



## NEWS | FACULTY | STUDENT STORIES

### COMMENTS FROM JESSIE, ASC

On March 1, CSU President Joyce McConnell presented the Courageous Strategic Transformation (CST) proposal to the campus. The CST is a new organizational framework for the university that creates initiatives to successfully meet the rapid changes our world is experiencing around work, education, climate, institutional structures, and more. McConnell's administration is looking at all parts of our system and how we think, talk, and act when it comes to budgets, community, and sustainability. In short, it is a model to stay relevant, to keep pace, to be more holistic in all approaches to higher ed. It is about showcasing and believing in abundance. Two things struck me in her presentation: First, she said this type of project has never been done at this scale by any land grant university of our size. We are creating this new design with campus partners and welcoming feedback from all groups to make robust, actual change. Second, she used the word "interdisciplinary" multiple times, even going so far as to say: "everything is interdisciplinary."



This utterance thrilled me to no end. The students in our major have always known this. But everyone else is recognizing this too! Just five years ago when I started advising for this major, many students did not find this track until junior year. And, they would have a hard time saying the words "Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts." Let's be honest: it does not flow off the tongue on the first try! But the word "interdisciplinary" is getting more traction in popular culture. I am hearing it more in casual conversations, in podcasts, and from other students not (yet) in our major. You have been studying what we know to be true: that the issues of the day are always already interconnected. That it is vital to our survival with one another to communicate effectively and work collaboratively. And that having broad interests just makes you cooler. Congrats, students. You have been ahead of the curve.

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

March is finally here and although spring in Colorado is often a rollercoaster ride, there is more daylight to our days as we've passed the Spring Equinox--just a few days ago-- and the warmer months are approaching. I can't speak for all of you but after 3 plus semesters teaching classes while wearing a mask I am certainly glad to return to the classroom without them. Absolutely necessary--and I thought I'd never be able to do it--but I figured it out. And the point here is that although the pandemic has been difficult and challenging, dealing with it did help (e.g., forced me) to do things differently and to find solutions to difficulties I couldn't ever have imagined before the pandemic hit. And meeting these unanticipated and seeming unimaginable difficulties was itself a learning experience for me. In a strange way, you might say we were all enrolled in a Covid Pandemic course, faculty and students alike.

Looking ahead, I-LA faculty will be focusing our effort on a number of important projects. First, we are going to be updating the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Legal Studies minor. Our hope is to bring onboard more elective courses that focus on aspects of the law, so to give our minors a greater variety of course selection. Second, we have been working on developing a new textbook for the I-LA Junior and Senior seminar courses. This textbook will be licensed under the Open Source initiative (e.g., Open Educational Materials) and free to students not only here at Colorado State University but also outside the university. I-LA feels that taking action to bring down the cost of education to our students--even by a little--is worth our efforts.



In early January, I was able to get back to my other country: Ireland. The weather was grand, some of the time--one day in particular. I'll include here several photographs from a day I spent with a friend from Poland. We took the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones, two south Dublin Bay seaside communities.



In closing, I do wish you all the best of luck in your studies this spring. And I do hope your spring semester turns out super.

Kevin Foskin



### A MESSAGE FROM PROF ROBINSON

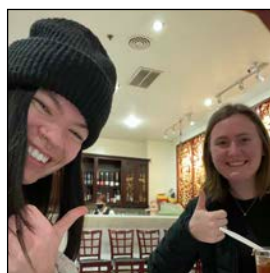
There is a great class in ILA under the legal studies minor called Mock Trial LB360. It is a Practicum, which means it is a hands-on class. All students receive a problem the first week of class. The problem contains a criminal case, the court documents, witness statements and exhibits. Each week we learn how to part on a part of a trial, such as opening statements and direct examination. The class is divided into six teams of six. The teams then work together on all aspects of a trial. By the end of the class, students know how to put on an entire trial. For the last six weeks of class, we have a round robin tournament, where the teams put on full trials and compete against each other. We have attorneys in town come to judge the trials. You do not need to be a legal studies minor to take this class but it does count as a class in the minor. This is a fun class and I encourage you to sign up for it. It is taught every spring. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about the class or any pre-law question: gina.robinson@colostate.edu.



