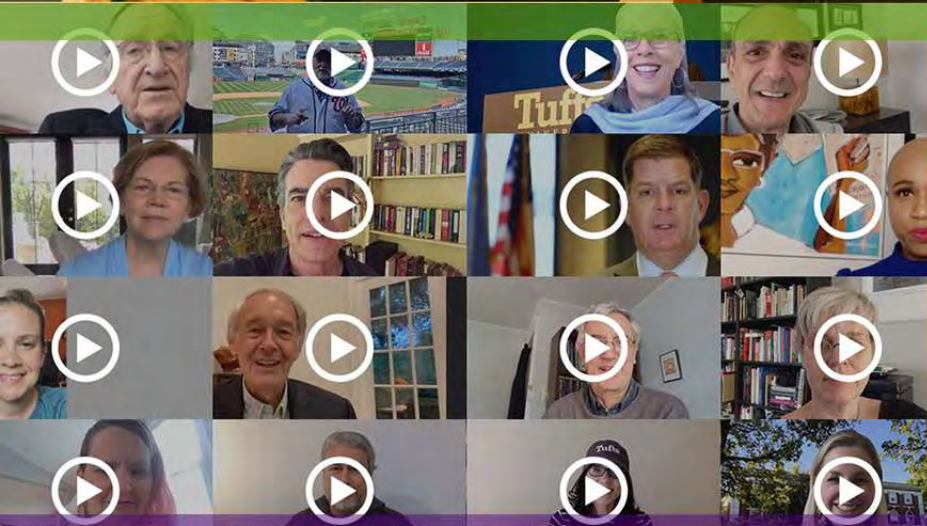




Tufts
UNIVERSITY

School of
Arts and Sciences

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



Annual Report for the School of Arts and Sciences: 2019-2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is my pleasure to submit the annual report for the School of Arts and Sciences for 2019-2020. This document represents a status report on our school as well as on shared resources with the School of Engineering.

The beginning of the academic year was excellent for our school. After several years in deficit, and a couple of years of austerity, the school was on target to be in balance when the COVID-19 crisis hit, having fully absorbed the cost of major infrastructure improvements and substantial increases in financial aid. The SMFA had hit its enrollment targets for two consecutive years. The Graduate School continued to thrive with record applications.

[Construction on Barnum Hall was completed](#) after some delays and Film and Media Studies moved into the program's new space in the fall with the SMFA studios opening in the spring. The Dean's Office successfully negotiated a second five-year contract with the full-time lecturers union. The A&S faculty approved new bylaws to replace the existing and obsolete AS&E bylaws. A new [minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies](#) was created. Notable visitors to campus in the fall included writer and Holocaust historian [Deborah Lipstadt](#) and Supreme Court justice [Sonia Sotomayor](#). Tufts began a partnership with [The Haven at College](#) to provide drug and alcohol treatment and recovery support services and an on-campus recovery residence. The [Africana Center celebrated its 50th anniversary](#) to much fanfare.

The school benefitted greatly from new leaders in key positions including Sam Thomas as one of the school's academic deans, JT Duck as our new Dean of Admissions, and Nancy Thompson, who served admirably as interim Dean of Student Affairs when the pandemic hit and was instrumental until the permanent dean, Camille Lizarríbar, arrived in late June.

To say the COVID-19 pandemic was disruptive to the academic year is an understatement. In March, the entire university had to pivot following urgent public health warnings. Faculty shifted teaching to virtual modalities while staff worked countless hours helping students return home and get the resources they needed. Commencement for the Class of 2020 was postponed to a future date when it is safe to gather.

Following the national protests of surrounding the killings of George Floyd and other Black Americans, statements of solidarity and calls for institutional changes were released from [AS&E](#), [SMFA](#), [GSAS](#) and many departments.

James M. Glaser

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

ADMISSIONS

Undergraduate Admissions. The School of Arts and Sciences sustained its impressive momentum in undergraduate admissions for the sixth consecutive admissions cycle. For the ninth time in ten years, applications to the school reached a record high, as 17,833 students competed for places in this fall's entering A&S class, a 4 percent increase over last year's record. A&S sustained a high degree of selectivity at 15.2 percent with 45 percent of admitted students enrolling. The standardized testing profile of the entering class remains strong with a mean SAT composite score of 1450. The mean score on the Critical Reading section is 714, while it is 736 on Math. The ACT mean is 33.

