

# THE DEANERY

ALBION COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE NEXT DEANERY ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2013.**

## I. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES

### Curriculum & Resources Committee:

C&RC approved a revision of the Environmental Geology minor:

The Environmental Geology Minor provides liberal arts students an opportunity to combine their interest in geology and the environment into a focused minor field of study. In the past, this minor has been completed by biology and chemistry students. In three cases, these students have gone on to graduate studies and careers in environmental geology. The courses are rigorous, mostly lab-based, and reflect a strength of the Geology program at Albion College.

We are requesting that the number of courses required for the Environmental Geology minor be reduced from 6 to 5 units. Our primary rationale is that we believe that five units are sufficient and appropriate for a minor, which, in this case, provides a focused introduction to environmental geology. This minor may complement a student's major or may simply be an area of secondary interest. We also have had students in the past who discovered geology late in their undergraduate careers and didn't have time to complete a major. A practical consideration with regard to the Environmental Geology minor is that we no longer offer one of the required courses, Geology 216: Environmental and Engineering Geology. This course was most recently taught by Dr. Van de Ven, who left the institution in spring 2011. With current staffing, we are unable to continue this course. A difficulty of this course in the past is that all textbooks on the Environmental Geology are geared at an introductory level, with a great deal of overlap with our Geology 101 course and our category courses. Removing this course from our curriculum makes sense in terms of the wide array of other relevant offerings in our department. Some of the content in this course has been absorbed into Geology 208: Geomorphology, which is taught by Dr. Wilch. Our current course offerings give potential minors a choice of 11 courses, all with a focus on geology and the environment.

The existing requirements as listed in the catalog copy are below:

### **Requirements for Minor in Environmental Geology**

- Six units in geology, including: Geology 101, 202, 208, 216; one unit selected from 306 or 307; one unit selected from Geology 104, 106, 111, 115, 211, or ENVN 102, or a one-unit

equivalent of approved independent research (Geology 412, Geology 411 taken twice, or a summer research experience). Note: This minor may not be elected by geology majors.

- All courses for the minor must be taken for a numerical grade.

The primary change in the revised version (below) is the deletion of 216 from course list. We also gave students an option of taking two 300-level courses for their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> courses in the minor. We removed the summer research experience (FURSCA) option, which is not taken for academic credit. We will continue to encourage summer research but with only a five-unit minor, we decided to eliminate using the not-for-credit experience as part of the minor. The proposed revised version:

### **Requirements for Minor in Environmental Geology**

- Five units in geology, including: Geology 101, 202, 208; one or two units selected from 306 or 307; if only one of the 306 or 307 units is selected, then one unit may be selected from Geology 104, 106, 111, 115, 211, or ENVN 102, or one unit of approved independent research (Geology 412, Geology 411 taken twice). Note: This minor may not be elected by geology majors.
- All courses for the minor must be taken for a numerical grade.

# # #

C&RC approved a new area of focus in Business Communication within the Gerstacker Institute:

In spring, 2012 the faculty of Albion College voted on and approved the proposed Business & Organizations Major offered through the Gerstacker Institute. The overall design of the B&O major provides more flexibility and focuses on competencies/learning goals (e.g., ethics, intercultural, and statistics) rather than specific courses which allows greater integration across departments and a wider variety of academic choices, depending on the student's specific interests.

In response to concerns noted by C&RC related to depth, students must pursue an area of specialization that can be achieved through an existing College double major, minor, emphasis or concentration. Also a possibility is an area of focus that is defined as a set of 5 units of coursework that have a central theme and must be accompanied by a set of learning goals that “tie” the courses together that also support assessment. The area of focus allows for flexibility and responsiveness to market and student needs. One concern of the College faculty was the creation of areas of focus that do not align with the mission and values of Albion College and that are pre-professional in nature. Many faculty voiced the desire for new areas of focus to, at a minimum, follow the review and approval process of IDIM's with preference towards vetting by the College's Curriculum & Resource Committee.