### AJA CARNEY & HANNAH GROSSEN, MOCK TRIAL

Hello! We are Aja Carney and Hannah Grossen and we are currently taking the class LB 360 with Professor Gina Robinson. LB 360, or Mock Trial is a class in which we get to present a mock case as either prosecution or defense attorneys. The ultimate goal is to learn the skills that lawyers utilize when working on their own real-life cases in order to prepare pre-law students for their law school and law career journeys. Specific skills we focus on in the class include: opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, objections, and closing arguments. Every student in the class has the opportunity to play a witness and an attorney showcasing what they have learned in the class.

**Aja Carney:** As a senior about to graduate, I have to say this has been one of the most enjoyable classes I have taken throughout my college career. I have no doubt the skills that I have learned throughout the course will translate into my future career as a lawyer. My main goal in Mock Trial is to make what is known as the *All Star Team!* Making the *All Star* will be an exciting way to be competitive and showcase skills.



**Hannah Grossen:** This is a spectacular course where we get to learn the ins and outs of litigation. One of my favorite sections has been objections. It gives you the opportunity to fight back and push your theory over the other teams and protect your own witness. It will definitely impact how you articulate and pull information out of witnesses or written materials. Personally, I was nervous heading into this course without much prior public speaking experience. Regardless, Professor Robinson gives you the knowledge and confidence to perform in front of your peers. I would highly recommend this class, no matter what your major is or if you intend to go to law school. You will learn valuable skills in a fun and interesting way.

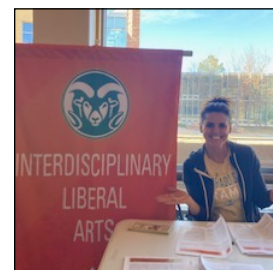
### A MESSAGE FROM JOSEY BURGESS

Hi, my name is Josey Burgess. I am graduating May 2022 and throughout my time here at CSU I have lived by this quote from Oprah: You get in life what you have the courage to ask for. If 4 years ago you would have asked me if college is hard I would have said absolutely. If you were to ask me again 4 years later the answer would be the same ... almost. College is by far the hardest experience I have gone through in my life but not for the reason you may think. College is hard because for 4 years you are finding yourself, your interests, and your passions. That is how I had stumbled across the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major. In our major I have had the opportunity to learn a new language, explore the conservation of wildlife, step foot into the mind of serial killers, all whilst completing my own passion projects. During my time at CSU I have had the opportunity to be the intern for this newsletter, I was inducted into an honor society, and I have had the opportunity to be a teacher's assistant for an incredible professor and that's just scratching the surface. At CSU and in the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program you will find lifelong friends, make great connections, have incredible internship opportunities, and find yourself. You just have to have the courage to ask yourself who you want to be and how you will achieve it.

### A MESSAGE FROM DR. MURILLO

At the close of every year, faculty in ILA are asked to share their teaching experiences over the past two semesters, which gave me a chance to really look at how my own teaching has evolved, especially now as we semi-emerge from the residue of COVID.

I have always been drawn to interdisciplinary studies, finding it a humble home for my overzealous brain eager to learn and try new pedagogical approaches. Teaching our Junior Seminar has really catalyzed my growth in teaching other courses as well, most notably Encountering the Global, which is an interdisciplinary approach to "texts" all over the world. We draw on world history, cultural studies, women's studies, philosophy, music production, theater, art, architecture and religion. Taking a unique approach to cultural productions, we discuss humanistic movements from the Age of Reason through the Post-modern age, moving from the clean and orderly lines seen in paintings of the Enlightenment to the fragmentally unified modernist chaos seen in the work of Picasso.



My teaching changes from semester to semester as I adapt to different personalities and backgrounds. One of the most exhilarating assignments we did was one involving the Cuban National Anthem where students were able to see that a relationship exists between the past and the present, mediated through various disciplines in the liberal arts. To immerse ourselves in a more contemporary grounding of particular "texts," we looked at film and pop cultural revisions of earlier voices. For example, we considered how the Cuban and American music industry revised José Martí's "Guantanamera" and what that suggests about a changing American culture. We also had the chance to analyze the film adaptations of *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* and Luis Valdez's drama *Zoot Suit*, considering how cinematic techniques refine and modify our interpretation of the textual production. We were able to see through this exercise that such active reading allows us to communicate with the past, which directly informs our present. Teaching this course and Junior Seminar has been and continues to be invigorating for me, not only aiding in my own research, but more importantly helping me become a better teacher. I look forward to seeing some of you in the future!

**A MESSAGE FROM SARA WERNING**

I teach several different classes for the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major, and I have been teaching with this department for several years now. But every semester, I'm impressed and amazed at the variety of interests and experiences that make up this major. I want to take this time to celebrate some of the range of talent and background we have here in the ILAR department.

