Message from CIS Director
Dr. Thomas Summerhill

As the incoming Director of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Social Science, I wish to share with you my enthusiasm about the future of IDS.

I have accepted the directorship because of my commitment to the core principles of Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (IDS). For a half-century, IDS has provided a unique opportunity for MSU students to combine a range of academic interests into individually tailored, coherent programs of study. The major is designed to prepare students for careers that require broad, integrative thinking, appreciation for multiple perspectives in problem solving, and a knowledge base in several disciplines. The success of IDS is well known to you by now. Alumni, who now number in the tens of thousands, are prominent figures in business, public service, and secondary and university education. I anticipate that this outstanding record will continue as IDS transitions in the 21st century.

The changes underway in IDS will enhance the major. With a new director, an exceptional roster of both new and experienced academic advisors, and a first rate staff, majors will find themselves part of a welcoming, challenging academic environment. The implementation of the recommendations of last year’s external review are nearly in place, and I am pleased to say that a full curriculum review is underway.

I bring ten years service at MSU in the Department of History, Integrative Studies, and outreach to IDS. I look forward to meeting you and sharing in your successes both here and in your careers.

For further details on IDS activities, please visit our website. (http://ids.socialscience.msu.edu/about.html)

Dr. Thomas Summerhill

IDS Alum, Senator Debbie Speaks to ISS Students

Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (IDS) alum, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), visited Michigan State University’s campus Wednesday, October 10, 2007. The senator spoke to undergraduate students in Professor Fayyaz Hussain’s class, ISS 315: Global Diversity and Interdependence. This is one of several visits Senator Stabenow has made over the years to speak to Professor Hussain’s students.

Senator Stabenow explained how she became involved in politics, and stressed to students the importance of political activism and how it shapes their future. A member of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senator outlined issues addressed by the committee, including political priorities as health care, environmental issues, veterans’ support, and funding for higher education. Referring to the Federal Pell Grant Program, the Senator remarked, “We’ve increased Pell Grants twice this year. Pell Grants have not been increased for a number of years, and the value is not the same because the state budget situation caused cuts, which in turn means tuition goes up. Pell Grants have begun to rise, but they have a long way to go.” The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post-baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education.

These political issues struck a chord with the students in this ISS class. During the question and answer session many students shared stories of their own financial aid issues such as tuition increases and student loan debt, and questioned the Senator about how the government can help them. Senator Stabenow explained to students the amount of federal dollars given and the importance of taxes in paying for social services like education. She then tried to dispel the myth that taxes are bad for the individual, explaining taxes are necessary to fund education. “Do not buy into the slogans that you are in this by yourself”, she assured the students, “it’s got to be done together.” Other students raised questions concerning universal health care, trade standards, the devaluation of the dollar, and national debt. The lively session ended a few minutes late with students’ hands still raised. The Senator stayed after the session to meet and talk personally with students.

Senator Debbie Stabenow graduated from the IDS program at Michigan State University in 1972. She was elected to the United States Senate in 2000, and re-elected in 2006.
IDS WELCOMES NEW ADVISORS FALL SEMESTER 2007

Kristin Brooks
Academic Specialist

Ms. Kristin Brooks is a graduate of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and the Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science program at Michigan State University. At U of M, she received a Master in Public Policy degree and at MSU, a B.S. with high honor in Environmental Policy.

Prior to joining the IDS staff, Ms. Brooks was the executive coordinator for the Michigan Food Policy Council. At the council, she worked on local and state level food issues, promoting Michigan grown foods and helped to develop 20 food policy recommendations for the governor’s consideration. Ms. Brooks has also worked on Great Lakes environmental issues at the Michigan Environmental Council where she was the primary researcher for the Greening the Governments project. Other work experiences include sustainable energy advocacy at the Urban Options demonstration house in East Lansing and a fellowship in Governor Granholm’s office where she worked on food, environmental and transportation policy issues.

Ms. Brooks focuses on advising in IDS. She has traveled widely in Europe and The United States and enjoys music, art, yoga and local food.

Nicolas Gisholt
Academic Specialist

Mr. Nicolas Gisholt received his B.S. in Psychology from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, in the track of Clinical Psychology. He completed his Social Work studies at University of Michigan, concentrating in School Social Work and working with children and youth.

Prior to joining the advising staff, he acted as Lead-Advisor for the major of Communication at the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at MSU. He is a member of the Academic Specialists Advisory Committee (ASAC) and he participates in activities whose objective is to promote diversity and cultural competence for current and incoming students.

As an undergraduate in Mexico City, Mr. Gisholt was the chief editor and President of the Psychology Student Society, where he participated in many field experiences providing psychological support to different populations in a variety of settings - hospitals, schools, community centers. He also taught Spanish for seven years in different institutions from Beginner to Advanced levels. Finally, he was actively involved in volunteer activities for children of low socio-economic status in the role of Camp Counselor and fundraising coordinator.

