



Since 1996, the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree has offered ASU students an opportunity to apply knowledge in new ways to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. Ranked among the top interdisciplinary studies programs in the nation, we currently have 2,332 majors and over 6,000 graduates.

Catching up with BIS Alum Julie O'Neal

By Christanna Rowader

Julie O'Neal is a native of Arizona and a BIS alum who graduated in 2000. Since then, she has received her master's degree in theological studies from the Saint Paul School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary located in Kansas City, Mo. She currently lives in Nashville, Tenn. and works at the headquarters of The United Methodist Church with



Young Adult Ministries worldwide. Julie is a hard-working individual with a strong faith and a vast array of abilities. Below are a series of questions I asked Julie to gain a clearer understanding of what influenced her during her time at ASU:

Q How did you come to choose ASU?

A Growing up with a grandfather, uncle, and father who are all ASU alumni, the choice to attend ASU was an easy one. I had considered other schools, but ASU offered me the most choices while being able to stay close to friends and family.

• What influenced you to choose BIS as your degree?

A After attending community college, I transferred to ASU to obtain my degree. I wavered between choosing two fields of study for a major. I was thrilled to learn that I didn't have to choose between my two areas of interest: French and religious studies. With the BIS degree, I was able to study both. I greatly appreciated the option of pursuing these two fields for which I have such passion.

Where are you originally from and what were your original goals when entering college?

A I'm originally from Arizona and my original goals were to explore the academic side of my faith through the study of religion, while at the same time becoming fluent in French in order to visit more of the Francophone culture.

Q Did you enjoy the BIS program?

A I enjoyed the BIS program and appreciated that many of my fellow classmates were also BIS majors. I am pleased to see the expansion of the program since my departure and was also pleased when my younger sister chose the BIS program when she attended ASU.

Q Do you have any advice to give to current BIS students?

A Be creative! Focus on areas that call to your passions and gifts! Explore new worlds with the unlimited possibilities that BIS has to offer!

• If you could choose one word to describe the BIS program, what would it be?

A Personalized.

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Contact Information

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies sls.asu.edu/bis | (480) 965-1970

Christanna Rowader, writer

Susan Zinn, writer

Dr. Denise Bates, editor

Deanna Johnson Mullican, graphic designer

Karen Mancini, consultant

Are you a creative BIS student

interested in having your work featured in an upcoming issue of *Kaleidoscope*?

Any type of creative work will be considered, such as poetry, short stories, art pieces, or photography.

Please send submissions to Denise.Bates@asu.edu

Interns in the Spotlight

Amy Havard, Brad Barrett, Matthew Manning

By Susan Zinn

The last issue of Kaleidoscope featured three BIS students and their fascinating 401 internships. We couldn't resist sharing three more with you this month!

Amy Havard

Concentrations

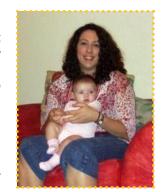
business and communication

Internship Site

P.F. Chang's China Bistro corporate office in the people services department (human resources). Prior to this internship, Amy worked as a server for the company for six years, first at the original Fashion Square location and currently at the Kierland location in north Scottsdale. In reflecting on her new position at the corporate office she states, "It is awesome that they have allowed me this opportunity!"

Responsibilities

Because the human resources office is broken up into several different departments, Amy gets the opportunity to learn many new things as she rotates throughout each department. Her duties change frequently. On the day Amy responded to this interview, she was working in the benefits department where she was compiling information for a benefits survey that was happening that day.



"My responsibilities vary. They are actually rotating me through all areas of HR so that I can see how all the areas function and come together. Both areas of my concentrations lend themselves well to this type of environment. HR is highly interdisciplinary in its own right, and I have found that being able to think in this way is definitely a bonus. So far, I have worked with recruiting, compliance, benefits, and payroll. It never had occurred to me before just how much interaction needs to take place between these departments and all other areas of the corporation. It requires an interdisciplinary approach because in most cases other areas are affected by HR decisions. My business background has given me a general understanding of what I am experiencing and my communication background has allowed me to understand how best to interpret and respond to the sometimes varied cultural differences among the different departments."

