

Appalachian State University

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2010

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Greetings from IDS!

Last year, Jay Wentworth quoted Mark Twain to assure IDS alums, colleagues, friends, and students that "reports of our death are greatly exaggerated." A year later, I am pleased to report signs of new life following the restructuring that made IDS one of five interdisciplinary degree programs in University College. Among new developments, IDS now offers an **honors track** that allows our best students to take honors courses and pursue a research project with a faculty mentor. Beginning next fall, we will offer a **new Minor/Certificate in Non-Profit Management** that includes internships with non-profit organizations. This minor furthers our commitment to providing students at Appalachian State with the integrated knowledge they need to solve 21st century problems.

All of our existing major concentrations remain intact and the majority of our students still pursue the Individually-Designed Major. You can read more about our December 2009 graduates' senior theses/projects below. We are also hosting our first speaker in the **Interdisciplinary Studies Program Speaker Series** this coming April. Watch our soon to be redesigned website for those and other details.

We remain three full-time faculty, Derek Stanovsky (back from his OCSA last year),



"Knitted Knowledge" by Erin Myers— alternative media project for the Histories of Knowledges course all 2009

Richard Carp (who returns next year from his position as interim chair of FL&L), Nancy Love (the new program director). We are joined by many other faculty, who teach in the IDS program and advise our majors. Even though he now works primarily in Watauga Global Community, Jay Wentworth still supports IDS in many ways, especially by advising our students. Elitza Kotzeva (also WGC) continues to teach "Interdisciplinary Praxis"; William Atkinson (ENG) now also teaches "Histories of Knowledges"; Michelle Brown offers the "Introduction to Not-For Profit Organizations" for our new minor; and Augusto Penae is teaching "Multicultural Leadership," a

course IDS is pleased to offer again this spring.

Last fall, IDS also invited a number of faculty in other departments to join us as **Affiliate Faculty**. [see New Faculty Affiliated with IDS on page 4] They can now teach classes, advise students, and help guide the program in its next phase. Our hard-working Advisory Council has helped us navigate through all of these changes and I want personally to thank them for their commitment to the program, especially given their other obligations.

I had the pleasure of meeting some of our alums at the **IDS/Watauga Homecoming** reception last fall. We hope to make this an annual gathering, so please think about joining us next year. As IDS continues to change and grow, we do not want to lose touch with our roots and we need your support. Please email us, if you want to know more about how you can stay connected with the program. Include your years in IDS, your concentration, and your graduation date. We will keep you posted and we also hope to hear from you!

-Dr. Nancy S. Love
Interdisciplinary Studies
Program Director

Histories of Knowledges: A defining IDS experience

By: Richard Carp

[Histories of Knowledges is taught every semester. Currently professors teaching this class are Nancy S. Love, Richard Carp, or William Atkinson]

“Histories of Knowledges” may be my favorite course to teach. In it, we explore “how something comes to count as knowledge for someone,” in the process teasing out themes that are fundamental to interdiscipli-

nary studies. As the title of the course suggests, both knowledge and the stories we tell about it are multiple: “histories” of “knowledges.” We investigate some ways in which knowledge comes into being: how it is produced, defined, and organized. We work with several media to develop a practical sense of the effect of medium on meaning. We explore several knowledge contexts, including our own, to gain entrée to the role of situa-

tion in shaping knowledge experience. During the course we watch experimental documentary videos, performance art videos and websites, read anthropology, sociology, philosophy, performance art, art history, history of science, philosophy of science and history of the disciplines. Students talk, argue, imagine, and create. They define, write, expand, and rewrite a paper; they also produce an intellectual project using a medium other than text.



Richard Owens's alternative media project from the Histories of Knowledges class Fall 2009

“Question what you know

Take note of unheard

voices

Seek out their knowledge”

Kegan Refalo's Graduation Remarks

[The following is from Kegan Refalo's graduation remarks this past December 2009. Refalo was the undergraduate student speaker representing the Interdisciplinary program in University College and is an IDS graduate.]

