Aram Bedrosian, a BDIC senior, works as a Commonwealth Honors College Orientation Supervisor. Aram’s BDIC concentration of “Health Care: From the Cell to the Community” allows him to analyze the fierce battle between the human race and disease. Aram combines biology, microbiology, public health, and psychology to study both the physiological aspects of diseases and how these diseases affect us as a community. As with many BDIC majors Aram is passionate about what he studies.

While completing a psychology major on the neuroscience track, Aram says he is drawn to BDIC by the opportunity to follow his interests even further. He now sees the program as one of the best opportunities of his life, a networking and learning experience that contributes immensely to his UMass (continued on following page)

When Jed Winer (Animal and Environmental Journalism) wrote his BDIC proposal two years ago he said, “As the African prophecy states, ‘Until lions have their own historians, tales of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.’ I want to be a journalist for the lions.”

Since that time Jed has taken a series of classes at UMass and the other four colleges in animal science, journalism, and legal studies, as well as going on exchange at the University of Montana and an internship at National Geographic. Currently Jed is interning at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia, an experience that is partly funded by BDIC alumni donations. He is working on a farm, Eland’s Joy, that includes a state-of-the-art research and education center. The site also houses rescued and wild cheetahs. While there, Jed is working on a documentary film for his honors capstone project. The film will tell the story of the Cheetah Conservation Fund and local cheetah conservation efforts. Jed is well on his way to fulfilling his dreams as a writer and photographer for a major wildlife publication. He will graduate this fall upon completion of his capstone.

JOURNALIST FOR LIONS

TWO COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO CHOSE BDIC
TWO COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO CHOSE BDIC

Amherst experience. Aram is currently completing an application for a Fulbright scholarship. He is hoping to study on the Fulbright in Armenia, the country of his ancestral roots.

KURT SCHULTZ IS ENROLLED in the BDIC proposal class this fall to develop a second major that he will call “Cross-Section of Science and Spirituality.” As he completes the requirements for the biochemistry major, Kurt decided to build on that foundation to study neuroscience and consciousness. In his application to the BDIC proposal writing class, Kurt wrote, “I want to study consciousness. But I do not want to look at it through only one lens. I want to pull in knowledge from several different departments: neuroscience, religion, philosophy, etc. Insight gained from exploring the conscious mind can be applied to any field since the internal world is a commonality among all humans regardless of profession.”

Michael Sugerman began in September as the new BDIC director. Michael is a lecturer in the Anthropology department specializing in the archaeology of the Middle East. He has also taught in the departments of Classics and Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at UMass, and in each of the other schools in the Five Colleges. He has a highly interdisciplinary background with degrees in both religious studies and anthropology.

Michael is looking forward to bringing his interdisciplinary experience to BDIC. He plans to build on our recent successes, and to develop fresh ideas for future BDIC initiatives. The BDIC faculty and staff are looking forward to working with Michael. We know he will usher in even more of the positive change in BDIC that we have seen in the past few years.

Welcome Michael!

New Courses in BDIC

BDIC is offering a new class this fall just for freshmen. The course, BDIC 197A, How to Design Your Own Major, was created in response to a demand from incoming students who attended the new student information meetings. The class will give freshmen a perspective on how to design a major and what possibilities are available to them other than the traditional majors at the university.

We have hired Susan Ware to teach the class. Susan has a PhD in theology, and has been on the faculty of Yale University, Springfield College, and the Commonwealth Honors College. Her diverse and impressive background includes being the co-founder of a socially responsible investment firm. Susan brings a great set of experiences to BDIC and we look forward to working with her on this and future projects.

The BDIC Innovation and Integration class, formerly BDIC 397C, will again be offered both semesters this year. The class, partially funded by a generous donation from BDIC alumnus Peter F. DiGiammarino was approved to meet the university’s new “Integrative Experience” requirement. The class is designed for juniors and seniors to give them an opportunity to evaluate and unify their college educational experience. Gary Bernhard, retired University Without Walls director and faculty member, will continue to teach the class.
Generous alumni donations made it possible this year to fund a record number of research and travel scholarships for deserving students. Eighteen awards were given to BDIC students to fund summer projects in addition to others during the course of the year.

Aviv Celine (Civic Engagement, Service Learning and International Justice) used her scholarship to help fund her summer abroad in the Netherlands. Through the Brandeis study abroad program “Brandeis at the Hague” Aviv was able to study the international justice system in one of the primary centers of international law.

Lindsay Deschenes’s (Ancient Culture and Archeology) scholarship helped fund a six week session in Belize where she participated in the archaeological excavations of the Mayan Research Program. She was able to engage in active fieldwork and further her knowledge of Mayan ceramics. Lindsay will use the information gathered over the summer to write her senior Honors thesis in the fall. Lindsay hopes, after graduation, to study archeology at the graduate level.

Lily Strassberg (Animal Behavior and Pre-Veterinary Science) used her scholarship to help with the costs of living in North Carolina while she was an intern in the Duke University Canine Cognition Lab. Lily was stationed in Pinehurst, NC doing field research at a K-2 Canine Research Facility. Her work involved testing bomb detection dogs just before military deployment with the goal of choosing appropriate temperaments of dogs for going into military service versus therapy work.

