Notes from the Director

Dear Students,

It’s been a busy fall in the School of Letters and Sciences.

We’ve welcomed new students into our degree programs, including the degrees that we offer at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher—the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in organizational studies degree and the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree. We were pleased that some of the ASU students in Thatcher joined us at the homecoming game as the Sun Devil football team had an impressive victory—one of many this season.

This fall we successfully launched a new online degree in organizational leadership, and interest in the program has been strong. Next fall we plan to make that degree available at Eastern Arizona College.

In case you have not seen the announcements, I draw your attention to the exciting study-abroad opportunities that we are offering for next summer. Faculty will be leading student groups in trips to London, Dublin and Italy. You can earn credits toward your degree, experience another culture, and make new friendships. For more details, point your browser to http://sls.asu.edu/abroad.

Many of you have completed internships at a wide array of sites in Arizona and in other states this fall. I’m thrilled that those internships have led to fulltime employment for so many of you.

Congratulations to all of you who graduated in December. I applaud you for completing your degrees, and I wish you the best as you enter the next stage of your careers. I hope that you have much success in the professional, civic and personal arenas of life. As you go out into the world, please keep in touch with us to let us know about your accomplishments. We’d love to hear from you.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season with your friends and families,

Duane Roen

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Original artwork in the Kaleidoscope masthead was created by BIS student Rebecca Soltis.
Where are the BIS Alumni Now?
Sean Swentek
by Shawna McDonald

The School of Letters and Sciences is always proud to highlight those BIS and BLS alumni who have made great accomplishments since graduation.

In this edition of *Kaleidoscope* we would like to highlight a recent alumnus, Sean Swentek. Sean is originally from Santa Cruz, Calif. and was interested in attending an online university for his undergraduate degree. He chose the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program, offered through ASU Online, because he wanted to study business. Sean chose a small business concentration that he then paired with film and media studies. Sean's favorite part of the BIS program was the flexibility to choose which classes most interested him. Sean especially enjoyed the learning of different people, cultures, and ways of thinking facilitated by class discussion boards. He feels that the BIS program helped him become a more well-rounded individual, allowing him to approach situations in a non-judgmental, interdisciplinary manner. For Sean, learning does not cease with an undergraduate degree. In order to maintain a competitive edge, Sean thinks it is imperative to study new educational content in his field.

When Sean completed the BIS 401 course he obtained an internship at Fanscape, a social media marketing agency, located in Los Angeles. Sean was delighted at the chance to translate the skills he learned in his courses to a real world internship experience. Sean accepted an offer with Pacific Dental after graduation and founded a nonprofit organization with some friends called A Walk on Water in 2012. His nonprofit provides physical therapy through surfing to special needs children and their siblings, as well as assistance to their entire family. His advice for current BIS students is to follow your heart. He encourages students to step outside of their comfort zone and take risks because it may allow one to discover their true calling in life.
Meet the BIS Advisor
Cristina Hansen
by Connor Maddox

Cristina is a native born Arizonan from the city of Tempe. She graduated from Northern Arizona University with a bachelor’s in psychology and a master’s in education and is currently working for the school as a BIS advisor.

Cristina was drawn to BIS because of the uniqueness and flexibility of the program and felt that it allowed students to “mold” their own degree. She defines interdisciplinary studies as bringing two unrelated fields that collaborate together to solve a problem from more than one perspective. It is different from traditional degrees which could provide more opportunities for students in the future. The best advice she can give to students about choosing concentrations is to choose fields they are passionate about. It will make them more willing to focus on their degree and enjoy the courses they are taking. She would like students to utilize her advising sessions as a resource and to look at all the opportunities that are available to undergrads.

Aside from work, Cristina enjoys activities such as Zumba, volunteering in the Child Study Lab (CSL) with her son, and watching sports, especially the Sun Devils!

Catching Up with OGL Students
Carletha Stewart-Sterling
by Rachael Barrett

Carletha Stewart-Sterling is an accomplished student currently finishing her Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership through the School of Letters and Sciences. Stewart-Sterling was born in Texas but was raised in California, only to later attend Arizona State University.

