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CAS Honors Program

2017

Suffolk University Honors Program Newsletter, Issue 2, Winter 2017

College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program

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Suffolk University CAS Honors Newsletter

WICKED SMART PEOPLE DOING WICKED COOL THINGS

HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the Program Director, Dean Lisa Celovsky

Every year at the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), I am interested to see what issues are preoccupying honors directors so much that they seem to arise in nearly every panel or session.

In the sessions I attended this year, there was much consideration of the question, how do we convince current and prospective students of the 'added value' of honors? Such students rightly ask, why add the stress of completing honors requirements when I could have an easier time maintaining a high GPA for my resume without them?

More than ever, we need to explain how honors is not just a line on a resume, but a way to build a resume. And more importantly honors is a way to build the whole student.

And we don't need just to explain it. We need to make it happen. There is good research from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) about experiences that lead to positive learning outcomes. Unsurprisingly, many of them are natural fits with honors: working on research projects, taking classes in cohort groups, engaging in experiential learning, and

experiencing relationships.

By definition almost any honors program promotes these experiences. But we have been working in the College to enhance and incentivize them. We have increased numbers of honors classes students can take together and have incentivized participation in experiential learning and research with the new Honors Option Points (HOPs) system. This year we are working on ways to promote student research by establishing awards and recognition and creating archives of published and searchable senior projects in the Sawyer Library.

Honors mentoring has been enhanced by the new RAMP program. I hope that alumni reading this newsletter will consider donating time to Suffolk by adding themselves to the ranks of searchable "honors" mentors. You don't need to be local to join this program and can connect with our current honors students on Skype.

Another theme that emerged at NCHC this year was the importance of serving the needs of the 'whole honors student.' For all its value, honors education can introduce additional stresses. Honors attracts students whose conscientious care is not far from obsessive anxiety.

mentoring

There were a number of sessions on wellbeing and mental health at this year's conference, and Dean Lenzie and our students attended many of them. In their conference reports our students also positively reported on their experiences trying out swing dancing for the first time, visiting Pike Place market to experience Seattle's culture as part of the City as Text program, and experiencing the creative work of other students in the master classes on poetry and film.

Reading these reports was a reminder that honors students need more than stimulating lectures on interesting research and special programs on how to apply for national scholarships. They need both to take a break from usual studies and to learn in new ways through 'play.' The Honors Council provided some of that stress relief last term with room decorating and massages and Chinese food at exam times. We hope to be more mindful of the need for play in future!

Students, faculty, and staff are doing their best to keep the program evolving, and I hope you will enjoy reading about some of the new initiatives in this newsletter.

Fall 2016 Honors Update

2016 NCHC Conference

Deans Lisa Celovsky and Sharon Lenzie led eight CAS Honors students to the 2016 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Seattle, WA, from October 12-16. The students in attendance were Allison Blackburn '19, Asha Deka '18, Megan Donnelly '17, Laurel Gozzo '19, Alexander Marcus '18, Maggie Randall '18, Renae Reints '18, and Jordan Simons '19.

Gozzo and Blackburn presented a poster at the Idea Exchange, which is a more interactive form of presentation. Their presentation "Get the Feelings Out!" was based on their experience in their Spring 2016 Creativity and Innovation course "Theatre at Work." See more about Theatre at Work [here](#).

Reints and Donnelly presented posters based on their research. Reints' was titled "Analyzing the Development of Social Opinion Through Media," while Blackburn's was "Psychopathy: More Than Your Prime Time Serial Killer."

Finally, Deka facilitated three sessions at the conference in her role as a member of the NCHC Board of Directors, to which [she was elected last year](#).



Students pose for a photo at the 2016 NCHC Conference in Seattle, WA.



Be sure to check out the Honors Facebook and Twitter pages!

Twitter Handle: @SU_Honors

Instagram: cashionors

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/suffolkcashionors/?fref=ts>



Come to the Honors Room!

Check out the brand new Honors Room on the 10th floor of 73 Tremont – Room #1059! A great place to meet, study, or relax!



Allison Blackburn '19 and Laurel Gozzo '19 sharing their presentation "Get the Feelings Out!" at the 2016 NCHC Conference in Seattle, WA.

The Honors Program

A select number of highly motivated and academically promising freshmen are invited to join the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) Honors Program. The program provides a dynamic and challenging intellectual experience, and creates a close-knit community of high-achieving students and outstanding faculty.

Since its inception in 2005, the program has grown from 18 to more than 400 current students. The success of the program stems from its rigorous academic offerings and a prestigious array of benefits, such as priority course registration and guaranteed on-campus housing for two years.

