

Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund

A Report to the Binghamton University Foundation Board of Directors

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015 | SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
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Executive Summary

In 2009, the Binghamton University Foundation Board of Directors designated \$2 million from a large anonymous gift to advance the University's academic mission. In consultation with the Foundation Board, the provost created the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund to support projects initiated by faculty and deans. Between 2009 and 2012, the provost invited proposals to support research projects and program development initiatives. A panel of faculty members and administrators reviewed the proposals and made recommendations to the provost, who made final funding decisions. During this period, 33 projects, totaling \$696,795, were funded.

In 2013, as Binghamton University initiated a new approach to research by identifying and investing in five Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence (TAEs), the provost asked the Foundation Board of Directors for its support for a different approach to allocating funds from the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund. Rather than issuing a general call for proposals, he recommended that \$25,000 be allocated annually to each of the TAEs, and that the faculty steering committee that guides each TAE use the funds to support research and programming. By doing so, the Fund would support a University initiative that guides faculty recruitment and seeks to enhance Binghamton University's strength and stature as a research university. With the support of the Foundation Board, this strategy was implemented in the 2013-14 academic year and has successfully continued in the 2014-2015 academic year.

A total of \$125,000 was allocated to the five TAEs for use in 2014-15. Because this was only the second year for the TAEs and the faculty steering committees that guide each of the TAEs were heavily involved in faculty recruitment, only one of the TAE steering committees spent its full allocation in 2014-15. We anticipate that the steering committees will use more of the funds allocated in the coming year as they work to promote the success of the 70 faculty hired as part of this initiative in the past two years.

Updates on funded projects

Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence Projects Supported in 2014-15

Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging

Steering Committee Chair: Bat Ami Bar-On, professor of philosophy, Judaic studies, and director of IASH

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging TAE focused its attention on defining three areas of research focus: Citizenship and Belonging; Human Rights; and Movement, Place and Conflict, as well as involvement in five faculty searches. The steering committee used \$91 of the funds allocated to host TAE affiliated candidates. The committee will use some of the remaining funds to support two symposia it has organized for 2015-16: "Challenges of Structural Injustices" and a seminar titled "Traffic, Territory, Citizenship." These will facilitate development of research collaborations in two the TAE's areas of focus.

Health Sciences

Steering Committee Chair: Terrence Deak, professor of psychology

The past academic year (2014-15) witnessed major new growth in the Health Sciences as we welcomed a large number of new faculty to Binghamton University. A large part of our goals this year were to continue our highly successful seed grant program, which is funded largely through a budget allocation from the Roadmap strategic planning process and the Research Foundation. Building upon the success of our

established seed grant mechanism, which is designed to foster research collaboration, we once again identified 4 outstanding proposals that were selected for funding. Deliberations of the Health sciences TAE have consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining a vibrant seed grant mechanism that could provide sufficient funds to effectively launch new collaborative projects. Thus, we elected to utilize a significant portion of our funding (\$10,000 from AY2014-15) to supplement seed grants to faculty. In order to support targeted growth objectives in Biomedical Engineering, the Health Sciences TAE also provided \$5000 to support a colloquium series in this area, with the expectation that keynote addresses from leaders in the field would be accessible to the entire BU campus. This remarkable colloquium series has already brought two internationally recognized scholars to BU, with sufficient funds to support 1-2 more in the upcoming year. Finally, we provided \$5500 to support the Global Health Conference co-hosted on the BU campus in April by student and faculty groups. This conference was an enormous success and provided an excellent combination of internal and external speakers, with a broad audience of nearly 200 participants. Additional small-level expenditures were utilized to support collaborative luncheons among faculty with emergent plans for collaboration. The Health Sciences TAE is deeply grateful for support provided by the Binghamton University Foundation. Total cost was \$27,040.

