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Convergence

A publication for students and alumni of DePaul University's MALS and IDS Programs
Autumn 2010

MALS/IDS Expands Its Profile at Home and Beyond

In October 2010, MALS/IDS is honored as Director David Gitomer, Ph.D. becomes the President of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs (AGLSP). This organization consists of over 100 US, Canadian, and UK Graduate Liberal Studies Programs. AGLSP brings together graduate liberal studies programs which respond to the passion for learning of part-time, adult learners. As the AGLSP website (www.aglsp.org) states, education for careers is indispensable in our society, but is often not enough to satisfy the passions of “great and generous minds.” Our AGLSP involvement increases our students’ educational and professional opportunities.

Last year’s AGLSP conference took place at Disney World, with the theme of “Imagination in the Age of Instant Information.” David Gitomer and Susan Jacobs presented

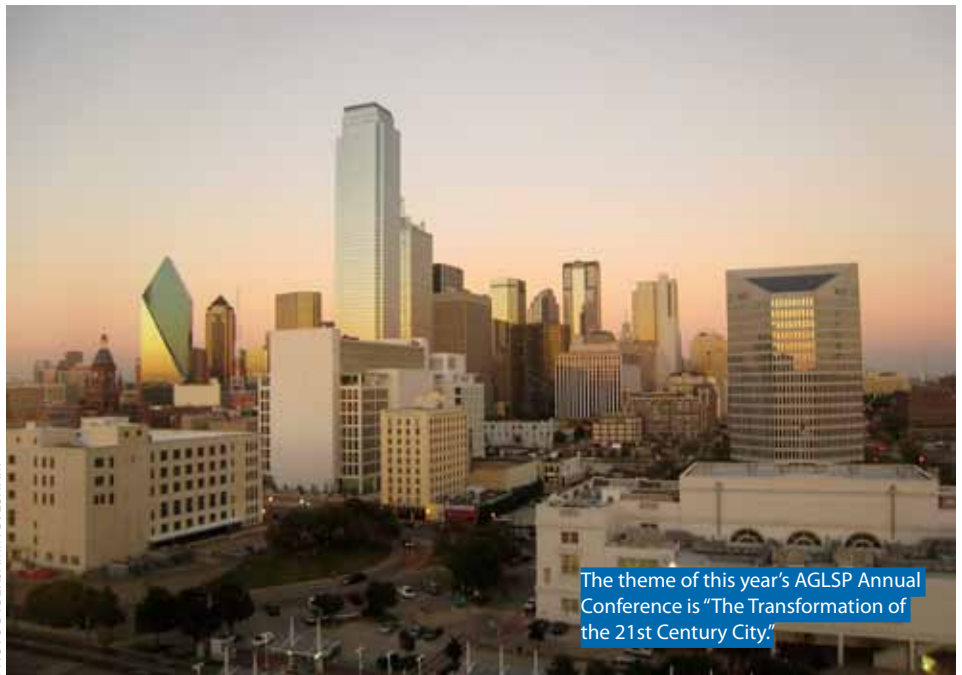


PHOTO BY BENJAMIN D. ESHAM

The theme of this year’s AGLSP Annual Conference is “The Transformation of the 21st Century City.”

the MALS/IDS e-portfolio model, which gave us an excellent platform to showcase our own students’ work and learn about “best of” portfolio practices from many member universities.

The upcoming Dallas conference theme is “The Transformation of the 21st Century City,” perfectly timed as we move closer to adding our new MALS “Cities” concentration.

Submit Your Work To The AGLSP

The Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs (AGLSP) sponsors a journal exclusively for individuals engaged in graduate liberal studies. *Confluence*, the journal of graduate liberal studies

programs, is an interdisciplinary journal devoted to the publication of scholarly and creative works by students, alumni, and faculty of graduate liberal studies (GLS) programs. It is published

semi-annually in the fall and spring.

Confluence invites students, alumni, and faculty of liberal studies programs to submit essays, research papers, short stories, poems,

and other creative works. For more information please visit the AGLSP website at www.aglsp.org.

