

Interdisciplinary studies offers self-tailored B.A.

by Kayla Henderson
staff writer

What should students major in when they aren't sure what to major in?

Dr. Kris Barton, chair of the Dept. of Communication, would suggest interdisciplinary studies.

As opposed to Dalton State's 17 other more traditional, targeted bachelor's degree programs, the bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies lets students expand their knowledge of chosen disciplines without devoting an entire academic career to any one of them.

A four-year liberal arts degree program, interdisciplinary studies offers what Barton called "a useful degree for people who maybe aren't sure what they want to do.

"Rather than focusing on one specific discipline within the liberal arts, rather than just communication or English or psychology or criminal justice or history," Barton said, "interdisciplinary studies allows someone who has varied interests to get a broad range of knowledge and put them all together in the way that they think is the best fit for their future career or what interests them."

Barton said the program's goal is to give students "the degree that is going to most directly benefit them," particularly if a more traditional degree program doesn't offer that.

"If someone said, 'I want to study writing for new media,' well, Dalton State doesn't have a new media degree . . . but what they could do is say, 'With my interdisciplinary studies degree, I want to take some English classes to give me a background in literature, some communication classes, some psychology classes, and I think those put together will help me with my career in media writing.'"

Another benefit of interdisciplinary studies is that it allows students to change majors without losing credits for courses otherwise outside their degree programs.

"One intention for interdisciplinary studies," Barton said, "was to allow someone who had started a degree but decided that it wasn't what they wanted to do to still use those credits toward their bachelor's degree."

Barton said the program would best benefit communication students, but that its applications don't stop there.

"We have a communication emphasis," he said. "Despite the fact that Dalton State doesn't have a communication degree, it's the closest thing to that that we do have, and it will give you everything that a real communication degree would."

And Barton said communication is really only the beginning for the program.

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Freshman Chase Starkey practices his disc golf technique during the National Student Day activities on the quad Thursday, Oct. 9.

Student publishes in scholarly journal

by Sarah Blevins
staff writer

Contributors to scholarly journals are . . . well, generally speaking, scholars.

Shannon Evans is not—technically, at least—a scholar.

And yet, this past summer, the DSC junior published an article about hoarding in the most recent issue of *Journal of Popular Television*.

Evans first wrote “One Man’s Junk is Another Man’s Disease: Exploring Hoarding as Reality Television” for the fall 2012 section of Dr. Kris Barton’s COMM 4602, Mass Media & Society.

The assignment required students to write 25-page research papers that they were then encouraged to submit to a professional academic conference.

Completed essays therefore had to compete against the work of scholars from across the country.

But if organizers accepted them, students would get to travel to the conference and present their work in front of an audience of experts.

“When the class started working on the essay,” Evans says, “and Dr. Barton explained the essay and the



Shannon Evans poses beside the Dept. of Communication showcase on the first floor of the Liberal Arts Building. The issue of *Journal of Popular Television* in which her article appears is on her immediate right.

conference, I had a good idea of what I could do.”

Evans wanted to examine the way hoarders, people who obsessively fill their homes with objects most people would throw away, have become the subjects of such reality shows as A&E’s

Hoarders and TLC’s *Hoarding: Buried Alive*.

“I had been curious as to why this relatively obscure disease is the subject of popular television shows,” Evans says, “and my background working with a counseling office had me

thinking about the ways sensitive information about mental illness is conveyed to the public.”

Her finished product argues that reality shows that purport to help hoarders actually exploit them, a

(see Evans, page 4)



Fall Fine Arts Series begins

Pianist Jerico Vasquez rehearses in Goodroe Auditorium before opening the 2014-2015 Fine Arts and Lecture Series Sept. 8.

Fall 2014 Fine Arts and Lecture Series

Christina Howell,
soprano
Oct. 9

E. G. Kight,
blues musician
Nov. 7

Dalton/Whitfield
Community Band
(7 p.m., Northwest
Whitfield High School)
Nov. 13

Chorus Peregrinus
choir
Dec. 1

unless otherwise noted,
events begin at 7:30 p.m.
in Goodroe Auditorium

ROADKILL

To all of you carrying on meaningless conversations in the quiet area of the library: show some consideration and either go into a study room or leave the library.

