What are you going to do with that major? This is a common question many Liberal Arts and Sciences students are asked. The good news is, the possibilities are endless; the bad news is, the possibilities are endless! It might feel overwhelming to consider that there are many career options that can be achieved with a Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. However, it is not always the major that guides the career path. At the Career Resource Center (CRC) here at the University of Florida, we focus on the ability to gain transferrable skills through a combination of classroom knowledge, experiential learning and professional development.

So why are transferrable skills important? Transferable skills are lifelong skills that can be taken to any career or experience and employability can look different to every company. However, when looking at a job description, there will almost always be transferrable skills listed as desired qualifications. The ability to have these skills and market them to employers promotes career readiness. According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), employers believe that “candidates who can demonstrate and articulate their career readiness enjoy a competitive advantage over their less-ready counterparts in landing an initial job after graduation.” (“Career Readiness Competencies: Employer Survey Results”, 2014). (continued on page two)
Welcome to the latest version of the Transfer Times newsletter, produced by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida. Once again, we are taking some time to present some useful information for prospective transfer students. Our goal is to remind students that transfer to UF is not only the gateway to amazing experiences, but it is something that is well within reach! We are eager to see new applicants enlarge and enrich our community, and hope that this newsletter is a helpful source of encouragement.

If there’s a theme to this edition, it may be something like, "you may be surprised to know..." The articles this Fall focus on some aspects of the college that you may not have thought much about. Our new Career Resource Center liaison, Andie Cochran, has some useful thoughts on the ways in which a liberal arts and sciences degree can provide students with exceptionally useful transferable skills that can really stand out in the job marketplace. Who knew that liberal arts and sciences students are such competitive applicants in the workplace? Well, we do—and after reading this newsletter, hopefully you’ll agree. This newsletter also highlights another less-well-known aspect of our college--the amazing foreign language programs. We have recently reorganized our foreign language majors, and I think you will find this newsletter a very helpful introduction.

The truth is, there are surprises around every corner, here in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. When you have such a large and dynamic range of programs, you just never know what kinds of opportunities will emerge! One thing stays the same, though--students are at the heart of everything we do, and their success is our primary goal and mission.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact our office if there is anything we can do to assist you, or if you have any feedback for us.

Joe Spillane, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Connecting the Career Dots...

Where can you learn transferrable skills?
Transferrable skills are not something that can be taught in a 101 course. These skills are a result of experiences that shape our abilities and promote our strengths. Liberal Arts and Sciences students have a unique opportunity to be enrolled in majors that allow them to explore many different skills. The most important way to gain and use these skills is to choose majors that spark interest. The good news is that students have a lot of support at UF. While in the exploration phase, the CRC can help students think through the many skills they have gained from their major and experiences.

Here at the CRC, we encourage students to build their skills by thinking of them in a few different categories. We strive to ensure that UF students develop strong communication skills, the ability to think critically, be capable of functioning in a team environment, have a sense of self and be socially responsible. At the CRC, we help students uncover where they are learning these skills and how they can use them when thinking about a career. Being able to understand interests and personality will help students be successful in any major.

To find out how the Career Resource Center can help you connect the dots between major exploration and career readiness, visit https://www.crc.ufl.edu/.
Beginning Fall 2016, the B. A. in Foreign Languages and Literatures (FLL) at UF offers more opportunities than ever. This major prepares students to move freely and decisively through a complex and rapidly globalizing world. Students can pursue a single language track in African Languages, Arabic Studies, Chinese Studies, French and Francophone Studies, German Studies, Hebrew Studies, Italian Studies, Japanese Studies and Russian Studies or dual languages. Students also have the opportunity to study culture through interdisciplinary fields of critical concentration including Intensive Area Studies, Comparative Cultural Studies, Film and Visual Culture, Literary Studies, and Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Participation in UF study-abroad programs or a UF approved program is also highly encouraged to compliment this major.

Foreign language skills have never been more important than in today's world and FLL graduates possess the multilingualism, diverse cultural knowledge, and sophisticated critical thinking, research, and writing skills necessary to engage successfully and meaningfully in the 21st century. At home and abroad, FLL graduates are superior researchers, educators, entrepreneurs, and contributors to the cultural, economic, business, political, and artistic landscapes they inhabit. This major is an excellent basis for graduate study in an area of foreign language and culture and/or in the humanities and social sciences, and it serves as a key foundation for a variety of careers in such areas as education, international development, diplomacy and government, national security, communications, law, journalism, arts and culture, publishing, and global business.

For more information visit: http://languages.ufl.edu/
What Does it Mean to be an Anthropology Major at UF?

Anthropology is the study of humankind. As a discipline, anthropology examines the entire panorama of human experience, past and present. It is a generalizing and comparative discipline with a concern for understanding human diversity on a global scale. Anthropologists engage in empirical research with established theories, methods, and analytical techniques. They conduct field-based research as well as laboratory analyses and archival investigations.

A hallmark of anthropology is its holistic perspective. Culture cannot be divorced from biology and adaptation, nor language from culture. Contemporary societies cannot be understood without consideration of historical and evolutionary processes. With this perspective, anthropology intersects the multiple approaches to the study of humankind—biological, social, cultural, historical, linguistic, cognitive, material, technological, affective, and aesthetic. This interdisciplinarity is integrated within anthropology as a whole and formalized in the four major subfields that compose the discipline—archaeological, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology—although many anthropologists also conduct research across these subfields.

Anthropology students benefit from the holistic approach that intersects natural science, social science, and humanistic perspectives of the human condition. They become adept at understanding the cultural, biological, environmental and historical bases for behaviors and precepts in their own and other societies. The self-reflection that results from applying the holistic approach and comparative method provides a broadened worldview, one that rejects naive ethnocentrism and is more open to acceptance of other ways of living. The development of these skillsets dovetails very well with other majors on campus.

Anthropology students are poised to use anthropology in any career they choose to follow, or they may choose to make anthropology their career. Our students are trained in the full suite of liberal arts skills—oral and written communication, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, research, and critical thinking—needed for success in a variety of careers. Anthropology majors often choose to pursue professional degrees in fields as diverse as business, healthcare, and law and often our students find opportunities to apply their skills to interdisciplinary problems in creative and meaningful ways.

John Krigbaum, Ph.D.
Undergraduate Coordinator
Anthropology

Check out the Anthropology Department’s webpage for more information:

http://anthro.ufl.edu/
Kyle Quina transferred to UF from Santa Fe College in the fall of 2014 as a biochemistry major. Having taught English as a second language in 2011 and 2012, Kyle felt that teaching high school science was a good fit for his skills and personality. The overlapping concepts in the biochemistry coursework helped him build a good foundation of chemistry knowledge. And now Kyle hopes to use his level of expertise to be a high school chemistry teacher.

Kyle indicated the transfer to UF was challenging because everything about UF was bigger than his experience at Santa Fe College. His classes at UF were bigger, the crowds of people on their way to class were bigger, and the number of activities to participate in were greater. But he knew extracurricular clubs and activities were a good way to make the school feel smaller because they presented opportunities to get to know people so he decided to join the CLAS peer mentoring program.

The CLAS peer mentoring program was a good extracurricular for Kyle because the program introduced him to other hard-working transfer students. It was also a great way to help new students connect to the university and CLAS on a personal level. The program also facilitated a closer relationship with the academic advising staff. Now as Kyle pursues a Master of Education degree, he is glad for all of his undergraduate experiences, from working hard to complete a challenging assignment to relaxing at Lake Wauberg with fellow students. And now he hopes to teach and encourage future students as a high school chemistry teacher after completing his master’s degree in Science Education.