Last semester, I had a student in LB490 who used her portfolio assignment to put together an entire business website to launch her career as a real estate agent. Another LB490 student used their portfolio to create an author website, as they're interested in a career in writing. In my LB392 class last semester, a firefighter used his research project to research safer means of training and communication to improve emergency response outcomes within his fire department. Another student researched climate gentrification in Miami and is considering going to law school to fight for equity and justice in zoning laws and housing practices. Another student, who is retired from full-time work but spends her time volunteering, chose to research sustainable practices for burial and cremation. Yet another student, who is living in Germany with her family, looked at food waste prevention in the United States as compared to other countries that have had more success in this area. All of these students imbued their projects with meaning and passion.



One of the traits of interdisciplinary learners that we read and talk about in LB392 is "love of learning." For me, the joy of teaching in this major is that I learn so much from my students as they share their interests and research. I'm convinced that something magical happens in these classes when each person gets to learn about topics that interest them and make content that matters to them. We all grow together in our love of learning because it's inspiring to learn from someone who's passionate about their work.

I love the community we're creating together, and I'm grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

**7th ACT HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL**

Every spring the department of Communications Studies puts on the ACT Human Rights Film Festival. I-LA is proud to be one of the festival's sponsors. A human rights film festival is a perfect example of Interdisciplinarity at its finest. Here you have films from all across the world looking at important human issues and concerns from a multiple of disciplinary perspectives, ranging from politics, history, culture, gender studies, LGBTQ studies, the arts, cinema studies, sociology, ethnology, personal narrative, simultaneously via the powerful medium of motion pictures. ACT celebrates and showcases the resilience and courage of individuals faced with impossible situations and difficulties. Such films are a testimony to the human spirit that refuses to accept the world as it is but challenges it to be the best world possible.

But best of all—the festival is finally back in the theaters and in person!

**A MESSAGE FROM PROF SWANN**

Debbie Swann graduated from Kansas State University with a B.A. in Theatre and English. From there, she earned her Master's in Theatre from Texas State University. She has trained in England at The Shakespeare Center, The Academy of Dramatic Art and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Before moving to Colorado, she taught, designed and directed theatre at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska. Debbie joined CSU in 2013 and was recently promoted to Senior Instructor in 2021. Most often, she teaches acting as well as Introduction to Theatre, for which her publication, *The Art of Entertainment*, has been used since 2018. Debbie recently began teaching for the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Department, teaching LB173 – Encountering the Global, an AUCC course about global history and cultures as expressed through humanities and the arts. As an avid artist herself, Debbie can be found making theatre both CSU and within the Fort Collins community. Some of her favorite projects include directing the CSU productions of *How I Learned to Drive* and *Lysistrata* as well as several productions with OpenStage Theatre & Company, including *Steel Magnolias* (director), *Natural Shocks* (director), and performing in *Spring Awakening* (OPUS Award), the Henry Award-nominated *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and *Avenue Q*. She is already working on her next directorial project, *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell which will be part of the CSU Theatre Department's 22-23 season. Debbie is also the faculty director of the Theatre department's summer musical theatre program for children, Kids Do It All. In the program, 45 kids come each week to write, design and execute their own plays, complete with an original song and dance. When not teaching or making theatre, Debbie enjoys reading, traveling, hiking, biking, and being a soccer mom to her two kids.



**I-LA INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

ILA offers LB 487, which is a for-credit internship that allows Interdisciplinary students to gain on-the-job experience while earning up to 3 credits. An internship is a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; internships also give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent. In the past, our interns have worked for CSU athletics, Dell, video production companies, local government agencies, the Denver Broncos, the Colorado Eagles, the District Attorney's office and so many more. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Dr. Murillo at [cmurillo@colostate.edu](mailto:cmurillo@colostate.edu).

## HEARING FROM I-LA MAJORS

### Tyler Trott, Fourth-Year

Hello, my name is Tyler Trott! I'm a fourth-year student-athlete on the Colorado State University softball team studying Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts. I'm from a small town in Oklahoma, Noble, right outside of Norman. As I mentioned, I play softball here for CSU and this is a large part of who I am as an individual. I am also a transfer student from Baylor University, where I also played softball. I chose to transfer to CSU because of the home-like community within the university. Not only was it welcoming academically and through athletics, but the town of Fort Collins was a good fit for someone who wasn't raised in the city.



