

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.

## BIS Alum Sybil Dosty Named PAC-10 Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year

By Dr. Denise Bates

The fall of 2007 seems distant, with more than a dozen courses and hundreds of students between then and now to dull my memory. Despite my foggy recollection, there remain a handful of students who leave a strong impression every semester. Sybil Dosty is one such student of whom I have vivid memories—she sat in the back of my BIS 301 class, was well-spoken, always prepared and displayed strong leadership when engaged in group work. I recall Sybil's intense focus on her studies, so it was no surprise to me that the same qualities she displayed in class are also what distinguish her on the basketball court.

I wasn't the only one Sybil made an impression on as her recent honor as the 2009 Toyo Tires-Pac-10 Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year attests. The award was established to honor college athletes who excel both academically and athletically. Sybil did both. Graduating with a BIS degree in May 2008, she is currently pursuing a master's degree in liberal arts while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and senior eligibility. At the same time, she was one of three who started all 35 games the Sun Devils played and led the team in total rebounds (90). She also tied for second on the team in field goal percentage (55%) and was fourth in total points scored (286).

There is always a sense of pride that comes with the success and recognition of our BIS students. The women's basketball team has brought much discussion to the halls around my office this semester because there are many BIS students on the team. In addition to Sybil, you may recognize such familiar names as Briann January, Dymond Simon, Gabby Fage, Lauren Lacey and Kayli Murphy.

Sybil first came to the BIS program because she was interested in studying more than one subject. After examining the multiple BIS concentration choices, she chose to pursue African American studies and human communication. The program suited her learning style and eagerness to study integrative thinking. "My advice to a current BIS student," Sybil offered, "would be to take advantage of everything the program has to offer and to enjoy your classes. This is a great program, with awesome professors. I couldn't be



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## 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](mailto:Denise.Bates@asu.edu)

[click to continue reading](#)

happier that I chose BIS as my major.” Even more telling than her endorsement of BIS is the fact that she chose to pursue a master’s in liberal studies, a program that Sybil describes as being reminiscent of the BIS program in the flexibility that it offers. She expressed that her BIS classes helped to prepare her well for a graduate program that emphasizes a multidisciplinary curriculum.

So what does the future hold for Sybil? She doesn’t plan to pack her basketball away any time soon. She is currently in the process of being placed with a professional women’s basketball team overseas. Although her basketball career occupies her focus at the moment, Sybil is thinking ahead. “After basketball,” she said, “I have a few areas of interest I am thinking about, such as media management or sales.” Good luck, Sybil. We will be cheering for you to reach all your goals!



## Director’s Message

Of the countless files in my office, the “Hurrah File” is the most valuable. Although visually unremarkable—shabby, manila, and stretched almost beyond its capacity—it archives many of your remarkable achievements, and it testifies that you are capable of mighty accomplishments in the classroom, on the field, in your communities and in your professions. With spring in the air and graduation on our minds, I challenge you to seize this opportunity for renewal and rediscovery. Realize the power you possess to change your life and to change the world. Embrace your potential, and offer the world (and my archive) another great “Hurrah.”

*Dr. Kevin Ellsworth*  
*Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty Director*

## The Votes Are In! Marc Beckstrom-Sternberg Receives Outstanding BIS Graduate Award

*By Christanna Rowader*

Finally, the Chosen One has been, well ... chosen. Marc Beckstrom-Sternberg was nominated and won the Outstanding Graduate Award of 2009 for the School of Letters and Sciences. For those of you who are not familiar with the award, it is one of great recognition. It is something that can be proudly put on a résumé and also gives the student a sense of accomplishment. The award is given by the Alumni Association and each school within the university selects an outstanding graduate, who is then considered for the university-wide outstanding graduate award. BIS faculty consider students who graduate within the 2008-2009 school year—and there are a lot—taking into consideration GPAs, exceptional performance in the core classes, as well as performance outside of school. From there, the graduates who are nominated can decide whether to complete the application process, which involves submission of several essays and recommendation letters. The faculty ultimately decides on the recipient and once they make a decision, the finalist’s name is forwarded to the director of the School for Letters and Sciences, who then informs the Alumni Association. This process takes about two months.

