

SYNTHESIS



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Dean's Column: How Synthesis Can Change Your Life

By Wayne Cox



Before I changed careers, I taught writing and literature for 25 years. As a result, I became certain about two things: 1) I don't know everything about effective essays or presentations; 2) I am tired of ineffective essays and presentations. As a dean, I spend most of my time writing emails, so I am now tired of ineffective emails, some of which I have written. Emails should never contain essays or presentations, for example, but mine sometimes do. And nobody reads them. Because emails are an impoverished medium, I find myself thinking about essays and presentations. Call me sentimental.

One thing I do know is this: never, ever begin an article, an essay, or presentation by defining a word—especially when employing the dictionary. It's not inspiring, it's not interesting, it's not needed, and it's the oldest trick in the communication handbook. That's why we see it so often.

So, let me help to inaugurate this first issue of Synthesis magazine by defining synthesis—in terms of what it does, not what it means.

The great Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke once worked for the great French artist Auguste Rodin. Over the course of their relationship, Rilke received an education he never expected: he learned how to see, all over again. Before they met, Rilke's poems were abstract and intellectual. But after living with Rodin's physical, sinuous sculptures, Rilke's poems themselves became physical and kinesthetic. Instead of choosing something to write about, things seemed to choose him, and even if the object wasn't perfect, the encounter changed him. That is why in his poem "Archaic Torso of Apollo," Rilke ends his description of a headless ancient statue by saying "there is no place/that does not see you. You must change your life." If art is good, it can see you as much as you see it.

A college education, if you are up to the challenge, can change your life in the same way. But you need to learn how to see again. As we strive to do this in our faith, so should we in our education. This is what synthesis can do. If you can infer relationships among sources, if you can discern, if you can connect and make something new from many separate sources, then you are learning how to see again. If you are willing to suspend your judgment and disbelief and go outside of yourself, then you have a good chance at being educated.

There's no better place to do this than in the College of Arts and Sciences. While other colleges tend to narrow your focus down within specialized disciplines, Arts and Science expands your horizons by connecting them. With 12 departments, 18 distinct programs, and 14 minors, including a Coding and App Development minor that is one of only three in the nation, our degrees have been streamlined to fit well into double majors or multiple minors. Synthesis is what we do.

That's why I am pleased to be given my little digital space in this, the first issue of Synthesis. What's great about majoring in one of the disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences? Not just the transferrable skills you'll learn. Not just the interesting research you'll produce. What's most important is the opportunity you'll have to study in a discipline that both shapes and reflects you, that connects itself to others, that explores not only who you are but who you can be and prepares you for a lifetime of employment, a lifetime of significance.

SYNTHESIS

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STUDENTS



Video created by AU students receives film festival award

By Judy Price

Sometimes what starts out as a class assignment can lead to broader recognition that helps to build a resume.

That's what a group of Anderson University students found when a short film they produced for a corporate video production class ended up winning at the WorldFest Houston International Film Festival last year. WorldFest Houston is one of the oldest and largest film festivals in the United States.

Five students, now all graduates, were recently awarded a bronze Remi award in the student film and video category. Garrett Black, Ashlyn Boudolf, Parker Roberts, Ashley Smith and Mary Hunter Smittkamp were awarded for a piece they produced for a local food bank called "Golden Harvest: Food Comes from the Heart."

The one-minute piece shows how the work of food bank volunteers results in a nutritious meal on the table of a family in need.

Smittkamp said the length of the video doesn't come close to reflecting the amount of work that went into the project.

"In total, a minute-long video took us between 15 to 20 hours to make," Smittkamp said.

Smith said a lot of work went into the project before any footage was even shot. She said that before filming, students had to acquire a waiver from the organization to shoot on location and to film people. They then had to create a plan through which the team determined who, where, and when to shoot.

"I know we spent many hours in pre-production, brainstorming as a team, and planning for the shoots," Smith said.

The planning then led to the actual shooting.

"We completed the shots over two separate days, one being an afternoon during the week and one was a

Saturday," Smith said.

The largest amount of time in video production was spent editing the footage as the students condensed hours' worth of footage into the final project. According to Smith, the team edited their footage over the course of a week.

"We had a great system where we ended up having someone in there (the digital media lab) a significant number of hours a day. Essentially, if you weren't in class or at work, you were in the lab," Smith said.

In selecting student work to send to contests,

Woodfin said that he selects those projects that have "strong audio, lighting, and story structure" and that students need to put their very best effort into creating an award-winning piece.

"You've got to pull out all the stops. You have to think out of the box," Woodfin said

he tells students. "Audience members remember the emotion you stir up with your project long after they forget the specific details of your work."

"Everything, every aspect of your video must be perfect," he said.

Woodfin said adding a film festival award to a resume can provide students with an edge in the workforce.

WorldFest Houston is, in particular, a "strong addition" to a resume because individuals like Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, and the Coen brothers were given top honors at that same film festival in their early years, Woodfin said.

Smith said winning this award helped her become a better professional.

"While I am not currently in the media field explicitly, winning this award has been influential in my professional development," said Smith, who is now completing a master's degree at Taylor

"Audience members remember the emotion you stir up with your project long after they forget the specific details of your work."

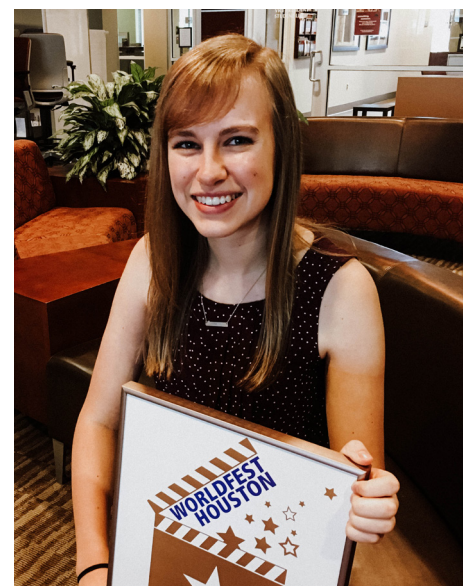
University in Knoxville, Tenn. "Working in higher education requires me to be a dynamic team player, critical thinker and maintain a love of learning, and that is exactly what this award represents."

Woodfin said AU currently has another video entered in this year's contest.

"The Record," a 60-second film, that tells the

emotional story of a relationship breakup has been submitted for consideration this spring.

"To tell a story with a beginning, middle and end in only 60 seconds is incredible," Woodfin said. "We have some amazing students here at AU."



Let's Talk Small Business: Student pursues entrepreneurship

By Allison Kennedy

If you see Emily Biggers' work on Instagram or read her blog, it would be easy to assume she is working fulltime as a photographer and videographer. Biggers, a sophomore communication major with a concentration in digital media at Anderson University, is pursuing her degree while also pursuing her business: Emily Hannah Productions.

Biggers' enterprise is evidence that the days of having to save money to buy a storefront to begin a business are over. Social media marketing and communications have made starting a business accessible to nearly anyone. As a result, entrepreneurship is becoming a popular option for students while they are still in school.

"My classes have helped me gain more of a professional perspective on my business," Biggers said. "While I am focusing on art, I have learned how to promote myself to my target market."

Biggers said classes such as video production have helped her learn her craft while running Emily Hannah Productions. She said her love for telling people's stories through her business grew during projects where she could interview clients and shoot a video for different assignments.

"I am doing homework, but I am also doing what I love at the same time," she said. "It's difficult at times balancing the two, but it's definitely worth it."



Emily Hannah Productions focuses on wedding, senior, family, and other lifestyle photography and videography. Biggers said she hopes to pursue small business photography while doing projects on the side for her enjoyment.

“I love having full creative control over a project. I want to allow myself to be an artist first,” she said.

Biggers’ love for expressing herself creatively can be seen through her blog where she writes about the different types of projects she has brainstormed.

“Writing for my classes has helped me learn how to communicate and organize my ideas for my blog. When people are on Instagram, they don’t usually read, but a blog helps me to communicate the bigger

picture of my projects through writing,” Biggers said. “Being in my different communication classes have helped me learn what presenting myself effectively through writing looks like.”

Biggers is currently working on a photography project inspired by the nine different personality types from the Enneagram personality type test. She says that the project has helped her to “explore the artistic side of photography” and has helped her continue to be passionate about her business even when it is difficult to balance.

She said she hopes her creative work can open doors for fashion and commercial photography when she graduates from AU.



Emily Biggers takes photos and edits work for her photography business. Photos by Alli Kennedy.

AU biochemistry student accepted into dream medical school

By Kara Rice

Fourteen years of pursuing the medical field have paid off for Anderson University student Sara Glendinning after her recent acceptance into the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg brought the dream of becoming a doctor closer to reality.



Sara Glendinning.
Photo by Danielle Jeanjaquet.

Glendinning, a 21-year-old senior from Conway, is pursuing a degree in biochemistry. She said one Saturday of volunteer service at a nursing home is what set her on the path to a career in medicine.

“I knew I loved caring for people, but this particular day I found myself providing hope and encouragement to these residents and my eyes were opened to the idea of investing in another’s wellbeing as a fulltime career,” Glendinning said.

The service projects started as refilling cups or playing bingo, but over the years Glendinning worked her way up to the occupational and physical therapy unit to work one-on-one with the senior citizens.

“It was such an invaluable experience that made me realize I needed them more than they needed me,” she said.

These volunteer opportunities continued in various places such as serving as an emergency medical technician for one year, shadowing various doctors, and conducting research in the tropics. Glendinning said that expanding her knowledge through diverse programs motivated her to pursue a school with great pedagogy and hands-on experience.

She said Anderson’s small community and special features in the College of Arts and Sciences such as the cadaver lab and undergraduate Center for Cancer Research were selling points for choosing AU. She added that her choice for medical school followed similar exploration as she pursued the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine for its degree of professionalism and connection to her undergraduate program.

The journey to medical school was not an easy one. Glendinning said one sophomore year “weed out” class found her face-to-face with failure.

