Updates From the Director

I hope you had wonderful holidays and that your spring semester is off to a good start. So far, the semester has been a busy one in Interdisciplinary Studies. We were sad last year to see Lee Logan retire. In January, though, we were very happy to welcome him back at least on a part-time basis. It is great to have his wisdom, enthusiasm, and energy back in the office. We are in the process of hiring a new, permanent adviser and hope to have them on board before the end of the semester. It will be truly wonderful to have essentially four advisers again, as long as we can convince Lee to keep working with us. Additionally, Leah Josepher has become a Peer Adviser. She and Miguel are doing a terrific job and we are delighted to be working with them.

Graduate Program Updates

The redesigned graduate program is off and running. This semester we launched the new core course, Interdisciplinarity. It is going well. You will hear much more about that program in the near future. The duties of Graduate Coordinator are moving from Jessica Broerman to Peter Wallace. Pete is working on a new marketing and recruitment plan for the program and we hope it will attract a large number of applicants. Pete has also begun rewriting the graduate handbook in a totally new and innovative format that should be both useful and easy to use. We have also begun working on a number of ways to build community among graduate students as well.

I hope your Spring, 2009 semester is a great one. Please don’t hesitate to call, email, or drop by the office and give us ideas and feedback. I also hope you will be interested in working with us on one or more of our new initiatives. You can find more information on some of our new initiatives on page three.

Dr. Michael D. Hampton

New Leadership Program and Partnership

As graduates from Interdisciplinary Studies, you will be working in leadership positions such as directors, chairs, presidents, etc and so there is a natural link between Interdisciplinary Studies and Leadership Studies. A new certificate and a minor in Leadership Studies have been approved and will be available in the Fall, 2009 semester. This is an exciting development that will offer you new and novel opportunities. ~ Dr. Hampton

New Add/Drop Policy

UCF will be implementing a new add/drop policy starting in Summer 2009. This new policy mandates that the drop deadline is one day before the add deadline! Please keep an eye out for new information from the Registrar’s Office regarding the new add/drop policy and deadlines. You will be responsible for adhering to the new policy.
Ashley Lee is a junior Women’s Studies major who serves as a Student Government Senator. Ashley chose Interdisciplinary Studies as her major because she took an Intro to Women’s Studies course and fell in love with advocating feminism. When she graduates, Ashley plans on working as an organizer for human rights campaigns. Ashley says, “I will be sleeping on couches while I travel about the country and continue to learn from the experiences surrounding me (wherever I might be), skateboard in the cities I visit, and maybe make some music.” Ashley is the President of NOW (National Organization for Women) at UCF and co-host of “The Feminist Agenda”, an internet-radio show Sundays on Knightcast.org. Ashley is also a senator in Student Government. Ashley says she was encouraged to run in the elections, “because I am a strong opinionated voice with progressive politics.” Ashley says, “I was quite surprised, and intimidated by the idea of participating in Student Government! But it has opened for me a whole understanding of our University and the student body, and I now look forward to the four hours of debate every Thursday night.” In addition to her campus involvement, Ashley drives a bicycle, knits, and lives with two amazing women with whom she says “I have amazing discussions with, despite the fact that our kitchen sink is never cleared of dishes.”

Gabrielle Swaby is a freshman Environmental Studies student who presented an award winning speech on the environment last fall. Gabrielle won the Bernard C. Kissel Outstanding Student Speaker Competition, which is an annual scholarship opportunity for UCF undergraduate students. Thirty applicants were chosen to create and present a 6-8 minute extemporaneous speech on a topic of their choice.

Gabrielle’s speech was titled: "Coastal Pollution in Florida Should be Reduced”. Her speech addressed the fact that Florida’s coral reefs, health, and economy are suffering because of the ever-growing problem of waste and garbage and offered solutions and steps to preventing and reducing pollution.

Gabrielle decided to major in Environmental Studies after taking an Environmental Science course in high school that she loved. She learned that our planet is in jeopardy - for several reasons - and that it is of the utmost importance that we, as human beings, stop and reverse the damage that we have helped to create.

Gabrielle hopes that Environmental Studies, coupled with a major in French, will provide a good foundation in helping her attain her ‘Dream Job’ of becoming a French correspondent in the United Nation’s Environmental Program. Gabrielle hopes to attend a graduate program in International or Global Relations and travel the world. She is currently a member of the Caribbean Student Association and lives by the quote, “It is not your aptitude, but your attitude, that determines your altitude”.

"I will be sleeping on couches while I travel about the country"

"It is not your aptitude, but your attitude that determines your altitude"
Initiatives to Develop Community

One component that the Interdisciplinary Studies program is missing is community. We are working on a number of things to fill that void.

Last semester Suzy Spraker, Cornerstone and Capstone professor, submitted a proposal to the LIFE at UCF group for funding to begin publishing an Interdisciplinary Studies journal. The proposal was funded and we are now putting the journal together. It is called “Interpretations” and is an electronic journal that can accommodate text, video, and audio. There is an announcement and call for submissions in this newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and that you will consider working with us on the journal and/or submitting to it.

