



Fall 2016
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*Original artwork in the *Kaleidoscope* masthead was created by BIS student Rebecca Soltis.

Since 1996, the 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 Organizational Studies option. In 2009, the College of Letters and Sciences also welcomed the 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 4022 Interdisciplinary Studies majors, 1255 Liberal Studies majors, 1776 Organizational Leadership majors and 12,607 combined graduates as of May 2016.

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

Fall 2016 has been another spectacular semester! Our enthusiastic students, strong alumni, and engaging faculty have attracted more than 4,300 students to our Leadership, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Liberal Studies degrees this fall. Our alumni and students are doing remarkable work throughout the Phoenix Valley, throughout the United States, and throughout the world!

Our partnerships in Eastern Arizona, Central Arizona, and Arizona Western, with Starbucks, and with international partners are growing beyond all expectations. We hired eight extraordinary new full-time faculty this fall (some of whom you will meet in this issue of Kaleidoscope) to develop and teach new courses on our campuses and online, and we are we will be leading study abroad programs this year in Beijing, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Dublin, Nicaragua, and Prague.

With your help, we are laying the groundwork for our first graduate degree (Master of Science in Organizational Leadership), our first certificate (Peace Corps Prep), and our first Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree (Applied Leadership). We are looking forward to another strong graduating class in December 2017, and another extraordinary year in 2017.

Thank you for all you've done and are currently doing to make our program so remarkable!

Sincerely,
Dr. Kevin Ellsworth
Head, Faculty of Leadership and Interdisciplinary Studies

Getting to Know Our Faculty

Dr. Denise Bates
By Bryce Dudzinski

Dr. Denise Bates is a historian and Assistant Professor in Leadership and Interdisciplinary Studies.

What do you teach here at ASU?

Although I have taught all of the Interdisciplinary and Liberal Studies core courses over the years, I am presently teaching the project management courses for the Organizational Leadership degree program and the U.S. history survey courses (HST 109 and 110) using a new adaptive online courseware that I helped develop with the rest of my team.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite parts about teaching are working with students and curriculum development. ASU students are the best! The diversity in experiences, abilities and backgrounds makes each class different and exciting to teach. The curriculum development part of this job is also at the top of my list because I enjoy the research and creative process involved in developing new classes and figuring out the best ways to deliver them to meet the learning outcomes.

Did you have a professor who inspired you and how did they do that?

I have had many amazing faculty mentors throughout my education and career. Collectively, they have inspired me to be the best teacher, scholar and overall person that I can possibly be. From them, I have learned to take joy in my work—even the most mundane of tasks—and to consistently seek a healthy work-life balance.

Do you have any personal goals for the year?

My goals for the year are to finish a draft of the present book project that I'm working on, lay the groundwork for my next project that I will start in the summer 2017, and refine my existing courses to incorporate some of the new teaching technologies that are available.

What are you reading right now? What books do you recommend everyone read?

This is a tough one because I read across a lot of different genres and disciplines. The book that I'm reading today is called *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II* (by J. Todd Moyer) because I do a lot of work with oral histories, which is what this book draws from. Plus, I just returned from the historic opening ceremonies of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in DC, which has inspired my reading choices this week.

In addition to books, I recommend that everyone make a habit of reading reputable newspapers and feeds daily to keep informed on the status of world events and politics.

Dr. Mai P. Trihn
By Bryce Dudzinski

Dr. Trihn earned her Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Case Western Reserve University in 2016 and now teaches within the Organizational Leadership program.

What do you teach within the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts? What is your favorite part about teaching?

At ASU, I'm teaching OGL 360: Assessment of Leadership Effectiveness. It is a unique class at ASU in which students are encouraged to reflect about their own leadership styles, values, and other behavioral preferences through participation in experiential exercises and peer coaching sessions. The topic of leadership development through personal reflection is very dear to me as I've been a certified executive coach since 2010 and have been helping students discover their values, passions, vision for the future and a plan to achieve their vision.

Did you have a professor who inspired you and how did they do that?

One of the professors that has had the strongest impact on me was my mentor David Kolb, the founder of Experiential Learning Theory. He recognized all the personal struggles that I was going through at the time. He pointed out to me that I was capable of doing so much more than what I was doing, that I was constraining myself and my intellectual abilities, like a bird in a cage. His wife, Alice, actually made me read Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and they both gave me the courage and the support to break free from my cage, to fly somewhere few had flown, and to search for higher and bluer skies. I am forever grateful to them--and that is something that I hope to be able to do for my students too. Through my teaching, mentoring, and research, I want to help my students find their best selves and be the best that they can be. I want to challenge them to think deeply, to shoot for the Moon, and to open new doors to possibilities. I want to encourage them as they constantly challenge themselves through the personal development process, and I want them to believe that they can do it.



What are your personal goals for the year?

