

Emily Mitchell

Interdisciplinary Major

### Organizational Leadership

As a child, I was often asked this question: "What will you be when you grow up?" In response, I would say, "an Imagineer at Disney World," "an interior designer," or "a production designer for movies." However, for the past few years, my answer has become: "I want to save the world." For a while, I thought law school was the best way to achieve this goal, but now, I believe that someday owning my own art-outreach non-profit organization is the best means.

I came to Hendrix thinking that a liberal arts education would best prepare me to accomplish all my goals, rather than art school or a big state school. However, none of the majors at Hendrix encompass what I feel I need to learn in these short four years. So, I decided to design my own major entitled "Organizational Leadership." I want this major to equip me with knowledge that will allow me to be a qualified candidate for many jobs – in public relations, in an art museum, or working in a non-profit organization. I believe this major will make me a marketable commodity so that eventually, I can indeed save the world. (Well, at least make it a little better than it is now.)

My major will be comprised of two clusters: an Arts and Culture cluster and an Organizational Leadership cluster. The Arts and Culture group of classes will be made up of Art, Film, English and Philosophy classes to make me more aware of the art world. The Organizational Leadership cluster will be composed of Business, Politics, and Public Speaking to make me able to communicate properly with people in the business and political worlds. I am also minoring in art history to further prepare myself for specifying in art-based outreach.

In addition to this coursework, I plan on putting a great deal of experiential learning into my time at Hendrix. This experiential learning component has been and will continue to be crucial in preparing me for organizational leadership. In the summer of 2009, I spent ten weeks in Milan, six of which I spent interning for a Public Relations firm to learn about business, communication, and marketing through hands-on experience.

I also volunteer for the THEA Foundation in Little Rock. Their mission statement is: “The mission of the THEA Foundation is to advocate the importance of art in the development of our youth through educational and promotional activities and to encourage individual participation in art through scholarship, partnership, and other programs.” Their goal is almost identical to my life goal, and the experience I receive volunteering there is priceless. Additionally, I am currently looking into becoming certified by American Humanics – a company based in Kansas City, MO, that prepares college students to work in the non-profit world.

In the summer of 2010, I am anticipating being accepted for an internship at my Representatives’ office in Washington, D.C. This will be a priceless experience that will allow me to see politics at work.

As with all interdisciplinary majors, a capstone experience is necessary. Therefore, as part of my major, I will work with my committee to develop a research project that incorporates both academic and experiential concepts. The academic part will consist of researching the aesthetics and ethics of the non-profit world – doing research into how to make a non-profit successful: outwardly, i.e. marketing, public relations, and image; and inwardly, i.e. working with people within the company, donors, and constituents. The experiential part will consist of either an internship in a production or public relations company, and/or developing my own charity function for a non-profit

organization in Conway or Little Rock. I will then write a research paper on what I have learned from both aspects of my capstone experience. My Capstone Experience will be graded in two parts: a completion grade for the hands-on learning experience, and a letter grade for my paper. The overall grade will be determined by the three faculty members on my committee.

Below are the twelve courses that comprise “Organizational Leadership and the Arts:”

Arts and Culture Cluster

ARTS 200 Beginning Painting

ARTS 250 Beginning Photography

ARTS 300 Intermediate Painting

ARTS 490 Drawing for Personal Vision

ENGL 301 Creative Writing: Non-Fiction

PHIL 330 Ethical Theory

FILM 382 Non-Fiction Film

PHIL/ARTS 400 Capstone “The Ethics and Aesthetics of Non-Profit

Organizations”

Organizational Leadership Cluster – 4 of the following 5 classes

BUSI 100 Contemporary Issues in Business and Entrepreneurship

BUSI 280 Global Business

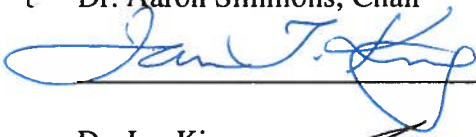
BUSI 110 Personal Finance

BUSI 290 International Marketing

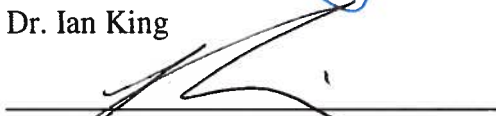
TART 110 The Art of Public Speaking



Dr. Aaron Simmons, Chair



Dr. Ian King



Dr. Rod Miller