Another initiative is the establishment of an IS student club. Last semester one of the Capstone classes got the constitution and bylaws prepared and a list of members submitted to SGA but we did not have time to meet. In the next few weeks we will be calling a first meeting to get that club off and running. I hope you will be interested in participating.

Another community building idea we are working on is a living-learning community. We attempted to begin one to begin in the Fall, 2009 but did not have enough time to succeed. However, we are still working on developing one for the following semester and will looking for anyone interested in helping us develop that.

If you have any input into these initiatives, please let us know.

~ Dr. Hampton

Mixed-Mode Section of Cornerstone

IDS 3933, Cornerstone Experience, has now been taught for four semesters, and we have received some very good feedback from many students who have taken the course. One suggestion that many students have made is to offer the course in person rather than online only. We understand that some students prefer to have face-to-face courses and that online courses may be challenging for some individuals. Taking all of this into consideration, the Interdisciplinary Studies Office will be offering mixed-mode sections of the Cornerstone course starting in Summer 2009. We will start with one mixed-mode section this summer offering 60 seats. We anticipate that the mixed-mode section will be very popular, therefore, if you are interested in registering for the mixed-mode section of Cornerstone, be sure to register early! Once the course is full, we will not be offering overrides into the course. The class schedule will be available starting March 2, and registration appointments will begin at the end of March. Please check your registration appointment and make sure to register for your classes as early as possible to ensure the best course schedule!

Online Grade Forgiveness Form

UCF allows students to apply for grade forgiveness up to two times during the student’s post-secondary career. Requests must be submitted before the deadline to Add classes for the term in which the student has registered for the course being repeated. UCF has recently adopted an online grade forgiveness submission process. To apply for grade forgiveness online, you must follow the following instructions:

2) Go to Student Self-Service ⇒ Student Center ⇒ Apply for Grade Forgiveness.
3) At the next page, type in the code number for the current term (semester). A list of terms can be found by clicking on the magnifying glass icon. Click on the current term.
4) At the next page, a list of your currently enrolled class will appear. Click on the Select box for the course that you are retaking for Grade Forgiveness. A note will appear that lists the previously taken course, the term it was previously taken in, and the original grade. If this information is correct, click on the Submit button. You will then get a message back.

Note: If the course you want to use for Grade Forgiveness is a substitution for the original course, the signature of the Dean of the college in which the course is offered is required. You must ask for a Grade Forgiveness form at the Registrar’s Office (MH 161), and the completed form must be turned into the Registrar’s Office no later than the last day of Add/Drop of the term the course is being repeated.

You may also check your grade forgiveness status on your myUCF student self-service page.
When my youngest son went off to college, I decided to go back to school myself. The college credits I had earned studying art and music in California were accepted by a local community college, and I had my Associate of Arts degree after two semesters. I transferred to the University of Central Florida and received a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a minor in Music in 2005. It was an Honors in the Major program for which I completed a thesis entitled: “Moss: A Closer Look At This Humble Plant And Its Place Within The Historical Context Of Landscape Painting, Considering Its Ecological Significance With Reflections On Nature And Balance”. The thesis included artwork done in oil, ceramics, and etching, along with written work including poems I wrote in a section called “Reflections”. I started graduate school in 2005 and completed an Arts Management Certificate in 2007. In 2008, I received a Master of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration on Art & Culture in Society. My Master's thesis is entitled “Painting the Sublime Landscape and Learning to See Nature Along the Way”. The thesis includes ten landscape paintings, photos of which are posted on my website, www.galleryofnatureandlight.com. I am very thankful for the educational opportunities I have received. It is enriching to learn new things and develop my interests in art, music, philosophy, and other subjects. I also have the privilege of playing cello in the University orchestra. I have enjoyed painting for many years. It is a medium by which I attempt to communicate my values and priorities, though I have often been reluctant to display my work publicly. It is my hope that some may appreciate my small voice within the enormously competitive world of visual arts.

I graduated with a BA in Liberal Studies in 1998. My areas of concentration were behavioral and social sciences, education, and a minor in public administration. After graduating from UCF, I earned a master's degree in education, and I am currently working on a doctoral degree in education. In the next ten years or so, I would love to return to UCF as a faculty member. I think my degree prepared me to work in a variety of industries, but I found my niche as a classroom teacher. I am currently teaching first grade after having taught 6 years in kindergarten and 2 years at the middle school level. Last year was an exciting year for me. I became a candidate for National Board Certification, and I was a proud recipient of a Golden Apple presented by the Lee County Foundation for Public Schools. This award is presented annually to six teachers in Lee County, Florida for teaching excellence. My next venture is to become certified in educational leadership, and possibly move into administration at the elementary level. However, I frequently read the faculty opportunities on UCF’s employment web site!

