As the new Director of BIS, I want to thank everyone in the BIS community I have talked to for their warm welcome.

I also want to invite both current and former BIS students to stop by our office and introduce yourself to me. If you are a current student, I look forward to hearing about how your program is going, your past experiences and future goals, and your ideas for how we might make BIS better. I also look forward to hearing from BIS alumni and learning more about your time at George Mason as well as what you have done since you graduated. If you are willing to be a mentor for current BIS students, please let us know. We—and our current students—would love to draw on your experience and expertise.

We are all grateful to Jeannie Brown Leonard, our former Director, for the great work she did in recent years improving the program and wish her well in her new job as the Dean of Student Academic Affairs, Advising and Retention at George Mason.

I come to BIS from the English Department at Mason, where I have taught since 1993. I was a Coordinator and then Director of Mason Topics, a Learning Community program at Mason. More recently, I developed a program to teach students in Engineering, Business and Economics the history of business and technology while they improve their writing skills. Because I worked in the construction industry in New York City and then for several years at United Parcel Service before returning to school to earn a PhD in English, I have personal experience with some of the issues that face adult returning students and look forward to my new role at BIS.

This issue of the BIS Connector highlights the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty. We have included profiles of our faculty and news about their recent accomplishments so you can keep up with former instructors and learn about those you might take classes with in the future. We are proud of our alumni and have included stories about the recent accomplishments of Walter Via, Mark Van Pelt, Karen Griffin Roberts, and Ana Hoover. We also highlight the accomplishments of Ellen Oh, who taught for us for many years and who recently published a new novel, Prophecy, the first of three novels in The Dragon King Chronicles.

We are grateful to Karole McKalip, a Mason Alumna, former Director of Advising at GMU and former BIS academic advisor, who has made the BIS scholarship possible with her husband through their generous donation. BIS Scholarship recipients are listed on Page 2.

Finally, we were pleased so many of you joined us in celebrating the accomplishments of our new graduates at our Spring Capstone Presentations and Student Award Ceremony on May 10 and at the CHSS Humanities Convocation on May 16.

Visit www.bis.gmu.edu to see the new look! Enjoy this issue of The BIS Connector and please keep in touch.
As highlighted in our Spring '12 newsletter, Karole McKalip, a Mason alumna from the College of Education, former GMU Director of Academic Advising and BIS Academic Advisor and her husband Diehl McKalip made it possible in 2004 to create a BIS Scholarship Endowment Fund.

This fund provides scholarship money in the amount of approximately $1000 to BIS students each year.

This year Karole joined the BIS staff as we selected the winners of the BIS scholarship.

BIS Scholarship

Winners 2013

Patricia Howarth

Susan Lynch

Your contributions help us continue to enhance the BIS program.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, visit http://chss.gmu.edu/alumni/support/how-to-donate

Be sure to specify Humanities and Social Sciences and write-in either BIS Program Fund or BIS Scholarships!

Thank you for your generosity.
Next Steps For BIS Graduates

Whether it’s plans for graduate studies, a new job, or traveling the world—we are celebrating our BIS graduates successes and adventures!

Susan Kilday (BIS ‘10), completed the MS in Organization Development and Knowledge Management in May 2012 and still maintains strong ties to that program, acting as a facilitator in the group dynamics class. Susan was also accepted to the Leadership Fairfax Program (LFI) Class of 2013. LFI is an intensive 10-month program focusing on leadership skills and community issues specific to Fairfax County.

Walter Via (BIS ‘11) continues to find success in his Fisheries Studies. Read on to learn more about his latest projects.

Julie Steward (BIS ‘11) is finishing up her Instructional Design and Development graduate degree and plans to move on to a Master of Fine Arts program to combine fine art and instructional design. Julie says this is what happens when you get an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s degree!

Kim Davis (BIS ‘12) is planning on entering a graduate program this Fall and ultimately continuing the independent research project she began as a BIS student. Kim states “this program will open doors for you that you never knew existed and enable you to develop a new way of thinking about your life and the world around you.”

PHI BETA KAPPA

Founded in 1776, “Phi Beta Kappa celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Its campus chapters invite for induction the most outstanding arts and sciences students...and sponsors activities to advance these studies—the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences—in higher education and in society at large.”

Congratulations to
Susan Askew, Spring 2013

PHI KAPPA PHI

Founded in 1897, “Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Membership celebrates exceptional academic achievement in any discipline.”

