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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 6785 Interdisciplinary Studies majors, 1299 Liberal Studies majors, 1787 Organizational Leadership majors and 12,909 combined graduates as of December 2016.

Inside This Issue:

Notes from the Director
Getting to Know Our Staff
Study Abroad Student Experiences
Summer Study Abroad Program
Academic Calendar

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

Spring is graduation season and an exciting time to anticipate your future! I recently asked my graduating class about their aspirations, and they responded:

- Be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.
- Have my car paid off and plan to get a house in the next year or two, which is really exciting to think about.
- Marry my girlfriend. I have been dating her for four years and have been best friends for over seven years.
- Get my CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and then my MBA.
- Work for the next two years as a missionary for Saint Paul's Outreach.
- Own a manufacturing company to design my own products and also produce them myself so I have full creative and financial control.
- Help fix the higher education system.
- Have a family who is close-knit and loving.
- Move to Croatia or Italy and start a game development studio.
- See my daughter grow, be her own person and accomplish her dreams.
- Inspire as many children as possible to be interested in STEM. My grandmother was a very inspiring science teacher and I only hope to live up to her legacy.
- Help those that are in need.
- Be a part of the National Football League. This is a dream that I have worked on my whole life since I was a child playing.
- Raise children who are kind, respectful, well-rounded, loving, caring, and genuinely have good hearts.
- Change the world through music.

It was a large class, and there were many more aspirations, but like those above almost all focused on family, community, and career. The most remarkable and consistent thread throughout was the positive energy and the reality that many of these dreams will come true. Others will adapt and transform into even greater accomplishments.

Your aspirations, your energy and your abilities will shape your future and the future of our world. Nurture those aspirations, and we can all look forward to an exciting and wonderful future together.

Yours,

Dr. Kevin Ellsworth

Head, Faculty of Leadership & Interdisciplinary Studies

Getting to Know Our Staff
Nicholas Maddox
By: Hahna Christianson

Nicholas Maddox is an ASU alumnus, getting his undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in political science and theatre design production, and is now pursuing his master's degree in higher education at ASU as well. Not only is he a dedicated student, but Mr. Maddox has been working as the internship coordinator for the College of Integrated Sciences and Arts (CISA) for the past year, helping students find internship experiences and answering any career related questions they may have. He also oversees and manages the front desk staff, to ensure best customer service is achieved. When asked what some of the coolest internships he has seen students work with, Maddox stated all student internships are cool because he gets to see students do what they want to do in a field they are passionate about. He also loves to see what students come up with and how they use their background knowledge to find internships that incorporate both of their concentrations.

When asked what Mr. Maddox's thoughts were on the programs CISA has to offer, he said he loves them. "The programs offer students unique opportunities and lends for more flexibility than traditional degrees. It offers a variety for students to choose custom tailored classes to fit their future career goals."

Mr. Maddox's favorite part of his job is the unique program, and the amazing faculty, advisors, and staff that are committed to helping students succeed, going above and beyond to help students with anything they need. Lastly, the advice he gives to students is to complete as many internships as possible! Internships are important and get you work experience outside of the classroom, allowing you to use concepts and theories learned to practice applying them in the workforce. As Maddox stated, "One required internship doesn't mean you can't have others!" Thank you for all of your hard work for the college!

Study Abroad Student Experience
Tyler Coloma from the Dominican Republic Trip
By: Hahna Christianson

What is your major here at ASU?

I'm currently a senior attending ASU and graduate in May 2017 in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations of Film/Media Productions and Communications.

What made you decide to partake on a study abroad experience?

I have always been interested in traveling abroad and the work of the Peace Corps. This opportunity to learn about new cultures and perspectives was really important for myself to accomplish and experience outside my comfort zone.

What was your favorite part of the trip?

The best part about studying abroad is getting to know strangers that have walked different paths of life and becoming more than friends and acquaintances. I had the honor to meet such charismatic and genuine people with big hearts and caring minds.

What new things did you learn?

Through my short journey in the Dominican Republic, I have learned about how important human security is. By taking what I've learned from the 7 Elements founded by Dave Addison, I have learned how economic, environmental, political, food, health, community, and individual/personal security can aspire these communities to create a sustainable and development growth, and leadership for the well-being for their people and communities around them.



What was the most challenging part of the experience?

I believe the most challenging part of my experience working with the Seven Elements, is putting into perspective how privileged we are in the states and really reevaluating what it means to have the human security that we are provided in our country. The first hand witness of hardship I saw in these people really was the most difficult and challenging part and encourages me to want to act and actively give back and support those in need.

Do you have any advice for future students interested in study abroad?

If I were to give any advice for future students interested in study abroad is, 1. Keep an open mind and embrace the unknown. 2. Always be the first one to break the ice when meeting people, all the most influential people I have met in my life is because I came to them. 3. People are good everywhere and shouldn't be judged, labeled, or persecuted by the actions of where they come from.