Material and Visual Worlds

Steering Committee Chair: Pamela Smart, associate professor of art history and anthropology

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Material and Visual Worlds TAE continued its program of developing an engaged constituency among faculty and graduate students across the university, and its energies focused centrally on this and on making a core hire to augment and invigorate transdisciplinary scholarly work already underway here. Our expenditure of funds was directed toward our speaker series and the linked faculty-graduate student Material and Visual Worlds Working Group, both of which programs serve to foster scholarly community across disciplines, and to advance scholarship in the field of materiality and visuality. The steering committee invited to Binghamton five internationally renowned scholars and artists whose work has significantly shaped current thinking on issues of materiality and visuality: Jane Bennett (Professor of Political Theory in the Department of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University), Michael Snow (artist and experimental filmmaker, Toronto), Alfredo Gonzalez-Ruibal (Archaeologist, Institute of Heritage Sciences, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)), Michael Taussig (Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University), and Jonathan Sterne (Professor and James McGill Chair of Culture and Technology, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University). Each speaker delivered a public lecture and led a closed seminar with the faculty-graduate student working group. Funds from the Foundation supported honoraria and travel expenses, as well as allowing us to cater the lunchtime seminars. Foundation funds also catered lunch for additional meetings of the working group at which affiliated faculty and senior graduate students presented their current work for discussion. Total cost was \$18,656.

Smart Energy

Steering Committee Chair: Wayne Jones, professor of chemistry

The Smart Energy TAE advanced the University's strength in energy research by focusing its attention on three areas: energy generation; energy storage; and energy efficiency. The steering committee used \$8,266 in funding from the Foundation to support research and programming related to these areas of focus. Following a successful kick off event in which our 6 funded projects from the previous year were reviewed, we received proposals and supported 3 additional projects designed to generate new research thrusts in energy for the campus. We also supported undergraduate research including support for an additional student participating in a 9 week summer research immersion program in partnership with the NSF REU program. Additional research proposals to externally sponsor the TAE activities included grants to NSF, DOD, and the Department of Energy. The steering committee also supported an interdisciplinary speakers' series that brought 7 nationally prominent researchers to campus and participated in the innovation days programming on campus. Total cost was \$8,266.

Sustainable Communities

Steering Committee Chair: Pamela Mischen, associate professor of public administration

The Sustainable Communities Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence has an active Steering Committee comprised of 11 members from all six Schools and Colleges at Binghamton University. Additionally, there are 48 affiliated faculty and staff who have presented at conferences hosted by the TAE, received grants from the TAE, or participated in TAE events. In its second year, the TAE continued to pursue its goals established in year one with its four working groups, and added a fifth on the role of education in creating sustainable communities. The TAE hosted three events over the past year—a fall symposium entitled “Productive Aging and Families across the Globe,” which was open to Binghamton University faculty, staff and community members; a “Speed Dating for Researchers” event to allow faculty from various disciplines to meet and discuss possible research collaborations; and a mixer for faculty to continue these conversations and encourage more collaboration. The Steering Committee awarded two Seed Grants for the 2014 – 15 academic year: Mobile-Based Smart Service Platform for Personalized and Adaptive Learning, and From Vulnerability to Resilience: Developing an Evidence-Based Partnership Model for Transforming Rural Schools. It also reviewed proposals for the 2015 -16 academic year and made two awards: Neighborhood Heritage and Sustainable Communities: Devising Measures of Sustainability at the Local Level, and Examining Environmental Justice in Areas with Higher Asthma Rates in Broome County Using GIS Mapping. Additionally, we awarded four graduate student stipends to encourage future researchers in the area of sustainable communities. Much of the time of the Steering Committee during the 2014-15 academic year was devoted to the hiring process. Steering Committee members participated in four affiliated hire searches resulting in three successful hires in biology, geography, and economics. They also ran a core hire search that yielded two tenured professors. Carl Lipo is a Professor of Anthropology who studies Easter Island and who will direct the University’s Environmental Studies Program. Tim Frazier is Associate Professor of Geography and studies flooding and resilience in communities. Finally, a proposal for an MA/MS in Sustainable Communities was sent to SUNY and the State Department of Education for approval with an anticipated start date of Fall 2016. Total cost was \$24,929.

TAE Core Hires

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Provost’s Office authorized searches for core hires in four TAEs: Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging; Material and Visual Worlds; Smart Energy; and Sustainable Communities. Core hires are senior faculty hired into positions identified by the TAE steering committees as filling gaps and offering opportunities to develop research and programming critical to the TAE. Interviews were conducted with eleven candidates, resulting in the hire of three outstanding senior faculty who will provide leadership for the TAEs. Two searches were unsuccessful and have been reauthorized for 2015-16. Costs associated with these searches (advertising, transportation, lodging, meals, etc.). Total cost was \$25,964.