Spring 2012
Liz Hambrick

Spring 2013
Jordan Higgins and Lee Sparrow
Since graduating from GMU in 2011 I have continued my education, earning a Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Management from Oregon State University (2012). My Capstone Project for this certificate focused on the Striped Bass Habitat in Lake Anna, Virginia for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

I rolled the certificate into the Master of Natural Resource Management (with a Fisheries Concentration) at OSU and I expect to graduate in 2014. So far I have maintained a 4.0 GPA, which is why they let me into the Masters program without taking the GRE!

In February I presented on my paper to the Virginia chapter of the American Fisheries Society at Washington Lee University (Sounds just like a BIS project!). In fact the entire project from proposal to presentation was similar to BIS. My work at BIS put me at ease; I was not intimidated by the project because of the BIS program.

My ultimate goal is to work as a fisheries biologist for NOAA, USGS or maybe as a state biologist. I would prefer the marine environment but I have been studying both salt and freshwater habitats so I don’t box myself out of a job.

Please see the Spring 2012 BIS Connector for more about Walter.

Jeremiah Foxwell (BIS ‘11) is currently working as a contractor for the Department of Defense at the Joint IED Defeat Organization.

He recently published a case study in Small Wars Journal titled “The IRA’s Hyde and Regent’s Parks Attacks in London, July 20, 1982.”

The full article can be read here:

Jeremiah states, “this is the case study for the first chapter in my thesis. In this chapter I explore the IED factors of effectiveness in insurgency. One of the goals of the chapter is to prove that IED attacks can be predicted, and I use this case study as a sample.”
"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

- Samuel Clemens

We put in on the Mississippi River just below the dam in St. Cloud Minnesota, on a cloudy and surprisingly chilly day - the first day of what my wife and I jokingly referred to as our "mid-life crisis trip." It was less of a crisis than a celebration of my wife's recent return to health after a long illness and my own graduation from George Mason University with a BIS degree. The plan was to follow the river down through America, making it as far as we could before our two-month self-imposed deadline hit. The first three days were idyllic, though the river was fast and rising a little bit as each new day dawned. What we hadn't known when we set out is that the area above St. Cloud near the headwaters of the Mississippi River there had experienced record-setting rainfall, the results of which were heading our way.

At the close of the third day we were coming into Dimmick Island, a small island with canoe camping sites, but someone had blocked the landing area with a huge pontoon party boat. We tried to cut inside to what looked like calm water behind a tiny island, and found instead that we were in deep, deep trouble. The "calm" water was moving faster than the river, and we had nowhere to go thanks to a large tree that had fallen across the channel. The canoe slammed against the bank, and we managed to steady it for all of 15 second before the current flipped us into the water. The strength of the river and the speed with which we went from idly paddling along to being caught in a raging current was breathtaking. When I surfaced I couldn't find my wife, then felt a warm sense of relief when she popped up ahead of me, followed by chills again as I saw her get caught up in the branches of the downed tree. The canoe slammed into her, then I did, but she managed to hang on. I got a grip myself and began to realize that we were in serious danger.

The tree was too high to climb onto, the water too fast to hang on for long, and we were both slipping. I made a split second decision to let go and inflate my life vest, reasoning that if I made it through the tangle of branches my wife would as well. It worked. The canoe followed me, then my wife came bobbing along. We managed to recover most of our things, but were shaken badly and worried about the remainder of our trip. We spent two days recovering on Dimmick Island and elected to pull off the river for safety reasons.

The river was approaching 15 feet over normal levels when we pulled out. Now we were stuck - we'd rented our transport up, had no river trip to show for it, and were loaded with camping gear and a 17 foot canoe that we had no place to store. We found a campground in town and made plans. I took a bus from Minneapolis back home to Fairfax, then deadheaded back with the car the next day. I picked up my wife and we headed south, thinking to find a more peaceful part of the river to canoe. No luck - our conversations with the dam engineers led us to understand that the amount of water coming down the river was an accident waiting to happen.

Now what? You never say die, that's what!!

In Knoxville, Iowa we made friends with a bookstore owner who was willing to let us store our canoe. We packed it up, left the gear we didn't need, and decided to strike out west instead of south.

