

608 Goodell  
October 2004 BDIC Newsletter  
10/05/04

All articles were written by **Paula Aden**, a returning peer advisor, unless otherwise noted.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

This month we will get to know many of our peer advisors, as well as our four new front desk employees. Interviews by Erinn Ambs and Kate O'Connell.

#### PEER ADVISORS

**Hope Axelrod** is a senior BDIC major from Jacksonville, Florida. Concentrating her studies in "Psychology of Law," Hope is planning to attend law school next fall. Along with taking a full load of classes this semester, Hope has been quite involved in the UMass community. She has come back to the BDIC office for her second year of peer advising, works in the Financial Aid office, and spent the summer with The New Students Program.

Hailing from Pittsburgh, **Erinn Ambs** is a senior BDIC major with a concentration in "Human Development/ Guidance Counseling." She is starting her second semester as a peer advisor and also runs the new BDIC writing workshops (held every Thursday from 12:45-1:45 in the BDIC office). Additionally, Erinn waits tables at a local country club while attending school full-time.

**Mirela Conway** is a former receptionist turned peer advisor. She is one of only two students in the history of BDIC that have been appointed to peer advisor, without being a BDIC major herself. Currently, she is a sophomore majoring in Animal Science with aspirations to become a Veterinarian. After school here at UMass, she plans to go on to graduate school where she hopes to specialize in animal surgery or wildlife studies.

Outside of school, Mirela is involved in the Beltie Galloway Group. She receives hands-on experience dealing with livestock, especially Beltie cattle. In Mirela's own words, "It is a great learning experience. We learn the proper diet,

grooming, styling procedures, and overall care of the cattle." Recently the Group participated in a competition at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) where they won first, second, third and sixth place prizes.

**Junisa Grear** is a first time peer advisor. Currently, he is a senior "Computer Animation/Multimedia Production" major who also minors in Information Technology. After college, he will be working for United Technologies Corp. in an IT leadership program in Connecticut.

Junisa is a member of Capstone - a Christian fellowship where he takes part in different retreats, hikes, sporting events, and devotionals. He is also apart of an academic fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi, where he's involved in community services and social events. Junisa also enjoys basketball, flag football, playing video games, going to the gym, soccer, water tubing, bowling and Latin dancing.

Junisa has an intense passion for food, apple crisp being one of his favorites. He enjoys traveling to the south to visit family and hopes to tour Europe soon. Junisa is currently a BDIC major and when asked about his experience with the program he says that "They are great with a genuine interest in everyone's endeavors. The office truly feels like a family environment. They gave me a chance to discover who I really am and provided a dynamic path to success."

**Franklin Onuoha** is another first time Peer Advisor. Currently, he is a double major, concentrating in "Entertainment Promotions Management," and Legal Studies.

In his spare time, Franklin runs, swims, and composes his own instrumental hip-hop beats. Franklin is also involved in the SCAEF (Students Cultural Arts and Enrichment Fund) where he reads grants and proposals for different RSO's on campus. At home in Boston, Franklin can be found with friends playing various sports or in the studio composing music.

After UMass, Franklin will be looking towards Law School where he plans to go into Entertainment Law. He plans to specialize in negotiating contracts for various artists in the entertainment industry.

## FRONT DESK

A new member of the BDIC team this year is **Julie Halpin**. Julie is a freshman Political Science major and will be working as a receptionist in the BDIC office. Her worst fears are spiders and mushrooms.

**Myngia Her**, another new addition to the receptionist team, is a junior Biology major. She plays intramural volleyball, and also works internationally to help children with disabilities.

Greetings from **Justin Eldridge-Otero**. I write to you as a one-time misguided senior, sparked by the flame of BDIC to seek a newborn direction in my academic life.