Brad Barrett

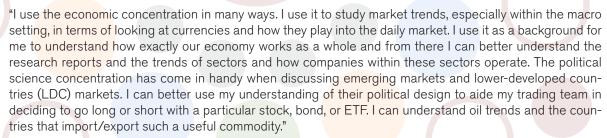
Concentrations economics and political science

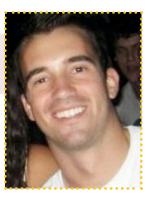
Internship Site

American Financial Network, a financial planning and asset management firm that conducts business all over the United States, but is located in Calabasas, Calif.

Responsibilities

Brad's responsibilities are to work with the trading department to help them with market research and analysis. He also works with the operational department handling monthly and quarterly reports. In addition, Brad has become the lead on a new client management software program that American Financial Network is instituting.





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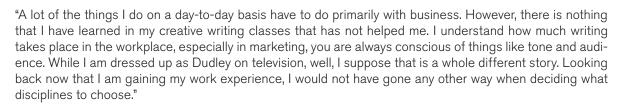
Matthew Manning

Concentrations creative writing and business

Internship Site

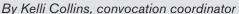
The marketing and communications department at the Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Responsibilities Matt's responsibilities are extensive. As the lead in marketing the Sports Medicine Program for Young Athletes, he writes press releases, establishes contacts, plans and runs events, coordinates medical staff, quest teaches for marketing classes in Phoenix where he presents case studies and leads discussions, coordinates meetings with local businesses, analyzes and implements current marketing strategies, and coordinates with promotional companies. In addition to all of these tasks, Matt still finds time to dress up as Dudley, the hospital's mascot, and attend events and make appearances on television.





Words of Wisdom Graduation





Attention seniors! You've made it through spring break and are that much closer to graduation. You will no doubt have a million things on your mind over the next several weeks, so don't forget the following dates and important information.

IMPORTANT

University College is implementing a new system that will enhance your graduation experience. If you are graduating in May 2009 or intend to participate in the college convocation ceremony (see below), you must register at graduate.marchingorder.com. Any graduate who is not registered before Monday, May 11, 2009, will be unable to participate in the University College Convocation.

University Commencement

7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2009 Sun Devil Stadium

University Commencement is a campus-wide ceremony. President Barack Obama will be addressing graduating students at this ceremony. Spring and summer graduates from all colleges and degree programs are invited to participate. ASU President Michael Crow will confer degrees upon graduating students at the University Commencement. Tickets are **required**. Please visit *graduation.asu.edu* for more information.

2009 Alumni Bash @ Dos Gringos

5 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2009 Dos Gringos Tempe Trailer Park Join BIS graduates, alumni, family, and friends for a celebration like no other with food, prizes, and more! Additional information is available at sls.asu.edu/alumnibash.html.

University College Convocation

1 p.m. Saturday, May 16, 2009 Wells Fargo Arena, Tempe campus The University College Convocation is an exclusive ceremony that individually recognizes interdisciplinary studies undergraduate candidates. Graduates' names are read as they cross the stage to receive personal congratulations and a memento from University College. Summer graduates are welcome to participate in the University College Convocation but are also required to register at graduate.marchingorder.com. No tickets are required and the event is open to the public. For more detailed information, visit sls.asu.edu/convocation.html.

Please contact Kelli Collins, convocation coordinator, with any questions at (602) 496-0622 or Kelli.M.Collins@asu.edu.

Did you know?

You are free to participate in more than one convocation! Here are some additional opportunities to celebrate. If you are interested in any of these, please be sure to check out important dates and details from the provided links.

Hispanic Convocation

www.asu.edu/vppa/hispanicconvocation

Asian/Asian Pacific American Convocation

www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mss/aapac

Black and African Coalition (BAC) Convocation

www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mss/bacgraduation

American Indian Convocation

aisss.asu.edu/amerindianconvocation

Preparing for Graduate School!



By Christanna Rowader

If you're a senior, graduation is just around the corner. Have you considered continuing your schooling for a master's degree? Even if you're not a senior, it's time to start thinking about it. Maybe the stress of finding the right school is too much right now. Maybe it's the loads of student loans weighing down on you if you don't receive a full ride that scares you away. A friend of mine once said that paying for school is like investing money into a better life. Or maybe you never considered it because you don't know what to look for and nothing has encouraged you to keep going. Sometimes all you need is the right kind of push.