My personal goals for the year are to make a new intellectual home at ASU, to set up a QM-certified online class, and to get my research program going. I'm passionate about different aspects of the learning process and some of my research questions include how learning identity helps develop lifelong learners, how diverse team members learn together to become more effective and more efficient, and how developing a sense of humility can help knowledge experts learn to be more adaptable to change.

What are you reading right now? What books do you recommend everyone read?

Right now I am reading Adam Grant's *Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World*, but I would encourage everyone to read his best-seller *Give and Take: Why Helping Others Drives Our Success*.

Dr. Elizabeth Castillo
By: Hahnna Christianson

Q: Where are you originally from?

A: I was born in Okinawa, Japan and moved to North Carolina to live there between the ages of 2 and 10. After the fourth grade, I moved out to San Diego and lived there most of my life.

Q: What are some interesting facts about you?

A: I am an identical twin which shocks most people, and my hobbies include hiking and nature photography.

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Castillo

Q: What is your educational background?

A: I have a BA and double major in philosophy and history, with a minor in business. I then received my MA in non-profit leadership, which was followed by a PHD in leadership studies.

Q: What influenced you to become a professor?

A: I worked at a natural history museum in San Diego at Balboa Park and then moved to the Balboa Park collaborative museum program. I started researching to find a way to raise money and realized organizations use more resources than just money.

Q: What courses have you taught throughout the year?

A: Leadership Theory, Fundraising, and Collaboration.

Q: What is your philosophy of education?

A: Education has two pieces; one is the content of what we are learning and the second is the process of what we are learning. A lot of education focuses on the content and I believe the role of the professor is to get people to start thinking about their thinking, which is called metacognition.

Q: What was one of the most rewarding moments of teaching you have experienced thus far?

A: I have truly enjoyed teaching diversity in organizations to see the change in perspective of the students. A few in the beginning seemed to be close minded and over the course, you could see them pull back from street level view to satellite view of the world.

Q: What advice do you have to give to students?

A: Build your networks! Everyone should have a LinkedIn account to reach out to professors and colleagues. Research shows that your job is more likely to come from a friend of a friend, so establish relationships and get involved. Also make sure you know what your continuation of learning plan is when you graduate. The world is changing so fast, so you have to continue to learn.



Meet the New Advisor

Jennifer Wadsworth

By: Hahna Christianson

Q: Where are you originally from?

A: I grew up in Glendale, AZ and have lived in the valley my whole life. I met my husband in college, my only good memory of Calculus II, and we will be coming up on our three-year anniversary this October. We have two adorable dogs, Lucy and Buddy that we spoil too much.

Q: What is your educational background?

A: I started at Glendale Community College but eventually transferred to ASU and received my Bachelors of Science in Earth and Space Exploration in May of 2015. During this time, I was

working at the front desk of the SoMSS advising office. While I love science, I found helping students more rewarding and decided to switch gears. I am currently in the Higher and Postsecondary Education (MEd).

Q: What do you like to do on your free time?

A: I enjoy hanging out with my friends and family, binge watching shows on Netflix, and playing videogames.

Q: How long have you been an advisor?

A: Not long! This will be my first official job as advisor, but I have had some experience helping students in advising office for the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.

Q: What are your thoughts on the programs the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts has to offer?

A: I think that the programs offered through CISA are amazing! I was actually a little upset that I did not know they existed when I was an undergraduate at ASU given my interest in multiple disciplines. The faculty and staff are great as well; you can really tell that they care about their students and want to see them succeed.

Q: What advice would you give to students?

A: I would tell them to pursue their passions and not to be afraid of being themselves. College is a place for discovering who you are and what you are interested in, so don't be afraid to try something new!

Summer Study Abroad Programs

Cuba and Nicaragua with Dr. Bruce Oberstein

Bruce Oberstein is a Professor of Practice for the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts. He also has been a huge reason for the success of our study abroad programs.

Where did study abroad take you this summer and what did your students study while there?

The first program was to Cuba, where we studied the Cuban health care system, which by the way is known for its highly trained doctors and also sending doctors to countries who lack healthcare practitioners. We also experienced Cuban life and culture, visiting museums, fortresses, and daily life, in and around Havana. As you know, Cuba has struggled economically due to the U.S. embargo which has been in place since 1960. Cuba now is in the beginning stages of change, especially since President Obama relaxed travel restrictions for US citizens. Being able to see the old Cuba before the changes occur is quite interesting.

The second study abroad program was to Nicaragua where student received internship credit. Students worked with a non-profit organization which set up medical and veterinary clinics in underserved rural areas. Our students worked with the doctors or veterinarians treating patients. The students involved in the medical clinics took the patient histories, vital signs, and assisted the doctors with diagnosis and treatment. The students working with the

veterinarians prepared the animals for surgery (neutering and spaying), assisted the doctors in surgery and managed the recovery. The vet clinic students also worked with large animals administering vaccinations and deworming shots. As many students said, “it was awesome.”

What lessons do you see students commonly learn through their study abroad experience?

