

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

News | Faculty | Student Stories

COMMENTS FROM JESSIE, ASC

I have noticed a theme in popular press books recently: how to be human in this digital, ever-quickly changing landscape. Whenever I see a new title on this subject I cannot help but think about how the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major continues to be designed for the times we are living in.

One example is Yuval Noah Harari's 2018 book *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*. This work comes on the heels of this Oxford educated professor's



incredibly popular *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. In *21 Lessons*, Harari's premise is that never before in the history of the world have we been bombarded with so much information. Information of all kinds. Enormous amounts of data collected about us to sell to us even more. Broad misinformation campaigns. Information to confuse and bewilder. And, how we need to be vigilant and inquisitive on how we maneuver through these multidimensional spaces. After some pretty depressing chapters including one titled "War: Never Underestimate Human Stupidity," Harari offers some hope, or in his word, Resilience. He argues that one of the main components to navigating this world today is education, but education of a different kind. Less memorization or collection of

information and more diversity and analysis. We have a lot of content to deal with daily. Instead of trying to cram our heads with more, "people need the ability to make sense of information, to tell the difference between what is important and what is unimportant, and above all to combine many bits of information into a broad picture of the world" (267). He sides with the experts studying pedagogy who now say our focus must be on the four Cs: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity more than precise technical trainings in particular areas that will be outdated in no time.

It is in the four Cs where Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts thrives. Our students choose the majority of the classes they want to try, work on blending multiple disciplines in LB 392, develop appreciative inquiry, and talk with students who have varying interests. With emerging technologies designed to alter your moods, influence emotions, distract you, and spread misinformation, Harari has this piece of advice: "work very hard at getting to know your operating system better—to know what you are and what you want from life" (274). Harari reminds us that there are still some things we know for sure. First, investing in your education provides powerful tools to develop meaning and purpose. Second, your number one job has always been timeless: to know thyself.

Jessie Stewart, PhD
Academic Success Coordinator

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major has had something of a transformational year. First off, we've expanded our twice-yearly newsletter into a more student focused and student produced publication that features stories and updates from all of you, from those of you who are just about to graduate, and from some of you after graduation. We have as well created a number of yearly internships for I-LA majors who want first-hand experience as editors, graphic designers, and publication design. In fact, if you're interested or you want to know more about these internships, talk with fellow I-LA majors Johnna Vasselli (spring 19 editor) or Sabrynne Buchholz, (our current editor). Johnna did a fantastic job for us last spring while Sabrynne has done a fabulous job with this newsletter. We've also initiated an Education Abroad scholarship program with 5 yearly \$1000 scholarships for those of you who are wanting to study abroad. But there is more too. This coming summer our first education abroad course in comparative legal studies is being offered. Here's your chance to visit Italy and learn about how the Italian legal system (and reality) differs from ours. Also, we are in the planning stages of a second I-LA education abroad course where you can spend time in the west of Ireland in the Connemara region (north of Galway), traipsing about the Irish countryside as you study the lost history of Irish name-places through a critical perspective called Narrative Mapping. Equally, this coming spring we shall be offering a second new course related to our Interdisciplinary Legal Studies minor: LB 360 Mock Trial. Here is your chance to study with Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Professor Robinson, herself a practicing lawyer, and learn what it is like to argue a case in front of your peers. Last summer, Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Professor Murillo led a research team of I-LA undergraduates in our first I-LA Undergraduate Research Academy focused on the recovery of literary works of Maria Cristina Mena (Chambers). Also, we are excited to announce that I-LA will be sponsoring our very own Alpha Iota Sigma Honor Society chapter, the national honors organization for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in interdisciplinary academic programs. And, finally, Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts was relocated and given a new space (and home) in the basement of the A-wing of Clark. In early September we held our first open-house event and our plan is to stage events periodically where I-LA majors and I-LS minors can meet and learn more about each other and what I-LA is really all about.



Meet Bodhi, our new Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts mascot!