Graduate school isn't for everybody, and not having a master's degree certainly won't keep you from being a successful individual; however, some careers require a master's degree to be hired or to help your journey up the ladder of achievement and responsibility. Finding out whether graduate school is right for you could help you in the long run. If it's not, it's not. But if it is, then start researching now! One of the ways to decide if you should be on the path to a master's degree is to speak with an advisor from a graduate school that you would be interested in. ASU also has a career guide that gives advice on applying for graduate school and how to be successful in the workplace, so it would be best to obtain a copy of this guide (see the link below). I also asked a couple of students who applied for graduate school about how they personally went about the process. One student recently graduated with a music performance bachelor's degree and has been accepted to Northern Illinois University to pursue a master's degree in music. The other student I spoke with graduated a year ago from ASU and is attending Rutgers University in New Jersey, pursuing a master's degree in biopsychology and behavioral neuroscience. I asked both of them how they prepared for graduate school and here is what they said:

"Seven months ago, I wasn't even planning on attending grad school, especially in the same field as my undergrad. Why bother getting an advanced degree in a field that you don't necessarily need a degree in to succeed? After laughingly telling everyone that I was definitely NOT going to grad school, my professor had a short two-minute conversation with me that changed my view dramatically. First, he insinuated that I was actually very good, and could get into nearly any program I wanted, and would probably be able to go for free. He also convinced me that getting more musical training can only help me as a musician, and though the degree itself isn't necessary, advanced training is.

After dwelling on it for a few days, and talking with my parents and colleagues, I went back to his office and told him I was considering graduate school as an option. However, I had no idea what programs were good or what faculties specialized in areas that would interest me. My professor quickly threw together a list of about 10 schools for me to check out on my own and gave one selling point about each of them. After doing some research on the 10 schools, I narrowed the list down to three: University of Washington, Florida State University, and Northern Illinois University. Then I began the more in-depth research, as I e-mailed a professor at each school, asking them about their respective programs. Through their responses, I was able to get a better feel for what they offered and was able to narrow it down even more. All music majors must schedule an audition in order to be considered. Because both of the schools I was interested in were out of state, I had to look at the financial side of things. Would I be able to fly out to multiple schools for auditions? The answer to that was, sadly, no. So I had to narrow it down to one school. This is considered by most of the musical world to be a completely stupid move. Most people apply to at least three schools to up your odds of getting picked. I managed to justify it to myself, thinking 'well, this is the only school I want to go to, so why audition at other places that I don't want to attend?'

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I spent the next three months preparing the seven pieces that were the requirement for the audition and was prepared to give them everything I had. It was definitely a gamble. When I was talking with the faculty before my audition, I discovered they were only accepting one graduate student into their 2009 class. Talk about pressure! However, in the end, it all paid off, and I was accepted into Northern Illinois University! Cold weather, here I come!"

-Mathew Solace, music performance

"There are many things one must do to prepare for graduate school. First and foremost, you must research the schools you are interested in attending. This research should begin early, leaving yourself a semester or two of elective courses to help boost your application. Be realistic! It is your education. It is pertinent that when deciding on graduate programs that you are a) happy with the location of the school; b) interested in the type of work an individual professor or group of professors is doing—they will be your mentors; c) honest when evaluating what the school is looking for in a candidate and if you are able to meet those standards.

Second, you must examine the types of classes that your prospective schools recommend that you have taken. You can't please everyone, but do your best to take classes in your remaining semesters that make you a good candidate to three to five schools. Another strategy people use in this situation is to take classes that appease a couple of your 'dream schools' or schools that might prove difficult to get in to, as well as a few of your 'safety schools.'

Finally, you must take time to study for the GRE, DAT, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, or whichever standardized tests your specific program requires. Don't put this off! It is worth your time and money to find a study partner amongst your friends that will keep you motivated to meet and study with each week. Show your interest in what you want to pursue, have a portfolio to sell yourself, organize your thoughts ahead of time, show who you are and what you've done. Never accept a phone interview over a personal interview. It shows you're willing to commit."