Why do campus police sit and wait for traffic to back up before they decide to direct it? How about getting out there before it backs up?

Dalton State is growing too fast for its own good. The campus can't keep up with demand. The dorms, athletic facilities, parking, and campus life organizations are unable to accommodate people on the scale DSC wishes to reach.

I want to see the pool fixed in the gym.

If you're going to stand in the parking lot or road in small groups talking, you deserve to be run over. There are sidewalks and a student center for a reason.

I hate that students complain about how boring DSC is but refuse to get involved themselves.

The Wood Valley Apartments on campus need better maintenance. I've had electrical outlets that don't work, a cable outlet that doesn't work, a stove that doesn't work, and a water heater that barely heats water.

I hate it when only one person uses a study room in the library. There's a clear-as-day sign there that says they're for two people or more.

It'd be great if all my friends from high school didn't ignore me as soon as they got to college.

Textbooks are too expensive. We're already playing a lot for classes, and it's crazy how much books cost.

We need more computer science courses.

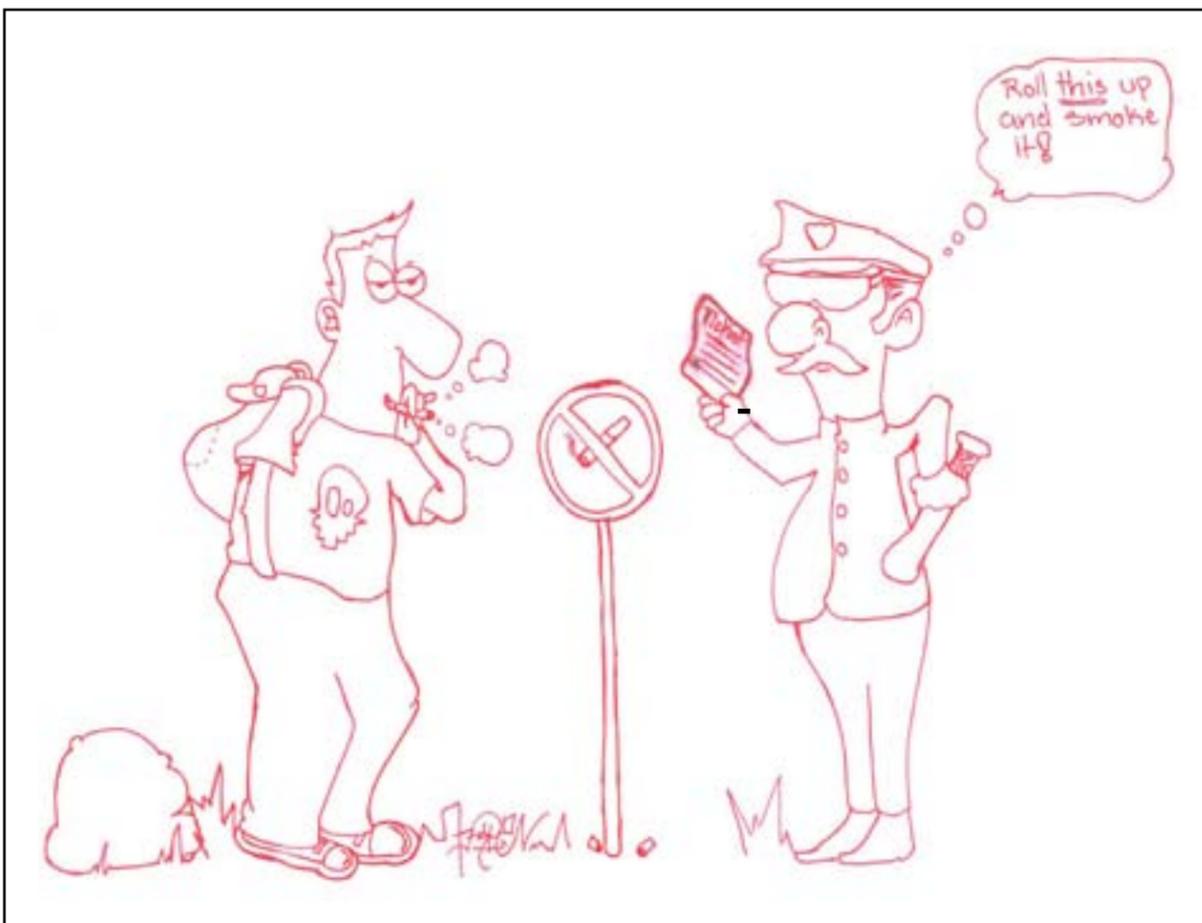
Why don't the free cell phone chargers connect to my iPhone? Do they just not work?