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Director's Letter



What's most important in programs like our interdisciplinary graduate programs for working adults? It's student success, helping students who are highly motivated and who come from diverse backgrounds reach a level of academic accomplishment that merits the awarding of a master's degree. How do we achieve this? By offering support that meets our students' needs. This winter we offered a workshop on research skills. We covered a host of topics, from locating and evaluating online sources through the university library's journal database to assistance specifically tailored to the needs of graduate students from the University Center for Writing-based Learning. The event was such a success that we're going to be offering more.

Of course, I was there with my camera, and you can see photos on our new {Graduate Liberal Studies Life} blog "dense, joyous, modern..." Please check it out at <http://densejoyousmodern.wordpress.com>. And please subscribe to the blog, so you'll see the updates. The blog is a way for us to present the program in a more informal, updated, and friendly way than the official program website. We'll be seeking guest blog contributions from faculty, students, and alumni.

Electronic media can facilitate learning as well as communication. Of course, most of our students love the intense interaction of the classroom, and that will never go away. But there are groups of adult learners who would like to have some online options. We have heard from students who move from the area, who have jobs that require them to travel during the week, or whose ability to move around has suddenly been affected by preg-

nancy or other issues that such options would be welcome. During the past winter break, I participated in DOTS, the DePaul Online Teaching Series. In that intensive workshop, I learned about possibilities for creating online experiences that are intellectually challenging and interactive as well. So we're currently exploring the possibilities of delivering a few courses online within the next few years. Other graduate liberal studies programs have done so with great success.

Before we roll out the online course, we hope to have our new "Cities" concentration in place. The next step is for our Policy Committee to decide on the structure of the concentration, which will certainly rest on our current core course, MLS 404, The City.

Probably the biggest change in my professional life in a long time will occur this summer. This October in Dallas, I will become the President of the AGLSP. As the vice president of the organization I am working with current president, James Pappas, Ph.D. of Oklahoma University, and Ellen Levine, the administrative manager at our national office at Duke University, to bring myself up to speed on the chief issues facing the association. This is a great recognition from the association, not only for myself but for DePaul's leadership in the field of graduate liberal studies.

Finally, we hope you like the new refreshed look of Convergence. It's largely the work of our new Program Assistant Joe Andrukaitis and Student Assistant Jane Bohnsack. You'll see their contributions throughout our program publications.

Warm Regards,

David D. Gitomer

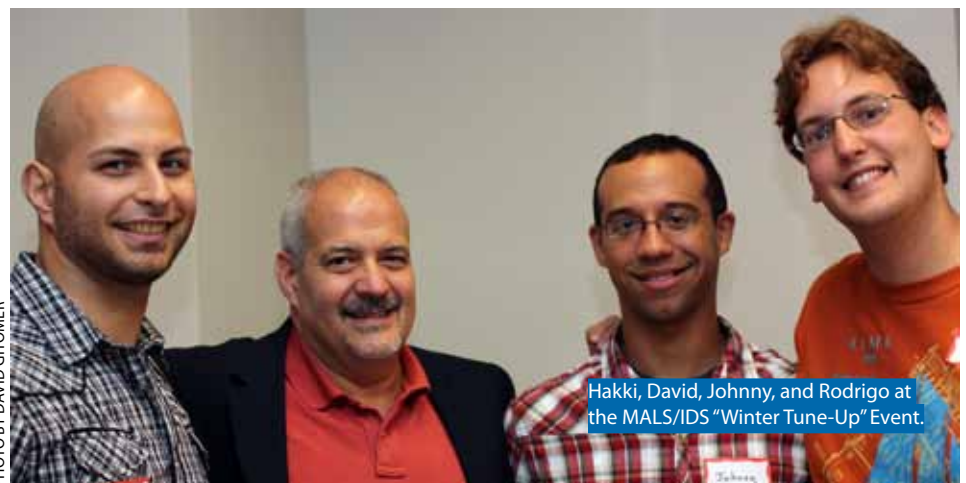


PHOTO BY DAVID GITOMER

Hakki, David, Johnny, and Rodrigo at the MALS/IDS "Winter Tune-Up" Event.