Honors Program Administration

Lisa Celovsky

Associate Dean, Director, CAS Honors Program, and Associate Professor of English

Sharon Lenzie

Assistant Dean & Honors Program Advisor

Bradley Burns

Administrator, CAS Honors Program

Pauline Alvarez

Administrative Assistant

Honors Council Report

-Ruby Wong and Mariana Soto

During the fall semester, the Honors Council held several fun events to help honors students connect with each other and to relieve stress. On October 27, the Honors Halloween Social was held to celebrate the opening of the honors room. At the social, students decorated the honors room with a Halloween theme, and enjoyed pizzas, sweets, and lots of fun. On December 12, we held the Holiday Stress Relief session to help students relieve stress prior to finals week. Chinese food and 10-minute massages by professional masseuses were provided, and students greatly enjoyed the event!

The Honors Council also held several informational events to inform students on ways to succeed in the honors program. On October 31 and November 3,

we held Honors Peer-Advising Sessions, where honors council members and student volunteers provided student-to-student advising to help honors students pick their classes for the spring semester.

On November 1, we held the Honors Networking Session prior to the Professional Success Expo to teach honors students how to network and to market their honors profiles. Experienced alumni Thomas Busby '09 MBA '16 and Victoria Ireton '16 were there to share their experiences with students, who in turn sat at the different tables to talk to each of the professionals present at a one-on-one level. The event was also open to SBS honors students.

In the spring semester, the Honors Council plans to hold even more fun and informational events for honors students. We will be holding an Ice-Skating event at the Frog Pond with the SBS Honors Program very soon. We will also be holding more Peer-Advising Sessions to help students pick their classes for the fall semester. In addition, we will hold another fun Pre-finals Stress Relief Event like we did last semester since

students had a great time. If you have any ideas for events, please don't hesitate to contact the Honors Council, and we'll try our best to make it happen for you!

HONORS COUNCIL MEMBERS (2016-2017)

President: Hoi (Ruby) Wong

Vice President: Mariana Soto

Secretary: Kathleen Andrade

Senior Rep and On-Campus Rep: Brittany Kaiter

Junior Rep: Domenik (DJ) Fabrizio

Sophomore Rep: Maggie Randall

Freshman Rep: Alexia Baugniet

Off-Campus Rep: Sheikh Nasher



Senior Jessica Hardin sharing her project, "Shadow of a Killer," at the 2016 Fall Honors Symposium.



Students examine a poster being presented at the Fall Honors Symposium

Fall 2016 Honors Symposium

On December 14, the Honors Program held its biannual Honors Symposium in the Sargent Hall Function Room. While not as large as the Spring Symposium, this year's Fall Symposium included over 50 presenters, made up of seniors who will be graduating in January, students from contracted honors courses, and students from two Seminar for Freshmen courses.

On November 17, Prof. Amy Marks (Psychology) hosted a how-to make a poster session during her section of PSYCH-H114 which was well-attended and gave students insights into how they should design the poster they are creating for Symposium.

We were also joined by students from two Honors Seminar for Freshmen (SF) courses. They were SF H116 (Enlightened Insanity) with Prof. Barbara Abrams and SF H1148 (Brave New Worlds) with Prof. Leslie Eckel.

The Honors Symposium is an opportunity for honors students to present their research, creative work, or class projects in a poster format to the university community. The event is attended by university administrators, faculty members, and fellow students.

Thanks to all students and faculty for their hard work in making this event a success!

LIGHT THE NIGHT PHOTOS



SAVE THE DATE!

May 4, 2017

The Honors Program will be holding its Spring 2017 Symposium on May 4, 2017 from 1:00-2:30 in the Sargent Hall Function Room. All of our graduating seniors in Spring 2017 will be presenting their research and creative projects on this day. Alumni are especially welcome to attend! Please save the date for this very important biannual event, and we look forward to seeing many of you there! If you have any questions about the Symposium, please feel free to contact Brad Burns (bburns5@suffolk.edu).

News & Notes

Honors Senior Project Prizes Introduced

The Honors Faculty Advisory Committee, under the direction of a subcommittee led by Prof. Celeste Peterson (Biology), will introduce a series of new prizes to be awarded for the first time in Spring 2017. These prizes will be for the best Senior Honors Project. Each department will award one best senior project award, with winners receiving a modest prize and certificate. Departmental winners will be considered by the Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities, or Math/Science divisional committees. Divisional winners will have their names displayed in a dedicated place in the library. From the four divisional winners, a committee will select the overall Best Honors Project prize, with the winner serving as Suffolk's nominee for the National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Prize, which is awarded to four students annually for excellent papers.