In closing, I just want to wish all of you the best as we are now moving into the second half of the fall semester. It always feels right about now that it is a long haul to Thanksgiving week, but you'll get there. You always do.



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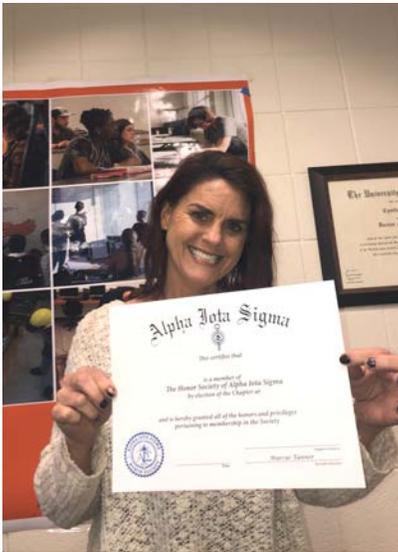


HEARING FROM I-LA FACULTY

Dr. Cindy Murillo
 Faculty, Interdisciplinary Studies Liberal Arts
 Internship Coordinator, Liberal Arts

I am proud to say that the Interdisciplinary Studies-Liberal Arts program has been accepted as a local chapter into the nationally recognized Alpha Iota Sigma Honors Society (AIS), headquartered out of Texas Tech University and joins several other select institutions such as Michigan State, University of South Florida, Baylor, and the University of Texas (Arlington), in recognizing the rigor of interdisciplinary studies and awarding its superior students. As faculty advisor for I-LA's new chapter here at CSU, I will be sending out invitations to those students who qualify (for details on qualifications and the nomination process, please go to the AIS Website at aishonors.org).

The mission of AIS is to recognize and advance the academic scholarship and achievements of interdisciplinary students through networking at the annual conference where students have a chance to present their work and by participating in local civic engagement projects; these events really encourage honors graduates to be leaders in addressing the complex problems of today. Sponsored by the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies, AIS holds an important place in collaborative exchange of ideas among and between disciplines at various universities and colleges. This is a great opportunity for students to both share their ideas and create new ones.



I'll be in touch!
 If you have any questions, feel free to reach out: cmurillo@colostate.edu



Shara Bassler Mortensen
 Administrative Coordinator, College of Liberal Arts | Interdisciplinary Programs

Before working at CSU I went to a small, private liberal arts college in Wisconsin. There was a huge emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, and the core courses were widely spread across many different fields. That being said, coming to the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program at CSU, I can see how much the curriculum at my former college was lacking. I was always frustrated because while there were many programs, there was very little variety in courses within the programs. The I-LA program at CSU is versatile and it is so easy to customize to a specific interest due to the number of courses offered. Interdisciplinary learning is about taking a broad range of interests and tailoring an educational experience that fits all of them and I think the department does a really great job of making sure that a student's education is well rounded and relevant. As an employee, it has been absolutely wonderful meeting so many different types of people in the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program. All of the faculty I work with have such different backgrounds and perspectives; it is exciting to see how they all mesh to make the department work. I learn something new with each person whom I talk to, which is really what the liberal arts are all about. I also work with two other programs, Women's Studies and International Studies. I find that I am able to take the information I learn about all three of the departments and apply them to my job and my own personal interests. Through this experience, I have really learned there are so many ways in which I can learn from a subject that may seem completely unrelated to my specific interests. I encourage everyone to not limit their interests to areas that seem cohesive; there may be something to learn from an unexpected source!

Gina Robinson, J.D.Faculty, Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts
 Pre-Law Advisor
 Legal Studies Advisor

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser spoke at the University Center for the Arts at Colorado State University Tuesday, November 5th, where he spoke about Democracy and the Constitution. It was fitting since it was Election Day 2019. The event was co-sponsored by the Strayer Center for Public Service Leadership, CSU Political Science Department, CSU Pre-law Club and the Legal Studies Interdisciplinary Minor Department.

