Valerie Sheares Ashby became Dean of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences at Duke University on July 1, 2015. Ashby came to Duke from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where she chaired the Department of Chemistry from 2012-2015. As a faculty member at UNC since 2003, she has held numerous leadership positions and has experience at all levels of academic administration. She holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Learn more: http://trinity.duke.edu/dean/valerie-sheares-ashby
One of the “Duke differences” is our ability to provide undergraduates with a wealth of opportunities to engage with faculty in mentored research. We are committed to providing an extraordinary undergraduate and graduate education; to excellence in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research; to tackling the challenges of building diversity; and to innovation in global education. Whether it is through an extraordinary classroom experience on Duke’s Durham campus, a summer volunteering through DukeEngage, international study through Global Study Abroad, or immersive research through Bass Connections, there is something for all Duke students who wish to challenge themselves, shape a bold future, and transform the world.

Valerie S. Ashby
Dean
Trinity College of Arts & Sciences,
Duke University

Our Life’s Work Trinity College of Arts & Sciences is the heart of Duke University. Our faculty collaborate across Duke’s top ranked schools of business, divinity, engineering, environmental science, law, medicine, public policy, and nursing. We award nearly 80 percent of undergraduate degrees and support deeply interdisciplinary exploration in our undergraduate and graduate curricula. We value ambition paired with meaningful goals, and we strive to give students exceptional access to our faculty and their research programs. We believe in the transformational possibilities of a Duke education.

Faculty & Research

648 Faculty Members

62% Men
38% Women
22% Faculty of Color
Undergraduate Class of 2014/2015

BY THE NUMBERS

1416 Graduating Class of 2015

44% Men | 56% Women | 45% Students of Color

Undergraduate Offerings

48 Majors
48 Minors
19 Certificates
DIVERSITY OF ACADEMIC CHOICES

- 1-Major: 17%
- Combined second major, minor or certificate: 83%

- 2 Majors: 12%
- Major(s) with Minor(s): 50%
- Major(s) with Certificates: 12%
- 1 Major, 1 Minor, 1 Certificate: 8%

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

- 53% Undergraduate Research
- 24% Graduation with Distinction
- 26% DukeEngage
- 50% Study Abroad
- 40% Service Learning
Inspired Teaching

OUTSTANDING FACULTY IN THE CLASSROOM

The faculty award winners include some of the university’s most distinguished researchers. Some have made their mark teaching large introductory classes; others have been innovative in introducing technology in the classroom or developing new approaches to small classes and labs.

Eric Spana | BIOLOGY
David & Janet Vaughn Brooks Award in the Natural Sciences
“Eric’s course readily achieves what many of our courses struggle to achieve — getting students really excited about hands-on work in biology.”
Mohammed Noor, chair of Biology Department

Alex Harris | CENTER FOR DOCUMENTARY STUDIES
Robert B. Cox Award in the Social Sciences
“Alex’s generosity with students — his constant willingness to share his time, focus, and creative vision both in and outside the classroom — shapes their thinking about the power of photography to change society.”
Wesley Hogan, director of CDS

Susan Thorne | HISTORY
Howard D. Johnson Award
“She doesn’t so much offer an overview of the historical period as she invites students to learn to interpret it on their own.”
John Jeffries Martin, chair of History Department

Michael Hardt | PROGRAM IN LITERATURE
Richard Lublin Award
“Michael has a genuine interest in other points of view, and in particular in objections, counter-theories and alternatives.”
Professor Fred Jameson, Literature

Connel Fullenkamp | ECONOMICS
Teaching with Technology Award
“He is constantly exploring new modes of delivery for traditional content and incorporating those that facilitate his methods of teaching.”
Professor Lori Leachman, Economics
Jennifer Ansley | THOMPSON WRITING PROGRAM
Excellence in Teaching Writing
“In her hands, students grapple with core questions with confidence. They produce high-level work that is creative and ambitious.”
Kristen Neuschel, director of Thompson Writing Program

Steve Baldwin | CHEMISTRY
Award for Excellence in Advising
“This award honors faculty and staff advisers who have helped guide undergraduates in the first two years here. Steve is a wonderful example of a caring and effective advisor.”
Lee Baker, Dean of Academic Affairs