We need more than 10 minutes to change classes. That isn't enough when you need to eat or use the restroom.

Maintenance crews shouldn't drive vehicles on sidewalks during class changes. It should be obvious, but students need them then.

I'd never thought about it before, but coming to class late is disruptive and disrespectful.

Kudos to everyone responsible for Coach O Court. It looks great and makes a nice addition to DSC.



Monday morning at the chokepoint

by Meagan Standridge
staff writer

I was on my way to school last Monday, heading north on College Drive, when I approached the main entrance to campus. As usual, cars were entering and exiting the intersection like a swarm of bees around a hive.

As I turned left onto George Rice Drive, I made it only a few car-lengths before I had to stop. A Public Safety officer was in the crosswalk and had halted all vehicles so students could cross between Liberal Arts and the Tech Building.

I listened to a little Bob Dylan while waiting for the crosswalk to clear and, 30 seconds later, when the officer motioned for cars to proceed, I drove forward.

Just then, two students darted out of the row of parallel-parked cars to my right and walked out in front of my MOVING vehicle.

Like zombie survivors of a technological apocalypse, they looked up from their phones only long enough to give me a scolding glare.

As if I were the one in the wrong.

Jaywalking is dangerous, people, particularly at this spot—and not just for pedestrians but for drivers and passengers as well.

Cars tend to bunch up around the first George Rice Drive crosswalk.

It's the chokepoint for almost all campus traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, a spot so aggravating and potentially dangerous to navigate that DSC's 2025 Master Plan calls for its demolition.

Cars line up like army ants, one behind another, and when one slams on brakes, the one behind it has to do the same, and the one behind it, and the one behind it.

Why couldn't those two students—and the dozens of others I've seen jaywalking this semester—only practice what their mothers no doubt taught them?

I couldn't have been the only one whose mom taught her kids to look both ways before crossing the street.

Was that their problem? Did those two "adults" need their mommies to come hold their hands and walk them to class?

Jaywalking is rude not only to those you walk in front of but to the officers just a few steps away.

When jaywalkers so blatantly disregard authority, they put themselves and others in danger.

Fuming about my Monday morning at the chokepoint, I paid a visit to Michael Shane Masters, Dalton State's director of Public Safety. I figured he was the one to talk to not only because of his position but because of the e-mail he sent campus-wide Sept. 10.

"Please use the sidewalks and crosswalks on campus to cross George Rice Drive," it began. "Walking into the road from between vehicles at other locations makes it very difficult for drivers to see you before you are in their path."

Masters said he's received more complaints about jaywalkers this semester than he ever has before, and he's been at DSC for 13 years.

"We've had two pedestrians hit," he said. "And I'm surprised it hasn't been a lot more."

So am I.

To prevent further accidents, Masters said he's thinking about issuing citations for anyone who jaywalks.

Luckily for those who heedlessly dart out in front of moving vehicles, though, Masters said he would rather give students a chance to correct the behavior themselves.

Earlier this semester, when parking was limited, instead of ticketing individuals for parking in the grass at the recreation field parking lot Masters posted "do not park on the grass" signs.

"I like to try to educate people first," he said.

I, for one, hope Public Safety starts issuing citations if the jaywalking doesn't stop by the end of the semester.

These scofflaws are too trusting in their peers behind the wheel.

Think about it: if you're not looking, how can you be sure those drivers are?

Rules are put in place to ensure safety, not just yours as you're walking but mine as I'm driving.

I'm going to follow them.

How about you do the same?

Interdisciplinary studies

(continued from page 1)

“We’re looking at expanding it,” he explained. “We’ve talked about an interdisciplinary studies degree with an emphasis in sports, possibly. And really, it can be anything you want to make it.”

At the beginning of their junior year, interdisciplinary studies students have to submit a plan of study in which they identify their intellectual and/or career goals and explain how the courses they plan to take will help achieve them.