I was lucky enough to be able to read Marc’s nomination application and was truly amazed by the number of activities he has been involved in. Marc’s college experiences include being the secretary of the ASU sailing club, a leader of an ASU-sponsored solar research study, and a participant in the BIS study abroad program to London last summer. But that’s not all! In addition to school, his community activities include being a team leader for Habitat for Humanity, an English teacher in China, a promoter of sustainability, an intern at Translational Genomic Research Institute Foundation (TGen), founder of Pro-Cleaners Program, Inc. (a green corporate textile service), founder of GreenLove Forever, a recipient of a Toastmasters International Competent Speaker certificate, a speaker for the Dobson High School business panel, and a participant at a green build conference in 2009. Talk about having a full plate!



Marc graduated in August 2008 with a BIS degree, with concentrations in small business and communication, after attending college for just three years. He is currently at NAU getting his master's in applied communications and administration. Still as busy as ever, Marc was able to fit me into his schedule and gave me some insight into his days at ASU and what led him to some of his decisions.

**Q** *What led you to the decision to becoming a BIS major?*

**A** I started out pre-W. P. Carey (School of Business), but found other interests and decided to switch my major to anthropology. However, I didn't want to limit myself to one field of study since I was also looking into communication. When an advisor suggested BIS, I immediately switched.

**Q** *What was it like to study abroad in London? What did you study?*

**A** I love to travel and jumped at the opportunity to finish the BIS program in London, which provided me with an internship abroad and a chance to have a hands-on experience in another culture. I had a marketing/PR internship while completing BIS 401 and 402.

**Q** *I noticed that you were an English teacher in China. Can you tell me a little bit about that?*

**A** I left for China by myself the day after my last final of freshman year at ASU, not knowing anyone or the language. The school that I was going to teach at provided all the arrangements and so I got on a plane and went for it. I ended up teaching two classes a day, six days a week, for two months. I was taught Mandarin and spoke at public events and a total of nine weddings. It was a great experience that taught me things that can only be learned abroad.

**Q** *What do you do outside of school?*

**A** I've been an entrepreneur since I was 16 years old and I am on my sixth business endeavor, Pro-Cleaners Program, Inc. Additionally, while at ASU, I was on the crew team and sailing club. I currently play golf and mountain bike as much as possible, and I am in a corporate softball league.

**Q** *Do you have any big plans after graduation?*

**A** I plan to pursue a Ph.D. and continue to be involved with entrepreneurial endeavors. This summer I hope to travel to Spain and France.

**Q** *Do you feel satisfied with the BIS program?*

**A** I was completely satisfied with the BIS program since it allowed me to focus on two major interests as well as some electives. I found the BIS professors to be both enthusiastic and willing to help and listen.

Well, there you have it, a little peek into the life of the outstanding graduate. Marc is one busy guy and seems to also have a taste for whimpering, if you ask me (up and leaving for China right after a final, who does that?!—whimmers do). Good luck to him and all he endeavors to do.

Marc will be recognized during the BIS Convocation on May 16. Speaking of which, those of us who are graduating, don't be slackers and forget to mark your calendars and reserve your tickets: [Convocation is May 16 at 1pm in the Wells Fargo Arena](#). Finally, the time has come!

## Congratulations to the Recipients of the Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies Award!

At the end of every semester each BIS faculty member selects up to two students whose performance in their BIS classes have distinguished them in remarkable ways.

### Spring 2009 Award Recipients

Dina Barnese

Alex Derr

Jesse Goldberg

Peggy Lam

Jennifer O'Brien

Rachelle Pfeifer

Steven Ryan

Arthur Trout

Congratulations to you all.

## New Artwork Comes to Kaleidoscope

By Dr. Denise Bates

Did you notice the new *Kaleidoscope* header design? I never expected that when I put the call out for submissions of creative pieces in the last issue that I would get such a response! One such respondent was Rebecca Soltis, a Phoenix artist and BIS student in organizational studies. When I received her submissions, I instantly saw the potential for a new design incorporating her kaleidoscope piece. She graciously consented to the permanent contribution—thank you Rebecca!



I recently posed a series of questions to Rebecca in an attempt to understand the woman behind the art.

**Q** *What influenced you to choose the BIS program?*

**A** The BIS program at ASU is great! I was a little undecided for a degree major while attending Glendale Community College for my associate's degree. When I transferred to ASU, I initially chose communications as my major, but felt that I was lacking something vitally important in my life: art. After conducting more research online about different programs available, I ran across the BIS program for organizational studies. I really like the fact that it provides you with the freedom to choose different concentration areas so that nothing gets left in the cold.

**Q** *What types of artistic pieces do you produce?*

**A** When it comes to my artwork, I am known to produce a variety of pieces, all of which are created based on my mood. All of my work, however, does contain bright, vivid and intense colors to really pop out at the viewer. I enjoy creating psychedelic artwork that is visually stimulating to the eye. I use a variety of different mediums, but feel that I have mastered the art of colored pencils and chalk/oil pastels.

