DEAN’S LIST
FALL 2000

Congratulations to all of our students on the Dean’s List!

Susan Abbott
Gazelle Aram
Simeon Bittman
Alicia Bottini
Ryan Brooks
Bevan Brunelle
Jeremy Daly
Shireen Deen
Elizabeth DeFeo
Jake Eisenstein
Francois Exilhomme
Jessica Fink
Nicholas Fisher
Michael Fitzpatrick
Jus Crea Giammarino
Christopher Halloran
Darla Harper
Heather Hayes
Kristine Holohan
Michael Kaplan
Daniel Kapner
Yukako Kawasaki
Kevin Kelleher
Mark Kirshteyn
Jennifer Kuhr
Juliana LaBoube
Jessica Lacaman
David Lambert
Seana Lamothe
Julia Laricheva
Ross Lemenille
Jacob Lepsy
Tucker Litchfield
Averi Loring

Lilach Manheim
Christopher Manz
Bridget McLaughlin
Olivia Melendez
Sharif Muhammad
Jennifer Nesbit
Moira Noonan
Colin Ovitsky
Anthony Palmieri
Ellen Piangerelli
Jason Pronovost
Jason Roberts
Ashley Rose
Kevin Rothman
James Royland
Aaron Rubinstein
Lela Schneidman
Lydia Silva
Megan Snyder
Brian Surette
Kristen Tarsia
Jason Tocci
Laura Toth
Edward Vale
Gregory Walek
Casey Waskom
Carli Wigdor

The Director’s Corner

There are many issues that are crucial to BDIC majors, but none are as relevant or problematic as the issue of access to courses. Although access to courses in certain fields is not a unique problem to our majors since students in many other majors have difficulty enrolling in courses in their departments, there is still a perception that the problem seems to affect and/or impact our students disproportionately. To a great extent this perception is justified. Our majors do have to compete for courses in certain disciplines that are in great demand such as Journalism, Art, Communication, and different sub-fields in Management, and often times these disciplines are unable to accommodate our students because they barely have enough space to accommodate their own. However, most of these departments are aware of the issue and they are willing to work closely with our Program to guarantee our students access to courses in their departments. We regularly have meetings with advisors and chairs in the above mentioned departments to ensure that our students are afforded opportunities in areas that are crucial to concentrations in BDIC.

Given the nature of a BDIC concentration, one that emphasizes areas of knowledge that
cut across and address traditional disciplinary boundaries, we do understand
the need for our students to have access to a wide range of disciplines.
Consequently, it is imperative that we at BDIC maintain lines of
communication with other departments. We have done this in the past, and we will continue to
do so in the future. Our efforts have lead to positive outcomes in many instances, although we
cannot claim that we have had much success with the Communication Department. It will still
be extremely difficult to get courses in Communication, and you should bear that in mind when
choosing courses to fulfill a BDIC concentration. Even though most departments are willing to
work with our students to ensure that they get the courses they need for their interdisciplinary
concentrations, it is fundamental that our students follow the guidelines of those particular
departments so that the issue of access to courses in those disciplines is resolved satisfactorily.

BDIC is a major that fosters cutting-edge thinking. Consequently, most of its concentrations
have as a main objective the creation of knowledge and ideas that occur at the intersection of
disciplines which shape our ever-changing world. BDIC majors do need access to the whole
range of courses at the University if they are going to design concentrations that take advantage
of the complexity of the current information technology-based world. This world not only
presents many challenges to students, but it also fosters the creation of new and exciting
emerging fields. We are aware that lack of access to certain disciplines would not position our
students well to take advantage of all these emerging opportunities in knowledge-creation. We
are working hard to ensure that our students are able to fulfill through their individualized
concentrations the original goal for the creation of the Program: to allow and facilitate the
development of unique interdepartmental concentrations.

We are very optimistic about the future of the Program. It has an important role to play at the
University and it is an effective academic preparation for people who do not fit into the structure
of a discipline, that is, for those individuals who believe that knowledge is to be found at the
intersection of disciplines. This academic preparation may be exciting but it does present unique
challenges to our students, namely in the area of access to courses. However, we are confident
that our majors are qualified to meet those challenges and also to deal effectively with the
frustration that ensues from the lack of access to classes. As BDIC majors you should be aware
that our Program plays an important role in curriculum development at the University, and it has
been and still is an option for those students who wish to pursue educational goals in areas not
available within an existing departmental curriculum. These are all very worthwhile goals, and
we are confident that all departments at the University feel that these goals are worthy of their
support. Therefore, we most definitely can assure you that almost all departments are willing to
work us to provide alternative forms of academic preparation for our students.