Upper-division requirements for the program include three to six credit hours in humanities, three to six credit hours in social sciences, three to six credits hours in communication, and three

to six credit hours in history for a total of at least 15 hours, six of which must be above the 2000 level.

Students are also required to complete 15 to 18 hours in a minor, but that minor can come from any discipline, not just liberal arts.

As for electives, students have to take 21 credit hours in upper-level liberal arts courses.

Three to six hours of free electives are also required.

Like the others, these electives should complement a student’s area of study, or they can be taken to fulfill a prerequisite.

For instance, if students want to take a

4000-level English course, they could use English 3015, Introduction to Literary Studies as a free elective because that class is a prerequisite for 4000-level English courses.

The final requirement for the degree is INTS 4999, the capstone course, which requires that students submit a senior essay, research project, or electronic portfolio, all under the direction of a faculty member.

For more information about the bachelor’s program in interdisciplinary studies, please contact Dr. Kris Barton at kmbarton@daltonstate.edu or see <http://catalog.daltonstate.edu/schooloffliberalarts/interdisciplinarystudies>.

Evans

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practice that many would find unthinkable on programs about those with more serious mental disorders.

“You probably won’t see them making fun of alcoholics on *Intervention*,” Barton argues, “so why do they get away with it in this case?”

Barton has helped nearly two dozen students present their work at seven academic conferences over the past few years, but Evans is the only one to have taken her work from the conference—in her case, the 2013 meeting of the Popular/American Culture Association in the South, held in Savannah—to the more rarified arena of the scholarly journal.

When asked if she was interested in publishing the essay, Evans says she said “Let’s go. Let’s do it,” and, beginning in early 2013, she and Barton began revising, sending successive drafts to London, England, the journal’s home.

The published abstract reads as follows: “Reality television programmes focusing on issues of ‘hoarding’ (accumulating items and possessions at unhealthy levels) have become

popular on U.S. cable networks such as A&E and TLC.

“But while these shows outwardly appear to be offering help to those who are featured on the series (as well as viewers at home), the quick-fix solutions and pseudo-medical treatments exhibited may have serious negative consequences for participants and media consumers alike.

“This article will explore the current state of hoarding within the medical profession, how the disease is depicted through reality television programming, and the problems that result from the superficial and insensitive portrayals of hoarders and their lifestyles.”

Barton is listed—after Evans—as the article’s coauthor, but he’s quick to downplay his role in its publication.

“Shannon did all the heavy lifting,” he admits. “I helped her cut it down some because she had way more information in her original essay than the journal had room for.

“Also, the process of submitting articles

to academic journals can be tedious, and not following the guidelines exactly can cause a paper to be rejected before anybody even reads it. So for each step in the submission and revision process, I made sure we followed all the rules to make sure it got published.”

Evans says one of the most gratifying results of the process has been seeing her work through a strict peer review: her essay won approval from a board of experts, not just one editor.

“I was never anticipating anything like that,” she says.

Evans is an English major and communication minor who hopes to graduate in 2016.

After that, she plans to return to a position that allows her to help others—she worked from 2008 to 2013 in Academic Resources—or begin a career in technical writing.

“I have several options,” she says. “I could easily see myself being a career counselor or working in tutoring or disability support.

“I enjoyed what I was doing in Academic Resources, and I’d like to do it at a higher level.”



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Interested in writing a guest column? Have an opinion you’d like to express in a letter to the editor or an entry in ROADKILL? E-mail us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu.

Interested in becoming a staff writer or photographer? E-mail Dr. Keith Perry at kperry@daltonstate.edu or sign up next semester for ENGL 1111, Student Newspaper Practicum.

20th-Annual Conasauga River Watershed Clean-Up

Saturday, October 25, 2014

9:00 a.m. – Noon



One of the six most biologically diverse freshwater river systems in the United States, the Conasauga River supports 24 endangered species and a dozen other imperiled species, including the Southern Pigtoe mussel and the Conasauga Logperch (above), a fish found nowhere else in the world.

Be part of the tradition. Choose a site and have some filthy fun as you help clean up our area's beautiful streams and river! The event is held in conjunction with Northwest Georgia United Way's Make A Difference Day and Georgia's Annual Waterway Clean-Up, Rivers Alive.