Currently I am working on two different collections for my portfolio. One of which is focusing on martini glasses and the other which is on symmetrical designs, similar to the kaleidoscope piece that I submitted for this newsletter. I plan to create about 11 – 12 pieces for each collection, and then place them on display in a gallery.

In addition, I also make handmade soaps and lotions, which I recently became interested in. I am working with a close friend who is Native American and will be weaving baskets for me so that I can make gift baskets containing my handmade products. I also make stationery and cards, and enjoy creating scrapbooks for my friends. I can proudly say that I have been chosen as the maid of honor for two weddings because I have a way of creating items on a budget.

**Q** *How long have you been an artist?*

**A** I believe that I have been an artist my whole life, and come from a family of many talented artists. I recently moved, and in doing so, looked through scrapbooks from when I was a child. It made me smile to see that even at such a young age I created artwork and collages, which allowed me to create the works that I do today. In addition, my mother and father encouraged me to pursue my passion.

**Q** *From where do you draw your inspiration for your art? What or who is your biggest influence?*

**A** My artwork stems from many inspirational and life-changing events. In high school, where I truly developed my talent and niche, the youth culture that I was associated with stood out in every way possible. This was not a bad thing at the time, but our group was known to wear very bright and colorful clothing and think of things from an alternate view point. This ultimately allowed for my creative juices to flow, and from there the possibilities were endless. I had excellent art instructors in high school who really believed in me and pushed me to my limit.

Inspiration comes to me from all over. Oftentimes I go to the thrift store and find old vintage or retro-shaped lamps and paint the lampshades with designs. I find myself picking up old end tables or



shelves on the side of the road and refinishing them. I can view any object and see how I can alter it to make it more visually exciting for its viewer or user.

I always loved work produced by graffiti artists. I stop to admire the spray painted walls in downtown areas in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Venice Beach. If you look hard enough, Phoenix even has legal walls that the artists use. Artists such as Alex Pardee and Jeff Soto (whose work can be seen in Juxtapose magazine) have influenced my style and the psychedelic and surreal feel to my work. Salvador Dali has influenced many of my early works, and still to this day ranks high on my list of influences for my art.

**Q** *How do you feel about contributing your work to the design of the BIS newsletter?*

**A** I feel AMAZING about contributing my work to the design of the BIS newsletter. When I initially submitted my pieces, I did so just to see what could happen. I never imagined that I would receive an e-mail back about it being featured in the newsletter, let alone being used as a permanent design! I think that this is an excellent opportunity to get my work in the public view, and hopefully create more opportunities for me later down the road. As the new pieces come out for my collection, I intend to continue submitting them for new designs for the newsletter.

**Q** *What are your future plans for your education, art and career?*

**A** I am known to be someone who plans in advance, or maps out how I want to pursue things in my life. I have given deep thought to my educational goals, artwork production and career. Currently I work as a financial aid planner and business officer for a private college, which is odd because it is not creative in any way and does not use any of my artistic talent. I first plan to obtain my BIS in organizational studies degree, which will give me the opportunity to participate in an internship. For this, I plan to network with individuals who work at the Phoenix Art Museum, the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture or a local art gallery. Hopefully this internship will open doors to new career opportunities. I have always had a dream to work for Lisa Frank, which is located in Tucson, Ariz.

Educationally, I would like to work on my master's degree after completion of my BIS degree, and one day work my way up to a doctorate so that I can teach at a community college or university.

To display my new collections, I am creating a Web site for visitors to see my work, comment, read blogs and purchase items. If anyone is interested in purchasing prints or original copies of my work, please do not hesitate to contact me at [soltis2785@yahoo.com](mailto:soltis2785@yahoo.com)



## Catching Up With BIS Alumni

### Jason Borges and Elizabeth Kuttner

By Susan Zinn

#### Jason Borges

Class of 2000

**Concentrations** communication and theatre

**Current Job** managing director for Campus Living Villages

**Q** *Where are you originally from and what brought you to ASU?*

**A** I'm originally from Tempe, Ariz. and went to high school just a few blocks away. I love my hometown and Arizona State University was an easy choice. I still remember seeing Manzanita Hall as a kid and being in awe, wanting to live in that high-rise.

**Q** *What influenced you to choose the BIS program at ASU?*

**A** I had a LOT of difficulty deciding on a major, and seriously considered about a dozen before realizing the BIS option was perfect for me. I studied two different areas, which no other program could have offered me.



