

Notes from the Director

By Duane Roen

Dear Students,

I hope that you are enjoying a productive summer, and that you are finding additional time to spend with family and friends. School can be demanding, but the other parts of life are also important.

For those of you who graduated in May, I congratulate you. You should be very proud of your accomplishments. I appreciate the persistence and hard work that you've invested in your future. I hope that all of you have rewarding careers.

For those of you who are still working to complete your degrees, I encourage you to stay focused on the finish line. Whether you have one, two, or three semesters left, commit yourself to doing the best that you can in all your courses. That commitment to excellence will serve you well for the rest of your life.

If you haven't yet registered for fall courses, do so as soon as possible. That will ensure that you have the widest possible range of options.

Best wishes,
Duane Roen

Catching Up With BLS Alumni

By Ashley Hopf

Maribeth England

Concentration areas: communication and mass communication

Maribeth England had an interesting road to the BIS program. Graduating in 2005, Maribeth began her journey as a communications major but made the switch to BIS after learning about the program through a friend. Today, Maribeth is still actively involved with the BIS program serving on the Young Alumni Council with fellow BIS alum.



Q What made you choose BIS as a degree program?

A I was originally a communications major looking into declaring a mass communication minor. I

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Summer 2012; volume 4, number 1

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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 4,702 interdisciplinary studies majors, 725 liberal studies majors, and 9,156 combined graduates.

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

was going through advising appointments to see where I was with my coursework, and how much I had left to accomplish in order to graduate and was getting discouraged. I realized I had 40 additional credit hours, and trying to get my courses lined up was becoming increasingly frustrating. I was talking to a friend one day and she mentioned her degree program (BIS) and how much she loved it and it spiked my interest. I decided then and there to walk to the BIS advising office and speak with an advisor to make the switch. It was one of the best decisions I made for myself academically.

Q *When you entered college did you already know what your ideal job would be? Is the job you hold today a close fit to what you had envisioned for yourself?*

A When I first started college I really wanted to go into public relations. I knew from the beginning I really enjoyed communication and interacting with people, so it seemed like an ideal job at the time. If I had my wish today I'd be working for a non-profit company, such as Arizona Animal Welfare League, where I currently volunteer. Unfortunately, my current position doesn't fit either of these roles, but I still love what I do.

Q *Where do you currently work and what title do you hold? What else have you been doing since graduation?*

A The field of work I'm in now is field-trade marketing, and I'm currently working for RJ Reynolds as a territory manager. When companies decide to contract with RJ Reynolds, I help them build strong business strategies and sales plans, work on merchandising plans, and assist with training new employees on RJ Reynolds' products. Every month I visit about 100 sites and meet with contracted companies to go over how their business plan is working and areas that could use improving. My favorite job responsibility is customer engagement though. I absolutely love talking to our customers and finding out what they think of our products. It's interesting learning about customer likes/dislikes, ways we can improve marketing, and gain an overall sense of how our products are being received by our customers. It's the part of the communication factor I love so much.

Q *Did you find your BIS 401 class/internship helpful in preparing you for your current career?*

A Taking BIS 401 was definitely a great asset in preparing me for the real world job experience. For BIS 401 I interned with a local radio station which incorporated both of my communication concentration areas and gave me great experience in promotion, marketing, and event planning. It was actually at one of our radio station sponsored events that I networked and landed my first job after graduation. After that company suffered a downsize, I had to put myself back on the job market and I found my way to RJ Reynolds. If it hadn't been for my internship at the radio station I probably would not be where I am today.

Teniqua Broughton

By Nicholas Maddox

Originally from Decatur, Georgia, Teniqua Broughton started her ASU experience as a junior in 1998 after transferring from the University of Kentucky on an athletic scholarship. Originally an elementary education major, Teniqua made the switch to BIS so she could meet graduation expectations while still participating in the ASU track team. Teniqua revealed she was hesitant about declaring a BIS degree since it was unlike other traditional BS or BA degrees. To her surprise the BIS degree was a perfect fit. Knowing she eventually wanted to work with children in an educational capacity, Teniqua states, "It was a great combo of being able to do the things that, now at this point I am very skilled at, as well as being able to study two fields that pretty much work hand in hand." Teniqua graduated in 2000 with a BIS degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Theater for Youth, and went on to get her Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision in 2005. Teniqua acknowledges that being a BIS major has made her a better candidate for jobs that require more than just one skill set.