Projects Funded, 2009-2014

Understanding Health Service Needs and Availability for Foreign-born Individuals in the Southern Tier Area

Principal Investigator: Youjung Lee, Assistant professor of social work

This study consists of two phases. In Phase 1 (Quantitative Phase), the Area Resource File was obtained and linked with the 2007-2009 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the American Community Survey. The findings of the analyses were prepared and sent to conference proposals and manuscripts for publications. Based on the finding of the quantitative research, in the Phase II, the research questions were refined and

focused on older adults raising grandchildren in Southern Tier Area. Qualitative interviews with 23 grandparents raising grandchildren and 20 interviews with school professionals working with the grandparent-headed families in Southern Tier Area were conducted. The findings from the interviews were submitted for conference proposals (i.e., Gerontological Society of America) and manuscripts. To specify the needs of the grandparents and ways to help the intergenerational families further, we expect to conduct surveys with the grandparents raising grandchildren in Southern Tier Area.

Building Critical Research Practice Skills in Our Students

Principal Investigator: Angelique Jenks-Brown, associate librarian

This progress report covers the past year since my last report to the Binghamton University Board of Directors on July 27, 2014. The last three tutorials were launched Fall 2014 and were featured in the Library publication *Inside the Libraries*, "Technology as a Learning Tool: Libraries launch STEM tutorials", on pages 10-11 (<http://www.binghamton.edu/libraries/documents/insidethelibrariesvol1.pdf>).

During Spring 2015 a group of four librarians created content for five new tutorials to support the following Freshmen Research Immersion (FRI) Programs: BioGeoChemistry, BioMedical Biochemistry, Molecular & Biomedical Anthropology, Image & Acoustic Signals Analysis, and BioMedical Engineering. The content for these tutorials were reviewed by key faculty who will be teaching these FRI classes. A Computer Science graduate student was hired Summer 2015 to put the content into a web interface and to update certain features of the current interface. The Academic Enhancement Fund was used to pay for this student's wages. The librarians have received feedback from most of the course instructors and the graduate student employee is making the final edits. The graduate student will also update the tutorial home page next week (<http://binghamton.edu/libraries/research/tutorials/webtutorials/index.html>). In the next couple of weeks, the tutorials will be added to Blackboard. These new tutorials are on-schedule to be launched Fall 2015.

I received consultation from an Instructional Designer on how to use Blackboard to assess quiz questions for 11 active tutorials. The quizzes will be updated during the break between Summer 2015 and Fall 2015 semesters.

The Binghamton Innovation Program (BIP)

Principal Investigator: Bahgat Sammakia, distinguished professor of mechanical engineering and vice president of research

The Binghamton Innovation Program seeks to increase the visibility of research at Binghamton University. The BIP Program provided sponsorship of the Division of Research' annual Innovation Day event. This year's theme was "Innovation for the 21st and a half Century" with a focus on what our world might look like in 25 to 50 years based on current research trends. The April 2015 event drew 189 attendees from industry and academia. The program featured plenary and keynote sessions, panel discussions, tours and a student poster session. Prominent speakers included Matthias Vuille, Associate Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at SUNY Albany, who discussed atmospheric and environmental changes resulting from global climate change. The keynote was given by Kevin Maney of Newsweek magazine. Additional presenters included Jeff Peterson from NYSERDA, Jason Andrews from the Windsor Central School District and Heather Briccetti from The Business Council of New York State, and various Binghamton University faculty. A student panel discussion on education was hosted by the Binghamton Scholars students. A joint reception was held in conjunction with the Binghamton University Alumni Association.

New Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentration/Certificate Programs in Complex Systems Science and Engineering

Principal Investigator: Hiroki Sayama, associate professor of systems science and industrial engineering

The Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Complex Systems Science and Engineering was proposed to the New York State Department of Education and was officially started as SUNY's first academic program on complex systems in Spring 2013. The program's dedicated website has been created directly under the "binghamton.edu" domain (<http://binghamton.edu/cx/>), indicating the truly interdisciplinary nature of the program. An official flyer was also produced for promotional purposes (<http://binghamton.edu/cx/CXflyer.pdf>).

