

Interdisciplinary Studies Program

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2011

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Message From the Director

Interdisciplinary Studies continues to grow in its new role as one of five interdisciplinary academic degree programs in University College. We now have 50+ majors, most of them in our Individually-Designed Major concentration, and multiple students have signed up for our new Non-Profit Management minor. Next year three “new” faculty (you may already know them) officially join IDS: Dr. Kristan Cockerill, Dr. Joseph Gonzalez, and Dr. Dave Haney, who has a joint appointment with Appalachian Studies. All are offering exciting new courses (see below). We are in the process of updating our existing American Studies Major concentration to give it a 21st century emphasis on Global America, and we recently received approval for an Africana Studies minor that draws on a greater variety of courses across the campus than the Black Studies minor did. Several IDS majors are now pursuing our new IDS Honors Track, and our recent graduates senior projects some of which are featured here showcase the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary studies.

Many of you returned to campus for the IDS/Watauga Homecoming luncheon this fall when two very special gifts from the McFarlane family were announced, The McFarlane Family Professorship in Interdisciplinary Education and The McFarlane Family International Travel and Research Endowment that supports faculty and students in Watauga Global Community. We thank the McFarlane’s for their generosity, and the powerful reminder that as interdisciplinary studies continues to grow, our roots remain strong.

As I end my second year as Director, I ask you to join us in celebrating the past and shaping the future. Please email us, if you want to know more about how you can stay connected. Include your years in IDS, your concentration, and your graduation date. Please also attend our Homecoming reunion next fall. We hope to hear from you, and we will keep you posted!

-Nancy S. Love, Ph.D.



Interdisciplinary Studies Students Visit Watauga Lake

Interdisciplinary Praxis: Integrating Knowing and Doing

[IDS 3150 *Interdisciplinary Praxis* is offered every semester and is the second course in the IDS core sequence. Over the past year several IDS faculty have been working on restructuring the course. The current instructors are Richard Carp, Brian Ellison, or Joseph Gonzalez].

Richard Carp offers the following description of how the course fits into the IDS major:

"Praxis' refers to the integration of theory and practice; in praxis, one thinks about what one does and does what one thinks about, so that they continuously influence one another. 'Interdisciplinary praxis' is about how to 'do' interdisciplinary work so that it is practical, theoretical, integrated, and continuously in creative transformation. We study history, theory, and methodology of interdisciplinarity, and each student is encouraged to adapt class materials to her (or his) ongoing praxis."

Recent Grad Engaging in Public Health Education Locally and Globally

Rachel Dudasik graduated from the IDS program in the Spring of 2010. She has been very busy since then engaging local and global communities in interesting and profound ways. Below is a message from Rachel on what she has been up to and how her background in IDS led her down the path she is on and shaped her skills sets to be an effective community advocate.

"I spent the late spring, summer, and fall of this past year working for a second time in Malawi, Africa with an NGO called World Camp; teaching HIV/AIDS education and environmental conservation in rural primary schools. It was actually started by some Valle Crucis natives, Baker Henson, Laurel Jernigan, and Jesse Pipes. I returned from a 5 month stint in Malawi in September, starting immediately with a temporary fund raising position with United Way. The job was a great learning experience and provided me some great networking in the Asheville area, leading me to my current position with YMCA,

Because of my background in IDS and my varying interests (specifically in non-profits, public health, and medicine), the YMCA has been a great place for me to pursue many different areas. I started with Membership Engagement, allowing me to really connect with people in our community, assisting with our Financial Assistance program and other similar programs. I then started in the Wellness department, doing a lot of diabetes screening, general wellness, and healthy living coaching. In March I

will help lead a pilot program called LIVESTRONG at the Y, providing both physical and emotional support for cancer survivors and their families. All of these jobs are geared toward health and human services, a career I developed an interest in while studying at ASU. My current plans are to begin a public health nursing track (yet another interdisciplinary field) in the fall, after one more trip to Malawi. "



ASU Mentioned in the Wall Street Journal

The November 17, 2010 *Wall Street Journal* article "Can't Choose a College Major? Create One" by Sue Shellenbarger highlighted Appalachian State as a school that has "broadened student access to cross-disciplinary majors." The article focuses on the gain in popularity of such programs as well as the skills that are learned when students are responsible for developing their own course of study.