Convergence

*A publication for students and alumni
of DePaul University's MALS and IDS
programs*

Editor: Susan Jacobs
Design: Joe Andrukaitis
Research: Jane Bohnsack

“Specialized subjects coupled with both undergrad and grad students from many disciplines lead to very lively classes.”

▼ WGS 400 - FEMINIST THEORIES (CROSS-LISTED AS MLS 440)

Class 101-SEM(14759) Status ●

Session Regular

Class 14759 Units 4 Component SEM Section 101 Location

Nbr

Days & Times	Room	Instructor	Meeting Dates
Mo 6:00PM - 9:15PM	TBA	Ann Russo	09/08/2010 - 11/23/2010

▼ WGS 460 - GENDER AND SOCIETY (CROSS-LISTED AS MLS 447 & SOC 470)

Class 101-LEC(15720) Status ▲

Session Regular Combined Section

Class 15720 Units 4 Component LEC Section 101 Location LPC

Nbr

Days & Times	Room	Instructor	Meeting Dates
Th 6:00PM - 9:15PM	TBA	Shu-Ju Cheng	09/08/2010 - 11/23/2010

Cross-listed courses guarantee at least a few seats for students from different areas of study.

ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN JACOBS

What's a Cross-List?

Susan Jacobs, Associate Director

Having taught at DePaul for many years in several departments, I have been aware of cross-list courses and have taught them. This past year, I learned the complex process that leads to DePaul's rich offerings of cross-listed courses throughout the disciplines. Many students see these listings when they search for classes and aren't sure exactly what a listing like MLS 473/ENG 389 actually means. The titles tell all; cross-listing combines disciplines and guarantees at least a couple of seats to people from different areas of study. The results: a wider selection of diverse courses for our students, a varied enrollment, and entry to truly interdisciplinary courses that would not ordinarily be available outside a particular major.

Many new MALS/IDS students are not aware that they may register for courses with other departments, as long as they are at the appropriate level. We select courses to cross-list because of the instructor, the topic, and times that are easily attended by our adult students. Our students have such varied interests that they spread across a wide range of disciplines.

Of course, if the MLS slots (usually 2 or 3 per course) are filled, students are welcome to register under the original number, but we usually find that 2 or 3 slots are adequate for MALS and IDS students, who take courses in almost every area of the university. Before registration begins for the following quarter, we post our cross-list grid on Blackboard to help currently enrolled MALS/IDS students select their next courses.

MALS and IDS students tell us that they really value cross-listed courses because the blend of specialized subjects coupled with both undergrad and grad students from many disciplines leads to very lively classes. For instance, in Autumn Quarter 2010, Noah Isackson will teach ENG 490/MLS 449: Topics in Non-Fiction Writing/Writing for Magazines. While the course will be predominantly attended by English majors, the cross-list might appeal to students from the sciences, new media studies, or business. Professor Kelly Tzoumis will teach PPS 331/MLS 490, Special Topics: Environment and Justice. Last spring, Professor Mark Pohlrad taught HAA 397/MLS 481, Special Topics in Art History: Abraham Lincoln and

Visual Culture. Cross-listing basically offers our students access to courses that extend well beyond general or core requirements, bringing together students and faculty from multiple disciplines.

In the past, David Gitomer has tackled this regular task with apparent ease. As I learned the intricacies of viewing each quarter's schedule as it builds online, scanning courses that would appeal to MALS and IDS students, contacting each program to request seats, then inputting the approved request into DePaul's online schedule builder, something remarkable happened. I gained a renewed awareness of the hundreds of wonderful courses DePaul offers. I also learned more about what our advisees might search for in their self-constructed course selection. As I look forward to the next round of cross-list building for our highly individualized students, I find myself saying, "What a cool course! I wish I could take that..." We hope that's exactly what our students think as they navigate course selection each quarter.

MALS and IDS Program News

Certificate Program in Teaching English in Two-Year Colleges

For the past seven years, DePaul's Graduate Studies in English Program has prepared prospective educators with teaching skills in analytical reading and writing processes specifically tailored to two-year community college settings. While the Certificate Program is geared towards graduate students in English, MALS and IDS students can also participate. Completion of the program requires three classes and a teaching internship with an experienced community college professor.