-David Barker, psychology

David applied to 12 different schools, turning in only nine out of the 12 applicant fees after conversing with specific faculty members from those schools, before landing at Rutgers. I asked him what kind of advice he could give current undergraduates who want to move on to graduate school and he said, "E-mail the professors of the schools you want to attend. The more you exchange e-mails, the more you make yourself noticeable."

For additional information on preparing for graduate school, you can find some helpful tips in the ASU Career Guide, students.asu.edu/files/Career%20Guide%20low%20res.pdf.

Strategies for Finding a Job





Under the circumstances of today's economy and the constant media coverage of the unemployment rate, the positive outlook about finding a job after graduation can be discouraging. Fear not! There are jobs out there for you; it just might take a little extra work to get the job you desire. I conducted some research and compiled some helpful strategies that can aide you in successfully pursuing future employment endeavors.

Strategy #1 - Networking

According to Dave Dolak of DMD Enterprises, an expert at assisting candidates with their job searches, about 70 percent of all jobs today are obtained through networking. Networking is enhancing the contacts you already have and working through those contacts to make new contacts. Talk to friends, friends of family members, co-workers, professors, and others in your personal and professional life. Keep in contact with them and ask them for referrals. If you have mentors, ask them how they became involved in what they do and if they have any advice that you can follow.

Strategy #2 - Develop a great résumé

Your résumé needs to concisely communicate your skills and abilities and convince employers that you would be an asset to their organizations. A good resource for creating a strong résumé is the ASU Career Guide, <u>students.asu.edu/files/Career%20Guide%20 low%20res.pdf</u>. Another option is to make an appointment with a career advisor. Once you develop your résumé, carry it with you everywhere you go; you never know when an opportunity may present itself.

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Strategy #3 - Attend job fairs

Before attending a career fair, prepare a 60-second infomercial about yourself; just a little something to get the attention of the recruiter with whom you will be speaking. Research the companies that are attending the fair so you know who you want to target first. Dress professionally and conduct yourself in a manner as you would during an interview. The most important thing is to remember to bring ample résumés with you.

Strategy #4 - Cold-calling

If you find a company that you are interested in working for and you want to bypass all the automated voice messages, call directly. Do some research to find out the names and extensions of the people that you should speak with. To find the correct name, try the company's main number first and ask the operator for the name of the vice president of human resources or the manager of customer service. Have your infomercial prepared when he or she answers the phone—remember your goal is to land a face-to-face interview.

These are only four of the many strategies for successfully finding a job. You have a plethora of resources to turn to for advice and support. For example, ASU Career Services (http://students.asu.edu/career) has all the tools you need to find the right job for you. The following are some other resources that you can access when you start upon your new journey:

promotions.monster.com/keywordjobsearch/?WT.srch=1&WT.mc_n=olmsrchtm www.employmentguide.com www.jobing.com

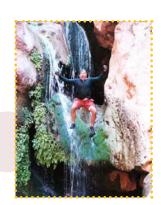
Meet the BIS Faculty Dr. Dave Thomas

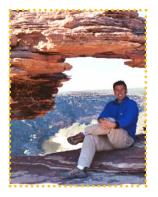
By Susan Zinn

If you have ever been greeted by a life-sized Austin Powers cutout while walking into his BIS 301 class or serenaded during his BIS 402 class, then you know who I am about to introduce you to: Dr. Dave Thomas. Dr. Thomas has a diverse and exciting history of education and work experiences behind him. He started his education at Cal Poly Pomona where he earned his bachelor's in electronics engineering with a minor in ocean engineering. He figured he would, "never have to live too far from the beach." After acquiring his degree, he went to work for a company that specialized in underwater acoustics as a field engineer where he stayed for about five and a half years. In 1989, Dr. Thomas earned his MBA in corporate finance and investments at the University of Southern California. From this point, Dr. Thomas became a "jack of all trades." He worked in consulting, real-estate ventures, computer systems engineering, investments, you name it and he probably did it. He is quite the opportunist if he sees something that is worth investing his time and intelligence.

