

Notes from the Director

Dear Students,

It's April, so graduation will be here soon. I am looking forward to the May 11 convocation for the School of Letters and Sciences, where I will have an opportunity to congratulate each of you earning a degree this spring. It's a highlight for me because I enjoy seeing so many happy people in one place at the same time. In the meantime, I'll remind you to stay focused on your studies so that you can finish your degrees with a flourish and a great sense of pride.

Some big news in the School of Letters and Sciences is that we have just launched a new online degree in organizational leadership:

<http://asuonline.asu.edu/degree-programs/undergraduate/bachelor-arts-organizational-leadership>.

We are excited to offer this degree because it will help students develop skills and knowledge that leaders need to succeed in a wide range of organizations.

For those of you who have friends and family in western Arizona or eastern California, let them know that the organizational leadership degree is also available at ASU's Lake Havasu City location:

<http://havasu.asu.edu/program/LSORGLBA>

I'm also pleased that the School of Letters and Sciences will begin offering the bachelor of liberal studies degree at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher this fall. As you may know, we already offer the BIS in organizational studies at Eastern Arizona College. I have an opportunity to visit that campus once or twice each semester. It's a three-hour drive each way, but the scenery is beautiful. I love visiting the EAC campus because the students, faculty, and administrators are wonderful. They are excited about our offering degrees in Thatcher, and I am equally thrilled.

I hope that all of you are having a wonderfully successful and rewarding spring semester.

Best,
Duane Roen

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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 4,668 Interdisciplinary Studies majors, 810 Liberal Studies majors and 9,904 combined graduates as of December 2012.

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

Farewell Dr. Conz

Dr. David Conz, our beloved friend and colleague, passed away on April 12. Everyone who knew Dave loved him. He was kind, caring, inquisitive, engaging, generous and honest.

His warm smile and his unassuming grace attracted wide circles of friends as varied as his many passions: nanotechnology, DIY, hackerspaces, piloting, Halloween, biodiesel, chickens, motorcycles, percussion, homebrewing, teaching and interdisciplinary studies.

We are blessed to have known him, and we will miss him dearly.



Where Are The BIS Alumni Now?

Rachel Charlupski

by Shawna McDonald

Rachel Charlupski, an alumna of Arizona State University, graduated from our very own School of Letters and Sciences in 2008. She graduated with a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree, holding concentration areas in Jewish studies and mass communication. Rachel was attracted to the BIS degree after learning about the numerous combinations of concentration areas students could choose from. She loved the concept of not having to pick one field of study. The flexibility of the BIS program allowed her to take a variety of classes which she felt “trained her in every aspect of business.”

While attending ASU, Rachel started The Babysitting Company. New to the Phoenix area and looking for part-time employment, Rachel decided to contact local hotels to see if they would be interested in offering babysitting services. After the concept took off, Rachel quickly received upwards of 10 to 20 calls a week requiring her services. It was then she realized she needed to expand her business. After hiring staff and additional babysitters, The Babysitting Company has grown to operate in 10 different states, as well as Israel, London and Paris.

Rachel incorporates both of her concentration areas into her current career on a daily basis. The mass communication concentration has given her the skills that she uses daily for media communication or client relations. The Jewish studies concentration helps her gain an ongoing respect for different religions. Rachel states learning about other religions and cultures is important “so I don’t judge someone in the real world [because] you work with everybody all the time.” Her advice to current BIS students is to take as many classes as possible and to keep an open mind about careers after college.

Her advice to individuals interested in starting their own company is to research what it will take to start and run the company. Other important tips about starting a company she recommends is having a business plan and to consult a professional that has started their own business in the past.

Where Are The BIS Alumni Now?

Seth Markzon

by Erin Hernandez

Seth Markzon, a native Arizonan, was born and raised in Tucson. An avid baseball player in high school, Seth was recruited to play for Dixie State University and Arizona Western College. After sustaining a serious sports-related injury that halted his future in baseball, Seth had to change his focus from athletics to academics.