This year's clean-up will take place at seven locations:

1. Conasauga River at Carlton Petty Road bridge
2. Conasauga River at Highway 2 bridge
3. Conasauga River at Lower King's Bridge/Norton Bridge
4. Holly Creek, Murray County, on the Chattahoochee National Forest
5. Mill Creek tributary in the City of Dalton
6. Coahulla Creek at Prater's Mill
7. Lakeshore Park in the City of Dalton

Sturdy shoes or boots, gloves, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Hip or chest waders are useful, but are not required. Trash bags will be provided, and at least **the first 250 volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and mug or calendar.**

For additional information, please contact Dr. John Lugthart at jlugthart@daltonstate.edu, 706-272-2485.

SPONSORS: Shaw Industries, J&J Industries, Dalton Utilities, Dalton-Whitfield Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Conasauga River Alliance (CRA)

COORDINATORS: Carpet & Rug Institute, CRA, Dalton State College, Dalton Utilities, DWRSWMA, Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful, Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful, Limestone Valley RC & D, TNC, and Murray County Extension

1. Conasauga River at Carlton Petty Road bridge. *From Dalton* head north on Cleveland Highway to Beaverdale Road and follow east to Highway 2. Turn right or east on Highway 2 and travel to the intersection with Highway 225. Turn left or north on Highway 225 and follow approximately 1.5 miles and turn left onto Carlton Petty Road. Travel to the Conasauga River bridge, approximately 1/2 mile. *From Chatsworth* head north on Highway 225 approximately 14 miles and turn left onto Carlton Petty Road. Travel to the Conasauga River bridge, approximately 1/2 mile.

2. Conasauga River at Highway 2 bridge. *From Dalton* take the Cleveland Highway (Rt. 71) north from Dalton to Highway 2. Turn right on Highway 2 and go about 6.5 miles until you reach the bridge over Conasauga River at Beaverdale Superette. Park at the store. *From Chatsworth* go north on US Route 411. At Cisco, turn left onto Highway 2 and go about 7 miles until you reach the bridge over Conasauga River at Beaverdale Superette. Park at the store.

3. Conasauga River at Lower King's Bridge/Norton Bridge. *From Dalton* take Highway 52/76 toward Chatsworth. Turn left onto Highway 286. After passing through Dawnville, go another 1/2 mile on Highway 286 and turn left onto Lower King's Bridge Road. Go 2 miles, turn right at the stop sign, and park when you get near the bridge. *From Chatsworth* go north on Highway 411. Go through Eton, and continue another 1.7 miles on Highway 411 and turn left onto Red Cut Road. Continue straight on this road for 4 or 5 miles, until you reach the river. (Red Cut Road will change names to Norton Bridge Road when you cross Highway 225.) Cross the bridge over the river and park.

4. Holly Creek. *From US Route 411 Northbound* at Eton turn right (east) on CCC Camp Road. Continue on this road even after pavement ends. One mile after pavement ends, look for parking area on left with registration table atswimming hole area.

5. Mill Creek tributary in the City of Dalton—at Underwood Apartments. *From Dalton or Chatsworth* take the North Bypass to Underwood Street. Turn south onto Underwood Street at traffic light. Continue on Underwood for about 3/4 mile. Turn left onto Phoenix Place at Underwood Apartments. *From Walnut Avenue* turn north on Glenwood Avenue. Turn right onto Martin Luther King Blvd. Proceed for 10 blocks and turn left onto Fields Avenue. Continue on Fields Ave. until intersection with Underwood Street. Turn right onto Underwood. Proceed on Underwood for about 7 blocks. Turn right onto Phoenix Place at Underwood Apts.

6. Coahulla Creek at Prater's Mill, 5845 Georgia Highway 2. *From I-75* take Exit 341, Hwy. 201 (Tunnel Hill – Varnell exit). Travel North 4.5 miles to GA Hwy. 2, turn right on GA Hwy. 2, and continue 2.6 miles to Prater's Mill. GPS: N34 53.720 W84 55.197

7. Lakeshore Park in the City of Dalton. *From the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Thornton Avenue/Route 41 (S. Dixie Hwy)* go south on Route 41 (South Dixie Hwy) for .9 miles. Just past the Whitfield County School District office, turn right onto Conway Street. Proceed on Conway Street until you see the lake, parking area, and picnic pavilion. Park at the pavilion.