

September 2009

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The University Honors College newsletter is published several times per semester. Christina Freer, editor.



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A message from the Director...

The semester is off to a wonderful start for the Honors College. This year 73 Honors College students are living in High Mountain East, which is more than have resided in the building in the past. The term began with mentors helping new students move into their rooms in the Learning Community.



Returning Honors students helped move-in and welcome first year students to the Honors community.



After everyone got settled, the Honors College organized a trip to the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and since the day was beautifully sunny we picnicked in Central Park after seeing the museum. I greatly appreciated the chance to get to chat with several new students, and begin to get to know them.



Students enjoying Central Park



Honors students chatting and enjoying ice cream.

Our first large social event of the semester, the Ice Cream Social, was a great success and with determination and hard work we managed to eat ten gallons of ice cream and an array of toppings, some very unusual!

This semester, the Honors College will continue to offer students opportunities to get to know one another outside the classroom. In September we will tour Central Park for a day and visit the zoo. We will take the NJ Transit bus to and from Port Authority for our trip so that we will have a better sense of how easy it is to visit New York. The Honors Club is planning a weekend trip to Washington, DC in November. The Honors College will also host several lunches in the lounge, a movie night with film professor Chriss Williams, a ceramic painting party, and the annual holiday party in December.

I hope that everyone's semester has started off well. Please do not hesitate to come to the office and speak with me or Jan if you encounter problems or have questions.

Susan Dinan



Honors College Holds
5th Annual Back-to-
School Ice Cream Social



The Annual Honors Ice Cream Social was well-attended on Monday, September 14, 2009. A beautiful day brought many new and returning Honors College students and faculty to the Hobart Manor terrace. Everyone chatted away, meeting new people and catching up with old classmates and professors. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the Ice Cream Social a success.

Honors College 4th Annual Coat Drive



Who: Generous people who want to help people in need in our community

What: Gently used or new **Coats** (all sizes, including kids)
New **Scarves, Hats, and Gloves** (homemade or store-bought)

When: November 2-November 9

Final Collection: Tuesday, November 10, during Common Hour

Where: Bins will be in residence halls and at Honors College office (Raubinger Hall, 1st floor)

Final Collection: Main Street in Student Center (Outside campus bookstore)

This November, the Honors College will be conducting its fourth annual coat drive. In 2006 over 200 coats were collected and distributed to Eva’s Village and the Paterson YMCA. In 2007, adult coats were donated to Eva’s Village and children’s coats were dropped off to the Passaic County Head Start by Dr. Dinan and a few students. The group was given a tour of the facility, and enjoyed making fruit loop necklaces with the wonderful children. Most importantly, they were able to see firsthand that the coats were desperately needed; very few weather-appropriate coats were to be found hanging in the children’s cubbies on that chilly December day. In 2008, the same two facilities received our donations.



Last spring, Honors College student Rachael Mierzwa, held a “Knitting Night,” in which students gathered to learn to knit scarves with the intention of donating them to this year’s coat drive. Rachael says, “The first night was a great success. The participants quickly picked up the techniques and were eventually able to complete an entire scarf. At this time there are 27 finished projects and more on the way!” Rachael has planned another “Knitting Night” on **Tuesday, September 29 from 5:30-6:30** at High Mountain East’s 4th floor lounge to teach more people to knit and to give those who already learned another opportunity to complete more donations.

Once again, donations will go to Eva’s Village and the Passaic County Head Start. The Honors College Club President, Kristina Kosztyo remarked, “The organizations are always grateful and appreciative, and we hope to keep giving to them every year.” We ask that you once again dig through those closets and donate whatever you can. We thank-you in advance for your warm generosity; just one coat could help someone immensely.



Meet the Honors College Staff

Director

Susan Dinan

Assistant Director

Jan Pinkston

Student Assistants

Amanda Corey
Christina Freer
John Fromholtz
Laura Jo Rieske

Track Directors

Robert Benno — Biopsychology
Philip Cioffari — Performing and Literary Arts
Jeffrey Kresky — Music
Neil Kressel — Social Sciences
Katherine Makarec — Cognitive Science
Christina McSherry — Nursing
Mahmoud Watad — Management
Raza Mir — Marketing
John Peterman — Humanities
Karen Swanson — Life Sciences and Env. Ethics

Meet the Honors Student Club Executive Board

President

Kristina Kosztyo

Vice President

Rachael Mierzwa

Secretary

Adriana Angviano

Treasurer

Christina Freer

Public Relations Officer

Carla Rainey

Social Events Officers

Gabriella Tosto

Marisol Garcia

Community Service Officer

Marisol Garcia

Honors Students Visit American Museum of Natural History



Honors Students accompanied Susan Dinan and Jan Pinkston to the American Museum of Natural History on Tuesday, September 1. They enjoyed themselves so much that another trip into New York City to learn how to successfully navigate the NJ Transit bus system and tour Central Park has been planned for Sunday, September 27!