Seth enrolled at Arizona State University in 2010 with the intention of pursuing a bachelor of science in economics. He soon developed an interest in other business related courses and decided to declare a minor in finance and world marketing. Then Seth heard about the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree. It occurred to him that a BIS degree would encompass all business courses and skills he wanted to obtain, and all in one degree. So he made the switch to the BIS program with concentration areas in economics and business.

By the time Seth graduated from the BIS program, he had a newfound appreciation for his fellow BIS classmates and the variety of unique skill sets they brought to the table. From the experience, he developed a different perspective of what interdisciplinary studies truly meant.

When asked what his end goal had been in college, Seth said it was to work for a successful company and fulfill his dream of living by the beach in California. He has since accomplished this goal with the help of those closest to him in college. During his time at ASU, Seth became the president of the Sports Business Association. This organization allowed him to blend his love for athletics with his new passion for business. The networking Seth was able to do as the president of this group led him to his current position at JetSuite. Today, Seth serves as the client services executive for JetSuite.

Seth's number one piece of advice for current and future students is to, "network, network, network! As a student you have unlimited resources to learn and expand your network. Do informational interviews, reach out, get involved with school clubs, do internships, and learn!!"

If any student is interested in further advice, or has questions for Seth regarding his experience in the BIS program, he can be reached at smarkzon8@gmail.com. He welcomes the opportunity to give back and guide fellow students in their journey through the program.



Words of Wisdom

The Importance of the BIS Internship Program

by Kevin Ellsworth

I had the great privilege of leading ASU's interdisciplinary studies program for six years. During that time, we grew magnificently in size and quality, becoming one of the top five interdisciplinary studies degree programs in the nation! At the end of that tenure, I seized the opportunity to teach, polish, and perfect one of the most valuable courses at ASU, BIS 401, and I've been teaching it ever since. BIS 401 can be your most rewarding class because it provides you the opportunity to create and pursue an extraordinary experience, the substance and value of which is limited only by your imagination, effort and ambition.

With the applied study option, you can find your perfect internship, and apply your integrative expertise in that professional setting and complementary coursework. BIS 401 interns have worked with many of the most prestigious public, private and nonprofit organizations in the nation (including the U.S. Department of State, National Endowment for the Humanities, Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services, Habitat for Humanity, Institute for Women's Policy Research, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and thousands more) and in locations throughout the world (including Switzerland, South Africa, Peru, Australia, Canada, Italy, England, Ireland, and many more). Furthermore, scores of students join our study abroad programs every summer, and enjoy BIS 401 internships in London and Dublin.

With the Directed Study option, you can find your ideal academic mentor among the thousands of full-time faculty experts at ASU, and apply your integrative expertise to a project or research program that you pursue with that mentor. ASU has brilliant, innovative, and fascinating faculty in almost every academic field imaginable, many of whom are available if you can make a persuasive and compelling case to work with you on an engaging and meaningful project.

I teach hundreds of BIS 401 students every semester, and I am continually amazed with the remarkable experiences they are creating for themselves. Students preparing for graduate studies use the directed study option to create the crown jewel of their application portfolio. Students preparing to begin their career use applied study as a launching pad to the career of their dreams. Students already in rewarding careers use applied study to advance and enhance their careers. Unfortunately, I am sometimes disappointed when students aim low, expect little of themselves, and squander this great opportunity. Those students recognize their loss only when they see the remarkable things that their fellow graduates accomplished by having taken full advantage of BIS 401.

So, seize the day! Visit the BIS 401 website today and start planning your extraordinary experience! We have a full-time BIS 401 coordinator who is eager to help, and I look forward to having you in class!

Meet the BIS Faculty

Michael Rubinoff

by Nicholas Maddox

Q *Where are you originally from?*

A I am from Chicago.

Q *What university did you attend?*

A I attended ASU for my undergraduate studies, earning a bachelor's degree in history with a political science minor. I also attended ASU for my master's degree in history education. I then moved to Colorado and attended the University of Denver to pursue my doctorate in American history. With this educational backing, I am also certified to teach at the high school and collegiate level.

