Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and that the fall is treating you well. We have been really busy here. Over the summer we launched the Capstone course and it went very well. I had the privilege to visit the class several times and the students were delightful. The course culminated with a presentation of portfolios, both verbally and in poster form. As was expected in an interdisciplinary major, the variety in style and approach was huge but every student did an excellent job of presenting themselves and their abilities. It was very impressive and a proud time for me as director.

Two sections of the cornerstone course ran over the summer. Overall they went very well. We have modified the syllabus to provide more logical flow and obvious links between subjects. We have also worked hard to improve your interface with ePortfolio. The course is still very intense and is definitely different from the majority of web courses, but it will equip you well to excel in one of the most challenging majors on campus.

One last bit of discussion involves the issue of community in Interdisciplinary Studies. You are a member of the second largest major on campus yet have the least opportunity to meet and get to know your classmates. The first step I would like to take to change that is to begin an Interdisciplinary Studies student club. To that end, I will be calling an organizational/expression of interest meeting in the next few weeks. I hope you will be interested and able to attend.

Have a wonderful and productive fall semester.

Dr. Michael D. Hampton

---

Graduate Program Updates

Did you know that Interdisciplinary Studies offers Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees? The Interdisciplinary Studies graduate programs were recently updated and approved by the Graduate Council in August, and we are excited to unveil the new requirements, which are effective Fall 2008. The new requirements allow for even greater flexibility and individualized program planning. A new core course will be offered in the upcoming school year that will focus on interdisciplinarity. It will be team taught by faculty in different departments and will feature projects and group work as well as current students’ theses presentations, which will be a basis for interdisciplinary discussion topics. For more information about the graduate programs in Interdisciplinary Studies, please visit http://www.graduatecatalog.ucf.edu/Programs/index.aspx or http://www.is.ucf.edu/graduate/graduate_degree.php
Know it Alls: Feature Student Corner

Mr. UCF Studies in Turkey

Alex Lord is a senior Interdisciplinary Studies major with a minor in World Comparative Studies, and he takes full advantage of the opportunities to get involved on campus. Alex's involvement on campus ranges from teaching students and faculty to swim at the Rec and Wellness Center to being the undergraduate assistant at the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government in the Political Science department. He is an Executive Board member of Knights Of The Round Table and after transferring to UCF, was inducted into the Tau Sigma National Honors Society. All of his involvement on campus, helped Alex to earn the title of Mr. UCF 2008. He enjoys everything that UCF has to offer, and attends as many sporting events as he can, especially soccer and football.

This past summer, Alex studied abroad, in conjunction with the University of Kansas, in Istanbul, Turkey. When asked about his study abroad experience, Alex said, "Studying abroad to me is one of the most important influences a student can have on his or her education. Fully engulfing yourself in another culture shows you things about the world that you can't read in textbooks, or hear about in a lecture. The only way to experience it is to actually go there and be in the culture, I believe everyone should study abroad at some point in their college career."

After graduation this May, Alex plans on moving to London and receiving his master's degree.

Alex Lord after being named Mr. UCF

Primates and Sea Creatures Oh My!

Rachael Woods is a senior, Interdisciplinary Studies major in the Environmental Studies track. The flexibility of the Interdisciplinary Studies program has allowed her to participate in some amazing opportunities that UCF has to offer. Rachel was an intern at the Central Florida Zoo, where she worked in the primate department. While there, she got priceless hands-on experience with howler monkeys, cotton-top tamarins, two different species of lemurs, prehensile-tailed porcupines, and many other animals around the zoo! Rachael worked two full days a week with many of the same responsibilities as the full time zoo keepers. She fed the animals and even administered medication if necessary. She cleaned their enclosures and kept detailed medical and behavioral records. Rachael also participated in the training of many animals, but her semester project was training a two-toed sloth named Fozzy.

Rachael took advantage of another exciting opportunity offered through UCF this summer by taking a tropical marine biology class in Honduras. Rachael flew to the gorgeous island of Roatan, Honduras with 10 other students and a wonderful UCF teacher. There, they spent a week SCUBA diving the pristine reefs surrounding the island. They conducted their own underwater research projects, swam with dolphins and met a veterinarian of exotic animals. As well as learning a great deal about reef biology, Rachael had the time of her life and met some truly amazing people! After Rachael graduates from UCF in May 2009, she plans to get her helicopter pilot's license. This, along with her Interdisciplinary Studies degree will give her a good foundation for a career in the research and rescue of marine life!
Yes, You Have to Apply to Graduate!