Teniqua has gained much success since graduating college, and she attributes the experience she gained from the BIS program to starting her in the right direction. She affirmed that her BIS 401 class and internship gave her real world applications in which to apply the knowledge she gained in BIS 301 and BIS 302. Teniqua said that while she was in BIS 401 she made connections with people that she has continued to be friends with today, and has even had the opportunity to work with them in recent years.

Teniqua currently works as the executive director for the newly established Act One Foundation. This foundation was created to provide underprivileged children the opportunity to experience the arts and culture through seeing live performances. Prior to this position Teniqua has held positions such as: Program Manager for the City of Tempe's before and after school programs, the Cultural Participation Coordinator and Cultural Participation Manager for ASU Gammage, and Director of Programs for Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona. Teniqua also donates her time to associations such as: Teach for America, Western States Arts Federation's Multicultural Advisory as a Committee Member, Desert Botanical Gardens as a member of the Board of Trustees, and Arizona Citizens for the Arts as a board member. Recognized in the Arizona Business Journal's Class of 2009 with the "40 Under 40 Award", Teniqua says the best piece of advice for current and future BIS students would be to do the work put before you; success comes to those who put in the time and make the connections.

Outstanding Graduate Award

By Ashley Hopf

Each semester the School of Letters and Sciences is proud to recognize one student who has excelled above and beyond in all aspects of their academic career. This honorable recognition goes to the individual who has shown outstanding excellence inside the classroom, and has been a role model for their peers outside the classroom. With an outstanding academic record, and a vast history of volunteer and mentor work, this year's recipient truly deserves this recognition.

Jennie Ricks, born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, has spent the last five years living in Phoenix, Ariz. A mother of four, Jennie has spent the last two years working towards completing her Bachelors of Literature, Writing, and Film degree with an emphasis on Creative Writing. Out of the many degree programs to choose from, Jennie was most drawn to Literature, Writing and Film for very personal reasons. After going through a major turning point in her life, Jennie decided it was time to take matters into her own hands and finally do what she wanted in life - write. After making this decision, Jennie says, "Life just kind of fell into place." Holding an exceptional GPA, Jennie is a true testament to what a little motivation and passion for a subject can do for one's success. Speaking humbly about her accomplishments, Jennie accredits her academic success to her time management skills and determined personality. She also gives large credit to her academic advisor and professors for getting her started on the right track and keeping her motivated throughout her studies.

While Jennie is busy keeping up with school work, she also leads a busy life outside of class. On her spare time, Jennie is busy with her children taking them to and from various sporting and extracurricular events. She also volunteers as a Den Leader for her local Boy Scout troop, is a Sunday school teacher at her local church, interns at Superstition Review as a nonfiction editor, and has mentored young runners in her community to participate in half marathons.

With graduation under her belt, Jennie is grateful for everything ASU has had to offer. The opportunities and support she received makes her proud to be a Sun Devil. With her future on the horizon, Jennie hopes to continue writing, possibly submitting pieces as early as this summer for publication. She is also considering the possibility of teaching. After seeing the enthusiasm her professors have for the subject, Jennie says she would love to be able to pass that enthusiasm along to other young minds. With the goal of achieving her master's degree, Jennie is excited to start yet another new chapter in her life. We wish Jennie the best of luck in her bright future!



Student of the Year Award

By Nicholas Maddox



Nealie Kaplan, a Boston native, knew early on in life she wanted to be an event planner. Having her heart set on going to Arizona State University, Nealie soon realized a specific degree in event planning did not exist at ASU. Sitting down with her high school counselor, Nealie was advised to pursue a Communications degree instead. Nealie quickly learned that program was not a good fit for her and began doing research on other ASU programs she would be interested in. Staying true to her goal of becoming an event planner, Nealie decided to try out Recreation and Tourism Management, something she felt would aid her in achieving her dream career. Shortly after declaring, the program was cancelled and Nealie was left to find yet another degree program that fit with her interests. Nealie's advisor recommended she look into the BIS program. After doing some independent research and meeting with a BIS advisor Nealie was hooked.