I believe it is important for students to experience the world first hand. Living and learning in an environment which is different than ours, getting out of our comfort zone, but at the same time realizing that all people, regardless of where they live, have the same desires: improved health and living conditions, and a better life for their children. The students who attend my study abroad programs are usually pre-health students. I believe the programs help to strengthen their commitment to serving and increase their compassion.



Where are your plans for future travels?

I am going to do both programs next summer in Cuba and Nicaragua. I am planning on developing a program to Vietnam in the future.

China with Dr. Jessica Hirshorn

By: Hahnna Christianson

For the very first year, Dr. Jessica Hirshorn, a professor here at Arizona State University, took a group of 24 students out to China through the study abroad program. Dr. Hirshorn takes students on these trips because her personal mission is, “to help people understand other citizens across cultures and help people become internationally confident to create peace and understanding between nations.”

Students from all over the university, which is not limited to the Tempe campus, are welcome to join. This program is a month long and allows students to participate in internships that grant them work experience and a new perspective on the Chinese culture. Dr. Hirshorn comments that, “the government, world views, food, people, history, sights, and many other aspects of the culture differ from ours.” The experiences are unlike any other, and this last year the group of students got to camp overnight on the Great Wall of China. Dr. Hirshorn said, “It was rigorous to get up there, but once we did it was absolutely beautiful. We all woke up at 4:20 AM to see the sunrise and it was awe inspiring. To be out there on the Great Wall with all of that history; it was so peaceful.”

Dr. Jessica Hirshorn stated that this experience will change student’s lives and will create bonds with peers that are everlasting. Being involved and getting to experience the Chinese culture also had such an impact, as student’s got to see the world through a different lens. Lastly, Dr. Hirshorn noted that “visiting China will help their [the student’s] future and is beneficial to their careers, as many students were offered jobs afterwards in Beijing.”

If you are interested in joining this incredible experience, fill out the application online and set up an appointment to meet with Dr. Jessica Hirshorn. You do not want to miss out on this experience of a life time!

Italy with Dr. Dave Thomas

By: Hahnna Christianson

For the past three years, a small group of students have been accompanying Dr. Dave Thomas out to Italy to study abroad. Dr. Thomas is a professor here at ASU who teaches organizational leadership and interdisciplinary studies courses. This is his 10th year leading a study abroad program and has traveled to many places such as London, Dublin, Italy, and this summer is beginning a new program in Prague! Dr. Thomas believes studying abroad is “the most precise tool in an educator’s toolbox to make a strong impact on students. It allows opportunity for cultural immersion and experience in the global workplace.”

On the trip to Italy, 28 students were taken on an eight week expedition. The students participated in internships through companies that relate to their future career goals. They also had the opportunity to visit the Incubator Project, which is known as the Impact Hub, where Italian entrepreneurs come together and collaborate on ideas for different products. Dave Thomas stated that the excursions are always very exciting as well. The students got to adventure and check out local aspects of the culture such as the food, the sights, and much more. Experiencing the laid back Italian culture was an interesting experience for many students, as the Italian citizens were always willing to teach foreigners about their culture and cuisine.

Dr. Thomas claims students should partake on study abroad opportunities because, “Students get powerful work experience in a field that they may not have had the chance to experience and it is an opportunity for their world to change as they gain an understanding of the different cultures outside of the United States.” Participating in study abroad is a wonderful life changing experience to grow and pick up skills, such as “solving ambiguous problems and intercultural understanding.” If you would like to participate in study abroad, Dr. Thomas is taking a trip out to Prague this year, so visit the Study Abroad office programs online and check it out!

Senior-Year Career Decision-Making with Dr. Mary Dawes

By Bryce Dudzinski

Dr. Mary Dawes is the Director of Academic and Career Exploration within the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts. I had initially interviewed her to discuss the first-year, intro-to-ASU classes she leads that help freshman students develop important skills and attitudes for growing and learning. However, after the formal interview, I asked for her personal advice on my current, career decision-making and that became the story I felt I should share.



Wherever you might be in life, you're making important decisions that will influence your future. Some crossroads are bigger than others but decision-making never leaves us and a familiar question might be: "Am I making the right decision?"

At the beginning of my last year of undergraduate school, I shared the crossroads of my career choices with Dr. Dawes. I am thankful for her gracious perspective and words.

Dr. Dawes said, "Don't add this pressure to yourself to make a permanent decision right now. You have an entire year of learning, making progress, seeking opportunity. Then you can make a decision. And that decision is not forever. This is what I told my daughter as well, at the end of a year following that decision, you will have experiences, lessons learned, and then you have the opportunity to make that decision again. Are you going to stay or try that other option?"

"That is what life becomes. Especially as a psychologist, I don't believe there is a right or wrong decision sometimes. We have to choose one and then go on," shared Dawes. I'm learning it is important to want direction and to be active in figuring it out, but be patient with yourself along the way."

Important Academic Calendar Dates

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