In an effort to create more internal partnerships between the Gerstacker Institute and academic departments and programs on campus and to broaden the divisional exposure of students in GI, we propose five interdisciplinary areas of focus that support the new B&O major, serve as opportunities for students to “specialize”, align with Albion College's mission of thought to action and facilitate exposure to a variety of departments, courses, and faculty that have not been achieved through the Gerstacker Institute prior to the adoption of the B&O major. This proposal

focuses on the Business Communication area of focus. Furthermore, given the proposed areas of focus included in this proposal are the most popular areas of specialization cited by current and prospective students, we believe they will serve as strong recruitment tools for GI and the College as well as the academic departments and programs that offer courses as options. Lastly, we aim to alleviate College faculty concerns by formalizing these areas of focus through the appropriate and approved College processes.

### **Business Communication**

Effective communication is the foundation of every effective business. The area of focus in Business Communication draws from communication studies, management, and psychological sciences in order to better equip students with the necessary skills and abilities. Specifically, students will gain a better understanding of communication and associated techniques, human behavior, motivation, and performance, and how to effectively manage the resources of a business (human, financial and physical). Careers individuals pursue with an interest in Business Communication include public relations/media relations, corporate communications, public affairs, investor relations, government relations, marketing communication, and community relations.

The Business Communication area of focus is designed around two components – (1) a common core of two fundamental courses, and (2) a variety of courses addressing critical areas of business communication.

Requirements for the Area of Focus in Business Communication (5 units) are: COMM 203 and PSYC 236; and three units chosen from the following electives: COMM 205, COMM 303, COMM 306, E&M 358, E&M 359, PSYC 346

All courses for an Area of Focus must be taken for a numerical grade.

# # #

C&RC approved a revision of the major in Public Policy:

### **PUBLIC POLICY MAJOR**

***2011-2012 Academic Catalog with proposed changes***

The major in Public Policy provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the mechanisms by which government interacts with stakeholders for the common good. It draws on the principles, practices, and research methods of the social sciences and philosophy to provide students with the theoretical and analytic skills relevant to today's most pressing global issues. While discussions of public policy issues are often controversial and polarized, the underlying principle of the major is one of sound analysis first and logical advocacy second. These skills are further developed through internship and/or practical research experiences.

Students who major in Public Policy often enter careers in the government or within the government relations sections of the private sector. The major also provides a strong background

for students planning to attend law school or to continue on with graduate studies in public policy, public administration, public health, or social policy.

The Public Policy major has 10 units:

- Five units: Economics and Management 101 and 230, Philosophy 304, and Political Science 216 and 338.
- One unit in statistics chosen from among Economics and Management 235, Mathematics 209.
- One unit in research methods chosen from among Anthropology and Sociology 224, Economics and Management 379, and Political Science 201.
- Two units, which must be taken in two different departments, chosen from the following restricted electives related to public policy:

Anthropology and Sociology 345, 370  
Economics and Management 232, 273, 323, 331, 322, 353, 354, 375  
Education 202  
Environment 220  
History 243  
Philosophy 206, 301, 302, 303, 308, 335  
Political Science 214, 220, 319, 322, 323, 324  
Substitutions as approved by the Ford Institute Director.

- One unit from among an internship, Honors Thesis, or directed study in Public Policy approved by the Ford Institute Internal Advisory Committee.
- A substantial paper and an oral presentation on a topic related to public policy. This paper and presentation will be completed as one of the requirements listed above.

Students who double major in Public Policy and another field may count up to one unit towards the requirements of both majors. If there is more than one unit of overlap between the majors, then the student must take additional electives in one of the majors to substitute for every unit of overlap beyond one in consultation with the Department Chair or Program Director.

Students who enroll in the Washington Semester program at the American University can receive up to two units of credit toward the requirements of the Public Policy major, subject to the approval of the Ford Institute Director and the Ford Internal Advisory Committee.