In researching potential schools, she realized that ASU not only offered a degree that appealed to her interests, but offered her an education that diligently encourages her to explore her interests and attain her goals. She attributes many of her academic accomplishments to ASU’s concern with each student’s success and the ASU faculty that have influenced her on her journey. By earning her degree, she plans to develop and manage an organization that caters to at-risk youth and adults in order to facilitate an environment of support and progression, similar to what Stewart-Sterling herself has been so appreciative of throughout her studies.

Stewart-Sterling remarks that her most cherished memories at ASU come from her conversations with professors, peers, coaches, counselors and advisors which have given her an educational experience that she deems as absolutely remarkable. For those currently in our program, Stewart-Sterling inspires one another to consider her favorite quote: “Failure is not about the fall. Failure is if you stay in the same spot where you fell. If you move a little to the right or the left then you have succeeded”. She has held steadfast to the concept that the key to success is a valued and sought after education. Stewart-Sterling is an exemplary model of determination, persistence, and tenacity to set milestones and exceed them.
The SLS Academic Bowl team made it to the finals for the first time in many years. Members Raymie Humbert, Collin Stevens, Sean Madden, Julian Garcia, and Jonathan Velez went from being the most underrated and overlooked team in the competition, to having a real shot at the championship.

After four knockout matches the first night, the SLS team went 1-2 during the finals, beating the Cronkite School and losing twice to the eventual champions, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They managed to take home 3rd place and $5000 in scholarships.

As a member of the team for two years, I can attest to the difficulty of these questions. The most important thing I told them as their coach is remembering the rules. You have to know them inside and out in order to make sure that you aren’t losing points and chances at questions. Whether or not you know a question is a matter of luck, but rules matter. The school and I could not have been more proud of them.
Study Abroad

by Vicki Asato

This summer students will have the opportunity to earn BIS credit outside of the regular classroom. BIS is offering Study Abroad programs in London, England with Denise Bates and Dublin, Ireland with Jessica Hirshorn. This year will now include a program in Milan and Florence, Italy led by Dave Thomas.

All three programs are open to students of any major. BIS students will be able to earn credits toward their core courses while gaining valuable professional experience based on their interests.

The deadline to apply for these programs is March 1, 2014. More information can be found at the School of Letters Sciences website, http://sls.asu.edu/abroad.
### Spring 2014 Academic Calendar
https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar

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<td><strong>Session C:</strong> (15 Weeks) Monday, 1/13–Friday, 5/2; Final Exams 5/5–10</td>
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$50 Late Registration Fee Begins (does not apply to ASU Online students) | Jan. 6

**Tuition Fee Payment Deadline** – For registration through Aug. 11 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 Aug. 11 with accepted Financial Aid is extended to Sept. 11. [https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines](https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines) | Jan. 8

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<td>Last day to register or drop/add without college approval</td>
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**Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline** [https://students.asu.edu/tuitionrefundpolicy](https://students.asu.edu/tuitionrefundpolicy) | Jan. 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observed – university closed | Jan. 20

**Tuition Fee Payment Deadline** – for non-financial aid students For registration from Aug. 12 – Sept. 3 | Jan. 25

**University 21st Day** | Session A | Session B | Session C |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|

**Academic Status Report #1** – Students can view ASRs in My ASU within 24 hours after the last reporting day | Session A | Session B | Session C |

Deadline to Apply for Graduation [https://students.asu.edu/graduation](https://students.asu.edu/graduation) | Feb. 25

**Spring Break** – classes excused | Feb. 25

**Academic Status Report #2** – Students can view ASRs in My ASU within 24 hours after the last reporting day | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Course Withdrawal Deadline** [https://students.asu.edu/drop-add](https://students.asu.edu/drop-add) | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**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 the University Registrar’s office to facilitate the withdrawal process [https://students.asu.edu/drop-add](https://students.asu.edu/drop-add) | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Classes End** – Last Day to Process Transactions | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Study Days** | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Final Exams** | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Final Grades Due** | Session A | Session B | Session C |

**Commencement** | graduate – May 12 | undergraduate – May 14 |

**Degree Conferral Date** | May 14

**Grade Replacement/Academic Standing Processing** | May 14 – 15