

Notes from the Director

Dear Students,

As the spring semester winds down, graduation is in the air. For those of you graduating this spring and summer, congratulations! You will be joining the nearly 10,000 interdisciplinary studies, organizational studies, and liberal studies alumni who have applied their degrees to great effect. For those still with us, cheers! We are excited to have a little more time with you. For those just joining us, welcome! You will soon discover the innovative and dynamic community that we all enjoy so thoroughly.

We have welcomed into our community this year all those students who have enrolled in our brand new organizational leadership degree. Since its birth last fall, this popular degree has already admitted 326 students. It is one of the flagship degrees offered at ASU's new Lake Havasu campus, to ASU Online students, and—starting in fall 2014—to ASU students at Eastern Arizona College (EAC). This new cohort will arrive just in time to fill the void left by our first graduating class at EAC. These 17 graduates have been wonderful pioneers in ASU's new partnership with EAC, and we will miss them.

Wishing you all the very best,

Kevin Ellsworth
Interim Faculty Head

Inside This Issue

Spring 2014; volume 5, number 2

Contents

Notes from the Director	go
Moeur Award Recipient	go
Internship Spotlights	go
Meet our Newest Faculty Member	go
BIS in the Community	go
Calendar of Events	go

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 and in 2013, added organizational leadership. As one of the largest and fastest growing programs at ASU, we currently have 2661 interdisciplinary studies majors, 759 liberal studies majors, 327 organizational leadership majors and 10,615 combined graduates as of April 2014.

Contact Information

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary and Liberal Studies
<http://sls.asu.edu/bis> | (480) 965-1970

Shawna McDonald, staff writer
Rachael Barrett, staff writer
Vicki Asato, staff writer and editor
Deanna Johnson Mullican, graphic designer

Mouer Award Recipient

Julianna Roberts

by Vicki Asato

Maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout college is an achievement in itself. At ASU, students who earn a 4.0 are eligible for another honor.

Julianna Roberts is a 2014 Moeur Award recipient and will be recognized at the spring commencement ceremony by the Alumni Association. She is graduating with a BIS with concentrations in film and media studies and nonprofit administration.

Only students who have a 4.0 GPA, completed their entire undergraduate work at ASU within eight consecutive semesters and applied for graduation by the university deadline are eligible to receive the award.

While she had not heard of the Moeur Award before, Julianna realized when she received it just how much she accomplished in the last four years. She says she forgets how much potential she has even though she worked up to three jobs at a time, was involved in various creative projects while maintaining her perfect GPA. "This award makes me realize that to downplay my potential for fear of failure is a disservice not only to others, but also to myself," she says.

Julianna says the flexibility of the BIS program has allowed her to market herself as a freelance photographer and filmmaker. After graduation she plans to dedicate more time to freelance work as she will have more availability to accept projects that are offered to her.

Congratulations, Julianna, for earning this prestigious honor!



Internship Spotlights

by Rachael Barrett

Laura Ellis

Concentration areas: social and behavioral sciences and speech and hearing science

Internship site: Horses Help

Q *How did you choose your internship?*

A I chose my internship with Horses Help because they are a therapeutic riding center working directly with children and adults, [additionally,] horses have been a huge part of my life since the age of seven. My two concentration areas are speech and hearing and social and behavioral sciences, and I knew that this facility would be perfect.

Q *How have you integrated your concentration areas?*

A I've integrated both of my concentration areas quite easily. Therapy techniques used for speech pathology overlap with therapy techniques used by the physical therapists on-site. I am also often in charge of the volunteers who are there the same day I am, as well as being involved with the children and adults who are there for a riding session. My classes in social and behavioral sciences have helped me to easily work with the numerous clients on site.

Q *What are your ambitions beyond graduation?*

A After graduation, my overall goal is to become a speech therapist. Before heading to graduate school, I plan on becoming a certified therapeutic riding instructor at Horses Help and continue working there, as well as working part-time, possibly as a speech language pathology assistant, to gain more experience and save up for graduate school.

Q *What is the most valuable experience you have had at your internship?*

A I think the most valuable thing I have gained from my internship is having the opportunity to work with such amazing clients and volunteers at the site. They have all taught me something new, and I have had such a wonderful time working with each and every one of them. I have also learned a lot about myself after being in charge of programming for a few weeks while my boss was out of town. It was a great experience and I learned a lot more about the program as well as myself and my capabilities.