Throughout all of Dr. Thomas's exciting journeys and varied experiences, he realized that he enjoyed teaching. In 1999, he earned his Ph.D. in educational psychology and organizational psychology from the University of Southern California. Soon after, Dr. Thomas moved his family to Arizona to begin his career with the BIS program at ASU. He came here because of the freedom to experiment with different teaching and learning styles. He liked that teaching was the central focus of the BIS program and the students were extremely diverse. For Dr. Thomas, each semester offers something new for him to learn and experience with each new group of students.

Dr. Thomas is passionate about the BIS program and the value that it has for students. He regularly teaches BIS 301 and 402, with an occasional 401 class thrown into the mix. In his 301 classes, Dr. Thomas emphasizes interdisciplinary thinking and working within interdisciplinary teams. This is how he meets the objective of BIS 301 to teach students how to think across disciplines. In his 402 class, his goal is to get students to think creatively by stepping outside of themselves and experiencing new ideas.





Whimming Lessons, Take Two

By Christanna Rowader

As the weeks go by, the whims come and go. I've found myself slowing down the busier the days become, but I still manage to say yes when I'd normally say no. I get the impression that my sense of adventure is related to senioritis, and if even it is, then thank the stars! The point of a whim is to enjoy life even when you're at your busiest. And this semester's schedule is defi-



nitely stuffed to the brim. However, I can't seem to stop myself from going on whims.

It was a Thursday night and I was planning on spending it with my friends. It was the week before spring break, and Anthony, Mat, Rachel, and I were trying to plan a short trip to San Diego, but we were having trouble finding time within our hectic schedules. Then suddenly Rachel exclaimed, "Let's go tonight!" Realizing we all had the next morning free, we decided we could pull it off. Mat and I just needed to be back by 5 p.m. to make it in time for work.

No problem.

But who would drive? We decided upon Anthony's car, a spacious, trustworthy Toyota. He just needed an oil change, but seeing as it was 10 o'clock at night, there wasn't a likely place that would be open.

"I can do it," Mat said, and we got to work. Supplies in hand, Mat successfully changed the oil, I looked up directions to Mission Beach, San Diego, and we were on the road by midnight. Well, almost. We needed gas. Ironically, the directions took us on a very isolated road, so the gas station we found seemed to be the only one at the time. Luckily, it was a 24-hour station...except that when we got there it was closed for ten minutes. We stood around outside in the chill anxiously waiting for the man inside to finish counting his registers and activate the pumps and open up the doors so we could stock up on gas and six-hour energy shooters. Twenty minutes later, we were back on the road. Anthony was the driver, I was the navigator, and Mat was the DJ. Rachel ended up falling asleep even after chugging a 24-ounce coffee.

The drive was long, but we kept ourselves awake with music and Dane Cook. We passed Yuma, crossed the border into California, and began the long stretch through the desert in the black of night, only the stars lighting our way ... and headlights. A little over halfway there, I glanced over Anthony's shoulder and noticed that we were near empty in gas. I asked him if we should stop at a gas station, but he assured me we'd make it. But he didn't account for the uphill driving and hard winds that made the car much more difficult to handle. Before we knew it, the gas light was on, nagging at us as we realized we weren't really near any civilization. We kept our eyes peeled for a gas sign as we passed barren exits. After a while, we were getting nervous. Then I saw one and we pulled off into a small town, staring out our foggy windows, it being in the thirties outside, until we saw the gas station.

It was closed.

Not only was it closed, but it was 4 a.m. and we were completely isolated. We called 411 to find out if there was another gas station nearby. We told them we were in a town called Pine Valley, but the woman on the phone said it didn't exist.

That was bad. We were on empty and had been on empty for miles and were stranded in a town that didn't exist! Thankfully, someone seemed

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I had the pleasure of taking both 301 and 402 with Dr. Thomas, and he truly challenges one to face one's fears and find one's creative side. His classes were an instrumental part of my education in the BIS program. Don't get me wrong, he's not "easy"; Dr. Thomas wants people who want to learn to take his classes. As he expressed during my interview with him, "If you're not serious about the BIS program, don't take my class." In 2010, Dr. Thomas will be the professor leading the study abroad program to Geneva, where he will be teaching a BIS 302/401 combo class. This combo was designed to give students who take 301 during the spring semester the opportunity to still study abroad in summer.