“That is usually the moment most would give up, but I felt challenged to push through and now have an opportunity to help the student that helped me,” she said.

Glendinning attributes much of her success to help from Anderson’s faculty and staff. The Anderson University Pre-Professional Health Sciences Committee encouraged her medical school admission process by writing a committee endorsement letter. This prestigious group selects students based on their work ethic, intelligence, and ability to overcome failure.

“I have Anderson’s faculty and staff to thank for proving that they are here to serve in more ways than what’s outlined in their job descriptions,” Glendinning said.

Associate Professor Carrie Koenigstein, a committee member and Sara’s mentor, praised Glendinning’s accomplishment.

“She didn’t even make a big deal about her acceptance,” Koenigstein said. “That just

speaks to her humility and why she will be a great doctor.”

Bethany Turner, AU’s director of student involvement and new student programs, has also been a support during the application process.

“Her sweet spirit and hospitable personality will take her far in this career,” Turner said.

Glendinning advises other aspiring medical students to volunteer as much as possible to gain experience and explore their interest in medicine.

“I wish I could take my own advice of choosing to do volunteer opportunities not because I have to, but because I want to,” Glendinning said. “I am looking forward to a lifetime of volunteering my time and energy into serving others.”

Glendinning will graduate from Anderson University in May and begin her program at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in July.

“I knew I loved caring for people, but this particular day I found myself providing hope and encouragement...”

Reluctant student has a change of heart

By Jamie Eiland

Begrudgingly, high school senior Anna Craft applied to Anderson University on request of her father. Wanting to leave her hometown of Anderson, South Carolina, Craft dreamed of attending a larger school, such as Boston College, Clemson, or Coastal Carolina, and had applied to AU only as a “backup plan.”

After receiving acceptance letters to multiple universities, her decision to attend AU both shocked everyone she knew and changed her life forever.

“My parents were very pleased with my decision to stay close to home,” the senior communication major said. “Although I still do love to travel, I think Anderson’s community and being close to my family has helped me become the person I am today. I may travel more after graduation, but I am pleased with the decision I made to attend Anderson University.”

Craft said that once she began her college career, she fell in love with AU. “My favorite part of college has been meeting new people. Anderson just gives so much opportunity to its students, like the AU Abroad program, internships, and lasting friendships,” Craft said.

Although Craft began as a graphic design major, she said she began to find her passion in



communications and changed her major to that discipline with a concentration in digital media.

She said the focus of the major is on writing, editing, web development and creating digital content. She said she loves all the professors and is grateful for their help in classes and career building.

Craft is currently working as a media lab assistant, where she facilitates and monitors student use of the College of Arts and Sciences’ video and photography equipment.

“I found the position through my video professor, Gorman Woodfin,” Craft said. “I was initially interested in the position because my video classes quickly became my favorite. I found that I love creating and editing videos, so I love being around the equipment and learning more about the instruments through my job.”

She said she found all her professors in the College of Arts of Sciences to be personable and helpful.

“If I have a problem in a class or I don’t understand something, I just go to my professors and vent. It is like one big family, and I want my job one day to mimic that feeling,” Craft said.

Craft said she is looking for employment in marketing or digital communications in Greenville or Clemson after graduation.

As she moves on into this next season of life, she said she is grateful for the family AU and the College of Arts and Sciences has created during her time in college. She hopes to carry those community values with her to the workplace and apply what she has learned from her journey.

“When choosing Anderson, I just eventually realized that I wanted my name to be known by my professors. I didn’t want to just be a number to the university, and I felt like Anderson’s close-knit community provided that.” Craft said. “I have loved every moment of my experience with the school and the College of Arts and Sciences. I am going to miss my professors, classmates, and supportive community.”

Anna Craft

AU volleyball player headed to pharmacy school

By Noah Whitehead

Four years ago, Emily Conrad moved 13 hours away from home to Anderson to pursue her dream of college volleyball. Now, she is moving back to her home state to pursue another one of her dreams.

Conrad, a senior from Plano, Texas, has been accepted by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy to pursue a degree in pharmacy after a successful career at Anderson University both on and off the court.

Conrad said that deciding to move such a long way from home was not the easiest decision. During her junior year of high school, Conrad and her mother took a road trip to prospective colleges where she could play volleyball. AU was the last one on the list, but Conrad said she could tell that the school was where God wanted her as soon as she stepped on campus.

She said that Anderson University felt right because she knew she would be challenged to grow on the court, in the classroom, and in her faith.

“I know this is where God wants (me to be),” Conrad remembered thinking after visiting for the first time. “My mother, my father, and I all knew this where I was supposed to be.”

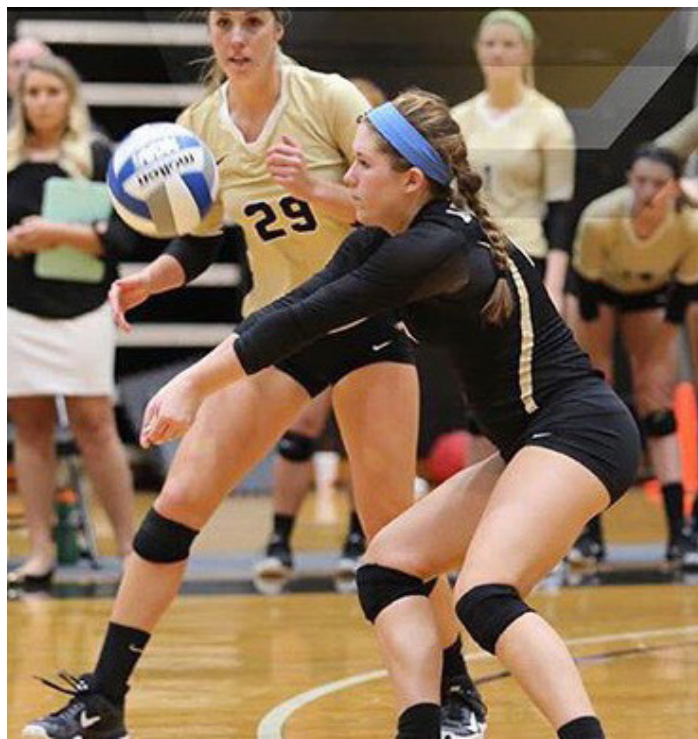
Conrad has been a key player on the volleyball team all four years at AU.

“The team is like a family; we do everything together. I know that I can rely on my teammates and coaches for anything I need,” Conrad said. “It is especially nice to have coaches that go out of their way to show they care for you, share Bible verses with you, and just find ways to be intentional with you. I know that they care about me not just as a player, but as a person.”

Conrad has not only excelled on the volleyball court. Off the court, Conrad has also made excellent grades while completing her degree in biochemistry.

She said her professors in the biochemistry program have been very supportive.

“The teachers here have really worked with me as an athlete and I feel like I know them all personally,” Conrad said.



Emily Conrad sets ball during her senior season.

She said that her favorite part about the major is the small class size. There are only nine senior biochemistry majors this year and Conrad said she feels like she is very close with all of her classmates and professors.

Conrad said she has always had a dream of attending pharmacy school and she and her adviser have worked together all four years to make sure she is taking the right classes, signing up for the right tests, and filling out the right applications to achieve her dream.

While it seemed at the time like Anderson University was just a stepping stone between high school and pharmacy school, Conrad said that it turned out to be much more than that.

“There have been many challenges to overcome, but I wouldn’t trade the experiences and friendships I’ve made here for the world,” Conrad said.

CAS alumna excels as graduate teaching assistant

By Kara Rice

Recent Anderson University graduate Jenni Harris is now applying the principles she learned from her time in the College of Arts and Sciences to help students of her own.

Harris, a native of Belmont, North Carolina, graduated from AU in May 2017 with a degree in English. She is now completing her Master of Arts degree in English literature and working as a graduate teaching assistant at North Carolina State University,

She described the College of Arts and Sciences as a “place that taught the value of balancing critical thinking and academia with pedagogy” and gives credit to AU’s English department faculty for helping her succeed. She said Associate Professor of English Teresa Jones doubled as her professor and mentor.

“Dr. Jones allowed me to see all a professor could be. She recognized my full potential and I got to see how a professor could go above and beyond,” Harris explained. “Her counsel in my life allows me to model those same qualities as a professor, by being a positive influence and caring figure to my students.”

Jones is equally complimentary of Harris who completed a double concentration in literature and creative writing and a minor in art history while at AU.

“Jenni Harris exemplified, and still does as a graduate student, a particular kind of student whose character and intellect make her especially well-suited for graduate study, teaching at the college level, and writing,” Jones said. “She is bright, inquisitive, and talented, but she is also receptive to advice and direction, humble in receiving praise or correction, compassionate yet honest and precise in meeting the academic needs of others, and hardworking, disciplined, and good spirited.”

As a graduate teaching assistant, Harris said she teaches her students to embrace their skills and talents to see their full potential as writers.

“There is something so special about working with those that are skeptical about writing. It is a fun challenge to teach my students to believe in themselves and their success,” she said.

While at AU, Harris was involved in Ivy Leaves, the university’s journal of literature and art. She was nonfiction editor as a junior and editor-in-chief as a senior. Her published works include a collection of nonfiction essays based on her mission work in the Amazon.

Additionally, Harris tutored students in The Writing Center, teaching both soft skills and encouraging students’ confidence in their writing. Her capstone thesis was accepted for presentation by the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of North Carolina, Asheville.

Harris advises college students to take advantage of available resources and professors’ aid.

She said her recommendation is to “get to know faculty and staff and what they know about the real world, especially in teaching or academia. There you will discover your confidence and experience your full potential that will carry you farther than you could ever imagine.”

Harris expects to finish graduate school in the fall and plans to become a full-time English professor to first-year students.





ACADEMICS



Students collaborate on Ivy Leaves

By Rachel Tabor

For more than a hundred years, the Ivy Leaves Journal of Literature and Art has provided a voice for student writers and artists at Anderson University.