"The trip to NYC was a great chance to hang out with some friends and make some new ones, while enjoying a trip back to our childhood with the massive whale and dinosaurs."

-Chris Klobus, first year Honors student



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Dinan holding the skull of a woman who died in 1349 when the Black Death struck London!

This summer, Dr. Dinan was part of a seminar run by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She spent five weeks in London as part of a group investigating "Disease in the Middle Ages," at the Wellcome Institute, the world's most important medical history archive and library. Every summer the National Endowment for the Humanities runs programs for university faculty members (as well as separate programs for high school teachers) designed to provide research opportunities and chances to

enhance classroom teaching. When Dr. Dinan saw an announcement for a seminar on medical history entitled "Disease in the Middle Ages," she immediately applied, and luckily was accepted!

When asked why she was so eager to participate in a program on this particular topic, Dr. Dinan explained, "My previous research has examined female teachers, social workers, and nurses, and poor relief in France. My interest lies in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the seminar I attended looked at medicine in the Western and Islamic worlds from Antiquity into the early modern period. I find medical history so interesting because people used to have very different ideas about how the body worked and how to stay healthy, which I find fascinating."

Dr. Dinan wanted to learn as much as she could about medical history because she has two goals for her research. One goal is to use her expanded knowledge to work on a comparative project

examining the way that networks of care were designed during times of plague crises in France and England (different governing and religious structures led to different responses). She also hopes to develop a new course on the history of medicine to teach here at William Paterson University.

When asked if she learned anything particularly interesting through her research, Dr. Dinan said, "I learned more than I ever thought possible in five weeks!" She thought the most amazing part of the seminar occurred when the group visited the Bioarcheology department at the Museum of London, where archeologists had conducted a dig in a 1349 graveyard. Many people buried in the graveyard probably died of the plague. "We were able to touch and examine the bones, which allowed me to see the effects of leprosy, arthritis, and poorly healed breaks on the skeletons," commented Dr. Dinan. "Plague kills so quickly that it does not change the bones like these other diseases do."

Upcoming Events

22 September	Tuesday	12:30 - 1:45	Honors Club Meeting UC 168A (Elections)
24 September	Thursday	12:30-1:45	Lunch in the Lounge High Mountain East, 4th floor lounge
27 September	Sunday	10:00-5:00	Honors College Trip to Central Park
29 September	Tuesday	5:30-6:30	Knitting Night High Mountain East, 4th floor lounge
1 October	Thursday	12:00-1:30	14th Annual Breast Cancer Walk Zanfino Plaza, Affiliation: Honors College
6 October	Tuesday	12:30-1:45	MANDATORY Meeting for all First Year Students UC 168 A/B
13 October	Tuesday	12:30-1:45	Lunch in the Lounge High Mountain East, 4th floor lounge
13 October	Tuesday	6:00-9:00	Ceramic Painting Night Location TBA (Must Sign-Up in Advance)
22 October	Thursday	12:30-1:45	MANDATORY Meeting for all Students in Honors Tracks UC 168 A/B
27 October	Tuesday	12:30-1:45	Lunch in the Lounge High Mountain East, 4th floor lounge
10 November	Tuesday	12:30-1:45	Final Collection for Honors Coat Drive Main Street, Student Center (Outside campus bookstore)
12 November	Thursday	12:30-1:45	MANDATORY Meeting for all First Year Students Atrium Auditorium
14 November	Saturday	TBA	Proposed Honors Club Trip to Washington DC
19 November	Thursday	12:30 - 1:45	Lunch in the Lounge High Mountain East, 4th floor lounge
1 December	Tuesday	3:00-4:00	Honors College Annual Holiday Party Hobart Manor

Remember to check your university e-mail for important information from the Honors College and Honors Club about changes to the above calendar and additional events!

Important Spring 2010 Registration information

Students who are in good standing in the Honors College are eligible for priority registration. (In order to be considered in good standing, students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, AND be enrolled in an Honors general education course OR enrolled in an Honors Track.) The date for priority registration for the spring 2010 semester is *tentatively* set for October 29, 2009. We are currently finalizing the list of the spring 2010 Honors General Education courses. More information about registration will be given at the mandatory meeting for first year Honors students on October 6th at 12:30 (UC 168 A/B) and at the mandatory meeting for all Honors Track students on October 22 at 12:30 (UC 168 A/B). Please watch your email for updates on priority registration, and the spring 2010 Honors General Education course listing.