Dr. Thomas feels that "the BIS program prepares individuals with certain key elements that prepare them to be effective in a contemporary work place. The program teaches the ability to think creatively across discipline boundaries and to think creatively using multiple perspectives about complex problems and how to see that the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts."

Outside of being a professor, Dr. Thomas is a family man who enjoys spending his free time with his wife and two children. In addition, he loves hiking, mountain biking, camping, river rafting, and canoeing. You can also find him playing guitar, writing songs, singing, throwing parties at his home for family and friends, making movies, creating Web sites, and planning his annual spring rafting trips.

to be taking an early morning jog. Mat and Anthony asked her if there was a gas station we could go to and she told us there was one 18 miles away in another town. We were very lucky she decided to take an early run, though I think she was a little freaked out by us.

Eighteen miles later, we were able to make it to an open gas station, filling up 11.7 out of a 12-gallon tank, and made it to Mission Beach. Gathering our blankets, we snuggled into each other on the cold sand, gazing out to where the black sky met the black ocean, hearing the waves slip in and out. It was very surreal. And then the sun came up.

That day we had breakfast on the beach. I took a whim in the ocean, even though it was icy cold. Rachel collected seashells. Anthony buried his feet in sand. Mat enjoyed a peaceful walk down the beach. It was one of the best mornings I had had in a long time and one of the best adventures so far.

As much as we wanted to stay, we had to return to Arizona in order for Mat and I to get to work on time. Six hours later, we were back to our demanding lives. Though it was a short trip, it was a whim worth remembering! Next time, we'll plan to stay longer.

17th Annual Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop

The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) would like to announce the 17th Annual Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop (CCMW), which will be held Thursday April 23 through Sunday April 26, 2009, at the Hotel Santa Fe in Santa Fe, N.M. The workshop objectives are to:

- Identify strategies to improve communications between American Indian and Alaska Native patients and health professionals.
- Describe current health issues affecting Indian communities in both reservation and urban settings.
- Compare and contrast Western and traditional medicine views of health.
- Improve understanding of the role of traditional healers.

AAIP will be awarding scholarships to 20 college students (undergraduate, graduate, and medical students) to attend this workshop. Scholarships will cover travel, hotel accommodations, workshop registration and materials, and most meals. To apply for the scholarship, you must complete the CCMW Student Scholarship application and a one-page essay explaining why you wish to attend and what you hope to gain from attending the workshop. Applications and essays must be in the AAIP office no later than Friday, April 3, 2009. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact AAIP at (405) 946-7072.

Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates and Deadlines

Apr 16	BIS 401 application due before 4pm for summer 2009
May 5	Complete withdrawal deadline—in person only; last day of classes
May 6	Reading Day
May 7 – 10 and	

May 11 - 13 Final exams

May 11 Last day to register for Convocation

May 13 Commencement

May 15 BIS Alumni Bash @ Dos Gringos

May 16 **BIS Convocation, 1pm** May 11 - 18 Final grades due

Cultural Events

April 1 – 30 Rebirth, Blossom, Thrive – a	Navajo A	rtist
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8am - 6pm

April 4 – Artlink First Fridays participant, 6 – 9pm

ASU Galleria, Downtown Phoenix campus, Mercado, 502 E. Monroe St., second floor

April 10 Nationless a film by Barrett, the Honors College student Carly Campo

9:30am

Downtown Phoenix campus, Cronkite building, room 256

A half-hour documentary about the tribulations of the Baral family, refugees from Bhutan.

The Baral family is attending the screening.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's annual Earth Day event "Preservation for Generations" April 18

9am - 1pm, Salt River High School, 4827 N. Country Club Dr., Scottsdale

Environmental fair, roadway clean-up, petting zoo, and other activities. Breakfast, lunch, and t-shirts provided to

participants. Call (480) 362-7632 for more information.

Migration: Immigration, Giving Honor to Cultures and Communities arts exhibit through May 16

Downtown Phoenix campus, University Center, 411 N. Central Ave., second floor

asunews.asu.edu/node/6216