Many people are going to address the graduates and academic elite today with their congratulations and thanks, but I think it is important that we take note of the invisible hands that made this ceremony possible. People like the shuttle bus drivers and the workers that laid these squares of carpet on the floor all go unrecognized but are invaluable. Lets take a moment to thank them.

THINK about the faceless populations that are integral to our daily life that are also unrecognized.

RESPECT their knowledge as valuable even though it is not validated by an academic institution.

RECOGNIZE that our education is but one set of tools and that there are other paths to knowledge formation.

We still have a lot to learn.

I wish to conclude my remarks with a mere 17 syllables in hopes that my message stays with you beyond this ceremony.

Question what you know
Take note of unheard voices
Seek out their knowledge

Because we rarely remember things the first time we hear them, I am going to repeat my Haiku.

Question what you know
Take note of unheard voices
Seek out their knowledge

Thank You.

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 2009 six students took the course, each presenting original research related to their respective course of study. One student, Jordan McCarthy, took time to speak with us about his project and experience as an IDS student here at Appalachian.]

By: Jordan McCarthy

For my senior seminar project I did a study on bioremediation processes. Bioremediation is a technology for cleaning the environment through the use of living organisms. I first heard about this method of environmental remediating in an ecology class that I took while I was studying abroad in Spain. When the teacher of the course presented me with an opportunity to do laboratory research in that field, I recognized the relevance to my interests and studies, and I seized the opportunity.

Our report "Symbiotic Relationships in Phytoremediation," highlighted the findings of our investigation. We learned that implementation of plants and bacteria in symbiosis were effective in removing a heavy metal pollutant from our growing medium. The success of these findings may encourage

similar processes to be adopted for the recovery of polluted environments, and could set in motion a legacy of appropriate environmental stewardship. I came to discover

Senior Seminar Presentations:

Jordan McCarthy: "Symbiotic Relationships in Phytoremediation."

Samantha Crowder: "She Wants Something From the Kids': The Ethnographer's Dilemma."

Jay Kramer: "New Music Biz: How College Record Companies are Changing the Industry"

Beata Kozlowski: "Axes and Lawnmowers: Creative Solutions in Post-Katrina New Orleans (received grant from the Office of Student research to travel to New Orleans)"

Peter Wilson: "Raw Technology: The Global Expansion of the Sushi Empire."

Doug Blaney: "The Ufological Subject."

my calling through the Interdisciplinary Studies department. I participated in the individually-designed major program. This program gave me the opportunity to find the courses from among various departments that covered the material relevant to my interests, and to meld those topics into an education that was intellectually stimulating, personally rewarding, and professionally practical.

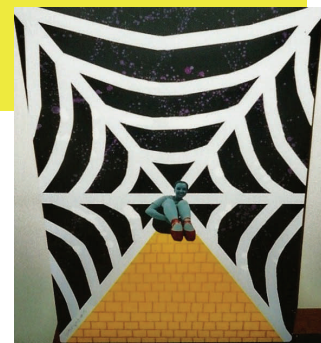
I call the major "Global Business Planning." My curriculum was comprised of courses from the College of Business, the Technology Department, and the science departments, as well as business internships and out-of-class research. The idea was to bring a managerial perspective to implementing new technologies and re-designing processes to emphasize ecological integrity in industry at the scale of the global economy. Being able to pursue this educational path comprised of numerous concepts was a rare and energizing opportunity. I am grateful to Appalachian and to my professors and advisors for helping me to design this curriculum.

Search for a new IDS logo

The IDS program is in great need of a new symbol -- logo/icon/brand -- to replace the "lizard" who currently graces our brochures and website. Discussions among faculty and a student poll have generated several ideas. We now have a clear preference and would like our symbol to be a WEB. This seems very appropriate given the

program mission which is "to foster, for ourselves, our students and others, the recognition of interrelationships among existing knowledges and the generation of interrelated knowledges while displaying the contingent character of knowledge formation." In our discussions, many types of webs were mentioned: food web, mandala, cyber-

network, molecular structure, constellation, etc. Ideally, the final design would be 3-D to emphasize the breadth, depth, and perspective interdisciplinarity provides. Watch the website for our new image!