Where oh where would I be without the support of BDIC and its fantastic staff? I would probably be roaming the halls of Whitmore, staggering from one unending hall to another, looking for something that isn't even there. Can I ever get a straight answer from anyone on this campus? If I even knew **what** to ask, **who** would I ask? Suddenly, in the midst of the morning fog, I saw the light. It was BDIC and their staff of superheroes, armed and ready to lend a hand. With their seemingly endless flow of knowledge, they nurtured my goals and desires, helping to guide my poor lost soul. Now, it is crystal clear. I know where I've been and where I'm headed. The team even let me become an honorary affiliate on Friday mornings. What more could one ask from a department? So remember, when your academic roadmap is tossed a Martinez curveball, just stop by 608 Goodell and have a chat with a BDIC superstar.

-written by Justin Eldridge-Otero

**Kate O'Connell** is a new receptionist in the BDIC office. Currently, she is a freshman majoring in Pre-SOM. After college she hopes to work internationally as a retail buyer. Recently, she has spent time in Ireland, and plans to do a semester abroad in France. She also hopes to become fluent in French and Spanish by the time she's finished here at UMass. Kate says about her interest in language: "Learning languages and about the cultures where they originate has always interested me and will hopefully be useful when I'm pursuing a career."

In Kate's free time, she can be found with her friends. She is very interested in music & art, but especially in painting and fashion. She also loves animals and has two Golden Retrievers named Charlotte and Jackson, and two Cats named Sebastian and Toby.

**Jenn Aronson** is a former peer advisor turned receptionist. Jenn is a senior BDIC major concentrating in "Children's Television." She is also a double minor in Education and Psychology. While with BDIC, Jenn has completed two internships, one with Zoom, a children's television show on PBS, and the other with Lucky Duck Productions.

Besides working with children, Jenn loves to travel, and studied in Spain last summer. She also can be found playing softball, field hockey, going windsurfing and sailing. At the mention of shopping, her face lights up with excitement-outlet and mall shopping rank high among her favorite pastimes. Jenn also loves animals and hopes to have a pet monkey someday.

For her last semester here at UMass, she will be traveling to London for an internship. After UMass, she plans to get her master's degree in teaching and hopes to someday work in children's television. When asked about her time with BDIC, she says, "It's a hidden gem at UMass. The people are amazing and I will really miss them."

**Diana Barszcz** is a returning receptionist and peer advisor. Currently, she is a sophomore Forestry major. She is going through the BDIC proposal class so she can double major. Diana is a member of the ballroom dance team here at UMass. She is an avid lindy hopper, which is an original style of swing. She works with the UMass Entomology Lab studying insects. Diana is a chair at the Newman Student Association. She also TA's in the Forest Botany class. Diana's favorite phrase is "huzzah" which she explains is the medieval version of hurray. After graduation Diana hopes to work in a national park (as Smokey the Bear, teaching kids that only they can prevent forest fires).

### PROPOSAL WRITING CLASS

Another semester of proposal writing is nearly over. This year, seventy-seven students are enrolled in two sections of the class. The peer advisors and students have all been working hard, and many excellent ideas have been given the

chance to flourish through BDIC.

This semester, class visitors have included John Reiff from Community Service Learning, Sheila Brennan from Domestic Exchange and Five College Exchange, and all-time popular sponsor John Gerber from Plant and Soil Sciences.

As a reminder to currently enrolled students, the rough drafts are due on October 6 for the Wednesday class and October 12 for the Tuesday class. **All final drafts are due on November 9 in the BDIC office.** Feel free to stop by 608 Goodell at any time with questions on sponsors, class choices, and anything else that is troubling you -- or stop by just to say hello!

[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

The fall hours for supervisors are as follows:

**José Ornelas**  
***Education and Human Services***  
Monday 1:00 - 5:00  
Friday 9:00 - 1:00

**Henry Geddes Gonzalez**  
***Communications***  
Wednesday 12:15 - 2:15

**Gino Sorcinelli**  
***Business and Law***  
Monday 1:30 - 3:30

**Alex Deschamps**  
***Art and Cultural Studies***  
Wednesday 9:30 - 12:00

**Paula Stamps**  
***Natural Health and Computer Science***  
Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00

Our new Junior Year Writing Instructor, Andrea Bergstrom, will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30-1:00, and Coordinator Linda Roney is in the office Monday through Friday from 9-5.