A Culminating Experience with the Senior Seminar

[The Senior Seminar is a class that all IDS students take toward the completion of their degree. Each student has the opportunity to do a senior thesis or project. This fall 2010 six students took the course, each presenting original research related to their respective course of study. Two students took time to speak with us about projects and experiences as IDS students here at Appalachian.]

Molly Quirk

"I would tell you sincerely that the time allotted by Senior Seminar to produce a project was one of the greatest benefits of this major. Building "Self-Indulgence" into the core IDS curriculum couldn't have been easy, and I would agree "Senior Seminar" is probably a better name for the course. More, the process to produce my "final" project required a kind of academic resourcefulness--meaning not only did it summon to surface every lesson learned from my undergraduate career, but also my advisor, Joe Gonzalez and professor, Derek Stanovsky encouraged me to hone my own style while writing.

Regarding my decision to declare a major, IDS seemed to engulf the highest concentration of thought-provoking professors who could throw out a wild idea and quickly gain my trust. Both their assignments and their

ability to tease through the material in such a way as to make me see one subject, one keyword amidst all my undergraduate studies, as a particular color one day and adorned in another the next day.

Senior Seminar Presentations:

Al Scotton: "Compulsory Alignments: Queering Biomedical Gender Narratives."

Brianna Oliver: "Talking Back In Ecuador: Revolution as Indigenous Communication."

John Fitzgerald: "Guerrilla Gardening: Resistance is Fertile"

Molly Quirk: "Drinking and Fighting: A collection of essays on the geopolitics of viticulture and terrorism"

Gabriel Kreig: "Art in the Age of Neuroscience and Video Games."

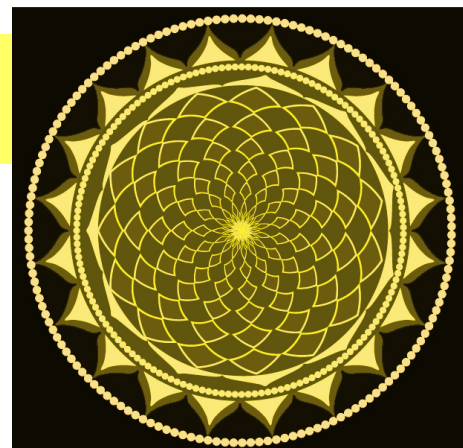
Isiah Howell: "Choreographing Safety through Visceral Perception: Facilitating Trust of Self and World for Children through Dance/movement therapy."

Brianna Oliver

"The most critical component of choosing Interdisciplinary Studies is the fact that I have been able to utilize multiple departments across campus to piece together my major. My major officially is B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies: Third World Studies, however my focus favored Latin America above other regions around the globe. I am a double degree student, so it is to be noted that with my B.S. Communication Studies degree was also semi-incorporated into my thesis. My thesis derived more specifically from a faculty-led study abroad trip during the summer of 2009 to Ecuador with Dr. Timothy Smith of the Anthropology department. 16 students researched the impact of a globalized oil conglomerate, Perenco, on the indigenous communities outside of Tena. The thesis incorporated the historical and societal implications of what it is to be "indigenous," moving towards the contemporary struggle of indigenous nations with the phenomenon of corporate globalization, and specifically focused on the process of communicative manipulations of the corporate company towards the indigenous peoples despite the fact that adequate education and other social services are withheld by the state. Overall, it analyzed the complicated and ineffective three-dimensional relationship between indigenous, state, and globalized societies. "

New IDS Logo!

A mandala, the Sanskrit word meaning "circle," is a geometric design that symbolizes the universe. In a variety of traditions and regions, mandalas have been valued as a tool for focusing one's attention, working toward wholeness, and realizing that everything is interconnected. While they are rooted in the sacred traditions of the East, mandalas have an almost archetypal quality, appearing throughout many diverse cultures and even nature itself. Looking into its center can deepen our awareness and change how we see the world. It asks us to integrate body, heart, mind, and spirit.