For the next two months we camped our way across the United States, ultimately camping in more than a dozen national parks - we slept in our tent for 56 of the 60 days we traveled. We camped in the Badlands, and spent each morning and evening watching a small herd of Buffalo wander through camp. We drove through Canyonlands National Park, in between the stark red walls and onto the plateau, where you can see forever if you look long enough. We hiked in the Grand Canyon, swam at Slide Rock near Sedona, panned for gold in the Black Hills, wandered among petro-

Continued on next page
We are very happy to announce that Ellen Oh’s new novel, *Prophecy*, was published on January 2, 2012 by Harper Collins and has garnered much praise from fans all around the country. Many former BIS students of Ellen’s have been asking us when her book will be released and so we can now say with pride, you can find her novel at your local bookstore’s shelves, Barnes & Noble or on Amazon. Ellen Oh was a popular BIS instructor as well as a former entertainment lawyer turned author and has taught for the department for many years. She is now touring local schools as a guest speaker and is also busily at work on her second and third novels which are all part of the Prophecy Series. Her second novel, *Warrior*, is due in bookstores in January of 2014 and her third novel, *King*, which is the last of the trilogy is due January of 2015. She also has a great short story published in the anthology, *Diverse Energies* which is also available at your local bookstore.

Review:

“*The author’s exploration of Kira’s realistically complex identity is compelling, and the themes of self-acceptance and self-worth are strong. While clearly a coming-of-age story, at its heart, this is a true adventure novel. The characters are well drawn, the plot is both well conceived and fast moving, and the ending is just satisfying enough, while still leaving readers ready for a sequel.*” — *School Library*
Karen Griffin Roberts (BIS ’09) and Ana Gamarra Hoover (BIS ’09) have co-authored a guide on language development for parents of young children.

According to the publisher’s press release, “the book is filled with pictures and specifics regarding how to help a child with language delays. “

For parents of children learning two languages or children who are nonverbal, the authors offer strategies for understanding the needs of the children and where issues may occur in language development.

“Ana Gamarra Hoover, M.Ed. and Karen Griffin Roberts, M.Ed. are early childhood special education teachers in Prince William County Schools, Prince William County, Virginia. Both completed their masters degree programs at George Mason University and are recipients of teaching awards. Prior to teaching, Ms. Hoover ran an early childhood education business for twenty-three years. Ms. Roberts previously taught preschool for eighteen years and is the author of Embracing Autism in Preschool: Successful Strategies for General Education Teachers (2010).”

More information is available at: fourthlloydproductions.com

Karen Griffin Roberts (BIS ’09) became a published author in February 2010, when she successfully used her final BIS Capstone project on early childhood approaches to autism to create Embracing Autism in Preschool, a guide for preschool teachers, educators and parents to support inclusion in the preschool classroom.

The book foreword was written by Karen’s BIS Faculty Mentor, Dr. Eva Thorpe, and received endorsements from Mason professors and other professionals in the early childhood education field and from parents of children with autism.
BIS in the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

Jordan Higgins has been working with his mentor Robert Youmans (Psychology) for several semesters on the following research projects: Design and Eye Movements (Spring 2012), Investigating Design Fixation (Summer 2012), and Examining the effect of infographics on the confirmation bias (Spring 2013)

Burnette Scarboro presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 30th on her project: American Heritage Pre-Kindergarten Literacy. Abstract: “Africans and African Americans commitment to education reflects the viewpoint that education and literacy should be liberating, that instruction should and can be thoughtful and respectful, that schools are places where learning is expected to occur and that teachers are trusted holders of children’s futures as literate adults. Using African American literature is important and can be integrated into all subject matters for younger children.”

Connecting to GMU’s Academic Community through Research

Written by: Jordan Higgins

As BIS students, we are uniquely challenged to take ownership of our educational goals and design our concentrations from an interdisciplinary perspective. Our proposals span disciplines across all of GMU’s academic community, and each uniquely reflects our diverse range of experiences and objectives. Whether our projects are creative or investigative, one common theme that we all share as BIS students is that we are required to conduct research and present our findings as a requirement of our degree, and this makes our academic pursuits a natural match for GMU’s Students as Scholars initiative, a program of the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR).

Each semester, the OSCAR office accepts applications for the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URSP) in which students can receive funding to support their scholarly or creative projects. The application is highly competitive, but if accepted can be a great opportunity to pursue aspects of your BIS research that may not have been practical, such as travelling to do field research or obtaining materials to support your project. Another aspect of participating in the URSP is connecting with other participants, and sharing the results of your research at the Celebration of Student Scholarship on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to feel more connected to the academic community at GMU, which can sometimes be a challenge for non-traditional students that may not spend as much time on campus.

