

THiNK

MAGAZINE

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Page 3: New program is elevating educational experience in the College of Liberal Arts. (By Brooklyn Gingerich, BG Photography.) **Page 7:** Student searches for internship and job opportunities at new Liberal Arts Career Center. (By Trevor Mahlmann.) **Page 10:** Alumni award winner Colleen Dibble, (BA 2009, Sociology), speaks with guests. (By Ashley Read.)



ON THE COVER. Purdue Contemporary Dance Company Spring Dance Works' performances are presented by the Division of Dance, an academic unit in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts. Pieces choreographed by dance faculty, students, and guest artists are selected for the mainstage concert. Photo by Mark Simons.



Innovating Undergraduate Education

With enrollment declines at many universities and the value of liberal arts in question, a program in the College of Liberal Arts incentivizes faculty to submit ideas for bold, new courses and programs to enhance its educational offerings.

“Early in my tenure at Purdue, I called upon faculty to elevate the reputation and impact of our college and to redefine the liberal arts for the 21st century. Through the Innovate program, we have seen just that,” says David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “With new majors, minors, and certificates, our faculty have risen to the challenges facing the liberal arts across the country and have developed programs that will help our students move toward their personal and professional goals.”

The two-year-old Innovate program has produced a new major in Global Studies, a minor in Human Rights, and certificate programs in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Medical Humanities, which complement existing certificate programs in Theater Lighting, Public Policy, and Acting; Communication through Performance as well as the new Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts.

An expanded view of the world

For Tithi Bhattacharya there was never a question of whether or not Purdue should have a **Global Studies** major. After all, the West Lafayette campus boasts one of the largest populations of international students and faculty among U.S. colleges.

When the Innovate funding became available, she saw the opportunity to develop the Global Studies major through a liberal arts framework.

“My starting point was that the College of Liberal Arts has something unique to offer to our globalized experience,” says Bhattacharya, director of Global Studies and an associate professor of history.

She points to a four decades-old example of the Voyager spacecraft mission that carried artifacts of human achievement on board when it launched.

“These tokens of our collective human experience were not limited to examples of technology and scientific excellence alone, but included pieces by Bach and North Indian classical music,” Bhattacharya says. “My vision for this major is to similarly illuminate CLA’s particular, and vital, contribution to global knowledge and experience that complements Purdue’s existing strength in the STEM fields.”

Global Studies majors will be prepared to pursue careers in international development and diplomacy, humanitarian work, journalism, teaching, social work, public service and much more. Bhattacharya is happy to cultivate the relationships built with other universities, including programs in India, Egypt, and the United Kingdom where students will be participating in study abroad programs. She is visiting Delhi this summer with one of her Global Studies students who is exploring internship opportunities with two social justice groups working with street children there. The first freshmen recruited as Global Studies majors enrolled in fall 2016.

“An exposure to our world—in all its complexities, flaws and inspirational moments—can only benefit our students,” Bhattacharya says. “In Global Studies, we want to recruit students who not only think outside the box, but are ready to rebuild the box if need be.”

The **Human Rights** minor was championed by Rebekah Klein-Pejsova, Christopher Yeomans, and Anne Marie Claire as a way to empower Purdue students to do more with their studies.

“Like everything else worth thinking about, human rights are really hard,” says Yeomans, incoming department head and professor of philosophy. “The interdisciplinary nature of the program means that students interested in human rights will learn about the topic from a variety of perspectives.”

The new minor maximizes the research and teaching already in progress across the College of Liberal Arts and Purdue as a whole, says Klein-Pejsova, director of Purdue's Human Rights Program and associate professor of history and Jewish studies.

Preparing Leaders

"The Human Rights minor helps students connect to other people, places, and times," she says. "Students cultivate a deeper understanding of a human rights narrative that belongs to the world, its politics and ideas, and our own humanity. In doing so, it promotes and redefines the impact of a liberal arts education."

Yeomans is thrilled with response to the program so far (almost 30 students have registered as minors in the first two semesters), and he sees the program uniting faculty working across campus on human rights. Students who earn the minor will have an advantage as they pursue careers in politics, law, government, economics, and a variety of other fields – including the academic study of human rights.

"A background in Human Rights Studies will significantly help them get that National Science Foundation grant, break into a career in international, agricultural, and sustainable development, get that internship, be accepted into the graduate school or the law school of their choice," Klein-Pejsova says. "The Human Rights minor—and the Human Rights Program overall—promotes and redefines the meaning of a land grant university in the globalized world."

