

## Catching Up with BIS Alumni

### Naomi Boone on Seizing Opportunities

By Jeffrey Rosen

Naomi Boone is a BIS alumna who literally took full advantage of the incredible opportunities this institution has to offer students. While attending the ASU Career Fair last year, she obtained a job with the Pacific Islands Club, which is located on the island of Saipan on the northern chain of the Pacific Islands.

In Saipan she worked with Clubmates, which is a large marketing tool for the resort. Naomi explained, “Clubmates are part of the S.E.A. Department (sports, entertainment and activities).” This paid internship consisted of interacting with guests of the family-oriented resort to make every effort to ensure they had an entertaining and enjoyable time. Essentially, it was part of her job to provide a memorable experience by assisting guests who wished to participate in a wide range of activities, such as archery, windsurfing, sailing, tennis, wall climbing, and various other water and land activities.

While in the BIS program, Naomi’s concentration areas were in business and communication. Her internship was able to incorporate both areas quite well. One of the biggest lessons she took away from the experience was learning to communicate and work with people of different cultures. “It opened up my eyes to another world,” she admitted. After reflecting on her experience, Naomi had some sage advice for graduating students: “Network as much as possible and keep your eyes and ears open for all opportunities. Use all resources presented to you.” What we can learn from Naomi is that there are always opportunities waiting for you—sometimes they appear at the beginning of your search while at other times they reveal themselves at the very last moment.



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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 by either focusing on two subject area concentrations or by pursuing the more recently established Organizational Studies option. In 2009, the School of Letters and Sciences also welcomed the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree to its offerings. As one of the largest and fastest growing programs at ASU, we currently have 1,954 interdisciplinary studies majors, 400 liberal studies majors, and 8,373 combined graduates.

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[click to continue reading](#)

BIS student Rebecca Soltis created the original artwork in the *Kaleidoscope* masthead.

## Chris Perillo on Finding Your Calling

Chris Perillo is a BIS alumna with an incredible story to her name. In a recent interview with her, she explained how she began her career in “training with the U.S. Navy (as a civilian) for a program that focused on personal accountability for sailors aged 18 – 26. One of the highlights of that position was being able to travel aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf.” Just as in the movie *Top Gun*, she was actually catapulted (in a supply plane) off the deck! She learned a great deal during her time with this program, including the importance of effective communication among those in leadership positions.



Chris initially attended Olympic College in Bremerton, Wash. with the intention of becoming a social worker or nurse. After discovering that neither profession was for her, she spent several years exploring various other programs and colleges until she discovered the BIS organizational studies program at ASU. “I knew it was for me,” she reported. “I was so excited to be able to find a program that fit in perfectly with my career objectives and was flexible enough to allow me to work full time.”

It was through a series of unfortunate circumstances that Chris found her calling. When her mother, father and 17-year-old daughter all lost their lives to cancer, Chris dedicated her life to cancer education and now works for the American Cancer Society. She is not only in a field that she feels a close connection to but one where she is making a difference in society by working for a meaningful cause. Chris’s advice to graduating students is to find an industry that is meaningful to you and look in that direction for a career. It is often through a process of trial and error that you will find your calling.



## Something to Celebrate!

*Kaleidoscope* would like to congratulate two of our very own BIS students, Anthony Robles and Bubba Jenkins, who recently won the national championships in wrestling. Incredibly, ASU was the only school to have two national champions!

**Read more about their tremendous accomplishments:**

<http://thesundevils.cstv.com/sports/m-wrestl/recaps/032011aaa.html>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704433904576212721437205698.html>

## Director's Message

*Dear BIS, BLS, and Organizational Studies Students,*

I hope that you are enjoying a productive spring semester. Whenever I ask colleagues about our students, I consistently hear rave reviews about the exciting work that you are doing in courses with the "BIS" prefix. You engage in lively face-to-face and online discussions; you craft interesting projects; and you enrich life at ASU.

I'm excited about all that we are able to offer students in our degree programs. For example, this summer, BIS faculty are again leading groups who will study in Dublin and London, two dynamic European cities. You may have seen the recent *State Press* story about a new program that will take students to Turkey this summer. If you have not had an opportunity to study in another country, I hope that you will consider doing so before you graduate. It's an experience that you will never forget.

When I hear about the many kinds of internship experiences that our students have in BIS 401, I often think, "I want to do that." I'm also pleased that so many of our students continue as full-time employees at the same companies where they intern.

When the School of Letters and Sciences began offering the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree in 2009, I knew that it would be an attractive degree to many students. The BLS degree encourages students to make connections between the humanities and the social sciences. Also, because the degree is completely online, students are able to engage in class activities from any location and at any time of the day and any day of the week.

For those of you who are graduating in May, I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments. I hope to see your family and friends at commencement and convocation.

For those of you who aren't completing degrees this May, I look forward to seeing you back at ASU this summer and next fall.

