The Office of Liberal Studies at UCF will be tough to find this school year. As a result of an extensive program review and recommendations by an external consultant, an internal task force, and members of the larger UCF and Orlando communities, the Office of Liberal Studies has had a facelift that includes a name change. The newly renamed Office of Interdisciplinary Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with tracks in Interdisciplinary Studies, Women’s Studies, Environmental Studies, Liberal Arts, and Nanoscience and Nanotechnology.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Liberal Studies program underwent its first independent program review. A consultant was brought to campus to perform a thorough examination of the program. While impressed with the Liberal Studies program, the consultant brought fresh ideas for improvement. These ideas, built upon the existing foundation of the Liberal Studies program, were meant to strengthen the academic experience of students pursuing the major. These suggestions included changing the program’s name to more aptly reflect its curriculum, developing foundation courses to help students better understand the interdisciplinarity of their degree, creating a common academic experience, and developing a stronger community amongst the students pursuing the major. The University chose to implement a number of the suggestions brought forth, thus replacing the Liberal Studies degree program with the current Interdisciplinary Studies degree program.

Why the Name Change?

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Get Advised! Program Revisions for the 2007-2008 Catalog

Effective Summer 2007 all Liberal Studies majors became Interdisciplinary Studies majors and students who graduate in Summer 2007 and beyond will earn a B.A. or B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies.

While the name of your degree has changed, your catalog year, and thus degree requirements, have not changed. Only students declaring Interdisciplinary Studies as their major in the 2007-08 catalog and beyond must adhere to the new program changes.

Students in the 2007-08 catalog must take Cornerstone (IDS 3933) and Capstone (IDS 4934) unless otherwise advised. Students must speak with an advisor regarding registration for Cornerstone. Students graduating in Summer 2008 are given priority registration for Cornerstone in Spring 2008.

You may have noticed a change on your degree audit as a result of the program change. The Interdisciplinary Studies Office is working diligently to update all degree audits to make them accurate and up to date. If you have questions, please contact the Office.

Remember to make regular appointments to meet with your advisor.
“Following the completion of my Liberal Studies degree I worked as an intern at NBC-Universal at Universal Studios Hollywood in Physical Production while attending graduate school. I went on to receive my Master of Fine Arts in Film/TV Production at Chapman University in Orange, California. I currently work at Paradigm in Beverly Hills, which is one of the “Big 5” agencies in Hollywood. At Paradigm I am an assistant to the co-chair of the Physical Production department. My main responsibility is to provide complete support for a busy co-chair and agent of the physical production television and film department with 100+ clients working on over 20 high-profile network, feature and cable series. Receiving a liberal studies degree helped me achieve my career goals by giving me the platform to study what I was truly interested in and explore ideas and interests that I would not have been able to study if I wasn’t a liberal studies major. I knew I wanted to go on to graduate school and study film after UCF; however I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do in film. Therefore my concentrations within my liberal studies degree were: film, Judaic studies and English. I have stood out from other candidates on career interviews because I am always complimented on my degree choices, and this always leads to discussion on why I choose those three interests to get my degree in. My liberal studies degree has guided me to a career in physical production in Hollywood, where one day I aspire to work as a creative executive in physical production at a major studio.”

“After Graduation, I moved to Chicago to work on the Chicago Board of Trade. After a year on the exchange I realized this was not the direction for me long term.” After trying a few different business models with a friend offering financing services to motorcycle dealers, “we started offering our existing clients (motorcycle dealers) extended warranties and other warranty products to offer to their customers. That model stuck, and we are close to breaking $10 million in sales this year and have a staff of around 20 people throughout the US and supply products to all 50 states. We are based out of Jupiter and Orlando Florida. We bought out all of our investors since then and Barry and I own the company 50/50. I am the Chief Operating Officer and have been since 1998.” “As far as Liberal Studies and how it helped me, I would say this: When I called my uncle, who is a millionaire many times over from Chicago, and said, what can I take in school that will help me in my career, long term? His answer was Liberal Studies.” His reasoning “was that a well rounded person that knew a little about a lot was more successful in starting and running companies than someone that was myopically focused on one thing.”
Message from the Director

As the new Interim Director of Interdisciplinary Studies it is a pleasure to welcome you to our first newsletter. Your program has changed names and is undergoing a growth and evolution that will keep it current, bring it national recognition, and will make you proud. We will be launching two new core courses, a cornerstone and a capstone course, this year that will be fresh, innovative, and will provide students with the tools necessary to clearly define their knowledge and competencies, and to function as an effective and respected interdisciplinary professional. We are also working to strengthen and broaden the areas of concentration available in the program at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Enjoy the newsletter and please help us find a good name for it. Your creativity will be greatly appreciated and may earn you a new iPod Nano.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael D. Hampton