ATTENTION ALL BDIC STUDENTS!

Are you interested in becoming a peer advisor? All SIX of our
present peer advisors will be leaving in May so we will need to hire an
entirely new staff. The usual commitment is five hours per week for pay or
credit. We require a one year commitment. If you’d like a great job working
My name is Veronica Webb and I am a peer advisor at BDIC. Last semester I traveled to India to study yoga. I traveled through the North for three months and then I was in Nepal and in South India for the last month. My friend Carrie and I received our yoga teacher certifications and took classes and taught all over India. People ask me how it was and all I can do is smile. It is so hard to explain so I pulled up some writings from my journal while I was doing yoga in Varanasi, India: Inspiration from the source of love. Growth is infinite, endless, expanding, like a breath coming from the mysterious into our soul. The future does not exist, only the moment. The colors in this cloudy pale blue room know the secret. Light, full powered permeates deep into our souls casting shadows and shedding truth that has been hidden on the dark side of the moon. My organs twist and turn massaging and melting my heart. With oneness and openness we walk amongst the strange but familiar faces of this ancient land. Wandering in the only place we’re suppose to be. Bells ringing filled with thanks and praises. Wrapping my arms around myself, flow of prana, aware of the middle meridian. Constellations are the same in the sky and at that moment loneliness disappears because I am never alone. Being born with an inhale, living with the cycles of the moon and taking our possible last breath on Earth, dying with an exhale. Being reborn with an inhale, one breath, five trillion breaths, this breath, cleanliness from the inside out. Emerging from the heat, pouring the waterfall of life to cool, energize and clean the soul. Clashing of metal and the bass of the drum brings me home to realize I am home. Aum sweet aum. Dark deep eyes connect through the dirt and wastes and you see the soul of the cow as it is being blessed. Open your spine and you will find inspiration, rhymes. Sisters and brothers under the same light come together to celebrate in the night. I wrote that in the city of light, the city of Lord Shiva, Varanasi. My yoga teacher, Carrie and I would cross the Ganges River in the morning before and as the sun was coming up. The Ganges in Varanasi is so lively at 5 am. Bathing, chanting, drinking chai and welcoming the sun. The brown water flowed and dead cows and holy dead people would float by as my yoga teacher would drink the water. The water is Shiva’s consciousness flowing. It hydrated and cleansed my teacher’s soul. Everyday was different and something always happened. We toured the country on the rooves of the buses that always broke down. Patience was a virtue. The beautiful saris lit up the dirty street and the women in them, giggling, handing us food even thought they didn’t have much. His Holiness, the Dali Lama, in Dharamsala spoke of compassion in the local temple as the Tibetan chanting from the Monks filled the monsoon day. Little children would smile and hug us. India was the most beautiful eye-opening place. If you feel drawn to a particular place follow your heart and move. Om Shanti.
Fall, 2001 Pre-Registration

Fall 2001 telephone pre-registration extends between April 9 and 20. All BDIC students must pick up a RAC code by meeting with Linda Roney in order to pre-register. Students planning to graduate in May, 2001 and anyone who has been notified of a credit hold need to make a personal appointment with Linda. A sign-up sheet will be posted inside the BDIC office at 608 Goodell, or if it is more convenient, you can call 545-2504 and ask to be added to the appointment list.

No RACs will be given out over the phone. The reason we have them is to ensure you the benefit of proper advising help.
BDIC Scholarships and Research Awards

Thanks to the generous gifts of our alumni, BDIC has set up a scholarship and research fund for qualified students. There are also some funds available for study abroad. Recent grants have included an award to Timothy Niziak who went on exchange to the Haarlem Business School in Amsterdam. Another BDIC student, Charles Apicella, received a grant to attend an International Association of Jazz Educators conference. Other students who have received awards recently include: Daniel Kapner received an award to travel to Tel Aviv for research for an honors project, Jasmine Trabelsi is launching a young women’s fine art and literature magazine, Ashley Rose, a BDIC Peer Advisor, attended a Cultural Study course in Nepal and Jessica Adamites used research funds for a photographic portion of her senior project. If you wish to apply, please stop by the BDIC office to pick up an application. Deadlines for applications are May 15 (for Summer and Fall study/projects) and October 15 (for Spring projects).