Deb Land

Concentration areas: organizational studies

Internship site: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Q *How did you choose your internship?*

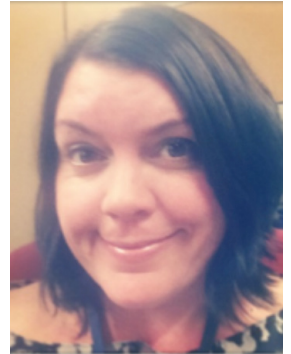
A I was lucky enough to already be involved with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in some capacity due to the Light the Night walks I have participated in for the last several years. My mother passed away last January rather suddenly from AML (acute myeloid leukemia) and this lit a fire in me to do more, and to learn more about this horrible disease. I asked around and was given a huge opportunity to work with LLS and others to get legislation passed that would, in essence, make it mandatory in Arizona that oral cancer treatments would be covered the same as the IV treatments provided in doctors' offices. Right now, they are not, and the difference in out-of-pocket costs can be quite substantial. This was an opportunity to not only do something that would actually impact others but also to learn the process of how a bill travels and, hopefully, eventually makes it to the governor's desk to be put into law.

Q *What are your ambitions beyond graduation?*

A Beyond graduation I plan on returning to ASU for a master's in healthcare innovation in order to continue to learn about policy making and to better prepare myself to have an impact on the health-care system. I would ideally find a position that allows me to be an advocate for patients as well as someone who promotes changes that will improve the health-care system not only in Arizona, but in the country as well.

Q *What is the most valuable experience you have had at your internship?*

A The most valuable experience to date has been being able to watch the excellent examples of interdisciplinary problem-solving at work. The FACT ACT (our bill) coalition consists of people from pharm, LLS, providers and insurance companies, senators and representatives and all people working together in order to make both sides happy has been interesting. I have a new appreciation for the amount of work and effort that goes into getting a bill heard and signed into law.



Meet our Newest Faculty Member

Caryl Williams

by Shawna McDonald

Our newest School of Letters and Sciences faculty member is Caryl Williams, who joined us in December 2013. Caryl was raised in Michigan and went on to graduate from Michigan State University with an undergraduate degree in criminal justice. Later, Caryl earned a master's degree in business management Central Michigan University. She has worked in many different fields including legal, insurance, and automotive manufacturing organizations. Caryl is also experienced in quality assurance, labor relations, operations management process improvements and the art of communicating with diverse groups of people.

Caryl was drawn to the School of Letters and Sciences because of the new organizational leadership degree program. She felt that her education and applied knowledge in multiple industries made her a perfect fit to teach organizational leadership. Caryl believes that studying multiple disciplines allows students to be well-rounded and informed on several different topics. As a BIS major, students also develop listening and problem-solving skills that can be applied to many diverse issues.

Outside of teaching, Caryl is an active member of various organizations and communities. She also loves to hike, exploring trails all over Arizona. Her specialties include river crossings and snake diversions. She enjoys spending time outdoors, away from technology. Her advice to students is to “stay diversified to be interesting, curious and well traveled!”



BIS in the Community

by Vicki Asato

Students who reach out to college instructors as a source for their research tend to be high school-aged. Recently, BIS lecturer Michael Pryzdia was contacted by Grace Xu, a fifth-grader at Highland Lakes School in Glendale, Ariz.

Grace was researching the topic of the hero's journey and contacted Pryzdia as part of her assignment to interview an expert on her chosen topic. She used the pattern of the hero's journey to analyze a few popular book series, including *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson* and *Divergent*.

Pryzdia said he normally does not publicize such meetings but was so impressed by Grace—and that a young student would request to meet with him—that he had to share the experience, which is a great example of ASU merging with the community.



Summer 2014 Academic Calendar

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

Session A: (first 6 week session) Monday, 5/19 – Friday, 6/27			
Session B: (second 6 week session) Wednesday, 7/2 – Tuesday, 8/12			
Session C: (8 week session) Monday, 5/19 – Friday, 7/11			
Tuition Fee Payment Deadline – For registration through May 4 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 4 with accepted Financial Aid is extended to June 25. https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines			May 8
\$50 Late Registration Fee Begins (does not apply to ASU Online students)	Session A May 11	Session B June 24	Session C May 11
Classes Begin	Session A May 19	Session B July 2	Session C May 19
Last day to register or drop/add without college approval	Session A May 20	Session B July 3	Session C May 20
Residency Classification Petition Deadline			May 20
Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline https://students.asu.edu/tuitionrefundpolicy	Session A May 23	Session B July 6	Session C May 23
Memorial Day holiday observed – university closed			May 26
Course Withdrawal Deadline	Session A June 6	Session B July 22	Session C June 6
Deadline to Apply for Graduation https://students.asu.edu/graduation			June 16
Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline – for non-financial aid students For registration from May 5 – June 8 and for financial aid students with sufficient aid to pay all tuition charges			June 25
Independence Day observed – university closed			July 4
Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline	Session A June 27	Session B Aug. 12	Session C July 11
Classes End – Last Day to Process Transactions	Session A June 27	Session B Aug. 12	Session C July 11
Final Grades Due	Session A June 29	Session B Aug. 14	Session C July 13
Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline – for registration from June 9 to July 18			July 25
Degree Conferral Date			Aug. 12
Grade Replacement Processing			Aug. 15