

GGC School of Liberal Arts: Dean's Greetings



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alums:

I am excited to welcome you to campus for the start of the Fall 2021 semester. No doubt, the hardships we faced last year affected all of us, and I

recognize that 2021-22 is going to be an equally challenging year. The past months have been hard on our entire community as we have battled the coronavirus, lived through political strife, and faced systemic racism. Yet despite these difficulties, I enter this new semester with abiding confidence in the future of SLA. With our shared and inviolable belief in the power of higher education to transform lives, I know that the commitment all the good people of SLA hold dear—the commitment to doing work that truly matters—will sustain us and bring the promise of a liberal arts education into even fuller blossom at GGC.

Indeed, SLA is poised to make this an outstanding year. With 20 of our professors having received promotions; a remarkable catalog of faculty publications, performances, and exhibitions; numerous student success initiatives; one new academic major and several new certificate programs; a new digital humanities lab and improved lab spaces for CMAP, HDAS, and Psychology; and a fortified committee structure to meet more of our academic needs, our Fall 2021 starting point is a strong one. There are even bigger developments on the horizon. (We'll ask for the drum roll when the future is made manifest... until then, just know that our planning is in full swing).

All these achievements and initiatives, are targeted to provide our students with resources that support their academic journeys and personal well-being. Even in my first year here as your dean, I have seen how everyone involved with making SLA tick is committed to the belief that our students are the heart

of our institution. All of us strive continuously to provide an environment that nourishes academic achievement, creativity, flexibility, and compassion.

Because of GGC's uncommon commitment to this sort of education, I am happy to be among you for yet another year of challenges and opportunities. In the true spirit of the liberal arts, I am proud to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading a school that honors the understanding that each of us matters as an individual. I am equally proud to say that we in SLA take seriously the need to understand who we are, where we come from, and why we are here, as well as to cherish our connectedness to one another.

With that spirit as our guide, I know that no matter what circumstances are thrown our way, we have a bright and promising year before us. Welcome back and go do great things for yourselves and others!

Teresa

