From the Director

Welcome to the first edition of our beautiful new newsletter! We are very excited to be sending you this new design done by our newest Adviser, Marcelle Turner. Besides being a highly experienced academic adviser and very professional yet personable member of the IS team, Marcelle has talents in communications and graphical design that she brought together to produce this fresh and impressive new newsletter.

These last spring and fall semesters were very active times in Interdisciplinary Studies. We saw 191 students graduate with BS and BA degrees in the fall and 206 in the spring. In those same semesters, 4 and 5 students, respectively, earned their MA and MS degrees. That is a huge amount of success. Add to that the fact that over 200 students made the Dean’s List. Also, 9 students earned Founder’s Scholar Awards for Excellence in Academic Performance and 1 student, Barbara Swift, earned a Founder’s Award for Exceptional Ability and Performance in a Particular Area of Study.

The undergraduate program underwent a number of changes. Two of our degree tracks were suspended. The Liberal Arts Track is a wonderful and challenging track but was showing very low and ever decreasing enrollments. Also, the ability of IS majors to do Honors in the Major eliminated the need for this track. Changes in the prerequisites for one of the core courses and the unreliable availability of the other core courses made navigating the Nanoscience/Nanotechnology Track in a reasonable time virtually impossible and so that track was also suspended. We will support all students currently in those tracks in completing their degrees but will not accept any new enrollment.

This summer we are offering a mixed mode section of the Cornerstone course for the first time. It is going well so far and we intend to continue offering one or more sections every semester. We hope this new section offers an alternative experience in the course that will be enjoyable for those who do not like web-based courses.

This summer we welcome two new instructors, Peter Wallace and Scott Launier. Mr. Launier comes to us from the UCF Department of English and is instructing a web section of Capstone this summer. He is teaching an M section.
Interdisciplinary Studies Graduates walked across the stage marking their last symbolic act as Undergraduates at UCF during the Spring Commencement ceremony on May 8th, 2009. Over 200 I.S. students graduated this spring and we want to congratulate all of our 2009 graduates. Good luck in your future endeavors!

Summa Cum Laude honors designees (top 2.5 percent of their graduating class) include:
- Shawn Diann Bellew
- Jamie Lynn Merkel
- Kristen Ruth Vechik
- Tristen Jillynn Anderson
- Florence Hart Little
- Barbara Annemarie Swift

Cum Laude honors designees (top 10 percent but not in the top 5 percent) include:
- Erica Christine Busard
- Jason Daniel Kuntz
- Donna Jean Maukonen
- Lindsay Stephanie McLaren
- Susanna Marie Schlabach
- Gary Steven Williams
- Michelle Marie Beck
- Jeremy Alan Lund

Magna Cum Laude honors designees (top 5 percent, but not in the top 2.5 percent) include:
- Rhiannon Nicole Donnell
- James R. Hyder
- Kevin Matthew Kuryliw
- Ryan Patrick McClendon
- Levon Azad Mergian
- Samantha Louise Forrest
- Leah Lassiter Michael

From the Director, continued

of Capstone this summer and next fall.

Please check out our new website. A huge amount of work went into redesigning our website and we are very proud to have it go live. We owe a great debt of thanks to Mr. Robert Bilic in Undergraduate Studies for his exceptional work, guidance, and patience. We hope you like the new look and also find it intuitive and useful. Please let us know your thoughts, both positive and negative.

Have a great summer and keep doing the things that make Interdisciplinary Studies at UCF an exceptional program and a degree to be proud of.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael D. Hampton
Susan Spraker joined the Interdisciplinary Studies program in Spring 2008. Before teaching the Cornerstone and Capstone courses, she taught creative writing for the English Department and has extensive experience in teaching web-based and service-learning courses. Susan earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Susan has taught all levels of fiction writing, and she also teaches nonfiction, poetry, and essay writing. Her own work has been published in such literary magazines as The Southern Review, The Berkeley Fiction Review, and Fugue, and the publication of her first novel is forthcoming.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, Northwest Missouri State University attempted to become the first public university to deliver all of its textbooks online. The university’s president discovered Amazon’s Kindle, an e-book reading device, and was resolved to experiment with the device in an attempt to reduce their staggering $800,000 a year textbook rental program.