**Q** *How have you furthered your education since achieving your BIS degree?*

**A** I received my master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Colorado State University in 2002. I'm also beginning to secure letters of recommendation so that I can return to graduate school for my doctorate here at Arizona State University next spring. My first program choice is the Ph.D. in education technology.

**Q** *How have you developed your career since graduating with your BIS degree and how do you feel a BIS degree aided in your career?*

**A** I chose to enter student affairs and university administration, so the emphasis on communication is a natural fit and something I use every day. However, I also do a lot of public speaking as part of my job, and the theatre emphasis was a great preparation for that.

**Q** *What is your best memory of college?*

**A** Being selected for homecoming court my senior year and all the events and activities that went along with it. Riding in the parade and strolling the field at halftime was a once-in-a-lifetime experience you wish every Sun Devil could have an opportunity to enjoy.

**Q** *Do you have any advice for current BIS students?*

**A** Since the program allows you to pursue two interests, choose one that directly relates to your career goal and one that is a strong personal interest. While my communication emphasis helped pave my way more than theatre may have, having that diverse combination did help my résumé get noticed. Employers need something unique to identify you as above the rest.

**Elizabeth Kuttner**

Class of 2000

**Concentrations** Spanish and nonprofit management

**Current Jobs** site coordinator for Arizona Quest for Kids at Madison Park School in central Phoenix (an academic support, mentoring and college scholarship program) and Enhancing Arizona's Parent Network (EAPN) coordinator for the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services

**Q** *Where are you originally from and what brought you to ASU?*

**A** I grew up in Washington DC. From there I went to Smith College in Northampton, Mass. After two years I decided to study architecture. I looked at a lot of programs around the country, including the School of Architecture at the University of Arizona. At that time, ASU did not have an architecture program, only one in landscape architecture. I came out to the U of A, sight unseen, not knowing anyone in Arizona. It was quite an experience. That was in 1981 and I was 19 years old. I completed 3 1/2 years of school in their 5-year program. During that time I got married and had my son. My husband graduated from the U of A and got a job in Phoenix, so we moved north and I did not finish the architecture degree. As I said, there was not an architecture program at ASU. I was frustrated—and did not want to just go to school to get any degree. So I did not enroll at ASU right away. In fact, I ended up having the rest of my kids—three more, all girls—and did not go back to school until my life changed pretty drastically in 1998. I got divorced a year or so before that and while I was working, I knew that I wanted to get my degree and open up my career options. It was at that time that I enrolled at ASU.

**Q** *What influenced you to choose the BIS program?*

**A** The BIS program was an absolute gift for me. I came to ASU with an absurd number of credits. BIS allowed me to consolidate much of my past education and speed up my degree, although I still had to put in a good two years. I have always been heavily involved in nonprofit work and education and I was working at a bilingual school, so I selected nonprofit management and Spanish as my discipline areas. I loved the BIS curriculum classes—I really enjoy integrated curriculum, so BIS really suited me.

**Q** *How have you been developing your career since graduating with your BIS degree and how do you feel a BIS degree aided in this pursuit?*

**A** I have been working in nonprofits steadily since graduation and primarily in roles that allow me to work with culturally diverse populations. One of my fortes is facilitating collaborations and cross-discipline solutions. BIS certainly helped me learn a great deal about nonprofit management. I also believe that it legitimized, in a sense, the way that I naturally work—I brainstorm and network with people from all sorts of directions that others might not see as links—it is a bit hard to define. I think BIS is an extremely important major. I would go so far as to say that the philosophy and some of the courses in BIS ought to be required in all majors. The world is coming around to realize that everything IS interconnected and interdisciplinary.

**Q** *Do you have any advice for current BIS students?*

**A** Take as many classes as you can. This may sound odd, but do not worry about getting straight A's—if you can take an extra course do it. Your time to explore the world with a classroom of students and an expert professional teacher is really short. BIS allows you to combine choices that interest you—take advantage of that. Be creative. ASK QUESTIONS! Be inquisitive. You are paying for your education, so milk it for all it is worth.