*Best wishes,*  
Duane Roen



## Are You a Creative BIS or BLS 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 submission to Denise Bates at [Denise.Bates@asu.edu](mailto:Denise.Bates@asu.edu)

## Interns in the Spotlight

By Jeffrey Rosen

With hundreds of BIS students completing 401 internships this spring, we thought we would introduce you to two students who are gaining some fascinating experience in their internships. They are true testaments to why experiential learning is so important!



### Sarah Goodwin

**Concentration Areas:** political science and economics

Sarah is an ambitious woman who landed an internship with the Arizona Ombudsman at the Citizens' Aide office where she is able to draw from both of her concentration areas regularly. Specifically, Sarah has been able to take what she has learned from her economics courses and observe first hand how the actions of the government affect the people. The internship has also allowed her to draw from her political science background to work with numerous state agencies in Arizona and gain exposure to different aspects of law and public policy as it applies to different bodies. She has gained valuable experience in evaluating rules and statutes and analyze whether they are being enforced properly. With this type of experience, Sarah undoubtedly has a bright future ahead of her.

### Jenna Kinnard (not pictured)

**Concentration Areas:** education and non-profit leadership management

Jenna is getting to fulfill her lifelong dream of working with children by interning for a nonprofit organization called Camp Adventure Child and Youth Services in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Not only is she fortunate to carry out her internship abroad, she has found work that she is passionate about, making this a truly incredible experience. Jenna is undoubtedly putting the skills that she learned in her education and nonprofit leadership management classes to use!

### Call for Interns!

*Kaleidoscope* is looking for interns to aid in the continued production of the newsletter for the fall semester. If you are looking for an internship opportunity (that also fulfills the BIS 401 requirements) and would like to get writing experience and hone your research and interviewing skills, please contact Denise Bates at [Denise.Bates@asu.edu](mailto:Denise.Bates@asu.edu).

*Please include two writing samples.*

## Food for Thought

### Advice for the Job Hunt

By Jeffrey Rosen

Given the state of our economy, many graduating students are preoccupied with the prospects of their future. Where and for whom am I going to work? Is the job of my dreams within grasp? Will I have to first consider internships? The truth is that the possibilities regarding your future are endless. You just have to seize the opportunities that are presented to you because your future is anything but set in stone.

What do company recruiters want in the job market today? Do they look for experience, the degree you obtained, or what characteristic in your background can separate you from the rest of the herd? In all honesty, I am not a guru, I do not pretend to have all the answers; however, I can present you with the knowledge I have gathered about this important subject.

According to a survey conducted by Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute, there is a list of specific qualifications employers look for in future employees. Businesses and organizations want college graduates with work experience in their field, problem-solving skills, computer knowledge, communication skills, and well-developed logic and reasoning skills. With these qualifications under your belt, so to speak, you are in the best position to find work in your chosen career.

I decided to put the results of this research to the test by interviewing a few businessmen and women of notoriety. I received some interesting responses. Dr. Brent Weinerman, a chiropractor from the Weinerman Pain & Wellness Clinic, said he looks for three main attributes in employees: "Diligence, experience, and the ability to assess and respond to work related problems rapidly." Although the second two attributes are in line with what the Collegiate Employment Research Institute determined, the first one has an element of simplicity to it. In fact, it is a characteristic that many other notable business men and women have identified. Ken Clement, for example, the owner of several McDonald's franchises throughout the United States, firmly reported that "persistence is the key to success."

Another idea that everyone understands, but doesn't necessarily take full advantage of, is the importance of networking. This one word has many meanings; however, I'm referring to it in terms of marketing yourself and locating career opportunities. Commonly, people equate this to the idea of "selling yourself" to potential employers to increase your chances of obtaining work and finding a career. Networking involves making good contacts and connections with people in many different industries. You are supposed to take full advantage of business opportunities as they arise, while making lifelong contacts in the process. Networking is the driving force behind the procurement of millions of jobs around the world. Not long ago, I spoke with Blair Lynne, a recent college graduate who received a job at Yoodle 'through connections made at her sister's wedding.' Given that her education had nothing to do with her job, this is a prime example of the wonders of networking. Although this is but one example, it should at least encourage graduates to take advantage of any networking opportunities that may arise.

Arizona State University has career services offices on all four campuses that are extremely helpful. This service "is available to assist ASU students and alumni with career exploration, development and implementation tailored to your unique talents, experiences, academic preparation and professional goals. They can help you succeed at every step of the career development process, from learning about majors and career options, to hitting the job market." They offer professional career advice and are your best resource for job outlook, salary and employment trend information. For more information about ASU Career Services, please contact their office in Tempe at (480) 965-2350.

## Photographs of ASU Needed

Help tell the history of Arizona State University through photographs for an upcoming book due to come out in time for Arizona's centennial celebration!

