

## Notes from the Director

Dear Students,

Fall 2014 has been a spectacular semester!

Our wonderful students, successful alumni, strong faculty, and great classes have attracted more than 2,600 students to our program this Fall! We added many great, new concentrations for our Interdisciplinary Studies students. We rolled out all of the remaining classes for the Organizational Leadership degree, and we will be graduating our first Organizational Leadership students this December! The Organizational and Liberal Studies degrees also continue to attract hundreds of fascinating, dedicated students. Our awesome Starbucks students began arriving this fall like a tidal wave. We love having you all here!

Our first class of Organizational Leadership students began this Fall at Eastern Arizona College, and preparations are well underway to also launch that degree at Arizona Western College next Fall. Our Lake Havasu students are making great progress. Organizational Leadership students are flooding the state and our online programs. We are very excited to see this wave of students and graduates apply their skills and knowledge to change their world!

Finish strong, make us proud, and enjoy the holidays!

Kevin Ellsworth  
Interim Faculty Head

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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 and in 2013, added Organizational Leadership. As one of the largest and fastest growing programs at ASU, we currently have 2943 Interdisciplinary Studies majors, 825 Liberal Studies majors, 703 Organizational Leadership majors and 11,079 combined graduates as of August 2014.

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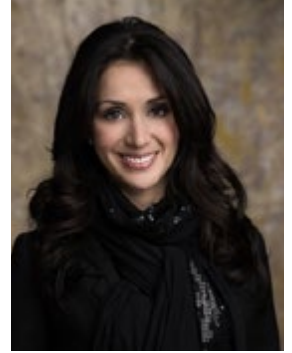
Original artwork in the *Kaleidoscope* masthead was created by interdisciplinary studies student Rebecca Soltis.

# Organizational Leadership Graduate

## Fabia Bianco

By: Lindsey Allemang

Fabia Bianco is one of the first ASU students to graduate from the College of Letters and Science's Organizational Leadership (OGL) program. When asked for her thoughts about being one of the first OGL grads, Fabia exclaimed, "I think it is a great opportunity to act as a trail blazer in seeking to change organizations, create leadership development, affect my surrounding communities and overall to have the chance to shape the way the world and organizations will see OGL grads in the future." Fabia views this accomplishment as an exciting opportunity to solidify the new and quickly growing field of thinking for the development of people, organizations and processes in many industries.



Fabia said that she chose the OGL program at ASU because she is, "passionate for developing, coaching and helping people to identify their strengths and improve on their opportunities." Her passion for strong leadership is evident in her positivity towards the personal accolades the OGL program has given her throughout her college years. Fabia says, "Nothing gives me more joy than seeing people grow personally and professionally. I believe everyone is a leader and everyone needs a leader. Serving others in the pursuit of their strengths is a life changing and very rewarding opportunity." She also possesses a distinct vision for the future and believes, "that organizations are in dire need to get more efficient at developing effective programs that encourage and enable people to become independent thinkers, to build effective teams and dynamic management."

According to Fabia, other students should look into the OGL program if they wish to create and lead towards change in their organizations as well as to build solid structures for the execution of strategies and the healthy distribution of power. OGL students should likewise seek to motivate, engage and inspire people into action, and to transform leaders. Overall, Fabia believes students "should choose OGL if they are the type of people that seek opportunity to change and improve processes, find reward in seeing others blossom, want knowledge to be shared and strive to become better leaders." In speaking to students potentially interested in the OGL program, Fabia shared her personal advice to, "Practice what you are learning right away!" She explains that, "it is amazing what these lessons can do for your retention, confidence and the production of results in your organization/family/community." She encourages students to, "retain and organize all self-assessments, articles, videos and additional information, as it will be very useful in the Pro-Seminar. Research outside sources of leadership because these can help to create meaningful connections and enrich the given assignments. Connect with the Professors! They are incredible at providing resources and feedback." In final words of wisdom to future OGL students, Fabia said to, "Enjoy the ride. It really is fun and it will soon be over before you know it!"

In addition to commenting on her overall opinion of the OGL program and sharing her advice for prospective OGL students, Fabia was asked to give insight on her own personal experience on the path to graduating from the Organizational Leadership program. Fabia described her journey as, "Wonderful!" She continued elaborating, "I was introduced to many contemporary leaders in the fields of leadership, psychology, organizational studies as well as some renowned writers and philosophers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. I enjoyed how inspired I felt and how engaged in action I was from week to week. I would return to work and see the same processes completely differently. I would propose changes, engage and connect with people in more meaningful ways as well as coach and train my teams more effectively." In analyzing the entirety of her OGL experience, Fabia contently concluded, "The greatest part of the experience was how much I learned about myself personally, professionally and as a leader. I was able to identify my strengths and weaknesses and come up with action plans to improve myself. I learned to be more effective and productive at work, and to develop richer relationships with family, friends, peers and other stakeholders in my organization."

After graduation, Fabia plans to enroll in the Masters of Applied Psychology program at the University of Southern California. She explained that she wants to secure a new role where she is able to focus on leadership and organizational development as well as to create programs for talent management. "I plan to get more involved in volunteering for community leadership programs in the nonprofit industry," said Fabia. Additionally, she hopes to, "provide career counseling and to enjoy some well-earned nights and weekends with family in sunny southern California!"