There were about 250 students, local politicians and community members in attendance. Weiser spoke of the broad institutions of democracy and specific public challenges from his vantage point as attorney general. Weiser challenged all generations to "keep our republic," while recognizing the difficulties in doing so. Weiser, while recognizing the challenges offered some hope. He said, "The biggest remedy our democracy will get, I believe, in 2020, is validating decency: the core foundation of our constitutional democracy — that's what's going to be on the ballot."

Weiser answered audience questions about water rights, gun control, keeping the legal system insulated from political bias, potential increases in Supreme Court justices, and a republican system of government, among many other issues. Weiser's talk was positive and uplifting; a welcomed spark of optimism in an otherwise divisive and negative environment.

He spoke of not losing faith or hope, encouraging positive thought rather than cynicism. Weiser put a positive spin on this challenging political environment. He said, "If you give up all hope, if you choose to be cynical, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy that you will keep bringing yourself down. If you believe things will get better, if you do your part, that's how we change the world."



HEARING FROM I-LA GRADUATES

Kelly Poto, ILA graduate, August 2019
Master of Computer Information Systems, (c) 2021

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts to Cybersecurity; An Unusual Path

Our career path twists and turns and rarely has a discernible route until we evaluate it in retrospect. In 1996, I left school to forge a career in television, one-year shy of graduating with my bachelor's degree. My career began in Indiana but brought me to Colorado in 2000. My family and I



moved to Fort Collins a decade later. Feeling settled but still working in television, I began volunteering for various nonprofits. Most of these organizations were in dire need of technical skills like web design and database administration. Though I was vastly more technical than these nonprofits, I realized I knew just enough to mess their systems up but not necessarily fix them. It was through this experience that I found motivation to return to school. So, in summer 2015 I applied to CSU. I chose the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts (ILA) degree because it allowed me to select a minor of Information Science and Technology as a liberal arts student. For example, the ILA degree allowed me to take seemingly disparate courses like Communication and Society and Application Design and Development to craft a unique academic experience. I am proud to say that with a lot of hard work, and amazing support from my ILA Advisors (Jessie Stewart, Dr. Kevin Foskin and Dr. Pete Seel), I graduated in this past August.

The unique design of the ILA degree opened opportunities for me that moved beyond my initial reason for returning to school for web design and set me on a new path in cybersecurity, which I could never have predicted. Though I am a nontraditional student, I took full advantage of internship and networking opportunities, which led to my current position as the Cybersecurity Internship Coordinator with the Academic Computing and Networking Services department at CSU. Daily, I employ ILA competencies like technical writing, various types of communication, relationship building, and leadership to manage five teams who are developing highly technical information security solutions.

I am proud that as an ILA major, I am managing an information security program which would traditionally be associated with a computer science graduate. The reality is that the ILA degree is most relevant to our current occupational environment as all industries are interdisciplinary, requiring organizations to harness a variety of strengths and talents to achieve their business goals. From my ILA experience, I decided to pursue a Master of Computer Information Systems (MCIS) degree at CSU. I was accepted to the Fall 2019 cohort and started classes a few weeks ago. The degree will be challenging, but my ILA experience has me well-positioned to succeed. Wish me luck on my new path!

John Gregory, I-LA graduate, class of '13

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Continuing Success in Technology Recruitment

Funny enough, I have found myself in the technology field as a recruiter! I recruit for Jefferson Frank International, recruiting IT professionals who work with AWS (Amazon Web Services). After writing my final paper for Professor Foskin's capstone class I figured technology wasn't going anywhere, so I might as well join the growing industry. I had to learn a ton in regard to the technical vocabulary, roles, processes and the industry in general; but have been quite successful! Even after graduating, I wasn't sure if being an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major was a good decision. I really enjoyed participating in the major itself, but as we both know there's no true path to guide you after graduation. However, after the capstone class, I learned how to turn those uncertainties into positives. I used examples from the class not only to get my job, but also in my continuing success! I have been the first in my training class to be promoted. ILA is mostly to blame (with hard work involved). I've been promoted because I was able to handle a steep learning curve, and possess great ability to see multiple perspectives, which is huge in the world of recruitment.