Directed by Carolyn Goffman, Ph.D., the program has evolved into a unique and exciting opportunity for DePaul graduate students. MALS students who have completed their core concentration courses can use their elective options to satisfy the certificate requirements; IDS students can build the courses directly into their LOCs and combine other disciplines that would be particularly attractive to the community college setting. For more information about the Certificate Program, e-mail Carolyn Goffman at cgoffman@depaul.edu or call (773) 325-8688.



New MALS Core Course: MLS 409, Environment and Society

This year, MALS premiered MLS 409, Environment and Society, a new core course devoted to environmental issues across the disciplines. Randy Honold, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, taught the pilot class during Winter Quarter 2010. Randy explains his approach to the topic with enthusiasm and passion directly related to his philosophical and academic background. "I went to school for biology, but changed to philosophy because I wanted to discuss what life is." In his eyes, the discussion of environment and society is at the center of this philosophical question. "This is a relevant and hot topic. You can't escape the questions of society and technology with environment and vice versa ... when you get down to it, what isn't environment, society, or something of both?"

Randy Honold received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from DePaul, focusing on Nietzsche's discourses of forgetting. Drawing from his upbringing in rural Wisconsin, Honold sought to reconcile his philosophy background with an intellectual discussion of environmentalism and society. "It's our job to enter the discourse where and when we can, with our curiosity, concern and commitments lighting the way." The strong response to this course confirms that this important conversation will continue to evolve as an important part of MALS core concentration courses.

For further details and conversation about Randy Honold's course, go to the MALS/IDS blog at <http://densejoyousmodern.wordpress.com>.

Faculty You Should Know: Paula McQuade

As the Director of the Master of Arts in English program, Professor Paula McQuade understands the importance of interdisciplinary studies. Not only does she administer the M.A. in English program, she also teaches English and MALS courses. During the fall of 2009, she taught MLS 401, "Visions of the Self."

When asked how she felt about teaching this class, she said, "I like teaching it because I get to show how ideas and conceptions of the self have evolved in time." She sees MALS students as "engaged and inquisitive which brings an energetic openness to the classroom."

McQuade received her Ph.D. in Renaissance Literature from the University of Chicago. With an emphasis on gender and religion,

McQuade's literary study requires she understand theology, history and politics. "Renaissance study is interdisciplinary," says McQuade, "because you must understand gender, social, and local history as well as literature."

One of her major contributions to the literary world is the study of practical religion in popular theater. She recently presented a paper called, "Catechizing Caliban." She also published the works of an undiscovered seventeenth-century English writer, Dorothy Birtch. McQuade practices interdisciplinary scholarship everyday.

Professor McQuade can be reached via e-mail at pmcquade@depaul.edu or by contacting the English Graduate Department at (773) 325-4635.



Professor Paula McQuade brings history, theology, and politics into MLS 401, "Visions of the Self."

PHOTO BY PAULA MCQUADE



PHOTO BY THOMAS WOLF

New Study Abroad Program (SAP) Opportunities

DePaul's Study Abroad Program works closely with MALS/IDS and other graduate programs to create engaging international study opportunities geared towards working adults. The 2010-2011 academic calendar includes several programs customized for our students. For Winter Quarter 2011, SAP offers a program that takes advantage of academic breaks, very well suited to our working adult students. During the first 6 weeks of Winter Quarter, participants will take a 30 hour course, ENG 479, "20th Century Berlin: History, literature and Film" taught by Gerald Mulderig, Ph.D., professor of English, at Lincoln Park Campus. Students will then go to Berlin for a 9 day guided study tour that develops the course content. Undergrads will go on to Bonn, and grads will return home (or stay, if they choose) to work on a final course project.

MALS/IDS students have also enjoyed extended programs to China, Australia, Spain, and just about everywhere. To learn more about Study Abroad at DePaul, go to <http://studyabroad.depaul.edu>.

News In Brief

Kiel Moses (IDS '09), was recently accepted into Syracuse University's Ph.D. program. He plans to obtain his doctorate in Cultural Foundations of Education, with a concentration in Disability Studies.