Sustaining Diversity. Domestic students of color represent 44.1 percent of all domestic incoming first year students in A&S. Another 10.5 percent are foreign citizens. There are 136 A&S students who are among the first in their families to attend a four-year college. A&S awarded \$18.5M in need-based financial aid for the class of 2024, up from \$16.7M last year, a 10.8 percent increase. While 32 percent of the A&S class received grants, 36.4 percent received some form of need-based aid. Roughly 10.7 percent of the incoming class received Pell grants.

Graduate Admissions. This year the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) had a record number of total applications to all programs. The Office of Graduate Admissions processed 930 applications for admission to doctoral programs for fall 2020, including Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program students entering in summer 2020. Only 25 percent of the doctoral applicants were admitted. Altogether, 45.5 percent of the 233 admitted doctoral applicants plan to enroll in Fall 2020. Of the enrolling doctoral students for whom data are available, 66 percent are women, and 11.3 percent are domestic students of color.

Admissions processed 1,462 applications to master's-level GSAS programs for Fall 2020, including the Master of Fine Arts program, which represented an 11.5% increase in applicants. Approximately 63 percent of all master's-level applicants were admitted. Altogether, 32.5 percent of the 922 admitted applicants plan to enroll in Fall 2020. Of the enrolling master's-level applicants for whom data are available, 17 percent are domestic students of color.

STUDENTS

Undergraduate Students. In February, May, and August 2020 combined, the School of Arts and Sciences conferred a total of 1,163 undergraduate degrees (623 BA degrees, 510 BS degrees, 27 BFA degrees, and 3 BA+BFA combined degrees). The Class of 2020 saw 126 honors theses completed by A&S and SMFA seniors. In the realm of nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships, it was a highly successful year for Tufts undergraduates. A&S is proud to boast [two more Goldwater Scholars](#), including Neubauer Scholar Jonathan Rodríguez, who was awarded an Astronaut Scholarship last year. The school continued its strong standing in the Fulbright competition, with 14 students offered Fulbright grants (12

of whom accepted the grant), and three students on the waitlist. A&S also had an excellent showing in awards designed to increase diversity in the U.S. Foreign Service: two recent graduates were awarded the prestigious Pickering Scholarship, and one was a finalist for the Payne Scholarship.

In Summer 2019, 44 A&S undergraduate students (including 4 SMFA students) participated in Tufts' Summer Scholars Program, and over the course of the 2019-2020 academic year, the Undergraduate Research Fund supported 81 students conducting original research. The Wendy and Neil Sandler International Research Program for Tufts Faculty and Students in Arts and Sciences continues to support innovative student-faculty research projects, but unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic required the cancellation of international research trips for Spring Break, Summer, and Winter Break 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Undergraduate Research Symposium moved online in Spring 2020. The symposium featured 45 participants, presenting in live oral sessions and asynchronous poster/recorded talks. The school was able to celebrate the students' work in a year when those opportunities were hard to find; one additional benefit of the online event was that students' families could see them present their research. In Spring 2020, Scholar Development Specialist Anne Moore established the [online Intellectual Commons](#) as a vehicle for Tufts faculty and students to share their research and connect as scholars despite social distancing requirements.

Graduate Students and Programming. In 2019-2020, GSAS conferred 292 master's degrees, 35 education specialist degrees, 53 doctoral degrees, and 40 professional certificates, and 129 graduate students across 24 programs traveled across the globe to present their scholarship.

In Fall 2019, the first cohorts in the MS in Data Analytics, the MS in Sustainability and our Museum Education combined degree program with Connecticut College arrived on campus. GSAS provided a total of 30 professional development workshops for students, with more than 119 students participating. In response to the learning environment necessitated by COVID-19 in Spring, professional development opportunities moved online, and the Academic Awards Ceremony was converted to a virtual platform.