Late Adds & Withdrawals

Withdrawal period ends Wednesday, March 28. If you need to add or drop a class after this date, you need to submit a late add or drop petition to the dean at Pre-Major Advising, 615 Goodell. You may pick up a petition either at BDIC or at P. A.S.

BDIC IS ONLINE

Have you been to BDIC’s new and improved web site yet? It can be accessed at the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/bdic

General program information can be found here and students can access and download most BDIC forms and handouts. Please be aware that this site is in the process of being updated by BDIC student Allan Hatta.

* An updated alumni listing has recently been added to the site.
Congratulations to Our Spring 2001 Graduates!

Mark Besharaty
Electric Engineering and Web Based Computer Science

Julie Blankstein
Cross-Cultural Education

Marcus DeMaio
Media Production

Nicola duPlessis
Film Production

Nathan Flint
Entrepreneurial Management

Kristen Gabor
Human Resource Management in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry

Erik Gleason
Lifestyles Support Therapy

Jacqueline Ho
Fashion

Ricky Johnson
International Business and Computer Management

Mark Kirshteyn
International Business with Computer Applications

Rachel Knox
Rehabilitation and Human Services

Amira Lamb
Fitness/Health Promotion and Management

Maria Langone
International Business with Foreign Languages

International Economies and Investments

Leah McKeand
Sustainable Communities

Nicole Moreau
Information Systems and Networking

Arnali Ray
Holistic Health

Jim Royland
Diplomacy in Latin America

Aaron Rubenstein
Film Theory and Psychoanalysis

Lydia Silva
Dance Education

Megan Snyder
Sustainable Architectural Technology and Design

Sean Sullivan
Marketing in a Global Business Environment

Starker Wright
Environmental Research

Sean Wright
Computer, Multimedia, and Educational Technology

In speaking with representatives from the most difficult three departments
from which to get courses here is some advice:

ART:
- As soon as you devise your BDIC course list run it by our Art Department liaison, Dr. Patricia Galvis-Assmus.
- Do not attempt to duplicate an art focus already offered through the Art Department through BDIC.

JOURNALISM:
- Section 4 of Journalism 300, Newswriting and Reporting, and 335, Principles of Public Relations, have reserved places for BDIC students. Make sure you pre-register for them since BDIC spots will be given away if not filled up at that time.
- If you want a specific Journalism class that is designated “Journalism majors only” go to the Journalism Department, 108 Bartlett, during pre-registration to sign a waiting list. There are certain courses that may be impossible to get into, but if they know ahead of time, the Journalism Department will make every effort to find space for BDIC students in many classes.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT:
- BDIC and SOM have worked out a new plan to, helpfully, improve BDIC students’ chances of getting into SOM courses. If you are a newly accepted BDIC student interested in a management focus we will send your class list to SOM so that they can make accommodations in classes accordingly. If you have been in the BDIC Program for a while and you intend to take SOM classes this fall please supply Linda Roney with a list of your class choices when you meet with her during pre-registration in April. She will, in turn, pass your requests on to SOM. You should try to get into any non-restricted SOM courses over the phone registration system, however.

*CONTACT ALL DEPARTMENTS FROM WHICH YOU WANT FALL CLASSES (AND CANNOT PRE-REGISTER FOR THEM) DURING PRE-REGISTRATION! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL ADD/DROP! DEPARTMENTS WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE YOU AT THAT TIME.

Spring Project Festival / Alumni Forum

On Tuesday, May 1, from 5-8 p.m., in Goodell 608, we will be sponsoring a “projects festival.” Students enrolled in the BDIC junior year writing class (BDIC 496C) will be displaying and discussing their work in cluster groups. Alumni from the various cluster areas will be attending to share first-hand knowledge of their fields.

All BDIC students, even those not enrolled in BDIC 496C, are encouraged to share their work. We hope you will all, at least, attend! * Refreshments will be served!
Elaine Brousseau,
A Voice of Tradition

At the end of this semester, I'll be leaving my position as BDIC's part-time writing coordinator after being part of the program for nearly ten years. Throughout the summer and fall I'll be finishing and revising my dissertation, with the expectation that I will complete all requirements for my Ph.D in English by late fall. As I prepare to leave BDIC, I thought I'd share briefly with current students and staff some thoughts on where the program has been and where it looks from here it might be going.

