January 2018 marked our 5th anniversary of promoting undergraduate research in the arts and humanities at Trinity University. In our first five years we were able to award summer research fellowships to 79 students working with 54 faculty, 24 course revision grants, and host several pedagogical programs and workshops. During this period, several people were instrumental in making the Mellon Initiative a great success, including Dr. Rubén Dupertuis for his role as the first director of the program, Dr. Heather Sullivan for her role as a co-director for two years, the Mellon steering committee, President Danny Anderson, Dr. Dee Jones, Dr. Mark Brodl and Dr. Dennis Ahlburg for their constant support and promotion of the Mellon, Katie Carpenter for her help writing the most recent grant proposal, and all of the students and faculty who collaboratively have created a model of undergraduate research in the arts and humanities at Trinity University.

This past year, we have continued to promote research opportunities for Trinity students. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, we had several 2017 Mellon SURFs (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows) present their research at both undergraduate and professional conferences, and two SURFs, one from 2015 (see bit.ly/2015Article) and one from 2017 (see bit.ly/2017Article), published articles that they co-authored with their mentors in professional academic journals. And in the summer of 2018 we had a strong slate of 16 Mellon SURFs working on research with faculty (see pages 2-5), and an extremely important and
2018 Mellon Summer Research Projects

"I'm so glad I was able to have this opportunity! I'm happiest about getting to work with my professor and getting funded to hone my skills."

-Anonymous SURF survey response

Media Literacy
How are bots and sockpuppets used to influence public opinion?
Mary Margaret Herring ’20
with Dr. Aaron Delwiche

Reanimating Waste
Materiality and ambiguity in the E-waste market
Michael Paniagua ’19
with Dr. Tahir Naqvi

Engraved Seals
Ancient Near East seals from the San Antonio Museum of Art
Elizabeth Day ’19
with Dr. Mark Garrison

Colonial Discourses
How polygamy was presented in the 19th century British Empire
Thomas Harvell-DeGolier ’19
with Dr. Anene Ejikeme

Learn more about these projects
bit.ly/2018SURFs
2018 Mellon Summer Research Projects

Maverick Rights
Mayor Maverick and free speech in wartime San Antonio
Simone Washington ’20
with Dr. Jennifer Henderson

Cultural Studies
The postmodern subject in Luisgé Martin’s La misma ciudad
Jennifer Ochoa ’20
with Dr. Debra Ochoa

The Invisible City
The city as both stage and subject
Nico Champion ’19 & Holly Gabelmann ’19
with Dr. Kyle Gillette

“I loved the opportunity to explore my field in greater depth.”
-Anonymous SURF survey response

Student Commentary
Interpreting Book 11 of Apuleius’ *Metamorphoses*
Andrew Tao ’20
with Dr. Tim O’Sullivan

Nico Champion and Holly Gabelmann attended a theatre festival in Italy. Read more at bit.ly/MellonItaly2018.
2018 Mellon Summer Research Projects

Gender Subversion
Defining femininity in John Donne’s “Sappho to Philaenis”
Kristina Reinis ’20
with Dr. Willis Salomon

Scouting Racism
Exploring language used to describe potential NFL draftees
Gavin Huse ’19
with Dr. Dominic Marais

Learn more about these projects
bit.ly/2018SURFs

Graphic Narratives
The personal impact of memorial museums
Julia Poage ’19
with Dr. Victoria Aarons

Visual Abstractions
Ana Mendieta’s artistic response to trauma
Ariel del Vecchio ’20
with Dr. Victoria Aarons

“My research transversed several fields and my mentor allowed me to explore these different fields and work on projects that were interesting to me. I was allowed to explore different areas and bring my own ideas to the table while being guided by my mentor.”