Even though Purdue faculty offer a wealth of courses that touch on key issues of health in the humanities, there was no undergraduate focus for students studying the role of health and medicine in society.

Wendy Kline saw this gap and applied for Innovate funding to launch the **Medical Humanities** certificate in fall of 2016. It provides students with an understanding of how human experience, medical practice, and scientific technology intersect, especially through societal and cultural contexts.

"In our world, where advances in science and technology often outpace our ability to understand and cope with new concepts and situations, the need for deep grounding in medical humanities is particularly acute for new graduates," says Kline, the Dema G. Seelye Chair in the History of Medicine in the Department of History.

Kline visited peer institutions, including New York University, Columbia, Boston College, Yale, and the University of Cincinnati, to learn best-practices for the program. The certificate can benefit students in any discipline related to health, medicine, social sciences and liberal arts, she says.

"Purdue graduates who go on to take leading roles in the fields of medicine, engineering, science, and public policy should demonstrate an understanding of and an appreciation for the cultural and historic dimensions of their disciplines," she says. "This is particularly true when it comes to disease, medicine, and health."

CORNERSTONE INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS

Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts, another new 15-credit certificate program, offers a coherent program for students from all Purdue majors to fulfill many of their general education requirements as part of the core curriculum.

"I am very excited about the opportunity Cornerstone offers to enhance the educational experience of all Purdue students," says David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts. "The liberal arts can be a defining feature of what sets apart Purdue STEM graduates and reinforces the centrality of the liberal arts to a comprehensive university education. In this way, Cornerstone will be an important component of the Purdue experience."

Through the lens of the humanities and social sciences, the Cornerstone program will introduce students to transformative texts that have influenced our understanding of the modern world and will prepare students to communicate more effectively. The program will instill a deep understanding of the dynamic human relationships and the global, social, and cultural dimensions that impact the worlds of engineering, technology, science, medicine, business, and public policy.

By completing the Cornerstone certificate, students will be better positioned to respond to the changing demands of the world and marketplace to rise to the top of their fields as innovative and transformative leaders. Cornerstone will enhance a Purdue education that pushes all students intellectually and challenges them to be independent thinkers who drive decision making as bold, visionary leaders and engaged members of society.

Environmental and Sustainability Studies was developed by English professor Robert Marzec and political science professor Leigh Raymond, director of the Center for the Environment.

The pair hopes the program will bring a big picture view to students who will eventually need to understand and be able to communicate with people from other academic backgrounds. The 15-hour certificate brings together courses and faculty from across campus, including the colleges of Engineering, Agriculture, and Liberal Arts.

“The discourse about sustainability needs to be expanded so more of an audience can be built around real, diverse conversations about the environment,” Marzec says. “A farmer from one country is going to have a different perspective than one from another country and from the public that wonders: ‘Why do I even care about soil erosion?’”

The certificate would not have been possible without Innovate funding, both professors say, and students are thrilled with the offering so far. Several students are participating in classes that are a part of the interdisciplinary program and a lot of interest is bubbling up for the fall courses.

“There’s a lot of excitement from the students in getting to see very different frameworks,” Marzec says.

“The world is really facing some fairly unprecedented, connected, and interlinked sustainability challenges—the use of fossil fuels, climate change, and other new and complicated threats,” Raymond says. “No one discipline can solve these problems. But there are people who can work together to solve these problems.”

By Dorothy Wallheimer.



Photo by Karsten Würth.



Career Partnerships

A 2016 study by *Fast Company* reports employers bemoan a lack of communication, leadership, and teamwork skills among new graduates. The new Liberal Arts Career Center will work to educate employers about the skills of liberal arts graduates and to help students better transition from Purdue into meaningful careers.

“Liberal arts students develop these skills, but too often, employers do not look to our majors first as part of their hiring pipeline,” says David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts. “By helping our students gain practical experience alongside their classroom studies, we will create a new reality in which employers seek out our graduates as exceptional examples of how applied liberal arts can enhance the workplace.”

Launched as part of the College’s annual Love Liberal Arts week in February, more than 350 students visited the career center to learn about the opportunities available for them. Among these is a partnership with Parker Dewey, a Chicago-based firm that seeks out companies that need help with smaller jobs more suited to an intern or entry-level employee. Purdue students can peruse those listings and apply for micro-internships for which their skills are applicable.