We are looking forward to honoring our seniors for the extremely hard work they put into these projects, and we can't wait to see what they produce!

Honors Program Logo Contest

In December, the Honors Program announced a logo contest. Last year, students selected "Wicked Smart People Doing Wicked Cool Things" as the program's slogan. Now, we want to have a visual representation of what the CAS Honors Program is all about! The winning logo should reflect the Suffolk CAS Honors Program experience.

Students interested in entering the contest should consult the submission guidelines on Blackboard and email Brad Burns (bburns5@suffolk.edu) with any questions. Submissions are due on February 6!

Light the Night 2016

Students once again participated in the Light the Night walk this past fall on October 20. This event takes place every year on Boston Common and benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which funds the research of blood cancer cures. Students walked on behalf of Love for Lara, in honor of the niece of Prof. Melanie Berkmen (Chemistry and Biochemistry), a member of the Honors Faculty Advisory Committee.

Students were treated to pizza before the event. This year, the Honors Program contingent was led by Brittany Kaiter '17 and Mina Panacy '19, who are the RAs for the Honors LLC this year. As usual, this was a beautiful and inspiring event. Thanks also to Profs. Celeste Peterson (Biology) and Melanie Berkmen for their help in organizing and attending. Check out photos on the left side of this page!

ASB Attendees Honored by St Joseph County, IN Habitat for Humanity

Last spring, the Honors Program sent a team of honors students to an Alternative Spring Break program working on a Habitat For Humanity project in South Bend, IN. Thanks to their hard work, the St. Joseph County, IN chapter of Habitat for Humanity nominated our group for their Student Group of the Year award. We loved working on this project in South Bend, and thank Habitat for Humanity for this accolade, but especially for all the wonderful work they do!

Honors Senior Project Archives

A subcommittee of the Honors Faculty Advisory Committee led by David Gallant (Academic Advising Center) is planning ways to archive future Honors Program senior projects so that they will be preserved by the University. Details are forthcoming, but we look forward to offering students the chance to make their work publicly available through the Sawyer Library.

Fall 2016 Honors SF Courses

First-year students had the opportunity to take a number of excellent honors-level Seminar for Freshmen courses in Fall 2016! Students in these courses had an excellent opportunity to explore topics that interested them in-depth and engage with the world. Check out some reports from last semester's honors SF courses below:

[SF-H116 – Enlightened Insanity](#)

[SF-H197 – Sustainability, Energy, Technology](#)

[SF-H1148 – Brave New Worlds](#)



"Brave New Worlds" students at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



"Enlightened Insanity" on a Boston tour with Professor Robert Allison

Fall 2016 Honors Orientation

The Honors Program welcomed the Class of 2020 to campus with a series of exciting Welcome Weekend events the weekend of August 26-28, 2016. Honors students were able to move into their dorms before the rest of the campus community, and were able to participate in a number of events that allowed them to get to know one another, Suffolk, and Boston!

Events that students participated in over the course of that weekend included a boat cruise on Boston Harbor, and a Boston scavenger hunt. Welcome events continuing into September included a Pizza-With-A-Professor event on the election with Prof. Rachael Cobb (Government) and honors student Hannagh Jacobson, and attending a Red Sox game at Fenway Park!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following honors students, who finished the Fall 2016 semester with a 4.0 GPA!

Karina Abeddy
 Joanna Abramchuk
 Kate Brush
 Sarah Coderre
 Kimmely Fortunati
 Steven Hammerton
 Jackson Hines
 Victoria Marinzel
 Julieanne Marquis
 Brittania Moodie
 Tara Murphy
 Emily Nayyer
 Justin Pioppi
 Lazaro Quinata
 Salvatore Ragonese
 Elizabeth Rushford
 Renat Sergazinov
 Aashi Sethi
 Alaina Simmers
 Alyssia Smith
 Sydney Strachman
 Justin Testa
 Casey Tsimbal
 Rebecca Zama

Current Students: 2017 NCHC Conference Proposals Due!

Proposals for the 2017 NCHC Conference in Atlanta, GA will be due on Monday, February 27. Details are forthcoming, but if you are interested in submitting a proposal, there will be informational drop-in hours on Monday, February 13 where you will be able to talk to students who have attended the conference in the past and get feedback on your ideas for proposals.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Brad Burns (bburns5@suffolk.edu).

Select Spring 2017 Honors Classes

BIO-H109-Plants and People – Prof. Nolfo-Clements

This course focuses on the ancient, intimate, and mutually beneficial relationship between humans and plants. We will discuss the basic anatomy, physiology, and genetic characteristics of flowering plants and how these characteristics have facilitated their use by humans. We will explore the impacts of a wide range of plants and their products on human society while considering the evolutionary changes that these plants have undergone through artificial selection. We will also touch on the synergistic role of fungus and plants in alcohol fermentation.

CI-H102-The End of Global Poverty – Prof. Cannon

Students will be encouraged to synthesize existing ideas, images, concepts, and skill sets in original way, embrace ambiguity and support divergent thinking and risk taking. More than one-third of our global population lives in poverty, earning less than two dollars a day. Governments, businesses, social enterprises, and charitable organizations have tried to solve the global poverty issue with mixed results. What is the solution? Is entrepreneurship the solution, part of the solution, or has no impact whatsoever? In this course, you will gain an understanding of the power of entrepreneurship (in the context of creativity and innovation), the definition and depth of global poverty (in the context of constraints, such as human, financial and physical resources embedded in local, regional, national and global cultures), and successes and failures of past initiatives to reduce poverty.

CI-H119-Theatre at Work – Profs. Plotkins and Robinson

Theatre at Work is an introduction to creative practice using live performance as a problem solving tool in an educational environment. Specifically, students will create a performance piece in response to an issue they have uncovered in collaboration with select groups of students in a host Boston Public School. There will be a special focus on normalizing risk-taking and the learning that comes from false starts and failed ideas. Students will be responsible for creating every aspect of their performance testing its feasibility on a limited budget, ensuring that the content meets established criteria, and successfully implementing and evaluating their success both with their peers and their audience.

CI-H133-Creating America – Prof. Allison

What made Benjamin Franklin such a creative force in American history? We will explore the many facets of Franklin's life (printer, writer, scientist, statesman) and learn about Benjamin Franklin's political and diplomatic ventures, and will recreate some of his scientific experiments.

CI-H149-Creative Writing and Literacy – Prof. Bonikowski

This course will explore the value of creativity and play in developing reading and writing skills and the habits of lifelong learning, both in our own lives and in the lives of young people in Boston. In this course, we will work closely with the non-

profit literacy organization 826 Boston, which works with students ages 6-18 on reading and writing skills through playful, creative workshops, as well as tutoring and other kinds of support. Students will learn about the work of 826 Boston by volunteering with the organization, and by the end of the semester you will conceive, plan, and run creative writing workshops of your own at 826 Boston.

EC-H101-Applied Microeconomics - Prof. Tang

Introduction to the organization and operation of a market economy with a focus on how it allocates scarce resources; the analysis of consumer demand and profit maximizing behavior of business; examination of pricing and output decisions under conditions of competition, monopoly and imperfect competition. Analysis of markets for labor and capital. Policy issues include price ceilings and floors, competition and monopoly

ENG-H135-World Literature – Prof. Jeffreys

A study of literature written in English from cultures around the world, with emphasis on major modern and contemporary writers from countries such as Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa and the Caribbean. Regularly assigned essays on reading provide the basis for individualized instruction in clear, correct and persuasive writing. Offered every semester. *What will you get to do in the honors version of this course?: A movie adaptation of Life of Pi will be viewed and visits to the Boston Museum of Fine Art's Indian, Asian and African Galleries as well as to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem will be planned as part of the class's exploration of colonial history and examination of Eurocentric cultural assumptions.*

GVT-H120-Research Methods – Prof. Kulich-Vamvakas

A special honors section of Research Methods. Students will be introduced to the subfields of political science and learn to analyze political writings. Focus will be on the use of the scientific method for research on politics and government. Students will learn the steps in writing a research paper, including developing the research question and selecting a research design. Attention will be given to the use of statistical analysis and public opinion polling in political research.

GVT-H247-Authors, Inventors, and Brands – Prof. McJohn

Are Neanderthal genes patentable? May a fan write Harry Potter 8? Could Amazon.com shut down Amazon Books, a women's bookstore? Is there copyright in a student's class paper? Why does so much copyrighted stuff stay up on YouTube? Can a video game company own its employees' ideas? This friendly, interactive introduction to intellectual property gives the lay of the land, covering the fundamental pillars of copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secret, and more far-reaching topics like international and internet intellectual property, and indigenous people and IP.

PHIL-H119-Honors Ethics – Prof. Eisikovits

A systematic introduction to the major thinkers and their positions on the main issues of ethics, such as: What is morality? What are moral values? How should we live our lives? Are there objective,

universal, absolute moral standards? If so, what are they, and what is their basis?