“It’s the only (on-campus) opportunity for writers to present their work,” said Teresa Jones, associate professor of English and faculty adviser for the publication’s literature team. “Theater majors can put on shows, athletes can have games, but no one knows what writers do without Ivy Leaves.”

Ivy Leaves began as The Orion in 1916 and has been a place for student work ever since, Jones said. A literature team and a design team, both made up of students, share the task of creating the publication each year.

Student participants say the journal provides a unique opportunity for students to see their work as a part of something bigger.

“I love working with authors and celebrating with them as their writing reaches completion and publication,” Jacob Cavett, this year’s editor-in-chief, said.

“Student-led, and student-read,” is the team’s motto,

Cavett said, adding that student work is the driving force of the publication.

The collaboration between the English department in the College of Arts and Sciences and the department of art and design in the South Carolina School of the Arts to create Ivy Leaves represents what it means to be a liberal arts university, said Associate Professor of Art Tim Speaker, who serves as a faculty adviser and art director for Ivy Leaves.

“The heart of the liberal arts concept is the idea that you’re enriching your discipline based on collaboration with another discipline,” Speaker said.

Jones agrees.

“Without this project, we’re isolated in our disciplines,” Jones said. “This is a great opportunity for us on the writing side to become aware of the design team. It speaks to the idea that it’s not just for the College of Arts and Sciences, it’s for the whole university.”

Speaker and Jones have been working together on Ivy Leaves for more than 10 years and have seen the publication through many stages and style changes.

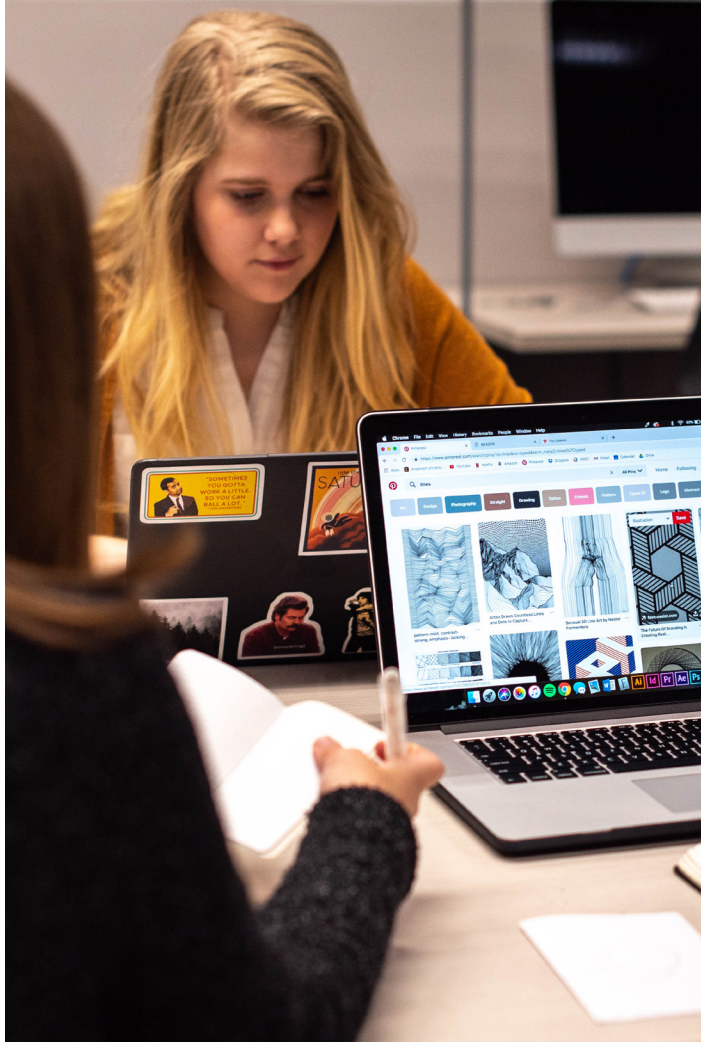


Dr. Jones facilitates meeting for Ivy Leaves literary editing team.
Photo by Alli Kennedy.

They say they are motivated to continue because they see the value of Ivy Leaves.

“It brings together so many things in the spirit of collaboration,” Speaker said, “It’s a true labor of love.”

“I really like to see my students succeed,” Jones said. “I love to see them take pride in their work and recognize it as something that can reach a broader audience. Very often students don’t know what they’re capable of until they see it in Ivy Leaves.”



Students on Ivy Leaves art team work on graphic design and photography for the journal.
Photos by Alli Kennedy

Writing the future in code

By Sam Gordon

A new coding minor in the College of Arts and Sciences is preparing students to help meet growing demand from business and government for applications that make use of increasingly powerful mobile devices.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were some 1.2 million jobs for software developers in 2016 with a job market growth of 24 percent expected by 2026. The average market growth is just 7 percent.

Launched last year, the new minor is part of the Communication Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Through a series of four courses, students learn the basic skills needed to create apps that can accomplish tasks as varied as scheduling and gaming.

Associate Professor of Communication James Duncan said the classes begin with an introduction to the Swift programming language, the coding language used for apps that use Apple's operating system for mobile devices, and progress to a capstone project at the completion of the minor.

Duncan said the capstone project is a team or solo collaboration in which students create an app using the skills they have developed during their experience in the minor.

"(Web) development is the process of being able to figure something out," said Duncan, who recently launched an app of his own to help actors to learn the lines of Shakespearean plays. "Every new project you're learning a new skill that you can then add to future projects."

Coding students are already getting real-world experience even as they learn, Duncan said. This spring, students in the coding minor developed an app for medical case studies in cooperation with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

Duncan said the app will present the students with data from physical exams and tests, some relevant and some not. The students will then sort through the information, mark what they think is important and use that to make a diagnosis.

"The app will describe data that the (medical) students will then need to use to diagnose problems," said Duncan.



Dr. Duncan guides a student through coding.
Photo from AU Website.

Jonathan Bruce, a Christian ministry major, is in the web development class and assisted with the medical case study app. He said that since the minor only consists of one class per semester, it is easy to manage alongside other classes.

"My favorite part of the coding minor is the community that I have with the other people in the minor," Bruce said, adding that the team-oriented curriculum in the minor encourages students to develop their skills as a unit so that no student is left at a loss.

Christian VanDeVelde, another student in the minor, is taking coding in conjunction with his communication major and concentration in digital media.

"I am gaining a lot of skills specific to coding like the language of Swift and the visual appeal of an app," VanDeVelde said. "But, I am also gaining life skills like patience and perseverance because coding is a very difficult minor that requires patience and perseverance to be successful."

Duncan emphasizes that the skills learned in the minor are in high demand throughout the world.

"In our minor, we're trying to move students from spending money on apps to making money on apps," Duncan said.

Anderson students work for cancer cure

By Austin Green

Many students go to college thinking that earning a degree will help them make the world a better place, but most probably don't think they'll get to change the world while they are still in school. That's not the case for Anderson University students who work to find the cure for cancer.

The students are participating in an undergraduate research program at the Anderson University Center for Cancer Research. Led by Professor of Biology Diana Ivankovic, the students test various compounds for cancer-curing properties.

"I am a cancer researcher and a cancer survivor," Ivankovic said. "I have been doing cancer research all my life."

Ivankovic said that even before the Cancer Research Center opened in 2012, the university has researched the disease since 2004. The program is housed in a building donated by AnMed Health Medical Center near the main campus of Anderson University.

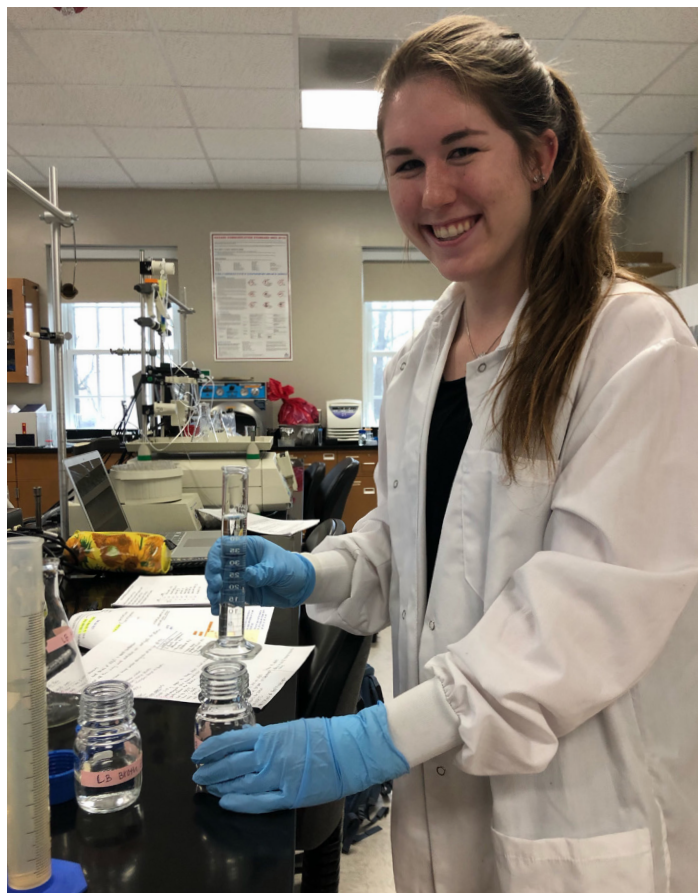
Ivankovic said the program involves four to six students each year who join with faculty for collaborative research. Students work with fruit and plant extracts to study how they fight different forms of pancreatic, stomach, or nerve cancer.

"They do an excellent job and they go to conferences and publish their work in scientific journals. They benefit because they learn about science and it helps them when they apply to medical, dental, or pharmacy schools," Ivankovic said.

Students say they participate in the program for a variety of reasons.

"I am interested in studying oncology and perhaps pursuing a career as an oncologist," biochemistry major Isaac Daffron said. "My research partner and I are working with MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells and HMEC healthy breast cells."