Every semester there are those students who miss the graduation application deadline because they either forgot or didn’t know that they had to apply to graduate. Well, here is your notification and reminder! Yes, you must apply to graduate! Some people believe that when they meet all of their graduation requirements, they should just be automatically given a degree. However, this logic is flawed for a number of reasons. 1) Once you are granted a degree, we can’t take it back and 2) Minors and double majors must be awarded in conjunction with a Bachelor’s degree. Therefore, if your degree requirements were complete, but you also wanted to complete a minor, we would not know to wait to award your degree until after you completed your minor requirements. Similarly for a double major or double degree, if you complete the requirements for one major, but then were continuing to complete the requirements for the second, we wouldn’t know to hold off on awarding the degree. Also, some students want to take additional courses after their degree requirements are met in order to take additional prerequisites for a graduate program or professional school. Thus, in order to eliminate any confusion about what semester you want to graduate, you MUST apply for graduation for the semester that you actually wish to earn a degree. The posted University deadline for applying for graduation is always the end of the semester before you want to graduate.

It’s New! Walk-in Advising, Serving You Better

You asked, and we listened. Students have asked for walk-in advising, and the week before fall semester we started offering walk-in advising between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. These walk-in hours will be offered during busy advising times such as the beginning of the semester and around the withdrawal deadline. Walk-in advising is for current Interdisciplinary Studies students only and will not be available to students wishing to change their majors to Interdisciplinary Studies since those appointments require more time for explanations and planning. Current Interdisciplinary Studies majors will be able to take care of their minor issues and questions dealing with the degree requirements without scheduling an appointment during the walk-in advising times. Please remember this is for current Interdisciplinary Studies majors only and is not intended to be used for extensive questions regarding schedule planning. More detailed questions need to be handled through a scheduled appointment. Remember, as always, we prefer scheduled appointments so that we can give you the amount of time that your questions deserve, and we do permit telephone advising. However, if you have a brief question, feel free to use our new walk-in advising hours.

Interdisciplinary Studies Around Campus

Representatives from the Interdisciplinary Studies Office participated in the UCF Welcome Expo on August 28 in the Pegasus Ballroom. The Expo, hosted by First Year Advising and Exploration, included information tables by many UCF majors, student organizations, student support offices, athletic clubs, and local businesses. Interdisciplinary Studies Alumnus, Christopher Quintero (see his story in the Alumni Corner), an Advisor in First Year Advising in Exploration, kept the crowd lively and involved by asking trivia questions, awarding prizes, and showcasing the grand prize, a suit of armor. Interdisciplinary Studies Advisors spoke to students about the program and answered any questions. Interdisciplinary Studies was also represented at the UCF Graduate Fair on September 9. A packed house showed up for the annual Graduate Fair and many interested students stopped by the Interdisciplinary Studies table for information. If you are interested in learning more about the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, please contact our office at 407-823-0144 to set up an appointment with a Graduate Advisor.
Off to a life of leisure...Or not!

You can find him at almost every UCF athletics event, and you can always hear his booming voice down the hall in the Interdisciplinary Studies Office as he advises countless numbers of students. Lee Logan, the longest serving advisor in the Interdisciplinary Studies Office, will be retiring at the end of November.

After almost 19 years of working at UCF, the last seven years spent in Interdisciplinary Studies, Mr. Logan will retire on November 30th. His long deserved retirement comes at the end of a 45 year career, working first for the US Air Force and then the University of Central Florida. Mr. Logan started his second career at UCF in November 1989 in Undergraduate Admissions and continued working in Graduate Studies and the Registrar’s Office before arriving in Interdisciplinary Studies in November 2001. When asked what he intends to do with his free time, Lee said that he will continue to stay involved in almost all of UCF’s athletic programs. He has a major role in “gameday” operations for football, volleyball, baseball and both men and women’s basketball. He and his wife Kathy will travel and enjoy their two grandsons who live in Jacksonville. However, we have a sneaky suspicion that you may still see Mr. Logan hanging around the Interdisciplinary Studies Office! So the next time that you are in the office, be sure to wish Lee a Happy Retirement! He will certainly be missed, and his contributions to both the Interdisciplinary Studies Office and UCF in general will never be forgotten! Thank you Lee for all that you have done and continue to do!