For her final capstone project, **Christina Hardman (MALS '10)** created an educational website that provides resources for U.S. students, parents, and educators who plan to take part in study abroad programs.

Kellie Willis (MALS '10) completed her culminating thesis on the fraught reality of representations of feminine bodies, particularly representations of the black female body.

Elizabeth Cody (MALS '10), concentrated on twentieth-century German exile for her graduating thesis and created a nuanced analysis of Georg Grosz and Eugen Berthold Friedrich Brecht's creative works and the issues of nationalism, identity, and guilt found within them.

During his time in the program, **Jiale Zou (MALS '10)** found himself making huge personal and academic leaps in a manner indicative of a truly interdisciplinary program.



Christina considers her life "an educational journey."

Student Spotlight: Cristina Rodriguez, IDS

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Texas, Cristina Rodriguez wanted to continue her education and DePaul's IDS Program offered her the opportunity to create an academic plan that would serve her unique goals. Christina plans to be an event planner and program coordinator. By combining communications courses such as Organizational Communication and business courses such as Organizational Behavior, she is effectively gaining interdisciplinary experience to position herself competitively in her field.

Rodriguez enjoys IDS because the classes allow more individual attention, the advisors are accessible, and the program is flexible.

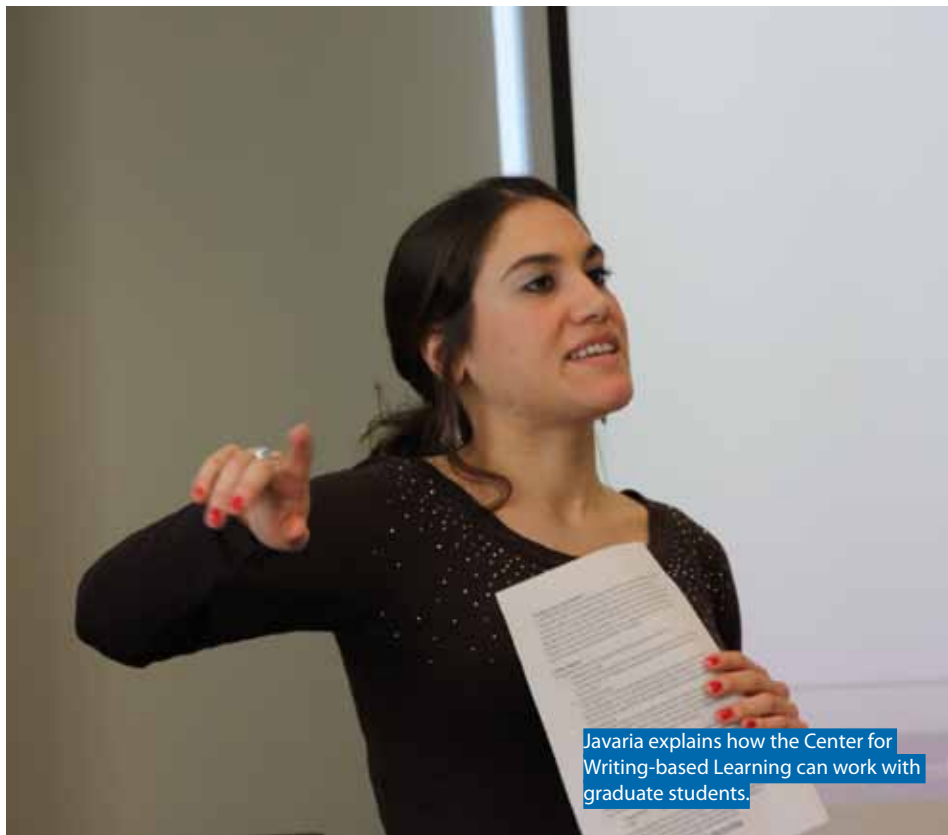
When asked if she had advice for new graduate students, she replied, "Set deadlines. Don't procrastinate. Pace yourself and stay informed about campus resources." She says, "Life is an educational journey. The more you learn, the more you grow as a person and community member." As a result of her clearly defined goals, Christina has landed her choice of internships to complete her studies. For Summer 2010, Christina is completing an internship with the City of Chicago's Office of Special Events, working on Navy Pier. The networking she has activated throughout her studies both within DePaul and through her internship contacts will add to whichever community Christina chooses to contribute.