New academic programs for several certificates were developed and launched, including [Data Analytics](#), [Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\)](#), [Spatial Data Analytics](#), [Assistive Technology](#), and the [Program Evaluation](#) certificate was revised. The GSAS Dean's Office hosted record numbers of admitted students on virtual "Meet the Deans" calls throughout the spring.

In June 2020, the [GSAS pledged to make institutional changes](#) to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment within the graduate school.

SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY (SMFA at Tufts)

SMFA at Tufts made substantial progress on its two main challenges: reaching its enrollment targets and improving operations. First-year applications for the BFA program increased by 22% percent from the prior year (from 348 to 425), apparently bearing out, at least indirectly, that the small amounts of merit aid SMFA began to award in the wake of Parthenon Consultants' advice, was having an effect. First-year combined-degree (BFA + BA/BS) applications increased by 2% percent from the prior year (from 285 to 292). Graduate enrollment remained steady at 28 MFA students and 4 post-baccalaureate students. SMFA continues to work closely with University College to raise revenues via non-matriculated programs. The 2020 Precollege program in Studio Art, though entirely online, attracted 28 students.

SMFA's first classes in Barnum Hall debuted during the Spring 2020 term. SMFA professors of the practice asked Deans Glaser and Bauer to allow them to move from term contracts back to the five-year-rolling contracts that they enjoyed for many years at SMFA, and Provost Aubry agreed to this request. The process of reviewing faculty members who had already been on rolling contracts before SMFA became part of Tufts will begin in Fall 2020. SMFA also worked on developing a new Virtual Reality certificate, which the school hopes to debut in 2021.

In the wake of COVID, SMFA transitioned from in-person to online learning and held virtual review boards. Course evaluations for Spring 2020 reflect the huge effort the faculty and staff made to ensure a smooth transition and a meaningful learning experience. SMFA spent Summer 2020 preparing custom boxes of tools and supplies for all SMFA students and building more than 300 studios for on-campus students.

FACULTY

Promotions. A&S continued to add outstanding teacher/scholars to its tenured ranks. Alex Blanchette (Anthropology), Kyle Emerick (Economics), Jennifer Eyl (Religion), Julia Gouvea (Education), Andrew Kemp (Earth & Ocean Sciences), Benjamin Wolfe (Biology), and Keren Ladin (Occupational Therapy) were promoted from assistant to associate professor without limit of time.

Clay Bennett (Chemistry), Heather Curtis (Religion), Joshua Kritzer (Chemistry), Danilo Marchesini (Physics & Astronomy), Sarah Sobieraj (Sociology), and Jeffrey Taliaferro (Political Science) were promoted to full professor without limit of time. Some of our full-time lecturers were recognized with promotions to senior lecturer: Susan Barahal (Education), Renata Celichowska (Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies), Zach Faubian (Mathematics), Marisol Fernandez-Garcia (Romance Studies), Brenna Heitzman (Romance Studies), Diren Pamuk Turner (Chemistry), Ester Ricon Calero (Romance Studies), Sumeeta Srinivasan (Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning), Shalini Tendulkar (Community Health), and Shaomei Wang (International Literary and Cultural Studies). Finally, the following faculty were recognized with promotions

to Distinguished Senior Lecturer: Janet Curran Brooks (Occupational Therapy), David Denby (Philosophy), Jinyu Li (International Literary and Cultural Studies), Martha Pott (Child Study and Human Development), Marta Rosso-O'Laughlin (Romance Studies), Susan Russinoff (Philosophy), Saskia Stoessel-Deschner (International Literary and Cultural Studies), and Mingquan Wang (International Literary and Cultural Studies).