One of Nealie's favorite aspects about the BIS program has been the ability to combine two majors into one. She remarked, "It's like a double major". Nealie feels this allowed her to broaden her areas of interest, as well as furthered her career opportunities and goals. By combining Recreation and Tourism Management and Sociology, Nealie has acquired the knowledge to plan events and market them to specific audiences. As part of the BIS 401 internship class, Nealie attained an internship with the United States Tennis Association, which happens to be a passion of hers. At her internship, she was able to organize several tournaments and tennis events.

In addition to making great strides in her academic career, Nealie has made a large contribution to the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Being a student at the DRC herself, Nealie has seen firsthand how helpful and valuable the DRC is to students. In giving back to the program, Nealie has acted as a peer mentor for other students at the DRC and soon hopes to work for TRIO.

Recently, Nealie was nominated to receive the Student of the Year award from the Tempe Majors Office Disability Committee. Having overcome many academic obstacles, and remaining persistent in overcoming her challenges, Nealie has truly earned this year's Student of the Year award. She is both grateful and excited to be recognized for her efforts and accomplishments. Nealie says that the number one piece of advice she would give others in her position is to never give up.

Meet the BIS Staff

David Conz

By Melissa Archer

Many would know David Conz as a BIS lecturer in the School of Letters and Sciences. Originally from Sunbury, Pennsylvania, Professor Conz became interested in the sciences in high school after taking his first social sciences course. After graduating, Professor Conz studied at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Studies. Originally planning to become an airline pilot, Professor Conz later decided to shift his field of study after taking a class that dealt with the social dimensions of science and technology.

After researching different graduate schools, Professor Conz discovered that Arizona State University had a Master's in Interdisciplinary Humanities with a technology and culture track. He applied and was accepted into the program, even being offered a teaching assistantship and stipend. Professor Conz stayed on for his PhD in Sociology, focusing on science and technology studies, and has been with ASU ever since.

Outside of teaching at ASU, Professor Conz works with teachers at the Bioscience High School in downtown Phoenix. There he explains the benefits of biodiesel and even works with students on their project to convert sunflower oil into useable fuel. He also attends science cafés, where scientists and experts with different perspectives come together and discuss present-day topics. One of the more recent ventures Professor Conz has delved into is that of makerspaces, or community workshops where people can come together, collaborate, and build different inventions.



Professor Conz's most well-known hobby is studying beer. As an offshoot of his BIS 402 course, The Cultural and Chemical History of Beer, he brews, makes equipment, and studies the biochemistry and social dimensions of ale. In fact, in his BIS 402 class, Professor Conz focuses on these topics, as well as molecular, religious, and historical aspects of beer. Because BIS students have such a broad range of concentration areas, each one is able to bring their own perspective to this course.

He also teaches BIS 302, where he takes a hands-on approach to teaching. In BIS 302, students are required to come up with a problem or research topic where they engage and interact with those around them to complete an objective. This allows students to look at the world in a more interdisciplinary sense by seeing outside perspectives.

Professor Conz believes that employers are looking for new hires out of college who don't necessarily have expertise in one particular area, but instead can be problem solvers. Through integration, professors can instill the idea that you should go into a problem not knowing how the answer may turn out. "Our graduates have a broad range of skills in at least two areas that they can apply towards problems," says Professor Conz. The BIS program instills creativity and unstructured problem solving within our students that will prepare them for the workplace.

Words of Wisdom

Linda Zygmund

By Ashley Hopf

The Importance of Being Involved on Campus

Many times Linda encounters students not taking full advantage of their college experience. These students attend class, go to work, head home, and repeat the same cycle day after day, often missing out on the other fun and educational aspects of the college experience. To have a full college experience students need to be involved on campus in some capacity, other than simply going to class. Living on campus is a great way of being involved. But, for those students who commute or move off campus after their freshman year, there are other ways to be involved: participate in student government; join a fraternity or sorority; find a student organization (there are hundreds from which to choose); attend sporting events, guest lectures, campus plays and musicals; work on campus.

Why is this so important?