## **II ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PROVOST'S OFFICE**

**The Council on Undergraduate Research** seeks submissions for the Winter 2013 *CUR Quarterly* - "Undergraduate Research in a Mobile, Web 3.0 World." The theme of the Winter 2013 CUR Quarterly will focus on how mobile and Web 3.0 technologies are transforming undergraduate research. *Quarterly* seeks 4 to 5 authors who can write articles that describe specific examples of how these emerging cyber technologies have enabled novel collaborations or research questions. In addition, it welcomes shorter vignettes (300 words) that describe real examples of undergraduate research projects that incorporate the use of social media, mobile

technologies, Web 3.0 platforms, or other emerging cyber technologies.

Examples of topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Use of social media, mobile technologies, digital learning studies, and other cyber technologies to enable novel undergraduate research collaborations or projects
- “Affordable Technologies” - are they heightening the divide or closing the gap on undergraduate research accessibility?
- Use of cyber technologies in the traditional classroom, virtual classroom, lab, and field to promote undergraduate research
- Assessment of the efficacy of social media and mobile technologies in relation to undergraduate research

If you are interested in contributing an article or vignette, please submit a short (300-500 words) prospectus describing the focus of your proposed article or vignette online at <http://curq.msubmit.net/> by **December 17, 2012**. Accepted authors will be notified by January 7, 2013.

Final articles will be 2000 to 3500 words in length. The final text for review and editing must be submitted by March 1, 2013.

**The East-West Center** in Honolulu, Hawaii, is sponsoring an institute, “Infusing Chinese and Japanese Religion, Art and Literature into the Undergraduate Curriculum,” July 22 - August 9, 2013. This multidisciplinary, three-week Institute fosters faculty and program development aimed at enhancing undergraduate teaching and learning about Asian cultures and societies. Hosted annually through a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation, the institute on Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum offers undergraduate educators the opportunity to interact with leading Asian studies experts in an intensive program of lectures, discussions, film screenings, site visits and cultural events. The first two weeks of the 2013 program will include thematic overviews of Chinese and Japanese history; sessions on the religious traditions of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto and Islam; and both China- and Japan-focused talks on pre-modern art traditions, aesthetics and literature. The final week of the program will address the transformation of religious, artistic and literary traditions in modern and contemporary China and Japan. The 2013 Infusing Institute will be directed by Stanley Murashige (School of the Art Institute of Chicago) and Peter Hershock (East-West Center).

Designed to meet the needs of educators involved in both curriculum and program development, the Infusing Institute is open both to individual applicants and to two- to three-person teams from colleges and universities committed to furthering undergraduate Asian studies. Participants will receive lodging in the East-West Center guesthouse and a modest stipend. The home institutions of selected participants are asked to cover airfares and a program fee of \$350. The application deadline is **March 11, 2013**.

For a detailed description of the program and links to the program schedule and application information, please see the ASDP website: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/asdp-infusing>. For inquiries, please contact the ASDP Secretariat: Sandy Osaki, [osakis@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:osakis@eastwestcenter.org).

ASIANetwork is pleased to announce the 21st ASIANetwork Annual Conference, to take place at the Sheraton Downtown Nashville Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, April 12-14, 2013. The conference is hosted by Belmont University in Nashville. The conference program includes five concurrent panel sessions with a total of thirty panels and over one-hundred papers and posters. They represent an impressive mix of scholarly research and pedagogical exploration with a strong emphasis on this year's conference theme of Global Asia. Registration deadline: **March 4, 2013**. For additional information, visit: <http://www.asianetwork.org/>.

The Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts at Westmont College announces the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Conversation on the Liberal Arts: War and Peace as Liberal Arts*, February 21-23, 2013, Santa Barbara, CA. The *Conversation* features ethics of war scholar Michael Walzer, Professor Emeritus of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study. For additional information, visit: [www.westmont.edu/institute](http://www.westmont.edu/institute).