## **Announcements:**

### SENIORS GRADUATING IN FEBRUARY

As a reminder to seniors thinking of winter graduation, now is the time to begin thinking about your Senior Summary and Abstract! This is your final requirement for graduation and is an analysis of your entire program.

The summary serves as a permanent record of what you have accomplished through BDIC, and reflects upon all the work you've done since writing that proposal so long ago. It is also a good way for future students to learn about any troubles you've had along the way, so that they can steer clear of similar pitfalls. This is your time to share with the department all the lessons you've learned along the way.

You'll also need a one-page abstract of your summary, which can serve as a succinct way of fully explaining your degree to future employers or graduate schools.

If you have any questions about the senior summary and abstract, call or stop by the office to schedule an appointment with your supervisor, a peer advisor, or Coordinator Linda Roney. **The Senior Summary and Abstract deadline for February graduation is November 15.**

### NEED HELP WITH BDIC ASSIGNMENTS?

For students currently enrolled in proposal writing, junior year writing, independent studies, or any other BDIC-related classes, help is now available with written assignments. Peer Advisor, Erinn Ambs, is available on Thursdays from 12:45 to 1:45 for Writing Sessions. In the Writing Sessions, Erinn will assist you with grammar, content, flow, or anything else that has been troubling you about your assignments.

If you can't make the Writing Sessions and need assistance, call the office at 545-2504 to set up a time to meet with any Peer Advisor. We are all here to help!

### ATTENTION KNITTERS!

The first meeting of the BDIC knitting group will be held this Thursday, October 7 from 11:30 to 12:30pm. Beginners are welcome to attend, even if you've never tried before! We are ready to teach you the basics of knitting or crocheting, and would love to have your company.

Bring your crocheting, knitting, embroidery, or whatever

else makes you happy, and join us for an hour of crafts in 608 Goodell!

### ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by the Environmental Institute, the Fall 2004 Environmental Lecture Series will continue in October. Dr. Paul Mohai, professor of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan, will be giving a talk on Environmental Justice and Hazardous Waste Sites.

At 4 pm on October 27 in 507 Goodell, just downstairs from the BDIC office. For more information, visit the Institute's website at <http://www.umass.edu/tei>.

### BDIC FASHIONS

Show your BDIC colors! T-shirts are now on sale in 608 Goodell. For only \$10, you too can be the proud owner of a light blue T-shirt with "BDIC" printed on the front upper left corner. On the back, the BDIC motto ("Stand Out in the Crowd") is written beneath a depiction of a flamingo, the BDIC mascot. There is a bright pink flamingo in the foreground, and several uncolored flamingos standing behind it.

T-shirts are currently available in medium and large, but small sizes will be coming soon. To purchase a T-shirt, speak to Office Manager, Davina Danian.

### EXPLORE THE UNITED STATES

Students interested in Domestic Exchange for Fall 2005 or Spring 2006, information sessions begin on October 27. The information sessions are held at 4:45 in 614 Goodell on Wednesdays and Thursdays when classes are in session. For more information, call 545-5351.

### DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Have you considered nominating your sponsor for the distinguished teaching award? Nominations are due to the Provost's Office on October 29 and must include your name, e-mail address, mailing address, and signature.

\*\*If you have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions [or to help out with the newsletter!], please contact [paden@student.umass.edu](mailto:paden@student.umass.edu) or [bdic@bdic.umass.edu](mailto:bdic@bdic.umass.edu).

# Happy Halloween

## COMING IN THE November NEWSLETTER

- ✚ News from BDIC alumni.
- ✚ Pre-registration information.

Stay Tuned!