## Words of Wisdom

### Reasons to Join the Interdisciplinary Studies Alumni Club

*By Meghan Dorn, ISAC president*

*The Interdisciplinary Studies Alumni Club (ISAC) is an extension of the ASU Alumni Association.*

#### Here are our “Top Ten Reasons to Join ISAC”

- 1 Career Networking** – You've got your degree, now stay in touch with fellow Sun Devils for a helping hand or a job lead. In addition, you can become a mentor!
- 2 It Pays to Join** – BIS Alumni are offering great discounts only to ASU Alumni. All kinds of services are available, such as deals on new cars, credit protection services, even A/C repairs! Plus, if you join the larger ASU Alumni Association there are even more great deals available!
- 3 Sun Devil Pride** – Sporting events are always more fun in a sea of maroon and gold!
- 4 Staying Connected** – You never know where life will take you. Having a circle of fellow BIS Sun Devils nearby could come in handy when you least expect it!
- 5 Community Events** – Participation in community events like ASU Cares and Pat's Run are just a couple of ways ISAC gives back.
- 6 Be in the Know** – ASU is all over the news these days. Whether it is good publicity or bad is up to you. But you have to stay involved to be able to take a stand when necessary.
- 7 Support ASU Programming** – Events like Homecoming, Maroon and Gold Mixers, ASU Women in Business and, of course, our ISAC events are ways to stay involved and support the university.
- 8 Leadership Opportunities** – This is a new and growing club. One day, we hope to be a chapter with ASUAA, but that takes dedicated people who want to volunteer their time to see this group succeed—people just like you!
- 9 Contribute to Scholarships** – The School of Letters and Sciences needs your help to make sure that future Sun Devils can get the same opportunities. Please visit [www.asufoundation.org/InterdisciplinaryAlumsGive](http://www.asufoundation.org/InterdisciplinaryAlumsGive) to make a contribution.
- 10. It's Free!** – Well, kind of. We don't charge for ISAC, but to get the full alumni experience, join the ASU Alumni Association. Memberships start at just \$25 a year for recent grads! Visit the ASU Alumni Web site for more details!

Sign up for regular updates at the Interdisciplinary Studies Alumni Club blog at [www.asuisac.blogspot.com](http://www.asuisac.blogspot.com). ISAC is also on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Feel free to e-mail Meghan at [bis\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:bis_alumni@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## Meet the BIS Faculty

### Dr. Brian McCormack

By Christanna Rowader

Dr. Brian McCormack is an amazingly unique member of the BIS faculty crew. Of course, you could say this about all the BIS faculty members considering that BIS could stand for a “bunch of idiosyncratic smart people.” I know it’s a stretch, but after interviewing Dr. McCormack, I felt like he definitely stuck out within this distinctive crowd. He is a husband and father of two daughters. He calls himself a stay-at-home dad, currently teaching mostly online classes, and writes musical pieces on the piano for his “adoring fans.” Other than music, he has also written many articles that have been featured in journals such as *Issues in Integrative Studies*, *Global Society*, *Dialectical Anthropology*, *The Journal of World-Systems Research*, and *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*. Dr. McCormack has a lot to say about the interdisciplinary studies program, so listen up!



**Q** *Where are you originally from and what universities did you attend?*

**A** Born in South Dakota, where my mom and dad were both teachers, I attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Australian National University and, for the doctorate, ASU.

**Q** *What are your degrees in? Also, how did you become involved in the BIS program?*

**A** My undergraduate degrees are in political science and international studies, and my Ph.D. is in political science, with a focus on international relations theory and Indonesia. When I was finishing my Ph.D., I’d heard about the BIS program, and was able to teach a summer section of 402. The course I taught then was called Globalization, and, happily, I’ve been teaching a version of that course ever since.

**Q** *What does interdisciplinary studies mean to you? What is it about this program that makes it special?*

**A** BIS works! It is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the whole country, and for good reasons. We have the most caring and concerned faculty and staff that you’ll find anywhere. I’ve been fortunate to work for the past 10 years with a group of colleagues whose sense of commitment and community is a model for the rest of the university. The very nature of what we do makes it endlessly interesting. We have students who are studying in all the corners of the academy, and they bring with them to our classes an enthusiasm for new ways of thinking that inspires everyone. We’re a big program, the biggest interdisciplinary studies program in America, but our success happens at the individual level in the daily connections that we make with one another. There really isn’t anything quite like it anywhere else.

**Q** *What do you specifically focus on in your classes? What would you like your students to know about you and your teaching skills?*

**A** I get a chance to bring my own research to the table. One of my recent articles, called “Making Interdisciplinarity Work through Translation and Analogical Thinking,” is actually about my BIS 301 course, and how standard approaches to analogical thinking come up short. I was one of the five readers of a new textbook (Allen Repko’s *Interdisciplinary Research*), which I now use in our Interdisciplinary Inquiry course (302). My next article is called “The Problem with Problem Solving,” which casts a critical glance at one of the central features of interdisciplinarity. And right now I’m working on the last of a series of three pieces on the temporal dimensions of interdisciplinary thinking. I bring it all back to the classroom: translation, analogy, innovations in problem solving and time. These are so far my contributions to the growing palette of approaches to interdisciplinary thinking.

