

## Happy Sweet 16 BIS!

By Erin Hernandez

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program celebrated its sixteenth year here at Arizona State University, since becoming a major in 1995 by the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR). In the fall of 1997 BIS was offered to 250 student majors, with students earning a BIS degree by December 1997, its first graduating class. The BIS continued to flourish and by the fall of 1999 there were 1,230 student majors and a graduating class of 586 students.

In November 2003, with BIS growing at a rapid rate, the faculty proposed creating the School of Interdisciplinary Studies “to enable the physical and conceptual growth” of the program. One year later, the School of Interdisciplinary Studies was housed under the new University College while in the same year serving 1,974 student majors and graduating 723.

In March 2005 ABOR established the Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree. BIS continued to expand and allowed ASU to hire more brilliant faculty members to help with rooting the program on the Downtown Phoenix campus. In October 2007 the first external review of the program declared ASU’s BIS degree among the five best interdisciplinary studies degree programs in the country among 250 by its peers.

In 2008 the School of Interdisciplinary Studies was renamed the School of Letters and Sciences. In July 2009 we welcomed our current faculty head Duane Roen, Ph.D. By this fall the BIS program makes up a third of ASU Online’s total enrollment and it will definitely have more years to celebrate at ASU.



## Catching Up With BLS Alumni

### Maureen Watson

By Nicholas Maddox

Maureen Watson, a mother of two, came back to ASU and completed her BLS degree in 2010. Going back to school is not an easy thing to do, and *Kaleidoscope* is thankful she took time to sit down and share her experiences with the program.

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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 1,162 interdisciplinary studies majors, 254 liberal studies majors, and 8,662 combined graduates.

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

**Q** *Explain what BLS is in your own words for students who don't necessarily know what it involves.*

**A** I would describe the BLS degree as a program that is inclusive of so many classes that there is virtually something for everyone. It allows a student to study topics that are varied by discipline—and the classes fit into the degree program so that you can pursue many interests and yet still be working toward that degree.

**Q** *What made you choose BLS as a degree program? Why would BLS be a good major for students?*

**A** I think it is perfect for those of us who are returning to school to complete a degree begun many years ago. Or for those who are not quite sure what they want to pursue after graduating. Many of my credits were used toward the degree. I looked into other programs within ASU and at other schools, often in a more topic-specific program; many of the classes I took would have qualified as electives or would not have furthered my credits toward the degree. Not to mention I have varied interests. Being able to take classes in the humanities and social sciences was what I was looking for as I would like to go forward with my master's but am still uncertain which master's program! In the BLS curriculum, I was able to take classes in women's studies, theology, psychology—all topics I am interested in and all of them counted toward the credit hours for the BLS degree.

**Q** *When did you graduate? How did you go about looking for a career after you received your degree? How has the BLS program helped you stand out to employers?*

**A** I graduated in December 2010. I did not change careers, but I feel my options are better now within the arts or on another path in the future. I enjoyed the experience so much that I decided I would like to become a professional student. I was working full time, raising two daughters, and still managed to keep a GPA of 3.9. My two daughters will be heading to college themselves in four and five years and that is the only reason I am not continuing right now. They are a part of the reason I went back though, and they know how important a college degree and a graduate degree will be for them to attain.

**Q** *Where do you currently work? What are some of the key skills you learned in the BLS program and your classes in general that have helped you in your career?*

**A** I am producing artistic director at Greasepaint Youththeatre in Scottsdale and work as a teaching artist, actress and director around the valley as well. Now that I have finished the BLS program, I can become certified to teach in the public school system if I choose or can continue working with kids and the arts in my current position. I believe all continuing education helps one to become better at whatever one does. Whether it be communication skills, management of time, resources, or people, I am better at my job and better prepared for challenges in future positions.



## Interns in the Spotlight

By Nicholas Maddox

With hundreds of BIS students who completed 401 internships this past spring and many others completing their internships this summer, we thought we would introduce you to three students who gained some fascinating experiences in their internships. They are true testaments to why experiential learning is so important!



### **Jamie Bakosh**

**Concentration Areas:** economics and urban planning

For Jamie Bakosh BIS 401 was an easy choice. She was accepted for an internship position with the Human Services Department of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). Jamie had learned about MAG through both her economics and urban planning courses and determined it would be a great fit for the integration of her concentration areas. She stated that in the urban planning field, economics is an integral part of the planning process for successful urban development. MAG encourages urban development for the residents of the Maricopa County region through research, statistical data and mapping, education, nonprofit business, government, and community organizations.

Jamie found BIS 301 and 302 to be extremely helpful in her internship. She said that the BIS 301 course successfully illustrates what it means to be interdisciplinary and how to integrate your concentration areas most effectively. She also stated that the BIS 302 course gets you geared up to search for and identify an appropriate internship site and complete the BIS 401 application process.

Jamie has had the incredible opportunity of sitting in on several board meetings such as the Maricopa Association of Governments Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness. According to Jamie, MAG offers full access to any contacts they are associated with that you may be interested in speaking with. "Having an internship with MAG allows you to utilize a wide variety of resources they have to offer making this experience that much more valuable," she says.

MAG is again offering internship opportunities for the 2012 spring semester. The information technology division of MAG is offering a paid internship opportunity for a qualified computer science or engineering student.



### **Amanda Fleuridas**

**Concentration Areas:** business and communication

Amanda Fleuridas is the first intern ever hired at iPic Theaters. She was able to get this internship by being persistent and really learning how to sell herself and what she could offer. Amanda works in the sales and marketing office that deals with private parties, creating sales plans to boost total sales, and creating and implementing marketing plans in order to become a name no one will forget.