I first learned about the URSP program from my faculty mentor, Dr. Rob Youmans in GMU’s Psychology department ARCH lab, who had also been involving me as a research assistant. Working with my mentor we crafted a URSP proposal to investigate an aspect of design fixation, a barrier to innovation in which people may not come up with original solutions to creative challenges due to being influenced by previous solutions. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue two research projects in the URSP program that related to my BIS concentration of interaction design, an interdisciplinary field in which I’ve combined courses from psychology and design to complement my background in technology. My second URSP project helped support my BIS capstone project, examining how typography and infographics may affect the way we commit cognitive bias errors.

Another program of the OSCAR office is funding assistance to students who are travelling to present undergraduate research at conferences outside of GMU. This semester I presented at the National Council of Undergraduate Research 2013 conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin along with several other GMU students who were accepted and sent by the OSCAR program. It was a great opportunity to network with other researchers across the country, and an excellent opportunity to gain presentation experience. Whether your future plans include graduate school or not, consider applying to the URSP as a way of expanding on the research experience that is at the core of our BIS experience.

Learn more on the Students as Scholars website at http://oscar.gmu.edu

oscar.gmu.edu
2013 BIS Student Project Award Recipients

Robert T. Hawkes, Jr. Award for Outstanding BIS Project

Emily Smith
Project: “Influence of Political Theorist Gene Sharp on 2011 Egyptian Mass Protests”
“Emily’s choice of topic, skill in devising a research strategy and executing it, her analysis of the conclusions the data could and could not carry, and her grasp of the larger scholarly context through interdisciplinary research and skilled analysis are sufficient reason for granting this project the Robert T. Hawkes Award…”
-Dr. Susan Douglass, Faculty Mentor

Most Creative BIS Project

Donna Dow
Project: “The Role of Beauty in Human Happiness”
The “project drew on her curriculum in philosophy, religious studies, and history; but also included careful examination of work in education and in art history...her research synthesized ancient, medieval, and modern sources, both secular and religious.
-Dr. Rose Cherubin, Philosophy

and

Alice Quatrochi
Project: “Art as Inquiry: The Dynamics of Art-Science Collaborations”
“Alice Quatrochi [is] first of all an outstanding artist who understands the discipline of artistic practice and the nature of the contemporary art world...secondly, underlying Alice’s practice is the aim of bridging art and life. Her BIS program allowed her to wed all of these interests together to great success.”
-Helen Frederick, GMU School of Art

Outstanding BIS Project in the Public Interest

Christopher Fleshren
Project: “An innovative combination of Environmental Sciences and Geographic Information Systems.”
“Chris’s work was unique for an undergraduate...because it was based on a significant amount of literature reviewed and presented...and he implemented the ideas using real-world field mapping and environmental assessment techniques.”
-Dr. Matthew Rice, Geography and GIS
Meet the BIS Faculty

Daniel Gustav Anderson is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Mason. He is currently researching the history of mindfulness meditation in North America. A native of the west coast, he has previously taught at the University of Idaho, Washington State University, the University of Nevada, Reno, and Portland State University. He enjoys the outdoors and outdoor cooking. He is also a novice priest in the Tendai Buddhist tradition. Daniel has been teaching for BIS for several semesters and will teach the BIS 390 course in the Summer 2013 semester. Daniel was selected to receive a graduate student scholarship award from the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Collaborative (ICC) in 2013.

Andrea Zach Rutan is a PhD student in Cultural Studies at Mason. She earned her MA in Sociology with a thesis entitled, “National Cultural Memory: Political Discourse on German Leitkultur,” for which she won the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Sociology. In addition to having presented her work at seven conferences, she recently published a paper entitled, “Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin: The ‘Spectacular [A]ffect’ of Vergangenheitsbewältigung” in the International Journal of Žižek Studies 6, no. 2 (2012). Andrea was selected to receive the graduate student scholarship award from the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Collaborative (ICC) in 2013 for her planned fieldwork in Berlin, Germany. Andrea believes that her role as a teacher is that of a guide through a collaborative and continual learning process. As an international teacher in contact with increasingly diverse backgrounds and cultures in the contemporary university or college classroom, she seeks to encourage conversations between myriad ideas and voices. As various processes of globalization both enrich and challenge almost every field of study and each student’s experiences, it becomes increasingly important for students to be both focused and broadly educated. Thus, she seeks to facilitate an interdisciplinary and multi-cultural environment, in order to better prepare her students to enter into the next phase of their lives and provide them with the tools to become critical, thoughtful, and respectful life-long learners. Andrea is deeply committed to providing a rigorous, interactive, interdisciplinary, multicultural and engaging learning environment that fosters cooperation and collaboration.