If you have—or know of anyone who has—attended ASU prior to 1980 and may have photographs documenting their experiences here, please contact Denise Bates at [Denise.Bates@asu.edu](mailto:Denise.Bates@asu.edu).



Old Main, 1901



Painting the A, 1950



Looking North from Old Main, 1925

## Meet the BIS Faculty

### Jessica Hirshorn, Ed.D.

By Jeffrey Rosen

Jessica Hirshorn believes that education is the “golden key” to the future. As students who have been fortunate enough to take one of her classes can attest, she leads through example by bringing her own rich educational experiences and expertise to the classroom.

She attended Coe College in Iowa for her undergraduate program where she earned a degree in Asian studies and religion. For her master's degree she studied international and intercultural management at the School for International Training in Vermont. She went on to the University of Houston where she obtained her doctorate in educational foundations with an emphasis in multicultural education and sociology of education.

She has made many significant contributions to the study and implementation of multicultural and intercultural education, including the publication of *Rocket: A Simulation on Intercultural Teamwork*. Based on a series of interviews she conducted at NASA's Johnson Space Center, *Rocket* is a demonstration on how a variety of individuals from the United States, Russia, Japan, and various European nations work together to build and operate the International Space Station. The work has been used as an intercultural training simulation to prepare individuals to work in international and intercultural settings. For more see: <http://www.nicholasbrealey.com/boston/rocket.html>.

With such a diverse educational background, it is no surprise that she was drawn to teach in an interdisciplinary studies program. She has many words of wisdom to give students, yet, perhaps one of the most important pieces of advice she gives is to “be persistent and continue trying; if you fail simply try again.” This professor deserves the notoriety she has acquired through her support of student achievement, as well as her unique and effective teaching style.



## Words of Wisdom

### Graduation

By Kelli Collins, convocation coordinator

**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

If you are graduating May 2011 or intend to participate in the Convocation ceremony (information below), you must apply to graduate and RSVP for the ceremony.

Students can apply to graduate online by clicking on the link under the Graduate Tab on their My ASU homepage. After you have submitted your graduation application and paid the \$50 fee, you will find a link to RSVP for the ceremonies in the same location in My ASU.

More information can be found at <http://sfs.asu.edu/convocation/html>.

**Any graduates who do not RSVP by Monday, May 9, 2011**, will be unable to participate in the School of Letters and Sciences Convocation.

#### University Commencement for Undergraduates

Thursday, May 12, 2011

7:30 p.m.

Sun Devil Stadium

The University Commencement ceremony is a campus-wide ceremony. Undergraduate students from all colleges and degree programs are invited to participate. President Michael Crow will confer degrees upon graduating students at the University Commencement. Tickets are not required.

Please visit <http://graduation.asu.edu> for more information.

#### 2011 Grad Bash @ Macayo's

Friday, May 13, 2011

4 – 7 p.m.

Macayo's Depot Cantina

300 S. Ash Ave., Tempe

Join SLS graduates, alumni, family, and friends for a celebration like no other with food, prizes, and more! Additional information is available at <http://sfs.asu.edu/gradbash.html>.

#### School of Letters and Sciences Convocation

Saturday, May 14, 2011

9 a.m.

Wells Fargo Arena

Tempe campus

The School of Letters and Sciences Convocation is an exclusive ceremony that individually recognizes candidates in the School of Letters and Sciences. Graduates' names are read as they cross the stage to receive personal congratulations and a memento from Dean Corey. Summer graduates are welcome to participate in the School of Letters and Sciences Convocation but are also required to apply to graduate and RSVP. No tickets are required and the event is open to the public. For more detailed information, visit <http://sfs.asu.edu/convocation.html>.

Please contact Kelli Collins, convocation coordinator, with any questions at (480) 727-1532 or [Kelli.M.Collins@asu.edu](mailto:Kelli.M.Collins@asu.edu).



## ASU SkySong Innovation Center

ASU Career Services on the Tempe campus offers a daylong seminar designed for new and recent graduates transitioning from college to career. Career Launch offers the opportunity for you to learn proven techniques for success in the professional workplace.

Program sessions include:

- Leveraging Your Degree in the New Workplace
- Using Your Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Personality Assessment Results to Increase Job Satisfaction
- Understanding Workplace Culture
- Navigating the Business Lunch with Professionalism and Grace
- Successfully Surviving Your First Professional Job

### Register Now

The registration fee is \$85 for ASU students, new and recent graduates and \$95 for community members. The registration fee includes the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator personality assessment and career workshops, refreshments and lunch, and networking with employers and other young professionals.

**Students and Alumni:** visit [asu.edu/career](http://asu.edu/career) and register through your Sun Devil CareerLink account.

**Not a student or alum?** Register in person at Tempe Career Services, Student Services Building, Room 329.

Contact Career Services **(480.965.2350)** with questions.

**Registration deadline: Monday, May 16, 2011**