Student Michael Stevens, another biochemistry major, said the opportunity to research cancer while still an undergraduate student is unique.



Anderson students at work to find a cure for cancer.
Photo by Austin Green

"Being able to perform cancer research as an undergraduate is extremely rare and ultimately rewarding," Stevens said. "This research is meaningful and has the potential to be highly impactful."

Daffron said knowing that the research he does may someday help actual cancer patients is especially meaningful.

"It feels good to know that I am working on a project that is so important," he said.

Internships help students prepare for their futures

By Alli Kennedy

Internships of a wide variety are encouraged among students in the Anderson University College of Arts and Sciences. According to students and a career service professional, these internships help students immerse themselves in a work environment before graduation so that they will understand their fields more fully.

“Taking knowledge from the classroom and applying it in the real world is crucial for students,” said Kristi Harton, internship coordinator at AU. “Networking and getting your name out there before graduation can drastically increase the likelihood of being hired by a company.”

Harton said students’ pursuit of internships in areas they value before their graduation can also help them better understand what they hope to do in the future.

“It’s important to pursue something you’re excited about,” she said. “The internships and jobs you

pursue as a student will help you to know what is right for your career.”

Here are three students’ recent internship experiences:

Emma Morris

During her time over the summer of 2018 with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte, North Carolina, Emma Morris was an editorial intern for Decision Magazine. Her job included tasks such as researching, interviewing, editing, and writing articles.

“Because my class sizes are small in the College of Arts and Sciences, my professors worked with me one-on-one and provided detailed feedback to improve my writing, which was critical to my internship,” Morris said. “The CAS really emphasizes professional development which really helped me during my time with BGEA.”



Student Interns for Billy Graham Evangelistic Association take a group photo.
Photo by Emma Morris.

Morris, who is from a small mountain town in Virginia, said that adjusting to living in a new city was difficult, but the people there were very supportive. Each morning before the work day, employees would gather for devotion and prayer, something that Morris really valued about her work environment.

“Everyone was truly invested in my spiritual and professional development,” Morris said, adding that being able to express her faith in her writing is something she hopes to find in her career after she graduates.

Jamie Eiland

Jamie Eiland, a communication major with minors in marketing and theater, interned during the summer of 2018 with Raleigh Little Theatre in her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. Eiland served as the assistant director for teens on stage and backstage during the production of “Into the Woods” as well as the marketing and communications intern for the theater.

During her internship, she promoted “Into the Woods” by corresponding with radio stations, editing graphics, managing social media platforms, organizing a marketing budget, and interacting with actors. She said her job always kept her on the go and that she was never confined to just an office or cubical.

She said she loves theater people for their creativity and “positive energy.”

“I would love to work for a theater company someday, so having this internship gave me insight into what my everyday future would look like, and I loved every single aspect of it,” Eiland said.

The College of Arts and Sciences prepared Eiland for her internship by teaching her the basics of social media management and how to create content for communication platforms.

“The communication professors have especially pushed me to be the best writer I can be by correcting and editing my work,” Eiland said.



Jacob Cavett poses for picture about the solar eclipse for Community Journal. Photo from Community Journal.

Jacob Cavett

Jacob Cavett, an English creative writing and communication double major with a minor in business, interned with Greenville’s Community Journals, a publishing house in West Greenville. His internship allowed him to do different jobs each day like write briefs for the Greenville Journal and Upstate Journal, help monitor social media activity, assist the photographers, and model for an article about the solar eclipse.

Cavett said he learned the differences between journalism and creative writing and developed an even deeper appreciation for how journalists cover events, meet new people, and become fully immersed in a community.

“Each day I was able to seek out new opportunities. If I came up with ideas for stories, I could write about them,” Cavett said.

Cavett said his classes in the English and communication departments such as Creative Non-fiction and News Writing prepared him to apply what he learned at AU to his internship.



Taking the journey abroad

Students walk in the footsteps of past greats

By Jamie Eiland

Imagine walking through the historic, cobblestone streets of Geneva, Switzerland. The stones are just damp from light rain the previous night. Snow-capped mountains tower above the city. To the left, historic architecture. To the right, Lake Geneva glistens as the bright morning sun reflects off its waves.

A group of Anderson University students may get to experience this view next year as part of an AU Abroad course through the College of Arts and Sciences. Two AU professors, one an expert in communication and the other in history, will be leading students to the places frequented by Johannes Gutenberg and Martin Luther as part of a course called “Printers and Protestants: A History of the Printing Press and the Reformation.”

James Duncan, associate professor of communication, and Lynne Miller, assistant professor of history, will be traveling with their

students to Switzerland, Germany, and France, studying the Protestant Reformation and the beginnings of the printing press. The 10-day trip in May 2020 will follow a semester of classroom study on the AU campus.

The class will visit sites associated with some of the significant historical figures who helped transform culture in the Western world. Duncan said that by visiting locations like Luther’s confessional room and witnessing the original Gutenberg Bibles, students will be able to have first-hand experience with the events that shaped present-day morals and thought.

“It’s the sensation of knowing that you are walking on the streets that great men have walked on. Things that are mythic become more real,” Duncan said. “It is inspiring because these big, great men become smaller and real, giving me hope that I can one day too be great, inspirational, or make an impact.”

Four other groups of students have taken trips led by Duncan after the completion of this course, but he said there is always something new for him to learn or witness with each trip.

Miller said the act of traveling outside the United States is itself an important educational experience for students.

“There are so many layers of history overseas. We have the opportunity to see these amazing past historical figures as people in reality,” she said.

Miller emphasized that the purpose of the trip is to help students feel the impact of the thoughts of important historical figures and learn how they have shaped the context for our beliefs.

“We are able to relate to the past and see the effects of the future,” Miller said.

Duncan said the trip will also include visits to

several important historical sites including the Berlin Wall and the Holocaust Monument entitled “The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.” Additionally, students will have free time to explore areas that pique their interest as well as try exotic foods and meet people who live in the countries they visit.

Ann Themistocleous, director of international programs at AU, said the course is just one of many offered each year that give students the opportunity to travel. Most trips are taken after the fall and spring semesters, or during Spring Break.

“The study abroad programs here at Anderson University are created for students to get out of the bubble of Anderson and Anderson University. So many students here have only experienced South Carolina and are consumed with the community of Anderson University,” Themistocleous said. “Although these two things are very beneficial, it is also good for Anderson students to experience the world, meet new people, and learn about new cultures.”

“We are able to relate to the past and see the effects of the future.”



(top left) Students gather for group photo in Germany, (bottom left) Students learn about the printing press in Germany, (top right) Exploring in Germany on Study Abroad Trip. Photos from AU Germany Study Abroad Facebook.

Trail cameras capture wildlife at Rocky River Nature Park

By Bobbi Snyder

A mile and a half from downtown Anderson, Rocky River Nature Park is a treasure trove of flora and fauna that Anderson University biology students can explore as part of their studies. But finding some of the more elusive wildlife in the park takes a little technological sleuthing.

Anderson University professor Travis “Rocky” Nation has been working with field biology classes to install trail cameras to perform a species inventory. The cameras are equipped with motion sensors so that they can snap a photo whenever they are approached by animals.

The approximately 200 acres off Old Williamston Road are owned by Anderson University and managed by the Rocky River Conservancy, a private non-profit organization. Large projects are overseen by the conservancy, but the university provides some basic maintenance for the park. The property consists of a variety of habitats, including wetlands and upland forest, that support many animals.

“We want to just see what’s out there, and the cameras are a good way to do that,” Nation said, noting that using cameras is one of the easiest, most thorough, and least invasive ways to discover what creatures live in the area, especially those that are nocturnal or skittish.

The cameras are set up by a field biology class for just a few weeks each spring. Oftentimes, bait is used to

draw in animals. Dry dog or cat food is common, as well as sardines, Nation said.

“We actually had a student do a project a few years ago to test different baits,” Nation said. “They used canned cat food, sardines, dog food, and some animal scents. Sardines attract a lot of animals because of the smell.”

Typical animals captured digitally include squirrels, deer, and rabbits, but there have been a few surprises, including a swamp rabbit and a mink, Nation said.

“I had to look closer at this rabbit. It looks bigger than the cottontails we normally see,” Nation said as he reviewed one of the images recently. “It’s actually a swamp rabbit, which is pretty rare in this area.”

Other animals captured in the photographs include armadillos, foxes, and pet cats.

Josh Rue, a senior biology major, said going to the Rocky River Nature Park is a “refreshing experience” because it presents an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

“Biology at its core is the study of living things, no matter how big or small those things might be,” Rue said. “The park makes the information we’ve learned more than something to memorize for a test. It allows the things we’ve learned to have an application and a purpose.”





(top right) Professor Nation and a student set up trail cameras (bottom right) Trail cameras capture a rabbit in the Rocky River Nature Park.
Photos by Alli Kennedy

More bang for the buck

Minors help student enhance majors

By Dehlia Comeau

An easy way to give a college degree more value is to add a minor, according to Anderson University administrators and students.

Anderson University offers 16 minors in the College of Arts and Sciences, which students earn by completing 18 credit hours of designated coursework in a field of study outside of their major.

Chemistry	Studies
Coding and App Development	Mathematics
Communication Studies	Political Science
English	Pre-Law
History	Psychology
Human Development and Family Studies	Public Policy
Latin American	Public Relations
	Sociology
	Spanish
	Writing

The minor courses are usually taken as partial fulfillment of the electives required for each major, according to Bob Hanley, vice provost for academic advising and chair of the English department.

He said minors are encouraged by both advisers and employers.

“Minors help to diversify the student’s experiences and credentials that would be attractive to potential employers,” Hanley said. “A minor adds experience that may prove key in getting certain jobs.”

He said that by adding a minor, students can concentrate their elective credits toward courses that can maximize their education. Most students have enough room in their degree program to complete at least one minor without adding to their total time in school.