Endowed and Term Professorships. Five faculty were appointed to new [endowed professorships](#) this year. Gina Kuperberg in the Department of Psychology was named the Dennett Stibel Professor of Cognitive Science and Margaret Stokes McMillan in the Department of Economics was named the JRN Family Professor of International Relations. Effective September 1, 2020 Stephanie Badde in the Department of Psychology was named the Stibel Family Assistant Professor of Brain and Cognitive Science; Philip Shushkov in the Department of Chemistry was named the Dr. Charles W. Fotis, A37, AG39, Assistant Professor; and Lawrence Uricchio in the Department of Biology was named the Youniss Family Assistant Professor of Innovation and will start at Tufts in Fall 2021. Additionally, Pedro Ángel Palou in the Department of Romance Studies was named the Fletcher Professor of Oratory; Zarin Machanda in the Department of Anthropology was named the Usen Family Career Development Assistant Professor; Sara Johnson in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development was named the Evans Family Assistant Professor; Cynthia Kinnan in the Department of Economics was named the James L. Paddock Assistant Professor in International Economics; and Shan Jiang in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning was named the Eileen Fox Aptman, J90, and Lowell Aptman Professor.

Retirements & Departures. A&S celebrated the retirements of many valued faculty members in AY19-20. James Dow (SMFA), David Garman (Economics), Karen Overbey (History of Art and Architecture), Sharan Schwartzberg (Occupational Therapy), Laurence Senelick (Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies), Cristelle Baskins (History of Art and Architecture), Harry Bernheim (Biology), Mary Glaser (Mathematics), Eva Hoffman (History of Art and Architecture), Bruce Johnson (Child Study and Human Development), Laura Rogers (Education), Linda Tickle-Degnen (Occupational Therapy), and Peter Winn (History) have all ended their regular teaching responsibilities to the school. Sasha Fleary (Child Study and Human Development) departed Tufts for an opportunity at another university.

Hiring. In AY19-20, A&S hired 15 new tenure-stream faculty members and four new full-time, non-tenure-stream faculty. Of the 19 [new full-time colleagues](#), seven are women and four are members of underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.

A&S Research. A&S Faculty continue to show strength in research and scholarship. A&S received 104 total new grant awards in 2019-2020 for the total award amount of \$23.3M. Please see the [Faculty Grants and Fellowships page](#) on the A&S website for a list of major grants awarded to A&S faculty. In addition, the Research Administration Office received two awards for their stellar service to the A&S faculty research community. Specifically, in September 2019, Lauren Gibson,

senior research administrator, received the Research Administrator of the Year award and the A&S Research Administration Office received the Research Administration Team award from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

Scholarship, Awards, Honors, and Achievements. There is insufficient room in this report to list all the scholarly accomplishments of A&S faculty across so many disciplines, so please visit the website for [faculty highlights](#). A&S faculty also received a marked level of attention by major news and media outlets for their original and impactful research, which is featured [on the website under faculty in the news](#).

Unfortunately, the Dean’s Annual Publication Party was canceled this year due to COVID-19, but A&S publication achievements were marked with a [virtual listing on the website](#). This includes works by A&S faculty members including 20 authored or co-authored books, 8 edited volumes, 30 scholarly articles, and in addition, sound recordings, videos, artworks, and exhibitions. While there are too many to list here, a small sample of faculty books includes: *Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter* by Kerri Greenidge (Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2020); *Politics is for Power: How to Move Beyond Political Hobbyism, Take Action, and Make Real Change* by Eitan Hersh (Scribner, 2020); *Love in the Drug War: Selling Sex and Finding Jesus on the Mexico-US Border* by Sarah Luna (University of Texas Press, 2020); *Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the Factory Farm* by Alex Blanchette (Duke University Press, 2020); and *Defending Frenemies: Alliance Politics and Nuclear Nonproliferation in US Foreign Policy* by Jeffrey Taliaferro (Oxford University Press, 2020).

SCHOOL-WIDE INITIATIVES

Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT). CHAT organized several very successful seminars, lectures, readings, and film screenings continuing the broad rubric of Comparative Global Humanities and focusing more specifically on an annual theme of “Difference” for 2019-2020. The Center supported four faculty fellows, four post-docs, and two dissertation fellows. The Center also administered an OVPR-funded Priority Area Working Group that led a research seminar for about 20 humanities faculty members and post-docs.

