

UMassAmherst

College of Humanities & Fine Arts



HFA Dean's Newsletter | April 2026

Dear HFA Community,

Spring has arrived! April is one of the busiest and most celebratory times of year in HFA.

I am particularly pleased to share that UMass Amherst has received a \$1.5 million gift from the estate of Caroline H. Horvitz to establish [the Caroline H. Horvitz Endowed Professorship in Mediterranean Archaeology](#) here in HFA. Caroline was a beloved lecturer in our Department of Classics — a dedicated educator who brought extraordinary commitment to her students and her scholarship. Her connection to UMass began through archaeological fieldwork at the Poggio Civitate field school in Italy, and she went on to teach courses on Roman archaeology, Roman religion, and Pompeii. This gift honors her legacy and strengthens our capacity for excellence in Mediterranean archaeology for years to come.

I also encourage you to explore the latest installment of [Tiny Spaces, Big Ideas](#), and to read a [timely new piece from the Mellon Foundation](#) that puts data behind what we have always known to be true: humanities graduates thrive in the workforce. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences reports that 96.3 percent of terminal humanities bachelor's degree holders between the ages of 23 and 32 are fully employed, on par with degree holders across all fields. At a moment when the value of the humanities is too often questioned, these numbers tell an important story, and one we should share widely.

There is so much to look forward to this month. I hope to see you at one — or many — of the events happening across the college.

Be well,

Maria del Guadalupe (Lupe) Davidson

Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts

UMass Amherst Receives \$1.5 Million Gift from Estate of Late Classics Lecturer Caroline Hill Horvitz to Endow Professorship in Her Honor

A \$1.5 million gift from the estate of Caroline H. Horvitz will establish the Caroline H. Horvitz Professorship in Mediterranean Archaeology in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, honoring the legacy of a beloved Classics lecturer known for her brilliance as an educator and her deep commitment to student success.

[Read More](#)

Now Accepting Nominations: Caroline C. Horvitz Endowed Professorship in Mediterranean Archaeology

The professorship recognizes a distinguished faculty member with an international reputation and significant scholarly research in the field. Nominations must be initiated by departments within HFA and submitted via InfoReady by May 1, 2026.

[Read More](#)

HFA Awards & Fellowships

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is proud to announce this year's award and fellowship recipients, honoring exceptional contributions in research, teaching, creative activity, and service across the College. Recipients were celebrated at the inaugural HFA Awards Ceremony held Monday, April 13.

[2026 Recipients](#)

NEW Tiny Spaces, Big Ideas



In Search of Our Mothers Voices: An Auto-Ethnography on Garifuna Women's Feminist Praxis

In the South Bronx, three generations of Garifuna New Yorkers continue to uphold the maternal network cultivated by Garifuna migrants. By exploring conversations with her mother and aunts, Assistant Professor Daisy E. Guzman Nunez in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies is constructing an intimate archive of race, gender, and migration through the lived experience of first-generation Garifuna-Guatemalan migrants in this Garifuna hub.

[Watch the Episode](#)



Stephen Platt and Juana Valdés Named 2026 Guggenheim Fellows

Professor Stephen Platt and Associate Professor Juana Valdés have been named to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation's 2026 class of fellows.

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Stephen Paparo Inducted into MICCA Paul Smith Hall of Fame

Professor of Music Education Stephen A. Paparo has been named the 2026 inductee into the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association's Paul Smith Hall of Fame, an honor recognizing a Massachusetts music conductor who serves as a musical and personal inspiration to students and the community.

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Pari Riahi Receives ARCC Mid-Career Research Award

Associate Professor of Architecture and Associate Dean for Research and Engagement Pari Riahi has been named the 2025–2026 recipient of the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) Mid-Career Research Impact Award.

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Caryn Brause Receives ACSA Distinguished Professor Award

Professor of Architecture Caryn Brause has been awarded the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes individuals who have had a positive, stimulating, and nurturing influence upon students.

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Marla Miller Publishes New Article on Betsy Ross and Women's Work in the American Revolution

Professor of History Marla Miller published a new article in *The Conversation* examining the historical legacy of Betsy Ross and the broader role of women's labor during the American Revolution.

[Read More](#)



Whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg's Legacy Resonates in Proposed Legislation, Endorsed by Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy

Professor of History Christian G. Appy, director of the Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy (EIPAD), has endorsed federal legislation introduced by Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib — the Daniel Ellsberg Press Freedom and Whistleblower Protection Act — which aims to reform the Espionage Act to prevent its use against whistleblowers, journalists, and the public.

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EVENTS

For a full calendar of HFA Events, [visit our website](#).