Pete Wallace

This Summer Brought Changes to the Advising Staff

This past summer was full of changes for the Interdisciplinary Studies Office. Long time advisor, Sandra Tabert, left our office to broaden her advising horizons, and now, if you take a walk over to the College of Business, you may find her busy advising Management students. While we were sorry to see Sandra leave, we were especially excited to welcome a new advisor to our team. Mr. Pete Wallace may be new to the Interdisciplinary Studies Advising team, but he is certainly not a new face at UCF. Mr. Wallace joined the Interdisciplinary Studies Office in June 2008. Prior to formally joining the office, he worked on curriculum development and program enhancement projects for the Interdisciplinary Studies undergraduate program while serving in the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Mr. Wallace has worked at UCF in Dispute Resolution Services, Judicial Programs, Campus Life, Student Conduct, The Burnett Honors College, Academic Affairs, and currently serves in Undergraduate Studies in support of the Unifying Theme initiative. Mr. Wallace earned a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Counselor Education. Join us in welcoming Pete Wallace!

Peer Advisors: Advising Prospective Students

In order to better manage all of the appointments in the office, new Interdisciplinary Studies students typically have an initial meeting with a Peer Advisor. In this meeting the Peer Advisor will explain the details of the program and help new students to select the areas and minor(s) for their degrees. We currently have two peer advisors who are extremely knowledgeable about Interdisciplinary Studies, and the office relies heavily on them for prospective advising. This fall, we welcome back Lean Josepher who was a student assistant in our office last year. Leah is a senior Psychology major with a minor in Health Sciences. Leah has been a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity for 3 1/2 years and spent this past summer interning at the Old Faithful Lodge in Yellowstone National Park. Miguel Naranjo started working in the Interdisciplinary Studies Office this past summer. He is a senior Interdisciplinary Studies student with a minor in Spanish and areas in Public Affairs and Behavioral and Social Sciences. Miguel is thinking about a potential career in advising and is gaining wonderful experience as a peer advisor. Our peer advisors are a great asset to the Interdisciplinary Studies Advising Team and as a first point of contact, are extremely professional and helpful to all of our students.
After completing my undergraduate studies, I was accepted into UCF’s Nicholson School of Communication as a candidate for a Master of Arts in Mass Communication where my Liberal Studies background came in handy in my classes. Instead of having knowledge in one particular area, I found that my years of studying anthropology and marketing provided me with a different skill set than many of my classmates. In my second year of graduate school I began teaching SPC 1600, Fundamentals of Oral Communication. It’s a dreaded course for many students but, I found it an exciting challenge. Getting students to enjoy a subject that I found fascinating was so much fun! After graduating (again) from UCF I continued to teach the same class at another institution while searching for my dream job. One year later, I finally found it. A public relations position opened up at Citrus Memorial Health System, and I managed to snag an interview. After the first interview I was called back for another, and finally another. I can’t tell you exactly what I said that landed me the job, but I can tell you this: the interviewer and I spoke about crisis public relations, advertising, relationship marketing, cultural anthropology, and interior design. I love being the Public Relations Coordinator for a large company. I have the responsibility of updating the media on the goings-on of the hospital, writing the company newsletter, planning events, and keeping potential crises in check. I never know where my day will lead. Earning a degree in Liberal Studies taught me that I don’t have to settle. In school I took the classes that I found interesting, not the ones a structured major would have required me to take. And in life, I found a career that’s perfectly suited to my tastes.