PHIL-H123-Honors Social Ethics – Prof. Fried

An examination of contemporary Western society, particularly in the United States, in relation to philosophical attempts to define the "good life." Current books that exhibit a philosophical approach towards important contemporary social issues will be discussed, as well as classics in philosophy. Topics may include: civic virtue, consumerism, current events, economic justice, popular culture (film, music, television), religion and secularism, etc.

Spring 2017 Calendar

February 6: Logo contest ends

Week of Feb. 13: National Scholarships Info Session

February 13: Drop ins for NCHC proposal writing

February 14: Ice Skating on Frog Pond

February 27: NCHC proposals due

March 21: Honors Advising #1, 12:15-1:30

March 23: Honors Advising #2, 4:00-5:30

March 27: Honors Advising #3, 9:00-10:00

March 29: Honors Advising #4, 4:00-5:30

March 30: Honors Advising #5, 4:00-5:30

April 24: Candidate Statements for Honors Council President, Vice President, and Secretary due

April 25: Pecha Kucha #1, 12:15-1:30

May 2: Pecha Kucha #2, 4:00-5:00

May 4: Spring Honors Symposium, 1:00-2:30

May 4: Honors Council Election closes

May 31: Spring Reflection Due

Honors by the Numbers

Freshmen: 122

Sophomores: 143

Juniors: 106

Seniors: 82

Total Students: 453

Attention Honor Students & Honors Alumni: Partner Through RAMP (Ram Alumni Mentoring Program)

The Ram Alumni Mentoring Program (RAMP), launched in September 2016, was developed to connect alumni and undergraduate students in long-lasting, mutually-rewarding mentoring relationships that foster the personal, educational and career success of the students and meaningfully engage alumni with Suffolk. We now have nearly 60 alumni mentors!

Connections between mentors and mentees can happen in real or virtual time and space, meaning that you do not have to be local to participate. This new program is managed by the Career Development Center, and you may learn more about it from this link:

<http://www.suffolk.edu/academics/65619.php>

While RAMP is available to all Suffolk alumni and current students, we have developed a special opportunity for honors students and honors alumni to partner. When you join our pool of mentors or mentees, check the 'honors' box to identify yourself as an honors student or honors graduate.

When alumni receive a request from a student, they can choose to accept or decline. If alumni would prefer to receive requests *only* from honors students, let us know by emailing bburns5@suffolk.edu. We will arrange for your information to be shared only with students in the Honors Program.

To create an account and profile, visit Ram Recruiter and follow the instructions in the above webpage from career development. The RAMP website can be found at: <http://suffolk.joinhandshake.com> Local mentors and mentees should also please save the date for a speed networking 'Meet your Mentor' event to connect mentors and mentees at Suffolk on 23 February, 6:00-7:00 PM.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following students who have graduated and completed their senior honors projects! We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Ciera Dehmand (Government) – "The Rise of Religious Extremism in Postmodern Conflicts and the Jihad Rhetoric: Identifying and Analyzing the Influence of Religion on International Terrorism and the Western Response", Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Rachael Cobb

Emma Doherty (CJN) – "Why America Hates the Media", Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Kevin Carragee

Jessica Hardin (English) – "Shadow of a Killer: The Police, the Press, and the Public Unveiling of Whitechapel Jack", Faculty Supervisors: Profs. Wyatt Bonikowski and Kenneth Greenberg

Haleigh Martino (CJN), Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Kevin Carragee

Gabriel Ochonski (Biology) – "The Influence of Moon Illumination and Cloud Cover on Rodent Behavior", Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Lauren Nolfo-Clements

Courtney Schopke (Biology) – "The Effects of Weather on the Activity of Peromyscus and Microtus Rodents", Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Lauren Nolfo-Clements

Emma Tarquinio (English) – "Revisiting Catholicism in Evelyn Waugh's Brideshead", Faculty Supervisor: Prof. Thomas Connolly

2016 Cocoa and Cookies Celebration

On December 7, honors students gathered on the 13th floor of 73 Tremont for the annual Cocoa and Cookies celebration. Singers led by Prof. Marilyn Plotkins (Theatre) performed some carols as students and faculty enjoyed some hot cocoa, cookies, and a beautiful view of the tree-lighting on Boston Common. Check out some of the photos from the event!



Honors Ambassadors

If you are interested in applying to be an Honors Ambassador by helping with honors events and mentoring new students, keep a close eye on your emails for more information about that opportunity in the next few weeks!