Tell any stories about the trip you feel are important to share.

I feel that my personal experiences from this trip can't be described into words but with people I shared these memories with. Although, if I were to give one more piece of advice to those thinking about studying abroad it would be this. I was once told at an early age not to invest in things. Invest in yourself. Travel. I am currently living on my own, working 2 jobs, paying bills, and going to school full-time. If for one second you think you cannot afford to study abroad, just forget that.

Study Abroad Student Experience
Celeste Montes from the Dominican Republic Trip
By: Hahna Christianson

What is your major here at ASU?

Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Health Foundations and Sociology.

What was your favorite part of the trip?

My favorite part of the trip was being able to visit a Haitian batey, which is a community in the Dominican Republic. The Haitians were moved to this community years ago when the Sugar Cane industry had risen. However, once that industry dropped, these Haitians no longer had jobs, nor did they have any documentation for being a citizen. This left them to be discriminated against by the Dominicans, and basically left to fend for themselves, with no help from the government and nowhere to go. The reason why this specific part was my favorite was because we were able to see and understand these people and how similar we all really are. Although this community of Haitians had essentially nothing but each other, they were some of the

happiest people I have met. It really makes you appreciate what you do have and want to help give back to other communities.

How was the culture different from ours?

This culture is different from ours because they are a lot more involved with each other. In the U.S. we are so used to our smart phones, social media, and material things; however, in the Dominican culture, they are usually outside “plastic chairing”. This term refers to the individuals sitting outside for hours at a time spending time sharing stories and enjoying each other’s company. One thing I really enjoyed during the trip was that there was hardly any cell phone service. This forced everyone to become more social and open up to these new experiences with little distractions.

What was the most challenging part of the experience?

The most challenging part of this experience was seeing the struggles that these people had to go through. When we went to visit one of the Peace Corps members at a local school, she explained how hard she works to actually get the children to school. Some of the students did not attend school very often because education was not shown to be very important to parents. However, we were told that these children look forward to learning and actually want to go to school. In one of the communities, children walk miles just to get to and from school everyday. Seeing all of these communities who struggle with what we think are very simple things in life gives you a new perspective in life. It teaches you to not take things for granted and appreciate everything you are given.

Do you have any advice for future students interested in study abroad?

Do it! And do it as much as you possibly can. I regret not taking advantage of study abroad programs throughout my college years until the very end. Don’t be scared to get out of your comfort zone and really experience the different cultures. There is nothing that makes me happier than seeing the difference you can make in someone else’s life.

Tell any stories about the trip you feel are important to share.

On our first day, we hiked two hours up Mount Brison. Along the way we met many families who lived in this community along the mountain path, who lived in small, worn down huts. One important figure in this community was a 15-year-old girl, who provided all the agriculture to her community. She planted and grew all vegetables and took them to sell to her community members. To think that this young girl holds such a high standing in this community shows so much knowledge, courage, strength, and power.

Study Abroad: Thailand
Gina Beyer
By: Hahna Christianson

Coming up in July, 18 students from all across Arizona State University are being taken to study abroad in Thailand for the first year ever. One of the leaders of this adventure is Gina Beyer, who has been the director of the academic success programs and a professor for the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts for many years. A fun fact about Dr. Beyer, is that she has taught every class that has a UNI prefix! There are many exciting events planned on this trip to Thailand which is called “A Mindful Experience of Art and Culture”.

Some of the many thrilling activities that the students will be partaking on include volunteer work, a 24-hour meditation retreat with a Buddhist monk, and a traditional Tibetan papermaking experience where the students will make their own paper, bind it into a book, and then sketch the temples in Chiang Mai. None of the students going on the trip have been to Thailand, although Dr. Beyer has gone before. She states there are many cultural differences, but the one that stood out to her when she traveled to Thailand was that their language is a radically different experience. There is no familiarity with the language which pushed her limits of comfort as her brain was constantly working to keep up with this cognitively challenging experience. Although this is a challenge, Beyer states that is the wonderful gift of study abroad; that it is inherently an adventure.

When asking her why she wanted to lead a study abroad program she said she loved to travel and loved the subject matter at hand. Dr. Beyer has spent many years in her Masters studying mindfulness through advanced yoga practice. She also expressed, “Students cannot get a full or well-rounded liberal arts education without studying abroad”. Dr. Beyer said students should partake in these experiences because it broadens minds and gives a different perspective on many cultures. It also increases empathy and understanding as they learn more about themselves as they find ways to solve misadventures. Not only does it help with self-growth, but it sets the students up to gain powerful workforce characteristics for future employment.

Dr. Beyer looks forward to this intense learning experience and the many adventures (or misadventures) ahead. She wants to thank Amanda Voigt for putting love and labor into making this program happen, and cannot wait to see the growth and progression of each student. Many positive vibes and good wishes on this journey!

Important Academic Calendar Dates

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