During Love Liberal Arts week, students connected with alumna Lalita Amos (BA 1985) who spoke to SCLA300: LA Influentials. The class brings alumni to campus to discuss careers and mentor students.



GET INVOLVED:

Alumni and friends can play an important role in the success of the Liberal Arts Career Center. From informational interviews to internship opportunities, current students will benefit from the mentorship of members of the Purdue family. Email CLADean@purdue.edu to learn more about:

- Establishing internship opportunities for CLA students
- Posting a project on Parker Dewey and hiring a Purdue student
- Mentoring students in person or via our online mentor network
- Participating in Career Center programming
- Supporting the Job-Ready program to provide internship awards

“For companies, it’s a great way to get stuff done. They have too many tasks, too many assignments that are ending up on someone’s back burner,” said Jeffrey Moss, Parker Dewey founder and CEO. “For a student, it is intellectually stimulating, and it gives them some experience. Through these short-term projects, they get an opportunity to try things out.”

Michael Turinetti, a senior in political science and sociology, landed a gig through Parker Dewey doing market research. He did well enough to land more market research jobs. And while he’s not considering a change in career paths from his passion for international relations, he has added to his own versatility.

“Market research is a valuable skill, and it’s transferable,” Turinetti said.

Turinetti said he enjoys being able to look for jobs when his schedule allows, and he can improve his value to potential employers when he graduates.

“When you’re looking for work experience that is going to launch your career, you usually have few options, and they often pay nothing or you have to be the best of the best,” Turinetti said. “This gives you a chance to try something new, build new skills, and exposes you to things you might not otherwise think of.”

Moss adds that what students pick up on the job can give them insights to what employers are looking for and how they might build particular skills in their classes.

“They’re able to demonstrate their skills, align what they’re learning in the classroom to the real world, and then take it back to the classroom,” Moss said.

Another partnership will link Purdue Liberal Arts students with Indiana businesses that have a need for a wide range of skills in

their employees. Ascend Indiana, part of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, will build relationships with students and work with partner businesses to make purposeful introductions.

“The reason Purdue Liberal Arts students are important is because they come in with those core fundamental skills — they love to learn, and our companies love to teach them,” said Sally Reasoner, vice president of talent identification at Ascend Indiana. “Liberal arts students have those core communication skills, they think creatively, and they learn those core skills in their studies.”

Ascend Indiana will act as a sort of advocate for students, figuring out the value they might have for a company and using developed relationships with hiring managers to make connections. Reasoner said the next several months will be dedicated to working to get to know students personally and then integrating them into the business network.

“We get them that foot in the door,” Reasoner said.

That’s important because many of the companies Ascend Indiana works with likely already have a relationship with Purdue, but they tend to focus students narrowly in particular engineering fields, for example. Liberal arts students might be great fits, in marketing, communication, sales, government relations, and more. But many employers don’t look to Purdue for those roles.

“They’re not bringing the recruiting team that’s associated with those skills,” Jen Shirley, director of recruitment and career advancement in the college said. “We want them to get involved. There is an opportunity for them to come back to interact with our students.”

By Brian Wallheimer. Photos by Trevor Mahlmann.

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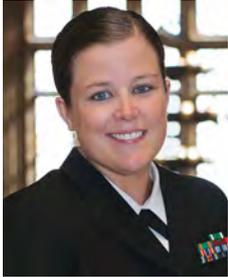
EMERGING VOICES AND INSPIRED LEADERSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Photos, top to bottom and left to right: Josh Miles thanks his mentors and family as he receives his award; The Emerging Voice Awards on display; Colleen Dibble hugs a guest at the ceremony; Tiffini Grimes greets guests at the ceremony; Josh Miles speaks with Ralph Webb, professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and other guests; David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, commends the award recipients.

Visit www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards for more information about the 2017 Emerging Voice Award winners. Photos by Ashley Read.

EMERGING VOICES AND INSPIRED LEADERSHIP

The College of Liberal Arts annually recognizes young alumni with the Emerging Voice Award. The award celebrates alumni who have gone above and beyond in their career fields and communities. By THINK staff. Photos by Ashley Read.



