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WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY

University Honors College

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

A Note from Dr. Susan Dinan

Congratulations on making it to the end of the fall semester! For the first year students, I know this has been a four-month period in which your lives have changed dramatically. It is a privilege for me to teach a First Year Seminar class each fall and follow you through this time of transition. For upper division students, you too have grown through the challenges and accomplishments of the semester. College semesters always fly by because we are all so busy, I hope you found time to spend with friends and to enjoy

some of the activities offered by the university. Please take advantage of what this campus can offer you in and out of the classroom.

I am looking forward to the spring term when graduating students present the findings of their thesis projects during Honors Week. Nothing is more exciting than to watch the growth of students who I first met when they were in high school visiting the campus, and in April they will stand before peers and professors and confidently share their

research results. College is hard; and Honors is challenging, but it offers some outstanding rewards, and Honors Week is time of celebration and accomplishment.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful winter break and has some time to relax and recharge. I will see you in January!

-Susan Dinan

Honors Cluster Trip Field Trips

The Honors Program at William Paterson University creates an environment that is both challenging and stimulating in which students can learn, grow, and broaden their thoughts and experiences. This semester, first-year Honors students enjoyed the opportunity to take their experiences outside of the classroom and explore the cultural and historical resources of New York City.

Pictured (above) are the students of Dr. Kressel, Dr. O'Donnell, and Dr. Wahrman's cluster outside of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Also pictured (below) are the students of Dr. Dinan, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Topal, and Dr. White's cluster on the steps outside of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Jan's Tips for Student Success



Jan Pinkston,
Assistant Director of
the Honors College

Before you head off for winter break, be sure to double-check your billing and payment information on WP Connect. Make sure you take care of your bill by the deadline indicated so you don't risk getting dropped from your spring semester classes.

Check your spring 2015 class schedule and make sure your classes are all set. If you applied for an Honors Independent Study, double-check that the Independent Study appears on your schedule. Also, make sure you are registered for a minimum of 12 credits in order to receive scholarships.

Be sure to check your William

Paterson email account several times over the course of the break for notifications about your Honors status, class changes, and/or billing and payment information.

Once you get home, think about ways to make good use of your time off and get a head start on next year: Spend time researching and applying for scholarships/grants.

-Review your time management plan and tweak it for the spring semester (the semester begins on January 12, 2015).
-Browse the William Paterson website and look for clubs and/or upcoming events that interest you. Get a head start on your reading for

next semester.

-Do some research on study abroad opportunities.

-Update your resume.

-Begin thinking about a summer job or internship, and do some initial networking.

And finally, get some rest and relaxation. Remember, it is called "break" so hangout with your family and friends, catch up on your sleep, read a novel for fun, go to a museum in NYC, binge on your favorite Netflix show, or spend time doing whatever it is that you enjoy before heading back to campus in January.

News from Honors Faculty



Dr. Bruce Diamond

The Honors College recently welcomed two new track directors, Dr. Jill Nocella of the Nursing Track and Dr. Bruce Diamond of the Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology Track.

Dr. Diamond is a licensed Neuropsychologist (NJ) specializing in clinical neuropsychological assessment and neurorehabilitation. His research focuses on the neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience of memory, executive function, attention/concentration, information processing and mood/anxiety using standardized, computer-based and brain imaging/

autonomic measures in healthy and in clinical populations. A practicing clinician, he has published extensively and presented at numerous national and international conferences.

Dr. Nocella received her master's degree in nursing science from Pennsylvania State University in 2002 and her PhD in Nursing Research and Theory Development from New York University in 2013. She is a clinical nurse specialist in community health as well as a board certified complex case manager. Her area of practice has been in the managed care environment as well as the

home care setting. Her research is focused on quality of care as well as self-management of chronic conditions.

Both Dr. Diamond and Dr. Nocella were present with the other Track Directors at the FYS meeting held on Thursday, October 23. They introduced themselves to students as well as presented students with a brief overview of their tracks.

For more information about the Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology and Nursing Tracks, please visit the Honors College Website.