From an advisor's perspective, students who have a connection to the campus/college are more likely to remain in school and graduate. Being involved on campus is even more essential for students that commute because it expands their experiences through involvement in areas other than just the classroom. It's a plain and simple fact-- students can learn just as much outside the classroom as they can learn inside the classroom. From a more personal perspective, Linda believes being involved on campus helps foster feelings of belonging and a sense of community. A student can acquire friends that have the potential to last a lifetime. If it is a fear of trying something new that is holding you back, Linda's advice is to step out of your comfort zone and try anyway. You may be surprised by the amazing outcome of that decision.

Eastern Arizona College

By Ashley Hopf

Do you or someone you know live in Thatcher, Safford, or any of the surrounding areas? Are you interested in pursuing your bachelor's degree through Arizona State University but don't know how to make the commute to an ASU campus? Eastern Arizona College has recently joined in a partnership with Arizona State University to solve this problem! Students living in Thatcher, Safford, or surrounding areas can now earn their associates degree through Eastern Arizona College, and then pursue their bachelor's degree from Arizona State University through classes offered on the EAC Thatcher Campus. Launching Fall 2012, students can declare degrees in BIS Organizational Studies and BS Nursing through this innovative partnership, with many other degree programs to be added in following years. Any students interested in finding out more information on this program are encouraged to visit the website: <http://transfer.asu.edu/eac>.

Calendar of Events

<https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>

Summer 2012

Summer Classes Begin

Session A **Session B** **Session C**

May 21 July 5 May 21

Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline

Session A **Session B** **Session C**

May 27 July 11 June 3

BIS 401 Summer Session B

July 5 – Aug. 14

Application Deadline

June 21 before 4 p.m. local time (MST)

Memorial Day – university closed

May 28, 2012

Deadline to Apply for Summer Graduation

June 15, 2012

Independence Day – university closed

July 4, 2012

Summer Classes End

Last Day to Process Transactions

Session A **Session B** **Session C**

June 29 Aug. 14 July 13

Final Grades Due

Session A **Session B** **Session C**

July 1 Aug. 16 July 15

Fall 2012

BIS 401

Aug. 23 – Dec. 12

Application Deadline

Aug. 2 before 4 p.m. local time (MST)

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

Aug. 13

Tuition Fee Payment Deadline – For registration from 3/1/12 through 8/12/12 for non financial aid students and students that have not accepted any financial aid awards for this semester. For students with accepted financial aid, no payment is due on this date. For more information see <http://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines>

Aug. 14

Fall 2012 Classes Begin

Session A Session B Session C

Aug. 23 Oct. 17 Aug. 23

Last Day to Register or Drop/Add

without college approval

Session A Session B Session C

Aug. 24 Oct. 18 Aug. 29

Deadline to Apply for Fall Graduation

Oct. 1

Fall Break - no classes

Oct. 13 – 16

Course Withdrawal Deadline

Session A Session B Session C

Sept. 12 Nov. 6 Nov. 7

Last Day to Register or Drop/Add

without college approval

Session A Session B Session C

Aug. 24 Oct. 18 Aug. 29

Veteran's Day Observed - university closed

Nov. 12

Thanksgiving Observed - university closed

Nov. 22 – 23

Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline

As part of a complete session withdrawal a student must withdraw from all classes in a session. Beginning the first day of classes, undergraduate students are required to work with a Student Retention Coordinator to facilitate the withdrawal process. For more information see <http://students.asu.edu/StudentRetention>

Session A Session B Session C

Oct. 12 Dec. 11 Dec. 11

Classes End

last day to process transactions

Session A Session B Session C

Oct. 12 Dec. 11 Dec. 11

Reading Day

Dec. 12

Final Exams

Session A Session B Session C

Last day of classes Last day of classes Dec. 13 – 19

Commencement Ceremony for Graduate Students

Dec. 19

Commencement Ceremony for Undergraduate Students

Dec. 20

Degree Conferral Date

Dec. 20

Final Grades Due

Session A Session B Session C

Oct. 14 Dec. 13 Dec. 24

Holiday Break - university closed

Dec. 24 – 25

Grade Replacement/Academic Standing Processing

Dec. 26 – 27