My interests include, of course, softball but this isn't the only thing I love even though it takes up a great amount of time. I love art and learning about classical artworks. I do consider myself a fairly good non-trained artist, so I do love to draw and paint. This is also an outlet where I get to express myself when things get stressful. I'm a ride-or-die cat lover, but I love animals in general. I'm an only child who comes from a tight-knit family, which is one of my priorities. I enjoy the outdoors and living in a country town has helped me have my hippie-like mindset with nature. Since I grew up playing competitive softball, I was fortunate enough to travel the country and I intend to travel more within the country and internationally as well. I love tattoos and self-expression, I am all for doing what makes you happy within your personal being.

I chose ILA because it seemed to be a good fit with my goal to research ideas and learn tough subjects through different perspectives. I have taken many psychology classes and I intend to work for a masters degree in psychology. I'm working towards becoming a sports psychologist while working as a clinical psychologist as well. I know the difficulties sports can bring to athletes and I have struggled with them, so I want to better prepare athletes for their career and overall mental health well-being.

### Jessenia Stidger, Third-Year

I am interested in interdisciplinary liberal arts because I have always had trouble settling down to one discipline. I started college with a hospitality management major, but it was not for me. Then I switched over to a journalism major because I love writing and reporting, but something just didn't feel right. I wasn't happy only focusing on one topic, on one subject; my curiosity for more diverse knowledge was out the roof. I started taking some sociology and psychology classes, and loved every single aspect of them. Once I started taking new liberal arts classes every semester, I couldn't stop. I was so frustrated that I loved everything to do with liberal arts, but didn't want to commit to only one major.

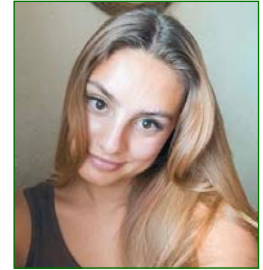


I explained my situation to my advisor, she told me not to worry, she knew exactly what I should do. She told me all about the ILA major and the benefits it brings to our modern society, with its many complex issues that cannot be solved by a single discipline. I changed my major about five seconds later and have been in ILA ever since, with no regrets or frustration about my studies. I thrive in this major because in every class you take, you learn something completely new, yet you can use that information to help you connect topics in your other classes. For example, when I take a media class, I can use my sociology and gender studies knowledge to help create a modern film that talks about gender and its sociological patterns in our society.

After graduation, I plan on creating my own non-profit organization that provides shelter specifically for children and adolescents experiencing domestic violence. I can tie in my Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts knowledge to this career because non-profits take a whole community to run. You need endless aspects and disciplines in order to run a shelter. In other words, you simply can't get a budget for a non-profit, buy a building, and expect it to function. You need helping hands from researchers across the disciplinary spectrum in order to get a well-rounded solution!

### Sera Cazares, Third-Year

My name is Sera Cazares, and I'm a third-year honors student at CSU. I'm double majoring in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sociology with a Criminology & Criminal Justice concentration, and minor in Legal Studies. In my free time, I spoil my cat, antique, and read psychological thrillers. I chose ILA as a freshman because I had so many interests that I wanted to delve into - political science, english, psychology, sociology, philosophy, legal studies - and interdisciplinary studies provided me with the opportunity to explore all these avenues. I especially appreciate the unique customization of the major - so much of what I devote my time to is up to me. As I finish out my undergrad, I'm grateful for the breadth of knowledge the ILA major gave me access to. After graduation, I hope to attend law school and practice public



### Mackenzie Jones, Fourth-Year

My name is Mackenzie Jones, and I am a transfer student here at CSU. I transferred from Johnson and Wales in Denver where I was studying Fashion Merchandising and Retailing. Once the pandemic hit, Johnson and Wales was unable to continue to stay open, so I immediately withdrew as a student and applied as a transfer student at Colorado State. As being a transfer student is incredibly difficult, I couldn't enter the major I really wanted which would've been fashion. However, since it would've required multiple math classes I decided it wasn't worth it since math is the subject that I struggle the most in and I didn't want my college experience to be even more difficult. I decided to be a Liberal Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies major purely because it was the program that took the most of my credits when I transferred. I had no prior interest in the subject at all before I entered the program. So far it's been a lot of fun, but the only reason that it is my major is because it was the program that took the most of my credits. However, being in this program has given me the freedom to take classes that are of interest to me, so it isn't just required classes.