Tufts University Art Galleries. Over the 2019-2020 academic year, the Tufts University Art Galleries continued to grow and build on its successes of the past two years. The year began with the establishment of a new Public Art Committee, dedicated to creating an equitable visual landscape for all of Tufts’ campuses, and the receipt of a [major programming grant](#) from the National Endowment for the Arts. In the galleries, artists and artwork addressed the necessary and difficult issues of our time—police violence, mass incarceration, systemic racism, and immigration reform—while allowing for moments of wonder and brief windows into Tufts own institutional history. Key exhibitions included the widely acclaimed [Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System](#), the group exhibition [Bookworks](#) pulled from Tufts’ library collections, and one person presentations of renowned artist [Sanford Biggers](#), community activist [Faheem Majeed](#), and

late SMFA faculty member [Julie Graham](#). In March, the galleries were able to quickly pivot online and presented exhibitions through virtual tours and public programs on Zoom and enabled remote teaching through the online collections database. Gallery and communications staff built the entire SMFA MFA thesis show in virtual space, from walls to artwork. The year concluded with the gallery team's recommitment to racial and cultural equity that has since yielded a demographic analysis of the university's public art and visual history as part of Tufts' [anti-racism initiative](#), the establishment of a student advisory board for the galleries, and an in-depth research project into the long history of Tufts' site and relationship to Indigenous peoples.

ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES

Advancement. The A&S development team raised \$52.5M in FY2020, which brings the cumulative Brighter World Capital Campaign achievement to \$346.5 million, 77 percent of the way to the goal of \$450M. This is significantly ahead of the target of 70 percent of the total goal needed at this point in the campaign's timeline. The \$52.5M raised this year includes about \$18M designated for financial aid and about \$16M designated for teaching and research.

A&S Board of Advisors. Tisch Library hosted the Fall A&S Board of Advisors meeting, where advisors participated in a hands-on workshop, modeled on a real course-based learning experience, led by the Digital Design Studio staff and students. The January meeting was shifted to a virtual gathering due to the pandemic and the board discussed the status of the Tufts Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan, as well as received updates on the decision to remove the Sackler name from the biomedical school and the Green Line T-stop on Boston Ave. The April meeting was also virtual and included interactive break-out rooms where advisors and invited faculty discussed the shift to online instruction and curriculum.

Administration. This year, there have been notable administrative staffing changes in A&S. Christopher Rossi, Dean of Student Life and Engagement, left Tufts to take on the position of Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Strategic Engagement at Duke University. A search to fill his position is currently ongoing. Greg Victory, Executive Director of the Career Center also left Tufts for Duke where he will be the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs/Fannie Mae Mitchell Executive Director, Career Services. Donna Esposito has taken on the role of Executive Director *ad interim* for the Career Center. Mickey Toogood, Student Communications Strategist, departed Tufts to take on an opportunity with Amazon's Global Logistics team in Seattle. Andy Tiedemann and Melissa Lee have joined the Student Affairs Office as Student Communications Strategist and Communications Specialist respectively in temporary appointments through June 30, 2021 as Students Affairs reviews the long-term structure and responsibilities of AS&E student communications. In late June, Camille Lizarríbar joined as Dean of Student Affairs and Chief Student Affairs Officer for AS&E, taking over from Nancy Thompson who had been serving as the Dean of Student Affairs and Chief Student Affairs Officer, *ad interim*. Carol Baffi-Dugan, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Advising and Director for Health Professions Advising, retired at the end of June after 33 years at the university. Matthew Bellof ((LA'06, AG'09) joined the school as an Associate Dean of Undergraduate

Advising in February while Stephanie Frazitta started in July as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Advising and Director of the Post Baccalaureate Premedical Program.