Amanda worked for iPic as a server but had always been interested in the work of the sales and marketing side of the business. When she began searching for her internship, she interviewed at other sales, marketing, advertising, and public relations firms. Amanda was even offered an internship with

one of the companies that she interviewed for. However, she also approached the iPic sales and marketing team, proposed an internship with them, handed in her résumé, and after an interview and discussion about what she could learn from them, they offered her the position. Amanda made the choice to intern with iPic and turned down her other offer because she saw a learning experience with iPic she felt only they could provide. So far she is pleased with her decision.

Amanda found that it is important to work in teams. She said that her BIS core classes have helped her prepare for the reality of the business world where teamwork is in everything.

She stated that when she was searching and interviewing for internships, she discovered some things that she thinks would be important for any student in search of an internship to know: having confidence in yourself is key. Amanda says, "Go after the internships that you want and do it with confidence. Learn to sell yourself and all of your abilities. If you can view roadblocks as steppingstones you are guaranteed to go far."

### Lauryn Libby

**Concentration Areas:** education and small business

After completing her core BIS courses, Lauryn Libby decided that it was time to start thinking about BIS 401. Like most students, the thought of going out and finding an internship was stressful. When Lauryn heard about an opportunity with the Harlem Globetrotters, she thought it would be a great way to incorporate her concentrations in education and small business. Her main goal for this internship was to help expand outreach programs. Lauryn used her knowledge in her concentrations to come up with creative, fun and educational ways to go to schools and promote anti-bullying.

One of Lauryn's favorite parts about working at her internship is that she gets to do a little of everything. Anything that anyone needs, the interns get to help with. At her site Lauryn gets to use her knowledge of social media every day. She is skilled in it and is happy to use it on a daily basis. She has really enjoyed working with the Harlem Globetrotters, and is very thankful for such a positive work environment.



## Meet the BIS Staff

### Cindy Rasmussen

*By Nicholas Maddox*

Cindy Rasmussen is the academic advisor on the West Campus for BIS online students. She graduated with her BAE in education from ASU in 1995 and her master's in educational leadership from NAU in 1999. Cindy is a native Arizonan who has three grown children and a 5-year-old granddaughter. She has been married to her partner, Jim, for seven years. They love to explore the back roads of Arizona and do a little gold prospecting. If they are not exploring Arizona, their favorite escape from the heat is heading to the beach in Carlsbad, Calif.

Cindy knew she wanted to be an advisor since she had an opportunity to do an internship for her degree with the advising office of arts and sciences at the West campus and found that advising was a lot of fun and a great fit for her career.

Cindy can be contacted via email at [crasmussen@asu.edu](mailto:crasmussen@asu.edu) or students can call 480-965-4464 to make an appointment to meet with her.



## Calendar of Events

### Fall 2011

#### December 1 – 7

School of Letters and Sciences Course Evaluations

#### December 6

##### Complete Withdrawal Deadline – online and in person

Beginning the first day of classes (for the fall and spring semesters), undergraduate students are required to work with a student retention coordinator to facilitate the withdrawal process or explore other potential options. For more information on complete withdrawals, please contact the University Registrar's Office at [studentretention@asu.edu](mailto:studentretention@asu.edu) or 480-965-0493

#### December 6

Last Day of Classes and Last Day to Process Transactions—classes end

#### December 7

Reading Day

#### December 8 – 14

Final Exams

#### December 14

Commencement Ceremony for Graduate Students  
School of Letters and Sciences Convocation Ceremony

#### December 15

Commencement Ceremony for Undergraduate Students  
Degree Conferral Date

#### December 12 – 19

Final Grades Due

#### December 20 – 21

Grade Replacement/Academic Standing Processing

#### December 22

School of Letters and Sciences Standards Committee Meeting

#### December 26 – 27

Holiday Break—university closed

### Spring 2012

#### December 26, 2011

\$50 Late Registration Fee Begins (does not apply to ASU Online students)

#### December 25, 2011

Tuition Fee Payment Deadline for non-financial aid students and students that have not accepted any financial aid awards for this semester.

#### January 25

Tuition Fee Payment Deadline for students with accepted financial aid. For more information go to [students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines](http://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines)

#### January 5

Classes Begin – Sessions A and C

**January 25**

University 21st Day

**February 24**

Classes End – Session A

**February 29**

Classes Begin – Session B

**March 1**

Study Abroad Application Deadline

Dublin, London and Dominican Republic

**March 19-25**

Spring Break – no class

**April 24**

Classes End – Sessions B and C

**April 26 – May 2**

Final Exams – Session C

## College Council

My name is Joshua (Joyze) Watson and I am the senator for the School of Letters and Sciences and University College. I am an interdisciplinary studies major with concentrations in family studies and human development and education. As a senator, I help advise our College Council when it comes to programming and activities for UC and SLS students. In addition to my role, there is a president, vice president of policy, and a vice president of services, all of whom work together to make the school year fun, entertaining and enlightening for our fellow students. With that being said, we provide an opportunity for students in the council to voice their issues and concerns along with ideas for growth in the university. We also provide leadership and success opportunities for students to come and be engaged.

If you or someone you know is a UC or SLS student who may be interested in this experience, please email us at [asu.collegecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:asu.collegecouncil@gmail.com). The UC/SLS College Council is a new addition this year and is more focused on student leadership and social change. The council meets every other Wednesday at 7pm in the Memorial Union on the Tempe campus. Students may get involved by emailing [asu.collegecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:asu.collegecouncil@gmail.com)