**Q** *What do you do outside of ASU, or what other things are you involved in outside of the BIS program?*

**A** I’m a stay-at-home dad (teaching mostly online at the moment). My wife and I have two beautiful girls, ages three and seven. I fold a lot of socks, and I’m enjoying this time in our kids’ lives. When we get a chance, we go back to Australia to visit “the rels” (relatives). Every year there’s a global event called World Hello Day. It’s something that my brother, Michael, started a while back, and that I helped him get going: [www.worldhelloday.org](http://www.worldhelloday.org). It’s our effort to enable everyone to have a chance to contribute to peace in the world.



**Q** *What can you tell us about the interdisciplinary studies program that can help students feel more confident and knowledgeable about what they're working towards?*

**A** The BIS degree is the best! If we'd had it when I was in college, I'd have taken it. My own interests are so diverse that I couldn't imagine not being able to study intensely in more than one area. When I was getting my degrees, I studied political science, but I also had interests in anthropology, economics, Asian studies, languages, philosophy, literary theory, and history. These days I'm branching out further. I'm reading about relativity and string theory right now. My seven-year-old hears me at the dinner table talking about my latest "scientific discoveries," and she's come up with a theory of how Santa Claus is able to make it around the world each year to billions of kids. It's because Santa has figured out how to jump in and out of time-space dimensions, so that what we might think takes 20 minutes at one house is just a brief moment for him. And it helps to be able to go back to the North Pole and get more toys.

A degree in interdisciplinary studies positions students to be able to cope with change, which is basically the mandate of the current economy. Interdisciplinary students are also quick learners, and they can do things that a lot of other students can't. They are particularly adept at thinking through the complexity that the world throws at you and coming up with innovative ideas to move a company, or an organization, or a society in the right direction. But besides the practical dimensions of a college degree, the idea of thinking about a lot of things at once, of integrating diverse things and ideas, makes the BIS degree a great thing to have as a foundation for your life. It's an experience that you take with you as much as anything else, and time and again I hear from students about how the courses that they took in BIS were the best experiences they had as a university student. Your eyes are open to a universe of possibilities. It's the process of opening your eyes that you'll carry with you for the rest of your life.

## Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

By Susan Zinn

"Ready?"

"Ready!"

As I stood at the edge of the 53-foot-high platform, their response of "ready" rang in my ears. I thought, "Ugh! Now I have to jump." My worst fear is heights. I could hear words of support being yelled up to me: "You can do it, Susan! We are here to catch you! Face that fear girlfriend and jump!" I took a deep breath and jumped. "WHOOHOO! Oh my God," was all I kept saying. Then, I felt my body swinging back and forth as I slowly descended to the ground. What a rush! This was one of three obstacles that make up the "Ropes Challenge" course at Friendly Pines Camp near Prescott, home to the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program for two weekends a year in the spring and summer.

Among other things, the BOW program offers women over the age of 18 the opportunity to learn fishing, hunting, rappelling, horsemanship, Dutch-oven cooking, map reading, camping and archery.

Lodging at Friendly Pines is rustic, but clean and comfortable. Attendees stay in cabins equipped with bunks, bathrooms and showers. All you need to bring is a sleeping bag, pillow, towel and personal items. You are also offered the opportunity to bring your own tent and camp out in the meadow. Friendly Pines serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, so no need to worry about bringing food. The entire weekend, which includes food, lodging and classes, is only \$250.

I chose to share my BOW experience with you because I not only learned a lot about the outdoors, but I also discovered aspects about myself. I chose classes that challenged my fears and my ability to believe in myself. As I stood at the bottom of my 53-foot climb to the platform high in the tree, I told myself, "All you have to do is try and see how far you can go." I never thought about what would happen when I got to the top; I just kept on climbing. I never stopped to question whether or not I could do it. I did not even question my ability to be successful, as I often do. I just focused on what was in front of me. It was when I actually stood atop of the platform that I realized what I had accomplished.