Tara Sheoran is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Mason, where her current research focuses on the implications of global capital flows and pharmaceutical marketing of contraceptives to women. Her dissertation is titled, “Emergency Contraceptive Advertising: Mediated Medicine and the (re)Imagined Family Planning Project in India.” She has conducted fieldwork in India, which was supported by the National Science Foundation’s Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant under the division of Social and Economic Sciences in the Science, Technology, and Society Program. She was awarded the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHHS) Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship to write up about her research. She has taught classes in Global Affairs, Interdisciplinary Studies, and is scheduled to teach courses in Contemporary Medicine. She successfully defended her dissertation in May 2013 and is already looking forward to turning her dissertation into a manuscript over the next year or two. She is also currently advising two students in the BIS program.
Joshua Kryah became the BIS and English Term Professor beginning with the Fall 2012. Joshua holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a doctorate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was awarded the prestigious Schaeffer Fellowship in poetry.

He has published two collections of poems, *We Are Starved* (University of Colorado Press, 2011) and *Glean* (Nightboat Books, 2007), and is the recipient of a 2013 National Education Association fellowship in poetry.

Along with specialties in creative writing, poetics, and interdisciplinary studies, he focuses on cross-genre study, paying particular attention to authors and works that challenge conventional notions of genre.

He currently has two manuscripts-in-progress: *Closen*, a verse drama about the life and work of the British poet John Clare and the English Enclosure Acts of the 19th century; and *Holy Ghost People*, a meditation on glossolalia, or speaking in tongues. Thanks to Josh for all of his work with BIS in the past year. We wish him the best as he moves on to new ventures.

Marilyn Sharif is an advanced Doctor of Arts student in the Higher Education Program and an Academic Advisor in the School of Management at Mason.

Marilyn earned both her Bachelor of Arts degree (with distinction) and her Master of Arts degree in sociology at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. She has extensive multicultural and international experience living, studying, teaching, researching and consulting in the Middle East.

As a doctoral student, Marilyn’s interests include the internationalization of US higher education, the socio-cultural adjustments of international students, and interdisciplinary research. She is completing doctorial teaching internships by co-teaching BIS 300 in Spring 2013, and BIS 390 in Summer 2013.

As an academic advisor of undergraduate students, Marilyn coordinates the School of Management’s study abroad initiative as well as the academic advising of China 1+2+1 business students.

Rebecca Forrest is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Mason. Her dissertation research concerns the militarization of rock ‘n’ roll and uses Elvis Presley’s draft and subsequent military service as a lens to explore the relationship between the military, the concept of celebrity, and the culture industry. This spring, she received a graduate student scholarship from the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Collaborative to support her dissertation research. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and an MAIS in Anthropology.

She has worked in the music industry, including working for Arista Records, RAS Records, and College Music Journal Magazine and as a Promoter/Marketing and Sales Manager. She also headed a national non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of heroes dealing with the stress of their service by pairing them with shelter animals.

Rebecca has taught BIS, Anthropology, and Sociology. From her experience completing her MAIS degree, she knows that being a student in an individualized program comes with its own benefits and challenges.
Joe Killiany began teaching for BIS in Spring 2013. He also teaches in the English department. He has an M.A. in Literature from New Mexico State University; his thesis explored the sociological and historical context of gender performance in early twentieth century American detective fiction.

Joe is a certified Special Education teacher in the District of Columbia Public School system. Joe was also a contract technical writer for Northrop Grumman’s Public Health Operating Unit where he supported the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Center (FASD) for Excellence. In this role, he has authored or revised a variety of publications including an overview of FASD-related state-level legislation introduced throughout the U.S. and a community partnership guide aimed at preventing FASD in Native American communities. Joe has also co-authored a number of IT-related public health proposals and has written extensively about substance abuse and mental health services.