Tara Wickler's web/yellow brick road alternative media project

* New IDS Non-Profit Management Minor or Certificate *

Are you interested in working in the nonprofit sector? Are you currently working in the nonprofit sector and seeking more training? Does your nonprofit organization want to sponsor an intern from the non-profit management minor or certificate?

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program now offers a minor in Non-Profit Management for students who wish to supplement their major course of study with an interdisciplinary exploration of non-profit management. The certificate in Non-Profit Management is offered for students who wish to have an interdisciplinary knowledge of non-profit management but who do not qualify for or need a minor. The minor and the certificate consist of 18 semester hours (optional 21 hours). To learn more about possible internships, see ACT's list of community partner agencies. Many of these agencies are willing to take on interns, in addition to volunteers and service-learning students.

For additional information, contact:

* Academic Credit Info: Dr. Nancy Love, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, IDS/University College,
lovens@appstate.edu

* Internship Info: Todd Mortensen, Associate Director for ACT Community Partnerships, Appalachian & the Community Together,
mortensenta@appstate.edu

* Nonprofit Career Info: Michelle Brown, Public Service & Environmental Career Counselor, Career Development Center,
brownmd@appstate.edu



NEW!

New Affiliate Faculty Members for IDS

The following are new members approved to the IDS faculty:

Sally Atkins (Psychology)
Tiffany Christian (Social Work)
Kristan Cockerill (Sustainable Development)
Michael Dale (Leadership and Education Studies)
Brian Ellison (Government & Justice Studies)
Robert Falvo (Music)
Joe Gonzalez (Watauga Global Community)
Elaine Gray (Instructional Design)
Amy Hudnall (History)
David Reid (History)
Jim Toub (Art)
Xiaofei Tu (Philosophy & Religion)



“Rooted Vagabond”

Histories of Knowledges
alternative media project
by Brian Mayfield

Mark the
Date!

IDS Homecoming Reunion: October 8-9, 2010

Can you
identify any
of these
students?



Summer and Fall 2010 Classes

Summer 2010

First Session:

IDS 3261

Sustainability, Religion, and Spirituality

MTWR 10:20-12:00, LLA 223 Richard Carp

Second Summer Session

IDS 3300

Seminar I: Theory on Film

MTWR 10:20-12:00, LLA 223 Derek Stanovsky

Fall 2010

IDS 2533-101, Capoeira,

MW 3:30-4:45, LLA 205, Gabrielle Motta-Passajou

Cross-listed with Watauga Global Community 2202

IDS 2530-101, Introduction to Peace Studies

MW 9:30-10:45, BH 17, Amy Hudnall

Cross-listed with Global Studies 2530

IDS 3000-101, Histories of Knowledges,

MW 5-6:15, LLA 223, Nancy Love



IDS 3000,-102, Histories of Knowledges

T/R 9:30-10:45, LLA 223 Richard Carp

IDS 3150-101, Interdisciplinary Praxis

M 3:00-5:30, TBA, Brian Ellison

(fall courses continued)

IDS 3250-101: Internet Studies

IDS 3300-101: Seminar I: Internet Studies

TR 2-3:15, LLA 223, Derek Stanovsky

IDS 3535-101: Literature, Philosophy, & Emotions

IDS 3300-102: Seminar I: Literature, Philosophy, & Emotions

TR 12:30-1:45, LLR 263

Michael Dale

IDS 3260-101: Creativity

IDS 3700-102: Seminar II: Creativity

R/R 11-12:15 LLA 223, Richard Carp



IDS 3530-101: Science, Technology, and Society in the Atomic Age

MW 3:30-4:45, East B-15, David Reid

Cross-listed with Honors 3515-102

IDS 3533-101 Intermediate Capoeira

MW 3:30-4:45, LLA 205, Gabrielle Motta-Passajou

Cross-listed with Watauga Global Community 3202

IDS 3650-101 Marx's Capital

IDS 3700-101: Seminar II: Marx's Capital

MW 2-3:15, LLA 214, Derek Stanovsky

IDS 4550-101 Senior Seminar

MW 2-3:15, LLA 105, Derek Stanovsky