Ken Lyle | CHEMISTRY
Dean’s Leadership Award
“Lyle’s extensive program goes into the community with chemistry demonstrations and lectures that have fired the imagination of students at different grade levels.”
Lee Willard, senior associate dean of academic planning

Ed Balleisen | HISTORY
Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award
“He shows students that great historical discoveries are not just for aged Ph.D.s in the shadows of Oxford libraries, they are opportunities for undergraduates who are passionate about history.”
Nominating undergraduate student

Read more about our Winning Faculty Members at:
http://today.duke.edu/2015/04/trinityteach15
Graduate Students Class of 2014/2015

BY THE NUMBERS

426 Graduating Students

165 Ph.D.s

180 Master of Arts

49 Master of Science

Award-winning Mentors

The Graduate School Recognizes Outstanding Arts & Sciences Teachers & Mentors with 2015 DEAN’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

Edward Balleisen | HISTORY
Quote from nomination “He is a master of the most important and most nuanced mentorship skill: the ability to recognize his students’ goals and strengths, frequently long before they do themselves, and to guide his students towards their own realization of those goals.”

Sarah Deutsch | HISTORY
Quote from nomination “Deutsch allows enough space for the self-discovery and creativity that promotes ownership of one’s scholarship. At the same time, she maintains a rigorous standard that is reinforced by thorough written feedback and consistent communication.”
In collaboration with the Graduate School, Arts & Sciences supports more than 60 different graduate degree and certificate programs.
**Research Highlight**

Why the Mafia Continues to Fascinate

Roberto Dainotto, a professor of Romance Studies and literature at Duke University and a native Sicilian, investigates our obsession with the Cosa Nostra in *The Mafia: A Cultural History*. What is it about the Mafia that so engrosses North Americans? North Americans love films, television shows and books about the Mafia. During the Great Depression, when the American dream seems to fail, the Mafia is the group in charge of reviving the economy or fighting a brutal society that doesn’t allow the individual to climb the ladder anymore. Italians, on the other hand, are a bit more jaded about this crime group that arose in Sicily in the 19th century and became a powerful force in the country’s economy and politics.

Mitchell Named a Bass Teaching Fellow

Robert Mitchell, the Marcello Lotti Professor of English, is known for the interdisciplinary nature of his research. He has broadened and diversified the relationship between literature and the history of science. He directs the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science and Cultural Theory at Duke. He has developed a reputation for doing an excellent job of reaching out to students who tend to avoid humanities courses and successfully leading them through demanding material.

Duke Biography on Louis Armstrong a 2015 Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Duke musicologist Thomas Brothers’ book Louis Armstrong Master of Modernism (W.W. Norton) was selected as a “Finalist” for 2015 Pulitzer Prize in the biography category. The Pulitzer organization called the work a “masterfully researched second volume of a life of the musical pioneer, effectively showing him in the many milieus where he lived and worked in the 1920s and 1930s.”

Hayles Elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

The American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies, elected Duke literature and English Professor Katherine Hayles to its ranks. In her research, Hayles explores how digital technologies affect research paradigms in the humanities. Her book, How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis, examines the implications of media upheavals within the humanities and social sciences, as traditionally print-based disciplines move into digital media.

Holloway Wins 2014 MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award

English Professor Karla FC Holloway won the 2015 MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Contribution in Ethnic Studies from the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. Holloway’s numerous scholarly publications include Passed On: African American Mourning Stories (2002), Private Bodies/Public Texts: Race, Gender, and Cultural Bioethics (2011), Legal Fictions: Constituting Race, Composing Literature (2014), and five other books. Her scholarship in literary studies engages issues in biocultural studies, African American culture, as well as United States’ ethics and law. She spans the cultural landscape of the United States and the complex intersections of ethnicity and race, gender, science, and citizenship.
Natural Sciences

http://trinity.duke.edu/natural-sciences

212
Faculty Members

73% Men
27% Women
21% Minority Faculty

Research Highlight

Mantis Shrimps Avoid Deadly Fights by Pummeling Each Other

Few animals wield more formidable weapons than mantis shrimps. These crustaceans are named after the folded arms they hold beneath their bodies, which end in either a stabbing spear or a smashing club. Mantis shrimp punches, the fastest in the animal kingdom, can shatter snail shells and aquarium glass alike. So what happens when mantis shrimps smash each other, as often happens when they fight over territory? Biologists Patrick Green and Sheila Patek discovered it’s not who hits the hardest that wins—it’s who keeps on hitting. The battles are as much about the individual shrimp’s persistence and motivation as it is about strength and stamina.