In Fall 2019, Marvin Casasola joined Tufts as the Director of the Latinx Center. Margot Cardamone, inaugural Director of the FIRST Resource Center left Tufts in August 2020 to assume the role of Chief of Staff for Learn Launch, and a search for a new Director is underway. Three additional new full-time staff members will be joining the Division of Student Diversity and Inclusion as part of the Asian-American Center, LGBT Center, and Latinx Center respectively. These searches are also underway.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice. In Summer 2019 Dean Glaser named Jackie Dejean, Nandi Bynoe, and Bárbara Brizuela as Assistant/Associate Deans of Diversity and Inclusion (ADDIs). Under the leadership of the ADDIs, a committee has been formed to create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategic plan for Arts and Sciences. The ad hoc committee includes faculty, staff, and students from across the School of Arts and Sciences. A&S is also in the process of diversifying its curriculum and academic requirements. In response to a faculty vote taken in Winter 2018, departmental conversations have begun to discuss inequality and systemic racism within each academic discipline as well as the school. Dissecting racism department by department, program by program allows A&S to set the agenda for the future. A&S leadership has also initiated a task force to explore a proposal from the Tufts Community Union Senate to turn the world civilization requirement into a diversity requirement.

The A&S Dean commissioned a series of studies from Institutional Research to investigate whether there are systemic compensation discrepancies based on race and gender. The equations were run separately for humanists, social scientists, and scientists and included controls for productivity (publications, grants, etc.). Notably, the race and gender coefficients were not significant in any of the equations. Tenure decisions for the past six years have not shown any racial disparity, but there is a gender disparity in who gets across the tenure line, a question to be pursued further by the administration and the faculty.

Budget and Planning. After three years of operating deficits, at the mid-point of the FY 2020 A&S was on target meet its goal of a balanced budget. Increased graduate and undergraduate enrollment, continued fundraising success, and limited cost growth, combined with the result of a renegotiated share of revenue and expenses with the School of Engineering all moved the school toward an improved financial position. The campus shut down caused by COVID-19 in March dramatically altered this trajectory. Prorated refunds of room and board given to students for the remainder of the semester represented a net loss of \$9 million in revenue, and research revenue and other revenue through the close of the year was also slowed. While expenses were also reduced while faculty and staff worked remotely, Arts and Sciences ended the year with a \$4.9 million deficit.

A&S Communications and Marketing. This past year, major projects for the department included working with the creative agency PopKitchen to develop and launch a new logo and brand identify for SMFA at Tufts and with it a new [viewbook for prospective students](#). The department continued supporting enrollment marketing programs for GSAS master's programs including Biology, Math, Child Study and Human Development, Data Analytics, Education, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, and Education. The campaigns for Data Analytics, Child Study and Human Development, and Math were particularly successful. Working with Tufts Technology Services, the project to roll over A&S department and program websites into a more modern, mobile-friendly design continued with re-launch of sites for [Education](#), [Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning](#), [Occupational Therapy](#), [Data Analytics](#), [Diversity and Inclusion Leadership](#), the [Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program](#).

IN MEMORIAM

A&S mourned the loss of valued members of the community: William "Bill" Oliver, professor of physics emeritus; Edward H. Merrin, A50, A80P, A82P, A85P, trustee emeritus; and Kent Portney, a former professor of political science.

JOINT INITIATIVES WITH THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Student-facing Divisions. Dean Glaser and Dean Qu led a reorganization of the student divisions, following important leadership losses in Student Affairs, Student Services, and Study Abroad, and the commission of Earthworm Consultant's report, which identified several significant challenges in Dowling Hall. Major outcomes of that reorganization include: 1) a larger and better supported advising team, now co-led by Deans Carmen Lowe and Jennifer Stephen; 2) a revamped Student Affairs office; 3) a new division of Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion led by Dean Nandi Bynoe with three new lines; 4) the combining of Accessibility Services and the Academic Resource Center into the StAAR Center under the leadership of Dean Kirsten Behling; and 5) a formal reporting relationship between Financial Aid and Admissions.

Tisch Library. In the fall of 2019, Tisch, Lilly and the SMFA Libraries completed a [strategic planning framework](#) focused on four overarching goals: enabling deeper learning, facilitating scholarship, investing in people, and creating inspiring spaces. Work towards these goals will more effectively integrate library support into the university's pursuit of its mission, responding to changed community needs at Tufts and the changing landscape of knowledge and information. One of the framework objectives is a well-timed focus on support for online learning. During the COVID crisis, the libraries have continued to provide access to a vast array of digital resources, and expanded virtual assistance as well as scanning services for students, faculty, and researchers. In-class instruction and research consultations moved seamlessly online.