COLLEEN DIBBLE

BA 2009, Department of Sociology; MA 2015, Administrative Leadership, University of Oklahoma

Legalman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Navy Newport, RI

"As a Purdue student, I had the opportunity to learn from a diverse population of students. I took part in creative discussions, furthering the development of my ability to think critically." Like many liberal arts students, Colleen Dibble learned multidisciplinary skills that have carried over into her career.

Dibble was born and raised in New Jersey. Her first assignment after graduating in 2009 was in Japan, where she served as patrol officer and watch commander. Her next assignment was at Naval Support Activity Bethesda, MD where she served as a law enforcement officer. She also worked as a Physical Security Specialist within the Antiterrorism Division. In May of 2015, Dibble received her Master's Degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma.

In 2015, Dibble was recognized with the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, for her selfless volunteer work with Toys for Tots, McGruff program, Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation and youth sports.

She is a student at the Navel Justice school in Newport, Rhode Island. She is an avid sports fan, particularly Purdue Football and the New York Giants.



TIFFINI N. GRIMES

BA 2005, Department of Political Science; JD 2009, Valparaiso University

Assistant Director of Enforcement – Football Development Group, National Collegiate Athletic Association Indianapolis, IN

As an Assistant Director within the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Enforcement Football Development Group, Tiffini Grimes identifies current trends and cultivates information regarding issues pertaining to the game of football. Grimes is also responsible for developing relationships and serving as a resource to collegiate and professional constituents of the game.

Alongside personal friendships, she credits her Purdue professors for "filling me with the confidence to think broadly and lead boldly." Serving as Boiler Gold Rush Team Leader, Grimes was deeply connected in the Purdue community. She offers this advice to her college-aged self: "Go out into the world with the confidence of a Boilermaker along with the love and support of your family and achieve, achieve, achieve!"

Prior to joining the NCAA, Grimes was employed in athletics compliance at The Pennsylvania State University and Georgia Institute of Technology, where she worked specifically with football in the areas of recruiting, amateurism, agents, and waivers of NCAA legislation.

A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Grimes is actively engaged in philanthropy as a board member of Uplifting Athletes and through the Bella Mente Foundation. Shortly after being recognized, Tiffini began a new job as Assistant Athletic Director for football and basketball at the University of Alabama.



JOSH MILES

BA 1999, Brian Lamb School of Communication

Principal, MilesHerndon Indianapolis, IN

A self-proclaimed caffeine and Twitter addict, Josh Miles leads brand strategy and business development for the branding agency he co-founded, MilesHerndon. Miles was greatly inspired by his freshman-year Visual Communication Design professor, who reminded him that his Purdue experience would be what he chose to make of it. "Your path here is just the beginning," he notes, "and it's up to us to choose how that will shape where we will go from here."

Miles speaks from coast to coast on branding, digital marketing, and social media, and is a past TEDx presenter. Josh also hosts a podcast, Obsessed With Design. Josh is the author of Bold Brand and was honored as 40 Under 40 by *Indianapolis Business Journal*, Delta Sigma Phi, and ENR Midwest's 2015 Top 20 Under 40.

Miles is an advisory board member of the Brian Lamb School of Communication, and an associate board member of the Indiana Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He is involved in several start-ups in Indianapolis, where he resides with his wife and two children.



THINK BROADLY. LEAD BOLDLY.

At the Intersection of Liberal Arts + STEM

On November 30, 2016, Vint Cerf, chief internet evangelist at Google, and Bruce Cole, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities led a conversation about the implications and opportunities of technology and the humanities as part of the College's At the Intersection of Liberal Arts + STEM series. The two offered a uniquely informed perspective on what it means to bring together the humanities and technology and the important practical implications that can shape our thinking about the broad term 'digital humanities.' Cerf and Cole also discussed the challenges and opportunities to reconsider areas of study which have traditionally focused on language and the written word. Positioned at the intersection of liberal arts and STEM, the College of Liberal Arts leverages Purdue's STEM strengths to propel our graduates toward new advances in our disciplines and enhances the university's renowned STEM education by pushing all Purdue students intellectually and challenging them to be independent thinkers who drive decision making as bold, visionary leaders.

What is Intersection?

At the Intersection of Liberal Arts + STEM is a series of events to highlight how liberal arts and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are enriched and have greater capacity for meaningful change when the disciplines intersect. Photo by Trevor Mahlmann.

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