Read more in The Atlantic magazine at:
Mathematician Daubechies Named National Academy of Engineering Member

Ingrid Daubechies, the James B. Duke Professor of Mathematics, was named a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2015. She is one of the foremost mathematicians in the world, noted for developing mathematical constructs called wavelets, which led to image compression standards now widely used in formats such as .jpg2000s, and others. Her work has also made significant contributions in the areas of signal processing, quantum mechanics, discrete geometry and applied mathematics.

Duke Receives $9.75 Million for ‘Big Data’ Initiative

Launched in 2013, the Information Initiative at Duke (iiD) brings together diverse faculty and graduate and undergraduate students to make sense of “Big Data” — information characterized by tremendous volume, variety and rapid change. The goal is to address a wide range of issues — from the identification of counterfeit art to the early detection of disease. Directed by Robert Calderbank, computer science and mathematics, the iiD is the cornerstone of the Information, Society and Culture theme of Bass Connections, another Duke initiative that encourages student and faculty collaboration across traditional academic boundaries on issues of global importance.


West Honored with Inaugural Award of International Bayesian Society

Mike West, the Arts & Sciences Professor of Statistics and Decision Sciences and professor of statistical science, was the inaugural recipient of the ISBA Zellner Medal from the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). The medal will be awarded once every two years to statisticians in recognition of their “outstanding service to Bayesian statistics and the society.”
How Wealth in Childhood Shapes Personality Later in Life

How money flowed during your childhood has a lot to do with whether you are “hands-off or hands-on” in managing your life later on, says Jessi Streib, assistant professor of sociology. People who grow up in households without much money, predictability, or power learn hands-off strategies. When dealing with unexpected events that crop up in life, these individuals are more likely to go with the flow and take things as they come. People who grew up with parents who had more money, job security, and power grow up with more stable lives. They in turn learn that managing their resources makes sense because their meaningful choices can actually happen—so they tend to be hand-on in their strategies. Couples who come from different backgrounds tend can cross their divide, but it takes negotiation.

Three Social Scientists Named Bass Teaching Fellows

Lee Baker, the Mrs. Alexander Hehmeyer Professor of Cultural Anthropology, is a researcher of race whose two books, *From Savage to Negro: Anthropology and the Construction of Race, 1896-1954* and *Anthropology and the Racial Politics of Culture*, present a new perspective of the discipline of anthropology. The dean of academic affairs of Trinity College also makes time to mentor many Duke students.

Philip Stern, the Sally Dalton Robinson Associate Professor of History, has contributed greatly to the history of colonialism. Breaking from more traditional narratives, he has asked a series of fundamentally new questions about the intellectual and institutional construction of sovereignty of the British Empire in Asia. He is also known for involving and engaging others in original research. This year he led a group of undergraduate students in the creation of a Nasher Museum exhibit of early colonial maps.

Gary Bennett, Bishop-MacDermott Family Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, helped create the global health co-major. His research focuses on social factors, cognitions and motivations that contribute to obesity. He has twice in four years been recognized as one of the top 5 percent of instructors in Trinity for his energy, support and effective teaching skills.

Whitfield Honored for Minority Mentorship by Gerontological Society of America

Psychologist Keith Whitfield has won the 2015 Minority Mentorship Award for outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging. He has mentored numerous colleagues in the fields of clinical psychology, geropsychology, nursing, public health, and human development and family studies for more than 20 years. In 2013, he co-developed The Mentoring Effect, a special project of the Gerontological Society of America Innovation Fund. He was also the architect of GSA’s speed mentoring program and has written on mentoring gerontology students and faculty.