The next step was even bigger. It was a long way down to the ground. I had climbed all the way up and now it was time to jump back down. I just stood for a bit and looked around, felt my knees shaking and my heart pounding. I questioned whether or not I could do it and suddenly became overwhelmed with fear. I learned at that moment, when you question your abilities to be



successful, you will never take that one giant step. That is when I jumped. What I learned that weekend was that accepting the support of others and believing in yourself is all you need to be successful.

A few weeks ago I participated in my second BOW program and I plan to continue the tradition every year! I made new friends with women who were anywhere from 18 to 75 and I realized that many of us face the same challenges each day. The BOW program gives women the chance to escape the daily grind and enjoy a weekend in the pines. August 14 – 16, 2009, is the next Becoming an Outdoors-Woman weekend. I highly recommend it to women who are interested in learning more about the outdoors—or themselves.

I could write a short novel about my experience with the BOW program, but I hope the photos I included will give you a small taste of my adventures. If you are interested in experiencing it for yourself, please visit the following link: [www.uwsp.edu/CNR/bow](http://www.uwsp.edu/CNR/bow)



## Whimming Lessons, Take Tre

By Christanna Rowader

Graduation is coming. And for the first time, I felt myself panic. Where am I going? Do I continue on with my master's? Did I get the right degree? Will I have a career? These are the common questions that plague the student's mind right before graduation. These questions are not the reason why I am panicking. Sure I have ruminated over and over about what decisions I need to make in order to have a successful career and that after graduation I will be making some of the most important decisions of my life—and I hate making decisions—but oddly enough I am not bothered by this. I am the type of person that is comfortable with the idea of “whatever happens, happens” and that things will fall into their rightful place. This is not the source of my stress. To put it bluntly, I am afraid of losing my closest friends. Whether you are graduating this year, or you know someone who is graduating, it is safe to assume that a lot of things change afterwards, including the people you love moving far away. Facebook is pretty good at helping keep friendships alive, and, if you're consistent at it, phone calls usually can keep people close as well. You can keep it up for about a year and maybe longer, but in most cases, the friendships fade and you make new ones. This is an ongoing cycle. However, this time around I panicked! I didn't want to follow the “cycle.”



When I was in high school, I believed that my best friends and I would stay very close. I am an incredibly stubborn person, so you can imagine how adamant I am with my faith in the endurance of friendships. During my senior year, I finally made a small but very close-knit group of friends. I remember that we used to wonder why we were never close before until our last year of school. We graduated and some of us moved away. We stayed close for a little over a year and then—just like the cycle—we faded away.

The same thing is happening now. This is my senior year in college and I have become extremely close with only a select few. Three of us are all moving out of state, me included. We used to tease the idea of moving to the same state together, thinking of how much fun that could be, knowing that some of us couldn't be without each other. And all the while, I keep thinking how familiar this all seems. I hear Rachel say, “I don't think you and I will ever not be friends...we'll grow old together.” Smiling at her, I try to be positive, but I am not. I am cynical. I've heard it before. And so, I panicked. Because this time I really, really don't want the same thing to happen—where people move away and move on.

So what? This semester, despite my incredibly busy schedule, I designated all my free time—and not-so-free time—to spend with my closest friends, to fill my memory with them and all the happiest moments they bring to life. Because who knows when it'll be this good again. I realize how dramatic this sounds—believe me, drama is my middle name—but frankly I can't help it; it's in my genes—and the inspirational music in the background is also helping. I have whimmed with the best of friends and plan on continuing to do so until we part our ways. I guess you can say they have been the reason behind my whimming—and the virus commonly known as senioritis has also added to it. So I will hope and enjoy every minute we're together. I have plenty more whims up my sleeve saved up for the summer. And, just like the summer after my high school graduation, this summer will be logged into my memory as one of the greatest! Then August will come, and this chapter will close, but another will open. Things will fall in their right places. Remember to appreciate those closest to you. Work hard, but harder for those you love. Oh yeah, and have fun!

*And continue to whim where no whimmer has gone before...*

# Magic around the Bend

## a coast-to-coast Storytelling Tour by Bike



### The Artist

Revered as a "Master Storyteller" (Belvoir Castle, England) *Layne Gneiting* is a juried Arizona Roster Artist with a rich tapestry of experience. He first competed in intercollegiate speech events, rehearsing plays on the side. Later he earned a PhD in Performance Studies, and began teaching in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program for Arizona State University. In addition to teaching, Gneiting has performed in hundreds of schools, conferences, festivals, and venues as far as the British Isles.

### The Program

*Magic around the Bend* is an evening of tales told in the bardic tradition. Anciently, storytellers wandered the land, their knapsacks packed with writings, poems, and songs. At a word they could conjure forth tales suited for any occasion, or any crowd. Kings, peasants, noblemen, ladies . . . all fell captive to the lure of story.