-Anonymous SURF survey response
2018 Mellon Summer Research Projects

Latino Identity

Assimilation efforts at La Trinidad UMC in 1940s San Antonio

Jamiless Lopez ‘20

with Dr. Angela Tarango

The Microbial Palette

Exploring aesthetic dimensions of microbial diversity

Kate Warford ‘20

with Dr. Frank Healy

Classical Receptions

Classical myth and Christian imagery in C.S. Lewis’s *Narnia*

Maggie Lupo ‘21

with Dr. Benjamin Stevens

Forum Theatre

Creating innovative responses to HIV/AIDS related stigma

Syne Barr ‘19, Julia Palmer ‘19, Chiara Pride ‘20, Jullian Valadez ‘21, Rohan Walawalkar ‘20

with Dr. Huesca, Dr. Prestigiacomo, Dr. Urquijo-Ruiz

As part of her research, Maggie Lupo considered how several NYC museums frame exhibits as ‘fantasies of antiquity.’

“[Our mentor] did a great job balancing work towards his book with allowing us opportunities to research what interested us. He was very supportive, meeting with us very often and constantly providing us with new books and ideas to further our work.”

-Anonymous SURF survey response

June 17, 2018 San Antonio Express News coverage of the theater production. Read about the project at bit.ly/EndStigmaBlog.
New Faculty Development Grants

CURE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

This grant supports faculty who will significantly redesign lower-division courses that fulfill Pathways requirements by including course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs). CUREs provide opportunities for students to go beyond learning individual components of the academic research process, and beyond working on traditional research papers, by working directly on relevant and unfinished research projects that might even be new to the professor. Faculty will be expected to teach the redesigned course in the 3rd semester after the grant is awarded and will provide assessment after teaching the course the first time.

Details:
- up to 3 faculty from a single department
- $2,500 stipend for each faculty member
- funding to attend a workshop

REGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANT

This grant supports faculty who will develop a regionally focused research project (in South Central Texas) that includes a student research component.

Details:
- $2,500 stipend
- requires applying for a SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) the following summer

HUMANITIES/ARTS LAB GRANT

This grant supports faculty who will create and run Humanities and Arts research labs. Research labs will create opportunities for faculty and students to work together on long-term research projects throughout the academic year. The lab will take place over multiple semesters, and students can enroll in the lab for one or more semesters and earn course credit.

Details:
- up to 3 faculty
- $2,500 stipend for each faculty member
- funding to attend a workshop and buy lab materials

To read detailed descriptions of these grants, visit bit.ly/MellonFacultyGrants. If you are interested in applying, please contact Chad Spigel at cspigel@trinity.edu.
NEW!
STUDENT
MINI-GRANTS

These mini-grants provide funding opportunities for student-directed research projects guided by faculty mentors in independent study work or as a supplement to coursework.

On a rolling basis, students can apply for up to $500 for materials and regional travel to enable them to carry out their research projects.

Applications are available through the Mellon Initiative website or go to bit.ly/StudentMiniGrants

Undergraduate Student Research Grants

Summer Research Fellows Program (SURF)
A 10 week summer program in which students work on a project directly related to their faculty mentor’s research.

Details:
- $4,200 stipend (student) and $2,000 stipend (faculty)
- free dormitory housing for the summer research period
- travel and supplies budget
- applications available January 2019

Mellon Institute
A 10 week summer multidisciplinary research cluster that enables faculty-student research teams to carry out inter-related research projects pertaining to one central topic. Proposals are accepted from teams of at least two faculty members from at least two Arts and Humanities departments.

Details:
- $4,200 stipend (student) and $2,000 stipend (faculty)
- free dormitory housing for the summer research period
- travel and supplies budget
- applications available October 2018
The Mellon Initiative at Trinity University thanks the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its continued support. In December 2012, the Mellon Foundation awarded Trinity University a $600,000 five-year grant to build collaborative research opportunities for students and faculty in the Arts and Humanities. The Mellon Initiative devoted these funds to programming in undergraduate research, including the Mellon Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURFs) and Mellon Institutes, and towards opportunities in faculty curriculum development. In March 2018, the Mellon Foundation awarded Trinity University a second five-year grant, this one for $800,000. The second grant aims to build upon the successes of the original grant by developing opportunities for more of Trinity’s students to participate in high-impact undergraduate research experiences.