Dr. Jill Nocella

Honors Holiday Party

The annual Honors Holiday Party was held on Wednesday, December 10. Students, faculty, and staff gathered for an afternoon of festive treats, music, and fun! In addition to participating in a photo scavenger hunt, guests had the opportunity to enter the third

annual Honors Ugly Sweater contest. Judges, Dr. Cioffari, Dr. Spagna, and Dr. Wahrman selected this year's winners, Rachael Segal, Summer Pirro, and Tim Malone. Thank you to those who attended and to Honors Club E-Board member, Carley

McDonald, for submitting scavenger hunt photos. Be sure to check out this year's festivities.



2014 Ugly Sweater Contest Winners and Participants



(from left) Dr. Benno, Summer Pirro, Rachael Segal, Brandon Reis, and Carley McDonald holding Tim Malone's photo and prize.



Time for Honors Alumni

Dr. Bela Florental, Director of the Business Honors Track, and Christopher Polakowski, former Honors student, collaborated on a social media case study project last spring. Dr. Florental and Christopher worked with a New York City-based firm looking to develop an index that assesses performance of companies on social media platforms. The case study introduced a formula that provides companies with a single-number index between 0-100 which indicates how effectively the company

utilizes social media in terms of content and platforms. Together, Dr. Florental and Christopher developed this index to help a company compare its success to competing brands in terms of alignment with customer needs.

The case study was submitted to the Jacobs & Clevenger Case Writers' Workshop Competition which recognizes three case studies annually. Christopher and Dr. Florental's work received the first place award distributed by the competition's organizers. Their award included a monetary prize,

recognition at the EDGE summit 2014 conference in San Diego, and a chance to publish research findings in the International Journal of Integrated Marketing Communications.

The case study was well received. Dr. Florental and Christopher are proud to announce that their social media index formula will be published by the end of this quarter.

Congratulations to Dr. Florental and Christopher for their outstanding scholarship and achievements!



Dr. Bela Florental (center) and organizers of the Jacobs & Clevenger Case Writers' Workshop Competition



Christopher Polakowski

Track Time

The Humanities Track is open to Honors students of all majors interested in the relationships between literature, history, and philosophy. It is ideal for those who enjoy exploring the mind through reading, writing, and discussion as a means of examining the human, social, and universal natures that connect the social and natural sciences. The program encourages variety, allowing students to pursue diverse topics such as human ideas, issues, actions, and

values from Classical Greece to Modern and Post-Modern eras.

The Humanities Track, like others, functions as a minor that will complement a student's major. Those enrolled are required to take two seminars, one colloquium of their choosing, and an additional two semesters of thesis research and writing seminars during their senior year.

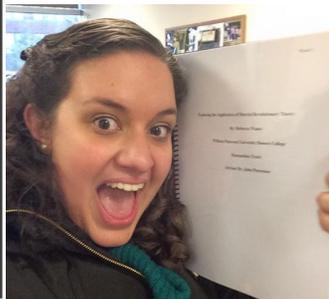
Examples of completed thesis project titles include the following:

What it Means to Be Human; Transplanting El Cactus: From Mexican to Latino; Allegory in the Poetry of William Blake as the Answer to the Physical/Spiritual Duality; Walden: Transcendentalism and the American Dream.

For more information on the Humanities Track, contact the track director, John Peterman, at petermanj@wpunj.edu or visit the Honors College website.

Send us your Selfies!

Honors is jumping on the selfie bandwagon. Check out what students have been up to this semester. Send your Honors selfies to honors@wpunj.edu for a chance to be featured in the next issue of the Honors Newsletter.



Senior, Rebecca Wance, submitting her completed Honors Thesis



Dr. Wahrman's biology students proudly displaying extracted banana DNA



Dr. Verdicchio and students with a representative from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany standing in front of a 30-ton section of the Berlin Wall on display in Washington D.C.

Stories from Students

The Honors College at William Paterson University challenges students to explore curricular interests in depth and to take risks when meeting their educational and professional goals. Honors student, DJ Simon, is doing just that. DJ is a junior pursuing a double major in secondary education and mathematics. Despite his interest in mathematics, DJ has chosen to enroll in the Performing and Literary Arts Track as a means of exercising his creative abilities. He recently shared his thoughts about the interdisciplinary nature of his course of study with Honors.



(Honors) Which track did you choose to enroll in and why?