I attended UCF in Fall 06 after leaving college for 3 years to tour, manage, and market my own band INPASSING under Tonightwewin Promotions. I also lived in Toronto, Canada for 8 months to write, record, and rehearse for an upcoming pop star. After coming home, I realized I wanted to finish out my B.S degree while doing music as much as I could locally in Orlando. Since graduation in May 08, INPASSING Music LLC has recorded a 5 song EP with Florida’s most talented producer James Paul Wisner (Dashboard Confessional, UnderOath, Paramore), shot a music video for our single “All Together” and are currently being offered deals from many significant labels. Soon to be touring full time again, the company has a promising future with a well-assembled product. Using my skills and knowledge from my minor in Marketing and Communications concentration, I am currently building our business model and networking within the industry everyday securing more sponsorships and label interest to further our career in the music industry. For all music and information: www.myspace.com/inpassingrock

If you are an alumnus and would like to submit your story, please email jbroerma@mail.ucf.edu - Other alumni stories will soon be available at www.is.ucf.edu
Congratulations Fall 2008 Graduates!

Interdisciplinary Studies graduates walked across the stage marking their last symbolic act as undergraduate students at UCF during the Fall Commencement ceremony on December 15, 2008. About 200 Interdisciplinary Studies students graduated this fall. We want to congratulate all graduates, especially to those who graduated with honors.

Students who earn top honors graduate Summa Cum Laude, which means that they are in the top 2.5 percent of their graduating class.

Magna Cum Laude honors designees are students in the top 5 percent but not in the top 2.5 percent. Fall 2008 Interdisciplinary Studies Magna Cum Laude graduates include:

Levon Azad Mergian
Stephen Charles Shapiro
Briana Leigh Gleason
Robyn A. Steiner

Finally, Cum Laude honors graduates are students in the top 10 percent but not in the top 5 percent. Those students include:

Jenessa Keri Lanes

Lauren Maile Oed
Danielle Marie Paquette
Lora L. Szymanski
Shannon Lynn White
Halley Lee Mialki
Christina Morin
Abby Caitlin Niedermann

Congratulations again to all Interdisciplinary Studies Fall 2008 graduates and good luck in your future endeavors!

Register Early! Class Schedule Available March 2

Attention students! The class schedule will be available starting March 2, and enrollment appointments will also be assigned on that day. Registration will begin starting March 23 for early registration groups and will proceed from there. Be sure to check your registration appointment on your myUCF account on March 2. Plan ahead and select your ideal class schedule and alternative options early! If you need to take Cornerstone, make sure to register for that course right away as it always fills up. Also, if you plan on graduating in the summer or fall and are in the 2007 or 2008 catalog, you must take the Capstone course. This course also fills up quickly, so be sure to contact the Interdisciplinary Studies Office to get permission to register for this course early. The online section of Capstone is reserved for online or regional campus students only. If you are going to be taking courses at the main campus in your graduating semester, then you must register for a mixed-mode section of Capstone.

Alumni Scholarships

Each year the UCF Alumni Association awards more than $40,000 in scholarships to UCF students demonstrating strong academic ability and significant extracurricular and community involvement. The UCF Alumni Association is pleased to again offer more than a dozen scholarship opportunities. UCF students are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships for which they are eligible. Stop by the FAIRWINDS Alumni Center to pick up an application or visit www.ucfalumni.com/scholarships to download a copy. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2009. Questions? Call 407.UCF.ALUM (823.2586) or e-mail knights@ucfalumni.com.

New Degree Audit System and myUCF Page

Attention students! UCF is adopting a new degree audit system. The enhanced Degree Audit Reporting System will be unveiled in Summer 2009. The interactive audit will display the degree audit in color with pie charts and bar graphs that indicate a student’s progress toward completion of a degree program, as well as formatting the details of the audit in a more attractive and detailed manner. The interactive audit also features a course cart which allows students to plan for courses that they want to take in the future. UCF is also updating to a new version of the PeopleSoft system in Summer 2009. This may affect the layout of your myUCF page and page options. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding this in the Summer 2009 edition of “What I.S. Up”. We will try to keep you informed of the new technology changes as we get new information.

Alumni Scholarships

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Is there something that you would like to see included in the newsletters? Do you have a good story that you would like to share? Suggestions, comments? Please email jbroerma@mail.ucf.edu
Interpretations, an Interdisciplinary online journal, is coming soon! The Interdisciplinary Studies Program will showcase the scholarly and creative work created in the spirit of interdisciplinary.

The first edition of Interpretations will focus on UCF’s Unifying Theme: The Environment and Global Climate Change. Submissions related to the environment or environmental issues will be considered for inclusion in our first publication.

Interpretations is seeking submissions from undergraduate & graduate students as well as alumni and faculty. We welcome submissions that address environmental issues with an interdisciplinary focus.

Individual submissions & collaborations are accepted.

Please submit your entries to Susan Spraker at sspraker@mail.ucf.edu by March 9, 2009. Interpretations will be accepting submissions in the following categories:

* Essays * Photography * Poetry * Multimedia Art * Music and Audio *

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