Last fall, 240 students and a number of faculty participated in the e-textbook trial. Several students quickly requested to exchange the reader for the printed version claiming awkwardness as the cause. The remaining students and faculty to complete the trial had 6 lessons for any University considering e-textbooks: always consider the device or software used, prepare to learn a new device, professors may want change, battery life can be a challenge, every subject is not made for e-textbooks, and consider the environmental impact.

Would you like to see UCF move in the direction of offering e-textbooks to students? Tell us what you think! Send your comments to maturner@mail.ucf.edu.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

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<tr>
<th>JULY 2009</th>
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<td>ADD DEADLINE, SESSION B</td>
<td>Classes End, Sessions B &amp; C</td>
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<td>INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED-NO CLASSES</td>
<td>Grades Due, Sessions B &amp; C</td>
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<td>FEES DUE, SESSION B</td>
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<td>GRADE FORGIVENESS DEADLINE, SESSION B</td>
<td>FALL CLASSES BEGIN</td>
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<td>WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE, SESSION B</td>
<td>FALL LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS</td>
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Barbara Swift, Undergraduate Studies Recipient of 2009 Founder’s Day Award

Barbara is an exemplary UCF student who has integrated her passion for the sciences, undergraduate research, service learning, and mentoring into her life and learning experiences. As an Interdisciplinary Studies major with tracks in Biological and Physical Sciences and a minor in Women Studies, Barbara maintains her major was perfectly tailored for preparing her to go to Pharmacy school. As she has recently been accepted to University of Florida's Pharmacy program (beginning this fall), we think Barbara’s ultimate goal of clinical pharmacy is within her grasp.

Barbara gained an interest in undergraduate research through a position in a National Science Foundation sponsored research experience for Undergraduates program. She worked in the Fischer Laboratory at the University of California – Berkeley as an all expenses paid REU scholar in the summer of 2008.

Barbara is also actively involved in the Young Women’s Leaders, a year-long mentoring program that focuses on promoting girls’ leadership abilities and building positive relationships by providing a ‘big sister’. As a big sister, Barbara is active in planning events for these young girls. As further testament to her dedication, when Barbara received the Provost’s Civic Engagement Grant in fall 2007, she used it to develop activities for the ‘Young Women's Leaders program’.

In addition to her service and research goals, Barbara has also served on the Presidents Leadership Council, taken part in Junior Achievement, and was awarded the Pegasus Gold Scholarship.

Barbara Swift, Undergraduate Studies Recipient of 2009 Founder’s Day Award

Rodney Wilhite, Entrance to exclusive Creative Writing MFA

My experience at UCF has been overwhelmingly positive. The professors—particularly in the Creative Writing workshops—have challenged me, rewarded me, and inspired me to push myself to excel. Earning a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies has allowed me to pursue my varied interests and apply them to my primary passion: my writing. After graduating UCF I will attend the University of Arkansas’ Creative Writing MFA program, one of the most selective in the nation, as one of a small number of students to receive a full scholarship. I believe that the high standard of expectation I’ve experienced here at UCF has prepared me well to succeed both in graduate school and afterwards.
New Degree Audit System Coming Soon!

In September, the Office of Academic Services will be ready to reveal their newest method for enhancing student success: DARS. DARS, the Degree Audit Report System, will contain the same vital information you receive from the current audit (i.e. major or prospective major reports, general education requirements, etc.), while providing an alternative for viewing. The goal of the update is to provide a more user-friendly version of the previous degree audit. By including charts, graphs, and color-coded information, Academic Services is hoping to offer a valuable alternative for the visual learner. But don’t worry SASS lovers: you will still be able to choose the previous audit view. For more information, visit the Academic Services website.

Knights E-Mail Update

It is critical that students maintain and regularly check their Knights E-mail account for official announcements and notification. Communications sent to the Knights E-mail address on record will be deemed adequate notice for all university communication, including issue related to academics, finances, registration, parking, and all other matters. The University does not accept responsibility if official communication fails to reach a student who has not registered for, or maintained and checked on a regular bases, their Knights E-mail account. Please ensure this information is current and that any changes in contact information are made online through the myUCF portal.