A total of 18 students have been enrolled in this certificate program so far (8 from Systems Science, 4 from Industrial Systems Engineering, 2 from Biomedical Engineering, 2 from Economics, 2 from Management), and 11 of them have already completed the program. As these numbers indicate, the enrolled students' academic backgrounds have been diversifying. The core coursework of the program includes:

- BME-524 Graduate Seminar for Complex Systems Science (offered every semester)
- SSIE-523 Collective Dynamics of Complex Systems (offered in Spring 2015)
- ECON-696H Agent-Based Policy Modeling (to be offered in Fall 2014)
- At least one elective with greater emphasis on theoretical foundations
- At least one elective with greater emphasis on applications

Part of the APDFD fund has been utilized to run the seminar course (BME-524) to cover expenses for refreshments at the CoCo seminars.

In the summer of 2014, we conducted an online exit survey for students who have completed this certificate program. The results clearly indicate the overall very positive responses from the students.

There are several recent changes in the context of this program, as follows:

1. The PI (Hiroki Sayama) has finished writing his OpenSUNY textbook on complex systems(<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~sayama/textbook/>), which has been used in the instructions of some of the above courses. This book will be accessible from anywhere on the globe, so it can be utilized as a great marketing tool for this program.
2. The PI (Hiroki Sayama) switched his home Department from Bioengineering to Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, and has recently become the Graduate Program Director of the Systems Science programs.
3. One of the Program Executive Committee members (Andreas Pape, Economics) has become the Graduate Program Director of the Economics programs.
4. The CoCo research group that serves as an organizational infrastructure for this certificate program has acquired an official Organized Research Center (ORC) designation as of July 1, 2015.

These changes present opportunities for us to further develop this advanced certificate program and invite enrollment from a larger student body on and off campus. In the year 2015-2016, we will work on the following action items:

- Continue conducting the exit survey with those who recently completed the program
- Increase the enrollment further (from both on-campus and off-campus students)
- Explore possibilities to create a new interdisciplinary graduate degree program in Complex Systems (potentially as a joint program between Systems Science and Economics)

Participation in Outside Activities as a Mediator of Adolescent Behavior Outcomes

Principal Investigator: Susan Seibold-Simpson, assistant professor of nursing

The purpose of the study is to determine the extent to which organized activities mediate the effect of protective and risk factors at the individual, family, peer, school and community levels on adolescent risk behaviors, specifically alcohol and drug use through an analysis of a youth survey conducted in Broome County schools. Our long-term goal is to outline best practices for schools and communities seeking to develop a system of organized activities for adolescents based on the risk factors prevalent in their communities.

This year the focus has been on a few different projects. First, working with several students recruited from the Decker School of Nursing (DSON) and through Campus Research Opportunities Postings (CROP) site, we completed the reports of protective and risk factors for each school that we collected data from in 2010. The analyses are descriptive and correlational. We explored how to conduct and present analyses in a meaningful way for each school. The next step will be to examine the concept of “other school activities” and its relationship to participation in risk behaviors. I have obtained IRB approval to visit each school system to review year books for what type of school activities are provided and how many students participate in different activities. This will then be used to further examine the relationships between “other school activities” and participation in risk behaviors. I will be reaching out to the school districts in the fall. I will again recruit students from the DSON and CROP. I remain committed to working with the school districts to continue to gather data and share findings.

Next, each student participated in a research project based on a research question developed from the data. These projects were presented at Research Days.

Omaimah Qaddhi: School Absenteeism and Health

Sean Dooley & Jessica Sorace: The Role of Neighborhood, Family, and Peer Level Factors as Predictors of Adolescent Substance Use

Binghamton Urban Ecosystem Initiative

Principal Investigator: David Sloan Wilson, distinguished professor of biological sciences, Mark Blumler, associate professor of geography, Anne B. Clark, associate professor of biological sciences, Richard Shaker, assistant professor of geography, Julian Shepherd, associate professor of biological sciences, and Weixing Zhu, associate professor of biological sciences

The Binghamton Urban Ecosystems Initiative (BUEI) was created to foster study of ecological and evolutionary aspects of urbanization, and comparison with suburban and rural areas in Broome County. One component of this initiative is the documentation and study of patterns of biodiversity in the region. Several BUEI faculty and their students have gathered data on Broome County biodiversity. These data needed to be collated in a database, to enable mapping and understanding of locations of rare species, invading species, and patterns and causes of biodiversity, and the threats to it. In 2014, BUEI hired a Geography graduate student to set up the database and enter the data, under the supervision of Rich Shaker (since departed for another university) and Mark Blumler. The student set up the database in 2014, and then during the 2014-15 academic year added features to allow interactive data entry, and mapping in association with human and environmental parameters.