Hanley said there are two directions for students to go when choosing a minor – one that complements a major or one that explores an entirely different area of study.

“Minors can also extend and expand student learning in new directions that strengthen the student’s educational journey,” Hanley said.

Alli Kennedy, a communication major, minors in writing.

“Having a writing minor has really helped me establish my passion for writing again,” Kennedy said, noting that her minor has also supported her communication major.

Rebecca Albert, the director of the Center for Career Development at AU, encourages students to invest in a minor.

She said she tells students that having a minor can increase their versatility in the workforce and can help demonstrate their work ethic. A minor is one more thing a student can do set themselves apart when applying for jobs.

Film students make Hollywood connections

By Judy Price

Anderson University students will travel to Los Angeles this summer to meet film industry professionals and receive an insider's view of digital media jobs in Hollywood.

Eight students will take the 10-day trip in May as part of the Hollywood On Location: Studio History and Today's Digital Media Careers course taught by Assistant Professor of Communication Gorman Woodfin.

Through the course, students have been learning the history of major Hollywood studios, exploring the work of major directors and discussing digital media careers in the film industry.

During the trip, the students will meet with executives from Netflix and other production companies as well as tour the Universal, Sony, Paramount, and Warner Bros. studio backlots, Woodfin said.

Woodfin, a former Hollywood reporter for the Christian Broadcasting Network, said he created the course because he wants his students to meet successful professionals and learn the steps they've taken to enter the film industry.

"There are so many different kinds of jobs connected to the studios," Woodfin said. "You have marketing, maintenance, costuming, writing, producing.... The list is endless. I want my students to see there are so many different ways to break in."

Sommerly Simser, a producer, writer and makeup artist who now works for Netflix; Shun Lee Fong, the president and creative director for The Greenhouse Arts & Media, a company that promotes equipping creative professionals and serving the broader community and culture; and Karen Covell, the founding director of the Hollywood Prayer Network; are just a few industry professionals that students will have the opportunity to meet, Woodfin said.

He said a panel discussion coordinated by Fong and Simser will include industry professionals who will interact with students while Covell will speak about being a Christian in Hollywood.



"They are also formatting production activities...to give our students a taste of what it means to be in the industry," Woodfin said, noting that it can be challenging to get that first job.

"I want to expose my students to the reality of the industry out there. It is extremely competitive to get an internship or to break into the industry with an entry-level job," he said.

That doesn't mean it's impossible to do so, however. Rachel Funchess, a communication major, has secured a film industry internship in the Los Angeles area this summer.

"Even though it is late in the year to try to get a Hollywood internship, our own Rachel Funchess, was offered a summer internship with L.A. Castle Studios that works with many major production companies including Disney, HBO, and Netflix," Woodfin said.

L.A. Castle Studios, in Burbank, California, creates cutting-edge "green screen illusions for movies," Funchess said.

"If I had not enrolled in this course, I would not have been able to tell Professor Woodfin about my ambitions in the first place," Funchess said. "I am incredibly thankful for him and everybody else who has helped make this possible for me."



FACULTY



A Fine Balance: Dean and Poet

By Jacob Cavett

Wayne Cox may be the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Anderson University, but he doesn't let his vocation keep him from his passion for poetry. Besides teaching AU's poetry workshop, Cox also writes his own pieces.

Cox, who has taught at AU since 1992 and has served as dean since 2012, said that although he spends much of his time in meetings and performing administrative duties, he "never stops thinking about poetry." Even at work, Cox keeps a journal to jot down ideas for his next poem.

He said he often finds time to write late at night, early in the morning, or in the summer. Cox cites other poets with dual vocations, such as acclaimed poet Wallace Stevens, winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, who served as vice president of an insurance company, as inspiration.

Cox has a doctorate in American literature from the University of South Carolina but said he hasn't always had an interest in English.

"It was not my favorite subject, but I always loved to write," Cox said.

He said he began writing on a consistent basis the year after he graduated college during which both his father and grandfather died.

"I was at a point in my life where I just wanted to figure things out, and poetry was a vehicle to help me do that," he said. "Poetry is still a vehicle to help me do that."

Cox said his poems are inspired by everything from his everyday experiences to his observations of other people. He does not consider his writing as specifically focused on one region as many Southern writers do, and not simply because he grew up in Maine or because his wife, who is from Spain, and children have dual nationalities.

Instead, Cox focuses on a variety of cultures to "write about a broader sense of human experience." For example, he has recently written about the Spanish Civil War after researching how the conflict affected his wife's family.

Maintaining balance with his administrative duties, teaching and family often comes at the expense of his writing, he said.

"Sometimes being a good father is a lot harder than being a good artist, and sometimes being a good colleague and teacher involves self-sacrifice," Cox said. "To me, this is part of the Christian ethos—sacrifice can help you be successful in ways that you didn't imagine."

Associate Dean Carrie Koenigstein said Cox proves to be an effective dean because of his sincere care for individuals and his deep consideration of their ideas.

"Sometimes that is expressed in a poem shared in a meeting and sometimes it is expressed in a long



Dr. Cox reads a poem on a field trip with his Poetry Workshop class
photo by Alli Kennedy

conversation about all of the conflicting influences that sway a decision or situation, but you always know that he is contemplating the ideas behind whatever is being discussed," she said.

Cox's poems have appeared in magazines such as Poetry, Shenandoah, Chelsea, and, more recently, in the book, "Archive: South Carolina Poetry Since 2005." In the 93rd volume of AU's own Ivy Leaves journal, Cox published a poetic eulogy about a former student.

Although he does not consider himself to be a fiction writer, Cox is working on a young adult novel.

"To think that you do one thing your whole life makes us feel comfortable but that's not usually what God has in store for us," he said.



Woman with a Water Jug
Painting by Johannes Vermeer

For Amanda Burgess

By Wayne Cox

*In Vermeer's painting, a young woman stands
Holding a silver pitcher in one hand
And an open window in the other.
She is looking not at what she is doing,
But instead at the space in between,
Where the first light of dawn
Streams in and falls into her arms.
Next to her, the table overflows
With a rich red cloth, a blue robe,
And a pearl necklace in a fine wooden box.
But she cares little for this now
Being, as she is, a handmaiden of light.*

*Amanda, you were a handmaiden of light.
You entered every doorway with a question,
The white toes in your sandals leading the way,*

*Caring little for your humble clothing
And the low estates of our small offices.
You came instead looking only for what light
We could give to you, small sparks of knowledge
That would circle like fireflies in the clear glass
Of your mind as you turned and walked away.*

*"Those once dwelling here," you said, "somehow
remain."
And so you do, and we shall call you beautiful
And blessed, and hold fast the light of your absence
In our arms, for the rest of our lives.*

*Written in memory of Amanda Burgess, a former
student who passed away*

Meet CAS' New Administrative Assistant

By Jacob Cavett and Emily Coffman

Jennifer Campbell may have only stepped into her role as the College of Arts and Sciences' administrative assistant earlier this academic year, but she has already made an impression through her commitment to the university.

Campbell works with 48 full-time faculty, 46 part-time faculty, and more than 500 students with majors in the CAS. Since AU's core curriculum involves many CAS courses, Campbell works with nearly every student on campus at one point or another.

"My job is to assist, in whatever the faculty needs are, whatever the dean's needs are, and whatever the students' needs are," Campbell said.

She said her office is a "one-stop shop" for those with paperwork needs, questions about scheduling, advising needs, and more.

"At first, I wasn't sure how much interaction I would have with students, but I'm glad that I get to work

with them daily," Campbell said.

She said "unpredictability" marks each of her days in the position as she never exactly knows what student, faculty or administrative need she will work to meet on a given day to live out what she calls her "God-given calling."

An Anderson native, Campbell attended Belton-Honea Path High School and earned an associate degree in business management at Tri-County Technical College.

Before AU, she worked as a workforce development specialist for 11 years at Palmetto Youth Connections, an organization dedicated to helping at-risk youths find jobs and succeed in

the workplace. There, she assisted students with on-the-job training, resume building, developing professional skills, and furthering their education.

Campbell said working the government-funded job was sometimes difficult because she often couldn't encourage others in Christ like she can at AU.

"I find a lot of freedom in that opportunity here," Campbell said. "Working with AU students, I don't have to restrain how I would typically encourage someone."

Campbell also serves at her church, Crossover Community Church of Anderson, through both the leadership team and community outreach, which involves everything from drug rehabilitation services to delivering care packages in local neighborhoods.

"My job is to assist, in whatever the faculty needs are, whatever the dean's needs are, and whatever the students' needs are."



Jennifer Campbell

Deans work behind scenes to support CAS students

By Emily Coffman

Every semester, hundreds of students hurry through the hallways of Watkins Hall on their way to courses as varied as biochemistry and English literature. Classes start and end like clockwork, day after day and week after week. But making things run smoothly is anything but routine. Behind the students and the faculty are administrators and staff who plan schedules, pay the bills, and troubleshoot the problems that pop up in a busy academic environment.

Led by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Wayne Cox, the college also relies on the work of associate deans Jim Haughey and Carrie Koenigstein and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Campbell to keep things running.

Cox said he has a strong desire to “serve the students and faculty and help the school” meet needs, noting that his job is to ensure that the college is “skating to where the puck will be, not to where it is.”

The dean said he seeks to “make sure our vision is based on what our students need, what our faculty are trying to do, and the direction our administration is trying to head.”

“The deans are important bridges in that process,” Cox said.

Cox identified one of his strengths as his ability to empathize and see the world through various perspectives. He said he seeks to use that ability to promote student and university success.

The two associate deans are responsible for assisting the dean and faculty, especially in their specialized areas.

Haughey, an English professor at AU since 1998, said it would be impossible for one individual to handle all the responsibilities of running an entire college of the university alone.

His primary duties include scheduling, faculty development, and assisting prospective students.

Haughey also helps guide faculty through the

university’s professional development process. He said he considers himself to be “a mixture of a mentor and a coach for faculty and junior faculty.”