New Advisor in Interdisciplinary Studies

Marcelle Turner is the newest addition to our academic advising team in the I.S. Office. After five years as an advisor at a private university and a year in the state university system on the west coast, Ms. Turner happily joined Interdisciplinary Studies in mid-May. She has a BFA in Studio Art and a M.S. in Interdisciplinary Arts Education.

We welcome you to visit the I.S. advising team in Classroom 1, Suite 302 and take advantage of our wealth of knowledge.

Have something you’d like to share with other Interdisciplinary Studies Students?

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies is looking for writers for our newsletter. What I.S. Up is published online each semester with news and information regarding current and future I.S. students. We welcome submissions from students and faculty. To propose or submit an article, send an email to: maturner@mail.ucf.edu.
Ralph E. Gomory
Scholarship for Quality Online Education

In September 2008 the University of Central Florida was selected as a recipient of the inaugural Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education. Five Gomory Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students enrolled in fully online degree programs.

All students continuing in an online undergraduate degree program in fall 2009 are eligible for these essay-based awards.

Five $500 scholarships will be awarded in fall 2009.

ELEGIBILITY
- Must be continuing enrollment in a fully online degree program in fall 2009.
- Must have enrolled in the same program in either spring 2009 or summer 2009.
- Must be in good standing.
- Part-time and full-time students are eligible.

For a list of eligible on-line programs, please see: http://www.cdl.ucf.edu/catalog/

SELECTION CRITERIA
250 word essay on:
The value of online education in your life.
  Essays will be evaluated based on clarity, quality of writing, and impact.
  Essay content is flexible; themes can include:
  a) how online learning has enabled you to advance your educational goals
  b) how online learning has enabled you to improve your information literacy skills
     (gather, evaluate, and use information)
  c) your perspective on how online learning compares to face-to-face classroom-based learning

SUBMISSION
Electronic submission to Program Coordinator.
Please include in the header of your essay:
  Name
  EMPLID
  Online Program
  Enrolled terms:
  _____ Spring 09
  _____ Summer 09
  _____ Fall 09

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION DUE DATE:
September 4, 2009

MORE INFORMATION
For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Studies fellowship office (us@mail.ucf.edu or 407-823-2373) in Millican Hall 218.
I have worked a variety of jobs before entering a career in law enforcement in August 1996, when I was hired by the Winter Haven Police Department. After serving in as a patrol officer and detective, I was promoted to sergeant in October 2002. I am currently assigned as the department’s Internal Affairs supervisor, Public Information Officer, and Extra-Duty Detail Coordinator.

In January 2002, I returned to UCF as a graduate student and earned my Masters in Criminal Justice July 2004. Since that time, I have been an adjunct instructor at the Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety at Polk Community College since January 2004. I regularly teach a variety of courses to Law Enforcement Basic Recruit classes and Advanced/Specialized courses for current active law enforcement officers. I have been married to my wife Kari since August 2003 and we have a daughter, Caitlin (cute little girl in photo), who will 4 on September 30, 2008.

Kristen Waylen
Class of 2007

Since graduating in December of 2007, I have started my career in nonprofit work at a women's health organization in North Central Florida. I am very dedicated to my job and the mission of the agency. Some students feel nonprofit work is a hard field to break into, but I know there are lots of great opportunities out there for young people who are interested. Nonprofit is a fast growing field and job competition is steep: that's why getting an internship in your field of interest is so crucial! As a student at UCF, I co-founded a reproductive rights organization, VOX, which led to an internship at Orlando's Planned Parenthood affiliate. Taking that internship changed the direction of my life and I have never looked back. For my last semester at UCF, I traveled to London, England to study and work at the House of Commons, Great Britain's governing body. I interned with the Minister of State for Health, which cemented my interest and commitment to women's health issues. Living abroad was a fantastic experience; the highlight would have to be meeting the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Gordon Brown (see photo). My experience as a Liberal Studies major gave me the flexibility and wide range of skills I needed to make this stay in London a success. My advice to students interested in nonprofit is to find something you’re passionate about, get as much extracurricular, volunteer and professional experience you can while you are still a student...and to see the world while you’re young!