As with everything else, the one constant in the program has been change. The BDIC staff, faculty supervisors, peer advisors, and students are always investigating ways to make the program better. Perhaps the soundest change I've seen in the program has been the requirement that students register for the Proposal Writing course and complete, in one semester, the document that admits the student into the program. In the “early days” of the program, a student sometimes began writing a proposal for admission in the spring of sophomore year, often not finishing it and getting it approved until well into junior year—or later. There was plenty of advising and guidance and excellent proposals were written, but the actual submission of the proposal was a more casual affair, not attached to an actual course. The decision to hire a second writing instructor was also a wonderful plus for the program. It meant that we could teach BDIC 496C, Junior Year Writing in Interdisciplinary Studies (formerly called the Senior Research Paper), as an actual “classroom” course, replacing the teaching of the course exclusively as a tutorial. José Ornelas’ assumption of the directorship of the program in 1997 gave BDIC needed leadership and direction, and the hiring of an additional faculty supervisor extended the areas of study in which faculty supervisors were qualified to review proposals. Not the least of the welcome changes was the hiring of a full-time secretary four years ago (before that, work-study students handled nearly all secretarial duties), which facilitated the administrative task of keeping track of the growing number of BDIC students.

I would be less than honest if I saw everything that has happened here in the last ten years as progress. In many ways I miss (and I may be the only one who does!) BDIC’s former (extremely modest—some would say dingy) suite of offices in the basement of Bartlett Hall, but I can’t forget reading the Senior Summaries of so many students who commented on how much smaller and more personal the University felt to them after they walked into that welcoming space in Bartlett and learned about a program that helped them take charge of their education. The smaller size of the program then (probably a little more than half of our present size) and the two full-time advisors (Thelma Canale-Parola, assistant director of BDIC who retired in 1997, and Susan Machala, long-time coordinator) meant that each student received much individual attention. Every day I am amazed at how Linda Roney, BDIC’s present coordinator, somehow manages to know all of BDIC’s 350 students and meet with each one at least once each semester, doing all of this with grace and good humor. Another advisor would be a welcome addition to the BDIC staff, especially if the program continues to grow.

Academic disciplines, in both the humanities and the sciences, have become more interdisciplinary in the last ten years, and my own work is a testament to this trend. My dissertation, which looks at nineteenth-century American productions of six popular Shakespeare plays, draws upon the academic disciplines of history, theater, American studies, and English in creating something of a mid-nineteenth-century cultural history.
can see this movement of traditional academic departments becoming more interdisciplinary as a validation of what the program has been trying to allow students to do from the outset. It is also, however, a challenge to the program should concentrations now pursued through BDIC (like film studies and management information systems) eventually be made available through traditional departments. This latter development would not be a bad thing, of course; BDIC will continue to serve a need at the University as long as students want to major in interdisciplinary areas not offered through traditional departments. But developing a major through BDIC will continue to be an attractive option for students only if the program persists in working with other departments and the administration to help ease access to the courses students need to take in these other departments.

I’ve been at BDIC a long time, because it has taken me a long time (some would say a ridiculously long time) to finish my doctoral program. My children, who used to accompany me to the office occasionally during their school vacations, remark how they’ve gone from being so little that no one could ever mistake them for college students to being college students themselves in the period I’ve been at BDIC. One reason, perhaps, that I’ve been here so long is because BDIC seemed a comfortable fit for me from the start. I’ve already mentioned how my own interdisciplinary work made BDIC a good intellectual fit, but there were practical reasons why I felt able to relate to BDIC students and their writing projects. Before coming to UMass to pursue my doctoral degree, I had taught writing but also worked for several years in publishing: as both a writer and editor for newspapers, membership organizations, and in a college publications office. I found that my experience in writing on a wide variety of topics and in producing different types of writing (from grants to public relations materials) helped me find common ground with BDIC students whose interests and concentrations range from holistic health to international relations, from computer graphics to social change.

I have been happy at BDIC and am honored to have been a part of this fine program. I hope that I have made some difference in the writing lives of a decade of the program’s students.

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**BDIC’S GRADUATION PARTY**

BDIC will be hosting a graduation party for all of BDIC’s graduates and their families. The party will be on Sunday, May 28, 2001 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in 604 Goodell. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will join us on this special day.