My academic interests have always remained the same, I enjoy history and writing and of course fashion as they were my all-time favorite classes at Johnson and Wales. My hobbies include reading, being outside when I can, shopping and styling as that's what I want to-do for a career in my future, I have always enjoyed styling myself and others when I get the chance. My plan for after graduation is to immediately get into the workforce and hopefully get some experience in retail so I can eventually pursue a career as a personal stylist.



## HEARING FROM I-LA MAJORS

**TJ Mendoza, Fourth-Year**

Coming to CSU I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do for a college degree or a career. I thought growing up that I wanted to be a doctor, but after taking a year of classes and meeting with groups talking about medical school I realized that this wasn't the path for me. I didn't want to get stuck doing one thing for my entire life. I learned about the interdisciplinary degree and found that it was a perfect fit. I love learning new things about each topic and being able to bring in multiple degree focuses to solve problems. I am super interested in many different topics such as economics, business, marketing, and communications. This degree has allowed me to expand my knowledge in all these topics. After college I want to help others solve problems and gain knowledge of these many topics. I am hoping to find a career with a construction company and be able to share my knowledge of this degree to solve problems and be able to build homes for a cheaper price to help lower income families. I want to find a group to lower the homeless population. I recently learned about Singapore and the way they run their country and what was super interesting was that they have no homeless people. I believe that if us Americans came together and really put our minds to this problem, we would be able to lower the homeless population and give these people a job that will help the community. For instance in Singapore these people had really simple jobs such as cleaning the roads of litter and trash. This job gave people the access to an apartment and still get a low income where they could live a life. I want to make the difference because now when I see someone living on the streets I feel bad because we have no idea what got these people to this point in their life.

There are videos on the internet about situations where someone helps one of these homeless people to get cleaned up and shower to help get a job opportunity, and for a lot of these people that are homeless I think that this is all they need to get life back on track.

**Rebecca Wilson, Second-Year**

My name is Rebecca Wilson and I'm a sophomore here at CSU. I've been studying Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts since my freshman year with concentrations in English and Sociology. I also have a double major in Theater Performance. I have always loved to perform, sing, and act but also read and study literature and people. This major has been perfect for me because I have many interests within the Liberal Arts school and Interdisciplinary studies let me pursue all of them. I am Colorado-born and raised and love to be outside and in the snow. I'm originally from the mountains so I'm a big skier. Some of my other interests and hobbies include traveling, music, photography, and dancing just for fun. I have been very lucky to always live in places that truly match my interests and give me the space to have fun and explore. My intention after graduation is to be a teacher! I have debated about this career since I was little, knowing it is no easy or well-rewarded profession however my desire to work with kids and educate the next generations can't seem to escape my mind. I always find myself coming back to this career as hard as I try to abandon it. With this being said I wanted to study Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts in my undergraduate to have aspects of study in sociology, communications, and interdisciplinary studies that I can utilize in my teaching career. For my actual teaching licensing I'm planning to graduate with Theater Performance and Language Arts/English. I very much enjoy studying Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts because I believe we need to take an integrated look at the world we live in, in which every discipline is present and should be studied/regarded to some degree. There is not one aspect of any of my studies that doesn't apply to another which makes my education and experience more rounded in the end.

**Luke Borland, Fourth-Year**

Throughout the course of my education at Colorado State University I would be hard pressed to identify classes that have not meant a lot to me and my studies. With that being said, this should speak volumes to how highly I classify Mock Trial's role in contributing to a college education that I can be completely and wholly proud of. Mock Trial is far and away the most unique class I have ever taken and only proved to me that I am meant to pursue a career in legal studies. Mock Trial is unique in that it is the most community driven class I have ever taken. My teammates were people that I learned to trust within the course of the trial. I knew that if I was playing a witness, and I got backed into a corner, my teammate playing the attorney had my back fully and completely. I had the pleasure of being a part of the first Mock Trial class in 2019 and quite frankly cannot imagine my college career without it. Three years later I can still remember the intricacies of the case I put forward, the witnesses' angles, their names, and how each one contributed to the overall story of the case itself. Three years later I can recall with pride (and a smiling embarrassment) times in which I had a great objection or closing argument, or maybe the time I was impeached as a witness...Unfortunately like countless other students across the nation my studies were interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic which led to Mock Trial having to be performed over zoom lectures. Most people would usually be correct in assuming it is borderline impossible to teach 30 students how to perform a criminal

trial over zoom, but those people have never had the utter pleasure of taking a class taught by Gina Robinson. Professor Robinson took any hiccup in full stride which had an immeasurable effect on the success of my Mock Trial class. The fact of the matter is I would have taken any class taught by Professor Robinson, that class being Mock Trial was only the red bow on top of the gift. When I walk across the graduation stage in May of 2022, I can confidently say that I am proud to have been able to participate in a class with an instructor of immense caliber filled with students of equal quality.