GERD Risk in College Students

Principal Investigator: Lina Begdache, adjunct lecturer of biological sciences

The purpose of this research project is to test the effects of low glycemic diet on GERD symptoms and stress in Binghamton University students and staff. Dietary treatment of GERD and stress without resorting to pharmacological means may have great impact on quality of life. Funds were used as gift cards compensation for subjects who completed the 3-week course study. Results from this study generated two posters that were displayed at Research Days conference and at Binghamton Biomedical Research Conference. The project involves a Gastroenterologist Dr. Amine Hila from Binghamton Gastroenterology Associates and a total of 3 undergraduate BU students.

All the receipts submitted were about gift cards given for participants who completed the study.

Advancing Collaboration, Pedagogy, Adaptive Infrastructure and the Sciences through the Interdisciplinary Tobacco Research Program (ITURP)

Principal Investigators: Geraldine Britton, assistant professor of nursing, Gary D James, professor of anthropology and director of IPPHC, Steven Lynn, distinguished professor of psychology

The Interdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Program (ITURP) is a collaboration of researchers across several schools and departments of Binghamton University, as well as health care providers across the Twin Tiers of New York and Pennsylvania. The overall goal of ITURP is to create an adaptive infrastructure that promotes academic excellence and innovation by conducting research to address tobacco use and behavioral change issues. We have studied the effectiveness of a nurse-managed cessation program, conducted focus groups to explore the experiences of pregnant smokers and their providers, developed and pilot-tested a perinatal smoking status survey, produced two interventional videos for use in the clinical arena, assessed tobacco use on campus, and supported student involvement in research. In addition, during the 2014-2015 academic year, this research program has conducted the following activities to meet our stated objectives supported by the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund.

Objective 1. Sustain and expand collaboration among the current network of healthcare providers throughout the Twin Tiers:

- Continued collaboration with clinical sites. Presented at Lourdes Research Day results of a study of 110 pregnant women at 3 different clinical sites testing the validity and reliability of a smoking status survey (that we had developed) using urinary cotinine as a referent.
- Completed a study to evaluate feasibility of incorporating into routine prenatal care two consumer designed videos that we produced: at the DeMarillac Clinic in Binghamton and at the Arnot Medical Center in Elmira.
- Collaborated with the Broome County Public Health Department to present a regional symposium, Blowing Smoke: The Changing Face of Tobacco at Binghamton University. Attended by 60 participants, including President Stenger.
- Became members of the Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga Coalition spearheaded by the Broome County Health Department.
- Collected data at two tabling events in October, November 2014 in University Union to explore the attitudes, beliefs and knowledge regarding the tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and hookah) and a tobacco free campus. Subjects included 342 students who completed surveys adding to the previously collected data base (total N=924).
- Assessed tobacco policy and cessation program at the behavioral unit/Binghamton General Hospital.

Objective 2. Support the pedagogical infrastructure of student participation. This will occur on the undergraduate and graduate levels and include students from various disciplines.

- Mentored more than 20 undergraduate, 1 master's, 1 DNP and 3 PhD level students.
- Offered the first course (NURS499) in the DSON for undergraduate nursing students to actively participate in ongoing clinical research. In the fall semester 20 students were registered and in the spring, 18 students. The DSON Faculty Council officially approved the course in April, 2014. This is a 62% increase in enrollment from last year's trial offering.
- Guided students in the conduct of all the aforementioned studies as well as additional activities:
 - Review of the literature on e-cigarette and hookah use in the college-aged population.
 - Conduct of focus groups on exploring the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding e-cigarette and hookah use on campus.
 - Continued conduct of focus groups exploring campus knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding a healthy campus.
 - Supported all 24 students and faculty to attend and present 2 papers and 4 posters at the following local, regional and national conferences (students from all levels participated in at least one aspect of the studies: literature review, data collection, analysis, design and scripting):
 - Society of Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, Philadelphia, February, 2015
 - Blowing Smoke: The Changing Face of Tobacco, Binghamton, March, 2015
 - Eastern Nurses Research Society, Washington, DC, April, 2015
 - Binghamton Biomedical Research Conference, April, 2015
 - Binghamton Research Days, April, 2015
 - Lourdes Research Day, Binghamton, April, 2015
 - DSON Green Bag Research Seminar, May 2015
- Assisted one former PhD student in submitting a manuscript for publication.
- Advised a current PhD student who defended her dissertation proposal on the application of social cognitive theory in tobacco use research, two other students who are preparing to defend PhD proposals related to tobacco use in pregnant women and in college-aged populations, and one other DNP student who is writing her capstone report on smoking cessation in persons with mental illness.