Q *I see you have been with ASU for 17 years, what subjects have you specialized in during this time.*

A I have specialized in Holocaust history, American studies, and media history.

Q *What brought you to the BIS program? What do you think the BIS degree has to offer students?*

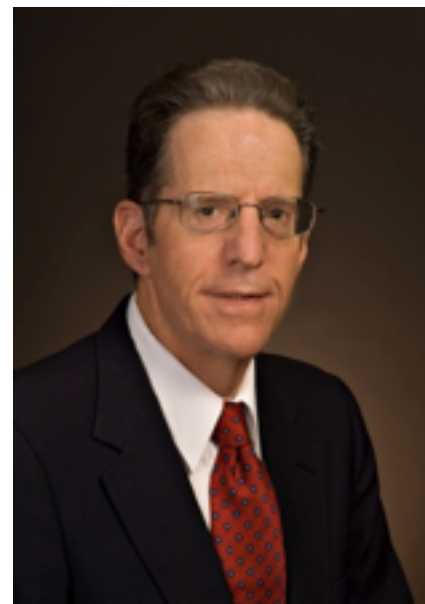
A I was asked to join the BIS program; it's as simple as that. Since coming on board, I see the BIS degree has a lot to offer students. The BIS program is great in that it gives students the opportunity to learn more than one discipline. It also gives students the opportunity to gain more diverse knowledge than the "usual" college degree. This is accomplished through the core courses students are required to take, especially the BIS 401 internship class. Overall, I believe this degree lends itself to more career opportunities for students after graduation.

Q *What topics or skills do you specifically focus on in your BIS classes, and what would you like your students to take away from your classes?*

A One of the most important skills I stress in all my classes is reading comprehension. Students in my classes should also be leaving with knowledge of how to utilize scholarly tools for research purposes. This includes knowing what constitutes a scholarly resource, learning efficient research skills and research writing. I think these are real, marketable skills that will lead our students to finding more jobs when they graduate.

Q *What does interdisciplinary studies mean to you, and what is it about this program that makes it unique?*

A I think the most unique aspect is how two different fields can intersect and come together and form a new solution to a problem. This program really helps look at a problem through two different lenses.



Calendar of Events

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

Summer 2013

Session A: (first 6-week session) Monday, 5/20 – Friday, 6/28			
Session B: (second 6-week session) Wednesday, 7/3 – Tuesday, 8/13			
Session C: (8-week session) Monday, 5/20 – Friday, 7/12			
Tuition Fee Payment Deadline – For registration through May 5 for non-financial aid students and students who have not accepted any financial aid awards for the summer. For students who accepted their financial aid awards, no payment is due on this date. the due date for Tuition charges for students registering through May 5 with accepted Financial Aid is extended to June 25, 2013. For more information see https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines			May 9, 201
\$50 Late Registration Fee Begins (does not apply to ASU Online students)			
Classes Begin	Session A May 20	Session B July 3	Session C May 20
Last day to register or drop/add without college approval	Session A May 21	Session B July 5	Session C May 21
Residency Classification Petition Deadline			May 21
Tuition & Fees 100% Refund Deadline For more information see https://students.asu.edu/tuitionrefundpolicy	Session A TBD	Session B TBD	Session C TBD
Memorial Day Observed – university closed			May 27
Deadline to Apply for Graduation			June 15
Course Withdrawal Deadline	Session A June 7	Session B July 23	Session C June 7
Tuition Fee Payment deadline—For registration from May 6 – June 9			June 25
Independence Day Observed – university closed			July 4
Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline For more information see https://students.asu.edu/StudentRetention	Session A June 28	Session B August 13	Session C July 12
Classes End – Last Day to Process Transactions	Session A June 28	Session B August 13	Session C July 12
Final Grades Due	Session A June 30	Session B August 15	Session C July 14
Degree Conferral Date			August 13
Grade Replacement Processing			August 16