Renee Robles, I-LA Graduate, class of '19

Applying Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Skills in a Practical World

Fun fact. One of my uncles used to work in military intelligence, and then for the Bureau of Land Management in Washington DC. Anyway, he and my aunt came to Pasadena this last weekend for a family funeral, and I showed them my diploma (yay!) and they were asking me about this "Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts" thing. So, I was explaining it, and my uncle said that he has/had to do that a lot (practicing skills we learn as I-LA majors) in his work, because no matter what the task or challenge at hand was, it always wound up intersecting with a whole lot of different disciplines. Like, for example, cleaning up unexploded ordnance on former military bases (the firing ranges). It always wound up involving issues of ecology, water, plant life, animal life, public relations with the community, local city government, and federal legislation. And getting people with conflicting agenda together and focusing on a common goal – well, isn't that what we were learning how to do? That turned out to be the heart and soul of what HE did in his work. One story he told me (my uncle is a phenomenal raconteur), there was an old army firing range lying between the residential part of town and the schools in the one community, and naturally, no kid in his right mind is going to walk two miles out of his way to get to school when there is something as supercool as an old army firing range you can cut across, and all the potentially cool stuff you could find there (shrapnel, bullet casings, etc.). Well, there's more there than old collectible material – there's unexploded ordnance than can blow a kid's hand off – or worse. So, the challenge is to work with the community to (a) clean up this unexploded ordnance, and (b) educate the kids to stay out of it, and (c) find a way to incentivize cooperation on the part of not only the city government, but also the populace, and especially the school children. One thing he did (among many tactics) was to involve the local high school in the production of a "safety film" about the dangers of unexploded ordnance. The whole town got involved, both in the production and as on-camera performers. The school AV department got involved, as did the Drama clubs/classes. The kids LOVED it! So did the adults in the community. It was a huge success and was really effective in getting the townspeople and the kids to stay out of the area until the clean-up could be completed. So, that's a fun story about how our class(es) in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts relate to real life.



ADVENTURES ABROAD

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

Gina Robinson, J.D. Faculty, Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts
 Pre-Law Advisor
 Legal Studies Advisor

It's official! Get your passport and pack your bags. We are headed to Florence, Italy May 24- June 13. Our Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts class is called Comparative Legal Studies in Italy (LB 482B) and will count as an upper division course in the ILA major as well as the Legal Studies minor. It is a 21- day trip to Florence, with a three night/four day stay in Rome and an optional trip to Venice. You will learn all about the Italian legal system in comparison to the US legal system. Our first week will be in Florence where we will visit a local law firm with lectures from local attorneys on the practice of law in Italy. We will visit the courthouse and observe a trial and learn about some famous cases in Italy. We will also take a cooking class where you will receive a mock case and work as a group to solve it. Our second week will begin with a three-day trip to Rome where we will tour the Vatican and learn about Vatican law vs Italian law. We will visit the Supreme Court and the Senate in Rome and have a guest lecture on how the government works and how laws are passed in Italy. When we return to Florence for our third week, we will learn about the Italian Mafia and how it has influenced the Italian legal system. We will also have guest lecturers who will lecture on Italian labor unions, and the Italian media, and learn about some specific legal cases that exploded in the media. We will visit a local business and get a hands-on lesson on how to start and operate a business in Italy. During the trip we will offer an optional weekend trip to Venice for a cappuccino in St. Mark's Square and an evening gondola ride. Of course, we will eat our way through Florence and Rome as we learn about the culture.

The application is open so hurry and apply. The first application deadline is December 1st. Space is limited!!

Please email Gina Robinson, J.D. (gina.robinson@colostate.edu) with any questions.



A view of Brunelleschi's Dome on the church of Santa Maria del Fiore and the surrounding city of Florence, Italy.