## Internship Spotlight

### Ali Liberman

#### Environment Arizona

Being from Phoenix, Ali Liberman was drawn to ASU because it financially made sense. She originally came across the BIS program while deciding on her major. When she first started at ASU, she knew she wanted to major in Global Studies or Sustainability. She soon realized she could do both with the BIS program as she discovered not only that she could have both interests be her concentrations, but also that they integrated perfectly. She chose Global Studies because of her passion for learning about other cultures and Sustainability because of her concern for the impact that humans have on the Earth and to learn about the ways it can be minimized.

Ali is currently interning with Environment Arizona, which is a non-profit, citizen based advocacy group. The organization focuses on working with local policy makers to launch campaigns for cleaner air, water, and energy. Ali mainly focuses on their solar campaign, which includes business outreach, petitioning, research, and data entry. Because of what she has learned from her Sustainability and Global Studies concentrations, she feels more confident when advocating for the clean solar energy policy.

For BIS students, Ali says, "I think that it's really easy to separate the two concentrations that you're studying and to be fully immersed in one or the other. So my advice is to always be cognizant of how you can fully integrate the two and become a true interdisciplinarian, gaining a deeper understanding of each discipline."

In the future, Ali hopes to deal with energy policy or city planning, but also plans on attending law school to practice Environmental Law.

## Meet a BIS Advisor

### Alicia Hayden

*By: Melissa Gibson*

Alicia is originally from Milwaukee, WI. She majored in History and Communication and received her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, WI. She then relocated to Flagstaff, AZ to attend Northern Arizona University where she earned her master's in Counseling with an emphasis in Higher Education.

Prior to joining our advising staff, Alicia worked at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in university housing. She also worked as an academic advisor in the College of Business at Cardinal Stritch University.

Alicia chose to advise for the BIS program because of the vast number of opportunities offered to students. She enjoys talking with students about how they see their chosen concentrations working together and how they plan to use them after graduation. She also enjoys seeing students "become the architects of their own education" through the opportunities allotted to them by the BIS program.

Alicia focuses on getting to know the students she works with and helping them make the experience their own. She often turns questions back onto the students in order for them to discover their own thoughts and feelings about their degree progress and career choices.

When asked to define Interdisciplinary Studies in regards to her own thoughts and feelings, Alicia described it as "an opportunity for students to create an academic path or plan that is unique to their individual hopes and dreams." She also stresses the idea of what BIS degrees offer students in terms of future employment. She often explains to her students that "employers are looking for people with good communication, teamwork and problem solving skills" and the BIS degree helps them hone those skills.

When asked what she enjoys engaging in on her off hours, Alicia explained that most of her free time is now occupied by her almost-2-year-old but, in the past, she had been involved with organizations like Toastmasters International, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Make a Wish foundation.



## Study Abroad Programs

By: Connor Maddox

### Dublin, Ireland

**GPA Requirement:** 2.00

**Courses Available:**

Students will take 6 credits, 3 of which will be an internship while abroad

**BIS 401\*/ BIS 484 / SGS 484: Internship** (3 credits)

**BIS 302\*/ BIS 357/ BIS 499:** Interdisciplinary Inquiry/ Assessment in Organizations/ Directed Study (3 credits)

**BIS 402\*/ BIS 499/ SGS 499:** Senior Seminar/ Directed Study (3 credits)

\*pre-requisite: BIS 301

**BIS 401/ BIS 484/ SGS 484:** Internship

**BIS 302/ BIS 499/ BIS 357:** Interdisciplinary Inquiry

**BIS 402/ BIS 499/ SGS 499:** Senior Seminar & Special Topics

**Application Deadline:** March 1st, 2015

**Contact:** Jessica Hirshorn, [jessica.hirshorn@asu.edu](mailto:jessica.hirshorn@asu.edu)

**More information:**

[https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=4061&Type=O&sType=O](https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=4061&Type=O&sType=O)



### Milan, Italy

**GPA Requirement:** 2.00

**Courses Available:**

**BIS/SGS 484 Internship** (3 credits)

**BIS/SGS 499 Directed Study** (3 credits)

**BIS 401 Applied Interdisciplinary Studies**

(3 credits – prerequisite: BIS 301)

**BIS 402 Senior Seminar** (3 credits – corequisite: BIS 401)

**BIS 401/BIS 484/SGS 484**

**BIS 499/SGS 499/BIS 402**

**Application Deadline:** March 1st, 2015

**Contact:** David Thomas, [david.thomas@asu.edu](mailto:david.thomas@asu.edu)

**More information:**

[https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=7061](https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=7061)



## Spring 2015 Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar contains important session dates such as when classes begin, tuition payment deadline, registration dates, add/drop deadlines, course withdrawal deadlines, etc.

**Download ASU's academic calendar to your personal digital calendar today!**

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

	<b>Session A</b> Lasts 7.5 weeks Jan. 12 – March 3	<b>Session B</b> Lasts 7.5 weeks March 16 – May 1	<b>Session C</b> Lasts 15 weeks Jan. 12 – May 1
last day to register or drop/add after date, student will receive a "W" on transcript	January 13	March 17	January 18
course withdrawal deadline	January 30	April 3	April 5
final exams	last day of classes	last day of classes	May 4 – 9

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observed—university closed	January 19
<b>Tuition Fee Payment Deadlines vary</b> <a href="https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines">https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines</a>	
Deadline to Apply for Graduation <a href="https://students.asu.edu/graduation">https://students.asu.edu/graduation</a>	February 16
<b>Tuition Fee Payment Deadline</b> <a href="https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines">https://students.asu.edu/tuitiondeadlines</a>	January 25
Spring Break—classes excused	March 8 – 15
Commencement	May 11

All dates listed in this planner are current as of Jan. 5, 2015 and are subject to change without notice. Visit <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar> for up-to-date information.