A WORD FROM LU EPSTEIN, CLASS OF 2021

Recently, we heard from an I-LA Alum. Lu shared with us her grad school experience and how interdisciplinarity is helping her succeed in her continuing study.

I started sending out applications for graduate programs in the Fall of 2020 as well as the Spring term in 2021. The relevance of this is the pandemic and the effect COVID has had on institutions, expectations (our own, that of our professors, as well as the institution itself), and the general flexibility of folks. I graduated from CSU in Spring 2021 with a bachelor's degree in the arts relating to Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts, Anthropology, and American Sign Language. The MA program I was accepted into, which was online at the time, and now shifting to 'low-residency', is Anthropology and Social change through the California Institute of Integral Studies. CIIS as an institution is not like that of CSU or other standard universities; some core values include innovation, creativity, and flexibility. My program, however, Anthropology and Social Change, is the first of its kind; we are creating a new branch in anthropology focused on ethnography and social justice. The interesting part about this is that a large part of being an ethnographer is also being able to be an interdisciplinarian simultaneously. What this means is completely redefining 'objectivity' to be in parallel with solidarity as well as community engagement rather than general qualitative research (observation, 'field' notes/scratch notes, and external perception), in the discipline of anthropology.

Over the last few decades, we, as anthropologists and interdisciplinarians, have realized that we need more context in order to see the larger picture or to be able to truly understand a context separate from our own. Not only did my undergraduate degree at CSU prepare me for what we're doing in my graduate program, but it instilled the 'check-points' for what is beneficial in creating well-versed research, as well as created a new standard for what is acceptable when producing knowledge that is not strictly coming from personal experience. Even through the pandemic, completing undergrad and doing half of my current program online, graduate school has not been easy. However, the better you know yourself and your passions the better you will be able to find a program that really speaks to you and your needs as an individual. Also, the strict purpose I am attending graduate school is so I can have the ability to teach at a university. All of the knowledge I'm gaining is accessible outside of the institution but the degree itself is necessary for me to do what I want to do; if that is not the case for you, I highly recommend looking into different certificates or certifications that can up your skillset without causing financial hardship. Lastly, interdisciplinarity is beneficial with networking, job interviews, meeting new people, personal intake and processing of information, the way we view the world as well as the people in it, and so much more. Good luck, Rams; I'm rooting for you!



GREETINGS FROM THE I-LA NEWS-LETTER COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Hi, my name is Delaney Card. I am a second-year honors student here at CSU, and this year's Communications Intern for the ILA college. I'm majoring in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts with a minor in Art History and working towards completing a Museum Studies Certificate. Before coming to college, I was a little worried about finding what I wanted to study. I knew I loved learning about history, literature, philosophy, art, religion, and the human experience. My interests overwhelmed me initially because I didn't want to settle on just one discipline. When I heard about ILA, I knew I had found my spot.



My freshman year, I took LB 173, Encountering the Global, with Dr. Cindy Murillo and it solidified my choice of major: I had to pursue ILA. The class focused on history, philosophy, literature, and religion throughout different parts of the world. I remember reading everything from "The Epic of Gilgamesh" to "Tartuffe" and "Faust." I fell absolutely in love with learning about the world and the unique human elements within it. I knew I wanted to surround myself in it for the rest of my life.

From there, I decided to concentrate in Art History to gain even more of an understanding on how humans have viewed the world throughout time. Art has often been a syncretism of ideas and events occurring in the world, and watching it unfold over time has been an incredible thing to study.

My hope for the future is to get my doctorate in Art History, specifically in ancient religious art, and then teach in higher education. Through being in an atmosphere of learning, I will constantly be challenging my own beliefs and practices. I believe Socrates said it best when he claimed, "I only know one thing, and that is that I know nothing." The I-LA major enforces this idea by leading students outside of disciplinary boxes into a state of never being satisfied with what you currently know. It is this dissatisfaction with what we already know that leads us into a deeper understanding of the world around us.

I am so thankful to be a part of such an amazing undergraduate program in an equally amazing College of Liberal Arts!



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
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LIBERAL ARTS  
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