STUDY ABROAD ADVENTURES



We live in an increasingly globalized world with issues that require increasingly complex solutions. As an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major with minors in Peace and Reconciliation, Global Environmental Sustainability, and International Development, traveling is an obvious fit for my degree, however, traveling can fit with any Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree.

I have participated in three Alternative Break trips since I started at CSU. Last Winter Break, I traveled to Kenya for two weeks; it was truly a transformative experience personally and academically. In fact, it was immediately after returning home that I officially changed my major. I will never forget sitting on a plane for 17 hours; however, all of the less pleasant aspects of travel become a blur as soon as you step out of the airport.

Every place in the world is so incredibly unique, and Kenya was no exception. From the incredible wildlife to the diverse ecosystems, I was constantly encountering the unexpected. One day, I was fortunate enough to teach an eighth-grade math class, the next day I was climbing a mountain, and the day after that I was digging a foundation for a new house.

As we experience more places, we gain a deeper understanding of the world around us. Once again, a deeper understanding of the world seems obvious for an International Development minor, but I would argue that travel has something to offer to every minor. Disciplines I never would have thought of were an integral part of the trip; civil engineering, anthropology, natural resource tourism, geography, education, ecology, sociology, religion, political science, and economics are just a few that come to mind.

Short term programs like the one in Kenya are a great travel option for a minor that doesn't exactly fit with the rest of a degree. For minors that are as closely related as mine, a study abroad semester may be a great fit; the travel opportunities are truly endless. My advice is to let the world teach you something that you didn't expect to learn wherever your minors may take you (and don't forget to bring bug spray).

-Kayleigh Roberts, junior

For more study abroad opportunities and information, please visit Colorado State's education abroad site at educationabroad.colostate.edu. You can find information on upcoming events, a program search. The website is packed full of all kinds of support to help students find an abroad program that fits just right. It can help you get somewhere you never thought you could!



ADVENTURES ABROAD (CONT.)

Amanda Adams, Senior
Philosophy minor

Thanks to the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program and community, I was able to study abroad this summer in Rome, Italy. This was something I'd wanted to do since the very beginning of my time at CSU but never thought was actually feasible. It wasn't until I became invested in my major and the incredible faculty behind it that I was able to finally translate this dream into a reality. They offered tremendous guidance and support in my discovering, planning, and funding this endeavor. Not to mention the various Liberal Arts professors who helped me realize and foster my passions for film, communication, and travel, which were all central to my study abroad program. I could not think of a more perfectly suited opportunity and am eternally grateful for it.



I took two Communications courses while in Rome, Bridging Cultures with the brilliant Julia Khrebtan-Höerhager and Cinematic Rome with the enlightening Carl Burgchardt. The former served as a crash course for surviving and thriving in Italy, as we learned of the country's rich history and culture, through its people, language, art, food, and more. We then got to experience this for ourselves, interacting with and becoming locals and taking weekend excursions through the rural hills of Tuscany and rugged coast of Campania. The latter course was more focused, as it dealt with Roman cinema. Here, we watched, analyzed, and discussed some of the greatest, most influential films in not only Italy, but also the world. We then visited the monuments/sites they featured, placed ourselves in their context, and found timeless relevance. These two courses made me fall in love with Italy, especially through my beloved lenses of communication and film.

Being part of a CSU program rather than an affiliate, both these professors and my classmates/fellow travelers were from CSU. Of course, I like that this made my credits translate directly and plans flow smoothly, but I also like that it kept me intentional with my educational decisions and connected me deeper to my home university. Considering this was my first extended solo trip and more, my first time leaving the country, it went quite seamlessly.

I can't think of another major that creates so much space for these types of experiences, which only adds to the liberation and autonomy I feel with my Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree. It's released me from the bind of strict disciplinary thinking, opened up and expanded my world, offered a myriad of possibilities for my future, brought true applicability to my academics, and allowed me to grow in all aspects of my life. Here I am, now back for my final semester of undergraduate studies, feeling all the more prepared to take on the greater world around me!