History of Interdisciplinary Studies at UCF

Interdisciplinary Studies has a long history at the University of Central Florida. In 1969, the year after the Institution, then known as Florida Technological University (FTU), welcomed its first students, the Bachelor of General Studies degree (BGS) in General Studies was established. By 1972, the BGS degree was discontinued and the General Studies program began offering Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees in General Studies. In 1978, by an act of the Florida Legislature, FTU underwent a name change and became the University of Central Florida. A few years later the General Studies program also underwent a name change and became the Liberal Studies program.

Between 1981 and 2006 the Liberal Studies program offered students BA and BS degrees with a major in Liberal Studies. While the program evolved a great deal across its quarter century, the foundation of the program was always to offer students academic flexibility.

The most recent change occurred this year with the program’s name changing from Liberal Studies to Interdisciplinary Studies and the new core courses being added.

1963: Florida Legislature establishes Florida Technological University (FTU).
1968: Classes begin at FTU.
1969: Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree established.
1972: BGS degree discontinued. BA & BS degrees in General Studies offered.
1978: Florida Legislature changes name of FTU to 1981: General Studies name changed to Liberal Studies.
1985: First independent program review takes place.
2005: First independent program review takes place.
2007: Interdisciplinary Studies Program established.

“Your program is undergoing a growth and evolution that will keep it current, bring it national recognition, and will make you proud.”
Research Scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center.

Lee Logan has been an Interdisciplinary Studies advisor since 2001 and has previously worked at UCF in Admissions, Graduate Studies, and the Registrar’s Office. Mr. Logan is a retired Air Force Officer and has a B.S. in Mathematics and his M.A. in Education.

Sandra Tabert has been an advisor since February 2005. She came to UCF from FAU where she worked in the College of Business as an advisor. She earned her B.A. in Sociology from FAU and her M.A. in Educational Leadership from UCF.

Jessica Broerman is the newest advisor, joining the team in March 2007 after working for three years in Undergraduate Admissions. Jessica received a B.A. in Mass Communication from Wright State University and holds a M.A. in Educational Leadership from UCF.

We would like to introduce to you the excellent staff in the Interdisciplinary Studies Office that provides the individualized experience that makes our program unique.

Dr. Michael D. Hampton is the new Interim Director for the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Hampton comes to us from the Department of Chemistry at UCF where he has been a faculty member since 1981.

Dr. Hampton earned his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Texas Tech University in 1980.

From 1984 to 1988, while working at UCF, Dr. Hampton also worked in the Materials Testing Branch of Kennedy Space Center as a Materials Engineer for NASA. He is also currently Deputy Editor-in-Chief for “International Journal for Alternative Fuel and Ecology” and has a courtesy appointment as Principal Research Scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center.

Lee Logan has been an Interdisciplinary Studies advisor since 2001 and has previously worked at UCF in Admissions, Graduate Studies, and the Registrar’s Office. Mr. Logan is a retired Air Force Officer and has a B.S. in Mathematics and his M.A. in Education.

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We would like to welcome you to visit the Interdisciplinary Studies advising team in Classroom 1, Room 302 and take advantage of our wealth of knowledge.

Win an iPod! Name our Newsletter!

This newsletter is the first in a series of newsletters that will be published each semester for current students and alumni. The newsletter will include important dates, announcements, and events including noteworthy news about specific alumni and students.

We need your help naming our newsletter! If you can think of a catchy name that uniquely relates to our program, please let us know. The deadline for submissions is November 9, 2007. Contestants must be current Interdisciplinary Studies students or Interdisciplinary/Liberal Studies alumni. Please make your submission by emailing is@mail.ucf.edu with the subject line “Newsletter Contest”.

All email submissions MUST include the following:
1) Name of contestant;
2) Address, phone number, and email address;
3) If you are a student, your year in school;
4) If you are an alumnus, your graduation year; and,
5) All contestants must submit a brief bio and a picture attached to your email submission.

Submissions not including all of the above information will not be eligible for the contest. By making a submission, you are confirming that your idea is original, non-copyrighted work, and you are agreeing to our unrestricted use of the name.

The winner of the contest will receive an iPod Nano! The winner will be notified by December 3, and the winning name will be featured on the Spring 2008 newsletter. We look forward to your suggestions!!