(DJ Simon) I chose to enroll the Performing and Literary Arts honors track. One of the main reasons why I decided to

choose Performing and Literary Arts is because I felt it would really give me an opportunity to make my curriculum diverse and allow me to choose classes to enjoy outside of my math courses. As I learned about the different tracks, I also thought this could benefit me in my passion for music. I am slowly learning more about playing guitar and piano, and I saw this track as a way to begin to learn more about poetry and songwriting.

What made you interested in selecting a track that is outside of your major?

I feel that choosing the Performing and Literary Arts Track gives me the opportunities to take a different set of courses that I wouldn't normally take as a math major. I thought it would be a great challenge to be able to dive into two different fields during my college experience and make the most of it. One of the other reasons why I decided to take this track was because although I love music and want to learn more, there are no courses that I could take to learn music since I am not a music major. While I may not be able to take those courses, the honors track allows me to find a way to learn more about playing guitar and such from other experiences like jamming with other music students. So overall, this

track allows me to experience a diverse set of courses in my time here at college and also gives me the opportunity to really experiment in music and poetry.

What do you see as the benefits of completing a track that is not directly related to your major?

I feel that one of the greatest benefits that I cannot mention enough is the diverse set of courses that I get to experience in each of my semesters. I love being able to have math courses mixed in with writing courses. This way, I find myself not doing the same thing every night for homework. I find that with math, I am expanding my knowledge and experience in higher courses, while with writing, I am able to creatively express myself and explore more ways to write fiction or write songs for the future. While this may seem scary to some students, I find it very beneficial to a student's college experience to explore different subject areas to find more about what they enjoy.

Any ideas about your thesis project yet?

I actually knew what I wanted to do the moment I signed up for the track. I will be putting together an EP (an unreleased CD) of five to six songs and maybe some spoken word. I have been experimenting with song writing and at the moment, I have two of my original songs on YouTube (Channel name is D.J. Simon <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn9yA2aaMKwNY7xpf0tkjEA>) as well as some covers of other songs. I am currently still working on other originals, some of which I feel are ready, and others which I want to either scrap or completely re-work, which often happens with poetry.

Can you comment on the value of completing an Honors track?

On completing an Honors track, I feel that there is more of a benefit than just graduating with honors on your diploma. Completing an honors track (regardless if it's similar or opposite to your major) allows you to come out with an expanded college experience. If I wasn't doing this honors track, I would probably go nuts with the amount of math classes I have to take. Even though completing this track may not benefit me in my future career, this honors track gives me the opportunity to try something new and take risks in college.

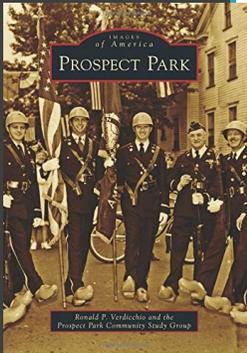
Any additional comments?

I would like to use this section to thank some people who have really helped me specifically grow in music and poetry. I want to thank my parents for their support and for encouraging me to strive for my best in school. In particular, I want to thank my friend Kyle Cooke and his crew, Heather and Sam, for helping me get started on YouTube by filming my performance of one of my originals for his channel. Kyle's channel is Sound Eclipse if you want to check out other talents that he records around Willy P <https://www.youtube.com/user/soundeclipsevideo>. I also want to thank my friend, Ed, who found out about me wanting to do an EP and told me he'd be more than willing to help me put it all together. There are so many more people I want to thank, but these two really are helping me put together everything I need to do for this honors track. And of course thank YOU honors @willy p for asking me to be a part of this interview!

Students Attend Anthropology Conference

Honors students, Eman Al-Jayeh, Bria Barnes, Kelly Ginart, and Paige Rainville have been working alongside students, Amani Kattaya, Megan Perry '13, and Dr. Ronald Verdicchio, Associate Professor of Education and Anthropology on an ethnographic field study of Prospect Park, New Jersey. The study has been ongoing for three years, and the research team is proud to announce the release of its first publication, *Images of America, Prospect Park*. The book documents the rich history and cultural diversity of the Borough of Prospect Park and it officially hit stores on December, 1 2014.

The students, along with Dr. Verdicchio, attended the 113th Annual American Anthropological Association Conference in Washington D.C held December 4-7. The team presented a paper titled, *When Ethos Withers: Finding Community Lost*. They also participated in a panel discussion, and enjoyed unique sight-seeing opportunities such as a visit to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to see a 30-ton section of the Berlin Wall and a visit to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. While visiting the embassy, the group presented signed copies of the book to embassy representatives.