Pathways Project: Building Connections in Families Living with Dementia

Principal Investigator: Paul Gould, visiting assistant professor of social work

The Pathways Project is on-going. Initial funding provided a strong foundation for the purchase of materials to be used with older adults and families living with dementia. Two interns (Fellows in the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education) were funded during the first year of the project to develop groups, recruit families to participate, and to provide direct services through the program. The interns were also responsible for data collection. Several groups have been hosted in Broome County. The Institute for Intergenerational Studies' Southern Tier Center on Aging provided a doctoral student for the 2014-2015 academic year to continue the research previously initiated by the interns. The project received approval by the University's IRB. Recruitment remains a gradual process as a result of barriers typically encountered by families living with dementia. Many families living with dementia experience chronic stress paired with feelings of "no time" and fatigue. This is exacerbated by family members' frustration with motivating and transporting their loved ones. Furthermore, while a number of families have expressed interest in the group activities, they have opted not to participate in the research; under the terms of the IRB approval, we must allow these families to participate in the groups while not participating in the research protocol. Based upon anecdotal feedback from participants, the research protocol is being revised to omit the caregiver burden scale as it proved to be burdensome to the participants. The revised protocol's quantitative data collection with focus upon participants with dementia; specifically, their pre- and post-intervention mental status and level of depression. Post-intervention qualitative data collection will include all family members who participated in the intervention group. A new opportunity emerged in May 2015 to collaborate with Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. This will extend the research protocol to an urban region which offers greater opportunities for conducting the Pathways groups. Revised IRB proposals are underway with both institutions. Initial results were analyzed and are currently being drafted in a manuscript for peer review.

These findings will be submitted for presentations at the Gerontological Society of America's (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting, as well as the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) in 2016.

Sixth Annual Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium

Principal Investigator: Neil Christian Pages, associate professor of German and Russian studies, and Comparative Literature

Funding supported the sixth annual Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (BUGSC) held on the Binghamton University campus in April 2015. Organized by the Department of German and Russian Studies, BUGSC brings together scholars, teachers, students, artists, writers, translators and others interested in German Studies for two days of presentations, workshops and intellectual colloquy. The Colloquium promotes the work of Binghamton's German Studies Program to an international audience and brings renowned scholars to campus both as speakers and as participants in the larger conversation and in the BUGSC workshop. The sixth BUGSC highlighted the German Studies Program's best practices in scholarship, teaching, curriculum development, outreach, and internationalization. Participants came from local universities (Cornell, Colgate), national universities (University of Kansas, Queens College CUNY) and from institutions abroad (University of Bremen, Humboldt University Berlin, and the Institute for the Study of the Book at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, for example). We were particularly pleased to welcome Harpur alumnus David E. Wellbery (class of 1969) as our keynote speaker (The Larry Wells Memorial Lecture) and as BUGSC workshop leader. Wellbery is the LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor in Germanic Studies and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Wellbery's publications are standard works in the field of German Studies and in wider research into the history of European literature. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the German Academy for Language and Literature and the German Academy of Sciences, Wellbery is co-editor of the *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte* and editor-in-chief of the seminal reference work *A New History of German Literature*. The topic of BUGSC 2015 engaged the scholarship of our esteemed guest with the theme "Readers and Readings: Literature and Literaturgeschichte in German Studies." The focus on the history of literature and on the writing of literary history attracted a diverse range of practitioners in the field and in related interdisciplinary areas to campus for panels, roundtable discussions, a keynote lecture and a praxis-oriented workshop that focused on Wellbery's current book project on Goethe's *Faust*. Wellbery worked closely with the BUGSC participants in engaging this masterwork under his workshop title "Text and Illustration. Readers and Readings between Text and Image." The various incarnations of the "Faust" theme through history and across media allowed Wellbery to guide BUGSC participants in thinking through the implications of the work and its emanations for our teaching and research while engaging the presentations from the previous day of the Colloquium as well as his keynote address.