HEARING FROM I-LA STUDENTS

Ingrid Bent, Senior

My name is Ingrid Bent, and I am a senior at Colorado State University. I am an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major with a minor in political science. I decided to pursue ILA for my major for multiple reasons. Since I was a transfer student from out of state, some of my credits didn't transfer over as well as I'd like, and although I originally was majoring in Economics, it's been such a great decision to change my major. The ILA department has been fantastic with providing me with information and resources that have helped me be as successful as possible. I have been able to take a variety of classes within the Liberal Arts department, which is an opportunity you can't get with a single major. I have taken classes in history, economics, sociology, political science, which have provided me with a holistic education and the ability to take classes that I'm truly interested in. I have found a new passion for history, which I would not have been able to do without declaring it as my minor. I've also enjoyed taking classes from a variety of faculty members, and I've had the freedom to seek out certain professors that have inspired me and take more classes from them. I believe that my drive for knowledge has greatly increased since becoming an ILA student because I am able to make a more personalized approach to what classes I take. I am in the process of finding an internship in the Liberal Arts department for my final semester at CSU, to earn college credit as well as practical work experience and gain references and expertise in a new field. ILA has provided me with helpful skills that I can use when pursuing my career as well as getting into a graduate program.



HEARING FROM I-LA STUDENTS



Kaylie Stenhouse, Junior

As a Freshman, I thought a lot about what major I wanted to be. I even took the New Student Seminar to help me decide. Initially, I thought that I wanted to be an art teacher, but when I looked at the program I realized I would need to sacrifice many of my other interests to do so. I simply couldn't take everything! No matter how many course descriptions or major requirement sheets I looked at, I was just unable to commit. At one point I was considering double and triple majors and many minors. All the while, the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major bounced through my head, but it always seemed to be a cop-out. Would employers really want to hire someone who did not pick a specialty major? The beauty of it is: they do! As I learned more about it I realized that this major provided exactly what employers are looking for: a degree, critical thinking skills, and adaptability. At the same time, I would be able to pursue all of my interests and discover new ones. After all, isn't higher education about unstifled growth? I eventually chose a double major in French and Interdisciplinary Liberal arts. I have been able to work for a non-profit and gain experience in leadership and grant writing, volunteer at a local bilingual elementary school, and take classes in my other interest (I may even minor in Anthropology and American Sign Language!) The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major has provided me a rounded education that will enable me to go into a number of different fields in the future.

Keiko Friar, Senior

Liberal Arts has allowed me to engage in multiple areas of my interest; these are Spanish, Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies. I have felt so much freedom to try different classes, and follow my passion. I truly believe Liberal Arts as a major and a college provides so much permission to be a multifaceted human being, as well as a student. My studies have significantly contributed to my personal growth. I'm glad to have chosen this major.

Alicia Bridges, Junior

My name is Alicia Bridges and I am native to Colorado, which is how I chose CSU. I have always loved the landscape and there are so many beautiful areas surrounding Fort Collins. I am an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major with a double minor in Legal Studies and Business Administration. I found the Liberal Arts college because I wasn't enjoying the classes I had to take as a business major, and my friend recommended that I look at what courses were available through liberal arts. From then on I met with an advisor who guided me through what a major change would look like, and was helpful in getting me registered for courses that would benefit me with a future in criminal law. The best thing about the Liberal Arts college is how many courses there are to choose from and how flexible everyone has been in letting students take the courses that interest them. Each professor I have had is willing to make sure their students succeed and will make themselves available to you as needed. I haven't participated in any internships that are CSU based, but for students looking to get into the legal field, the Fort Collins District Attorney's office offers several internships, one of which I completed and ended up working at the office for a school year. My experience with the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program has led me to amazing friends, peers, and professors; I highly recommend it for anyone looking to expand their learning.