Kristen Waylen
Class of 2007

Since graduating in December of 2007, I have kept my position in real estate hoping it will eventually boom again and it is slowly coming back. I made lots of contacts at UCF, which helped me obtain some Marketing clients. I wanted to note that going back to school was one of the best things I could have done self-esteem wise. It gave me a renewed sense of myself and I feel that the time and money was worth every effort. I am proud to be affiliated with UCF and hope to broaden my horizons further in the future.

David Coleman
Class of 1993

Nancy DiPasqua
Class of 2007

If you are an I.S. alumnus and would like to be recognized in the next "Alumni Corner" section, please send your name, degree, year of graduation, and a brief summary of what you have been doing to maturner@mail.ucf.edu.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the graduate section of the first edition of our beautiful new newsletter! Our new newsletter not only contains the information you are used to but many new items as well as a new section just for you. Please enjoy and also give us your feedback. We would love to know of stories, information items, etc that you would like to have included in the newsletter. Also, please be sure to keep in touch so we can not only be sure you receive your newsletter but so that we can highlight your successes.

On July 15 we will have our first community event. It will be in the large conference room at Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Executive Airport. There will be two speakers. Mr. Kevin McNamara, Director of General Aviation at Orlando Executive Airport will speak on airports in general, definitely interdisciplinary enterprises, and then focus in on environmental issues. Then Mr. Tim Shea, Director of Commercial Properties at Orlando Executive and Orlando International Airports will talk about specific environmental issues at Executive Airport. The talks will be followed by a social time with refreshments. Depending on the attendance, there may also be a tour of the airport to see the items discussed. Many thanks to Kim Showalter, our partner in the grant we obtained from the Wolf Aviation Fund that is financing the event.

Have a great summer and keep doing great things.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael D. Hampton

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<tr>
<td>DROP DEADLINE/Last Day for Full Refund Session B</td>
<td>Classes End, Sessions B &amp; C</td>
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<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>Fees Due, Session B</td>
<td>Grades Due, Sessions B &amp; C</td>
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<td>Thesis/Dissertation Defense Deadline</td>
<td>12th</td>
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<td>Withdrawal Deadline, Summer B</td>
<td>Grades Available, Sessions B &amp; C</td>
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<td>Thesis/Dissertation Final Submission</td>
<td>14th</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Fall Classes Begin</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>Fall Late Registration Begins</td>
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Congratulations to the Interdisciplinary Studies Spring 2009 Master’s Degree Recipients!

Kylie M. Hernandez
Angela V. King
Amy Victoria Martinez
Brenda Beck Reilly
Lisa Dawn Sklar
Nicole Daniela Valdes
Karen J. Kosciusko
Sherri Ann Stull Quinn

GRADSHARE

The College of Graduate Studies and the Library partnered in May in order to present a new resource called GradShare. Offered by ProQuest, GradShare is a social networking tool providing graduate students with a national community in which to interact and ask questions of peers and of experts on key issues including: research funding, the dissertation/thesis process, career development, relevant research and teaching resources, and work/life balance. You can explore the site at http://www.gradshare.com.

ONLINE INTENT TO GRADUATE

The College of Graduate Studies is continuing its effort to streamline business processes to benefit students, staff and faculty. For students who will graduate in Fall 2009, the online Intent to Graduate (ITG) process delivered via myUCF will be used. Communications regarding the new process was sent out to students in April. Additionally, the College of Graduate Studies will provide an interactive report for the programs and colleges in GradInfo, where communication regarding graduation progress, issues and petitions will be recorded. Students will be able to view their pending and degree awarded status in myUCF. Late intents, certificates and students who earn a master’s degree in route will need to complete the appropriate paper form.
UCF Stands for Opportunity: The University of Central Florida is a metropolitan research university that ranks as the 6th largest in the nation with more than 48,000 students. UCF’s first classes were offered in 1968. The university offers impressive academic and research environments that power the region’s economic development. UCF’s culture of opportunity is driven by our diversity, Orlando environment, history of entrepreneurship and our youth, relevance and energy.

University of Central Florida  
The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Michael Hampton, Director  
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Orlando, FL 32816-1998

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