Koenigstein, who also serves as chair of biology and chemistry, focuses on the work of the science areas of the college. She works with every aspect of the science programs, from biology degree programs to the university’s undergraduate Center for Cancer Research, as well as the interplay between the science programs and the other academic areas on campus.

“My responsibilities are the science departments so I work with our biology degree, our biochemistry degree, our center for cancer research...kind of the big picture stuff of all the science programs,” Koenigstein said.

Koenigstein also serves on a committee to manage the university’s Environmental Health and Safety Management Plan which oversees the maintenance of health and environmental regulations at AU.

“I work ... on how we keep things safe and stay environmentally aware, and on the training that we need to set up for the students and the faculty,” she said.

The committee also oversees the systems in place to keep the campus in compliance with federal and state regulations to “keep everything healthy and safe for everybody on campus,” she said.

Koenigstein said all of the administrators work to create an atmosphere that “supports our students and our faculty so that they can succeed where God wants them to succeed.”

Cox puts great emphasis on the administrator’s need for empathy with students.

“Never losing touch with what it means to be a learner helps everyone be a better teacher,” he said. “It also helps somebody in administration be a better administrator.”

“Never losing touch with what it means to be a learner helps everyone be a better teacher.”

Anderson Welcomes New Faces to CAS

By Austin Green

Jamie Alexander, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Why AU? Anderson University has afforded me the opportunity to teach and mentor students in a small yet welcoming and supportive university setting and the ability to integrate faith and learning.

Teaches? I teach human development, family studies and psychology.

Background? Doctor of Philosophy, Oklahoma State University, Human Development and Family Science; Master of Science, North Carolina State University, Human Development and Family Studies; Bachelor of Science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Human Development and Family Studies.

What's cool about AU? Students, faculty and staff.

Hobbies? Hiking, traveling and watching college football with my husband; cooking/baking, photography, repurposing furniture, interior design.

Roger Flynn, Visiting Instructor of History and Political Science

Why AU? I really liked a combination of things about AU. First, it was the small campus atmosphere where students and professors get to know each other a little more than at a large research institution. Second, the faculty and students that I meet seem happy to be here. Third, the fact that it is a faith-based institution that frowns upon certain things associated with the traditional college atmosphere while still allowing the exploration of difficult topics.

Teaches? I teach both history and political science.

Background? I was born in Miami, Florida. My undergraduate education in political science is from the University of Florida and my graduate education

in history and political science is from Florida Atlantic University. My public policy education is from Clemson University.

What's cool about AU? The two things that I find most enjoyable about working at AU is that the faculty treat each other more like family rather than competitors and that students actively support each other, both in and out of class.

Hobbies? Reading, traveling, and spending time with my wife and three daughters.

Lynne Miller, Assistant Professor of History

Why AU? Anderson's prioritization of integrity in faith and scholarship, as well as its commitment to the arts, first drew me to AU. My interest in history and teaching developed from intensive faculty mentorship and investment in my growth as both a scholar and a Christian during my time as an undergraduate student, and I look forward to providing similar mentoring and investment to my students at AU.

Teaches? History

Background? Doctor of Philosophy, History, Baylor University; Master of Letters, Modern History, University of St. Andrews, Scotland; Bachelor of Arts, History, Oklahoma Christian University.

What's cool about AU? The campus community. Everyone is so welcoming!

Hobbies? Reading, hiking, traveling, baking, music, and dance.

Lindsey Privette, Assistant Professor of History

Why AU? I essentially came to Anderson because this was my dream job. I did my undergraduate degree at Baylor University which, though much larger than Anderson, has a similar commitment to the integration between faith and learning. After transitioning to the University of Alabama for graduate school, I found that I missed that type of community of like believers who enjoyed engaging in academic pursuits that were intellectually rigorous. Not to be mistaken, Alabama taught me a great many wonderful things and I met some fantastic people, but I missed that faith aspect and always knew that I wanted to return to that if possible.

Teaches? I teach the American history courses. Here at Anderson, I teach a little of everything, but my main area of focus (with my research) is the Civil War and 19th century medicine.

Background? I was born and raised in Vicksburg, Mississippi, right on the Mississippi River. We are steeped in Civil War history over there, which is how I came to do what I do. I got my undergrad degree from Baylor in 2011, my master's from the University of Alabama in 2013 and my Ph.D. from Alabama in 2018.

What's cool about AU? I love the people here. The dedication and camaraderie among the faculty and staff is inspiring, and my students are inquisitive and eager.

Hobbies? I love to read, play the flute, and travel all over the world.

Allan Wilford, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Why AU? I was taken by the opportunity to teach political science to dedicated and hard-working students in a unique liberal arts environment.

Teaches? State and local government, comparative politics, international relations.

Background? Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, University of Tennessee; Master of Arts, International Law and Politics, University of Hull, UK; Bachelor of Arts, Criminology and Social Policy, Lincoln University, UK.

What's cool about AU? The community here at Anderson University. All the faculty and staff make you feel so welcome. I also never tire of hearing the local community express their pride in having AU in their community.

Hobbies? I play squash, wrangle my untrainable Plott hound, and collect records from circa 1982-1996.

Katherine Wyma, English Lecturer

Why AU? I'm from Easley so South Carolina is my home. Anderson's commitment to academic excellence and the pursuit of innovation appealed to me. Higher education is changing so rapidly and these two components help to ensure a university that will be around for another 100 years.

Teaches? English, both composition and literature. I'm also on the Honors faculty.

Background? I am from South Carolina, but I lived four years in St. Andrews, Scotland, where I earned a Ph.D. in 16th-century devotional literature. Scotland will always be a home to me.

What's cool about AU? The students are open and interested, providing me with a fresh engagement with the material, no matter how many times I've taught it.

Hobbies? Participating in a book club, hosting guests in my home, and cooking.

Anderson professor returns to Africa to give back to his community

By Hailey McNeese

Nigeria has one of the largest film industries in the world, but the limited number of home-grown scriptwriters available recently led an Anderson University professor to help develop a program to teach skills in film and television production.

Kolawole Olaiya, assistant professor of English, traveled to Ondo, Nigeria last summer to assist the Wesley University of Science and Technology in developing the school's film and television program.



The trip was sponsored by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program and funded through the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Living fully funded by the program for three months, Olaiya was able to help develop a two-year diploma program in TV and film production.

He also organized workshops for students on such skills as using PowerPoint and properly citing sources.

Olaiya said he taught students to write scripts and saw several students using stories from their own lives as a part of their work. He said this allowed him to gain a greater understanding of his students' lives.

"Scriptwriting isn't something that a lot of people know how to go about. It's what I used to teach so this is a good opportunity," Olaiya said.

Olaiya has gained a global perspective on film and TV production from years of study in various nations, including Nigeria, Ghana, France, Germany, Canada, and the United States. He said studying in so many places of different cultures taught him about the world, humanity and the need to accept differences.

Olaiya said he hoped he was able to leave a lasting impression on his Nigerian students by encouraging them to pursue careers they felt passionate about and were now equipped to follow.

"I feel that we have some opportunities here that those in Africa don't have and the area where I volunteered to give back was actually a special area," Olaiya said.

Dr. Kolawole Olaiya.
Photo by Hailey McNeese.

AU professors working to lower textbooks costs

By Hailey McNeese

Three Anderson University professors in the College of Arts and Sciences recently received the Professors for Affordable Learning Award for their efforts to lower textbook costs in their classrooms.

The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries awarded communication Professor James Duncan, psychology Professor Robert Franklin, and English Professor Andrew Stowe for changes they made in their courses to make materials more accessible to students. The award is presented as a part of PAL's South Carolina Affordable Learning program that seeks to reduce the overall cost of higher education for students by promoting the use of quality low-cost and free learning material.

The three were among 10 South Carolina professors recognized.

Sixty-five percent of students have skipped buying required textbooks at some point in their college careers because of affordability issues, according to a study by the U.S. Public Interest Group.

Stowe said that in his English 101 and English 413 classes last year, no textbooks were required to be purchased. He also made his resources shareable so that other professors could join him in his efforts to lower costs for students.

"Over last year... the courses I taught didn't require the purchase of a single textbook," he said. "The only textbooks that I require this semester are \$20 and \$25."

Franklin was recognized for writing his own textbook for his statistics class so that students would not have to buy their own.

Duncan was recognized for eliminating textbook costs from his rhetoric class. He had already designed a free website through which students could read historical works and did further work last summer to replace other purchased materials.

"One of the great advantages for rhetoric is that it is a very old subject and the biggest challenge in making textbooks is copyright," Duncan said. While copyright lengths vary based on the law in effect at the time the work was created, he said most

copyrights last about 90 years.

Duncan said he found public domain translations of speeches and older textbooks that his students could use for free. He also rearranged texts into a book that he made accessible to his students.

"By making his content free and easily accessible to his rhetoric students, Dr. Duncan showed me how much he valued my education," said Alex Davis, a former rhetoric student.



Dr. Robert Franklin teaches his class on drugs, behavior, and society for AU seniors.
Photo by Hailey McNeese

Nicaraguan Poet, AU Professor

By Hailey McNeese

Professor, dual-citizen, wife, mother, grandmother, and esteemed Nicaraguan poet and novelist. Each of these titles describes Conny Palacios, professor of Spanish in the College of Arts and Sciences at Anderson University.

Palacios, a native of Nicaragua who chairs AU's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, has published many works, including essays, several novels, and five books of poetry. She moved to the United States in 1981 due to the unrest of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

Palacios is well-known in her country as a writer and has been recognized in many Nicaraguan literature circles. She is an appointed member of the Nicaraguan Academy of Language. In 2005, Palacios received a national award from the Nicaraguan Center for Writers and in 2006 was awarded the Diploma of Honor by the General Consulate of the Republic of Nicaragua in Miami.

