

# BDIC

*Bachelor's  
Degree with  
Individual  
Concentration*

Spring Newsletter 2001

## 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  
Moirra 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 Tocchi  
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

## Director's Corner (continued from page 1)



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 led 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.

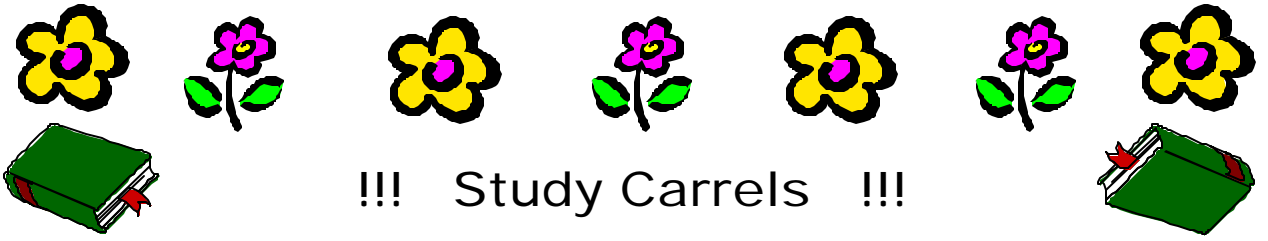
We are very optimistic about the future of the Program. It has an important role to play at the University and it is an effective academic preparation for people who do not fit into the structure of a discipline, that is, for those individuals who believe that knowledge is to be found at the intersection 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!



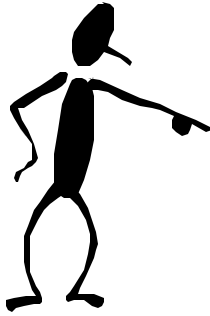
Are you interested in becoming a peer advisor? All **SIX** of our present peer advisors will be leaving in May so we will need to hire an entirely new staff. The usual commitment is five hours per week for pay or credit. We require a one year commitment. If you'd like a great job working





## !!! Study Carrels !!!

We have many study carrels in the library available for BDIC students for the Fall semester. If you are interested, please see Vickie at BDIC.



## BDIC PEER ADVISOR NEWS

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 though 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.

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BDIC  
University of Massachusetts  
608 Goodell  
Amherst, MA 01003

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Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

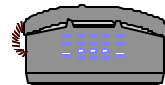


Spring 2001

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BDIC

## Fall, 2001 Pre-Registration



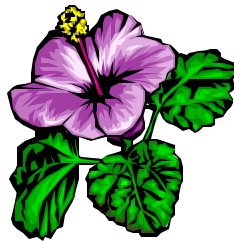
Fall 2001 telephone pre-registration extends between April 9 and 20. All BDIC students must pick up a RAC code by meeting with Linda Roney in order to pre-register. Students planning to graduate in May, 2001 and anyone who has been notified of a credit hold need to make a personal appointment with Linda. 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>

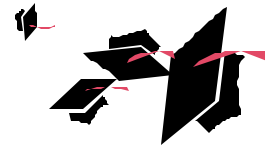
General program information can be found here and students can access and download most BDIC forms and handouts. Please be aware that this site is in the process of being updated by BDIC student Allan Hatta.

\* 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*

**Sidney Ma**

*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  
of the most difficult



three  
departments

# COURSE AVAILABILITY NEWS



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:

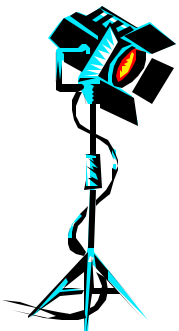
- Section 4 of Journalism 300, Newswriting and Reporting, and 335, Principles of Public Relations, have reserved places for BDIC students. Make sure you pre-register for them since BDIC spots will be given away if not filled up at that time.
- If you want a specific Journalism class that is designated "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.

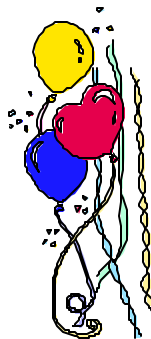
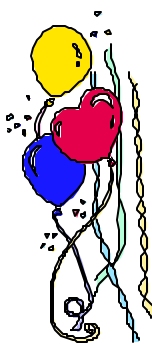
Academic disciplines, in both the humanities and the sciences, have become more interdisciplinary in the last ten years, and my own work is a testament to this trend. My dissertation, which looks at nineteenth-century American productions of six popular Shakespeare plays, draws upon the academic disciplines of history, theater, American studies, and English in creating something of a mid-nineteenth-century cultural history. BDIC

## Elaine Brousseau (continued from page 8)

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.



## 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.