Ronald P. Verdicchio and the Prospect Park Community Study Group



The research team presenting a book to Isle van Overveld (center), Spokesperson and Counselor for Public Diplomacy, Press & Culture, at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



(from left) Dr. Ronald Verdicchio, Megan Perry, Paige Rainville, Eman Al-Jayeh, Amani Kattaya, Kelly Ginart, Bria Barnes

Honors Program Review

Dr. Gregory Lanier, Director of the Honors Program at the University of West Florida and member of the National Collegiate Honors Council, visited William Paterson University in late October to conduct an evaluation of the University Honors College program. Throughout the course of his visit, Dr. Lanier met with current Honors students, alumni, faculty and administrators of the University, and faculty and staff of the Honors College.

Dr. Lanier's program review will be considered as Honors continues to expand and improve its program. Thank you to all those who took the time to contribute their feedback throughout the course of Dr. Lanier's visit.



During the site visit, Dr. Lanier had dinner with former Honors students to hear about their experiences in the Honors College.
(standing, from left) Dr. Gregory Lanier, Miranda Van Dunk, Dr. Susan Dinan, Devin Pendergast, (seated, from left) Melisa Zolla, Carla Rainey, and Jan Pinkston

How well do you know the Honors Staff?



Can you match the names of these Honors faculty/staff members with their baby pictures? Submit your answers to honors@wpunj.edu for a chance to be featured in the next issue of the Honors Newsletter!

Jan Pinkston

Dr. Sheffield

Dr. Dinan

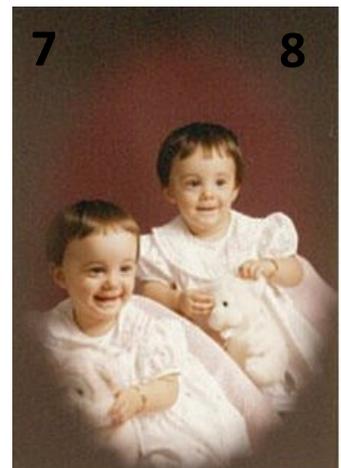
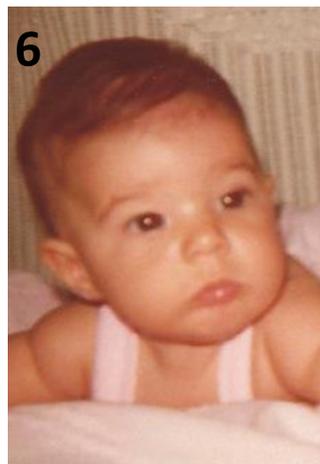
Dr. Kressel

Michelle Ginart

Dr. Nocella

Kelly Ginart

Dr. DelaSuaree



Study Abroad and Internship Opportunities

Your University experience will be what you make of it. Now it's time to take advantage of the opportunities available to you as an Honors student at William Paterson University. Check out these opportunities that will allow you to broaden your experiences and explore your curiosities out-

side of the classroom.

The Northeast Regional Honors Council is offering scholarships to Honors students wishing to participate in Partners in the Parks, Honors Semester, and Winterterm experiences. A complete list of experiences covered by these funds can be found at [http://](http://nrhchonors.org/?page_id=1337)

nrhchonors.org/?page_id=1337. Use the following link to access the application: http://nrhchonors.org/?page_id=1684, and don't miss the chance to experience these enriching opportunities!



UMKC Summer Study Abroad Programs

Ireland: Honors students interested in a summer study abroad experience are encouraged to apply to the Ireland Study Abroad program sponsored by University of Missouri—Kansas City. This 4-week program, scheduled for June 2015, explores the interplay of history, literature, and culture in Ireland from the early-modern period to the present. This program includes 6 hours of honors credit and all students, regardless of residency, will pay in-state tuition. For more information about deadlines, costs, and course objectives, contact John Herron, Associate Director, UMKC Honors

Program, herronj@umkc.edu.

Lyon, France: Students in good academic standing, who have had at least one year of French, are invited to apply to UMKC's Summer Study Abroad Program in Lyon, France. During this 6-week program students earn 9 credits (all students pay in-state tuition) and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the French language and culture. Our program differs from many other summer programs in that students live for the entire six weeks with host families, which are specially chosen for their interest in sharing French

life and culture with our students. Along with innovative language and culture classes, students take an interdisciplinary course on the French Resistance during World War II with Dr. Gayle Levy, Honors Program Director. For more information, contact Dr. Levy (levyg@umkc.edu) and go to our application and information site: http://umkc-sa.terradotta.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=12119

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- * Spring 2015 Semester Special Extended Deadline: November 21, 2014
- * Summer Early Deadline: December 10, 2014
- *Generous Scholarship Funding Available

Spend a summer or semester interning in the nation's capital and gain that competitive edge. Taking advantage of a Washington, DC internship is a valuable investment in your future that will set you apart after college. The comprehensive programs

sponsored by The Fund for American Studies include a guaranteed internship placement, courses for transferable credit from George Mason University, and furnished housing conveniently located in downtown Washington. Students also benefit from networking events, exclusive briefings, and guest speakers.

THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

We've been creating academic internship experiences for over 40 years and guarantee all participants an internship placement. Your options are endless – we work with over 300 different federal agencies, policy groups, international affairs organizations, media outlets, public affairs firms, government relations offices, and nonprofit organizations. Working in this powerful city will allow you to make professional connections and practice networking skills in a real-world setting.

Washington, DC is the perfect place to explore a variety of career paths, and we work with each student's unique goals and aspirations to match them with the most fitting internship site.

APPLY TODAY

Spring 2015 students will be accepted on a rolling basis until the special extended deadline of November 21, 2014. Students applying for Summer 2015 can apply for the early deadline of December 10, 2014 and receive a 5% early deadline discount on their tuition.

For more information and to begin an online application, please visit www.DCinternships.org. Questions may be directed to admissions@tfas.org or 202.986.0384.

St. Mary's College Study Tour in Greece

The public honors college St. Mary's College of Maryland is once again offering a 24-night study tour to Greece, this June. Professor Michael Taber is planning the eighth St. Mary's Greece Study Tour, this time with days on the island of Samos (the birthplace of Pythagoras--remember that theorem?) and two nights near Ephesus in Turkey.

This year's theme, "Tyrants, Trials, and Triangles," will cover three imperfect and halting moves: from despotic rule to a version of democracy, from a social system of vengeance to one governed by laws, trials, and juries, from a view of the cosmos as a place dominated by fickle gods to one of orderly scientific laws and mathematical regularities.

We will examine these changes from about the time of the Trojan War (c. 1200 BCE) to the Classical period (5th and 4th centuries BCE), as well as looking at subsequent developments in Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman times. Check out the website about the study tour: www.smcm.edu/greece/. There is a

description, a syllabus, an itinerary, photo galleries from past years, cost information, and applications. Even packing tips.

Applications are processed on a rolling basis, but will not be considered after January 24. The first payment of \$1600 is due January 27.

Warning: For the offering this past June, the course filled up by early January.

This is an upper-division course that assumes no particular prior coursework—either in classics, in ancient conceptions of law and justice, or the like. But it is a course—not just a fun trip, and we hope to continue to have a range of disciplinary interests represented by the students. We've had majors from Anthropology, Art, Art History, Biology, Economics, Education, English, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages, History, Math, Musical Theater, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Theater, Film, & Media Studies. The mix of students traveling together constitutes a minor education in

itself.

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity in addition to the information on the website, get in touch with Professor Taber via e-mail (mstaber@smcm.edu) or phone 240-895-4900.



Greece
STUDY TOURS



Honors Logo Contest!

The Honors College is searching for a new logo. Tune into your creative side and submit original designs to Honors@wpunj.edu by January 15, 2015. The designer of the winning logo will receive a \$50

gift certificate to the campus book store and a free article of Honors apparel. Please monitor your e-mail for additional information.

"Delivering coats to Head Start was a wonderful experience! When the children received the coats their faces lit up and it was truly one of the best experiences of my life. This little act of kindness meant so much to the kids."

-Jenna Schreck

Annual Honors Coat Drive

Susan Dinan, Jan Pinkston, and Honors Club Executive Board member, Jenna Schreck, delivered Coat Drive donations to the Passaic County Head Start Program on Monday, November 17. The donations were received with gratitude by the students and staff of the Head Start Program.

In total, 64 coats and 88 winter accessories were collected. The Honors College and Honors Club thank all who participated and contributed. Your donations helped spread the warmth to families of the area who are in need this season.

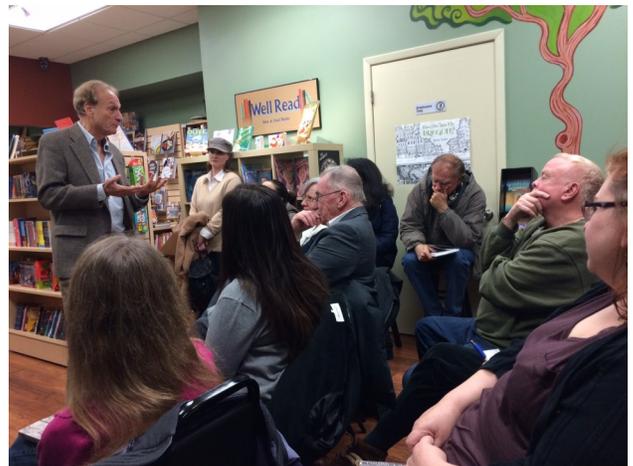
(from left) Jenna Schreck, Jan Pinkston, and Dr. Susan Dinan, along with children of the Head Start Program



Honors student assistant, Michelle Ginart, organizing Coat Drive Donations

Honors Professor Hosts Book Talk

Dr. Philip Cioffari, Director of the Performing and Literary Arts Honors Track, hosted an event at Well Read Books in Hawthorne, New Jersey on Tuesday, December 9. Dr. Cioffari read a selection from his latest work, *Dark Road, Dead End*. Following the reading, Dr. Cioffari led a discussion about several aspects of the craft of writing and answered questions about his writing style and techniques.



Dr. Philip Cioffari answering questions about his writing techniques.

Ask an Honors Student...

What is the most interesting course you are taking this semester?



(from left) Michelle Ginart, Brandon Reis, Jeremiah Bueno, Rachael Segal

The most interesting course that I am taking this semester is Introduction to Topology. Topology is unlike any other mathematics course I have ever taken before, and the material challenges me to think outside of the box. The principles of topology provide an explanation for concepts brought forth by previous mathematics courses such as calculus. Is there anything more exciting than learning where all of the definitions and theorems come from and why they makes sense?

-Michelle Ginart

The most interesting course I have taken this semester is ECON 3500, Economic Impact of Globalization, with Dr. Priya Nagaraj. It is a small class that focuses on the global economy and shines a light on subjects like international trade, immigration, and global crisis throughout history. With excellent lectures and practical projects like industry reports and documentary reviews, ECON 3500 has strengthened my interest in the subject and my major, Global Business.

-Brandon Reis

The most interesting class I am taking this semester is anatomy and physiology.

-Jeremiah Bueno

The most interesting class I am taking this semester is Psychology of Law.

-Rachael Segal

Club Corner

The Honors Club finished off this semester with a variety of engaging events. Members gathered for a game night on Tuesday, December 2, wrote letters to soldiers on Thursday, December 4, and enjoyed an afternoon of stress-free finals preparation on Saturday, December 5. Be sure to check the Honors Weekly Announcements regularly for club updates next semester.



Honors students at Lunch in the Lounge



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Event
1/12/15	All Day		First Day of the Spring Semester
1/15/15	12:30 P.M.– 2:00 P.M.	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge
2/5/15	12:30 P.M.– 2:00 P.M.	4th Floor High Mountain East	Lunch in the Lounge with President Waldron

Happy Holidays from the Honors Staff!

Ask an Honors Student...

What are you most looking forward to next semester?

Submit your response to honors@wpunj.edu for a chance to have it published in the January/February issue of the Honors Newsletter.

*The Honors College
Newsletter is published
several times per semester
and is written by honors
student, Kelly Ginart.*

Did you know?

William Paterson Honors is on the web! The Honors College website is updated on a weekly basis. Be sure to visit it and our Facebook page regularly for important dates and Honors Club project updates at <http://www.wpunj.edu/honors-program/>.