Receiving my degree in Liberal Studies really afforded me the opportunity to highlight my many interests in careers and fields of study. I felt that my program really allowed me to develop as a well-rounded student. As a result, this degree has allowed me the ability to contribute a unique insight and knowledge in my career. The Liberal Studies Program and my Advisor really played an integral role in shaping me to be a better candidate for the workforce. This program allowed me to develop my dreams and turn them into my career goals. Not only did the program allow me to structure a degree suited for me and my interest but the Advisors really assisted me beyond what courses to take by providing a mentorship that was individualized and memorable. Since graduation with my degree in Liberal Studies, I continued my education and received my Master’s degree in Educational Leadership-Student Personnel Track from UCF. Since then, I have pursued my career as an Academic Advisor in the Office of First Year Advising and Exploration. Now I am blessed with the opportunity to create opportunities for success for students at UCF!

The most important point of my life story is that you never know where life will take you. After graduating with my Liberal Studies degree, I worked for USAirways because I loved to travel. I have traveled to every place in the song “Kokomo” plus a ton of other places! However, after 911, I had to re-evaluate what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. At that time, my oldest son was starting his master’s degree so I challenged him to a race to see who could graduate with their masters degree first. We both started in August of 2003 and we both finished in December 2005! It was a rewarding accomplishment! I started selling real estate because it worked into my school schedule and I ended up loving it! Then, after I received my MBA, Corporate Performance Institute called me and asked me to teach customer service skills to Business Management students because of my wide educational background and the 22 years of customer service that I had. I believe that the combination of my Liberal Studies Degree, my MBA and my career experience prepared me for the next step... a step that I would not have foreseen in 1987. My liberal studies degree gave me the flexibility to move down different paths as my life and careers changed. If I had graduated with an education degree I would have been stuck in the educational system. But with a liberal studies degree, I have been able to move into fields in totally different areas and go on to get degrees and certifications in different areas. It also gave me a wide foundation of knowledge that enabled me to go to graduate school and achieve in a variety of areas such as selling real estate and teaching management classes.

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

Interdisciplinary Studies Graduates walked across the stage marking their last symbolic act as Undergraduate students at UCF during the Summer Commencement ceremony on August 2, 2008. About 170 Interdisciplinary Studies students graduated this summer. 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. The Summer 2008 Interdisciplinary Studies Summa Cum Laude graduates include:

- Amy Patricia Lawton
- Kelly Kathleen Nedimyer

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

- Natalie Rose Clark
- Lauren Dara Maxwell

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

- Kelly Nicole Brenner
- Chelsea Ray Ornelas
- Glenn A. Schneck

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

Top Honor Graduate Heads to UF’s College of Dentistry

“Which major is right for me?” This is the common question that I found myself pondering after I was accepted to UCF. During orientation, I was introduced to Interdisciplinary Studies. This was a major that allowed me to choose several areas of study that interested me; it was almost as though I could build my own major by choosing which classes I wanted to take! I had always dreamed of becoming a dentist and needed to complete numerous science prerequisites before I could apply to dental school. Although I do enjoy the natural sciences, I was also interested in many other areas of study including health and behavioral science, music, creative writing, and fitness training. All of these options, and many more, were available to me without having to compromise being able to finish my dental school prerequisites. During my interview for dental school, I was asked “how my education prepared me for my future?” It is simply this: unlike a traditional major, I was given the opportunity to study multiple areas in academia. Being an Interdisciplinary Studies major has helped me become a well-rounded student! My education has formed a solid foundation to enable me to further pursue my dreams at UF College of Dentistry this fall! UCF does stand for opportunity! — Kelly Nedimyer

Interested in a Student Organization?

Are you interested in starting an Interdisciplinary Studies Student Organization? We would love to see our 1600+ students get involved in an academic organization related to Interdisciplinary Study, but we need your interest. If you are interested in taking on this task or just being a part of a new student organization, please email is@mail.ucf.edu with the subject heading “Student Organization”. We would love to hear from you and also get your feedback about what kind of an organization you would like to see for your major. Please let us know what you think!

Tutors needed for IDS3933!

Have you taken IDS3933 and received an A? Are you good at navigating the webcourses online course system? Are you looking to make some extra money and help your peers? If so, the Department of Academic Services for Student Athletes may be interested in hiring you as a tutor for IDS3933. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Interdisciplinary Studies Office by emailing is@mail.ucf.edu with the subject heading “IDS3933 Tutor”.

Baccalaureate Honors are conferred on those students who complete a minimum of 48 semester hours at UCF and attain an overall GPA that falls in the top ten percent of all graduating students in the same college over the prior two-year period.