The National Research Council announces its **Postdoctoral Research and Senior Research Programs for 2013**. These programs provide opportunities for scientists and engineers to perform research on problems largely of their own choosing, yet compatible with the research interests of the sponsoring laboratory. Full-time Associateships will be awarded on a competitive basis in 2013 for research in the fields of chemistry, atmospheric and space sciences, engineering, applied sciences, life and medical sciences, and computer science, mathematics and physics. Awards are made for one or two years, renewable for a maximum of three years; senior applicants who have held the doctorate at least five years may receive awards for shorter periods. For additional information and application, visit: [www.nationalacademies.org/rap](http://www.nationalacademies.org/rap).

### III SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**John Carlson** (Economics & Management) is mentoring a team of E&M students in a national accounting competition sponsored by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). He and Team Albion (Evan Malecke, John Rogers, Don Strite and Peter Curry) head to Washington, D.C., in December to compete in the final round against North Carolina State University and the University of Texas at Dallas. Their original 1000 word essay got them to the semi-finals where 20 teams were charged with creating a video presentation that was voted on by the public.

**Amber Cook's** (Theatre) art and costume designs were featured and she was interviewed for an article in Live Design Magazine for the show *Dead Man's Shoes* at Williamston Theatre and Performance Network. The article also appears online at [livedesignonline.com](http://livedesignonline.com) (Napoleon, Davi. "Dead Man Walking: Dead Man's Shoes." *Live Design* Oct. 2012: 54-59. Print).

Amber also did professional costume design for the following productions: *boom!* @ Williamston Theatre, September 20-October 21, 2012; *The Hundred Dresses* @ Flint Youth Theatre, October 19-November 9, 2012; and *Looking* @ Tipping Point Theatre, January 24-March 3, 2013.

**Dianne Guenin-Lelle** (Modern Languages & Cultures) presented a paper, The Making of *La Nouvelle-Orléans*: French Mother and Canadian Father, at the biennial conference of the American Council for Québec Studies, November 2012 in Sarasota, FL.

**Bojan Ilievski and Jon Hooks** (Economics & Management) coached and mentored the Fed Challenge team (Heather Waldron, Sarah Erdman, John Rogers and Alex Archer) that traveled to Chicago to defend the Regional Fed Challenge title. They competed against teams from University of Chicago, University of Michigan, DePaul, Northwestern and 10 other colleges.

**Helena Mesa** (English) gave a poetry reading at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, on October 11, 2012. She also read at the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center on November 17, 2012; as part of the Book Center's "Poets in Print" series, artist Chad Pastotnik made a broadside of her poem, "Mechanics of Early Autumn."

**Debra Peterson** (Center for International Education) was a panelist on "Implementing Campus Strategic Global Initiatives: Barriers, Tensions, and Solutions" at the international conference of the Council on International Educational Exchange held in Shanghai, China, November 14-17, 2012. A former Albion colleague, 'Dimeji Togunde of Spelman College chaired the panel.

While abroad Dr. Peterson conducted study abroad site visits at Sophia and Waseda Universities in Tokyo, Japan, and reviewed potential internship programs in Shanghai, China.

**David Reimann** (Mathematics & Computer Science) gave a talk entitled "Symmetry groups: The mathematical connection between patterns in Moorish architecture and the artwork of M.C. Escher" at the University of Detroit Mercy Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium on November 27, 2012. David has also licensed his artwork *Pi* for use on a t-shirt by Tessellations ([mathartfun.com](http://mathartfun.com)), a family owned and operated business located in Phoenix, Arizona, specializing in mathematical items.

**Nicolle Zellner** (Physics) is spending three a half weeks at Curtin University in Australia, working with Dr. Fred Jourdan and using the argon mass spectrometer to obtain formation ages on Apollo 15 lunar impact glasses. Funding for this research trip was provided by NASA (Astrobiology and LASER programs) and by the American Astronomical Society.