*Magic around the Bend* evokes the spirit of these ancients by interweaving three scrumptious tales: King of the Golden River, How the Man Lost his Wen, and the Three Questions.

Woven together, these tales form an evening of world-class entertainment spun with character voices, vocal effects, and tickled with original music on the keyboard. Wrapped together they remind us all to hang in there: there's magic awaiting . . . just around the bend.

***This program is recommended for children 7 and older who love to listen to stories, and their well behaved parents.***

### The Dates

May 24 - Aug 17

### The Route

Passing through 11 states and 2 countries going west to east from Neah Bay, WA to Lubec, ME.

### Contact Info

[www.adventureteller.com](http://www.adventureteller.com)  
[adventureteller@mac.com](mailto:adventureteller@mac.com)  
480-208-1460



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*Refreshments will be served*

## Faculty Highlights

*Kaleidoscope* would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the accomplishments of BIS faculty over the past year whose work has not only contributed to the larger academy, but also to the direction and content of BIS core courses in subtle—or not so subtle—ways. This list provides a snapshot of the work and honors of a few faculty members. Upcoming issues will highlight additional accomplishments that are forthcoming or may have been missed.

The BIS program is proud to announce that **Dr. Stephanie deLusé** was one of the three student-nominated professors selected from the entire university to give a public lecture for the 14th Annual Last Lecture Series sponsored by ASU Student Engagement. The series gives professors the opportunity to design a lecture as if it were their last. Dr. deLusé delivered her lecture on April 30 and titled it “Problems, Paradoxes, and Pleasures: Life Lessons Learned from Teaching.”

**Dr. Bettie Anne Doebler**, professor emerita and interdisciplinary studies faculty, has just published another scholarly work, her latest in a long string of publications. The publication is the ninth volume of a series of funeral sermons published for women between 1601 and 1630. The series has been an ongoing project for Dr. Doebler and her colleague, Retha Warnicke, a Tudor historian. The most recent addition to the series, *The State of the Godly in this Life and to Come* (1606), is a funeral sermon for Lady Elizabeth Courtney of Devon, a woman who lived through the religious changes during the reigns of the Tudors.

**Dr. Dave Konz** co-authored a chapter entitled, “Ecology Transformed: The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and the Changing Patterns of Ecological Research,” in *Scientific Collaboration on the Internet* published by MIT Press, November 2008.

**Dr. Jessica Hirshorn's** intercultural training simulation “Blast Off: The International Space Station Simulation” is being published by Intercultural Press and is due out in October. She recently presented the simulation at the Society for Intercultural Education Training and Research Conference (SIETAR) in Cary, N.C.

**Dr. Denise Bates** and a team of BIS students and office staff searched over 1,700 college catalogs and compiled data for over 1,300 baccalaureate degrees offered at colleges and universities across the nation that are considered inter-, multi- or transdisciplinary. **Dr. Kevin Ellsworth** then created an online database using this information. The research and resulting “Interdisciplinary Studies Network” was presented at the Association for Integrative Studies Conference in Springfield, Ill. The network can be found at [interdisciplinarystudies.org/](http://interdisciplinarystudies.org/)

## Mark Your Calendar

### Important Dates and Deadlines

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	<a href="#">BIS Alumni Bash @ Dos Gringos</a>
May 16	<b>BIS Convocation, 1pm</b> ( <a href="http://sfs.asu.edu/convocation.html">sfs.asu.edu/convocation.html</a> )
June 1	First day of classes, first 5-week and 8-week summer sessions
June 1 – 2	Late registration and drop/add deadline
June 3	<b>BIS 401 applications available for fall 2009</b> ( <a href="http://sfs.asu.edu/bis/bis_courses/401.html">sfs.asu.edu/bis/bis_courses/401.html</a> )
June 5	Tuition and fees 100% refund deadline (both the 5-week and 8-week sessions)
July 2	Last day of classes, first 5-week summer session
July 6	First day of classes, second 5-week summer session
July 16	<b>BIS 401 applications due for fall 2009</b> ( <a href="http://sfs.asu.edu/bis/bis_courses/401.html">sfs.asu.edu/bis/bis_courses/401.html</a> )
July 23	Last day of classes, 8-week summer session
Aug. 6	Last day of classes, second 5-week summer session

The ASU academic calendar can be found at [students.asu.edu/academic-calendar](http://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar)