

**Spring 2015**

***Student Presents to Board of Trustees***



**Manar Awad**

Manar Awad is a recent Honors graduate who presented her thesis this past April during Honors Week. She graduated on May 13 with a double major in Accounting and Finance. Manar completed her thesis in the Business track and was invited to present her research to the Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee. Among those in attendance were President Kathleen Waldron; Warren Sandmann, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean Siamack Shojai, Dean of the Cotsakos College of Business; Dr. Susan Godar, Interim Dean of the Cotsakos College of Business; Mr. William Pesce, William Paterson University Trustee; and Ms. Pamela Ferguson, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Manar impressed all with her research entitled, *Breaking the Barriers: How to Reduce Non Profit Organizations' Struggle for Awareness and Increase Financial Prosperity*. Her research investigated the causes of financial distress of nonprofit organizations and examined methods through which organizations can increase their online presence and engagement with stakeholders. The goal of the project was to raise awareness about non-profit organizations in ways that increase donations, volunteerism, and long term engagement.

What sets this research apart is the fact that there has been little prior research that has explored the connections between the online presence and donations/volunteerism of non-profit organizations. Manar conducted student surveys and interviews with the goal of gaining an understanding of how students feel about non-profit organizations and their online presence. She is humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to present her thesis as well as represent the college in front of the Committee. The Honors College wishes to congratulate Manar for her wonderful accomplishments.

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**Spring 2015**

***Interview with Alexa Zamora***



### **Alexa Zamora**

Honors Student, Alexa Zamora, is currently a sophomore majoring in media production. An avid Disney fan, Alexa recently took a semester off from her studies at William Paterson University to participate in Disney's Fall 2014 Advantage Program. She recently spoke with Honors about her experiences in the program and her plans for the future.

Alexa's program began in May 2014 and spanned until January 2015. As per program requirements, she registered for several seminar classes including a Disney Heritage Program in which she examined Disney's film archives. As a media production major, the experience was fascinating for Alexa who appreciated the opportunity to examine films closely under the guidance of knowledgeable instructors. In addition to taking classes, Alexa was also assigned to the park's custodial staff and worked on the east side of Disney's Magic Kingdom.

When Alexa wasn't occupied with classes or work responsibilities, she took advantage of opportunities to roam the Disney Parks, visit the shops and restaurants of Downtown Disney, and explore Orlando. She is also grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with people from around the world.

Alexa's experience in the Fall 2014 Advantage Program motivated her to apply to the Summer Alumni Program. She has recently been accepted and is looking forward to working on Disney's attractions team.

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### **Spring 2015**

#### ***National Student Exchange Program***



### **Katherine Machere**

Honors student, Katherine Machere spent the Spring 2015 semester at California State University Chico in northern California as part of the National Student Exchange Program. Katherine is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in studio art sculpture and a k-12 education degree with special education certification. She recently took the time to share her experiences in the program with the Honors College.

#### **How did you find out about the NSE program?**

**KM:** How I found out about the program is actually a really funny story. During freshmen year, my roommate and I were hungry one day, and we were looking for free food. We happened across free pizza so we listened to the presentation it was for, and it turned out to be way cooler than we had bargained for. My interest spiked from there.

I wanted to apply because I didn't really think that I'd ever get the chance to go to the West Coast if it weren't for a program like NSE. I also found out that I could keep and utilize my scholarships if I did National Student Exchange as opposed to International. And lastly, I hate cold weather! I needed a break from the cold after last winter!

#### **What courses are you currently taking?**

**KM:** I'm studying Art Education but because of the way William Paterson accepts education credits, right now I'm taking some really cool art classes. I have 7 classes, Glass Art, Body Sculpture, Basic Sculpture, Advanced Life Drawing, Asian Art History, An internship with an art gallery, and an Intercultural Contexts Class. The internship is great because it is through the Art Education program here so I work with young children in the art gallery after school and we do projects with them weekly. It really is what I want to do with my life so I enjoy it.

#### **Are you working on any interesting projects?**

**KM:** Interesting projects! Yes! You asked the right girl! Right now for my body sculpture class I am making an action figure of myself, it has to be to scale and have accessories and all! Also in glass art we're learning

mold making so I had my parents ship me a wax piece I made in foundry that I'm going to be casting in glass this week.

**What advice do you have for student that might be interested in the National Student Exchange Program?**

**KM:** Advice for students who might be interested..DO IT!!! Here's why, If you're an Honors student at William Paterson, chances are you live close by, it was an affordable option, and you probably have scholarships just like I do. Through Plan B all of my scholarships were usable so I was able to study in Cali for the same cost I pay at William Paterson (plus a flight or two). It's an awesome deal. They also have honors exchange, I met a friend here from South Dakota, and she's enrolled in an honors class here while on her exchange. She's taking an honors seminar class and said it was really cool. And besides that, NSE gave me the opportunity to come to the west coast, which never would have happened otherwise. I strongly recommend it! I'm having a great time out here.

If you have any questions about the NSE program, Katherine will be happy to answer them. Feel free to contact her at [macherek@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:macherek@student.wpunj.edu).

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**Spring 2015**

*Stories from Students-Mission Trip*



**(from left) Carolyn Woyce, Amanda Uhlick, Emily Houwen**

Senior nursing students, Amanda Uhlick, Carolyn Woyce, and Emily Houwen, took their studies outside of the classroom this past January. The trio embarked on a six day mission trip that brought them to Haiti on January 5, 2015. The trip was sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nurses, and Foundation for Peace, a non-profit organization that aims that aims to unify the United States with materially impoverished communities such as those found in Haiti, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. The

organization works to provide healthcare, education, and economic opportunities meant to enable community growth and personal success to those living in communities with limited resources.

Emily, Amanda, and Carolyn met with Dr. Christina McSherry, former Director of the Nursing Honors Track, as they traveled to join approximately thirty other members of their mission group which included William Paterson alumni, nursing students from other universities, and healthcare professionals. The group was housed in Deller's Inn Hotel located in Croix- des-Bouquets. Throughout the course of their stay, volunteers visited a total of four local clinics and an orphanage. At each of the clinics, nursing students were paired with registered nurses as they prepared to assess and assist patients. Emily, Amanda, and Carolyn had opportunities to assess patients of all ages and provide patients with medication and treatment options, a task that was made difficult by the limited amount of supplies. "The main goal was to address patients," shared Amanda, "to establish eye-contact, and to communicate proper instructions to patients with the assistance of a translator." In addressing their patients, students came to understand that their presence was valued by the locals, whose smiles and warm welcomes made it clear that their time and knowledge were well received.

Interacting with the locals was difficult as a result of cultural, linguistic, and educational barriers; however, Emily shared it was not impossible. "We still made connections," she stated, speaking about her experience visiting the orphanage. While verbal communication was limited, all three students felt that smiles, laughter, and personalized attention allowed them to reach the children despite of cultural differences.

The places they visited were places where, "Happiness is not materialistic," stated Carolyn. The trip, according to Emily, Amanda, and Carolyn, helped them to put things in perspective. As a result of their participation in this global cause, all three students have experienced the variety of paths open to individuals with nursing degrees, had opportunities to network, and learned alongside experienced professionals, and heard stories from inspiring people that will motivate them as they look to begin their professional careers.

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**Spring 2015**

*Students Honored at Red Dress Dinner*



**(from left) Trishia Omana and Xiana Guterrez**

Each year, the Student Government Association funds a Red Dress Dinner during Women's History Month. All proceeds of the event are donated to the American Heart Association. This year's event was held on Wednesday, March 25. In attendance were Honors students, Xiana Guterrez and Trishia Omana, who were both honored at the event with Women of Vision Awards.

Xiana is a junior nursing student who was nominated by Maribel Rodriguez. She was recognized for her academic excellence, volunteerism, and the leadership roles she has taken on. Xiana is a student ambassador, orientation leader, President of the Brilliant and Beautiful Dolls service organization, and has developed the WP Women's Retreat, a program designed to support women in surrounding community organizations.

Trishia is a senior nursing student who was nominated by Jan Pinkston. She was recognized for the active community service roles she has taken on since high school, the leadership roles she holds in the Student Nurses Association at William Paterson, as well as her strength, determination, and dedication in achieving the educational and professional goals that she has set for herself.

Honors College students, Erica Park and Kristina Lynn Sternesky, were recognized, for being Student Essay Contest winners. The Honors College wishes to congratulate Xiana, Trishia, Erica, and Kristina for their outstanding achievements and upon receiving honorable recognition at this year's event.

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## **Spring 2015**

***Student Accepts Teaching Invitation at Oxford***



### **Eric Dolan**

Eric Dolan is a recent Honors graduate who was honored at Commencement with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Media Studies. He completed his Honors Thesis through the Performing and Literary Arts Track. In addition to preparing his Thesis presentation during the spring semester, Eric held an internship with New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in Lincoln Center and planned a trip to Oxford where he assisted Dr. Robert Quicke in presenting a lecture over spring break. Eric took time out of his hectic schedule to share his experiences with Honors. See what he had to say about his exciting experiences.

#### **What is your current internship position?**

**ED:** I am currently a Museum Department Intern at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in Lincoln Center.

#### **What does the position entail?**

**ED:** Given my background in radio and deep interest in early television programming and radio dramas in general, I have been tasked with combing the archives for scripts to be presented by our radio station at the end of the semester in cooperation with NYPL. I also help curate the selections for upcoming museum exhibits, help physically construct the exhibits, and write descriptive blurbs for the artifacts.

#### **How did you find out about/apply for the program?**

**ED:** I actually found and applied for the internship through the website InternMatch. I had made an account and was scouring it for opportunities when I stumbled across this. Had it not been for the connective madness of the internet, I would have never known about the New York Public Library for Performing Arts, let alone this internship.

#### **What are you hoping to gain from this experience?**

**ED:** There is a certain, absolute, sense of satisfaction that comes from breathing life into manuscripts of old. I have the opportunity to dip into the archives, find a script that is still marked in pencil by its creator, and bring it to a college campus where it will be performed for the first time in over 60 years. That's extremely special,

and the exact sort of unconventional media experience I was hoping to receive from interning at a museum as opposed to a commercial media outlet.

**Can you tell us about your teaching opportunity abroad?**

**ED:** Along with Sebastian Escobar, I will be helping Dr. Robert Quicke present a lecture on International College Radio at Christchurch in Oxford over spring break. We'll each have an opportunity to speak in front of the audience and help Dr. Quicke construct the framework for his presentation.

**How did you acquire the position?**

**ED:** I have been working with Dr. Robert since my freshmen year at the radio station as Music Director and then eventually as the Director of his record label, College Radio Day Records. Once he attained the sabbatical position, he reached out and expressed his desire to have Sebastian and I visit England during his time there, not only to assist with the lecture but also as a personal learning experience for each of us. Professor Quicke is unlike any other I have experienced here, and his desire for us to grow not only academically via this opportunity is only outshone by his absolute desire to have us grow personally and creatively from traveling outside of the country.

**What are you most looking forward to?**

**ED:** As incredible as the actual lecture will be, I have never left the country, and so barring jetlag or general exhaustion, the moment that I step out of that plane onto foreign soil will be pretty incredible.

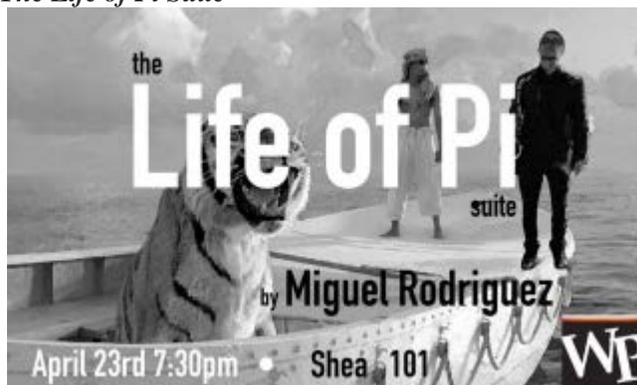
**How do you think this opportunity will guide your future goals/career choices?**

**ED:** Well, I hope it makes graduate admissions across the world salivate, but it is really about an intangible personal growth for me. I'm thrilled for the educational opportunity, the professional nature of the whole experience, but more than any of that, I want to analyze and experience the culture of a foreign land; I want to view America as an outsider for a while and see how it shapes my creative style.

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**Spring 2015**

*The Life of Pi Suite*



Miguel Rodriguez is a 2015 Jazz Studies graduate. He recently spoke with Honors about his thesis project entitled, “The Life of Pi Suite” which he performed for the University community on April 23. See what Miguel had to say about his experience in the Performing and Literary Arts Track.

**Which Honors Track did you select and why did you select this track?**

**MR:** I selected the Performing and Literary Arts Track (PLA) because it seemed to align perfectly with my career interests of writing and performing. I also chose the track because I very much enjoyed having Professor Cioffari as my College Writing teacher. Working with him on my thesis was a complete joy. He really encouraged me to think outside the box.

**Can you tell us about your thesis project?**

**MR:** My thesis project is really a culmination of all my musical and extra-musical work while at William Paterson. Even though I had been primarily studying music, I have developed a real appreciation for story telling during my time here. I wanted to bridge these two things in an explicit way for my project. I decided to use one of my favorite novels/movies, *The Life of Pi*, and attempt to bring it to life as a suite of music. I incorporated a string section into a traditional style jazz instrumentation to hopefully achieve a cinematic sound. In my completed work I included a detailed explanation of how I analyzed passages from the book and translated the work into musical information. It was very fun being creative and thinking of different ways to express emotions in visceral musical ways.

While it’s easy to get wrapped up in the competitive nature of music school, this project really brings me closer to the root of why I play music. It’s for the audience and myself, not for the other musicians. I wanted to remove thoughts from my head like “I have to follow these rules,” or “it needs to be this complex”. I just want to create things that people can understand and really digest. For most people, jazz is something totally foreign and incomprehensible. I believe this comes from musicians wanting to excite and please other musicians. I hope that non-musicians can enjoy what I have put together.

**Can you comment about your experience in the Honors Program at William Paterson University?**

**MR:** One of the highlights of William Paterson, for me, has been the Honors College. Everyone involved is really passionate about whatever they are doing and still, they are always receptive and kind to you and your ideas. That’s something that is really hard to find. I’m happy that I had the opportunity to join the Honors College. In particular, I really enjoy(ed) my time meeting with Assistant Director, Jan Pinkston. I owe her a lot. She is wonderful! She helped me in so many ways throughout my time at William Paterson. She has been my go-to person for advice regarding my thesis and anything else related to life as a student.

**What do you see as the value of completing an Honors Thesis Project?**

**MR:** I think doing a thesis project on a subject you really are passionate about can do many great things for your career. Also, in my experience, it has opened me up to different career paths I never imagined before.

That is a big part of the Honors College experience for me- getting exposed to other peoples' interests and collaborating in different ways. Overall, I think no matter how abstract or simple your idea for a thesis; there are practical uses for it. And whatever you do can take you right where you want to be. It can be a real boost.

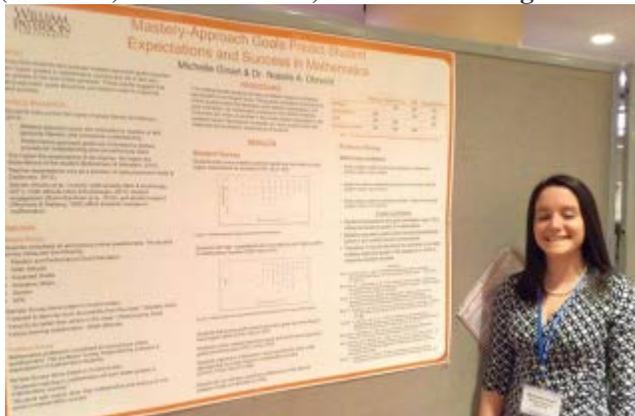
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## Spring 2015

### *Students Present at New York City Conference*



(from left) Honors student, Samantha DiMeglio and Nicole Manzetti



### **Michelle Ginart**

The Association for Psychological Science held its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in New York City on May 21-24. Among those in attendance were Eman Al-Jayeh, Samantha DiMeglio, Michelle Ginart, and Nicole Manzetti, all students from the Cognitive Science Track. In addition to attending lectures and symposiums, students presented their Honors Thesis projects during poster sessions.

Students pursued a variety of topics related to their personal interests and/or future career goals. Eman Al-Jayeh presented her research entitled "The Effects of Bilingualism on Executive Functions", Samantha DiMeglio presented her research entitled "Type A Personality and Procrastination", Michelle Ginart presented

her research entitled “Mastery-approach goals predict student expectations and success in mathematics”, and Nicole Manzetti presented her research entitle “An Impassioned State of Hunger and the Zero Price Effect”. “I never would have imagined that I would have attended an international conference and presented an original research study,” shared Michelle Ginart. “None of this would have been possible without the Honors College, my thesis advisor, Dr. Obrecht, and track director, Dr. Learmonth. This has been one of the best experiences of my college career, and it has opened some doors to future education and career options that I had not previously considered.” The Honors College wishes to congratulate Eman, Samantha, Michelle, and Nicole for their outstanding achievements.