Alyssa Christensen, Junior

I found myself pursuing Interdisciplinary Studies/Liberal Arts (as well as a double minor in business) after doing Key Explore, which is a learning community at Colorado State University that's focused on helping you find your path and developing your life skills (such as leadership, communication, etc.). I came into college undeclared and Key Explore was a way to help me find a major that was best for me. Having learning communities like Key Explore is one of the many reasons I chose CSU and this major. At the end of the semester we had a final project which had us pick a major we thought to be interesting; I chose Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts. I liked the fact that I could essentially create my own major and it was a major that gave me multiple lenses in which to view the world. I-LA has helped me create a program that focuses on many different disciplines rather than just one, which I enjoy because I want to focus on more than just communications; I also want to focus on things like psychology, economics, health and wellness, etc. Choosing this major has provided me with many successes. Since it is something I thoroughly enjoy studying, I have been able to keep a high cumulative GPA of 3.864 and it has given me the opportunity to connect with people I would not have met otherwise. My greatest experience in my major this far is seeing the overlap in all of the disciplines. It has helped me connect the world in ways I never thought of before. Although I have yet to find an internship, I will be looking for some to do this upcoming summer and I am hoping to work with something in business, communications, or psychology and thanks to my major I should be able to find something in those areas. With that being said, I would eventually like to end up with a career in owning my own retail business or working in the HR department for retail companies. When owning your own business you need to be able to do different things which is the main reason I chose my major and even HR has to consider different aspects when analyzing different issues.



A NEW HOME FOR I-LA

Welcome home, interdisciplinarians! The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts department has found its new home in the basement of Clark A! Our faculty offices have been renovated and we now have a communal space to use as a study zone, a relaxation area, and a place to converge and cross paths with fellow interdisciplinarians.

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts is spread far across campus with all of the things we are learning and pursuing, but now we have a common place that is meant for all of us, no matter what our differences are. Those differences are what make us special!

Stop by and visit the new space! It's warm and welcoming and teeming with great thinkers.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Major:

- Can be completed fully online.
- Has over 200 declared students!
- Boasts an Honors Track II option.
- Will count most humanities courses taken abroad.
- Allows you to do an internship to count for a course.
- Has study abroad scholarships reserved for our students.
- Has multiple Academic Success Coordinators who can help you.
- Allows room for multiple minors AND can still be done in 120 credits.
- Has over 20 departments to choose from to fulfill degree requirements.



GREETINGS FROM THE I-LA NEWSLETTER SENIOR INTERN

Hi! I'm Sabrynne Buchholz, the senior I-LA editing intern for this newsletter! You can find me reading over a cup of hot tea, searching for insects and other arthropods, or spending time with my family and friends!

I am so proud to be able to say I had the opportunity to work on this newsletter and be a part of the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree program, and I'd like to share a bit of my experience here in I-LA.

I transferred into the I-LA degree program halfway through my junior year, when I felt my place in fine arts just wasn't right for me. The I-LA program was the place that would happily accept and embrace my artistic and creative background from my previous years of schooling here at CSU, while allowing me to pursue more of my interests that just weren't able to fit before. I made the switch to I-LA expecting a broader scope for my academics, but I was not expecting the overwhelmingly positive and diverse community of learners and thinkers and I am extremely happy and proud to say that Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts has offered me the home I didn't know I needed.



Making this switch was the first of many big changes I made within the past year, and doing so has truly set me up for a wonderful senior year and I look forward to finishing college on such a great note. It's wild to think that the freshman year version of myself never would have expected to be on the home stretch in a completely different major, with an entirely new social circle, two sweet canine additions to the family, a budding interest in poetry, etcetera. Through all these life changes, I myself have changed as well.



I am guilty of watching the world more than participating in it, and through I-LA and this internship, I was able to push myself to break out of those habits more and make some meaningful connections. Moving beyond those comfortable boundaries became rewarding again, as I had finally found that supportive community I had been missing. I hope I have done enough justice to this newsletter, as this internship opportunity and the entire I-LA program holds a very special place in my heart. I look forward to seeing everyone within this amazing community flourish and find their place to be.

Here are my dogs, Butternut and Willow, proudly representing our Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts college.



INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

