

INTD Department Newsletter

November 2009



Letter from Alan ~

Attending a Research Conference

This year Naropa's Faculty Development Funds are providing small contingents of faculty to attend four academic conferences. I was given the opportunity to attend the CUR's "Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research" conference at Concordia University in Moorhead, MN, right by the Red River and Fargo, ND. There were two interesting things for me about the campus. The students of the four regional universities themselves built over 30 miles of dykes, both sandbag and clay, to thwart some of the most threatening parts of the great Fargo/Moorhead flooding last year. And then, right across the street from the Knutson Center where we were meeting was the Prairie Home Cemetery, where Garrison Keillor got the name for "Prairie Home Companion" when he was young man visiting the campus way back.

The conference was about developing a process of meaningful research for undergraduate students as an integral part of their college education experience. Naropa sent the following representatives: Stuart Sigman, Alan Hartway, Mark Kille, and Melissa Root. Our team work in between the three plenary sessions was to develop a mission plan for undergraduate research and begin to imagine the strategy for a ten-year implementation.

Higher education is increasingly moving away from an instructional model of education to a learning model. That's where research plays a larger role in the student experience. Undergraduate research will deepen the faculty-student relationship. It will also enable Naropa to take its contemplative pedagogy into the world of real life and experiences.

What is undergraduate research? "Undergraduate research is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate in collaboration with a faculty mentor that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline." (CUR, 1st Plenary Powerpoint) Undergraduate research promotes the concepts and practices of learning communities, shared intellectual experiences, diversity and more global learning, first year seminars, internships, and capstone courses.

Interdisciplinary studies already has an incipient curricula in research with the required Advanced Research course and the option of a directed honors research course. It is clear that these should be developed more deeply, enhanced, and strengthened.

One of the first steps is that the faculty who attended will be sharing our learning with the other faculty over the next academic council and chairs meetings. Our INTD faculty meetings will be discussing ways our department can offer a research track to our students. I am currently imaging that we would have a humanities track, a research track, a healing track, and an expressive arts track in the department. I'm very excited about what this can mean for a richer student learning experience with interdisciplinary studies.

Alan Hartway

Chair of INTD Studies at Naropa University



Important Dates!

INTD department meetings – Nov 5, Lincoln 4140, 5-6pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please join us!

Grand Warriors' Exchange – **April 29, 2010**, Shambhala Hall. All are welcome!

INTD On Facebook

The INTD Dept has its own Facebook group! Make sure you search for "Interdisciplinary Studies Naropa University." You shouldn't have any trouble finding us! The group is a great way to get word out about events, meetings, issues, as well as keeping in touch with alumni and what they're up to. So join today!

Library Material

Have some good ideas for new material our library needs? E-mail Marcia, mhaddigan@naropa.edu, with your request in full bibliographical form. This is a great way to build our resources!

Special Topics

Spring 2010 is fast approaching! Dr. Ferguson will teach Interpreting the Devil: Towards and Integral Understanding of Evil. The course will examine images and personifications for evil from perspectives such as: Jungian, Buddhist, Christian, folklore, and economic anthropology.

Marcia and Alan maintain an ongoing list with your suggestions for future Special Topics courses. Some of the topics raised at the all department meeting include:

Demystifying Astrology
Demystifying Palm and Face Reading
2012: Myth Behind It
Apocalyptic Movies and Prophecies
Political Philosophy and Theory
How to play; Child Within Yourself
Bioregional Animism
Cultural Ecology
Understand Economies
Alternatives to Capitalism
Aspects of Science that Align with
Mysticism

Spiritual Ecology
Social Entrepreneurship
Cultural and Linguistic Studies-Board
View of Cultures Not Only Religion
Deep Listening; Sound of Environment
Technolization of Culture
Media and Technology, Influence on
Culture
Health and Healing Modalities
Science and Spirituality
History, Economy and Culture of the Silk
Road

Student Submissions

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department would like to invite students to share their work with the INTD Community in the newsletter. Please send student writing, details of events you are coordinating, or a summary of projects you are involved in to mhaddigan@naropa.edu. Contact Marcia in the INTD office with questions or comments.

INTD Social Events Committee

Some plans are in the works for a Fall/Winter potluck, tentatively set for

Friday December 4th. Please let Akiva know if you can help out with planning!

Events Coming Up at Naropa

There are all sorts of things going on right here on our campus, so make sure to take advantage of them!

November 13-15 is the weekend seminar Breeze of Simplicity with talks from Anyen Rinpoche

November 21st at 8pm the Dance of Africa Class will perform in PAC

December 5th at 7:30pm Naropa's MFA students present Lear in Process: Scenes and Images from Shakespeare's King Lear

This is a wonderful time to connect with Naropa students you may not normally see, have a great time working and dialoguing together.

Be sure to keep up with all Naropa events on the event calendar website:

<http://www.naropa.edu/calendar>

Check Out What Our Neighbors at CU are Up To:

<http://events.colorado.edu>

For example, attend:

The Nature of Evil in Macbeth on Wednesday Nov 4th at 4pm

Nuclear Power: Hope or Hype? Thursday Nov 5th 5-7pm

Laser Led Zeppelin at the Fiske Planetarium Friday Nov 13th 9:30-10:30pm

There's always something going on, from art exhibits, to lectures, performances and social events!

Faculty Office Hours

Don't forget Spring registration is coming up fast, if you need to meet with Alan or Gaylon be sure to stop by Little House and sign up for office hours!

Alan is available Tuesdays 9:30-noon, Wednesdays 1:00-2:30, and Thursdays 1:00-3:00

Gaylon is available Tuesdays 10:30-11:30, Wednesdays 1:00-3:00, and Thursdays 10:00-noon.

Department Peeps

Chair: Alan Hartway

Faculty: Alan Hartway, Gaylon Ferguson, Stuart Sigman and Michelle Naka Pierce

Administrative Director: Marcia Haddigan

Graduate Assistants: Amy Newell-Large MARS, and Katie McEwen MDIV

Workstudy: Caroline Czabala, Early Childhood Education



INTD 490/690 Special Topics Seminar (3 credits)

Interpreting the Devil:

Towards an Integral Understanding of Evil

Instructor: Gaylon Ferguson

Thursday 12-2:50 p.m. Lincoln 4130

Philosopher Hannah Arendt famously wrote of "the banality of evil." The human imagination stretches to encompass the horrors of war, environmental devastation, and shockingly brutal acts of inhumanity. This course examines images and personifications of evil from diverse perspectives:

- (1) the Jungian psychological view of "shadow"--a rejected aspect of our own psyches;
- (2) Buddhist dualism and non-duality (Batchelor's *Living with the Devil: a Meditation on Good and Evil*);
- (3) literature (the Christian satire of *The Screwtape Letters*);
- (4) folklore and communal creativity along the Texas-Mexico border (José Limón's *Dancing with the Devil*); and
- (5) economic anthropology--exploring the collective imagination of the deadly realities of mining (Taussig's *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*); selections from *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man*.

Our aim will be to arrive at a more encompassing comprehension of what we call "evil" through synthesizing and integrating a variety of ways of gazing into the depths.