In addition, Joe is also one of the four founding editors of Barrelhouse, a nationally distributed literary magazine that publishes fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Started as an informal writing group, Barrelhouse has recently released its 11th print issue, published its first book (Bring the Noise: The Best Pop Culture Essays from Barrelhouse), and held its fifth annual Conversations and Connections Conference, a one day event that provides a variety of practical sessions on writing in all genres.

With best wishes for her future ventures we say goodbye to Cynthia Lehman. She has been a cornerstone of the BIS 491 course for the last three years.

BIS Instructor Alan More, who also teaches for the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society (CLS), was recently awarded the 2013 CLS Faculty Award for his teaching and work in the department’s new Minor in Intelligence Analysis. CLS and a number of other Mason departments are hoping to turn the minor into a full-blown undergraduate degree.

CLS Chairman, Dr. David Wilson, and Alan at the CLS Awards Ceremony May 10, 2013
Kristin Scott is currently a Term Assistant Professor of Integrative Studies with New Century College and has been teaching for BIS for four years. As a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies, she is also working on her dissertation, The “Digital City”: A Critical Examination of the Discursive Practices of Urban Digitality in Three U.S. Cities, which considers the recent digital technological initiatives of New York City, San Antonio, and Seattle and factors that help to explain what appears to be a larger trend towards urban digitality. Prior to her doctoral work, Kristin earned an MA from the University of Chicago in Interdisciplinary Studies, and an MFA in Creative Writing at Columbia College Chicago.

Cultural Studies is now her primary field of study precisely because of its interdisciplinarity, as well as how those in the field work to identify and interrogate practices of everyday life, meaning-making processes, institutional structures of power, and offer possibilities for praxis. The knowledge and experience Kristin brings into the classroom thus derive from and contribute to a number of disciplines and fields of study, including urban studies, anthropology, literature, sociology, history, women’s studies, globalization studies, and digital and media studies. In addition to her research and teaching, Kristin is also a visual artist and works in photography, painting, drawing, and mixed media; as both an artist and a scholar, Kristin has always worked towards finding that balance and connection between the creative and intellectual.

As a first-generation and non-traditional age college student, (having earned her BA in her mid-thirties and her master’s degrees in her early 40s), Kristin is particularly passionate about working with non-traditional age students. She has mentored a number of students in capstone and advanced projects, including BIS and OSCAR (Students for Scholars program), and received a letter of commendation for teaching from the Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education at George Mason University for “outstanding performance” and “unusually high student course evaluation ratings.” In an effort to expand her research and interests into broader international circles, Kristin also has conducted a number of international teaching collaborations with professors and classes from South East European University in Tetovo, Macedonia, the University of Illinois in Chicago, IL, and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia; and attended an intensive summer school session entitled, “Spaces of Media,” at Princeton University in 2012, in collaboration with the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie, in Weimar, Germany.

For more information, please visit her website at: http://www.kristinscott.net
Help us welcome our new student worker!

Hi! My name is Faiza Hussein and I am the new front-desk student worker for BIS. My main job is to help our advisors with anything they need while also making appointments for students to meet with advisors for guidance on past, present, and future courses. I am currently a junior at Mason majoring in Neuroscience while minoring in Psychology. The brain and how it works have always fascinated me. Just sit back and try to understand that the brain is part of your CNS, which is your central nervous system. It is the "center" your body needs to do everything and anything. I have always loved learning different ways and techniques in how the brain operates, which is why I have chosen Neuroscience as my field of study. After I graduate with my B.S. in Neuroscience, I wish to further my education in medical school with a specialty in pediatrics.

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Your contributions help us continue to enhance the BIS program.
If you would like to make a financial contribution, visit http://chss.gmu.edu/alumni/support/how-to-donate

Be sure to specify Humanities and Social Sciences and write-in either BIS Program Fund or BIS Scholarships!

Thank you for your generosity.

For information about Alumni Affairs, visit: http://alumni.gmu.edu

Be sure to keep your information up-to-date in the Alumni Directory in order to receive future alumni newsletters from BIS!

Upcoming Events

BIS Senior Capstone Presentations and Student Awards Ceremony:
July 29th 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Innovation Hall, First Floor
Friends and Family are Welcome

BIS NEWS

Janet Ha Poirot and Mark Sistek were nominated for the Advisor of the Year Award!