"Mandala" The new IDS logo

New IDS Faculty

I arrived at Appalachian State in the summer of 2003. Fresh from graduate school, I felt grateful simply to have a job – and I knew comparatively little about interdisciplinary teaching or research. I also did not know that I had just found an intrepid band of educators, ready, even eager, to push pedagogic boundaries in the service of student learning. I am now part of the band, and I do my best to push pedagogic boundaries, most often through collaborative research combined with experiential learning. My teaching interests reflect an eclectic range of curiosities, gravitating toward food and culture, interdisciplinary methods, democracy, and Cuba. When not devising impossibly difficult assignments for my students, I am at work on a book on the American occupation of Cuba from 1898-1902 (my background is history), as well as articles about my pedagogic practice.



Dr. Joseph Gonzalez



Dr. Kristan Cockerill

Probably the most relevant thing to know about me is that I do have an interdisciplinary (even eclectic) academic and professional background. I have degrees in Political Science (concentration in Soviet Studies), Journalism, and American Studies (concentration in Environment, Science & Technology). In both academic and government settings I've studied the connections among science, public perception, and environmental policy. I've conducted research assessing how the media covered the science relevant to flooding and drought events and subsequent public attitudes and policy decisions related to managing water. I've also worked on several collaborative modeling projects to assist in better managing water resources. My roots are in the upper Midwest where I became enamored with water playing in the Mississippi River and some of its tributaries. I have also lived in the high desert where I learned to love the beauty of a waterless landscape. Here in North Carolina I enjoy exploring the forested terrain and watching my cats chase each other around the house.

I have been a teacher and administrator at Appalachian since 2001, when I moved from Auburn University in Alabama to become chair of the English Department. After five years in English, I spent four years in Academic Affairs as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. After a very brief stint as provost at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD, I am returning to teach in IDS and Appalachian Studies beginning fall, 2011. My main research and teaching interests are at the intersection of philosophy and literature, and I have written and taught about hermeneutics (the nature and history of interpretation), ethics, cognitive science, and British romantic poetry and philosophy.



Dr. Dave Haney

Mark the
Date!

IDS Homecoming Reunion: October 22, 2011



We Stand on Your Shoulders

Summer and Fall 2011 Classes

Fall 2011

IDS 2533: Art of Capoeira,
MWF 1:00-1:50 LLA 205, Staff

IDS 2325 Multicultural Leadership
TR 3:00-4:45, TBA, Gus Pene

IDS 3000: Histories of Knowledges,
TR 3:30-4:45, LLA 223, Nancy Love

IDS 3150: Interdisciplinary Praxis
MW 3:30-4:45, LLA 124, Joe Gonzalez

IDS 3210: Exploring Documentary Form
TR 12:30-1:45, LLA 263 Michael Dale

Seminar I
IDS 3300-101: We Are H2O
IDS HON 3515-105: We Are H2O
MW 3:30-4:45, LLA 263 Kristan Cockerill

IDS 3300-102: Literature, Philosophy, & Emotions
IDS HON 3515-106: Literature, Philosophy, & Emotions
TR 12:30-1:45, LLR 263 Michael Dale

IDS 3300-103: Cuba Libre, American Exceptionalism
IDS 3537-101: Cuba Libre, American Exceptionalism
MW 2:00-3:15, LLA 215 Joe Gonzalez

IDS 3300-104: Internet Studies
IDS 3250-101: Seminar I: Internet Studies
TR 2:00-3:15, LLA 223, Derek Stanovsky

IDS 3538: Revolution
TR 6:00-8:30, TBA Jeff Bortz



Seminar II
IDS 3700: Marx
IDS 3650: Marx's Capital
TR 12:30-1:45, LLA 214, Derek Stanovsky

IDS 3260-101 Creativity: An Introduction
IDS 3700-102: Creativity
TR 11-12:15 LLR 421, Richard Carp

IDS 3700-103: The Games We Play: Sports in America
IDS 3539-101: The Games We Play: Sports in America
MWF 1:00-1:50, LLA 223. Kristan Cockerill



IDS 4200: Interdisciplinary Thinkers & Thinking
MWF 11:00-11:50, LLR 365, Dave Haney

IDS 4550: Senior Seminar
TR 9:30-10:45, LLA 123, Derek Stanovsky

Summer 2011
IDS: 3250 Internet Studies
MTWR 10:20-12:20, LLA, 223 Derek Stanovsky

IDS: 3530 Cultures and Landscapes/ New Zealand
TBA Richard H. Campbell, Andrew Miller

IDS: 3544 Source to Sea Expedition
Dave Hutchison