Tosca Drum’s BDIC concentration is “Global Awareness Through Media.” Her BDIC award helped fund a study of media influence and culture in South America. This included a four-week intensive Spanish program at the Via Principal School in Montanita, Ecuador, as well as a series of volunteer experiences in South America with the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms organization (WWOOF). To complete the project, Tosca will write a research paper on her experiences.
BDIC Annual Report 2010-2012

We would like to recognize and thank our donors who contributed to the program during the past three fiscal years. We apologize if we have missed anyone. Your donations are very important to us. Please let us know if we inadvertently missed your name.
Daniel Gabel, 2012, A Study of Jazz History

Dan began a graduate program in Jazz Trombone Performance at New England Conservatory of Music this fall. Dan was awarded a full scholarship. While still an undergraduate, Dan founded a big band group called the Abletones and went on a world performance tour with the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He has recently been elected President and CEO of the American Big Band Preservation Society, Inc.
NIKKI TISHLER, 2011, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Nikki was accepted into every graduate school to which she applied, including the public policy program at Brown University. Nikki chose to attend the Heller School at Brandeis where she began a joint Master’s of Public Policy in Social Policy/ Master’s in Women and Gender Studies this fall.

Julie Tratnyek
Charles Vatalaro
Patricia & Joseph Welch
Gwen Whelan
Marc & Jeanne Whipple
Patricia White
Jeffrey & Tobi Whitney
Barbara Wicks
Hannah Wolff
Susan Woskie
Victor Yepez
Deidra Zarrella

Margaret Chase
John & Evelth Cowles
Thomas Creavin
Ellie Daniels
Patrick Davis
Ronald Davis
Frederick Dickson
Gail & Laurence Dolan
Craig Donnelly
Elizabeth Dunn
Catherine Darkin
Robert Earnest
Wendy Ekind
Bernadette Ferguson
Marsha Ferrante
Jeanne Fidler
Rike Franklin
Charlene Galarneau
Laura Gewurz & Gil Danieli
Susan Goncarovs
Andrew Gordon
Alisa Greco
Stephen & Elizabeth Greeley
John Green, Jr.
Hope & Louis Grenzer
Sam Hahn
Robin Harmatz
Katherine Hawes
Caitlin Hirschman
Matthew Hirshberg
Robbin Hutchins
Jesse Jacobs
Amy Jacobson
Susan Kane
Allison Kaplan
Aditi Kapur
Marla & Richard Killough

FY 2012

BethAnn Albro-Fisher
Ronald Alexander
Teri Anderson
Alik Apelian
Nicholas Apostola
Peter Arnow
Sabina Aurilio
Babson Capital
David Bear
Susan Gordon Bell
Richard Benchley
Marilyn Berman
Mitchel Bernstein
Elizabeth Bishop
James Blhar
Elizabeth Brown
Linda Brown
Matthew Burns
Eleanor Burt
Gary Callahan
Annie Tiberio Cameron
Michael Cappucci
Danielle Centri

Raybacki
Shawn Ryder
Linda Sambel
Jeannie Scheinin
Stephen Schipani
Paul Schleuse
Penny Schwartz
Elizabeth Sedlak
Kathryn Simpson
Jodi Sleeper-Triplett
William & Karen Sprague
Jackie & Neil Stigliao
Linda & John Sullivan
Susan Sullivan
Marcia & Richard Tessier
Robert Thayer
Meri & Bill Thomason
Arlon Tibbetts
Ilana Toeplitz

Daniel & Marilyn Nugent
Robert Nylander
Lori & Jeffrey Oura
Barbara Pagliarani
Lynda Pandolfo
Maryvn Petrucci
Eydie Pines
Jordan Pinsky
Ellen & Francesco Poles
Caroline Pooler
Sandra Power
Naomi Prendergast
Skye Przystas
Malcolm Quint
Nessa Richman
Diane Brooks Ring
Sean Robbins
Gary Roth
Anne Ryan

Lawrence

Margaret Chase
John & Evelth Cowles
Thomas Creavin
Ellie Daniels
Patrick Davis
Ronald Davis
Frederick Dickson
Gail & Laurence Dolan
Craig Donnelly
Elizabeth Dunn
Catherine Darkin
Robert Earnest
Wendy Ekind
Bernadette Ferguson
Marsha Ferrante
Jeanne Fidler
Rike Franklin
Charlene Galarneau
Laura Gewurz & Gil Danieli
Susan Goncarovs
Andrew Gordon
Alisa Greco
Stephen & Elizabeth Greeley
John Green, Jr.
Hope & Louis Grenzer
Sam Hahn
Robin Harmatz
Katherine Hawes
Caitlin Hirschman
Matthew Hirshberg
Robbin Hutchins
Jesse Jacobs
Amy Jacobson
Susan Kane
Allison Kaplan
Aditi Kapur
Marla & Richard Killough
DAVID BRUMEL, 2010, ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND LAW

David was recently accepted to the NYU graduate program for Sports Business. David said that his goal is to “continue to succeed in the sports rights television distribution field and to be a pioneer in the digital multi-platform distribution age.” David credits the BDIC major as helping propel him forward in his career. David says in a recent email, “The program has elevated my career in a variety of ways, but above all, I find myself continually pushing to be the best I can. The trait is priceless.”

SEAN TOLAND, 2012, INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Sean joined the Ph.D. program in German at Princeton University. Only a few highly motivated students each year are admitted to the department, which is one of the leading German programs in the country. Sean was awarded a full scholarship for the program.
Please Consider Giving to BDIC

In today’s economy, your donation is more important than ever. Your donation will help to support student research projects and travel opportunities, career advising forums with alumni, senior celebrations, and of course this newsletter. Please consider investing in our students and their future goals.

You can donate online at: https://www.umass.edu/development/give/?a=17. If paying by check, please make check payable to the UMass Amherst with BDIC specified in the memo line of the check and mail to:

Linda Roney
BDIC, 607 Goodell
140 Hicks Way
University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA 01003

Alumni, please tell us what you’re doing so that we can share it with the rest of the BDIC community. Just go to the BDIC website (bdic.umass.edu) and roll over the “Alumni” tab on the right. There you can select “Send an Alumni Update” and type away! The current majors love to hear stories from “the other side” so take a moment and let us know.