

## About the Performing and Literary Arts Track of the University Honors College . . .

Sponsored jointly by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the College of the Arts and Communication, the Performing and Literary Arts Track is a cross-disciplinary program for students engaged in a creative project in one or more of the following areas: writing, theatre, music, film or art.

Students select a creative project and work closely with the Program Director to accomplish their academic and personal goals. As is true for the other tracks in the University Honors College, performing and literary arts is not a major, but a distinctive set of courses that adds breadth to, and reinforces, a student's chosen major. The track is open, subject to stipulation, to students of all majors.

Dr. Philip Cioffari, a professor in the Department of English, has served as Program Director for the Performing and Literary Arts Honors Track since its inception in the year 2000. Dr. Cioffari holds a Ph.D. from New York University. His interests include Creative Writing, Acting, and Directing. He has written two works of fiction: a collection of stories entitled *A History of Things Lost Or Broken* and the novel, *Catholic Boys*. He has written and directed plays Off-Off Broadway at theatres such as The Belmont Playhouse, The American Globe Theatre, The Triad, The Producer's Club, The American Theater of Actors and at the Pulse Ensemble Theater in New York City. His movie, *Love in the Age of Dion*, which he wrote and directed has won awards at various film festivals, including "Best Feature Film on Video" at the Long Island International Film Expo.



**Spring 2008**

# Performing and Literary Arts Honors Presentation

SHOWCASING THE WORK OF STUDENTS  
COMPLETING THE  
PERFORMING AND LITERARY ARTS  
HONORS TRACK OF THE  
UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Dr. Philip Cioffari, Program Director

**Tuesday, April 15, 2008  
8:00 p.m.**

**William Paterson University  
Hobart Manor**

## Writers' notes

(In order of appearance)



Rumki Chowdhury

### "Her Feet Chime" by Rumki Chowdhury

Writing is my passion. The Cinderella story is a classic fairytale that continues to entice the youth. Its magical qualities are the reason why it has translated into various versions, including *Ever After* by Wendy Loggia, and many children's books such as *The Egyptian Cinderella*, *The Golden Sandal*, *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella*, and *A Little Gold Star: A Spanish American Cinderella*. However, Bangladesh does not have its own Cinderella story so I created *Her Feet Chime*.

This story is set in 19<sup>th</sup> century Bangladesh, where 17-year-old Asha loses her parents in a tragic horse-carriage accident. She believes that her new guardian is Rathre, her caretaker, until her aunt, Ragi, and cousin, Hashi, appear at her doorstep. Henceforth, Asha's life of tranquility becomes hindered.

I am a writer who enjoys creating description with bits of dialogue here and there. I hope my work enhances the cultural awareness of young adults or teenagers. I also wish for readers not to entirely escape reality through my work, but to believe that one *can* create and live within one's own fairytales. Each joyous experience one breathes in is a fairytale moment. I would like to thank Dr. Philip Cioffari for his assistance and I would like to thank my parents and brother for inspiration and support.



David Molczyk

### "Fiction and the Supernatural" by David Molczyk

Like many others my age, I grew up on Nickelodeon and the Scholastic Book Club. When I think about how my childhood has influenced my fondness for writing, two names come to mind: "Are You Afraid of the Dark?" and "Goosebumps." A television series and a book series, respectively, they were a sort of "children's horror" genre, and I loved them...but I didn't always love how the stories were resolved. From time to time I'd rewrite the endings

in my mind, and that eventually gave way to developing similar stories of my own.

But I was never completely happy with the results; there always seemed to be something missing from my writing. I never wanted to share my work with anyone, because it never really felt complete. And that's why I'm so grateful to Dr. Philip Cioffari--it was his help that led me to find what I felt my work needed. Thanks to him, I can take pride in my work.



Jessica Mongiello

### "Artful Expectations" by Jessica Mongiello

I remember the exact moment that I knew I wanted to write fiction. It was the first time I moved out and was living in my own apartment. I was sitting at my freshly table-clothed kitchen table with my laptop working on a Women's Studies response paper. And as I was responding to a woman I had read about, it occurred to me that these distressful, vile, and conflicting circumstances make for really good reading. Sad, I know... but inevitably true. It is complex character dynamics mixed with original dialogue that culminates in the best climax. So I looked out my oversized window onto the dismal parking lot below me and...let nostalgia set in. My personal dramatic moments of nostalgia became the spring board for my first short story. Two semesters later my first short story has accumulated into an eighty-page novella.

The one person I know I have to thank is Dr. Cioffari. In my first writing class with him, I presented him with a couple pieces of poetry and my second attempt at the previously mentioned short story. When I asked him which genre he liked better he said, "well your poetry is...good," and quickly rebutted, "but your fiction is much better. I mean come on... look at the first line."

### — Production Staff —

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Director, University Honors College ..... Susan Dinan  
Director, Performing and Literary Arts Honors Track ..... Philip Cioffari  
Program Assistant to the University Honors College ..... Jan Pinkston  
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Risa Rudnitsky

*Please join us for a reception immediately following the presentations.*