Mr. Gisholt’s interests include the study of languages and efforts to promote social awareness and open-mindedness for students and citizens about different ethnic groups and cultures. He was the recipient of the Olivia Maynard Fellowship, award given to students who promote Social Justice for underserved children and families. He holds a Certificate of Teaching English as a Foreign Language and enjoys authentic Mexican food - cooking and eating it -, soccer and foreign films.
Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (IDS)
(Formerly the Multidisciplinary Program – MDP)
Alumni Update

We would like to keep in touch with you, our IDS alumni, and would appreciate hearing from you. Please take a few minutes to complete the form below and send it to: Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science, Michigan State University, 302 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1111

Name (please include maiden name, if applicable)
_____________________________________________  _____________________________________________
Preferred Mailing Address (Line 1)             City, State, Zip
(______)   ___________ - ______________         ______________________________________
Preferred Phone                                Preferred Email Address

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Undergraduate Degree/ Date: _______________   IDS Concentration: __________   IDS Cognate: __________
Additional Degree(s)/Year: ______________________________________________________________________

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Profession                                      Title                                      Department/Division

Company/Employer                                Company/Employer Address (Line 1)
_________________________________    ___________________________________     ___________________________________
City                                             State     Zip   Work phone

Professional/Service Achievements: ______________________________________________________________________

Personal Accomplishments/Milestones:

Please ___ include ___ do not include this information in the IDS Alumni Newsletter. (Your update will be included in the IDS Alumni Newsletter unless otherwise indicated).

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Be sure to visit our website at http://ids.socialscience.msu.edu

IDS Class Notes

**Mitra Sticklen (XX)** has been selected to receive a Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship to research anthropology in Trinidad and Tobago. The award was announced in a release from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

**Yale Udoff (’57)** is a playwright and screenwriter. The New York Times said of his *A Gun Play*, which premiered at The Hartford Stage Company, directed by Paul Weidner, “Mr. Udoff is a discovery. It is clear he has a comic vision, verbal facility and a contemporary consciousness.” A new production followed at New York’s Cherry Lane Theatre with Tony Musante and Gene Troobnick, directed by Gene Frankel. He has twice been selected to participate in the Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference and honored with The Stanley Drama Award for his first play, *The Little Gentleman*; he is also the recipient of a Charles MacArthur Playwrighting Award.

**Dr. JoLee Blackbear-Debassige (XX)** was named Founding Director of the Centre for Aboriginal and Northern Studies and Research at the University College of the North, Manitoba, Canada. The Centre’s first project is to develop a mentoring program for First Nations teachers. Dr. Blackbear-Debassige comments, “Being here is more than living the dream of all those years of working on a degree. There are tremendous opportunities here for capacity and community building.”
GIVING TO IDS: A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
Since 1944, the undergraduate major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science (IDS) has prepared students to meet the challenges of social change, personal development, interpersonal and community relations, public service, and private business. Private gifts play a critical role in maintaining and advancing this tradition of excellence. Your donations in support of this mission make a real difference in the lives of IDS students by providing resources that enhance our students' educational experiences, enable academic growth, and strengthen the IDS program.

To make a tax deductible contribution to Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science, you may complete the gift form below. If you prefer, you may make an on-line gift through University Development's secure website. At https://www.givingto.msu.edu Thank you for considering a gift to support Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science and its continuing Tradition of Excellence.

The following list of giving opportunities describes how your gifts make a difference for IDS, its students, staff and alumni.

A. J. Harris II Interdisciplinary Studies Major Student Field Experience Fund (Gift allocation: AN161)
The fund is to provide ongoing scholarship awards for MSU IDS major student field experiences. Recipients shall be selected from amongst IDS major students doing field work in the social and behavioral sciences. Recipients are to be selected on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. (Responsible unit: Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science).

Peary and Linda Pearson Scholarship for Working Students (Gift allocation: AN164)
This award will provide financial assistance to deserving students who are employed and working to put themselves through Michigan State University in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies within the College of Social Science. (Responsible unit: Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science).

Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science Discretionary Fund (Gift allocation: AN0016)
The Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science provides administrative support and resources for the IDS undergraduate major. Your donation to the unit's discretionary fund helps bridge the gap between appropriated funds and what is needed in order to provide the very best educational experience for IDS students.

To learn more, please contact: Sarah Blom, Director of Development, College of Social Science, 306 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824, Telephone: (517) 432-1802, blom@msu.edu.

Gift Form

Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science
Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science, Michigan State University, 302 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Dr  First Name:  Last Name:

Address 1:______________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip: __________________________

Phone: _________________________ Email: __________________________

Gift Information:

In support of Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science, I enclose my gift of $_________ . Gift Allocation AN ________

☐ I work for a matching gift company. Matching gift programs can double or even triple your gift to Michigan State University. Please call your personnel office to see if your company has a matching gifts program. Get a matching gift form from them and follow the directions for doubling - or even tripling - your gift. For more information on matching gifts, contact University Development by e-mail, univdev@msu.edu, or call 517-355-8257 or 800-232-4MSU (4678).

Please indicate Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science on the memo line of your check. Contributions qualify as an itemized deduction under Federal law and as a tax credit under Michigan law. Please make your check payable to Michigan State University. Thank you.