“Winter Tune-Up” Brings Together Academic Resources, Students

This year we held our first annual “Winter Tune-Up.” On a wintry Saturday afternoon, DePaul resource people, students, and faculty gathered for lively conversation, updates on the latest library research tools, and encouragement from the University Writing Center staff. We learned about new databases and online bibliography tools while enjoying good conversation, food, and drink. Students prepared for the afternoon by completing an online library database exercise customized for our MALS/IDS students by DePaul’s reference librarian, Courtney Greene. Since our students take courses throughout the university, they welcomed the opportunity to get

together, share their experiences, and add to their research and writing toolkits. More of these events will follow. You can read about the event and other MALS/IDS explorations on our new blog at <http://densejoyousmodern.wordpress.com>. Check the site periodically for updates on our students, faculty, and upcoming events.

Javaria and Kate, two graduate students who work as writing center consultants, talked with our students about the online and in-person services offered by the Center for Writing-based Learning. Since they are very familiar with the demands of graduate level writing and research, their input was invaluable to our students.



Javaria explains how the Center for Writing-based Learning can work with graduate students.

PHOTO BY DAVID GITOMER



PHOTO BY DAVID GITOMER

Warren Davis Presents Thesis

During the 2009 MALS/IDS Autumn Welcome Celebration, MALS graduate Warren Davis presented his thesis entitled “The Personal Versus the Political: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Names Project Memorial AIDS Quilt in the 80s and Early 90s.” In it, Davis draws parallels between the two memorial projects.

Davis received his B.A. in Art and Theatre History from Arizona State University. Drawn in by the flexibility of DePaul’s MALS program, he graduated in 2009 with a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. Davis found that MALS offers a “unique perspective of self-reflection that synthesizes enriched education.” This new perspective helped him see art history beyond pure objects, as living, mimetic entities.

Before Davis’ current job at the Des Moines Art Center, he worked for the Art Institute of Chicago as the Director of Business and Civic Relations. The major duty for this job was finding funds for the museum, including grants, sponsorship, and corporate membership. In his words, he essentially lobbies “for a good cause.” Davis observed that “art study is interdisciplinary because the compartmentalization of art is false.” Working for an AIDS organization in Arizona led to his thesis topic, which successfully incorporates the disciplines of politics, personal expression, and the social function of public art.

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University Resources

Ask A Librarian!

Whether you are looking to narrow the scope of your research or need help finding a place to begin hunting for sources, Brian DeHart, a reference librarian at the Loop Campus library, is a great resource to utilize. While Brian can be found downtown, you can consult a DePaul librarian online at <http://library.depaul.edu> ("Ask A Librarian").

Need Writing Help?

If you're looking for writing resources, the University Center for Writing-Based-Learning is another wonderful tool. With two centers, in the Loop and in Lincoln Park, you can call and set up an appointment today. Reach the Writing Center at www.depaul.edu/writing or by phone at (773) 325-4272.

Career Advice

No matter where you are in your career search, whether it's deciding on a career path, making a career change, or preparing for your first job interview, DePaul's Career Center can help.

You can find the Career Center on the web at <http://careercenter.depaul.edu>, and you can also follow them on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/DePaulCareerCtr>.

Join Our LinkedIn Group

Stay connected with MALS/IDS classmates and alumni by joining our LinkedIn group at www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2961603.

Upcoming Events

Fall Job & Internship Fair

October 1, 2010
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lincoln Park Campus Student Center
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.
Register online at <http://careercenter.depaul.edu>

MALS/IDS Autumn Gathering

October 23, 2010
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
John T. Richardson Library
Rosati Room 300
2350 N. Kenmore Ave.

Communication, Marketing and Sales Job & Internship Fair

November 5, 2010
Loop Campus, DePaul Center
1 E. Jackson Blvd.
Register online at <http://careercenter.depaul.edu>