Mediodia

By Conny Palacios

*El dulce sopor
que se ha posado sobre los árboles...
es el mismo que desvanece mi cuerpo,
--silencio maridado en las verdes ramas—
--vino deleitoso desleído en la sangre—
--tiempo suspendido entre las cuatro esquinas
del sueño—
Y es que hoy
por un instante...
El Angel del Amor tocó mi ventana,
y fue el roce de sus alas tan... quedo,
que todavía perdura en mi carne
el dulzor abismal de su beso.*

Palabras que muerden (2004)

"Being a poet is a gift you receive from God," Palacios said. "And I believe that God is the most wonderful poet in the universe."

Palacios teaches a wide variety of Spanish courses at AU, including classes of intermediate level Spanish, Spanish culture and civilization, and Spanish literature.

"Teaching and writing are my passions in life," said Palacios, who came to Anderson in 2004 after teaching at Southeast Missouri State University.

She said she loves teaching in the tight-knit, friendly atmosphere of AU.

"I fell in love with the place," Palacios said. "It is so small and quiet, and the best part was the hospitality of the people."

Last year, Palacios designed a new course for AU Spanish majors called Latino Women Writers in the United States.

"When I am teaching literature classes, I feel like a fish in water," Palacios said. She said she feels her career as a writer in the world of Spanish literature allows her to teach her students with practical and well-rounded experience.

Senior secondary English education major Kathleen Smoak, who minors in Spanish, said that Palacios adds her own unique perspective and expertise to the literature studied in class..

"I've learned many mechanics and specifics of the language, but I have also gained a deeper knowledge of Spanish literature and culture," Smoak said. "Thanks to Palacios, I've been able to explore topics like life for Hispanic women in 18th century America, how European settlement influenced and changed the course of Latin American history, and why Hispanic art and literature are important."

Students say Palacios has a profound impact on them not only as a Spanish professor but also as an exceptional person.



“Dr. Palacios is a phenomenal teacher,” said Marissa Black, a senior marketing major and Spanish minor at Anderson. “She cares about her students and is willing to help them succeed.”

Black has taken multiple courses taught by Palacios during her four years at AU.

Palacios “has always believed in me and supported my love of Spanish. She is constantly encouraging me to travel, do something new, and continue to succeed in life,” Black said. “My passion for Spanish has grown under her direction and I look forward to continuing with Spanish after graduation.”

Smoak said the hospitality and care that Palacios shows her students has impacted her as well.

“I’ll never forget the time she invited my class to her house and served us an elaborate Nicaraguan breakfast that she and her husband cooked for us,” Smoak said.

Conny Palacios shares a smile in her office.
Photo by Michelle Reilly

Black, who was also at the breakfast, said Palacios and her husband prepared a dish that she really enjoys.

“She and her husband made us Nicaraguan gallo pinto (a traditional rice and beans dish popular in Nicaragua and Costa Rica), which she knew was my favorite breakfast dish from my time in Costa Rica,” Black said. “Professors like her are what make Anderson University special.”

Palacios plans to retire from teaching next year and move with her husband to Kansas City where her children and grandchildren live. She continues to write and publish her poetry.



CAS FOCUS



A faith-focused education

Principles of Christianity integrated in AU classrooms

By Michelle Reilly

In the College of Arts and Sciences at Anderson University, faith is a vital part of every discipline. Professors are passionate about spiritual values and teach students with a foundation of knowledge built on biblical truths.

No matter the discipline, professors and students at AU say that principles of the Christian faith intricately relate to their subjects.

“I think it is important to recognize how faith can enhance the arts and sciences instead of being at odds with them,” said Rachel Tabor, a senior communication and art major, who appreciates the faith-based education that she has experienced at Anderson. She said that as a double major, she has been able to grow in her faith through the world of two different fields.

Jennifer Triplett, assistant professor of sociology at AU, explained that many Christian traits are displayed within sociology.

“Being in the church and seeing the struggles that people face go hand in hand,” Triplett said. “I’ve never seen my academic discipline as one that is by nature or by necessity distinct from religion; they very much intersect.”

Triplett said she is passionate about sociology because she believes in helping the world through studying people and their relationships.

“So much of what Jesus says is about taking care of people and loving the least among these,” Triplett said. “That’s sociology. That’s what it is.”

Even in subjects such as biology and chemistry, professors say they can see the work of God in the things they study.

“I truly believe that when we discover something in science, it should reaffirm our faith, not divide it,” said Joni Criswell, assistant professor of biology.

“I think it is important to recognize how faith can enhance the arts and sciences instead of being at odds with them.”



Biology student conducts an experiment in Watkins science lab.
Photo by Michelle Reilly

Criswell said that teaching at Anderson has given her the gift of exploring her discipline in a Christian environment and showing her students the relationship between God and science.

“God wants us to understand why we believe what we believe in science and in our faith, not just accept what we have read in a textbook or heard from a pulpit,” she said.

Bob Hanley, chair of the English department and vice provost of advising, said that the faith emphasis in education at

AU impacts students greatly, inspiring them to grow not only in knowledge and experience, but also in their personal walks with God.

Hanley said he treasures the faith influence he can have on his students.

“It’s a great opportunity...to work in an environment where you can openly profess your belief in Christ,” he said. “Teaching here is an opportunity to nurture students along in their faith walk while they are in the college world.”

Sophomore Autumn Donnelly, who is an English literature major and Christian studies minor, said she sees her education at AU as an integral part of her personal spiritual growth.

“When Christianity can be brought up in the classroom, it helps students to focus not only on their academics, but also on their walk with the Lord,” Donnelly said. “Because AU is a Christian school, my professors have allowed me to write about God and different aspects of the Christian faith in my academics. It has helped me to strengthen both my writing skills and my focus on Christianity.”

Students say that connecting faith and learning in the education environment allows them to refine their creative abilities, inspiring them to use their God-given talents in their future careers.

Bates Whitaker, a sophomore majoring in digital media, hopes to one day own a collaborative multimedia studio to serve as a network for creative artists. Whitaker believes that faith is not only compatible with education, but that education requires faith to work effectively.

“Creativity thrives by faith and faith is truly the highest form of inspiration that a creator can possess,” Whitaker said.

According to Hanley, students will learn their fields of study with a respect for Christian doctrine in each of the 24 degree programs offered in Anderson University’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Hanley said one of his favorite metaphors comes from Wayne Cox, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“As Dr. Cox always says, ‘Faith is not something we sprinkle on top of our dish like parsley on a plate; it’s something that’s cooked into the food,’” Hanley said. “We have such an emphasis here on the interweaving of faith and discipline.”



(Top) Autumn Donnelly reads in Thrift Library.
(Bottom) Dr. Bob Hanley admires one of his books in his office.
Photos by Michelle Reilly

Double the major, double the benefits

By Dehlia Comeau

When she was a junior, Rachel Tabor, a double major in art and communication at Anderson University, created a layered painting for a competition in her painting class. Each layer represented a moment in history: the Vietnam War, the first man walking on the moon, and the life of Martin Luther King. Though she thought her artwork was weaker than she would have liked it to be, she was able to incorporate skills she learned from her communication classes to write a statement about her work that led to the painting placing in the competition.

“Being a double major is both challenging and rewarding,” Tabor said. “It’s hard to juggle the requirements for both, but it’s really exciting when the two disciplines come together and I can incorporate what I’ve learned about art into my communication classes and vice versa.”

Tabor is just one of many students seeking to finish two degrees at the same time.

Currently, there are 41 students double majoring at Anderson University, according to Jennifer Campbell, the administrative assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences.

There are many benefits to having two majors, but many students don’t consider that option, Tabor said.

“I think a lot of people think they have to choose one thing or another,” Tabor said.

Students choose to double major for a variety of reasons. Tabor said she chose to double major in order to get the most out of her time in college.

“Having two very distinct interests has given me the opportunity to learn twice as much and broaden my skill set in a way that I hope will be beneficial in the future,” she said.

Raquel Ramos, who is studying theology and psychology, said she chose two majors so she will have a better understanding of the people to whom she ministers.

“The reason why I decided to do both is that I believe in order to effectively minister to someone, you first have to be able to understand how and why they think the way they do,” Ramos said.

Jacob Cavett, who is double majoring in creative writing and communication, said he sees his degree programs as complementary.

“I chose English because I knew the Lord had given me a deep passion for writing and I wanted to pursue it. I didn’t want to give up my dream because

it wasn’t a ‘practical decision,’” Cavett said. “I now know that English majors have a wide number of career opportunities, far beyond education. I chose communication because I thought studying media would

complement my passion for writing.”

Cavett is also pursuing a business minor, along with his two majors.

Ramos said there are also economic benefits to pursuing two degrees.

“The benefits are that you get two for the price of one. You are not only saving money but time,” she said. “you will have two bachelor’s degrees in the time it would take for someone to do one.”

Cavett agrees but focuses on the long-term economic benefit.

“Obtaining two degrees will make me more marketable and provide me with a greater understanding of my two fields,” he said.

“Being a double major is both challenging and rewarding.”

New political science major encourages fresh look at the world

By Samuel Gordan

Anderson University has recently added a new political science major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Looking at some of the wider world’s problems and solutions, I feel as if it’s my mission to expose American students to the politics of the wider world,” said Assistant Professor of Political Science Allan Wilford.

Wilford said courses in the major focus on the nature of political science in relation to history and behavioral studies.

“A student enrolled in the major can expect to learn about the different divisions of government both on a national and international level,” said junior political science major Clifton Martin. “Students also learn about economics and trade as well as the relationship between business and government,”

According to Wilford, students in the major can expect to take a total of 33 credit hours. A minor, consisting of 18 credit hours of classes in political science, is also available to students who would prefer that option over a major.

There are also minors in public policy and pre-law that can help color the political science learning experience at Anderson, he said.

Wilford said one thing that makes AU’s major somewhat unique is the way it encourages students to explore a Christian worldview through a faith-based curriculum.

“We’re kind of lucky in political science because we can talk about it (faith) and it’s in the fabric of the world,” Wilford said.

Martin said discussion is an important part of the

learning process.

“My favorite part of the political science major is the discussion-based classroom environment,” Martin said. “I also enjoy the regular debates and listening to different opinions on issues that will shape our future.”

Students in the program will be prepared to enter the workforce in a variety of positions. Wilford said professional applications for the major include working in local and state government, political parties, campaigns and nonprofits. The degree may also be a stepping stone to careers in law, investment security analysis, education and other professions.

“I originally chose political science because I had set my eye on law school,” junior political science major Josie Rollins said. “However, after taking some of the classes, my horizons have broadened, and I am contemplating working for a private company as a governmental affairs liaison.”

Martin encourages students to consider the major.

“All hot political topics today -- minimum wage, healthcare, and the environment, for example -- affect businesses,” Martin said. “Every major company hires political scientists to examine how potential laws and regulations will affect them.”

The major is well worth the time and effort that students in the program will put into it, Rollins said.

“I would tell someone that it is a rather challenging major, but the knowledge gained is worth the challenge,” she said.

Did you Know...

Fun facts about the College of Arts and Sciences

By Kayleigh Schneider

Watkins Hall was built in 1967 under the administration of President J.E. Rouse. This teaching center is now the home of the College of Arts and Sciences at Anderson University. The building was named in honor of Judge Henry Hitt Watkins along with his wife, Maude Wakefield Watkins. Watkins was a lawyer and federal judge who was a strong supporter of what was then Anderson College. He was one of the first trustees and a chairman of the board from 1911 until 1927. – “Anderson University” by Joyce Woods

Watkins Hall is known for the large white columns at the front of the building but the columns weren't originally at AU. The limestone columns were once at the entrance of the Ramsey Fine Arts Building on the campus of Limestone College in Gaffney. – “They That Wait: A History of Anderson College” by Hubert Hester

When Anderson College was exclusive to women, the students had the option to major in domestic arts. This major was created to teach women how to cook, clean, sew, and care for children. Being a wife and mother was a preferred career for women during the early 1900s. – “Anderson University” by Joyce Woods

In the 1980s, the Anderson College campus became more technologically advanced by adding computers to the classrooms. To make sure this new technology was available for all students, the main floor of Watkins Hall housed the college's first computer lab. Anderson College introduced a computer science major five years later. -- “They That Wait: A History of Anderson College” by Hubert Hester

Over the course of Anderson University's history, there have been many different literary magazines and publications. The Orion was the first literary magazine beginning in October 1916. This publication contained poetry, short stories, news, and feature articles. The Yodler replaced The Orion in 1925 and was the dominant publication on campus until the 1960s. In 1964, the literacy publication was renamed Ivy Leaves. – “Anderson University” by Joyce Woods



CAS Showcase presents opportunity for students to share work

By Bobbi Snyder

Anderson University students have an opportunity each April to present research and projects through the annual College of Arts and Sciences Showcase.

A variety of subjects are presented by 45-50 students. Annual features often include history, English, biology, and social sciences, but there have been presentations ranging from nursing and mission trips to archeological excavations, according to Associate Professor of Psychology Robert Franklin who has been organizing the event for six years.



“We want to give students a space to show what they do,” Franklin said. “The showcase is an opportunity to present to both peers and faculty members.”

Rachel Tabor, a double major in communication and art, said her experience with the 2018 showcase was “exciting and rewarding.”

Tabor presented a documentary created with her documentary video production classmate, Kayla Bowers. The short film focused on the life of Annie Dove Denmark, Anderson University’s first female president.

“It was wonderful to have an opportunity to share the finished product of something my team had been working so hard on,” Tabor said.

“I benefited from getting to share my hard work and then also by hearing feedback from people outside my class and beginning conversations about the work in the College of Arts and Sciences.”



What the College of Arts and Sciences has to offer

By Kayleigh Schneider

Anderson University's College of Arts and Sciences is home to a variety of majors that provide students with opportunities to study the root disciplines of specialized fields. Here is a brief overview of majors and concentrations:

Behavioral Sciences

Studies in the behavioral sciences help students understand human behavior from a scientific and Christian perspective. Students also develop and improve skills in researching and writing. There are two majors in this area:

- Human Development and Family Studies – This interdisciplinary program ties together the study of human development, family studies, psychology and sociology.
- Psychology, which includes the following concentrations:
 - Clinical Psychology – Students learn to assess different treatments of mental illness and abnormal behaviors.
 - Research Psychology – Students learn to analyze and study the basic functions of the brain.

“What I like most about my job is getting to spend time every day sharing information on subjects I’m passionate about with my students. The behavioral sciences have so much relevance to our everyday lives and relationships, and I think having a basic understanding of human development and relationship dynamics can help everyone improve their lives and the lives of others.” -- Susan Doughty, assistant professor of psychology

Biology and Chemistry

A degree in biology or biochemistry provides students with a broad base for understanding how the world works at the molecular, cellular, and ecological levels. These majors provide a solid foundation for those who are in pursuit of further education in the medical, dental, or veterinary fields.

Majors in this area include:

- Biology -- Students are prepared with an overview of living things on a genetic, cellular, and organismal level.
- Biochemistry -- Students study chemistry and its effects on living systems on a cellular and molecular level.

“Being a major of biochemistry is very challenging, but only because it pushes us to learn and understand the most we can in order to prepare us for further education. The information that I am learning right now will definitely prepare me for my future career in the medical field.” -- Jacob Wurst, sophomore biochemistry major

Communication

A degree in communication prepares students to work in a broad range of fields from public relations to journalism to social media management. Concentrations include:

- Digital Media – This concentration focuses on communication through websites, blogs, video productions and social media.
- Public Relations – This concentration helps train students to be ethical communicators on behalf of organizations.

“In communication and digital media production, everything is changing so quickly. Camera formats are changing. Editing systems are constantly upgrading. It is such an exciting time to be in communications. With all the constant movement, we have to make sure we teach solid bedrock principles that our students can hold onto in the future.” -- Gorman Woodfin, assistant professor of communication

English

A degree in English is built around reading, analyzing, deciphering, and writing texts. The English major examines important time periods in literature and famous works while also helping students develop the skills needed to write a business plan or a clear report.

Concentrations include:

- Literature - Students study and explore various time periods of literature and writers from all over the world.
- Creative Writing - This concentration provides experience in several genres of writing.

“I like teaching creative writing here at AU because I love discovering talent in students who may not even know it’s there. I love watching students discover what it means to go deeper in their writing to find and develop the heart of the story — whether it is fiction or nonfiction; and I love celebrating with students their accomplishments — what they build and discover and reveal through working with what they have.” -- Dr. Teresa Jones, associate professor of English

History

A degree in history equips students to study American, European, and world history. Graduates may pursue graduate or professional studies, enter the teaching field, or enter a career in the public or private sector.

“Studying as a history major here at Anderson University has really made me feel prepared to use this information when I get into a classroom. I hope to use what I have learned about history and teach my future students about how to interpret the world and become more culturally aware of the events around them.” - Madeline Gresham, junior history/teaching double major

Mathematics

A degree in math teaches students the principles and concepts of mathematics in its different forms. Students study a variety of subjects such as calculus, methods, statistics, linear programming, and algebra.

Concentrations include:

- Pure Math - Students are educated in a variety of traditional mathematical disciplines to be able to identify and analyze quantities, forms, and relationships.
- Actuarial - Students are prepared to pursue a career that blends business and mathematics

through statistical analysis.

- Secondary Math Education - Students are taught pure math along with educational theory and practice to prepare them to be math educators.

“As a senior, I feel like everything that I have learned in these past few years really has prepared me for a career after college. Even though I haven’t graduated yet, I already have a job lined up as an actuary. I can’t be more pleased with how the math department has prepared me for my future.” -- Faith Miller, senior math major

Political Science

A degree in political science examines the forms of national, state and local governments in the United States and around the world. This degree provides the underpinnings for careers in the law and public policy.

“After I graduate from Anderson University, I wish to attend a prestigious law school, and I feel as though my professors in the political science major have prepared me for it. I can’t wait to use everything that I have learned here and apply it to my future career.” - Josie Rollins, junior political science major

Spanish

A degree in Spanish teaches students to speak the Spanish language and understand the culture, traditions, and literature of Spanish-speaking nations.

“Teaching Spanish at Anderson University has been a journey, where my students and I are together in a cultural exchange. I enjoy my classes, especially the spontaneity, authenticity and creativity of my students. They try to use the Spanish language to express their feelings, proving that learning a language should be an internal, natural process where the most important aspect is their own learning time and pace.” -- Arlette De Jesus, assistant professor of Spanish

Anderson forms new PRSSA chapter

By Rachel Tabor

Anderson University recently received a charter from the Public Relations Student Society of America, making it the fourth university in the state to have a chapter of the pre-professional organization.

AU joins the University of South Carolina, Clemson University and Claflin University as the only universities with chapters.

“Being affiliated with PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) is very beneficial for Anderson University,” said chapter President Micka Cox. “It provides a space for AU students to gather and give back to the community, gives students scholarship opportunities, and links AU to PRSA (Public Relations Society of America), the nation’s largest public relations organization.”

Although this group is most helpful for students pursuing public relations and other communication-related fields, such as marketing, any AU student can join and benefit from the opportunities PRSSA provides, according to Assistant Professor of Communication Robert Reeves, the faculty adviser for the group

“Students have a chance to interact in an organization where they are the driving force and they get to pursue their interests with other students who are interested in the same professions,” Reeves said.

Cox said PRSSA is already off to a running start. The AU chapter has already hosted the president of its sponsoring professional chapter at a chartering celebration and brought a communication professional from BMW’s plant in Spartanburg to campus to speak on corporate communication. Additionally, the students have engaged in a service project to assist the Anderson County Alternative School.

Reeves said there are special benefits to being part of a national student organization as well.

“Students get to participate in virtual job fairs hosted by PRSSA national and there’s an internship board online that puts them in touch with national internships and in line for jobs when they graduate,” Reeves said.





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